

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Omar chairs meeting...

live up to the people's expectations so that they can get relief," Tarigami told reporters after the meeting.

He said the legislators have an opportunity to raise public issues inside the House. "The cabinet resolution on the restoration of statehood is before the centre government which has also made repeated promises to the people of J&K on the issue. They should fulfil their promise by restoring the statehood so that the people are not rendered hopeless," he said.

National Conference Chief Whip Mubarak Gul said the party legislature party met under the chief minister for an hour, discussing the party strategy to counter the opposition charge in the assembly.

"It was followed by a meeting of alliance partners which was also attended by Farooq Abdullah. The concerns of the participants were heard and various issues were discussed in detail to ensure a peaceful session," he said, adding the meeting took place in a cordial atmosphere.

Congress Legislature party leader G A Mir said people's aspirations are linked with the budget session as earlier bureaucrats used to prepare the budget and the parliament was discussing it.

"After seven years, the budget is being presented by an elected government and it will reflect the people's aspirations...the people's voice will echo the house for six weeks," he said, assuring the people that the government will fulfil all its promises in the next five years.

Earlier talking to reporters at the Congress headquarters, Mir said it is a tradition for both the ruling and the opposition parties to convene their legislature party meetings before the start of the assembly session to discuss the issues needed to be raised in the house.

"Only four-and-a-half months have passed since the formation of the (NC-led) government but many people are questioning the government that it has not done this or that. They should remember that when the government was formed (on October 16), the budget had already been decided and it was also a big hurdle in the way," he said.

Mir hoped that the budget being presented by the government will address the popular public issues and will also lay the foundation for the implementation of the manifesto during the financial year 2025-26.

He said the government has already passed a resolution in the last session held in Srinagar and so the delay in restoring statehood is from the BJP-led central government which has made repeated promises to the people of J&K on the subject.

"When the prime minister chaired the All Party Meeting of J&K leaders (in June 2021), we were all witness to his statement that reorganization will be followed by delimitation, elections and then restoration of statehood. The centre should have fulfilled its promise after the formation of the popular government in J&K," he said.

Mir said the Congress has been repeatedly saying that restoration of statehood was the biggest issue during last year's assembly elections and "INDIA alliance is committed to it. Cong being the largest party in the INDIA bloc has already made it clear in their working committee meeting and during the election campaigns."

Asked about PDP planning to introduce bills to push for the prohibition of alcohol and seek regularization of property rights of residents on public land, he said it is up to the house to decide on such bills.

"It is also a matter of thought that when they were in power with BJP why they did not introduce such bills? The government is more concerned about the issues raised in the election manifesto for which the people voted for it," he said.

## Properties of 3...

border and were actively engaged in promoting terrorism, disturbing peace and threatening social harmony in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the action was taken in compliance with the court order in connection with a case registered at Police Station Poonch in 2022, adding the step underscores the firm commitment of police to take strong action against individuals involved in terrorism and activities that disrupt social harmony.

The attachment proceedings were carried out by a police team along with revenue officials, the official said.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Poonch, Shafket Hussain, said the police remains steadfast in its resolve to root out terrorism and ensure peace and stability in the region.

## Modi Govt unsparing...

Madhya Pradesh's Mandsaur intercepted two vehicles in Shahdol and seized 123.080 kg of ganja. Four people were arrested in the case and sentenced to 12 years rigorous of imprisonment with a fine of Rs 2 lakh each.

In the Chandigarh Zone last year, a parcel containing two hockey sticks packed with 438 grams of opium was intercepted at DHL Express, Ludhiana, by the officers of the NCB.

Two arrested accused in the case were sentenced to three years of imprisonment by a Punjab court for their role in attempting to transport the opium to Canada.

In another case, the NCB arrested one person at the Chandigarh Railway Station in 2021 for possession of 390 grams of charas.

The accused was formally arrested, and upon completion of the investigation, a special court sentenced him to six months in jail.

In June, 2021, the NCB intercepted a Zimbabwean woman on her arrival at the Cochin International Airport. The examination of her luggage led to the recovery and seizure of 2.910 kg of heroin.

She was subsequently arrested and a court in Ernakulam sentenced her to 11 years in jail.

In January 2018, the NCB seized 450 grams of charas, leading to the arrest of one person in Dehradun, who was later sentenced to one year in jail.

In 2021, the NCB seized 1.950 kg of charas from the possession of two accused who were later arrested. A court in January 2025 sentenced the accused to 10 years in jail.

In February 2021, the NCB seized 681.8 kg of ganja in the Ranga Reddy district of Telangana. Eight accused were arrested and charged with drug trafficking. A local court sentenced them to 10 years in prison.

In September 2021, the NCB intercepted a truck in Seoni, Madhya Pradesh and seized 152.665 kg of ganja. Four people were arrested sentenced by a special court to 15 years of rigorous imprisonment.

In July 2020, the NCB seized 1,301 kg of ganja from a truck between Plassey and Krishnanagar in West Bengal. Two accused were arrested and charged with drug trafficking and one of them was sentenced for 15 years of imprisonment.

"These convictions exemplify the NCB's dedication to ensure successful prosecution of its cases filed before courts," the release said.

The home ministry said under the guidance of Shah, the NCB is working relentlessly to realise the prime minister's vision of a drug-free India by 2047.

## Two minor girls...

Kashmir's Anantnag district, were grazing their animals when they were reported missing on Saturday evening.

However, the girls remained untraced despite a search and finally their bodies were retrieved from the ditch, they said, adding preliminary investigation suggested that the girls might have accidentally fallen into the water body and died due to drowning. The exact cause of their death would be known only after post-mortem, the officials said.

In another incident, the officials said that Pranev Sharma (9) died in a collision between a scooter and an army crane at Patyari in Bishnah area on the outskirts of Jammu.

The boy was on the two-wheeler driven by his father, they said and added that he died on-the-spot, while his father sustained injuries and was hospitalized.

## Modi offers prayers...

lions, in the neighbouring Junagadh district.

The PM is scheduled to go on a lion safari and chair a meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) at Sasan on Monday to mark World Wildlife Day, officials said.

Currently, Asiatic lions inhabit approximately 30,000 square kilometres across 53 talukas in 9 districts of Gujarat, said a government release.

Additionally, as part of a central project, a National Referral Center for Wildlife is being established on over 20.24 hectares of land at New Pipalya in Junagadh district, it said.

Moreover, a high-tech monitoring centre for wildlife tracking and a state-of-the-art hospital have also been set up in Sasan to strengthen conservation efforts, added the release.

## Rusted anti-tank...

in Samba district, officials said on Sunday.

The mine was noticed by a villager during cremation of a person at village Kamore near border out post Tanwar on Saturday.

Police summoned the bomb disposal squad and the mine was safely destroyed in a controlled explosion.

## If India's partition...

Ironically, Dr Jitendra recalled that the division of J&K was not a part of the partition executed by Redcliff Line but rather a fall-out of the same. J&K acceded to India through a proper Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh but Pakistan did not reconcile to this and waged a war against India.

He said, the greatest tragedy is that when the Indian Forces were on the verge of retrieving back the territory captured by Pakistan, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru declared unilateral ceasefire, which if he had refrained from doing, the whole of J&K would have been part of India and the issue of PoJK would have never arisen.

Similarly, Dr Jitendra recalled, if PM Nehru had allowed his Home Minister Sardar Patel to handle J&K with the same authority and freedom as he handled the other Princely State of India, the whole of J&K including PoJK would have today part of Indian Republic. The issue was further complicated, recalled the Minister, because of another Nehruvian blunder that of carrying the so-called Kashmir issue to the UNO.

"Injustice faced by three generation in Jammu & Kashmir was undone by abrogation of Article 370," underscoring the paradigm shift in counter-terrorism and regional development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dr Jitendra cited the unanimous Parliamentary resolution asserting that whole of J&K including PoJK is an integral part of India.

"The improved security environment and economic revival in J&K reflect the success of the government's counter-terrorism policies," the Minister stated.

Dr Jitendra recalled that adopting a constitutional amendment that extended the tenure of Assembly from five to six years was a misuse of Art 370 by National Conference and Congress.

Dr. Singh asked why for so many decades the region was refrained from implementation of Local Self-Governance (LSG) reforms in India which was recently made possible under the leadership of Prime Minister:

Reflecting on the historic abrogation of Article 370, Dr. Singh commended Prime Minister Modi's courage and conviction in taking the decisive step that fully integrated J&K into India's constitutional framework.

Dr. Singh also revisited key historical moments, including the partition of India, the handling of the J&K issue, and past leadership decisions. He criticized previous governments for failing to act decisively on matters such as the Indus Water Treaty and the territorial disputes in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK). Citing historical references, he reiterated the foresight of leaders like Sardar Patel, who successfully integrated princely states into India, and the tragic demise of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who fought for J&K's full integration.

Dr. Singh's lecture reinforced the need for continued vigilance, strategic reforms and a strong nationalistic approach to ensure lasting peace and prosperity in India's most sensitive regions and also the commitment to live upto the unanimous parliamentary resolve regarding PoJK.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta was the Guest of Honour on the occasion and spoke about the legal aspects related to Article 370.

## 'We Must Be...

"The country allows everyone the freedom to choose their religion. This is a fundamental right, passed down through our civilisational heritage. But if this right is tampered with or manipulated, it cannot be tolerated. Greed and temptation cannot be the basis for religious conversion," he said.

## Duplication of voter...

voters "may be identical", the other details, including demographic details, assembly constituency and polling booth, are different.

"Irrespective of the EPIC number, any elector can cast a vote only at their designated polling station in their respective constituency in their state or Union territory where they are enrolled in the electoral roll and nowhere else," the poll panel said.

It explained that identical EPIC numbers or series were allotted to some electors from different states and Union territories due to a "decentralised and manual mechanism" being followed prior to shifting of the electoral roll database of all states to the ERONET (Electoral Roll Management) platform.

This resulted in certain state chief electoral officers using the same EPIC alphanumeric series and leaving a scope for the possibility of duplicate EPIC numbers being allotted to electors in different assembly constituencies in different states, the poll body said.

According to the EC website, ERONET helps election officials maintain the electoral system "by removing duplicate entries and inclusion of migrated electors".

"To allay any apprehensions, the commission has decided to ensure allotment of unique EPIC number to registered electors. Any case of duplicate EPIC number will be rectified by allotting a unique EPIC number," the EC said.

The ERONET 2.0 platform will be updated to aid and assist in this process, it said.

## Ranvijay Singh urges MLAs to prioritize public welfare in Budget Session

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ranvijay Singh, great-grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh, has issued a heartfelt appeal to the Members of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, urging them to prioritize the pressing issues of the populace in the forthcoming Budget Session starting from Monday i.e, March 3. This session, notably the first in nearly seven years, presents a pivotal opportunity for Legislators to address the aspirations and concerns of the people.

Reflecting on the significance of the Assembly sessions, Ranvijay Singh remarked that they serve as vital platforms for highlighting and resolving the challenges faced by citizens. He emphasized the imperative for elected representatives to engage in meaningful discussions, focusing on policy-making and development initiatives that directly impact the welfare of the region's inhabitants.

"The prolonged gap of legislative proceedings has heightened public expectations," he said, adding "It is incumbent upon our Legislators to utilize this session effectively, ensuring that the voices of our people are heard and translated into actionable policies."

He asserted that any disruptions or unruly behavior that could derail the proceedings, underscoring that such actions would be a disservice to the electorate.

Ranvijay Singh expressed optimism that the upcoming session would mark a new chapter in the region's legislative history, characterized by collaboration, transparency, and a steadfast commitment to public service. He called upon all stakeholders to rise to the occasion, fostering an environment where democratic values thrive, and the collective aspirations of the people are realized.

## SP Rural Jammu reviews CCTNS, digital policing implementation at Police Station Akhnoor

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AKHNOOR: Superintendent of Police, Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma conducted a review of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) data feeding process at Police Station Akhnoor.He was accompanied by \*SDPO Akhnoor.



During the visit, SP Rural Jammu emphasized the need for investigating officers (IOs) and Munshis to enter data themselves instead of relying solely on CCTNS operators. He stressed that digital policing is the way forward, aligning with the Government of India's vision of modernizing law enforcement.

Additionally, SP Rural Jammu interacted with the IOs and staff, instructing them to focus on CCTNS, E-Sakshya, and E-Summon. He directed all officers to personally enter case details in CCTNS to ensure accuracy and accountability.

This review highlights the Jammu and Kashmir Police's commitment to integrating technology for efficient policing and data management.

## NEP will not impose Hindi: Pradhan

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday asserted that the New Education Policy would not impose Hindi on states and Tamil Nadu's opposition had "political reasons" behind it.

"We have never said in NEP 2020 that only Hindi will be there; we have only said that education will be based on mother tongue, in Tamil Nadu, it will be Tamil," Pradhan told reporters here.

The comments by the Education Minister come amid a tiff between the Tamil Nadu government and the Centre over the implementation of NEP and the three-language policy.

"I don't want to answer to the political ambitions of few people. NEP 2020 is focused on different languages of India, be it Hindi, Tamil, Odia, or Punjabi. All the languages have equal importance. In Tamil Nadu, few are opposing because of politics," Pradhan said.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin had on Friday said it was unnecessary to force any language as a third language in schools in the age of Artificial Intelligence. "Advanced translation technology already removes language barriers instantly. Students should not be burdened with extra languages," he wrote on X.

The DMK leader also alleged that the BJP insists everyone in north India knows Hindi "to buy tea, pani puri, or use toilets ..."

## NC leader highlights 'systemic flaws' of UT model after his Bill on drug abuse returned

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference leader and MLA Tanvir Sadiq on Sunday highlighted the 'systemic flaws' of the Union Territory model after his Private Members Bill on drug abuse was returned by the Assembly secretariat, citing the need for obtaining approval from the Lt Governor.

"I had intended to introduce a crucial Bill - The Jammu and Kashmir war against drug abuse and compulsory teaching of ill effects of drug addiction in schools bill, 2025" (LA Bill - Private Members, Bill No. 2 of 2025).

"However, since it involves financial matters and qualifies as a Money Bill, I have been informed that I must seek the advice of the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department and obtain approval from the lieutenant governor before proceeding further," Sadiq said in a post on X.

Sharing the contents of the Bill and the response of the assembly secretariat, the National Conference chief spokesperson said this bureaucratic hurdle is yet another reminder of the "systemic flaws" of the Union Territory model - a model "we have always opposed while demanding the immediate restoration of full statehood."

As an elected representative, Sadiq said, he remains committed to ensuring that this Bill reaches the Raj Bhawan and is introduced in the Assembly in the future because the menace of drug abuse must be tackled with the urgency it deserves.

"While this Bill is no longer part of the Assembly's agenda and must be resubmitted, I want to clarify that sharing this information does not violate Rule 368 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly or any direction of the honourable Speaker," he said.

He was apparently referring to the statement of Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, who on February 23 took serious note of the publicity of House business notices ahead of ensuing Budget Session and asked the members to desist from the "breach of privilege".

Asserting that his bill was about protecting the youth and securing the future of Jammu and Kashmir, Sadiq said, "I will see this through".

## BJP deliberately delaying statehood to continue its proxy rule in J&K: Karra

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Tariq Hameed Karra on Sunday accused the BJP-led Central government of deliberately delaying restoration of statehood to continue its proxy rule in the Union Territory despite formation of an elected government last year.

"BJP is doing injustice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir by not fulfilling its commitment of restoring statehood since people did not give it the mandate to rule J&K," he said addressing a public rally at Salerh in Bishmah area here.

Karra claimed the BJP wants to rule by "proxy through the LG administration".

"This is great injustice to people and a betrayal after repeated commitments for early restoration of statehood and this is defiance of the Supreme Court direction also," he said.

Carrying forward his party's campaign for restoration of full statehood, Karra said it was ironic that people have to demand statehood from those in power whose political ancestors sided with the Britishers when the Congress was fighting for freedom on the roads and in jails.

"They have no history in freedom of the country," he said recalling the contribution of Dogra warriors for expanding the boundaries of Jammu Kashmir Ladakh upto Gilgit-Baltistan.

He said the BJP dismembered the historical state and is not willing to restore the statehood despite repeated promises.

## Build hospitals along expressways to provide timely aid to accident victims: UP CM to officials

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday directed officials to take comprehensive measures to reduce road accidents.

He emphasised the need for building hospitals on both sides of expressways -- similar to food plazas -- to provide immediate medical aid to accident victims.

The chief minister issued the directions during a meeting of the State Road Safety Council that was attended by ministers, senior bureaucrats, divisional commissioners, district magistrates, police commissioners, and superintendents of police.

According to an official statement, Adityanath said in 2024, Uttar Pradesh recorded 46,052 road accidents, leading to 34,600 injuries and over 24,000 deaths.

He termed the figures "extremely tragic" and stressed the need for multi-departmental coordination to reduce accidents. He directed officials to identify and rectify black spots across the state's road network.

Every expressway should have hospitals on both sides, just like food plazas. Trauma centres, ambulances, and trained staff should be stationed at divisional headquarters hospitals, he said.

The highest fatalities in 2024 were reported from 20 districts, including Hardoi, Mathura, Agra, Lucknow, and Kanpur. These areas accounted for 42 per cent of total road deaths in the state, Adityanath said, citing road accident statistics.

Officials must analyse accident causes and raise awareness about road safety, he said, adding that district-level meetings must be held monthly, while divisional meetings should be conducted quarterly.

He expressed concern over the fact that six divisions -- Ayodhya, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Azamgarh, Saharanpur, and Agra -- held only one meeting last year.

He further said, strict action should be taken against over-speeding, drunk driving, wrong-side driving, jumping red lights, and mobile phone use while driving. Unauthorised vehicles, overloaded trucks, and illegal buses must be removed from the roads. He said liquor shops along highways should be closed down and oversized advertisement hoardings should be made smaller.

The Basic and Secondary Education Departments should incorporate traffic rules into school curricula while schools and colleges must organise road safety awareness activities, he said.

Verification of all e-rickshaw drivers should be prioritised to prevent underage driving, he said. He directed that the number of cranes, patrolling vehicles, and ambulances on expressways and highways be increased and CCTV cameras be installed on 93 National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) roads in the state, as currently, only four of them have cameras.

## Rajouri Police registers first e-FIR via WhatsApp enhancing digital policing

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: In a landmark step towards digital policing Rajouri Police has registered its first Electronic First Information Report (e-FIR) following a complaint lodged via WhatsApp.

A complainant from a far-flung area of the district was unable to visit the police station. However having attended an awareness program on New Criminal Laws organized by Rajouri Police he learned that an FIR can also be lodged through e-mail and digital platforms. Acting on this knowledge he submitted his complaint via WhatsApp. In response Police Station Dharamsal swiftly registered the e-FIR. This prompt action highlights Rajouri Police's commitment to leveraging digital technology for efficient accessible and people-centric policing.

This initiative underscores the Rajouri Police's dedication to ensuring swift grievance redressal especially by adopting digital platforms the police aims to enhance transparency, accessibility and responsiveness in handling public grievances.