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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 Speaker, House pays tributes to former Legislators

03 Centre allocates Rs 1,086 crore for J&K rail infrastructure in Budget: Vaishnaw

10 Khelo India City Open Archery meet from Feb 14

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

J&K economy witnessing strong growth momentum: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said the economy of Jammu and Kashmir has demonstrated encouraging momentum in recent years, with the Union Territory recording an annual nominal growth rate of around 11 per cent in 2024-25.

He said that the growth reflects positive outcomes of sustained policy reforms, enhanced infrastructure development and proactive investment facilitation.

"The economy of J&K has demonstrated encouraging momentum in recent years. The Union Territory recorded an annual nominal growth rate of around 11 per cent (2024-25), reflecting the positive outcomes of sustained policy reforms, enhanced infrastructure development, and proactive investment facilitation," Sinha said while addressing members of Legislative Assembly here at the start of the budget session.

Sinha said the government remains committed to consolidating this growth trajectory through strengthened fiscal discipline and creating diversified and sustainable employment opportunities, with particular emphasis on youth and women.

The Lieutenant Governor



said Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as one of the fastest-growing Union Territories in the country, with GST revenue collections increasing from Rs 8,064 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 8,586 crore in 2024-25.

He added that tariff from electric power witnessed a substantial increase of 16 per cent during 2024-25. Highlighting financial assistance, Sinha said the Special Assistance to States for Capital Infusion (SASCI), which provides interest-free loans for capital investments, has been extended to J&K

from the current financial year.

He said Rs 1,431 crore has been sanctioned under SASCI for 222 projects, along with Rs 210 crore as matching share for 12 centrally-sponsored schemes.

"The first instalment of Rs 1,083 crore, accounting for 66 per cent of the sanctioned amount, has already been received," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that digital governance has seen significant progress, with the Union Territory recording 82 crore e-transactions during the previous

► Govt blends development with dignity, growth with social justice

► J&K recorded 1.78 crore tourist visits in 2025 despite security incidents, natural calamities

► Transition to popular governance in the UT has reinforced public faith in democratic institutions and restored participatory governance

year, averaging over 22 lakh transactions per day.

He said 128 services have been integrated with DigiLocker, while complete Aadhaar seeding of welfare beneficiaries has enabled seamless Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

He said that around Rs 9,000 crore has been credited directly to the accounts of 80 lakh beneficiaries through 77 DBT-based schemes during the current financial year.

Sinha added that the government is also formulating a comprehensive Artificial Intelligence strategy to drive innovation and efficiency across priority sectors, including healthcare, agriculture, mobility, education and law enforcement.

Referring to governance reforms, Sinha said the government has laid renewed emphasis on responsive and people-centric administration.

tion.

He said regular public grievance redressal meetings at the Chief Minister's Outreach Office and the strengthening of the JK Samadhan portal have helped resolve thousands of grievances through time-bound interventions.

The Lieutenant Governor also said Jammu and Kashmir Bank has undertaken various reforms with the support of the UT government, including professionalisation of management, merit-based selection of top posts and capital infusion.

He said these measures have resulted in a turnaround of the bank, improving its net non-performing assets and capital adequacy. Highlighting infrastructure development, Sinha said that the road sector has witnessed unprecedented investment of Rs 61,528 crore, covering

expressways, national highways, ring roads and tunnels to enhance regional and inter-regional connectivity.

He said that three major tunnels, including the Sonamarg Tunnel, have been completed, while eight others, including the strategic Zojila Tunnel, are at advanced stages of completion.

The Narbal-Shopian-Surankote road has also been declared a National Highway, further strengthening all-weather connectivity across the Pir Panjal region, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor said transition to popular governance in the Union Territory has reinforced public faith in democratic institutions and restored participatory governance.

He said the government remains focused on

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

► Lieutenant Governor described the formation of an elected government after several years as a major democratic milestone, strengthening public faith in democratic institutions.

► Development in J&K is being guided by the principles of Economy, Ecology, and Equity, ensuring inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth.

► Good governance and digital reforms remain central, with over 1,500 services online, 391 auto-appeal services, and 82 crore e-transactions recorded in the past year.

► Rs 9,000 crore transferred directly to 80 lakh beneficiaries under DBT through 77 welfare schemes after complete Aadhaar seeding.

► J&K economy recorded around 11% nominal growth (2024-25); GST revenue rose to Rs 8,586 crore, while power tariff revenue increased by 16%.

► Under Special Assistance to States for Capital Infusion, Rs 1,431 crore sanctioned for 222 projects; Rs 1,083 crore already released.

► Jammu & Kashmir Bank reforms led to reduced NPAs and improved capital adequacy.

► Massive infrastructure push with Rs 61,528 crore invested in roads, highways, tunnels, and expressways.

► Completion of Sonamarg Tunnel, progress on Zojila Tunnel, and sanctioning of 19 new NH projects worth Rs 10,637 crore.

► Rail connectivity to Kashmir Valley achieved, full-fledged Railway Division sanctioned, and modernization of Jammu Tawi station underway.

► First-ever FCI freight train to Kashmir operational, improving logistics and reducing pressure on NH-44.

► Power sector transformation with 3,014 MW hydropower projects, smart meters

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Budget session of J&K Assembly begins

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said the Budget session of the assembly holds special significance as it offers an opportunity to reflect on the collective journey and review achievements.

The 27-day-long session of the Assembly, spread over a three-month period with double sittings, began with an address by Sinha.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the



finance portfolio, is scheduled to present the Union

Territory's budget in the House on February 6.

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Selection list of Outstanding Sportspersons approved: Satish

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has approved the Selection List for Outstanding Sportspersons, paving the way for 225 talented athletes to advance to the next stage of their sporting journey.

Sharing the development in social media post, J&K Sports Minister Satish Sharma expressed his delight over the approval and termed it a major boost for sports in the Union Territory. He extended his sincere gratitude to the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his support and

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NIA raids six locations in Kashmir in probe into terror ecosystem

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency on Monday carried out searches at six locations in three districts of Kashmir as part of an investigation into the terror ecosystem in the Valley, officials said. The searches were carried out at Rafiabad, Sopore and Bomai in Baramulla district, Bandipora, and the Parimpora area of Srinagar, the officials said. The NIA officers carried out the raids at the residential premises of former Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ghulam Ahmad Shiekh, and former militant



Iqbal Sheikh at Bomai.

Raids were also carried out at the residences of former government employees Mohammad Munwar Mir at Rafiabad and Farooq Ahmad Peer at Model Town in

"This session holds special significance as it offers an opportunity to reflect on our collective journey, review our achievements, and chart a clear roadmap for the future. It reaffirms shared commitment to fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," the LG said in his address.

Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather sought the support of all the members to run the House in a

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Another Patwari caught red-handed accepting Rs 17,000 bribe 45 Patwaris, revenue officials in ACB net during last 13 months

■ VIVEK SHARMA

JAMMU: With today's trap and registration of a fresh case against Mohd Hanif, Patwari of Halqa Tikri, Udhampur, the total number of Revenue Department officials booked by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) across Jammu & Kashmir in the year 2025 and January 2026 has reached 45.

Official records show that nearly 40 revenue officials were booked during 2025, while six revenue officials including four Patwaris and one Tehsil office clerk have been booked in 2026 so far.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Jammu &

Kashmir has registered today a fresh FIR against Mohd Hanif, Patwari of Halqa Tikri, Udhampur, for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 17,000, once again highlighting the persistent and deep-rooted corruption in the Revenue Department across the Union Territory.

According to official sources, ACB received a written complaint wherein the complainant alleged that despite completing all prescribed rules and formalities required for construction of a residential house, the accused Patwari began demanding illegal gratifica-



Mohd Hanif, Patwari of Halqa Tikri, Udhampur arrested on Monday.

tion. The demand was initially fixed at Rs 30,000, which was later negotiated down to Rs 17,000. Patwari Mohd Hanif allegedly threatened


the complainant that he would not permit the laying of the roof slab (lanter) unless the bribe amount was paid.

The complainant, stating that he was against corruption, approached ACB Jammu for legal action. A discreet verification was conducted, which confirmed the demand of bribe by the public servant. Consequently, FIR 01/2026 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered at Police Station ACB Central, Jammu.


During the course of investigation, a trap

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- You may approach the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman online at <https://cms.rbi.org.in> or through the physical mode to Centralized Receipt and Processing Centre, Reserve Bank of India, 4th Floor, Sector 17, Chandigarh - 160017 within one year of receipt of the decision. Additionally, a Contact Centre with a toll-free number - 14448 (9:30 am to 5:15 pm) - is operational.
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