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Chief Minister presents...



Own revenues are estimated at Rs31,800 crore, while central assistance is projected at Rs42,752 crore, and CSS inflows at Rs13,400 crore.

GSDP for 2026-27 has been projected at Rs3,15,822 crore, reflecting 9.5% growth.

To strengthen the livelihood of artisans and promote Jammu and Kashmir's globally renowned crafts, the Chief Minister announced enhanced budgetary support to the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO). Regular Buyer-Seller Meets will be organised to create direct market linkages between local artisans and national and international buyers,



improving branding, market access and income opportunities.

The Chief Minister also informed the House that financial support of up to Rs200 crore has been received for construction of the Unity Mall, envisioned as a permanent Crafts Bazaar and platform for local products, handicrafts, handlooms and traditional enterprises from across the country.

CM announced that J&K has been brought under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme by central government which offers 50 year interest free loan for taking up infrastructure projects saying that additional Rs 1431 crore has been provided under the untied component for disaster mitigation and restoration works. Under the third component of the (SASCI), Jammu and Kashmir has been allocated Rs210 crore, which will be leveraged to provide the UT's share for eligible Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Highlighting rapid progress in Financial Management Reforms, the Chief Minister said all Centrally Sponsored Schemes have smoothly transitioned from Treasury mode to SPARSH (State Payment, Receipt and Accounting System) mode. Aadhaar-based payments have been mandated for all DBT schemes.

Under SPARSH rollout, 151 SNA accounts have been opened with RBI, the Cyber Treasury is operational, sanctions exceeding Rs2,500 crore have been received, and over 23,000 bills have already been processed.

The Chief Minister proposed modernisation of the Accountancy Training Institutes at Srinagar and Jammu at a cost of Rs10 crore, and informed that a proposal for availing Rs350 crore under SASCI incentives has been submitted, placing J&K among leading States/UTs in transparent and citizen-centric financial governance.

Acknowledging persistent vacancies in far-flung and difficult areas affecting service delivery in health, education and administration, the Chief Minister said the Government is actively contemplating a structured incentive scheme for employees posted in remote and hardship zones to improve retention and ensure equitable access to public services.

The Chief Minister announced that all industrial units availing Government concessions-whether subsidy, electricity or land-will be required to give due priority to employment of local youth, ensuring industrial growth translates directly into jobs and income opportunities for residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

To protect horticulturalists from climate risks, the Chief Minister announced implementation of the Restructured Weather Based Insurance Scheme (RWBIS) for Apple (traditional and high-density), Saffron, Mango and Litchi, with total sum insured of Rs6,594.93 crore.

CM said that Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) scheme has ushered diversification of agri-economy and the scheme shall continue to boost agriculture. CM said that cultivated area had gone up from 12.71 lakh Ha to 13.50 lakh Ha while urging people to benefit from HADP & High Density Plantation schemes.

He also highlighted expansion of Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage infrastructure. Currently, 68 CA stores with capacity of 2.92 LMT are operational against the requirement of 6.00 LMT. Additional CA capacity of 15,000 MT is being added in 2025-26, while 38,000 MT is targeted in 2026-27.

To ensure balanced regional dispersal, top-up subsidy for CA storage will focus on districts other than Pulwama and Shopian. The Government plans establishment of 40 CA stores with investment of Rs1,400 crore, including subsidy support of Rs600 crore from 2026-27.

The Chief Minister also announced 25% top-up subsidy for micro and sprinkle irrigation, earmarking Rs116.86 crore, benefiting farmers across 3 lakh hectares and enhancing water use efficiency by 60-80%.

An Aromatic and Medicinal Plant Mission with an outlay of Rs150 crore was announced, with Rs10 crore allocated in the next financial year.

To preserve high genetic breeds in livestock, the Chief Minister announced establishment of one Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) Lab in every district with phased investment of Rs65 crore, following import of Dorper and Texel sheep from Australia and bulls from the USA.

The Chief Minister proposed strengthening rural sanitation and livelihoods through convergence of Central schemes, with special focus on achieving ODF-Plus status across rural J&K.

From 2026-27 onwards, District Capex funds will be leveraged for professional operation and maintenance of rural sanitation infrastructure, ensuring sustainability and improved public health outcomes.

Reaffirming commitment to pilgrim safety, the Chief Minister said over 200 infrastructure works were completed during 2025-26 for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. He proposed further modernisation with an outlay of Rs180 crore in 2026-27 in partnership with the Border Roads Organisation to improve connectivity, emergency response and logistical support.

The Chief Minister announced launch of the JK e-Pathshala DTH Channel, a free-to-air platform delivering curriculum-aligned lessons from Class 1 to 12 without internet dependency. Over 300 educational videos have already been produced, with dedicated digital studios established.

Indoor games facilities will be introduced in all Government schools to promote holistic development, with Rs18 crore earmarked.

The Government will upgrade 1,000 Anganwadi Centres into modern Bal Vidyalayas with improved learning spaces and safety standards, at a cost of Rs72,000 per centre.

Additionally, 127 new Anganwadi Centres-one in each CDPO block-will be constructed to bridge infrastructure gaps.

An outlay of Rs70 crore was proposed for scholarships benefiting over 3 lakh tribal students, covering Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scheduled Tribe learners.

To promote forest-based livelihoods, 100 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras will be set up with Rs15 crore. Tribal Home Stays will be supported with Rs5 lakh per unit, alongside a pilot artisan branding platform with Rs50 lakh.

The Chief Minister announced commissioning of the extension block of Lal Ded Hospital, Srinagar, costing Rs118 crore, adding 108 beds and NICU facility, along

with introduction of IVF services.

Construction of a 249-bedded Mother and Child Care Hospital at GMC Anantnag will begin in 2026-27.

Emergency Medicine Departments will be established in all Government Medical Colleges over the next two years.

PET scans shall be installed at GMC Srinagar and GMC Kathua.

Cardiology services will be expanded with Cath Labs at GMC Rajouri, Baramulla and Doda, with an outlay of Rs30 crore.

Recognising rising cancer incidence, the Government will roll out a Cancer Control Strategy in collaboration with NITI Aayog and ICMR, focusing on prevention, early diagnosis, improved treatment, and a population-based cancer registry.

Two dedicated Emergency and Accident Hospitals will be established at Uri and Poonch, along with procurement of bullet-proof ambulances for border districts.

As a major step for educational equity, full fee waiver will be provided to all students from AAY families studying in Government Schools (Class 9-12) and Government Degree Colleges (UG level), not covered under other scholarships.

A Sponsorship Scheme covering 6,000 orphan children was announced, providing Rs4,000 per month through DBT.

To reduce household energy burden, the Chief Minister proposed provision of six free LPG cylinders per year to all AAY households in Jammu and Kashmir.

CM said that assistance under the marriage assistance scheme had been increased from Rs 50000 to Rs 75000 per beneficiary and that the eligibility condition of 8th pass was removed to benefit girls belonging to all poor families.

Commending the Budget to the House, the Chief Minister said, "This Budget strengthens welfare measures, accelerates infrastructure development, improves productivity and ensures a more prosperous and inclusive Jammu & Kashmir."

"With these words, I commend the Budget for the financial year 2026-27 of Jammu and Kashmir to this august House for consideration," he concluded.

Chief Minister announced development of new world class tourist destinations in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. He said despite the debacle due to the Baisaran incident which affected tourism, about 1.61 crore tourist visits were recorded during the current year. He said that Government is working on protecting the fragile eco-system at tourist destinations by investing in construction of Sewage Treatment Plants and solid waste management.

He said that an International Film Festival is being planned to be held shortly.

CM also spoke about the success of Mission YUVA, a flagship initiative to promote entrepreneurship and generate employment among the educated youth saying that 7000 persons had been onboarded on the App with 55000 DPRs prepared, 16000 applications sanctioned, 8000 budding entrepreneurs trained announcing that the Government is well poised to scale up this scheme to benefit youth and women.

Regarding the issue of regularization of Daily Rated Workers, CM said that the recommendations of the High Level Committee constituted shall be implemented to find a just and humane solution for their structured and phase wise regularization within the framework of law and fiscal responsibility.

Chief Minister also presented the supplementary statement of expenditure for the year 2025-26 before the House.

BSF stood like...

located in remote and challenging areas of Kutch, Rajasthan, or Jammu and Kashmir; he always returns with values of duty consciousness and unwavering commitment from the soldiers posted there. He said that during such visits, he witnesses how BSF personnel perform their duties with deep dedication under difficult and challenging conditions.

The Home Minister described BSF personnel as the finest example of discipline and dedication, standing firm day and night to protect the nation's borders. He added that the BSF's glorious 60-year history has instilled the same sense of discipline among the people of the country.

Amit Shah said that whenever the nation's borders have faced threats of intrusion or infiltration, the BSF has stood like an impregnable wall, resolute in its commitment to safeguarding the country. He said that the bravery and valor displayed by the BSF during 'Operation Sindoor' have added a golden chapter to its six-decade-long history. Even in the most challenging times, BSF personnel upheld the spirit of "We are the sentinels of the border", he added.

He said that the BSF's Jammu and Kashmir Frontier completely destroyed 118 Pakistani posts and three terrorist launch pads. In this operation, Sub-Inspector Mohammad Imtiaz Ahmad and Constable Deepak Chingakhm, who laid down their lives in the line of duty, were awarded the Vir Chakra. which is a matter of immense pride for us. He said that during this period BSF also received 16 gallantry medals and several commendation certificates.

Amit Shah said that whether deployed along the borders, in the difficult terrain of Manipur, or in Maoist-affected areas of Odisha and Chhattisgarh, the BSF has demonstrated impeccable courage everywhere. He praised the force for its outstanding humanitarian service during natural disasters, particularly in Punjab.

Shah said that the Chief Minister of Punjab informed him that without the BSF, the challenges during floods would have multiplied manifold. The BSF rendered invaluable service to the people of Punjab and extended extensive assistance during the crisis, he said.

The Union Home Minister said that it is a shared responsibility to ensure that the nation's borders remain fully secure and vigilant. He noted that border-related challenges have changed significantly over the past 60 years. While the courage, alertness, and dedication of personnel remain crucial, many emerging challenges are now technology-driven. Therefore, advanced technological solutions must be adopted to effectively address them, he said.

He recalled that during the BSF Raising Day celebrations, he had announced that the 61st year of the BSF would be dedicated to modernization, as well as to the welfare of BSF personnel and their families. He added that a dedicated team in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is continuously working on both fronts.

Amit Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India is fully committed to the welfare of security personnel. He announced that a special welfare scheme for BSF personnel will be introduced soon. Moreover, the Government will invest substantial funds to technologically modernize the entire border security system. This modernization will provide improved border infrastructure and advanced equipment for BSF personnel, enabling them to perform their duties more effectively, he added.

Shah said these facilities will significantly reduce hardships faced by the soldiers and enhance their operational efficiency. He added that it is because of the unwavering sense of duty, dedication, and commitment of BSF personnel stationed along the borders that the entire nation sleeps peacefully and feels secure.

The Home Minister also appreciated the significant contribution of women personnel in the BSF towards border security. He later had lunch with the soldiers.

J&K: DPRs prepared...

along with statutory approvals such as appraisal by NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Finance. As the process is continuous and dynamic, specific timelines cannot be fixed.

The Minister also informed that a survey for a Sopore-Kupwara (34 km) new line had earlier been sanctioned and its DPR prepared to extend rail connectivity beyond the Srinagar-Baramulla section. However, the project was subsequently dropped after being found technically and economically infeasible.

Highlighting the transformative impact of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, Vaishnaw said the 272-km-long rail corridor has recently been commissioned and connects the districts of Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam, and Baramulla. The project has emerged as a catalyst for socio-economic upliftment in the region.

A key contribution of the USBRL project has been employment generation, with more than 5 crore man-days of work created during its execution. Additionally, over 215 km of approach roads have been constructed, including tunnels and 320 small bridges, significantly improving local connectivity and access to remote habitations.

The Minister noted that the availability of all-weather, reliable, and comfortable rail connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the Indian Railways network is expected to provide a major boost to tourism, trade, and overall economic activity. The Government reiterated its commitment to strengthening infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir; particularly in border and remote regions, to support inclusive growth, national integration, and long-term regional development.

Union Budget 2026...

simplification of business processes, and reduction of tax burdens to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth.

Describing Budget 2026-27 as a milestone document, Tarun Chugh said it is the first budget presented from Kartavya Bhavan and reflects Prime Minister Modi's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. He termed it a clear roadmap for Viksit Bharat 2047, emphasising long-term development over short-term populism. He added that the budget ensures collective progress of citizens, entrepreneurs, farmers, youth, and industrialists.

Highlighting India's economic transformation, Chugh said the economy has become stable and globally reliable due to more than 350 reforms implemented over the past decade. He noted that the budget prioritises employment generation, increased production, and youth skill development, aligning economic growth with human development. He further stated that the budget is anchored on three pillars-

accelerating sustainable growth, building capacities to meet aspirations, and strengthening good governance through advanced technologies, including Artificial Intelligence.

Chugh highlighted the announcement of seven high-speed rail corridors to be developed as "Growth Connectors," which will enhance trade, tourism, agricultural logistics, employment opportunities, and national connectivity.

Focusing on Jammu & Kashmir, he said increased central assistance reflects the Union Government's strong commitment to the UT, particularly border and sensitive regions. He noted that higher capital expenditure on roads, tunnels, power, logistics, and tourism will boost local employment. Strengthening MSMEs, handicrafts, khadi, and local industries will empower artisans and small entrepreneurs, especially in hilly and border areas.

He added that focused investments in healthcare, education, agriculture, dairy, poultry, sports, women empowerment, and youth development will transform the region's socio-economic landscape. Maintaining a fiscal deficit target of 4.3%, he said, reflects responsible financial governance.

In his concluding remarks, Sat Sharma described Budget 2026-27 as visionary and people-centric, stating that its emphasis on infrastructure, tourism, MSMEs, healthcare, and youth empowerment will ensure sustainable livelihoods and long-term prosperity in Jammu & Kashmir; reaffirming the Modi government's commitment to peace, progress, and inclusive growth.

Army Chief visits...

Army Staff visited White Knight Corps to review the prevailing security situation



and assess operational preparedness in the region. He was briefed on the counter-terrorism grid and appreciated the synergy in joint operations between the security forces," Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army wrote on X.

It said the army chief commended the efforts of all stakeholders and emphasised the need for vigilance and people-centric approach while conducting operations in the region. "COAS also expressed confidence in the leadership and troops of White Knight Corps in safeguarding peace and security in the region," the post read.

ACB arrests ASI...

in the presence of a Magistrate. The accused has been arrested and is currently in custody while further investigation continues.

"The Bureau remains committed to eliminating corruption and ensuring transparency in public service," added Director ACB. "Citizens are encouraged to report any such incidents, and we will take strict action under law."

The ACB has assured that a thorough investigation is ongoing to examine any further irregularities connected with the case.

Exams are like...

pattern, keeping in mind all the suggestions that come your way..." he said. "Our goal should be such that it is within reach, but not easily attainable. Tame the mind, then connect the mind, and then keep the subjects you need to study. Then you will always find the student successful," Modi told the group of students who had come from various parts of the country at his residence here.

He cautioned against the obsession with marks, asking whether anyone remembers the name of a student who scored highest marks last year in boards.

When the students replied no, Modi underscored that even if such achievements are praised briefly, they are soon forgotten, showing how little importance marks hold. A student from Gujarat asked that while parents worry for them and teachers support them, the issue arises when teachers suggest one study pattern, parents insist on another and students follow a different trend, leaving them confused about which pattern is correct. Modi remarked that this continues throughout life, noting that even as prime minister people advise him differently.

"Just as siblings at home have different eating patterns - some starting with vegetables, some with dal, some mixing everything together - everyone has their own way. Enjoyment comes from following one's own pattern...some prefer studying at night, others early in the morning, and each has their own rhythm," he said.

"Students must trust their own pattern, listen carefully to suggestions and add improvements only through personal experience, not merely because someone says so. When I began Pariksha Pe Charcha there was one pattern, but over time I improved it, even conducting sessions in different states, changing the format while retaining the core," he said.

Modi urged students not to waste time dwelling on the past but to think of living what lies ahead. "I don't look back at what has passed, I always look at what is to come... There are times when teachers only teach what is important and can help you score good marks, but a good teacher focuses on all-around development and teaches everything. Life is not just about exams. Education is just a medium of our development. "I have become PM. Still, people tell me to work in different ways. But everyone has their own pattern. Some people study better in the morning, some at night. Whatever suits you, believe in that. But also take advice, and if that benefits you, then only add it to your life structure," he said.

Responding to a question about pursuing a future in gaming despite societal pressure to focus only on studies, the prime minister said gaming is not just a hobby, it is a skill. It involves speed as well, so it is good for development.

"Gaming is a skill requiring speed and alertness, which contributes to self-development. Focus on building expertise in high-quality games and build studies," he said. Modi cautioned against gambling in gaming, noting that laws have been enacted to prevent such practices, and stressed that gaming should be pursued as a constructive skill. He also said a teacher's effort should be to ensure that the student's speed is such that his own speed is one step ahead of theirs.

Modi asked the students to balance studies, rest, skills and hobbies, which is the key to growth. "Even there are two skills: life skills and professional skills. I say both go hand in hand. So, skill starts with knowledge," he said.

"Our goal should always be within reach, but not easily achievable...there should be a balance in everything in life. If you bend more towards one side, you will fall... Life skills and professional skills are equally important and can be imbedded only with education..." he said. At the outset, he welcomed all the students at his residence with an Assamese 'gamosa'. The 9th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha was also screened at the Bal Yogi Auditorium in Parliament premises. Launched in 2018, Pariksha Pe Charcha began as student interaction in townhall format before expanding into one of India's largest education engagement exercises. Registrations rose from about 38.8 lakh in 2023 to 2.26 crore in 2024, before touching 3.53 crore in 2025 - a milestone that earned the programme a Guinness World Record. The ninth edition broke the previous record with over 4.5 crore registrations.

Amit Shah chairs...

the presence of terrorists waiting for an opportunity to infiltrate into India. Earlier, the home secretary had also chaired a review meeting here during his two-day visit on January 14 and 15.

Maid succumbs to injuries; Former GMC Doda Principal Dr Tariq Azad admitted in ICU

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A maid accompanying former Principal of Government Medical College (GMC) Doda, Dr Tariq Azad, succumbed to her injuries after both were hit by a vehicle while crossing the road near Jammu Railway Station on Thursday morning.

Following the accident, both the injured were rushed to Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu for treatment. Hospital authorities confirmed that the woman later died due to severe injuries sustained in the mishap.

Dr Tariq Azad is currently undergoing treatment and has been admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at GMC Jammu. His condition is stated to be critical, and he remains under close medical supervision. Police have taken cognizance of the incident and further investigation is underway.