

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! CM announces committee...

wagers, making the situation more complicated. "Then came the J&K Reorganization Act, which effectively shut the door on their regularization. Now, we must reopen this issue. But in these years, their numbers have changed, making it difficult to determine an accurate count," he said. The government must start from the scratch to resolve their concerns, he said.

Addressing criticism that his budget speech was pessimistic, the Chief Minister clarified that it was, in fact, realistic. "Some members termed the beginning of my budget speech as pessimistic. I believe it was not pessimistic; it was realistic.

I told the truth-I said my whole body has wounds. Pessimism would have been if I had said, "The body has so many wounds, death would be inevitable." Instead, he explained, "I said, "The body has so many wounds, and I don't even have enough balm for them." This is not pessimism; this is our reality."

He stressed the financial constraints facing the Union Territory, adding, "Do I have enough money to take all the power projects into my hands and start working on them? No. Can I provide free electricity to all the people? No. In today's age, we don't even have the budget to ensure 24-hour electricity for Jammu and Kashmir. We are forced to buy electricity. We have worked on increasing social benefits for the poor. But is this truly enough to meet their needs? No."

Quoting an English saying, "Cut your coat according to your cloth," the Chief Minister explained the necessity of managing within available resources. "My words were not pessimistic; they were realistic. I presented the truth. We don't have enough money, but we have prioritized welfare measures that will have a meaningful impact on the people."

He acknowledged that the budget would not yield instant results but assured that long-term growth had been set in motion. "This budget serves as our foundation. Over the next five years, we will build a strong and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir."

Responding to the opposition, particularly BJP members, the Chief Minister remarked that instead of focusing on the budget, their speeches were centered around Article 370, Maharaja Ji, and July 13.

"Initially, I thought his speech had substance, but in reality, there was nothing related to the budget," he said, referring to a BJP legislator's remarks.

Addressing the interpretation of his budget speech, Omar Abdullah reiterated, "My budget speech is a love letter to the BJP, to the PC, to the PDP, to the AIP, to Congress, to the CPI(M), to independent MLAs, and, above all, to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Why do we write love letters? To express love. And do we not love those who are in need? Through this budget, we have tried to extend that love by addressing their challenges and aspirations."

"I am not ashamed to call it a love letter. In fact, for the next five years, we will continue writing such love letters-letters of commitment, of progress and of transformation for the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Responding to criticism about acknowledging financial support from the Centre, the Chief Minister stated, "The central government has extended financial support to us. Should I be ashamed to admit it? No, I will not. The reality is that we are not yet self-sufficient. We are not financially independent. That is our challenge. And that is precisely what we must work toward." He stressed that Jammu and Kashmir had always relied on central funds, but the goal was to achieve financial self-reliance in the long run. "This is not a new struggle. Our past budgets reflect the same reality. But we aspire for more. We aim for a future where Jammu and Kashmir stands on its own feet." To achieve this, the government has focused on developing new tourism destinations, industrial estates, and encouraging start-ups and entrepreneurship.

Dispelling the misconception that Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are fully funded by the Government of India, the Chief Minister explained that the UT also contributes significantly. He cited the PM Golden Card, which covers only BPL families under central funding, while the remaining 18 lakh families are supported by the UT. Similarly, under the National Social Assistance Program, 1.43 lakh BPL families receive pensions from central funds, but 8 lakh additional pensioners are covered by the UT's own resources. "These are not mere figures; they represent our responsibility toward our people."

The Chief Minister emphasized that after years of struggle, the budget of Jammu and Kashmir was finally being discussed within J&K itself, instead of just being passed in Parliament. "This is an achievement in itself. Some may argue that we still do not have a government of our own. But let me remind them this budget is for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and it is being debated where it truly belongs."

He concluded by reaffirming his government's commitment to restoring dignity, empowerment, and self-reliance for the people. "Some may see these initiatives as mere drops in the ocean, but history has shown that even the mightiest oceans are formed by countless drops.

With these small but meaningful steps, InshaAllah, in five years, we will restore the dignity of our people and build a financially self-sufficient Jammu and Kashmir." "This is our vision. This is our commitment. This is our love letter to our people."

Earlier, MLAs Qayser Jamsheed Lone, Showkat Hussain Ganie, Javed Iqbal Choudhary, Shagun Parihar, Abdul Majeed Larmi, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Sajad Lone, Zafar Ali Khatana, Baldev Raj Sharma, Saif Ud Din Bhat spoke on the budgetary provisions on Tuesday and also put forth their views and suggestions.

Rs 143 Cr...

He informed that 96 percent and 94 percent physical progress has been achieved on the left bank and right bank of the river respectively.

Regarding the Tawi Barrage works, the Minister said that the works have been taken up with an estimated cost of Rs. 64.80 crore and Rs. 36.15 crore have been expended, so far. He said that 85 percent of the works of Tawi Barrage and Artificial Lake stand completed.

The Minister said that in order to prevent the direct drain discharge into the Ranbir Canal, a detailed DPR for an amount of Rs 34.06 crore has been prepared for execution of 10 works.

Parliamentary panel to...

and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, said the panel was working with full transparency and wanted to ensure that everyone got an opportunity to share their views on the issue of simultaneous polls.

The panel also heard the views of former chief justice of India and Rajya Sabha member Ranjan Gogoi and former Delhi High Court chief justice Rajendra Menon.

Chaudhary said a presentation of the website was organised for panel members and the Committee will also issue an advertisement inviting memoranda from across the country on simultaneous elections.

He said that elections were conducted simultaneously across the country from 1952 to 1967, when the cycle was broken.

There have been demands from various quarters from the 1980s for the restoration of simultaneous elections, Chaudhary added.

Govt bans Mirwaiz's...

and Kashmir Police and the National Investigation Agency against the members of the AAC for their alleged involvement in unlawful activities.

The cases registered against AAC leaders like the Mirwaiz, Mushtaq-ul-Islam, Nisar Ahmad Rather and Nisar Ahmad Bhat include shouting slogans against the integrity of India and for delivering a speech stating that they would struggle till Jammu and Kashmir is not separated from Union of India, and for also pelting stones.

Another case against the Mirwaiz was for supporting the 'Hartal' call given by Syed Ali Shah Geelani for August 3, 2011 and for instigating the general people and the youth of the valley for waging war against the sovereignty of India.

The AAC and JKIM will continue propagating false narrative and anti-national sentiments among the people of Jammu and Kashmir with the intention to cause disaffection against India and disrupt public order and escalate secessionist movements, support militancy and incite violence in the country, the MMA said.

India made rapid...

Shri Birendra Rai Hospital at Areraj, Motihari, Bihar, the Lieutenant Governor said, "Our innovations in technologies and treatment are rated amongst the best and our healthcare professionals have demonstrated excellence and they are competing with leading health institutions of developed countries".

"The high standard of our care practices, along with equitable, integrated and people-centered, comparative cost advantages and efficient services have made India a favourite destination for medical treatment, he added."

In view of the emerging challenges in health sector, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised on paying special attention to developing specialised human resource, and extending quality and affordable medical care to all through a close collaboration between the public and private sectors.

"We should now focus on expanding the coverage of health services and giving access to affordable medical facilities to the people in far flung areas while ensuring quality service across a vast spectrum of healthcare," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated and extended his felicitations to the family members of Late Birendra Rai and everyone associated with the hospital which will offer services in specialties, using latest cutting-edge healthcare technology.

"Shri Birendra Rai Ji's family has steered this esteemed institution for public service and care. I convey my good wishes to Rajeev Kumar, Dr Sanjeev Kumar and his fami-

ly for the dedicated service that they are doing," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Anti-encroachment drive...

was retrieved from encroachers. The Vice Chairman has issued direction to install JDA sign boards and to start the fencing work the retrieved land. A clear message was given by JDA to all such persons to refrain from encroaching/trespassing into JDA lands else they will have to face strict action.

The demolition drive targeted various locations where encroachers had built struc-



tures, preventing the authorities from utilizing the land for public purposes and development projects. With the successful removal of these illegal constructions, JDA officials have emphasized their commitment to ensuring that such actions are not only one-time efforts but part of an ongoing initiative to retrieve and protect JDA land from illegal encroachments.

In their statements, JDA representatives have vowed to continue the demolition operations in the coming weeks, sending a clear message to encroachers that the authorities will not tolerate any illegal occupation of its land. They also noted that the reclaimed land will be used for various developmental projects, including infrastructure improvements, green spaces, and residential and commercial developments to cater to the growing needs of the city.

The Jammu Development Authority has urged the public to cooperate with the authorities and refrain from any illegal encroachment, as such activities disrupt planned development and the overall growth of the region. The drive has been widely supported by residents who have long been concerned about the illegal occupation of prime land in the area.

JDA has also stated that it will continue to monitor and protect the land to prevent future encroachments, with stricter enforcement measures in place.

CB books de-facto...

told the complainant that he knew Rajeshwar Sabarwal and he was a genuine person. Rajeshwar Sabarwal told that he is making all Army supplies and dealings in the name of his wife's firm M/S A.K. Traders having registered office at Katra.

He sought to purchase rice and pulses worth Rs. 18.63 crores (approx.) for making supplies to Army at Bari Brahmana and Amritsar and promised that payment would be cleared by him within fifteen days of every bill. The accused Rajeshwar Sabarwal fraudulently received products worth Rs. 7,37,83,480.00 from the complainant's firm during the period from 04-05-2024 to 28-05-2024, but made payment of Rs 3,07,66,400.00 only thereby causing wrongful gain of Rs. 4,30,17,080.00 to himself thereby committing offence punishable under law.

SSP Crime Jammu Benam Tosh confirmed that FIR 14/2025 has been registered at Police Station Crime Branch EOW Jammu, investigation is underway and some more victims of the big fraud are approaching the CB for action under law.

4 killed, 8 injured...

and one died on the way to the hospital, officials added. Eight injured persons were shifted to the hospital.

"The vehicle was on its way from Jammu to Mahore. It rolled into deep gorge. In the mishap, three persons died on the spot, and one died on the way to the hospital. Six injured our of eight injured persons have been shifted to Jammu," said SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh.

CJ inaugurates Legal...

Secretary DLSA Srinagar; Superintendent GMC Srinagar; Mohd Ashrif Hakak, Administrator, GMC Srinagar; Medical Superintendent and Senior faculty members of GMC Srinagar; other Heads of Departments, and senior police officers.

Following the inaugural ceremony, a video conferencing session was held between the Superintendent of Central Jail Srinagar; the Medical Officer of the jail, and inmates from the Prison Legal Aid Clinic & Support Centre, The Chief Justice and Justice Sreedharan interacted with jail authorities and inmates to assess their legal and medical concerns, aiming to bridge the gap between incarcerated individuals and specialized healthcare professionals for timely and effective medical interventions.

During the visit, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Sanaee, HOD Neurology; Dr. Naveed Nazir, HOD Pulmonology; and Dr. Showket Ahmad Zargar, HOD Gastroenterology, along with other senior medical professionals, interacted with the jail inmates through the Prison Legal Aid Clinic & Support Centre, addressing their medical concerns and offering expert guidance on their healthcare needs. The involvement of these specialists ensured a comprehensive assessment of health-related challenges faced by incarcerated individuals and their access to necessary treatment.

During the visit, the dignitaries engaged in meaningful discussions with faculty members, legal aid counsels, and medical professionals on the critical role of legal aid in upholding the rights of underprivileged individuals, particularly those in custody. Justice Atul Sreedharan emphasized that the integration of legal aid services with healthcare institutions would facilitate seamless medical assistance for jail inmates while safeguarding their fundamental rights to health and justice.

While interacting with stakeholders, Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan underscored that the establishment of such a Legal Aid Clinic at GMC Srinagar represents a landmark initiative in ensuring access to justice, particularly for those unable to seek legal recourse due to incarceration.

Chief Justice further stressed the importance of strengthening coordination between jail authorities, medical institutions, and legal aid functionaries to provide holistic legal and medical support to inmates.

The event concluded with a firm commitment to ensuring that legal aid remains an integral part of healthcare services, reinforcing the collective resolve to serve the marginalized sections of society.

Work on Satwari...

The traffic plying on the road stretch from Bikram Chowk upto Satwari Chowk shall remain through for one way traffic movement however the traffic plying will be diverted from last Morh Gandhi Nagar in the Right Tube towards Satwari Chowk.

The traffic coming from 4th Tawi Bridge bound for Satwari side shall not ply via Beli Charana rather shall be diverted to Ware House - Asia Crossing - Last Morh Gandhi Nagar and towards Satwari Chowk.

The General Public has been requested to cooperate with District Administration and Police to maintain better traffic management.

For any traffic related assistance the General Public can contact TCU Jammu 0191-2459048, 94191-47732.

Ruckus in LA...

Please raise the issue with those who control them." He further said the police had taken note of the incident and should exercise restraint in the future.

However, BJP MLAs stood up, arguing that the situation had arisen because the government had allocated nothing for the workers in the budget.

This led to protests from the treasury benches. After several minutes of noisy scenes, BJP members staged a walkout from the House.

As the House assembled for the day in the morning, BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa raised the issue of protests by PHE daily wagers, highlighting the subsequent baton charge and detention in support of their demands for the release of wages.

He emphasised the need for the government to address their issues.

Randhawa was supported by several BJP members. National Conference members Mir Saifullah and B A Veeri, along with Congress member Nizamuddin Bhat, also raised the issue.

Despite Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather asking them to down and allow the Question Hour to proceed, the members continued raising the issue briefly, leading to a ruckus.

The daily wagers had previously staged long strikes last year demanding the release of their pending wages and regularisation of their services. Despite several rounds of talks with senior officials in the department, their issues remain unresolved.

Two boys go...

constituted teams to trace the boys and their photos are being circulated to gather clues.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Shiv Kumar Sharma has directed police officers to

liaise with other districts, deras, and the relatives of the two boys in Punjab, Jammu, and Udhampur to trace the missing boys.

The DIG met with the families of the missing boys and assured them that all possible measures would be taken to locate them.

Kathua has been in the news after the bodies of 15-year-old Varun Singh, his paternal uncle Yogesh Singh (32), and maternal uncle Darshan Singh (40) were found in Ishu mullah in the remote Malhar area in the higher reaches of the district on Saturday. The trio had gone missing on March 5. Last month, the bodies of two other people -- Shamsheer (37) and Roshan (45) -- were found in Kohag village in Kathua district, with postmortem reports indicating strangulation.

Train hijacked in Pakistan's Balochistan; 13 terrorists killed, 80 passengers rescued

AGENCY

KARACHI: At least 13 terrorists were killed and 80 passengers rescued by security forces after suspected Baloch militants hijacked a train in a tunnel in Pakistan's restive Balochistan's province on Tuesday, security officials said.

The Jaffar Express, carrying approximately 500 passengers in nine bogies, was travelling from Quetta to Peshawar when armed men intercepted it in a tunnel near the mountainous terrain of Gudalar and Piru Kunri on Tuesday morning.

Security officials said so far they have killed 13 terrorists and rescued 80 passengers. The rescue operation is underway, they said.

Earlier, Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind said, "The security forces have managed to rescue 80 passengers -- 43 men, 26 women and 11 children -- from a bogie." However, around 400 passengers remained on the train, still trapped inside the tunnel as security forces engaged in a gun battle with the militants, he said.

Rind said rescue teams have been dispatched amid reports of "intense" firing at the Peshawar-bound passenger train.

Samba Police arrests wanted notorious drug smuggler

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA: Samba Police on Tuesday arrested a notorious drug smuggler in who was evading his arrest from the last two years. "During the course of investigation of case FIR No. 139/2023 under Section 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act and FIR No. 66/2024 under Section 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act registered at Police Station Bari Brahmana, police has established backward linkages with meticulous investigation coupled with technical assistance and found the involvement of notorious drug smuggler Sham Din, son of Murid Ali, resident of Sarore Adda, tehsil Bari Brahmana district Samba as backward linkage in both the aforesaid FIRs," police official said. A police team headed by SHO PS Bari Brahmana under the supervision of SDPO Bari Brahmana and under the overall supervision of SSP Samba has arrested the aforesaid notorious drug smuggler Sham Din after hectic efforts, official added.

20 vagrants detained near Chitta hotspot, sent to District Jail Kathua

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA: In a decisive action against drug abuse, Samba Police has detained twenty vagrants under preventive sections of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) who were found roaming near chitta hotspot in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmana and sent them to district Jail Kathua.

As per police report, acting on specific inputs, a team from Police Station Bari Brahmana headed by SHO PS Bari Brahmana under the supervision of SDPO Bari Brahmana and under the overall supervision of SSP Samba conducted a special operation around infamous Chitta hotspot Balole Khad Bari Brahmana and detained twenty vagrants wandering suspiciously in the area.

The detained vagrants have been identified as Gulshan Kumar, Vivek Singh, Raj Kumar, Ajit Kumar, Kushab Sharma, Sanjeev Kumar, Mohd Abid Ganie, Vijay Kumar, Ankush Kumar, Rajesh Singh, Asif Nabi, Rinkar, Shamra, Amir Mehmood Khan, Sule Jeseeph Knoker, Deepak Khajuria, Anket Anand, Abil Anand, Vimal Koul, Rahul Thakur and Rohit Gupta. This move aims to curb drug-related offences and rehabilitate those involved in narcotics substance abuse.

Samba Police has reiterated its commitment to eliminate the drug menace from the society and assured that stringent action will continue against those involved in drug peddling and drug abuse. The general public is encouraged to remain vigilant and support Police in its efforts to maintain a drug-free society.

Missing person traced, reunited with family

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Police traced a missing person and reunited him with the family. SSP Ramban Kulbir Singh constituted special police teams for tracing of the missing Persons. The dedicated police team by making the best possible efforts traced one missing person. Romesh Kumar son of Suram Chand resident of Katiala,Swami, Chanderkote District Ramban, Missing Report entered vide DDR No.05 Dated 30.10.2024 at PS Chanderkote. The missing person has been reunited with his family following the proper procedure under the law. The missing person was traced by Police team of PS Chanderkote.

Absconder evading arrest since last 33 years apprehended

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Continuing its crack down against absconders Ramban Police on the directions of SSP Ramban Kulbir Singh apprehended an absconder wanted in a case who was evading his arrest since last 33 years The dedicated police team of Police Station Banihal apprehended an absconder wanted in an FIR of Police Station Banihal. Abdul Rashid Shah son of Ahmed Shah resident of Krawa Banihal wanted in case FIR No. 108/1992 U/S 3/4 TADA Act Sections 395/365/436 RPC.

The above named accused person was absconding and evading his arrest since last 33 years with a motive to avoid the legal proceedings. General Warrant of Arrest under section 512 CrPC against the above named accused was issued by the Hon'ble Court of 3rd Addl Sessions Judge Jammu

The Police team of PS Banihal after hectic efforts produced the above named absconder before the court of Law.

Police organizes awareness programme on "New Criminal Laws"

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Police in collaboration with the District Administration, organized an awareness programme on the newly enacted criminal laws on 10.03.2025, at Community Hall Chakrohi, Suchetgarh, under the jurisdiction of Police Station R.S Pura. The event aimed to educate government officials and the local community about the key provisions, significance, and impact of the legal reforms.

The programme witnessed the participation of senior officials, including Rahul Sharma (Tehsildar Chakrohi), Shailendar Kumar (BDO Suchetgarh), Hussain Bhatti (APP Bishnah), APP Pawandeep Kour (APP R.S Pura), Dr. Meena, Ankush Sharma (Panchayat Secretary), and Sh. Arun Kumar Mishra (Panchayat Inspector), along with SHO P/S R.S Pura and a large gathering of local residents.

Legal experts from the Prosecution Department and legal fraternity provided insights into the new criminal laws, focusing on citizen-friendly reforms such as Zero-FIR, e-FIR, and Preliminary Enquiry (PE), along with a victim-centric approach aimed at ensuring faster justice. The session also highlighted the integration of digital/electronic evidence, forensic science, and technology-driven investigations to enhance policing efficiency.

Additionally, the programme addressed the growing concern of drug abuse, emphasizing its harmful effects on individuals and society. Officials encouraged youth to engage in cultural and constructive activities, fostering a stronger police-community relationship, particularly in border areas, to deter illegal activities.

With an active participation of approximately 80-90 attendees, the awareness programme proved to be a vital step toward enhancing public understanding of legal reforms and reinforcing law enforcement efforts in R.S Pura.

Jammu Police reaffirmed their commitment to promoting legal awareness and ensuring a safer society.

Samba police seizes 6 dumpers for illegal mining

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBHA: Continuing its drive against illegal mining, Samba Police has seized six dumpers in the jurisdiction of Police Stations Samba and Ghagwal which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

Police teams headed by SHO PS Samba, Incharge of Police Posts Supwal, Mansar and Rakh Amb Talli of PS Samba and Incharge Police Post Rajpura of PS Ghagwal while performing patrolling duty in their jurisdictional areas, have seized six dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK21H-7879, JK21J-8683, JK08M-7630, JK21D-0670, JK02AH-6577 and JK21G-6049 which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area.

The above mentioned vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to the Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further legal action.