

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

LG asks private...

people's doorstep," he said.
The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that all the experts and the Indian Association of Palliative Care should work together to promote multi-sectoral partnerships so that a human resource pool of trained care-givers is made available.

"In Palliative care, health ecosystem and healthcare professionals have a moral responsibility to reduce the pain and suffering of patients. Apart from adopting innovative approach to pain management, health care professionals at all levels should be given training for continuity in the care of such patients," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor made valuable suggestions for seamless integration of curative care and Palliative care in health ecosystem. He suggested that uniform SoPs may be prepared for community awareness, palliative support and pain management at the district level.

Palliative Care system is constantly evolving and we need to work on strategic framework, SoPs and its effective implementation, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor further highlighted the need to bridge the gap in healthcare facilities and special services for the ageing population.

"By 2050, 20.8% of India's total population will be above 60 years of age. This increase in the elderly population requires us to develop a strong care economy to ensure that our elders can live healthy, dignified and fulfilling lives," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also suggested developing a comprehensive healthcare package which includes regular check-ups, geriatric care, mental health support and palliative care.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated Radiotherapy Oncology and Operation Theatre Complex at AIIMS Jammu. He launched AIIMS Pain Policy and lauded the AIIMS Jammu's vision of pain-free patient care.

He also commended the Indian Association of Palliative Care for playing a significant role in the expansion of specialized care based on the principles of palliative care.

Meanwhile, the Lieutenant Governor inspected various blocks at AIIMS, Jammu and interacted with the medical staff. Standard Operating Procedures of Department of Anaesthesiology and the Patient Information Booklet of Chemotherapy were also launched.

The establishment of Radiotherapy Oncology facility at AIIMS Jammu will reduce the need for patients to travel long distances for radiation therapy, ensuring timely diagnosis and treatment within the region. The service will cater to increasing number of cancer patients, offering advanced radiotherapy techniques, personalized treatment plans and multidisciplinary care. The Hospital-Based Cancer Registry, under ICMR's National Cancer Data Project has also been commenced which will further aid in shaping effective cancer care operations and strategies.

The Operation Theatre Complex featuring 08 advanced operation theatres at AIIMS Jammu, includes Four Integrated OTs with live surgical broadcasting for real-time medical training, One Hybrid OT with rotatory MRI and CT scan technology for complex procedures like transplants and cochlear implants. The OT facility has High-definition audio-visual systems for precision and enhanced learning, modular design ensuring flexibility and efficiency in surgical procedures.

Dr. Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO AIIMS, Jammu; Prof. Sushma Bhatnagar President, Indian Association of Palliative Care; Dr. Rohit Lahori, President, IAPC, J&K Chapter; Dr. Sunana Gupta, Organising Secretary; senior officials, experts, members of IAPC and medical fraternity were present.

Highlights...

promote multi-sectoral partnerships so that human resource pool of trained care givers is made available.

Suggested that uniform SoPs may be prepared for community awareness, palliative support and pain management at district level.

By 2050, 20.8% of India's total population will be above 60 years of age. This increase in elderly population requires us to develop strong care economy to ensure that our elders can live healthy, dignified and fulfilling lives.

More than 800 national, international delegates will join deliberations to foster advancements & innovations in palliative care for quality of life for patients diagnosed with terminal illness.

Inaugurates Radiotherapy oncology and Operation Theatre Complex at AIIMS Jammu; launches AIIMS Pain Policy.

Nirmala Sitharaman to...

finance ministry said in a post on X.
Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary also participated in the meeting, it said.

The Budget will come in the backdrop of the GDP growth rate projected to fall to 4-year low of 6.4 per cent in the current financial year; close to its decadal average.

The Economic Survey 2024-25 tabled by the Finance Minister in both Houses has estimated India's GDP growing in the range of 6.3-6.8 per cent in FY26, much lower than what is needed to become a developed country; and requires deregulation and reforms in areas like land and labour to stimulate growth.

It indicated that India's world-beating growth is moderating and more needs to be done to achieve the near 8 per cent annual rate required to achieve the Viksit Bharat target by 2047.

The 6.3-6.8 per cent growth rate in the 2025-26 financial year compares to an estimated 6.4 per cent growth in the current year ending March 31 -- the weakest since the pandemic -- and 8.2 per cent in the 2023-24 financial year.

Conducive environment for...

vision of the government and this is considered a policy statement.

At the outset, Murmu condoled the deaths of pilgrims at the Kumbh congregation at Prayagraj on Mauni Amavasya on Wednesday when millions of faithful had gathered from all over the country to bathe at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati.

She also paid tributes to former prime minister Manmohan Singh, who passed away recently.

Murmu listed out the achievements of the government including building houses for three crore additional families, welfare of tribals, issuing property cards for the rural folks, building rural roads and extending the health insurance scheme to six crore citizens above the age of 70 years.

"The government has also made swift progress on critical issues like 'One Nation-One Election' and the 'Waqf Act Amendment'," she said.

She said India was setting an example for the world by emerging as a pillar of economic, social, and political stability in an environment of global instability.

Murmu said the world has placed its "trust" in India's "strength, policy, and intent".

In this context, she especially mentioned key groupings such as Quad, BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and G20.

The President said the government has taken "historic" initiatives to ensure defence of India's borders and internal security and "highly encouraging results" were seen in achieving self-reliance, especially in the defence sector.

She lauded the Indian Space Research Organisation for launching 100 missions from the spaceport at Sriharikota and asserted that the day was not far when an Indian citizen will travel to space aboard the indigenously developed Gaganyaan spacecraft.

"My government has worked with strong determination to lift the economy out of a state of policy paralysis. Despite global concerns such as the COVID-19 pandemic, its aftermath, and war-related uncertainties, the Indian economy has demonstrated remarkable stability and resilience, proving its strength," she said.

The President said the government has also implemented several significant measures to promote Ease of Doing Business and introduced the GST system with the spirit of 'One Nation, One Tax' which has been benefiting all states across the country.

Noting that development is truly meaningful when its benefits reach the person standing at the last rung of society, the President said initiatives like the construction of 12 crore toilets under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, 10 crore free LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, ration for 80 crore needy citizens, the Saubhagya Yojana, and the Jal Jeevan Mission have given poor the confidence that they can live with dignity.

"When poor people are provided with a dignified life, it instills a sense of empowerment that helps them fight poverty. Due to such efforts, 25 crore people have overcome poverty and are moving forward in life. They have formed a Neo Middle Class, a group that is infusing new energy into India's growth journey," she said.

Murmu said digital fraud, cybercrime and emerging technologies such as deep fakes pose challenges to India's social, economic, and national security.

She asserted that the government has consistently worked on policies of multi-dimensional and inclusive development.

"Therefore, while emphasising on physical infrastructure, equal efforts have also been made by my government for a social infrastructure revolution," she said.

Noting that the government in the past ten years has written new chapters of progress, one of which is the golden milestone of India's digital revolution, the President said today, India has emerged as a major global player in the field of digital technology.

"The launch of 5G services in India, alongside other leading nations, stands as a significant milestone in this journey. India's UPI technology has also impressed many developed countries. More than 50 per cent of the world's real-time digital transactions now take place in India.

"My government has utilised digital technology as a tool for social justice and equality.

Digital payments are no longer confined to select individuals or classes. Today, even the smallest shopkeeper in India benefits from this facility," the President said.

The President also referred to the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP), which has been launched in the country's first villages located along the border.

The central government approved the VVP as a centrally sponsored scheme on February 15, 2023, with a financial outlay of Rs 4,800 crore from 2022-23 to 2025-26 for comprehensive development of the select villages in 46 blocks in 19 districts abutting the northern border.

Ahead of her address, Murmu was welcomed in Parliament premises by Vice President Jagdeep Dhanikhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and an official carrying the 'Sengol', adopted as a cultural symbol by the government.

The President arrived in a six-horse driven ceremonial buggy and was escorted by the horse-mounted Presidential bodyguard.

She was given a guard of honour in the lawns of the Parliament building and was escorted to the Lok Sabha chamber by Dhanikhar, Modi, Birla and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju.

OTM Mumbai: Tourism...

to the region. The stakeholders also thanked Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, Director Tourism Kashmir; Raja Yaqoob for their support in facilitating this participation.

The trade leaders also welcomed Chief Minister's commitment to provide an annual calendar of all tourism events and participations for Jammu and Kashmir Tourism, ensuring better planning and coordination besides constitution of a Tourism Advisory Board to enhance the industry's strategic direction.

The tourism industry leaders who met the Chief Minister and expressed their appreciation to him and the Department of Tourism for their continued efforts in promoting Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector were led by Nasir Shah, Chairman - IATO and comprised representatives of

Travel Agents Society of Kashmir (TASK), Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Alliance (JKTA), Pilgrimage and Leisure Tour Operators Forum (PILTOF), Association of Kashmir Tour Operators (AKTO), Travel Agents Association of India - J&K Chapter (TAAI JKC), Indian Association of Tour Operators - J&K Chapter (IATO JKC), Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India - J&K Chapter (ADTOI JKC).

The tourism fraternity leaders said they look forward to strengthened promotional efforts and enhanced tourism policies that will benefit the industry and contribute to the economic growth of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the sidelines of OTM, Jammu & Kashmir Tourism also organized a MICE Meet at Trident, BKC, Mumbai, to promote the region as a prime destination for business events. This initiative is expected to have a long-lasting impact on J&K's tourism growth by attracting corporate conferences and large-scale events.

Three XEns, 3...

Dadsara, Pulwama has been posted to Block Kanjnullr with addl. Charge of Block Kaprin and Ramnagri, Shopian; Muiz Bashir Shah, I/c AE (REW), B l o c k Kanjnullar holding addl. Charge of Block Kaprin and Ramnagri, Shopian, to Block Dadsara, Pulwama; Malik Zada Mudasir, I/c AE (REW), awaiting orders of adjustment, to Block Anantnag; Mohinder Pal Singh, I/c AE (REW) Sub-Division Uri, Baramulla to Block Rafiabad, Baramulla; and Zubair Ahmad Lone, I/c AE (REW), Block Rafiabad, Baramulla, has been posted to Sub-Division Uri, Baramulla.

PM hints at...

that it is perhaps the first time since 2014 that no attempt has been made from abroad to "stoke a fire" in India before the start of a Parliament session.

Modi took a swipe at opposition parties, saying that there were people abroad ready to do mischief before every session since 2014 and there was also no dearth of those here who would fuel such attempts.

"Shayad 2014 se lekar ab tak, ye pehla Parliament ka satr hai, ki jiske ek-do din pehle koi videshi chingari nahi pakdi hai, videsh mein se aag lagane ki koshish nahi hui hai (Perhaps since 2014, this is the first session of Parliament in which a day or two before the session, there has been no foreign attempt to stoke a fire from abroad)," Modi told reporters before the start of the session.

"This is the first session I am seeing in the last 10 years in which there has been no attempt to stoke a fire from any foreign corner," the prime minister said.

With his government tabling its first full-fledged budget on Saturday in its third term, Modi said he prayed that Goddess Lakshmi, who is associated with wealth, will bless the poor and middle class.

He expressed confidence that this Budget session will infuse new confidence and energy in attaining the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

He said his government has been working in mission mode in its third term for an all-round development and asserted that innovation, inclusion and investment have shaped its economic agenda.

Modi said many historic bills will be taken up during the session and will become laws after comprehensive debate to strengthen the country.

"Particularly, important decisions will be taken during the session to empower women to ensure they get equal rights and any sectarian or faith-based discrimination is removed," he said.

Modi also expressed confidence that every MP, especially the young ones, will contribute to the agenda of 'Viksit Bharat' during the session.

Stressing on the mantra of 'Reform, Perform and Transform', Modi said fast-paced development has to be achieved and the maximum emphasis is on reform.

He said the state and Central governments have to perform together and one can see transformation through public participation.

"Ours is a young country... the youth of 20-25 years of age today, they will be 45-50 years-old, they will be the biggest beneficiaries of a developed India. At that stage of their age, they will be sitting in that place in the policy making system... they will proudly move forward with a developed India," Modi said.

Hence, this effort to fulfill the resolve of a developed India, this immense hard work, is going to be a great gift for our teenagers, our young generation, he said.

"Those who had joined the freedom struggle in 1930, 1942... the entire youth generation of the country was engrossed in the freedom struggle, and the fruits of that were reaped by the generation that came after 25 years," Modi said.

Similarly, these 25 years would be marked by the intention of people to achieve a prosperous and developed India through their resolve and reach the pinnacle through their achievements, he said.

Therefore, in this budget session, all MPs will contribute to strengthen the resolve of a developed India, Modi said.

"Especially for young MPs, it is a golden opportunity, because the more awareness and participation... in the House today, the more fruits of a developed India they will see before their eyes. And therefore, this is a priceless opportunity for the young MPs," he said.

"I hope that we will live up to the hopes and aspirations of the country in this budget session."

President Droupadi Murmu addressed both Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Lok Sabha at the start of the Budget session starting Friday. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget on Saturday for the eighth consecutive time.

CAT directs to...

the Tribunal ordered the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) to create a supernumerary post for Dr. Rajive Gupta, appointing him as Lecturer in Surgery in a notional capacity. The Tribunal also directed that Dr. Gupta be granted all notional benefits from the date of Dr. Rahul Gupta's appointment, without affecting the latter's seniority.

The Tribunal set a two-month deadline for the completion of this process, ensuring that the matter would be resolved promptly. The Tribunal also emphasized that while the applicant's qualifications and experience were substantial, his age now prevents him from applying for other government jobs.

This decision brings closure to a protracted legal battle, offering a resolution that aims to balance fairness with the practicality of the situation.

Two infiltrating LeT...

Knight Corps for their swift action and precise execution in neutralising two terrorists and recovery of war-like stores in Poonch.

"The Indian Army stands by its commitment to keep Jammu (and) Kashmir terror-free," the Army commander said on X.

Officials said the bodies of both the terrorists were recovered from the scene of the gunfight and preliminary investigation revealed that they were affiliated with the proscribed LeT outfit.

Three AK assault rifles and a large quantity of ammunition were seized from the slain terrorists, the officials said, adding the identity of the deceased was not known immediately but they are believed to be Pakistani nationals.

Meanwhile, several landmines, part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, exploded due to forest fire at two separate places along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, officials said.

The fire broke out in Dhari Dabsi forest in Mendhar and Sona Gali in Mankote sectors this afternoon, causing over half-a-dozen landmine blasts, the officials said.

They said there was no report of any damage in the explosions.

The forward areas along the LoC are dotted with landmines as part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system to prevent terrorists from intruding into this side from across the border. The fire was still raging and efforts are on to douse the flames, the officials said.

DC Samba takes stock of Vet Care facilities at District Veterinary Hospital

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA: In a demonstration of the administration's commitment to animal welfare and public service delivery, Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma conducted an unannounced inspection of the District Veterinary Hospital today, implementing immediate measures to enhance healthcare services for livestock.

The surprise visit focused on evaluating operational efficiency, staff performance, and infrastructure conditions, resulting in several directive actions to improve services delivery to the farming community in the district.

The DC conducted a comprehensive review of hospital operations and staff performance, assessment of critical medical equipment, including blood-testing machines and sterilization facilities, infrastructure evaluation, enhancement of mobile veterinary services to reach remote households.

The Deputy Commissioner engaged directly with hospital staff to understand operational challenges and assured them of the administration's full support in upgrading facilities and services. Special emphasis was placed on maintaining high professional standards and ensuring proactive service delivery to livestock owners across the district.

The inspection reflects the administration's broader initiative to strengthen public healthcare infrastructure in Samba district, with a particular focus on veterinary services that directly impact the agricultural sector's productivity and rural livelihoods.

Doda Admn hosts Lal Draman Winter Festival-2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh chaired a meeting here in the Mini Meeting Hall DC Office Complex, to review the arrangements for the Lal Draman Winter Festival, scheduled to be held on February 8 -2025 (Saturday).

The festival is being organized by the District Administration in collaboration with Tejas Ek Pahal Foundation (NGO), the Tourism Department, and the Indian Army.

The meeting was attended by officers from civil and police administration, functionaries of R&B, PH&E and Food Department, representatives from Tejas Ek Pahal Foundation (NGO) and other concerned officers.

A range of activities has been planned for the festival, including singing competitions, cultural programs, departmental stalls, sports events, traditional Daku dance performances, local art exhibitions and food stalls featuring regional cuisine.

To ensure the smooth execution of the festival, the DC assigned specific responsibilities to different departments including setting up of departmental stalls at the venue, provision of security and traffic management by Police and army.

The Forest Department was asked to make arrangements for conducting a plantation drive, besides collaborating with the Tourism Department and RDD to manage sanitation, waste disposal, cleaning of Anrit Sarovar and developing scenic viewpoints.

The arrangements for provisioning drinking water, organizing sports events and restoration of the Lal Draman road, deployment of buses for transporting volunteers were entrusted to Jal Shakti, District Youth Services and Sports, R&B and Motor Vehicle Departments, respectively.

Labour Department holds series of awareness, registration Camps

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: In line with the directives of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, the Labour Department Ramban today held a series of awareness and registration camps for labourers on the JK Samadhan Portal. The camps were held at Dalwas and Marog NH construction sites, as well as at the ALC office under the leadership of Assistant Labour Commissioner Ramban Amit Kumar, where an on-spot registration counter was set up.

To facilitate the process, the Labour Department has been working in close coordination with Common Service Centres (CSCs) across the district and established a District Control Room to ensure maximum registration.

As a result of today's efforts, over 100 labourers were successfully registered on the JK Samadhan Portal, marking a significant step towards achieving comprehensive registration of all eligible labourers in the district. During the camps, Assistant Labour Commissioner Amit Kumar, along with Labour Inspector Tanveer Ahmed, DEO Irfan TO, and MTS Rohit Kumar, briefed the labourers about various labour laws and welfare schemes of the J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCWWB).

The team emphasized the importance of registration and encouraged workers to avail themselves of the government benefits designed for their welfare. The workers can contact Tanveer Ahmed (DEO) at 9797354805 for more information and assistance regarding registration.

Tributes paid Praja Parishad martyrs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JOURIAN: Glowing tributes were paid to the martyrs of 1953 Praja Parishad agitation in a programme organized by Praja Parishad Memorial Trust led by its President Daljit Singh Chib, at Jourian.

Rupesh Kumar, Prant Pracharak of RSS was the main speaker in the event and the programme was presided over by Brig Balbir Singh Sambyal, President, All India Ex Servicemen Cell.

Sat Sharma CA, President, J&K BJP, and Parshottam Dadhichi, President Sanatan Dharam Sabha, MLA Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat, former MLA Dr. Krishan Lal Bhagat, Addition SP Rural Brijesh Kumar; Dr Yash Paul Sharma, BMO Akhnoor Dr. Saleem, Kuldeep Sharma and representatives of various social organizations and prominent locals were present on the occasion.

An exhibition on Praja Parishad movement was also organized along with Health Mela and Kissan Mela, organized by Dr. Yash AS Reen, Director Agriculture, respectively. Rupesh Kumar, while paying floral tributes to the Praja Parishad martyrs, said that the people must remember their history and sacrifices adding that the nation which distances itself from its roots vanishes from the world map. We must again and again remember their sacrifices. We have come together to remember the true culture of sacrifices.

Once, our nation was recognized as the Vishwa guru'. The past historians have mentioned that they could not find a single beggar or single person who was dying of hunger. Foreign invaders preyed our culture, damaged our places of faith, art pieces, and dragged us into the dark age of slavery.

Eventually regaining our freedom in 1947, we faced invasions losing our important strategic areas. In the meantime, Maharaja Hari Singh ji had to face the wrath of the Nehru-Sheikh alliance. Then Shyama Prasad Mookherjee had to lay down his life for entering the J&K in 1953. The seven young patriots laid down their lives in honour of the national symbol in J&K while making attempts to hoist the tricolor. He said that the communities like women, OBCs, Paharis, SCs were denied their rights under the garb of Article 370.

The society was neglected and oppressed by the oppressors, which resulted in the strengthening of will of the leadership of nationalist organizations, resulting into the complete achievement of "EK Vidhan, Ek Nishan' Ek Pradhan" mission. He prompted all to take a pledge to work consistently to retrieve the illegally occupied PoJK from the clutches of foreigners. He also asked the people to share the rich history to the younger generations.

Sat Sharma, while paying tributes to martyrs, said that our 3 generations have consistently made sacrifices for more than 70 years for the abrogation of the draconian Articles 370 & 35A. He said that Jammu and Kashmir has a long history of struggle and movements.

The pages of J&K's history are full of renunciation, and sacrifices. On 31 January 1953, a huge crowd of protesting farmers gathered carrying the tricolor in their hands. 7 people made the supreme sacrifices in the police firing. We must remember and respect their sacrifices and carry their legacy to the future, he said.

Parshottam Dadhichi, on this occasion, said that the supreme sacrifices of the patriotic people serve as a lesson for future and the elders in their families should also motivate the young ones to read the inspiring stories and movements, which can induce a sense of patriotism among them.

PoK resident repatriated in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Pakistan-occupied Kashmir resident, who had inadvertently intruded into this side recently, was handed over to the Pakistan Army along the Line of Control in Poonch district on Friday, officials said. The mentally unstable man, 32-year-old Mohammad Yasir Faiz is a resident of Tetrinote village in PoK. He was taken into custody from the Salotri border village of Poonch on January 25. The officials said the Indian Army established contact with their Pakistani counterparts and Faiz was handed over to them at Chakan Da Bagh border crossing after completion of all formalities on Friday.