



Speaker takes serious note of mic issue

After legislative assembly Speaker A R Rather was informed that a legislator was carrying a microphone inside the House, he took serious note of it and said that the matter would be examined thoroughly.

He made this statement after MLA Altaf Ahmad Wani said that MLA Waheed Rehman Parra was carrying a microphone inside the House.

Taking serious note of the issue, the Speaker

Rs 19 cr worth cocaine seized

Questioning of an accused arrested in a counterfeit currency case led to the seizure of cocaine worth over Rs 19 cr in Samba district of Jammu today.

On February 3, a written complaint was lodged at Bari Brahmana police station by a PNB branch manager, regarding depositing of fake currency notes.

The bank official alleged that Dil Mohamad, a resident of Digiana

De-freezing of teachers' posts on the anvil: Sakina

Education minister Sakeena Itoo today informed the legislative assembly that the de-freezing of posts of teachers was under active consideration of the government to overcome shortage of teachers in schools across Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta regarding the shortage of teaching staff, she said recruitment against posts of teachers was frozen by the State

MHA forms panel to deal digital arrests

NEW DELHI, FEB 09: In a bid to crack down on the rising menace of "digital arrests", the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has informed the Supreme Court that it has constituted a high-level inter-departmental committee (IDC) to eliminate systemic gaps and ensure real-time protection for cybercrime victims.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant on December 16, 2025 ordered inter-departmental ministerial consultations under the guidance of Attorney General R Venkataramani on the issue and apprised it of the outcome.

The bench further directed that the recom

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Jitendra describes India as emerging healthcare hub



CHANDIGARH, FEB 09: Union Minister Jitendra Singh today said the Modi government's reforms over the past decade promised to propel India as a global hub for affordable therapeutics and diagnostics.

Delivering the inaugural address at the "Indian Thyroid Society" conference

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Takaichi's landslide win reflects deep structural, ideological shift in Japan: China

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Radhikka Madan Has Picked The 'Perfect Valentine's Day Gift' For Her

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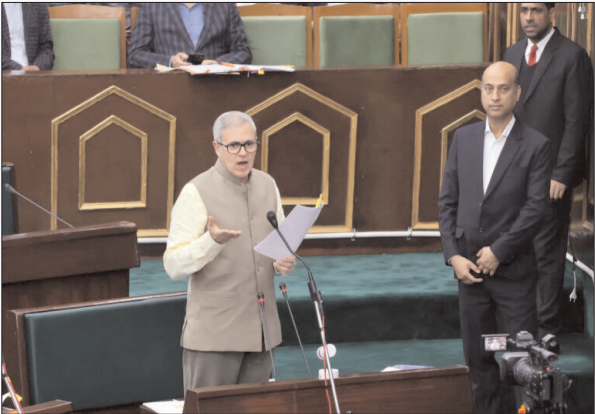
ULB, panchayat elections to be held soon: Omar tells LA

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 09

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today informed the legislative assembly that the government was making necessary arrangements to hold elections to urban local bodies and panchayats in the Union Territory at the earliest, but said the post of state election commissioner was presently vacant.

"The superintendence, direction and control of preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections under the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, J&K Municipal Act and J&K Municipal Corporation Act, 2000, rests with the State Election Commission (SEC)," he said in a written reply to a question of Congress MLA Tariq Hameed Karra.

"The SEC is making necessary arrangements for holding panchayat and urban local bodies elections at the earliest. However,



the position of state election commissioner is lying vacant at present," Omar said, adding that the report submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission for determining the quota of reserved seats was under examination, and further steps would be taken accordingly.

He told the House that the term of panchayats and block development councils (BDCs) expired on January 9, while the term of district development council (DDC) would end on February 24.

He said the tenure of the Srinagar municipal corporation ended on November 5, 2023, while that of the Jammu's civic body also ended in the same month on November 14.

Terms of all municipal councils and committees expired between October and November 2023, the CM added.

He said that panchayat halqas were delimited prior to the 2018 Panchayat elections on the basis of the 2011 census. "As per the panchayati raj act, fresh delimitation of panchayat halqas can be undertaken only after publi-

cation of the population figures of the general census. Since no census has been conducted after 2011, there is no proposal for fresh delimitation at present," he said.

He said the delimitation of 77 urban local bodies (ULBs) had been taken up as per instructions of the housing and urban development department, adding that the process had been completed for 72 ULBs and was underway for the remaining five.

On reservation, the CM said rotation of sarpanch and panch wards would be carried out by the rural development department, while reservation of municipal wards would be undertaken by SEC after approval and notification of the OBC commission report.

He said that electoral rolls for panchayat elections had already been revised with January 1, 2025, as the qualifying date, while revision of municipal electoral rolls would be

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Oppn to move resolution to remove LS Speaker

NEW DELHI, FEB 09: The Opposition on Monday decided to move a resolution to remove Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla from office for disallowing Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi from speaking in the House on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address.

Sources said the resolution is being moved under Article 94-C of the Constitution.

The notice is being given for moving a resolution against the Speaker for his removal, for disallowing the LoP from speaking in the House on the motion of

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'Gunda Raj' unacceptable: CJI

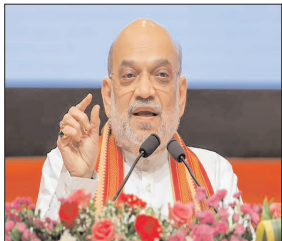


NEW DELHI, FEB 09: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday observed that "Gunda Raj" is unacceptable and asked a lawyer, who alleged physical assault inside a courtroom at a district court on February 7 here, to approach the Delhi High Court chief justice.

A lawyer mentioned his

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Maoism never benefitted society: Amit Shah



JAGDALPUR (CHHATTISGARH), FEB 09: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said Maoism never benefitted any society and spread destruction wherever it existed, citing examples of nations like Colombia, Peru and Cambodia.

Speaking at the closing

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Need to strike decisively against terrorism: LG Sinha

Reiterates to make J&K drug-free

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 09

Emphasising that there was a need to strike decisively against terrorism to eradicate terror network completely, LG Manoj Sinha today reiterated his resolve to make J&K a drug-free society.

"We need to strike decisively against terrorism and collaborate with every individual in society to eradicate the terror network entirely," he said in his address at the inaugural ceremony of J&K Police Martyrs Memorial Hockey Tournament at K K Hakku Hockey Stadium here.

The LG also called upon every section of the society to rise up against drug abuse. "We reaffirm our vow for a drug-free J&K and the Police Martyrs Memorial Hockey Tournament declares that commitment," he said.

"The unbreakable resolve and message of J&K police to the nation is that adver-



sity will not crack our spirit. We will cross every barrier to claim new milestones as we advance," he said.

This year's event will feature 14 competing teams as the tournament resumes after a gap of more than 10 years.

"The brave J&K police personnel, who sacrificed their today for the nation's tomorrow, wore their uniform as a duty towards all, and prized national honour above life, must live on in our memories," Sinha said.

"The real tributes to

bravehearts don't fade away but these run through the veins of our future generations," he added.

"Our police martyrs embodied the philosophy of duty and self-sacrifice. Our duty is to pass those values and build strong character of youth," the LG said.

He commended police force for empowering youth through Civic Action Programme.

"The civic action programme of police isn't just a government scheme; it's a

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Uproar in LA over SASCI; BJP MLAs walk out alleging unfairness

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 09

The legislative assembly today witnessed a disruption after PDP legislator Waheed Rehman Para accused the government of pushing the Union Territory into debt trap by bringing in SASCI scheme.

Para, who was joined by his party colleagues and independent MLA Sheikh Khurshid, was countered by treasury benches, leading to heated exchange of words between the two sides.

Mubarak Gul, who was in

the chair, made repeated attempts to control the situation and finally adjourning the House half-an-hour before the schedule end of the first sitting.

While the ruckus was going on, BJP members stood up from their seats and staged a walkout, accusing the chair of not allowing the party members time to speak on budget. Some of their members also tried to enter the well but they were pushed back by the marshals.

Targeting the government, the PDP MLA accused the ruling dispensation of pushing Jammu

and Kashmir into a debt trap.

"The chief minister and NC MLAs are boasting about bringing Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) to the UT. This is not a welfare scheme but a debt trap through which you are mortgaging J&K to industrialists," he said while participating in discussion on budget.

"You are taking loans from the market, which amounts to destruction, and sets a very dangerous precedent," he added.

The PDP MLA said NC

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J&K unemployment rate at 6.7 pc, higher than national average of 3.5 pc

Himalayan Mail News
JAMMU, FEB 09

The government today informed the legislative assembly that J&K's overall unemployment rate currently stands at 6.7 per cent, which is significantly higher than the national average of 3.5 per cent.

In a written reply to a starred question raised by MLA Mubarak Gul, the government said that as per Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the unemployment rate among persons aged 15 years and

above in J&K had shown fluctuations over the past few years, remaining consistently above the national average.

The House was informed that a baseline survey was conducted across the Union Territory by the employment department in collaboration with the Union Territory administration under Mission YUVA.

The survey identified 4.73 lakh individuals in the age group of 18-60 years, out of which around 46.8 per cent reported that they were "not

working but willing to work", highlighting the magnitude of employment challenges, particularly among the youth.

Replying to questions regarding steps taken to address unemployment, the government said that employment generation, especially among youth, remains a top priority. It clarified that the focus is not only on short-term job provisioning but on creating sustainable livelihoods by encouraging youth to become job creators rather than job see

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Empowering local enterprises key to inclusive growth: Kavinder

NEW DELHI, FEB 09: Stating that artisans and entrepreneurs were key to the UT's self-reliant future, Ladakh LG Kavinder Gupta today said that empowering local enterprises was key to inclusive growth.

"Ladakh's presence in the national capital symbolises the spirit of a confident and self-reliant India, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said while interacting with artisans, entrepreneurs, students and members of self-help groups (SHGs) during his visit to the 7th edition of 'Enchanting Ladakh', an exhibition-cum-sale, being



held from February 1 to 15, at Dilli Haat, New Delhi.

The event showcases Ladakh's rich cultural heritage and growing entrepreneurial spirit to the national audience. It is an annual event organised by the department of industries &

commerce, Ladakh, and designed to provide a national platform for Ladakhi artisans and entrepreneurs.

The LG visited the Ladakh stalls and appreciated their efforts in promoting locally developed products and

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