

Jammu's son Ashok Samyal promoted to IG in CRPF

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ashok Samyal, a distinguished officer of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and a proud son of the soil from Jammu, has been promoted to the rank of Inspector General (IG) as per orders issued by the Government of India. The rank was formally conferred during a ceremonial pipping by the Director General, CRPF, in New Delhi.

Samyal is the son of Mani Ram Samyal and hails from Village Gho Brahmana, Vijaypur, District Samba. With 35 years of exemplary service, his journey from rural Jammu to the senior leadership of the nation's largest central armed police force stands as a testimony to dedication, discipline, and perseverance. He joined the CRPF on 4th February 1991 and has since served in some of the most challenging internal security environments of the country, including



Director General, CRPF pinning IG rank to Ashok Samyal.

Punjab during the militancy period, Jammu & Kashmir, and Left Wing Extremism-affected areas, besides holding key command, training, and staff appointments across India.

A significant part of his career has been devoted to training and institution building. He served as Principal of the Central Training College (CTC), Neemuch, and the Recruit Training Centre (RTC), Neemuch, and had the

rare distinction of being the last Principal of CTC Neemuch in the rank of Deputy Inspector General. Under his leadership, RTC Neemuch secured first position at the All-India level, earning him the Union Home Minister's Disc and Commendation Letter. He also played a pivotal role in raising the first CIAT School of CRPF at Udharpind, Silchar, thereby strengthening the Force's counter-insurgency training capa-

bility. His distinguished service has been recognised with several prestigious honours, including the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (2025) and the Police Medal for Meritorious Service (2014). He has also received Bronze, Silver, and Gold Discs from the DG, CRPF, along with multiple Commendation Discs and Letters from the DG, CRPF and the Union Home Minister, reflecting sustained excellence and professional merit throughout his career.

A trained mountaineer, Samyal was a member of the 1st Indigenous CRPF Mountain Expedition and successfully summited Jogin Peak in the Himalayas, exemplifying courage, endurance, and leadership beyond operational duties.

From an early age, Samyal displayed a keen interest in sports and extracurricular activities.

During his school years, he actively participated in sports, NCC, and cultural activities, took part in All-India School Games, participated in Republic Day Parade-related activities, and earned the 'C' Certificate of NCC-traits that later shaped his disciplined, balanced, and people-centric leadership style.

He completed his schooling from SRMLHS School, graduation from SPRM College of Commerce, Jammu, and also pursued studies in the Law Department of Jammu University.

Presently posted in Delhi, Samyal has consistently acknowledged that the love, affection, blessings, and unwavering support of the people of Jammu-especially those from his native village-have been a constant source of strength, inspiring him to remain at the forefront in every field of service to the Nation.

BJP Professional Cell J&K terms Omar's 2026-27 Budget as directionless and anti-people

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The BJP Professional Cell, Jammu and Kashmir Unit, has strongly criticized the 2026-27 State Budget presented by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, terming it directionless, anti-poor, and anti-people. The remarks were made during a meeting attended by Baldev Singh Billawaria, J&K General Secretary BJP, Ved Raj Sharma, Cell Incharge BJP, and other senior members.

The budget was analysed in detail by CA Deepak Kapahi, Convenor, BJP Professional Cell, who stated that the document fails to address the core needs of the people and betrays pre-election promises made in the JKNC manifesto. He pointed out a significant reduction in the gross budget from ₹1,40,310 crore in 2025-26 to ₹1,27,767 crore in 2026-27, undermining development across vital sectors.

The Cell highlighted sharp



BJP J&K General Secretary, Baldev Singh Billawaria chairing a meeting.

cuts in capital expenditure in Agriculture, Rural Development, Power, and allied sectors, reflecting what it called a lack of vision for economic growth. Concerns were also raised over inadequate focus on health, education, employment generation, and climate-resilient agriculture, while tourism planning ignored key religious and cultural sites in the Jammu region.

The BJP Professional Cell further alleged regional imbalance against Jammu,

citing skewed allocations in flood relief, tourism promotion, health infrastructure, and power projects. It also accused the government of failing to fulfill key manifesto promises related to jobs, social welfare, electricity subsidies, and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

Calling the budget a "betrayal of public trust," the Cell urged the government to undertake immediate corrective measures and prioritize equitable development and people-centric governance across Jammu and Kashmir.

Mir inaugurates HG/CD & SDRF complex at Samba

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: DGP, Commandant General, HG/CD & SDRF J&K, A G Mir on Saturday inaugurated newly constructed Building Complex of Homeguards/Civil Defence & SDRF at Samba in a ceremony. He was accompanied by DIG, HG/CD & SDRF Jammu and Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu.

The newly constructed building will play a pivotal role in upgrading the operational efficiency of our Jawans in boosting their training skills with utmost priority. This new building facility represents a milestone in strengthening Civil Defence, Homeguards & SDRF operational efficiency with zeal



DGP, Commandant General, HG/CD & SDRF J&K, A G Mir inaugurating newly constructed Building Complex of Homeguards/Civil Defence & SDRF at Samba.

and it will be utilize for training purpose also like drills, handling of equipments with latest technologies and planning to build readiness during disasters.

The other Gazetted officers of this organization who were also present dur-

ing the Inaugural ceremony were Manzoor Hussain DySP, Dinesh Gupta DySP, Lalit Kumar DySP, Rohit Dev Singh DySP, Satvir Singh DySP, Rakesh Jamwal DySP, Surdeep Singh Jamwal DySP, and Raghubir Singh DySP.

Second Batch of Refresher Training Programme concludes at ZPHQ Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Zonal Police Headquarters (ZPHQ), Jammu conducted the second batch of a one-week refresher training programme for police personnel who have been transferred or adjusted from different wings to the Jammu Zone.

The programme was organised at the Conference Hall, ZPHQ, Jammu, with the aim of updating the participating personnel on key operational, legal, procedural, and technological aspects relevant to policing in the Zone.

The refresher training was structured to orient the participants with prevailing policing practices, operational SOPs, and recent legal developments, thereby facilitating their effective deployment in both field and office assignments.

Emphasis was laid on building professional efficiency, ensuring procedural uniformity,



Bhim Sen Tuti, Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone chairing a meeting.

and enhancing readiness to address evolving law and order and security challenges in the region. The second batch of the programme witnessed participation of 42 police personnel, ranging in rank upto Inspector. The curriculum encompassed a broad range of subjects such as new criminal laws, special enactments, police station management, CCTNS operations,

forensic processes, cybercrime investigation, digital policing tools, and counter-terrorism-related inputs.

The training methodology included interactive sessions and open discussions, enabling personnel to gain hands-on exposure to systems, procedures, and real-time problem-solving approaches. The sessions were conducted by officers

and experts who shared practical perspectives based on field experience and contemporary best practices.

At the conclusion of the training programme, the participants were addressed by Bhim Sen Tuti, Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, along with Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG J&K Range; Shamsheer Hussain, Staff Officer to IGP

Jammu Zone and Sanjay Sharma, Staff Officer to DIG J&K Range.

The IGP underlined the importance of professionalism, discipline, and strict compliance with established procedures while performing duties in Jammu Zone.

The trainees were exhorted to effectively utilise the knowledge and skills acquired during the programme in their routine functioning.

The refresher training programme was conducted under the overall supervision and coordination of a committee of officers from ZPHQ Jammu, comprising Hemanshu Mahajan, Sr. PO; Insp: Mohd Sadeeq; Insp: Arun Kaul (Course Coordinator); Insp: Sunny Sharma; Insp: Ashish Chowdhary; PSI Ahsan Ahmed; PSI Mandep Kour; PSI Anil Sharma; and PSI Rakshit Sharma.

Free Legal Aid and Awareness Camp organized at Indira Memorial School



Faculty with students and dignitaries at a camp.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Under the leadership of Kamal Gupta, Chairman of Bhartiya Jan Kalyan Sansthan, a Free Legal Aid and Legal Awareness Camp was organized with the objective of fostering a legally empowered society.

The camp was conducted by NGO Pankh Ek Udaan, patronized by Bhartiya

Jan Kalyan Sansthan, Jammu, at Indira Memorial Higher Secondary School, Galwaday Chak, Jammu.

The programme witnessed active participation from legal experts and local residents. Prominent resource persons included Adv. Pooja Uppal, Chairperson of Pankh Ek Udaan, and Adv. Raman

Kumar. The speakers sensitized the participants on important legal provisions related to women empowerment, the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act, child rights, and other fundamental legal entitlements. Special emphasis was laid on spreading awareness about free legal aid services and

the procedures to access justice.

Addressing the gathering, Adv. Pooja Uppal stated that the primary aim of the camp was to make justice accessible to the most vulnerable sections of society, ensuring that no individual is deprived of their rights due to lack of awareness or resources.

Adv. Raman Kumar also highlighted laws concerning the welfare of elderly persons, particularly the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act.

The organizers expressed gratitude to Chairman Vijay Kumar and Principal Gorav Sharma of Indira Memorial Higher Secondary School for their valuable support and cooperation in making the event a success.

J&K Budget ignored SCs, discriminated against them: Balbir

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Kashmir BJP Spokesperson and former Vice Chairman, Balbir Ram Rattan, while discussing the J&K Budget 2026-27 with senior leaders of the SC Moreha, stated that the Scheduled Caste community has been completely ignored and discriminated against by the National Conference (NC) government. He said that the budget reflects the anti-SC mindset of the present UT government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Balbir said that despite tall claims of being "people-centric," the Rs 1,13,767 crore budget has failed to address the concerns, welfare, and development of Scheduled Castes in Jammu Kashmir. The budget is completely silent on the welfare of Scheduled Castes, who constitute a significant portion of the population in the Union Territory. This neglect amounts to a grave



J&K BJP Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan discussing J&K Budget 2026-27.

injustice.

He further pointed out that Scheduled Castes have a sizeable population in the Jammu province, while their population in the Kashmir region is almost negligible and this demographic reality appears to be one of the main reasons behind the discriminatory approach of the NC government towards SCs. Since their vote bank is largely concentrated in Jammu, the NC regime seems to have deliberately sidelined their issues,

Balbir alleged.

The BJP leader also highlighted that the National Conference failed to win even a single Scheduled Caste reserved seat in the last Assembly elections. This political setback for NC seems to have turned into a punishment for the entire SC community. Their exclusion from budgetary priorities appears to be a vindictive response to the electoral verdict.

Balbir asserted that there is no mention of special schemes, financial allocations, skill development initiatives, or social

upliftment programmes for Scheduled Castes in the budget. The failure to acknowledge the need for targeted interventions for SCs exposes the hollow nature of NC's promises of inclusive governance.

He reaffirmed that the BJP remains committed to the upliftment and empowerment of Scheduled Castes and will continue to raise their issues at every forum. The BJP will not allow discrimination against SCs to go unchecked and will fight for their rightful share in development, dignity, and justice, Balbir said.

Indian Army begins Pir Panchal Winter festival



Dignitaries inaugurating Pir Panchal winter festival.

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In connection with Pir panchal winter festival, the Indian today inaugurated three days talent Hunt show at surankote. A large number of Boys and girls participated in talent Hunt and displayed their talent in singing and dancing. It's pertinent to mention that every year 6 sector Rashtriya Rifles celebrates winter festival to provide the youth an opportunity to display their talent in different

fields. On 16th February, the festival will culminate with a Mega Musical concert, along with local performers, some Artists of National fame would also enthral the peoples of Pir panchal in large numbers.

The population of pir panchal Region has hailed the Indian Army's efforts, who besides guarding the L O C The Indian Army is providing a platform to the budding Artists to make a niche in the field of fine Arts.

Mass protest rally in Jammu condemns suicide bombing at Imambargah in Islamabad

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A large protest rally was organized on Saturday in Jammu by Anjuman Imamia Regd Jammu, Anjuman Hydry New Plot, All Ladakh Students Organisation, and youths of Talab Khatkian to strongly condemn the barbaric suicide bombing carried out at an Imambargah in Pakistan's capital Islamabad during Friday prayers.

The heinous attack resulted in the killing of approximately 75 innocent persons, while more than one hundred worshippers sustained serious injuries. The incident has sent shockwaves across the region and has been widely condemned as a cowardly and inhuman act of terror. Addressing the gathering, prominent religious and social leaders including Maulana Ali Badshah Naqvi, Amanat Ali Shah, Afaq Kazmi (Vice President, Anjuman Imamia Regd Jammu), Prof. Shujat Khan,



Protest rally being taken out in Jammu.

and representatives of various participating organisations expressed deep anguish and sorrow over the tragic loss of innocent lives.

The speakers unanimously stated that targeting unarmed civilians during prayers is a crime against humanity and a direct assault on the values of peace, tolerance, and religious harmony.

The speakers further

emphasized that such acts of violence are aimed at creating fear, division, and instability among communities, but reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations stands rejected by humanity at large. They appealed to the international community and human rights organisations to take serious note of the continued targeting of religious places and innocent worshippers.

The rally concluded with a collective expression of solidarity with the bereaved families of the victims and prayers for the speedy recovery of those injured.

The participants reaffirmed their commitment to peace, unity, and the protection of fundamental human rights, and resolved to continue raising their voice against terrorism and extremism wherever it occurs.

Meeting of Executive Committee of Home for the Aged & Infirm held

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Home for the Aged & Infirm was held today at the Home premises under the chairmanship of its President, Er. Pankaj Gupta, to review the overall functioning of the institution and to deliberate upon various administrative, financial, and welfare-related matters concerning the Home.

During the meeting, the minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting held on December 26, 2026 were confirmed. The Income and Expenditure Accounts for the month of December 2025 were placed before the House and approved after detailed discussion.

The Committee took note of visits by eight institutions and individuals during December 2025, who recorded their appreciation for the quality of care, facilities, and overall management of the Home. The enrolment of new Life Members during the month was approved after receipt of prescribed application forms and membership fees. Other matters discussed included recovery of rent from shopkeepers and renewal of pending lease deeds, pay revision of employees, addition and alteration to the existing structure, progress on the provision of lifts, issuance of surplus stock, and interaction with inmates and staff to assess their welfare.

The meeting was held under the guidance of the President, Er. Pankaj Gupta and the proceedings were conducted by the Secretary, Dr. Dinesh Gupta.

The meeting was attended by Prem Gupta, IGP, J&K (Retd.), Patron, Vijay Gupta, Jt. Secretary and Committee Members Sat Pal Sharma, Rattandeep Singh Anand, Dr. Surinder Kumar, Dr. Roopali Slatia, Rajinder Singh, Vijay Dhawan, Dr. Ritesh Gupta and Sudha Gupta.