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Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

03 J&K Bank sponsors two more E-Vehicles to strengthen Green Campus vision of JU under CSR

10 JKPS Kunjwani shines at 13th J&K (UT) Rope Skipping Championship 2025-26

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Committed to fulfil promises, regularisation of DWs to be initiated this year: CM



- Highlights key features of budget, roadmap for J&K's growth in Budget 2026-27
- Says, J&K to benefit from long-term, zero-interest assistance under SASCI; Agriculture, Horticulture, Dairy get major push in Budget 2026-27
- J&K lives in villages; development begins from rural areas

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday reaffirmed his Government's firm commitment to fulfilling all promises made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir stating that the Budget 2026-27 lays a strong foundation for sustained economic growth, social welfare and inclusive development across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister was replying to the discussion on the Budget 2026-27, presented by him for the second consecutive year in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on February 6, 2026.

He said the Government is focused on creating employment opportunities, strengthening core infrastructure, improving public services and ensuring that the benefits of development reach every section of society in a transparent and time-bound manner.

On the issue of regularization of daily wage workers, the CM said, "God willing, we will initiate regularization of daily wagers this year and we will continue to support them," he said.

He said the opposition is unable to digest the pro-people nature of the Budget.

"Opposition is frustrated because we have presented a good and people-centric Budget for Jammu and Kashmir," he remarked.

He recalled that SRO-based employment support for militancy-hit families was initiated

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Northern Railway extends Vistadome coach service up to Katra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Northern Railway on Tuesday announced the extension of the train service with the panoramic Vistadome coach to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra from Srinagar, aimed at enhancing travel experience for the tourists and local commuters along the scenic Katra-Baramulla route.

Launched in October 2023, the Vistadome train service in Kashmir features specialised coaches with 360-degree rotating seats, large glass windows, and glass roofs for a panoramic view of the Valley.

The move by the Jammu

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CM refutes claim regarding SMVD Ropeway proposal, says Cabinet approval absent

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday rebutted remarks made by an opposition legislator in the Legislative Assembly regarding the proposed ropeway at the Katra Shrine, stating that no approval has been granted by the Council of Ministers for the Mata Vaishno Devi rope-way project.

The Chief Minister made the statement prior to the start of Question Hour, responding to the BJP MLA from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, who suggested that a Cabinet decision had been taken

Govt examining proposal to increase honorarium of legislators' PAs: Omar

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government is examining a proposal to increase the monthly honorarium of personal assistants engaged with legislators in the Union Territory.

This was revealed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in a written reply to a question by Congress MLA Tariq Hameed Karra in the Assembly here on Tuesday.

"A proposal has been received from the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Department regarding enhancement of the monthly honorarium of personal assistants engaged with MLAs," he said.

Abdullah further said that the proposal is under examination in the finance department.

Karra had sought to know whether PAs attached with legislators have demanded an increase in their monthly honorarium along with entitlements such as TA and DA at par with the staff of other parliamentarians, and the timeframe for considering the demand.

J&K Government notifies Excise Policy 2026-27

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has notified the Excise Policy 2026-27, which will come into force from April 1, 2026 and remain valid till March 31, 2027, unless revised earlier.

The policy lays strong emphasis on social awareness, responsible consumption, revenue optimisation, prevention of illicit trade, and complete digitalisation of the liquor supply chain across the Union Territory.

According to the notification, the key objectives of the policy include creating greater social consciousness about the harmful effects of alcohol and drug abuse,

encouraging a gradual transition from high to low alcohol-content beverages, rationalising taxes and duties to maximise public revenue, and checking bootlegging and smuggling from neighbouring States and UTs. The policy also aims to strengthen the local liquor industry, curb illicit distillation, generate employment, and ensure transparency through end-to-end digital tracking from production to retail sale.

The policy provides a comprehensive framework for the issuance of various Excise Licences, including wholesale, retail, hotel, bar, club, military canteen, industrial alcohol, bottling plants, distilleries, breweries and wineries, strictly in accordance with the J&K Excise Act, 1958 and relevant rules. Permissions for serving liquor at social occasions in private and commercial establishments will continue on payment of the prescribed fee.

For Type A and Type B

licences, a non-refundable processing fee of Rs 1 lakh

has been fixed, along with a one-time upfront fee of Rs 10 lakh for issuance of a new JKEL-1 licence. Provisions have also been made to facilitate the introduction of BIO brands, import of liquor from approved sources, and expansion of wine and beer seg-

ments. To encourage tourism and responsible consumption, licences for retail sale of beer and RTD beverages will be permitted at tourism establishments, airports and designated locations.

The policy allows rooftop, terrace and balcony service for Type B licensees within municipal limits on payment of an additional 50 percent annual licence fee, subject to strict safety, visibility and security norms. Penalties have been prescribed for unauthorised liquor service at social functions, ranging from Rs 30,000 for the first offence to Rs 1 lakh for repeated violations.

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Amit Shah asks CBI, I4C to develop ecosystem to counter cybercriminals, stay two steps ahead

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday asked the CBI and Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) to develop a joint system with other institutions like NIA, ED and banks to devise a "coordinated and highly-secure ecosystem" and remain "two steps ahead" to counter cybercriminals using novel technologies to commit crimes.

Underlining the gravity of cybercrimes in the country, the home minister said considering the volume and stakes of India's digital transactions, the scenario of cybercrime appears alarming with one person becoming a victim every 37 seconds on an average, and 100 falling prey to it every hour.

Shah said that through 361,000 cyber fraud complaints, the government has successfully safeguarded Rs 8,189 crore, which is a significant achievement.



According to estimates, the total amount of fraud was around Rs 20,000 crore, out of which agencies have frozen or returned Rs 8,189 crore to the victims, he said.

"Cyber security is no longer limited to economic security but has now become an integral part of national security. Had we not taken adequate steps, cyber fraud would have turned into a national crisis," he said.

Delivering the keynote address at a national conference on 'Tackling Cyber-Enabled Frauds and Dismantling the Ecosystem' organised by the CBI and the home ministry's anti-cybercrime unit, I4C, Shah asked the state police to deploy

adequate manpower to manage the cybercrime reporting call centre 1930 to ensure prompt action so that the amount involved can be salvaged.

"If a victim's call is not answered even after ringing several times, by then their money is gone. It places a serious question mark on the credibility of 1930," the home minister said.

All private, public, and cooperative banks should immediately adopt the mule account hunter software jointly developed by the government of India and the Reserve Bank of India to tackle money laundering by cyber-criminals, Shah said.

"Until all banks completely clean their accounts using this software, it will not be possible to provide full protection to the consumers," he said.

The two-day conference is being attended by senior officials and experts from Central and state law enforcement agencies, Department of

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10 JKPS Kunjwani shines at 13th J&K (UT) Rope Skipping Championship 2025-26

10 LG Sinha felicitates Shipra Mahajan of JK Public School Panjtirthi

Ruckus in LA as BJP MLAs object to CM's remarks Omar rules out apology, defends his remarks

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A pandemonium broke out during Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's speech in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Tuesday when the BJP members objected to some of his remarks and demanded an apology.

Winding up a discussion on the Union Territory's budget presented on February 6, Abdullah defended the government's fiscal roadmap, saying that the budget was realistic, responsible and focused on welfare, employment generation and strengthening of rural economy.

Speaking on the recent Indo-US trade deal, the chief minister said it was detrimental to the interests of Jammu and Kashmir. He also made some remarks against the BJP members, who repeatedly disrupted his speech.

The BJP legislators then stood up and assembled in



the front row, terming Abdullah's remarks "unparliamentary". They raised slogans demanding an apology.

The National Conference members also launched counter slogans.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, who tried to persuade the members to take their seats, later informed the BJP MLAs that their

protest will not be recorded.

Later, talking to reporters outside the Assembly, the Chief Minister ruled out apologising to BJP members for his certain remarks, saying while he was willing to withdraw his words, he was not allowed to speak in the House amid repeated disruptions.

There was no question of

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Law Deptt reshuffles four officers

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Tuesday reshuffled four officers of Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, J&K.

According to the order issued by Achal Sethi, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, J&K, Dharampal Chibber, Additional Secretary, presently posted in the Office of Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti, Jammu has been transferred and posted in the Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Jammu; Shakeel Ahmed, Assistant Legal Remembrancer presently posted in the Government Medical College, Jammu holding additional charge of litigation work of Government Dental College, Jammu has been transferred and posted in the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu.

However, he shall continue to hold the charge of litigation work of Government Medical College, Jammu and Government Dental College, Jammu till further

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Two Thailand girls detained from Shine Spa at Narwal; FIR registered

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Police on Tuesday registered a First Information Report (FIR) and detained several individuals, including two girls reportedly from Thailand, following a raid on Shine Spa Centre in the Narwal area, in connection with alleged violations of immigration laws and suspected illegal activities.

The action was taken late Tuesday evening after police received credible inputs that foreign nationals were residing and working at the spa without valid travel documents or mandatory permissions. During the operation,

police teams conducted a thorough search of the premises and scrutinised the establishment's registers and records.

An FIR (44/2026) has been registered under Sections 21 and 24 of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. "Further investigation is underway to ascertain the involvement of any wider network," a police officer said.

Police also seized Digital

Video Recorders (DVRs) and other incriminating materials from the Spa for forensic examination. Several persons found at the premises were detained for questioning as part of the ongoing probe.

According to officials, the raid was carried out in the wake of repeated complaints alleging illegal and immoral activities being conducted at certain spa centres in the city.

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Seven PSIs transferred

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: In the interest of administration, District Police Ramban on Monday ordered the transfer and posting of seven Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs) with immediate effect.

As per Order No. 76 of 2026, issued by the Arun Gupta, JKPS, Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban, PSI Happy Hans has been posted to Police Station Chanderkote; PSI Jaipal Singh has been posted to Police Station Ramban; PSI Prince Jasrotia has been posted to Police Station Ramsar; PSI Rajat Namawat has been posted to Police Station Ramban; PSI Gaurav Slatia has been posted to Police Post Jawahar Tunnel as In-Charge; PSI Rajat

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