

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Centre firmly committed...

be laid on achieving 100 per cent saturation of the government's welfare schemes and ensuring that the benefits of all development projects reach the intended beneficiaries.

Amit Shah said that the enthusiasm of tourists from across the country to visit Jammu and Kashmir has not diminished. He said that there is a need for aggressive marketing of Jammu and Kashmir's tourist destinations in other states of the country to explore the tourism potential available here. He said that the Government of India will provide all possible assistance in the plan to develop new tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Home Minister said that focus should be given to developing sports infrastructure and establishing sports academies to connect youth with development. In this regard, efforts will be made to secure an investment of about Rs 200 crore by engaging with various sports bodies.

Shah also said that efforts should be made to promote the dairy sector in Jammu and Kashmir through the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

Marking a significant step, Jammu & Kashmir has been brought under the ambit of the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme for the first time in FY 2025-26, enabling access to 50-year interest-free loans for capital projects. Home Minister underlined that strengthened fiscal discipline would assist in stabilising the UT's fiscal deficit over time.

Amit Shah said that India is steadily progressing towards the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047, marking 100 years of independence and the Government of India will continue to extend wholehearted support to Jammu and Kashmir in pursuit of this goal. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit highlights the Government of India's firm resolve to make the development, peace, and security of Jammu and Kashmir a foremost national priority.

Four held for...

reiterated their firm commitment to maintaining law and order and ensuring a safe, secure and tourist-friendly environment. "Any act of disturbing public peace, harmony, or safety will be dealt with strictly in accordance with law."

No plan to...

He said nine new sub-divisions, 50 tehsils and 99 niabats were sanctioned on October 21, 2014, under which Lohai and Duggan were also created as tehsils.

The chief minister said the order was later kept in abeyance in 2018, except for tehsils created at Vilgam and Qalamabad in the Kupwara district, Singhpora and Narway in the Baramulla district, Bhella in the Doda district and Ramsu in the Ramban district, which remained in force.

General discussion on...

on Budget, Legislator Nizam-ud-Din Bhat said that the budget is balanced budget He appreciated the announcement of cultural Centre for Bandipora and crop insurance for the farmers. He suggested that pro-active steps be taken to protect the environment. He raised issues related to livelihood of fishermen, Tribals, power infrastructure, opening of tourist destinations and other issues.

Speaking during the debate, Legislator Muzaffar Iqbal Khan demanded protection for land and jobs for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that regularization of daily wagers is a welcome step as announced by the Chief Minister during his Budget speech.

He said that the special feature of the budget is mention of development of border villages.

During the debate, Legislator Sunil Bhardwaj said the budget should have clear policy for daily wagers and rehabilitation of Kashmiri pandits. He said focus should be given on the capital investment in J&K, Industrial boost, employment and revenue generation.

MLA, Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani, while participating in the budget discussion, said that all members of the House should extend their support to the budget in the larger interest of Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that the government is committed to take the people along on the path of development and progress.

MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz said that the government should remain committed to the promises made with the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

MLA Vikram Randhawa highlighted the issues faced by the local transporters while participating in the discussion on the budget, saying that the budget should have been more people-friendly and responsive to grassroots concerns.

Participating in the debate, MLA Javid Iqbal Choudhary demanded special attention towards Education of girls in his constituency. He raised the issue of tribal empowerment, establishment of industrial corridor, tourism development, health infrastructure. He asserted that there is an urgent need to create permanent jobs and do away with the practice of outsourcing.

MLA Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir, while speaking during the budget discussion, said that there are ample challenges but the budget presented is people-friendly and seeks to address the needs of all sections of society despite limited resources.

MLA Kuldeep Raj Dubey said that the House should devote more time to discuss issues affecting the people and work collectively to find solutions.

Choudhary Mohammad Akram said that people are watching the proceedings and we should make judicious use of time. He said that Omar Abdullah is a dynamic Chief Minister who takes care of all sections of society, emphasising inclusive governance without indulging in divisive or sectarian politics.

MLA Hilal Akbar Lone while speaking stated that the budget has addressed all key sections, including daily wagers, filling of government vacancies, provision of free gas cylinders to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families among other things.

MLA Yudhvir sethi said that the central Government has been more than generous in providing funds to UT of Jammu and Kashmir for development works and other related activities, contributing to its overall progress.

Tehsildar booked on...

Hyderpora, Sector-14, Srinagar.

"The accused is alleged to have accepted a second-hand Mahindra Rexton 4x4 vehicle (MH03CP-5000) as illegal gratification. Payments related to the vehicle were reportedly made by the complainant through banking transactions from his Paytm account linked with J&K Bank, Batamalo, the ACB official added.

Further investigation revealed that after the restoration of the land, the complainant sold the said property in January 2022 to a private purchaser, who is currently in possession of the land.

By allegedly demanding and accepting illegal gratification other than legal remuneration for performing an official act, the accused is stated to have abused his official position, thereby committing offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Following the registration of the FIR, the ACB conducted searches at two residential locations after obtaining warrants from the Court. The searches were carried out simultaneously at the accused's residences located at Kanil Bagh, Azad Road, Baramulla, and Rose Avenue Colony, Gazzalla Abad, HMT Srinagar.

"During the searches, incriminating material including revenue records, financial and bank-related documents were recovered and seized as evidence," the official said. The ACB has stated that further investigation in the case is ongoing and more recoveries and disclosures are expected as the probe progresses.

Article 370 is...

provision had long acted as a shield for terrorists and separatist forces.

He noted a visible decline in incidents of stone pelting (patharbaazi), attributing the improvement in the law-and-order situation to firm policies of the central government. "The reduction in stone pelting incidents clearly shows that misguided youth are now moving away from violence and towards constructive paths," he said.

Highlighting the approach of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sethi remarked that the Prime Minister chose dialogue with the youth of Jammu and Kashmir rather than engaging with Pakistan.

"Modi ji did not hold dialogue with Pakistan; instead, he opened channels of dialogue with the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. This has brought confidence, opportunities, and a sense of belonging among the younger generation," he said.

Yudhvir Sethi credited the Modi government's policies for accelerating development across the Union Territory. He said that major improvements in infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare, and education have been possible only because of decisive governance after August 5, 2019. According to him, Jammu and Kashmir is now witnessing development at par with other progressive regions of the country.

The MLA also underlined the historical context of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India. He said that India's freedom fighters and national leadership safeguarded Jammu and Kashmir from falling into Pakistan's hands.

"Some people still behave as if Jammu and Kashmir is their personal property or jagir. They must remember that this land is an integral part of India, protected by sacrifices of freedom fighters and patriots," he asserted.

"Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had clearly expressed his principled stand on constitutional equality when he wrote to Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1951, stating that he did not support the idea of a separate or special Constitution for any one region," Yudhvir said while hitting out at Ruling Party for upholding two constitutions, two flags, two prime ministers.

Yudhvir asserted that a single nation cannot have multiple constitutions, flags, or heads of state.

Yudhvir said Dr. B. R. Ambedkar firmly believed that one nation must be governed by one Constitution to ensure equality, unity, and justice for all citizens.

"Dr. Ambedkar was of the view that granting a separate constitutional arrangement would weaken national integration and create permanent divisions within the country. When his views were not accepted and his concerns on constitutional and social issues were repeatedly ignored, he chose to resign from the Union Cabinet in 1951, demonstrating his integrity and commitment to democratic principles," Sethi said adding that his stand reflected his lifelong belief that true democracy can survive only when all citizens are governed by the same laws, with equal rights and responsibilities.

Appreciating the surge in tourism after the abrogation of Article 370, Sethi said that record tourist footfall has boosted the local economy and created new livelihood opportunities. He said peace, improved security, and better infrastructure have restored global and national confidence in Jammu and Kashmir as a tourist destination.

Concluding his speech, Yudhvir Sethi reaffirmed that the journey of Jammu and Kashmir is now firmly rooted in peace, progress, and nationalism, and that the era of ambiguity and separatism has decisively ended.

Police arrests conman...

government-owned, thereby inducing them to invest under false pretences, the spokesman said. "During the investigation, it surfaced that the accused is a habitual offender and has been previously involved in at least five criminal cases. He has been booked earlier for offences involving cheating, forgery, criminal trespass, criminal intimidation and related crimes," he said.

J&K women emerging...

opportunities for young girls to become self-reliant and contribute actively towards national development.

Chugh said that the abrogation of Article 370 proved to be a historic decision for the women of Jammu and Kashmir, who were deprived of several constitutional rights for decades. He said women of the Union Territory are now enjoying equal property rights and full legal protection under central laws related to domestic violence, dowry and workplace safety. Chugh said welfare schemes such as Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana have strengthened the financial and healthcare security of women, ensuring dignity and social justice.

Chugh said that the Modi Government has taken landmark steps to ensure greater participation of women in governance and leadership. He said the Narishakti Vandan Adhinyam will significantly increase women's representation in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies, strengthening their voice in policy making. He added that schemes like Mudra Yojana, Stand-Up India and self-help group initiatives have enabled women to emerge as entrepreneurs and job creators, particularly in rural and agricultural sectors.

Chugh praised BJP Mahila Moreha for strengthening grassroots outreach and connecting government welfare initiatives with women beneficiaries. He said empowered women are the strongest foundation of a strong nation and added that BJP remains fully committed towards ensuring safety, dignity and economic independence of women. Chugh expressed confidence that women of Jammu and Kashmir will play a leading role in building a prosperous, peaceful and self-reliant India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Amit Shah meets...

late Thursday night on a two-day visit to the region. On Friday, he visited forward posts along the international border in Kathua, chaired a security review meeting and handed over job appointment letters to the next of kin of policemen killed in the line of duty. The home minister is scheduled to chair a meeting to review various ongoing development projects in the UT before returning to Delhi.

DC Rajouri, DySP...

Superintendent of Police, Operations, Shammi Kumar, was also awarded the COAS commendation for his exemplary role during the operation.

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, who visited the border district on Saturday, appreciated the Rajouri district administration for its "exceptional cooperation" in an operationally sensitive environment and lauded the Rajouri deputy commissioner for setting a benchmark in civil-military synergy, the spokesperson said.

RSS not against...

volunteers wield the lathi, it should not be seen as an "akhada" (wrestling club), Bhagwat said.

Nor is the RSS involved in politics though some individuals with the Sangh background are active in political life, he added.

Talking about the situation in the country that preceded the RSS's birth in 1925, Bhagwat the British founded the Indian National Congress as a "safety valve", but the Indians transformed it into a powerful instrument in the struggle for independence.

Delta Force holds ALS-BLS, trauma response training at SDH Baderwah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Delta Force of White Knight Corps (Northern Command) on Thursday facilitated Block Medical Officer (BMO) Baderwah, Dr Varsha Sharma, along with her dedicated team from Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Baderwah at Military Hospital Doda, in recognition of their remarkable and timely medical response during the rescue operation following the tragic Army vehicle accident in Baderwah.



The medical team was lauded for their professionalism, swift action, and commitment while handling the injured soldiers on the fateful day, which played a crucial role in saving precious lives. On the occasion, a series of capacity-building and awareness activities were also conducted at the hospital. These included hand sanitization awareness, a mock drill on trauma and emergency response, collaboration sessions on emergency camps, and advanced life support (ALS) and basic life support (BLS) training for medical staff.

Trust has become India's strongest currency: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India is seen as a "trusted partner for growth" and it was reflected in the recent trade deals it has agreed with various countries, including the UK, USA and the EU.

Addressing a community programme here, Modi said the Indian diaspora served as a living bridge between India and Malaysia and announced a new consulate in the archipelago nation and the Thiruvalluvar Scholarship to enable students to study in India. Modi, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday on a two-day visit, referred to the trade deals India agreed with various countries and said India is seen as a "trusted partner for growth".

"Trust has become India's strongest currency," Modi said, citing trade deals with the UK, UAE, Australia, New Zealand, Oman, the EU and the US.

Malaysia is home to nearly three million people of Indian descent, the second largest in the world, with an overwhelming majority of Tamil origin.

Greeting the Indian community members in different languages, the prime minister made it a point to highlight the singing abilities of his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim, particularly his love of Tamil songs of legendary actor-politician M G Ramachandran (MGR).

"Tamil is India's gift to the world. Tamil literature is eternal, and Tamil culture is global. Tamil people have served humanity with their talents," Modi said, recalling that India's Vice President C P Radhakrishnan and Union ministers S Jaishankar, Nirmala Sitharaman and L Murugan, were from Tamil Nadu.

"The Tamil diaspora has been here for many centuries. Inspired by this history, we are proud to have established the Tiruvalluvar chair at the University of Malaya. We will now set up our Tiruvalluvar Centre to further strengthen our shared heritage," the prime minister said.

Modi said he was very delighted to be in Malaysia which is his first foreign visit in 2026. "India will always embrace you with open arms. That is why, just a few months ago, we took a historic decision to extend OCI card eligibility to Malaysian citizens of Indian origin up to the sixth generation," he said. Modi said the Malaysian prime minister, who was present at the event, and he have been friends even before Ibrahim became prime minister.

11 dumpers among 12 vehicles seized for illegal mining activities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH/SAMBA: As part of its continued efforts to curb illegal mining and ensure compliance with mining and transportation laws, Police Station Surankote conducted routine checking today at Mirza Morh, during which three dumpers were intercepted and seized for their involvement in illegal mining activities without valid permission. Upon verification, the drivers of the intercepted vehicles failed to produce valid authorization and transit permits, which are mandatory for the extraction and transportation of mining material. The absence of requisite documents constituted a clear violation of the prevailing mining and environmental regulations.

Consequently, the vehicles bearing registration numbers JK02DP-1766, JK02DP-1730, and JK02DP-3089 were seized on the spot in accordance with law and taken into police custody for further investigation and legal proceedings.

The matter has been brought to the notice of the Mining Department, which has been informed to initiate necessary legal action against the violators under the relevant provisions of law. Police teams headed by SHOs of Police Stations Samba, Bari Brahmana, Ghagwal, Purmandal and In-charges of Police Posts SIDCO, Supwal & Rakh Amb Talli of PS Samba while performing patrolling duty in their jurisdictional areas have seized eight dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK21G-5946, JK02DH-9381, JK21G-9285, JK02CT-9433, JK02BP-8931, JK21G-6585, JK21J-8049, JK21H-9222 and a tractor without registration No. which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area.

Absconder evading arrest for last 3 years arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: In continuation to its drive against the Absconders/Criminals, Samba Police apprehended an absconder wanted in a case FIR registered at Police Station Bari Brahmana during the year 2018 and was evading his arrest for the last three years, despite the issuance of an arrest warrant by the Hon'ble Court Samba.

A Police team of Police Station Bari Brahmana succeeded in apprehending an absconder namely Vipin Sharma S/o Satpal Sharma R/o Patli morh Tehsil Bari Brahmana District Samba wanted in case FIR No. 181/2018 U/S 382/323/201/34 RPC registered at PS Bari Brahmana.

Accordingly, the said absconder was produced in the court of law and was sent to District Jail Kathua by the Court Samba. Thus, the arrest warrant U/S 512 CrPC issued against him got executed.

It is pertinent to mention here that the said absconder is also involved in different cases of theft, burglary and snatching registered at PS Bari Brahmana.

Seven narco-smugglers nabbed with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA/DODA/UDHAMPUR/JAMMU: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers/peddlers, Samba Police has arrested a drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Rangarh and recovered approximately 8.22 grams of heroin-like substance (chitta) from his possession.

Acting on information received from reliable sources, a team of Police Station Rangarh intercepted a pedestrian under suspicious circumstances who was coming from Tarapur and moving toward Gudwal. During frisking, approximately 8.22 grams of heroin-like substance (chitta) was recovered from the possession of said person.

The drug peddler identified as Anil Kumar S/o Mohan Singh R/o Simbaleyal tehsil Vijaypur district Samba has been arrested and contraband item has also been seized.

A case FIR No. 07/2026 u/s 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Rangarh and investigation started.

Meanwhile, a police party from Police Station Doda, led by PSI Tavseef Rafiq under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Doda Sh. Krishan Rattan, was conducting patrolling in the areas of Jamia Masjid, Dak Mohalla, Dromri Mohalla, Akramabad, and adjoining localities. During patrolling at Sadeeqabad, the police party intercepted two suspicious individuals who attempted to flee upon noticing the police.

The suspects were identified as Piyush Katoch, S/o Fulail Singh, and Mohd Taqi, S/o Mushtaq Ahmed, both residents of Muthi Marmat, Doda. During their personal search, a white polythene pouch containing approximately 9-10 grams of heroin-like substance was recovered from Piyush Katoch, while another pouch containing approximately 10 grams of heroin-like substance was recovered from Mohd Taqi, making the total recovery approximately 20 grams.

Accordingly, both accused persons were arrested and FIR No. 28/2026 under Sections 8, 21, and 22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Doda, and further investigation is underway.

In another case, A police team of Police Station Chenani while conducting routine traffic checking at Naka Point Motor Shed, NHW Chenani foiled two separate drug peddling attempts

During checking of vehicles moving from Udhampur towards Kashmir, a black Maruti Suzuki Alto K-10 bearing Registration No. JK03J-1421 was intercepted. During checking, two persons were found travelling in the vehicle. On questioning, the driver disclosed his identity as Saqib Nisar S/O Nisar Ahmad Shah R/O Wanihama, Anantnag while the co-passenger disclosed his identity as Nadeem Ahmed Khan S/O Ghulam Nabi Khan R/O Nai Basti, Anantnag.

Upon conducting their personal search, heroin weighing 10.81 grams and 10.92 grams respectively was recovered from their possession. Both the accused failed to give any satisfactory explanation regarding the recovered contraband.

Accordingly, both persons were arrested on the spot and FIR No. 19/2026 U/S 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Chenani.

In another instance, during checking of vehicles moving from Jammu towards Kashmir, a white Tempo Traveller bearing Registration No. JK01AW-9300 was stopped.

During frisking of passengers one person identified as Tariq Ahmad Sheikh S/O Mohammad Akram Sheikh R/O Nursing Garh, Srinagar was found in possession of heroin weighing 4.94 grams. He also failed to give any satisfactory explanation regarding the recovered contraband.

Accordingly accused was arrested on spot and FIR No. 20/2026 U/S 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Chenani.

Jammu (Rural) Police arrested one drug peddler and recovered 10.15 grams of heroin like substance along with one weighing machine during a checking operation at Floura Nagbani area of Domana.

The operation was conducted on specific inputs by a police team of Police Station Domana, led by SHO & SDPO Domana.

The arrested person has been identified as Basharat Ali @ Vishu S/O Abdul Rashid R/o Halka Marh, Jammu

In this connection, FIR No. 32/2026 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Domana, and the accused has been arrested.

Vehicle involved in illegal Khair wood smuggling seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As part of its sustained drive against illegal timber smuggling, Jammu (Rural) Police seized one vehicle involved in the illegal transportation of Khair wood in the Domana area.

During routine naka checking, in the intervening night of 06/07 February, 2026, a police team from Police Station Domana intercepted a TATA Mobile vehicle bearing registration number JK02BL-1654 loaded with Khair wood weighing approximately 33-35 quintals. Taking advantage of the darkness, the driver of the vehicle fled from the spot. The vehicle along with the illegally smuggled Khair wood was seized on the spot. The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) has been informed for further action under the relevant provisions of the Forest Act.

Hardcore criminal booked under PSA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Acting tough against criminals Jammu Police today on 07.02.2026 booked the notorious criminal from Bishnah area under PSA and lodged him in Bhadewah Jail.

A hardcore criminal namely Baldev Raj S/O Kalu Ram R.O Kotha Chorli, Bishnah has been booked under PSA after obtaining formal detention orders from the District Magistrate, Jammu. The booked hard-core criminal has been subsequently lodged in Bhaderwah jail.

It is pertinent to mention here that multiple FIR's are already registered against the above mentioned criminal in Jammu District.

The above said notorious criminal has remained successful every time in securing the bails from the Hon'ble Courts and in order to refrain the subject from indulging in criminal activities, a dossier under stringent PSA was recommended against the subject, upon which, the District Magistrate Jammu, after getting satisfied issued a PSA warrant against him.

The arrest was made by a team of Police Station Bishnah headed by SHO PS Bishnah under the close supervision of SDPO R.S. Pura & SP Headquarters Jammu.