

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Entrepreneurial ecosystem created...

transformation to the Indian economy. MSMEs exports increased from Rs. 3.95 lakh crore in 2020-21 to Rs. 12.39 lakh crore in 2024-25. This number shows MSMEs are playing crucial role in strengthening global trade.

If we look at three important aspects of socio-economic growth, then MSMEs have proved to be our backbone on all three - employment generation, entrepreneurship promotion, and economic development. This year's budget by the central government will give new hope and momentum to MSMEs," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor spoke on the key reforms in the MSME sector sweeping through the UT of Jammu Kashmir. He reiterated that the Government of India is committed to extend all the possible support to facilitate J&K's Industrial growth.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "We have created entrepreneurial ecosystem in J&K to make it a preferred investment destination. Thousands of Units have become operational in the past few years and we are determined to take MSMEs growth to a new level, a growth that is inclusive and sustainable.

For successful MSME ecosystem technology adoption, technology upgradation, innovation and skills development is the key. We have taken steps to address issues in a constructive manner and my aim is to establish J&K as a hub of entrepreneurial excellence and employment generation".

He said, the speedy economic reforms, accessible credit facility, improved ease of doing business, attractive incentives, world-class facilities, new Procurement and Startup Policies and many more such interventions have infused new hopes for the MSME sector of Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor also cautioned against irresponsible statements that may shake investors' trust and confidence and create further hurdles in J&K's journey towards a prosperous future. He said that the Central Government has put in immense efforts for the industrial growth of J&K and this journey must continue without any hurdles for the benefit of people of the Union Territory.

The Lieutenant Governor further laid special emphasis on scaling up the business and upgradation of Micro and Small units into Medium Enterprises.

He called upon the policy makers, industry leaders and stakeholders to focus on important aspects like marketing, brand-building, infrastructure creation and availability of raw material. Apart from exports, MSMEs should also focus on PV Cells, EV Batteries and Electric Equipment for the domestic market, he added.

Big dreams of developed India are growing in small enterprises. Considering the export volume of MSMEs and its contribution of about 30% to GDP, the progress of this sector should be prioritized, the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri Vikranjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department J&K; Shri Rahul Sahai, Chairman, IIC Jammu Chapter; Shri Debmalya Banerjee, Regional Director, Indian Chamber of Commerce; Dr Arun Kumar Manhas, Director, Industries & Commerce Department Jammu, senior officials, members of Indian Chamber of Commerce, young Entrepreneurs, Bankers, Investors, Industry Leaders and Experts were present.



Rahul Sahai, Chairman, ICC Jammu Chapter, presenting memento to LG Manoj Sinha.

HIGHLIGHTS....

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8If we look at three important aspects of socio-economic growth, then MSMEs have proved to be our backbone on all three - employment generation, entrepreneurship promotion, economic development. This year's budget by central government will give new hope and momentum to MSMEs.

### Well-coordinated plan...

and 930 MW Kirthal-II are also planned for completion within the next 10 years, he said.

To meet growing demand, he said, efforts are being made to create a balanced energy mix, including hydro, thermal, and renewable sources of energy, through creation of own generating stations and entering into Power Purchase Agreements with outside generators.

He said a resource adequacy plan has been formulated with the help of central government, taking into consideration future load projections and peak demand for the next 10 years.

To create adequate transmission infrastructure for the evacuation of power from upcoming projects, enhance peak load handling capacity, and support growing demand, the transmission system is being improved, Abdullah said.

Under the plan, he said, the department aims to add around 2,406 MVA (at 220 & 132 kV levels) through setting up of new grid substations and the augmentation of existing grid substations in Jammu region.

Similarly, in the Kashmir region, around 2,500 MVA capacity is targeted to be added at both voltage levels. Additionally, several existing grid stations will be renovated and modernised in a phased manner, he said.

The chief minister said J&K has significant potential for solar energy, and the installation of solar rooftops is being encouraged through the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

He said as metering progresses and reaches a larger number of consumers, the government expects significant improvements in power supply, with no power cuts in low-loss areas.

"Such improvements are already evident on feeders where 100 per cent smart metering has been completed -- 45 in Kashmir and 50 in Jammu," he said.

On the coal block in Odisha, he said JKSPDC and NTPC signed the joint venture agreement on June 15, 2015 for exploration, development and operation of the jointly allocated coal mining block.

However, NTPC Limited on November 22, 2018 surrendered its share in the coal block citing reasons like envisaged delay in environmental clearance, non-accessibility to the site along with hostile local environment in nearby areas and the same was accepted by the concerned ministry.

In June, 2019, the J&K government requested the coal ministry for allotment of alternative coal block, in place of Kudanali-Laburi in favour of the NTPC-JKSPDC joint venture company in light of the challenges anticipated in its development, Abdullah said.

However, he said, the request was declined by the ministry of coal citing the reason that there was no provision under MMDR Act, 1957 to allocate an alternate coal block in lieu of a cancelled coal block.

In another written reply to a starred question by NC legislator Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo, the chief minister said a MoU (memorandum of understanding) was signed between JKSPDC and NHPC on January 3, 2021 for the execution of 1,856 MW Sawalkote HEP, 258 MW Dulhasti Stage-II and 240 MW Uri-I stage-II by NHPC in built, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) mode for a period of 40 years.

As per the MoU, the J&K government is entitled to receive 12 per cent free power; one per cent Local Area Development Fund (LADF), first right of refusal for purchase of 50 per cent of power generated at price determined by the regulator.

### Terrorist killed in...

The retired soldier noticed the suspected persons, who were dressed in black, moving towards a hilltop while he was collecting fodder for his goats from a forest adjoining Gandeh village in the Sunderbani sector; they said.

A joint party of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a cordon-and-search operation after getting the information. They were later joined by army personnel.

The operation was continuing in the forest area when last reports were received but there was no trace of the suspected persons, the officials said.

### Influencer Orry, 7...

guests staying at a hotel were found consuming alcohol on the premises, in violation of rules. An FIR was later registered against the eight accused.

"Orhan Awatramani, Darshan Singh, Parth Raina, Ritick Singh, Rashi Dutta, Rakshita Bhogal, Shagun Kohli and Anastasila Arzamaskina consumed liquor on the hotel premises despite being told that alcohol and non-vegetarian food were not allowed inside the property due to its proximity to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine," a police officer said, citing the complaint.

"Sensing the gravity of the matter, instructions were issued by Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Paramvir Singh to nab the miscreants and set an example of zero tolerance of any such act at a religious place which can hurt the sentiments of people," the

officer said.

Orhan Awatramani, popularly known as Orry, is a socialite and social media influencer best known for his friendship with several Bollywood stars.

Talking to reporters outside the assembly, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma condemned the action of Orry and his friends and expressed confidence that the police would act appropriately against them.

BJP MLAs Baldev Sharma, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Vikram Randhawa and Devinder Kumar Manyal demanded stern action against the accused, saying meat and alcohol consumption was prohibited in the holy town.

"This is a condemnable act and will not be tolerated ... The police should strengthen security and ensure that no one is able to carry wine bottles inside the holy town," Shri Mata Vaishno Devi MLA Baldev Sharma said.

Mankotia said, "...One fails to understand whether he had come for a picnic or a pilgrimage. There is no scope for anyone to violate the law in this way."

PDP legislator Waheed Ur Rehman Para said Vaishno Devi was not a tourist place and those visiting the shrine should keep in mind that their actions should not hurt the people's religious sentiments.

PDP spokesperson Mohit Bhan also expressed his anger and called for action against the accused. "Mata Vaishno Devi, a revered pilgrimage site, is not a party destination. This Bollywood joker Orry and friends drinking there is a direct insult to Hindu faith. I urge Jammu and Kashmir government Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Jammu and Kashmir Police to take action against the hotel for this disgrace," Bhan said in a post on his Facebook page.

## Police orders inquiry...

incident that happened on Sunday and submit a report within 10 days.

Earlier, PDP leader Ittija Mufti criticised the officer's behaviour and demanded a probe. "Shocking & unbecoming for a policeman to kick a woman only because she was peacefully protesting against the mysterious deaths in Devsar Kulgam. It is this high handed behaviour from officers expected to uphold law that creates a trust deficit alienating people even further," Mufti posted on X.

## EC to introduce...

districts and briefed them about the decision, he said.

Corrections in the voter list of West Bengal have been ordered to be completed by March 21, he added.

## LA passes Business...

will commence at 10:00 AM and conclude at 5:00 PM, with a one-hour break from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM.

Additionally, the Government business scheduled for April 11, 2025, has been rescheduled to March 25, 2025.

To facilitate smooth proceedings, the BAC has also decided that if Ministers choose to read out written replies to Demands for Grants, the replies shall also be circulated among all members of the House.

Emphasizing the need for discipline, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather urged the Party Leaders and Chief Whips to direct the members to uphold decorum and discipline in the House. The revised legislative calendar appended to the BAC report has also been unanimously approved.

## Renaming India as...

of the country and renaming it to "Bharat" would help citizens shed the "colonial baggage". The plea, therefore, sought amendment to Article 1 of the Constitution, which deals with the name and territory of the Union.

Referring to the 1948 Constituent assembly debate on Article 1 of the then draft constitution, the plea said even at that time there was a "strong wave" in favour of naming the country as "Bharat" or "Hindustan".

"However, now the time is ripe to recognise the country by its original and authentic name, i.e., Bharat especially when our cities have been renamed to identify with the Indian ethos," it added.

## Govt launches mobile...

Harsh Malhotra said the scheme provides on the ground experience for youth and will help in contributing towards Viksit Bharat.

In the first round of the scheme's pilot project, more than 1.27 lakh internship opportunities were provided by the companies and the second round of the project started in January this year under which over 1.18 lakh internship opportunities have been posted by around 327 companies. The deadline for applications in the second round is March 31.

According to Sitharaman, the scheme's website and app are being made more accessible. It is available in various languages. "Every language should have its prominence," she noted.

Interns will be provided monthly financial assistance of Rs 5,000 for 12 months and a one-time grant of Rs 6,000 under the scheme.

The scheme, announced in the 2024-25 Union Budget, aims to provide internship opportunities to one crore youth in the top 500 companies in five years.

The top 500 companies have been identified by the Corporate Affairs Ministry, which is implementing the scheme, on the basis of their average CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) expenditure over the last three years.

Corporate Affairs Secretary Deepti Gaur Mukherjee said more companies beyond the top 500 ones are expected to join the scheme.

The ministry has also introduced a framework for assessment of the implementation of the pilot project.

## Eugenix Hair Sciences-leading surge in hair transplant

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The global hair transplant industry is witnessing unprecedented growth, with market projections reaching USD 141.88 billion by 2032 at a CAGR of 25.2% from 2018 to 2032. This rapid expansion is fueled by increasing awareness, technological advancements, and the rising demand for cosmetic procedures, especially among high-profile individuals such as celebrities and athletes.

In India, the hair transplant industry is also experiencing significant growth, with Eugenix Hair Sciences emerging as a leader in the field. Founded by Dr. Pradeep Sethi and Dr. Arika Bansal, Eugenix has successfully performed over 16,000 hair transplants, including 1,800+ Grade 6/7 baldness cases, establishing itself as a premier destination for natural and effective hair restoration.

Dr. Sethi and Dr. Bansal pioneered the Direct Hair Transplant (DHT) technique, setting new industry benchmarks. Their innovation has attracted Bollywood actors, cricketers, and corporate leaders, including Boney Kapoor, Mohammed Shami, Ravi Shastri, Mohammed Azharuddin, and Anup Jalota. Eugenix's singular focus on hair restoration ensures an unmatched level of expertise, precision, and patient care, making it a trusted choice for global clientele, A-list celebrities, and international patients. India's hair transplant market, valued at USD 195.25 million in 2022, is projected to grow at a CAGR of 17.12% by 2029, with 350,000 procedures performed annually. Advanced techniques like Follicular Unit Extraction (FUE), known for being minimally invasive and providing natural results, have further boosted demand. With state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge procedures, and a personalized approach to care, Eugenix continues to lead the global hair transplant industry. Its commitment to innovation and excellence ensures optimal outcomes, setting new standards both in India and worldwide. For more information, visit [www.eugenixhairsciences.com](http://www.eugenixhairsciences.com).



## MLA Mankotia raises issue of Mid-Day Meal Cooks' salary in Assembly

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia on Monday raised the issue of mid-day meal cooks in the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly, demanding a salary hike for them.

He criticized the government for paying these workers only Rs 900 per month, calling it a mockery of their hard work.

He emphasized that these cooks play a crucial role in preparing meals for school children, yet they are severely underpaid.

MLA Mankotia highlighted that around 1,500 mid-day meal cooks are working in Udhampur district, while the total number across Jammu & Kashmir is nearly 30,000.

He pointed out that their salaries are disbursed only once or twice a year, causing them immense financial hardship.

He urged the Jammu & Kashmir government to allocate funds for them in the state budget and ensure a substantial salary increase so that they can lead a dignified life.

Mankotia warned the government that if this issue is not addressed soon, these workers will continue to suffer injustice.

He stressed the need for immediate action to improve their working conditions and financial security.

## Jammu Police brings back smiles; reunites missing man with family after 20 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a remarkable display of dedication and commitment, Jammu Police - South Zone has successfully traced and reunited a missing person with his family after 20 long years.

A person identified as Meemi son of Alaf Din, resident of Ujj Joffer, Tehsil Ramnagar, District Udhampur, A/P Rakh Bahu, Jammu, had been missing since March 16, 2006 from Rakh Bahu, Jammu. After extensive efforts, a police team from Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu, comprising Sgt. Gautam Sangra and Sgt. Raman Kumar, and led by SHO Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu under the supervision of SDPO East and the overall supervision of SP City South, managed to locate him in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

Following all necessary legal formalities, Meemi has now been safely handed over to his legal heirs, bringing immense relief and joy to his family. This achievement highlights Jammu Police - South Zone's unwavering commitment to public service and community welfare.

The tireless efforts of P/S Bagh-e-Bahu in successfully tracing and reuniting a missing individual after two decades have been highly appreciated. Jammu Police - South Zone continues to work relentlessly to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens, reaffirming its mission to serve and protect.



## Man booked under PSA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: J&K Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Shobhit Saxena apprehended a person involved in various criminal activities and booked under Public Safety Act 1978( PSA).

On dated 17/03/2025 Police team led by IC PP Marheen PSI Swaran Singh Manhas under the supervision of SDPO Border Sh. Dheeraj Katoch & SHO PS Rajbagh Insp Ajay Singh Chib apprehended one person namely 1. Nazir Ahmed S/o Hakim Din R/o Bathalehak Tehsil Marheen District Kathua who is a Habitual Criminal involved in various illegal activities(from Past Few Years).

In order to prevent the illegal activities within the district, "Dossier" was prepared against the accused person and sent to the District Magistrate Kathua for his detention under Public Safety Act- 1978 (PSA). Accordingly District Magistrate Kathua issued a detention warrant against the accused person under the Public Safety Act 1978. Accordingly, the warrant has been executed today and lodged at Central Kot Bhalwal Jail Jammu to curtail his illegal activities.

## Kishtwar Police organises awareness program on new criminal laws

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: On the directions of higher formations and to educate the public about the newly introduced criminal laws, J&K Police District Kishtwar organized an awareness program at Police Post Sarthal. The session was conducted under the supervision of SSP Kishtwar Javid Iqbal Mir-JKPS.

The program was chaired by Addl. SP Kishtwar Pawan Sharma-JKP, along with other officers. During the session, the general public was informed about key changes in the legal framework and their implications, ensuring that citizens are well aware of their rights and responsibilities under the new laws. The officers provided detailed insights into various legal provisions, aiming to enhance public understanding and compliance with the law.

Additionally, a crucial discussion was held on the growing menace of drug abuse. The officers highlighted the severe consequences of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society at large. The public was urged to stay vigilant and cooperate with the Police to combat drug-related issues and contribute towards a safer and healthier community.

## 7 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 seven (07) vagrants under preventive sections of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmana and sent them to district Jail Kathua.

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

The detained vagrants have been identified as Romesh, Balbeer Singh, Parveen Kumar, Ravindet Bharti, Vikram Singh, Raj Mohd. and Jeetander Singh. This move aims to curb drug-related offenses and rehabilitate those involved in narcotics substance abuse.

## Samba police launches vigorous search operations in drug hotspot, 18 two-wheelers recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: In its efforts to curb drug menace, Samba Police has conducted a series of raids and search operations in drug hotspots at Balole Khad and Kikri Morh areas of Bari Brahmana and recovered eighteen (18) two-wheelers suspected to be stolen from different districts of J&K UT.

During the investigation of backward linkages in NDPS cases, Police teams headed by SHO Police Station Bari Brahmana under the supervision of SDPO Bari Brahmana and under the overall supervision of SSP Samba have conducted several raids cum search operations in the areas known for drug related activity specifically Balole Khad and Kikri Morh in Bari Brahmana.

A total of 18 bikes and scooties, suspected to have been stolen from different districts in J&K UT, were recovered during these raids. All the said bikes/scooties have been seized u/s 106 BNSS and are lying in the premises of Police Station Bari Brahmana.

## Man sentenced to community service for creating public nuisance under influence of liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: One person identified as Pankesh Manhas son of Devan Chand resident of Humbal Tehsil Doda, accused of creating a public nuisance under the influence of liquor, was sentenced to community service under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) by a special magistrate here, police said on Saturday.

In the first case of District Doda ,Pinkesh was found creating a public disturbance while intoxicated in the Doda Market area, a police spokesman said.

The accused was presented before the Chief Judicial Magistrate in Doda on Monday, and the accused was directed to perform community service at the nearest hospital for one hour daily for 10 days under Section 355 of the BNS, the spokesman said.

He added that this provision under the new criminal laws emphasizes rehabilitation and community engagement for minor offenses, promoting reform over punishment.

## Two drug peddlers arrested with contraband, vehicle seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Continuing its war against drugs, Police today arrested two drug peddlers and recovered 30/35 grams of Charas/cannabis from their possession in Gandoh Doda.

While giving details, SSP Doda Sh Sandeep Mehta JKPS has said that on 16-03-2025, Police party of Police Station Gandoh was conducting routine vehicle checking at Naka point near Goilbar Gandoh. During checking at about 1500 hrs one Junga bearing registration No. HP73-A, 6758 which was coming from Kahlajugassir towards Gawari Gandoh stopped for checking, beside driver 01 other person was also travelling in the said vehicle.

On initial enquiry, driver of vehicle disclosed his name as Abid Hussain S/O Kalim Mohd R/O Parihad Tesna Chora Chamba, Himachal Pradesh whereas, other persons disclosed their names as Talib Hussain S/O Mohd Shafi R/O Kaku Tehsil Gandoh District Doda.

Personal search of these 02 persons was conducted and during search of Talib Hussain S/O Mohd Shafi R/O Kaku Tehsil Gandoh Charas like substance recovered from his pocket, while as thorough search of vehicle was conducted, and during search, Charas like substance was also recovered from the dashboard of the said vehicle. Total 30/35 (approx) grms Charas like substance was recovered, which was kept by these suspected in their illegal possession for illegal sale among the youths in Gandoh. Accordingly, a case FIR No. 21/2025 U/S 8/20 NDPS act registered at PS Gandoh and investigation has taken up.