

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! CM unveils roadmap..

without difficulties. He noted that almost every MLA had raised concerns regarding Daily Rated Workers, Temporary Workers, Seasonal, Ad Hoc and other categories who have been working for decades.

"These workers have been there continuously for the last 20-30-40 years, but the reality is that no government could solve their problems," he said.

The Chief Minister stated that his government would not make hollow promises or announce policies that could later get stuck in courts or financial hurdles.

"We don't want to announce a policy from here so that it gets stuck in court and their work stops there," he said.

He informed the House that a committee under the supervision of the Chief Secretary had been constituted to work out a legally and financially viable framework for regularisation.

While the committee could not complete its work within the initial six months and sought more time, the Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment.

"God willing, we will start the regularisation process in a phased manner," he said, adding that regularisation of daily rated workers would be initiated in a transparent manner once the report is submitted.

On the issue of vacancies and employment, Omar Abdullah clarified the distinction between creation of posts and appointments.

"We have filled around 6,000-6,500 posts," he said, reiterating that the government would work to fill around 30,000 vacant posts this year through transparent and time-bound recruitment processes in coordination with the Service Selection Board and Public Service Commission.

He also referred to outsourcing engagements, describing them as additional opportunities, though not counted as formal jobs.

"At least they are earning a living," he added. Highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's financial constraints, the Chief Minister noted that tax and non-tax revenue covers only about 25% of expenditure, while 75% comes through central share and assistance.

"This is not a situation created today, it has been inherited," he said, adding that efforts are underway to improve financial self-reliance.

He explained the new system of centrally sponsored schemes, where each scheme now operates through a separate RBI account, requiring the UT's matching share before funds can be utilised.

"This has reduced financial flexibility, and many states and UTs have faced similar consequences," he said, expressing confidence that implementation would improve next year.

He also underlined the importance of SAsCI, calling it one of the best schemes for J&K, especially due to the provision of 50-year interest-free loans.

"If we take a loan of Rs 3000 crore today, after 50 years it will be equivalent to about Rs 97 crore," he said, urging maximum utilisation of such funding for development.

The Chief Minister strongly asserted that the government has ended off-budget borrowing practices.

"Today, in J&K, not a single penny is off-budget borrowing. Whatever debt we take is fully recorded. There is no HUNDI system," he said.

Acknowledging delays in retirement benefits, Omar Abdullah said the government has significantly increased disbursements.

"In 2026, we released Rs 3,173.39 crore in GPF, Rs 1,170.21 crore in gratuity, Rs 838.28 crore in commutation, and Rs 425 crore in leave salary," he informed the House.

He assured continued efforts to reduce hardships for employees.

The Chief Minister emphasised that climate response is now a compulsion for J&K, especially after the impacts of drought and heavy rains last year.

He said a fund for climate change mitigation has been prepared, and stressed the need to assign departmental responsibility for studying and addressing climate change impacts before undertaking further budgetary measures.

Calling tourism a vital sector, Omar Abdullah said the government successfully revived the industry despite difficult circumstances following the tragic Pahalgam incident.

"Today, Gulmarg hotels are full. Sonamarg hotels are full," he said, adding that several destinations have been reopened with the intervention of the central government.

He expressed hope that by May, all remaining closed destinations would be reopened.

The Chief Minister also spoke about projects like the Jammu Riverfront, envisioning its development similar to Ahmedabad's Sabarmati Riverfront.

He emphasised the need to expand tourism into remote areas where industrial scope is limited, particularly in Jammu, which already attracts over one crore pilgrims annually to Mata Vaishnodevi.

"If we can retain even 10% of these tourists for 6-7 days, it can transform Jammu's economy," he said.

He also highlighted new initiatives such as Baag-e-Gul-e-Dawood (Chrysanthemum Garden), which drew large crowds this year.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah termed power both a challenge and an opportunity, noting that J&K consumes more electricity than it generates.

He said J&K has an 18,000 MW power potential, of which only 3,000-3,500 MW has been developed.

"Our intention is that in the next 2-3 years, we will add another 3,000-3,500 MW," he said, with a long-term goal of developing the remaining 11,000 MW over the next 10-15 years.

He assured full implementation of the RDSS scheme to improve distribution infrastructure and reiterated that the government has no intention of privatising distribution companies.

On encroachments, Omar Abdullah assured that action would begin against "big sharks" and land grabbers rather than the poor.

Regarding solid waste management, he said legacy waste is a serious issue across cities and addressing it would bring major benefits.

He announced that 2-3 major vertical housing projects would be launched in Jammu and Srinagar this year, with special focus on Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

The Chief Minister said ongoing incomplete mini-secretariats, including Tangmarg, Srinagar, Poonch and other places, would be completed immediately.

He also assured that issues related to leases and Ghair Mumkin Khads would be resolved during this financial year.

On issues raised regarding CDF and related matters, the Chief Minister assured MLAs that savings under the scheme belong entirely to them.

"This money is yours. These savings will not go back to the Treasury," he said, adding that a special order would be issued for clarity.

On the Information Department, Omar Abdullah said there would be further rationalisation in advertisements, ensuring transparency based on circulation, readership and reach.

"I don't believe in media censorship. I never asked any media house to not write against me or in my favour. I will never use advertisement as a pressure point," he asserted.

The Chief Minister thanked legislators for their valuable contributions and assured that concerns raised would be

addressed appropriately. He requested withdrawal of cut motions, which was subsequently agreed upon by the House.

Earlier, Sunil Sharma (Leader of Opposition), Mubarak Gul, Javid Iqbal Choudhary, Sham Lal Sharma, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, R. S. Pathania, Tanvir Sadiq, Zaffar Ali Khatana, Shagun Parihar, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Altaf Ahmad Wani, Mian Mehar Ali, Baldev Raj Sharma, Irfan Hafiz Lone, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, Arjun Singh Raju, Vikram Randhawa, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, Yudhvir Sethi, Salman Sagar, Shamim Firdous, Darshan Kumar, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Javid Ahmad Beig, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Ajaz Ahmad Jan, Sajad Shaheen, Rajiv Jasrotia, Mohammad Yousuf Rather (Tarigami), Waheed ul Rehman Parra, Payare Lal Sharma, Sajad Gani Lone, Chander Parkash Ganga, Saif-ud-Din Bhat, Choudhary Mohammad Akram, Iftikhar Ahmad and Mir Mohammad Fayaz participated in the discussion.

Later, the MLAs withdrew their cut motions after the Chief Minister assured the House that all issues raised would be duly addressed.

## Action against big..

One of the members, Sham Lal Sharma (BJP MLA), said while the bulldozers are used against the poor, the rich manage to escape; it reflects a long-standing practice that needs to be reversed. He has said the right thing," he said.

The chief minister asserted that the government would first move against powerful land grabbers who, he said, often shield themselves by aligning with political parties or leaders.

"When we initiate action, we must first proceed against the big land sharks and land grabbers who infiltrate different political parties and join leaders and manage to protect themselves," he said.

He assured the House that only after action against such influential encroachers would the government, if necessary, proceed against others, reiterating his commitment to an equitable and just approach. The members across party lines had raised the use of bulldozers in Jammu and Kashmir against the poor people and called for removing encroachments on government lands, starting from powerful people.

## India has built..

AIKosh (National Dataset Platform), through which more than 7,500 datasets and 270 AI models have been shared as national resources, he said.

Modi emphasised that India's direction and vision for AI are clear -- AI is a shared resource for the welfare of humanity.

He recalled Lord Buddha's teaching that "Right Action comes from Right Understanding", stressing the importance of creating a roadmap that ensures AI's positive impact through timely, well-intentioned and correct decisions.

He said the "aspirational India" has a major role in the global journey of artificial intelligence and, recognising this responsibility, India is taking significant steps.

The prime minister highlighted that ethics has always been central to human progress but with AI, the scope of unethical behaviour is unlimited.

Ethical norms for AI must also be unlimited and the AI companies carry a major responsibility to focus not only on profit but also on purpose, and underscore the need for strong ethical commitments, he said.

Modi offered three suggestions for ethical AI use: AI training must respect data sovereignty and be based on a trusted global data framework. He highlighted the principle of "garbage in, garbage out", stressing that output cannot be trustworthy if data is not secure, balanced and reliable.

The AI platforms must keep their safety rules clear and transparent, a "glass box" approach instead of a "black box", where safety rules are visible and verifiable, he said, adding this would ensure accountability and strengthen ethical behaviour in business.

Modi said the AI must be guided by clear human values and cited the "paper clip problem" as an example, where a machine given a single goal could exhaust all global resources to achieve it. He underlined that while technology is powerful, direction must always be determined by humans. At a personal level, AI is already influencing human learning, intelligence and emotions, he said.

Modi said during the COVID-19 global pandemic, the world witnessed that even the impossible becomes possible when nations stand together. Cooperation provided solutions, from vaccine development to supply chains, from data sharing to saving lives, he said, adding that India saw how technology can serve humanity, citing the digital vaccination platform that helped vaccinate millions on time. He said while technology is powerful, direction must always be determined by humans and highlighted that under India's AI Mission, 38,000 Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) are already available and 24,000 more will be added in the next six months.

## Army foils infiltration..

movement of terrorists was detected in the general area of Nathua Tibba in Sunderbani sector along the LoC during the early hours of Thursday, the army's White Knight Corps said. They further informed that the troops responded with swift and calibrated fire, successfully foiling the infiltration attempt. "Our troops suitably repositioned and re-oriented to ensure comprehensive domination of the area through integrated ground and aerial surveillance. A high state of operational alert continues to be maintained across the sector," the corps said in a post on X. According to officials, a search operation was launched shortly after the foiling of the infiltration attempt, and it was still ongoing when the last reports were received.

## Terror associate held..

against Kumar and further investigation is underway, they said. Preliminary interrogation revealed that the accused had allegedly received the consignment from across the border and was tasked with delivering it to another person, when he was intercepted by the patrolling party on a specific intelligence provided by police, the officials said. Efforts are on to ascertain the intended recipient of the weapons and to determine other details of the cross-border network, they added. Meanwhile, security forces launched a search operation in Marlog and Lodra forests in Basantgarh area of Udhampur district after receiving information about the movement of three suspected terrorists. The search operation was underway when last reports were received, the officials said. In another development, the Border Security Force (BSF) detained motorcycleist Mithun Singh, a resident of Pathankot in Punjab, after he was found moving in a forward village near Border Outpost Chilliyari in Samba district this afternoon, they said. Singh was reportedly selling clothes when he was intercepted and frisked by the BSF, they said, adding a Pakistani contact number was found on his mobile phone, which raised suspicion about his presence in the sensitive area near the International Border. They said the suspect was detained for detailed questioning.



## Ranvijay Singh calls on LG; briefs him on upcoming Seminar on Raja Amar Singh Ji



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ranvijay Singh, Trustee of the Maharaja Gulab Singh Trust, on Thursday called on the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, and briefed him about the upcoming programme being organised in the form of a seminar dedicated to Raja Amar Singh Ji.

During the meeting, Ranvijay Singh apprised the Lt Governor of the objectives and significance of the proposed seminar, which aims to honour the legacy, vision and contributions of Raja Amar Singh Ji. He highlighted that the event would focus on promoting awareness about the region's rich history, cultural heritage and the values of progressive governance, unity and public service associated with the Dogra rulers and also book release on life and legacy of Maharaja Pratap Singh.

The Trustee informed the Lt Governor that the seminar would include scholarly

deliberations, historical presentations and public participation, with a special emphasis on educating the younger generation about the historical milestones, administrative reforms and socio-cultural contributions made during the period of Raja Amar Singh Ji.

He added that such initiatives play an important role in preserving heritage while fostering a sense of pride, identity and responsibility among citizens.

Ranvijay Singh formally requested the Lt Governor to grace the occasion as Chief Guest, stating that his presence would greatly inspire the organisers and participants and add dignity and significance to the seminar.

The Lt Governor appreciated the efforts of the Trust and the Foundation in promoting historical awareness and cultural values and extended his best wishes for the successful conduct of the programme in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Dr Ritu Singh condemns heinous crime in Bishnah, demands exemplary justice

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr Ritu Singh on Thursday expressed deep anguish and outrage over the recent heinous crime in Bishnah, stating that the incident has shaken every conscience and stands as a grave stain on society.

Condemning the brutality inflicted upon an innocent child in the strongest possible terms, Kunwarani Dr Ritu Singh said that justice in such cases is non-negotiable. She asserted that the accused must face a swift, transparent and uncompromising legal process, and that the harshest punishment under the law must be ensured so that a strong and unmistakable message goes out that no one can dare to commit such a crime again.

She emphasized that the entire process must be visible, firm and exemplary to restore public faith and act as a powerful deterrent. At the same time, she called for strengthening community vigilance, enhancing parental awareness and promoting value-based upbringing to prevent such crimes in the future.

"Our daughters are not statistics. They are dreams, potential and the future of this nation," Kunwarani Dr Ritu Singh said, adding that society cannot afford silence or indifference in the face of such brutality.

Expressing solidarity with the victim's family, she reaffirmed her unwavering commitment to building a society where every child feels safe, protected and respected.



## Soldier shoots self dead at Army camp

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A soldier allegedly shot himself dead with his service rifle at an Army camp here, officials said on Thursday.

The 24-year-old Agniveer, hailing from Uttar Pradesh, was on guard duty at the Nagrota garrison when he allegedly took the extreme step around Wednesday midnight, they said.

The soldier died on the spot and his body was shifted to the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital for post-mortem.

The reason behind the soldier's extreme step is yet to be ascertained. Police have initiated inquest proceedings in the matter, the officials said.

## Purnima slams Lathicharge on NLU protesters, demands accountability

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu, has strongly condemned the reported lathicharge on students who were peacefully protesting over the National Law University (NLU) issue.

BJP Spokesperson and Former Deputy Mayor, Adv. Purnima Sharma, termed the incident "deeply unfortunate" and said that using force against students raising concerns about discrimination with Jammu is unacceptable in a democratic setup.

Addressing press conference, Adv. Purnima Sharma stated that students were protesting for their rights and expressing concerns that the Omar-led government is allegedly discriminating against the Jammu region. "If the youth are anxious about their future and raising genuine issues, it is the responsibility of the government to lis-



BJP Spokesperson Adv. Purnima Sharma briefing media.

ten to them, not to silence them through lathis. This lathicharge is being seen as yet another act of injustice against Jammu," she said.

She emphasized that students are the future of the nation and have every democratic right to peacefully present their demands. Suppressing dissent in a democracy cannot be justified under any circumstances.

Raising serious concerns, she questioned why adequate women police personnel were not deployed at the site

## 2 drug peddlers arrested with 150 grams of heroin

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing its sustained crackdown against drug peddlers, Jammu Police, under the overall supervision of the SSP Jammu, SP City South and SDPO City East, recovered approximately 150 grams of heroin-like narcotics within the jurisdiction of PP Sainik Colony and arrested one drug peddler. A police team from PP Sainik Colony, led by Incharge PP PSI Maan Singh alongwith the support of SHO Police Station Channi Himmat Inspector Mustaj Choudhary, established a naka at NHW near Jodhamal School for routine vehicle checking.

During the checking, the police team apprehended one individual who disclosed his identity as Har Dayal Singh S/o Sahib Singh R/o Raipur Kalan, Amritsar, Punjab.

During his personal search, Heroin (chitta) like substance was recovered from his possession. The contraband was seized on the spot and the accused was arrested.

In this connection, a case FIR No. 51/2026 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act stands registered at Police Station Channi Himmat.

In another case, During naka checking, a police party from PP Chinore stopped one scooty bearing registration No. JK08E-7316 coming from the Bantlab side. Upon inter-ception, the rider disclosed his identity as Avinab Gupta S/O Bishan Dutt, R/O Opposite PS Billawar, Kathua, A/P near Sheesha Factory, Toph Sherkhania, Jammu.

During the checking of the said person, 8.01 grams of heroin like narcotic substance was recovered from his possession. In this connection, FIR No. 40/2026 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Domana and investigation is underway to ascertain the forward and backward linkages in the drug supply chain.

## Bootlegger arrested, illicit liquor recovered

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu (Rural) Police achieved a significant success in their ongoing drive against illegal liquor by arresting one person and recovering illicit liquor in the Kanachak area. A police team from Police Station Kanachak apprehended one person identified as Balvinder Singh, S/O Karan Singh, R/O Mishriwalla. During a search conducted at the spot, 70 quarters (180 ml each) of JK Desi Whisky were recovered from his possession. In this regard, FIR No. 23/2026 under Section 48(a) of the Excise Act has been registered at Police Station Kanachak, and further investigation has been taken up.

## Stolen gold recovered, accused held

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a remarkable breakthrough showcasing the effective use of modern forensic technology, Police Post Pounichak has solved a theft case and recovered stolen gold ornaments.

On receipt of a written complaint regarding theft in a residential house, FIR No. 11/2026 dated 09.01.2026 was registered at PS Domana U/S 331(3) and 305 of the BNS, and investigation was immediately set into motion. The scene of occurrence was secured and the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team was called to examine the spot.

During the course of investigation few suspects were round up and one suspect namely Bhader Ali S/o Sher Mohd, R/o Keran Nallah, Bantlab was taken into custody and during sustained interrogation, he confessed to having committed the theft and disclosed that he had sold the stolen gold ornaments (02 ear rings) to one Bobby S/o Puran Dass, R/o Digiana, Jammu. During further investigation, the stolen gold ornaments were successfully recovered from the residence of accused Bobby at Digiana, Jammu.

## 86 lost/ stolen android phones recovered

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: J&K Police Kathua with the aim to extend Public Services, recovered 86 Android Lost/Stolen Mobile Phones (including 02 Apple i Phones) with a purchase value of approximately INR 17,29,000/- (Seventeen Lakh & Twenty Thousand Rupees only) for which complaints were registered in various Police Stations of District Kathua. SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma alongwith SP Ops. Kathua Mukund Tibrewal IPS, SP Ops. Upper Kathua Amir Iqbal, DySP Hqrs Kathua Ravinder Singh, DySP DAR Kathua Sh. Bhagwan Dass and other officers today handed over these recovered mobile handsets to their rightful owners after proper verifications. These phones have been recovered by the dedicated professional team of IT Section DPO Kathua by using technical assistance.

On receiving their stolen/lost mobiles phones, the owners felt elated and expressed their gratitude towards Kathua Police and especially to SSP Kathua for her arduous efforts and guidance in tracing out stolen mobiles. These mobile phones have been recovered from different areas of J&K UT, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Assam also.

