

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Panel examining quota...

to examine the grievances projected by a section of aspirants for various posts regarding reservation rules. However, no specific timeline has been fixed for submitting the report," Itoo said in the House.

She said 5,39,306 (5.39 lakh) people from Scheduled Tribes (STs) -- 4,59,493 (4.59 lakh) in Jammu division and 79,813 in Kashmir division -- had obtained certificates since April 1, 2023.During the same period, 67,112 Scheduled Caste (SC) certificates have been issued in the Jammu region.

The minister said 1,379 villages in Jammu and 1,229 in Kashmir had benefited under the Reserved Backward Area while 551 villages of the Jammu zone benefited under the International Border category.

Similarly, 268 villages in Jammu and 16 in Kashmir have benefited under the Actual Line of Control category.

The government has issued 27,420 certificates to people from Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in the Jammu division and 2,273 certificates in the Kashmir valley since April 1, 2023, the minister said.

NEP-2020 implemented...

to a question raised by Javid Riyaz in Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed the House that the colleges of J&K are already offering job-oriented and skill-based courses to enhance students' employability and practical learning. She apprised that the Business Management programs are being offered in various colleges in J&K but Artificial Intelligence as a separate program has not been introduced as yet as the subject is new and developing area of learning.

She further said that Artificial Intelligence is taught as part of curriculum of Computer Applications.

2 timber smugglers...

Chiralla Range. The accused had long been involved in organized timber smuggling activities, posing a threat to the environment and also intimidating and threatening Forest officials' Forest authorities said.

The DFO Bhaderwah said several forest damage cases have been registered in Chiralla Range against these offenders in addition to FIRs in the police station.

"Some other habitual offenders have also been identified and dossiers prepared. In future the PSA will be slapped against these offenders also so that it serves as a deterrent to others," he added.

Govt notifies 'J&K...

The government will ensure that best practices are incorporated and accident prevention and reduction strategies are adopted in a big way.

DRDCs shall conduct regular identification of accident-prone areas/black spots on the basis of accident intensity and severity after every six months. The corrective actions within six months for the identified accident-prone areas/black spots through proper planning design and construction techniques will be done.

The government will also establish an accountability mechanism for defaulting contractors and consultants regarding poorly constructed and maintained roads, including a process for black listing them.

The notification said that Development Authorities have already been entrusted with a responsibility to create more parking spaces. Parking policy will be notified to impress upon the vehicle owners to have parking space before vehicle is purchased. Further Municipal/Development authorities should charge for road side parking with charges increasing exponentially with time.

In order to reduce pressure on roads, the government will adopt innovative features to encourage use of Public Transport System instead of Private Transport System.

The government will also bring into effect a Non-Motorized Transport policy for J&K to specifically recognise the rights of non-motorised road users.

Expressing satisfaction with the Road Safety Policy 2025, Transport Minister, Satish Sharma, asserted that new policy will improve the quality of traffic enforcement in J&K in close coordination with J&K Traffic Police and Motor Vehicles Department.

He said that the government will ensure that the enforcement agencies are adequately trained and equipped to undertake their functions more effectively and professionally.

J&K received over...

Minister Surinder Choudhary said a total of 8,532 applications have been received through the Single Window System with proposed investment of Rs 1,69,282.22 crore and 6,06,203 employment proposals.

He said a requirement of 80,668.91 kanals (10,083.61 acres) of land has been sought.

Giving further details, Choudhary said the government has received 2,209 and 6,323 applications with investment proposals of Rs 1,18,918.47 crore and Rs 50,363.75 crore for the Jammu and Kashmir regions, respectively.

The proposed employment generation for the Jammu region is 2,66,729 and for the Kashmir region it is 3,39,474, he said.

Similarly, the requirements of land quantity proposed in the applications for the Jammu region is 46,352.86 kanals (5,794.10 acres) and for the Kashmir region it is 34,316.05 kanals (4,289.50 acres), he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister, in reply to the cut motion of BJP member Chander Prakash Ganga, said the government has provided land measuring 6,816.25 kanals (852.03 acres) for industrial purposes to 213 non-local beneficiaries and 4,730 kanals (591.25 acres) of land to 1,751 locals under the Industrial Policy 2016-26 and Industrial Land Allotment Policy 2021-30.

While 6,408.25 kanals of land have been allotted to 205 non-local beneficiaries, 408 kanals of land have been allotted to eight such beneficiaries in the Kashmir Valley, he said.

Similarly, 1,153 locals were granted 2,851 kanals of land in the Kashmir Valley, and 598 locals were granted 1,976 kanals of land in the Jammu division, he added.

Choudhary said to attract substantial investment in the industry for the production of goods and services and generating employment, efforts have been made from time to time to create an enabling environment for industrial development in J&K.

Prior to the J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy 2021-30, land allotment had been done in terms of the Industrial Policy 2016-26, he said, adding that the due procedure for the allotment of land as per the J&K Land Allotment Policy 2021-30 has been followed during allotments.

BJP MLAs seek...

lives," Randhawa told reporters outside the assembly.

He said the shopkeepers are on the roads and "we will join them if the government fails to rehabilitate them".

Meanwhile, BJP MLA Bharat Bhushan held posters of two accident victims from his Kathua constituency and demanded a ban on the movement of dumper trucks in the town.

"These are the pictures of two accident victims -- one of them minor -- who lost their lives due to negligent driving of dumpers in Kathua town. Five persons have lost their lives in the last seven months," he said, demanding adequate compensation for families of the deceased.

Many members from the treasury benches, including MLA Sajad Shaheen, raised the issue of continued rains and snowfall in Ramban district over the last four days. They demanded restoration of the snapped road link and power supply.

India rejects Pakistan's...

several questions about the deadly attack on Tuesday, which led to a hostage situation lasting for more than 24 hours.

Terrorists were in direct communications with Afghanistan-based planners throughout the incident, he said, adding Islamabad has repeatedly asked Afghanistan to deny the use of its soil for terrorist groups like the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) for their attacks against Pakistan.

"We urge Afghanistan to hold the perpetrators, organisers and financiers, of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and cooperate with the government of Pakistan to bring all those who are concerned with this attack, including the real sponsors of terrorism, to justice," Khan had said.

When asked about any change of policy because India was blamed in the past for any activity by the BLA while this time the finger was pointed towards Afghanistan, the spokesman said there was no change in the policy.

"There is no shift in our policy. And again, the facts have not changed. India is involved in sponsoring terrorism against Pakistan," the spokesperson alleged without providing any evidence.

To another question, he claimed that India has been trying to destabilise its neighbouring countries and running a global assassination campaign.

Two missing boys...

FIR soon after the families of the boys reported the matter on March 9 and circulated lookout posters in different languages.

"The children have not been with their families for the past two weeks and are a

little nervous. We will come to know all the details gradually and are also planning to engage counselors for them," Saxena said, adding all the aspects have been kept open to investigate the case properly.

The SSP, however, said there was nothing much to worry about and "we are happy that both children are in good health".

CJ visits Anantnag...

modern judicial facility, the Chief Justice emphasised that the new complex would be equipped with spacious courtrooms, dedicated chambers for the judicial officers and advocates, waiting areas for litigants, digital case management systems and enhanced security infrastructure.

The Deputy Commissioner and SSP Anantnag assured their full cooperation in ensuring smooth execution of the project.

Another key issue discussed during the visit was the requirement for a full-time NDPS Judge in Anantnag. Recognizing the increasing number of specialised cases necessitating exclusive jurisdiction, the Chief Justice assured that necessary steps would be taken to facilitate the appointment of a dedicated NDPS Judge for the district. Later, the Chief Justice held a meeting with the judicial officers of Anantnag including Principal District & Sessions Judge, Tahir Khurshid Raina and his team comprising Additional District & Sessions Judge, Masarat Roohl, Special Judge UAPA, Manzoor Ahmad Khan, Secretary DLSA, Fozia Paul, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Feroz Ahmad Khan, Special Mobile Magistrate R. Lubna Sultan and Munsiff JMJC Arshad Aziz Oureshi. The meeting was also attended by the Acting President and members of the Bar. During the meeting, the Chief Justice directed the judicial officers to prioritise disposal of long pending cases and intensify efforts to reduce case backlogs. He further emphasised the importance of timely updation of all pending cases. He encouraged the judges to continue their commendable work in ensuring efficient judicial proceedings. The visit concluded with a reaffirmation of the judiciary enhancing legal infrastructure and expediting justice delivery in Anantnag.

MHA's action against...

behind the move. In a post on X platform, he said that" these organizations were found inciting people to cause law and order situations, posing a threat to the unity and integrity of Bharat. He said that anyone found involved in activities against the nation's peace, order, and sovereignty is bound to face the crushing blow of the Modi government." The MHA explained that the 'members of 'Jammu & Kashmir Ititihadul Muslimeen' (JKIM)' and 'Awami Action Committee (AAC)' are involved in promoting and aiding the secession of Jammu and Kashmir from India by indulging in anti-national and subversive activities, such as sowing seeds of discontent among the people; inciting people to destabilise law and order; supporting terrorism and promoting hatred against the established Government."

Essentially, the action taken by the MHA on Tuesday is directed against the attempts to inject religious extremism in socio-political life in Kashmir, and it is universally acknowledged fact now that religious extremism drives violent acts.

Kashmir receives fresh...

Gurez in Bandipora district, some localities in Kupwara, and several areas in the higher reaches of the Valley also received snowfall that continued till last reports came in, officials added. Most other parts of Kashmir are seeing light to moderate rains, they said. The Meteorological department has forecast intermittent spells of light to moderate rains at most places on Saturday, and snow in the higher reaches.

There is a possibility of intermittent brief spells of light rain or snow at several places towards Sunday morning, the Met office said.

HC holds SPOs cannot be disengaged without due process

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Rajesh Sekhri of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has reiterated that Special Police Officers (SPOs) enjoy the same protections as regular police officers and cannot be disengaged from service without being provided a reasonable opportunity to show cause and meet the charges levelled against them.

Petitioner Dlishada Begum, who was appointed as a Special Police Officer (SPO) with a monthly honorarium of Rs. 3,000 was disengaged from her position by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban, without any prior notice or inquiry.

The disengagement was based on allegations of poor performance, and the respondents argued that her engagement terms allowed for termination without prior notice.

The petitioner contended that SPOs are appointed under Rules 18 and 19 of the Police Manual and are entitled to the same powers, privileges, and protections as regular police officers. She argued that her disengagement was arbitrary, violated the principles of natural justice, and was carried out without any inquiry or show-cause notice. She sought the quashing of the disengagement order and her reinstatement with back wages.

The court observed that Section 19 of the Police Act, 1983, explicitly states that SPOs have the same powers, privileges, and protections as regular police officers. Rule 359 of the J&K Police Rules, 1960, further mandates that a police officer cannot be dismissed, removed, or reduced in rank without being given a reasonable opportunity to show cause, both orally and in writing, against the proposed action.

The court noted that this provision applies unless the officer is convicted on a criminal charge, or it is impractical to provide such an opportunity, or it is in the interest of state security. Emphasising that the principle of natural justice is rooted in fairness and equity, ensuring that individuals are treated equally and justly, the court observed, "It is a fundamental principle of fair legal procedure and due process in legal and administrative actions to safeguard individual rights and maintain public trust in the system. Therefore, it is an integral part of Article 14 of the Constitution of India, which guarantees equality and equal protection before the laws". Finding that the respondents had admitted to disengaging the petitioner without any inquiry or notice, solely based on the terms of her engagement order Justice Sekhri remarked,". petitioner came to be disengaged from service without any enquiry/notice because of the terms and conditions of her engagement order that "she will liable to be terminated from her service any time without giving her prior notice". The said action on the part of respondents besides being illegal and unjust is unconstitutional" Allowing the petition the bench set aside the impugned disengagement order. It directed the reinstatement of Dlishada as an SPO, subject to the condition that she would not be entitled to the monthly honorarium for the period she was disengaged. The court also granted the respondents the liberty to conduct a fresh inquiry against the petitioner, in accordance with the law, and to conclude the same within two months from the date of the order. JNF

Eight years RI in rape case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Presiding Officer, Fast Track Court/Additional District & Sessions Judge Kulgam Parvaiz Iqbal, on Saturday awarded eight years rigorous imprisonment to one Yawar Ahmad Bhagat for commission of statutory rape of a minor girl. FIR No.92 of 2018 of Police Station Yaripora was registered against convict Yawar Ahmad Bhagat and two others but vide judgment dated March 12, 2025, the court acquitted two accused namely Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Bhagat and Shabir Ahmad Bhagat for offence under section 363,109 RPC. Convict Yawar Ahmad Bhagat, though was acquitted for offence under section 363 RPC however was held guilty for statutory rape and by dint of today's order, he has been sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment of eight years besides a fine of Rs. 10,000. The court held that though the minor girl and the convict were having love affair and their relationship was 'Consensual' but once the girl is minor i.e of the age of less than 18 years, her consent is inconsequential.

The court further held that when FIR was registered, the girl aged 17 years carried pregnancy of 36 weeks and the convict disowned the paternity of the child leaving the girl lurching for justice. The court in sentencing order however took due consideration of age of the convict and his old aged parents dependence as well as his future career prospects and awarded minimum sentence provided under section 376 RPC.

Samba police apprehends 2 absconders evading arrest for the last 11 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: In continuation to its drive against the Absconders/Criminals, Samba Police apprehended two absconders who were wanted in a case FIR registered at Police Station Samba during the year 2014.

A Police team of Police Station Samba headed by SHO PS Samba under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Samba and under the overall supervision of SSP Samba after continuous strenuous efforts, succeeded in apprehending two hardcore bovine smugglers namely Maskeen Ali S/o Jamat Ali R/o Rangooro tehsil & district Jammu and Kalam Din S/o Alam Din R/o Dawara Rangooro tehsil & district Jammu wanted in case FIR No. 132/2014 U/S 188 RPC registered at PS Samba. Both the said accused were evading their arrest since 2014 after the commission of the crime.

Accordingly, the said absconders were produced in the court of law and the arrest warrant u/s 512 CrPC issued against them got executed.

R S Pura Police takes preventive action against Drug addicts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a continued effort to curb the menace of drugs and maintain law and order, Police Station Ranbir Singh Pura has booked 07 drug addicts under section 126/170/129 BNSS (Preventive measures).

The accused identified as Sarneek Singh @ Baba S/o Harneek Singh R/o Ward No. 03, R.S Pura District Jammu; Vijay Kumar alias Nagi S/o Nagar Mal R/o Ward No. 07, R.S Pura District Jammu; Raj Kumar @ Jonny S/o Bahadur Singh R/o Ward No. 07, R.S Pura District Jammu; Robin Dutt S/o Om Dutt R/o Kotli Gala Bana, R.S Pura District Jammu; Sunil Kapoor @ Shilu S/o Raghubir Kapoor R/o Ward No. 07, R.S Pura District Jammu; Narinder Kumar @ Techi S/o Satpaul R/o Ward No. 08, R.S Pura Jammu and Vijay Kumar @ Biju S/o Ashok Kumar R/o Ward No. 08, R.S Pura District Jammu were apprehended and subsequently produced before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, R.S Pura, for further legal proceedings.

5 more vagrants detained by Samba police, sent to District Jail Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against vagrants wandering near chitta hotspot, Samba Police has detained five (05) more vagrants under preventive sections of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmuna and sent them to district Jail Kathua.

Police team headed by SHO PS Bari Brahmuna during special operation around infamous chitta hotspot Balole Khad Bari Brahmuna has detained five vagrants who were wandering suspiciously in the area.

The detained vagrants have been identified as Gurpreet Singh, Mohd. Saleem, Deepak Sharma, Tanveer Singh and Sunjay Chib . This move aims to curb drug-related offenses and rehabilitate those involved in narcotics substance abuse.

Samba police recovers missing minor girl within 48 hours

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba Police has recovered a missing minor girl within 48 hours in a kidnapping case registered at Police Station Samba.

On 13.03.2025, a written complaint was lodged at Police Station Samba by the father of missing minor girl, a resident of Papar Avtara tehsil & district Samba, stating therein that his daughter, age about 15 yrs, had gone missing from home. All efforts were made out by the family members but the whereabouts of the missing minor girl could not be ascertained. Acting over the complaint, a case FIR No. 65/2025 u/s 137(2) BNS got registered at Police Station Samba and search was started to trace the said missing girl. A Police team led by Incharge PP Mansar of PS Samba after hectic efforts coupled with technical analysis, has succeeded in recovering the said missing girl. The missing girl after producing before Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Samba, handed over to her legal heirs upon completing all legal formalities.

Poonch Police organizes free medical camp

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a significant community welfare initiative, the District Police Poonch

organized a Free Medical Camp under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) at Batalkote



Loran to provide essential healthcare services to the local population. The event witnessed overwhelming participation from residents, who benefitted from free medical check-ups, specialist consultations, and medicine distribution.

A team of qualified doctors attended to the healthcare needs of the people.

and provided services which include free health check-ups for all age groups; specialist consultations on various medical issues; free medicines for patients in need and health awareness sessions on hygiene, disease prevention, and nutrition.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Superintendent of Police Poonch Shafket Hussain expressed that medical camp in the rural areas of Loran is to provide free healthcare services to underprivileged people who have limited access to medical facilities. This initiative aims to ensure proper medical check-ups, distribute medicines, and raise health awareness among the local population, improving their overall well-being. SSP Poonch also assured that such initiatives would continue to benefit the people, particularly those in remote and underprivileged areas.

The local community expressed gratitude to the District Police Poonch for their humanitarian efforts and urged for more such health camps in the near future.

AJKPWA raises several concerns related to passengers in meeting with RTO Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation from the All J&K Passengers' Welfare Association (AJKP-WA), led by its president RC Sharma and Secretary General Inderjeet Sharma, met with the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Jammu, Jasmeet Singh, in his office to discuss various pressing issues related to passenger welfare.

During the meeting, the deputation submitted a detailed memorandum outlining the problems faced by passengers.

The delegation highlighted the need for transporters to be held accountable for ensuring that services operate regularly and on time, especially the last bus service of the day.

They pointed out that the behavior of drivers and conductors towards elderly passengers is often inappropriate, emphasizing the importance of upholding the dignity of all passengers. The deputation also stressed the need to set a minimum age limit of 28 years for drivers of passenger vehicles.

Additionally, they proposed that the RTO and ARTO should implement route-specific registrations for drivers and conductors to prevent any sort of misconduct.

The delegation called for a 50% fare reduction for standing passengers, as compared to regular fares, and insisted that every passenger vehicle should be equipped with a fully stocked first-aid box. Proper fitness certificates should be issued only after thorough inspections of the vehicles, they suggested.

A key demand raised by the deputation was for passenger insurance coverage, which should be provided at the transporters' expense.

They also called for a 50% fare concession for students on all days, including holidays, and at all times without any restrictions.

In addition, the delegation recommended the establishment of passenger complaint cells at each tehsil head. They also urged the installation of GPS and CCTV systems in all passenger vehicles for improved security and monitoring.

The deputation further recommended that a Passenger Welfare Fund be created, with contributions from transporters. They called for the identification of fixed stops for passenger vehicles operating in cities and proposed a blanket ban on playing loud music in these vehicles. The delegation emphasized the importance of eliminating unnecessary delays by drivers, mandating the display of driver and conductor names on the vehicles, and requiring specific uniforms for easy identification.

Other suggestions included installing complaint boxes by the traffic department in every vehicle, introducing annual training for drivers and conductors on passenger interaction, and imposing strict penalties for overloading on the rooftops of passenger vehicles. They also proposed a monthly engagement system for drivers and conductors, as opposed to daily engagements, to improve safety and job stability. Furthermore, they called for Rs 25,000 penalty and immediate license cancellation for drivers caught using mobile phones while driving.

In a separate demand, the delegation requested the immediate commencement of a bus service from GMC Bakshi Nagar to Karloop village in Marh Block, aimed at providing relief to the residents of Karloop and nearby villages.

The RTO Jammu, Jasmeet Singh attentively listened to the concerns and appreciated the AJKPWA's efforts in advocating for passenger welfare. He assured the delegation that he would initiate actions based on the issues raised in the memorandum and work towards making the operations of the transport department more passenger-friendly. Additionally, he assured that the bus service for Karloop village would be started without delay. Other prominent members of the deputation who participated in the meeting included Ashwani Sharma, Prem Singh, Dalip Sharma, Sanjay Sharma, Suresh Singh, and Parveen Raina, among others.