SSP Kathua calls for regular cordon, search operations in district's vulnerable areas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Senior Superintendent of Police Kathua, Mohita Sharma, on Thursday stressed the importance of carrying out regular cordon and search operations and long-range patrols in vulnerable areas of the district.

SSP Kathua, Mohita Sharma during visit to mountanious areas.

During a visit to the mountainous areas of Billawar, Ramkot, Nangala and Machedi to further strengthen the security grid in Kathua and review the existing security setup, she instructed all officers to remain vigilant and proactive to prevent any anti-national activities.

Sharma directed officers to maintain close surveillance on overground workers and their associates, emphasising the importance of regular cordon and search operations, patrolling and long-range operations in vulnerable areas.

The SSP reiterated that Kathua Police is committed to maintaining peace and security across the district, and there will be no leniency towards any anti-national elements.

During the visit, the officer chaired a high-level security review meeting with the Army, CRPF and other sister security agencies operating in upper Kathua.

The meeting focused on critical issues such as infiltration, movement of suspicious elements, presence of anti-national elements, domination of infiltration routes, strategic deployment of forces, and inter-agency coordination and synergy, officials said.

The SSP emphasised the need for enhanced coordination among all security agencies to effectively counter potential threats and ensure peace and stability in the region.

Following the meeting, the SSP visited the SOG Camp at Machedi, where she interacted with personnel from SOG Machedi, SOG Dugaini, SOG Katli and officers of the Machedi Outpost.

6 long-evading absconders arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In continuation of its sustained crackdown against absconders and proclaimed offenders, Police arrested 06 long-evading absconders in Sopore, Shopian and Awantipora who had been on the run for years in separate cases.

In Sopore, absconder namely Saleem Ahmad Sheikh son of Fojia Sheik resident of Parimpora, presently Sheikh Colony Makhdoom Sahib Srinagar was wanted in Case FIR No. 29/2003 U/S 379, 511 RPC of Police Station Dangiwacha. The accused had been evading arrest since 2003. After sustained efforts, the police team traced and arrested him. The second absconder namely Bashir Ahmad Mir son of Ali Mohammad Mir resident of Lachipora Handwara, was wanted in Case FIR No. 134/2012 U/S 379 RPC of Police Station Tarzoo. He had been absconding since 2016 and was arrested after meticulous tracking by Police. After completion of legal formalities, both the accused will be produced before the Hon'ble Courts of competent jurisdiction.

In Shopian, Police have apprehended three long term absconders who had been evading arrest for several decades. The arrested absconders namely Munshi Chohan resident of Aribal Kulgam wanted in FIR No. 29/1999 under sections 381 RPC of Police Station Shopian, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat resident of Niloora Pulwama wanted in FIR No. 25/2002 under sections 379, RPC, 6 Forest Act of Police Station Shopian and Farooq Ahmad Lone resident of Noorpora Tral wanted in FIR No. 410/2010 under sections 379 RPC of Police Station Shopian. These individuals were involved in various criminal cases and had been deliberately evading the due process of law for over three decades.

In Awantipora, Police arrested one absconder who was evading his arrest for last 14 years. Police received non-bailable warrants under section 299 CrPC/ 335 BNSS issued by the Hon'ble Principal Session Court Pulwama against one absconder namely Latief Ahmad Akhoon son of Jalal din resident of Mulfaq Harwan Srinagar. The absconder was involved in case FIR No 100/2011 under section 20/20 NDPS Act registered at Police Station Awantipora. Subsequently, the arrested accused was produced before the Hon'ble Court of Law.

2 drug peddlers arrested, contraband substances recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: As part of its sustained efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Police have arrested two drug peddlers in Shopian and Budgam and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

During routine naka checking at Dangerpora Amshipora, a police party intercepted one auto bearing registration No. JK03-9305 with three persons on board. However, on seeing the police party two persons fled away from the vehicle while third person was tactfully apprehended and identified as Shakeel Ahmad Das resident of Waghama Bijbehara. Upon search of the vehicle, 03 bags of Poppy Straw (24 kgs) were recovered. The vehicle used in commission of the crime has also been seized on the spot. Investigation has been initiated to trace the forward and backward linkages of the accused person and to unearth the broader network involved in the trade.

In Budgam, a police party from Police Post Soibugh at a checkpoint established at Warpora/Galwanpora Crossing intercepted a three-wheeler (Passenger Auto) bearing registration number JK01Q-7851. During checking, 376 grams charas-like substances in grinded form along with 27 grams of the same substance in a disposable bag were recovered from the vehicle. The accused driver identified as Hilal Ahmad Sheikh son of Bashir Ahmad Sheikh resident of Chodrybagh Sebdan, was arrested on the spot and the vehicle used in the commission of crime was also seized.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation have been initiated.

Bovine smuggling attempt foiled; 3 bovines rescued

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, Samba Police has successfully foiled a bovine smuggling attempt in the jurisdiction of Police Station Samba and rescued 03 bovines from the clutches of bovine smugglers.

Acting on information received from reliable sources, a Police party of Police Post Rakh Amb Talliof PS Samba has successfully foiled bovine smuggling attempt and rescued three bovines which were being smuggled by foot near villageRehian via border road.All the rescued bovines have been shifted to safer place.

A case FIR No.259/2025 u/s 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Samba and investigation started.

Narayana hospital gives new life to preterm infant

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: In a remarkable demonstration of medical excellence and teamwork, a premature baby born at just 30 weeks of gestation and weighing barely 1 kilogram has been successfully treated and discharged from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH), Katra, after nearly two months of intensive neonatal care.

Team of doctors with patient and his parents after performing surgery.

The emergency Cesarean section was performed by Dr. Nidhi Raina, Senior Consultant, Obstetrics and Gynecology, after decreased fetal movements were detected during monitoring. Immediately after birth, the baby was admitted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) under the supervision of Dr. Sanjeet Singh Chandail, Associate Consultant, Department of Pediatrics, who, along with Dr. Neha Rajput, led the baby's complex and delicate treatment journey with advanced neonatal management and compassionate care.

At birth, the infant faced multiple life-threatening complications, including Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS), sepsis, hypothermia, hypoglycemia, and feeding intolerance, along with potential cardiac and neurological risks. Each of these was systematically managed by the hospital's skilled NICU team. The baby received surfactant therapy for RDS, comprehensive sepsis management, and Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) to stabilize body temperature, improve oxygenation, and support weight gain.

Through continuous monitoring, nutritional optimization, and unwavering medical attention, the infant gradually overcame all complications. Today, the baby is neurologically intact, feeding well, and steadily gaining weight - a milestone that celebrates the expertise, dedication, and empathy of the medical team.

Dr. Sanjeet Singh Chandail commented: "Timely intervention, advanced neonatal support, and the unwavering trust of the family made this outcome possible. Every such success reaffirms our belief in teamwork and compassionate care."

Dr. Neha Rajput added: "Managing a 1 kg preterm infant is a marathon that requires precision and the highest level of intensive care. The combination of advanced technology and the parents' dedication to care was instrumental in promoting this remarkable recovery." The Department of Pediatrics at SMVD Narayana Hospital, led by Dr. Sanjeet Singh Chandail and Dr. Neha Rajput, is fully equipped to handle all forms of neonatal and pediatric emergencies, ensuring that even the most critical newborns receive world-class care locally - eliminating the need for families to travel far for advanced treatment.

Commenting on the hospital's integrated approach, Dr. M.M. Mathavan, Facility Director, SMVDNSH, said:

"This success story highlights the hospital's multidisciplinary strength, where obstetricians, neonatologists, anesthetists, and nursing teams work seamlessly under one roof. Our commitment is to provide cutting-edge care and emotional support to every patient and family that walks through our doors."

This successful recovery stands as a testament to the advancements in neonatal medicine, the power of timely intervention, and the synergy of multidisciplinary collaboration - proving that with expert care and compassion, even the tiniest lives can triumph against all odds.

District Ujjwala Committee reviews implementation of PMUY 3.0

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan chaired a meeting of the District Ujjwala Committee (DUC) to review and streamline the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) 3.0 in Samba District.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, HPCL, BPCL) and officers from stakeholder departments including Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), District Industries Centre (DIC), Revenue, Rural Development, Urban Local Bodies, Transport, Fisheries, Agriculture and Employment Departments.

At the outset, Assistant Director, FCS&CA Rahul Gupta presented a detailed overview of the PMUY application verification and seeding process.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon maintaining transparency, accountability and inter-departmental coordination for expeditious release of LPG connections under PMUY. She directed all concerned departments to ensure timely verification of connections as per the guidelines.

Special focus was laid on Rakh Barotian and Bari Villages, identified for complete saturation of LPG connections under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

The Deputy Commissioner stressing the need for reviewing progress at regular intervals with each department submitting updated verification reports to ensure that no eligible household is left out in the process.

Joint drive conducted in Ukhral to enforce drug control regulation

Team inspecting a medical shop at Ukhral.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, a joint inspection was conducted by the Revenue Department, Police and Drug Control authorities in the Ukhral area to ensure strict compliance with drug control regulations and address safety concerns in the region.

The drive was undertaken under the directions issued by the Deputy Commissioner during a meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) which met to review control measures against drug trafficking, substance abuse and associated safety challenges in the district.

The inspection aimed to ensure that chemist shops operate strictly within the legal framework and are not involved in the illegal sale of psychotropic drugs. The teams also checked the functioning of CCTV cameras in medical shops to enhance surveillance and accountability.

The proactive measure aimed to serve as a deterrent against illegal practices and promote transparency in the pharmaceutical sector. The inspection teams thoroughly examined sales records and compliance practices related to the sale of psychotropic substances requiring careful regulation.

All medical shop owners were asked to adhere to the prescribed norms and avoid selling psychotropic drugs without valid prescriptions. The shopkeepers were also directed to maintain an adequate stock of essential medicines to ensure genuine patients are not inconvenienced.

KVK Reasi commences 15 days certificate course on INM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the administrative control of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technologies of Jammu (SKUAST-J) began 15 dayscertificate course on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) here at KVK Reasi campus which was enthusiastically attended by a number of Krishi Udyamis of Kisan Khidmat Ghars(KKGs) and input dealers from various areas of both Reasi and Udhampur districts.

Chief Scientist & Head,KVK Reasi felicitating Chief Guest during inauguration of 15 days certificate course on INM held at KVK Reasi.

The programme was organised under the dynamic stewardship of Vice Chancellor,Prof.B.N.Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension, Prof.Amrish Vaid of SKUAST-Jammu.The programme was co-ordinated by Chief Agriculture Officer, Reasi, Vinod Kundal.

Dr.Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi formally welcomed the participants and briefed the objective of the programme. He elaborated the outlines of the programme. He spoke on the need of awareness on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) for input dealers as they further can act as extension agents for disseminating the information to the other farmers of their respective areas. He stressed on the need of organic and natural farming for the safe and quality food in the present era. He emphasized on the vermicomposting technology and other organic formulations.

Earlier the programme was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Adarsh Gupta, DDM NABARD, Reasi and Guest of Honour, Aftab Ahmed Malik, Sub-Division Agriculture Officer, Reasi. Chief Guest, Gupta spoke on the need of such courses for upgrading the knowledge of fertilizers dealers. He stressed on the Integrated Farming System for sustainable development in agriculture. He appreciated KVK, Reasi for the efforts on organizing such kind of useful programmes.

Guest of Honour, Aftab Ahmed Malik, Sub-Division Agriculture Officer (SDAO),Reasi spoke in detail on the Integrated Nutrient Management in crops for more profits and guided participants on soil analysis. He also guided farmers on management of soil health and advocated the balance use of manures and fertilizers for more returns.Dr.Arvinder Kumar spoke on soil health management and guided participants on safe use of fertilizers.He apprised farmers about the macro & micronutrients required for the plants.

Kumar Gaurav I/C,HADP Cell Reasi spoke on the important agril. Schemes and stressed on the book/record keeping practices required for the inputs dealers. Sunil Kumar,AEO,Reasi on the use of FYM, compost, vermicompost, crop residue management etc. A special session on farmer-scientists interaction was also organised during which the various quarries were raised by the participants which were answered satisfactorily by the experts. The proceedings of the programme were carried by Sh.Arvinder Kumar. The programme was assisted by Manohar Lal, Summer Qureshi and Sahil Kanathia and concluded by Dr. Arvinder Kumar with the formal vote of thanks.

Farewell accorded to Veena Devi on promotion, transfer

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: The staff of the Chief Medical Officer Office Doda organized a warm farewell in honor of Veena Devi (Accountant) on her promotion and transfer to the Office of the Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Jammu, as Assistant Accounts Officer.

On this occasion, a farewell party was organized by the staff, which was graced by CMO Doda, Dr. Om Kumar, DHO Doda, Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma, and other officials and staff members of the CMO Office Doda.

While speaking on the occasion, the speakers including Mohd Saleem Banday, Mohd Shafi Attu, Rishi Pandita, Ishtiaq Ahmed and Faizan A. Tramboo lauded the dedicated services rendered by Veena Devi during her 5-6 years of tenure in the CMO Office Doda. They appreciated her sincerity, discipline, and professional commitment in discharging her duties.

CMO Doda, Dr. Om Kumar, also spoke on the occasion and extended his best wishes to Veena Devi for her new assignment, appreciating her valuable contribution to the department.

In her address, Veena Devi expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all the staff members for organizing a memorable farewell in her honor. She also shared her experiences and fond memories from her years of service in the Health Department, Doda. The staff extended their best wishes to Veena Devi for a bright, happy, and prosperous future.

Meanwhile, the staff of CMO Office Doda also accorded a warm welcome to Rohit Manhas on his joining as Accountant in the CMO Office Doda.

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ADDC Rajouri reviews progress of RDD schemes, budgetary heads

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, Malikzada Sheraz Ul Haq today chaired a review meeting at Dak Bungalow Rajouri to assess the progress of the schemes and budgetary heads being implemented by the Rural Development Department in the district.

Taking a detailed review of PRI Capex works, the ADDC was informed that out of 2862 proposed works, 2756 have been tendered and 1748 allotted so far. The ADDC instructed to complete the allotment process for the remaining works within two weeks.

He also reviewed the progress under BDC, DDC, SSY, Aspirational Panchayats and ABDP components, besides taking stock of the status of CDF works. He directed the department to expedite tendering, allotment and execution of all pending projects.

While reviewing the PMAY scheme, the ADDC instructed the officers to prioritize the completion of all houses currently under construction. He also reviewed the status of MGNREGA, emphasizing the completion of e-KYC of beneficiaries to ensure smooth wage disbursement.

He further conducted a block-wise review of the generation of MGNREGA Persondays and the status of wage payments.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Maqsood Ahmed; Assistant Commissioner Development Auqil Naveed; Executive Engineer REW; BDOs; AEEs; JEs; other district and sectoral officers.