

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! CM launches e-auction...

"When more blocks are identified, I hope our earnings will grow. I look forward to the day when the Chief Minister of J&K will not have to go to Delhi seeking funds. On the contrary, we will be self-sufficient and capable of contributing to the Centre."

Reiterating his commitment to good governance, Omar Abdullah added, "Our effort is to have these blocks auctioned in a transparent manner. I assure you that the J&K Government will not create any obstacles. Instead, we will ensure that this process - and the next one - is successful. I hope this programme proves beneficial for J&K and for the entire country."

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary described the day as "historic," marking a transformative step toward harnessing the mineral wealth of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the government is committed to responsibly extract the "scattered wealth hidden in the mountains of J&K," and will soon extend e-auctioning to other high-value resources.

"Besides limestone, we are exploring all options for auctioning lithium, sapphire, and other valuable minerals. Very soon, people will hear good news about these resources," he said.

## Transparent auction will...

across the districts of Anantnag, Rajouri, and Poonch for the launch.

While addressing the audience, Reddy said that the initiative is expected to pave the way for job creation, revenue growth, industrial expansion, and new economic opportunities for local communities , advancing Jammu & Kashmir's development trajectory and contributing to the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

While lauding the collaborative effort of centre and state governments, the minister said that the Ministry of Mines, Geological Survey of India and the Government of J&K have worked together over the last few months to complete the identification, exploration and assessment of the seven limestone blocks that are being launched for auction today. The minister said that the initiative to launch the limestone blocks in the J&K by union government is a testimony to the spirit of Cooperative federalism and the commitment of Modi Government to provide support to state governments for improving their socio-economic conditions especially of the backward areas of the country. He remarked that we need to rise above the petty politics to work together for the inclusive development of the nation as a whole. He said that with the support of the union government UT of J&K can become a 'Mineral Powerhouse' and will lead to overall increase in the income of local people. He ensured that no tax was being imposed by the union government and that all the premium and royalty would be going to the state fund. He also informed that the District Mineral fund (DFM ) under the MMDR act would be used for the welfare of the people of the region.

While emphasizing the transparent and technology driven process of the auction, Reddy said that the launch of the limestone block auction on scientific lines will promote ease of doing business and boost investor confidence in the region. He added that the support of the industry is crucial for bringing transformative change in the development in the region.

The minister said that under leadership of PM Narendra Modi, Indian economy is moving towards an regime that is more stable and confident with more and more people and industry friendly initiatives being launched by the government. The slogan of "Reform, perform, transform" is the guiding principle for the government for improving policies and systems and ushering positive change through action and performance. He said that various policy changes have taken place in the mining sector in the MMDR Act and ensured that more changes will follow. He added that the government is committed to make the process transparent, competitive, dynamic and accountable.

He mentioned that the launch of auction would boost the efforts of government in becoming Atmanirbhar. He added that the 'mineral economy' will be an important pillar of nation's development and self-sufficiency in the coming future.

Omar Abdullah , Chief Minister , UT of J&K while addressing the audience said that the initiative was taken by the Government of India on behest of UT government for providing handholding to the UT for carrying out the auction. He further added that the backward areas especially of Poonch and Rajouri will see new era of development and will lead to growth of the ancillary industry in the region.

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal and Mines Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Chief Secretary, Anil Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines , Farida M Naik, Joint Secretary were also present on the occasion. Various stakeholders from the industry, civil society as well as officials from centre and state also attended the event.

The milestone marks a significant step in advancing the mining reforms introduced under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) in 2015. It is also the first mining block auction taking place in the Union Territory since these reforms, signaling a shift toward transparency, competitiveness, and sustainable development in the mineral sector.

A total of seven limestone blocks, covering approximately 314 hectares, have been identified across the districts of Anantnag, Rajouri, and Poonch. Categorized under UNFC G3 and G4 exploration stages, these deposits hold considerable potential for high-quality limestone critical to cement manufacturing, construction, and other industrial applications. The auction will be conducted under subsections (4) and (5) of Section 11 of the MMDR Act, enabling the Central Government to facilitate the process in cases where State or Union Territory administrations face procedural limitations.

## No proposal to...

deputy Surinder Choudhary launched the first-ever auction of seven limestone mineral blocks in Anantnag, Rajouri and Poonch district here, a significant step in advancing the mining reforms introduced under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) in 2015.

"I am also the power minister and so far no such discussion (to hike power tariff) has taken place, leave aside my signature on the claimed proposal. There is no proposal to hike the power tariff before the government," Abdullah said.

The chief minister said he has already made it clear in the budget that there will be no hike in the electricity fee. "Unnecessarily, this has made an issue."

## Modi to hoist...

built around the temple designed in the south Indian architectural tradition, will showcase the temple's diverse architecture, it said.

During his stay in Ayodhya, the prime minister will visit the Saptmandir, which houses temples related to Maharshi Vashishtha, Maharshi Vishwamitra, Maharshi Agastya, Maharshi Valmiki, Devi Ahilya, Nishadraj Guha and Mata Shabari.

This will be followed by a visit to the Sheshavtar Mandir. Modi will also visit the Mata Annappurna temple and perform 'darshan' and 'pooja' at the Ram Darbar Garbh Grah, which will be followed by 'darshan' at the Ram Lalla Garbh Grah, the statement said.

At around noon, Prime Minister Modi will ceremonially hoist the saffron flag on the 'shikhar' of the Ram Mandir, symbolising the completion of the temple's construction and ushering in a new chapter of cultural celebration and national unity, the PMO statement said. The prime minister will also address a gathering on the occasion. "The programme will take place on the auspicious Panchami date of the Shukla Paksha in the month of Margashirsha, coinciding with the Abhijit Muhurat of Shri Ram and Maa Sita's Vivah Panchami, a day symbolising divine union," the statement said.

The date also marks the martyrdom day of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, who meditated in Ayodhya for 48 hours in the 17th century, further enhancing the spiritual significance of the day, it said.

## Police conducts surprise...

coordination with medical officers from the health department, carried out inspections of lockers used by doctors and staff across district and private hospitals, medical colleges, PHCs (primary health centres) and health facilities," a police spokesman said. Similar checks were conducted in Pulwama district, he added.

On November 8, arms and ammunition, including an AK rifle, were recovered from the locker of a doctor at Government Medical College, Anantnag, ticking off authorities on the presence of an alleged terror module.

"The inspections were aimed at preventing misuse of lockers for unauthorised storage of illegal or hazardous materials and strengthening internal security within medical institutions," the spokesman said.

He said all racks and lockers were thoroughly examined, and staff were reminded to maintain proper records and ensure that lockers are used strictly for official purposes. Authorities have reiterated that such inspections will be conducted regularly as part of routine vigilance to maintain a security in hospitals.

Meanwhile, Srinagar police also carried out thorough inspections of chemical and fertiliser shops across the city, officials said.

"The drive aims to prevent the misuse of chemicals and fertilisers for unlawful purposes and to ensure that all dealers comply with safety and documentation regulations," the spokesman said.

He said the shop owners were briefed on the increased security measures and

urged to remain vigilant, report suspicious transactions, and maintain complete transparency.

## LG visits JKP's...

proposed upgradation and infrastructure expansion of the centre.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Nalin Prabhat, Director General of Police; S.J.M. Gillani, Special Director General (Coordination), PHQ J&K; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department; M.K Sinha, ADGP Headquarters and Director SSG; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP, Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu and other senior officials.

## Justice Surya Kant...

up to Prime Minister Modi to greet him.

Later, in a post on X, Modi shared pictures of the swearing in ceremony.

"Attended the oath taking ceremony of Justice Surya Kant as the Chief Justice of India. Best wishes to him for his tenure ahead," the prime minister wrote.

A customary group photograph was also clicked with President Murmu, Vice President Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Modi, CJI Kant, former CJI Gavai and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal posing for the camera.

Former vice president Jagdeep Dhankhar was also present and was among those who greeted the new CJI on assuming office.

## Dharmendra, beloved star...

crews and others posted outside his residence picked up cues from an ambulance and several cars seen driving out of the gates.

A little later, his wife Hema Malini and daughter Esha Deol, as well as industry colleagues Amitabh Bachchan and son Abhishek Bachchan, Aamir Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and his father Salim Khan, were spotted at the crematorium.

Anil Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt, Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Jackie Shroff and Shabana Azmi also attended the last rites.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the tributes for the veteran actor, who more than anybody else perhaps embodied goodness and wholesomeness through his many films in which he played the romantic hero, the bravny man who beat up the baddies and the comic actor with equal finesse.

"The demise of veteran actor and former member of parliament Shri Dharmendra Ji is a great loss to Indian cinema. One of the most popular actors, he delivered numerous memorable performances during his decades-long illustrious career," the president said. "As a towering figure of Indian cinema, he leaves behind a legacy which will continue to inspire young generations of artists. My heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and admirers," she said.

PM Modi said Dharmendra's death marks "the end of an era in Indian cinema". "He was an iconic film personality, a phenomenal actor who brought charm and depth to every role he played. The manner in which he played diverse roles struck a chord with countless people.

"Dharmendra Ji was equally admired for his simplicity, humility and warmth. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with his family, friends and innumerable fans. Om Shanti," PM Modi posted on X.

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan said it is an irreparable loss to Indian cinema. "A cherished icon for millions, he enriched the canvas of Indian cinema through his remarkable performances and steadfast dedication to his art. As one of the most admired figures in our film industry, he leaves behind a timeless legacy that will continue to inspire generations of artistes," he said.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, several Union ministers including Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and leaders of opposition in both houses of Parliament, Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, besides several chief ministers, expressed condolences.

Shah said coming from an ordinary family, Dharmendra carved an indelible identity for himself in the film industry.

"The passing of Dharmendra ji, who touched the hearts of every citizen for six decades with his finest acting, is an irreplaceable loss for the Indian film world," Shah said on X, adding that through his acting, he will forever remain among us.

Union minister and BJP president J P Nadda said Dharmendra left an indelible mark on the hearts of cinema lovers through his impactful acting. With his simplicity and vibrant performances, he ruled the hearts of art lovers in the country and the world for decades, he noted.

## Omar, Reddy pay...

Reddy said he became a great fan of the popular actor after watching 'Sholay', which was loved by generations after its release in 1975.

"Besides being a great actor, he was also a Member of Parliament representing the BJP. My condolences to his family, especially his wife and our party MP Hema Malini. Dharmendra entertained people throughout his life and stayed away from controversies," the minister said, remembering Dharmendra's visit to Andhra Pradesh for election campaigning and party meetings.

"During his visit to Andhra, he worked as an ordinary worker of the BJP, which showed his class," Reddy said. In a separate media interaction, Omar Abdullah also talked about Dharmendra and said he had watched the legendary actor's films from his childhood days. "The people around my age might have missed any film but 'Sholay'. I remember his role in the picture and other films like 'Burning Train' and 'Shalimar'. I felt sorry on learning of his passing away. He was ill for sometime but when he recently returned home from hospital, a feeling came that his health has improved," Abdullah said. Expressing his condolences to Dharmendra's family and praying for the departed soul, the chief minister said the actor's death is a big loss for the entire film industry. "He had not visited Jammu and Kashmir for a long time, but it is true that he was a friend of the region. He used to come here for film shooting and for holidays before 1987-88. His contribution to the film industry can never be forgotten," Abdullah said. Later, in a post on his official X handle, Abdullah wrote, "Sholay, Chupke Chupke, Seeta aur Geeta, The Burning Train, Yaadon ki Baaraat, Dharmendra Sahib was such a big part of my childhood Hindi movie experience. He leaves behind an unmatched legacy of hit movies and breath-taking performances. Rest in peace sir."

## Transport Comm issues...

complete digital traceability through the VAHAN platform.

Key provisions include online application with mandatory premises verification, five-year validity of authorization, real-time reporting of vehicle transactions, secure custody of vehicles and maintenance of buyer/seller KYC and digital records.

The RTOs/ARTOs and enforcement officers have been directed to conduct inspections, verify entries on VAHAN and initiate strict action against unauthorized dealers. After 21 days, assistance will also be sought from District Police and State Taxes Authorities to seize vehicles being sold without valid authorization. The existing dealers must obtain authorization within 30 days. No vehicle transaction will be permitted through non-authorized dealers. Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan said the guidelines will curb fraudulent vehicle transactions, prevent misuse of vehicles by anti-social elements and bring greater transparency to the registered-vehicle resale ecosystem in J&K.

## Amit takes over...

employees of Directorate in which all staff members including Joint Director Arun Kumar and Assistant Director Vijay Kumar participated.

Also to share alongside that Amit Sharma returned to serve in the home soil after making valuable contributions towards implementing administrative and eGovernance reforms, both in the UT of Ladakh and state of Mizoram over last two-three years.

It is also a sheer coincidence that Amit Sharma as Director Census Operations, shall get a rare opportunity to conduct first-ever digital census in nation, while using expertise in IT domain gained over the years, in his home soil of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. During this introductory meeting, the employees of DCO J&K, Ladakh shared their perspectives about ongoing Pre-Test of the Census related activities in both the UTs where-in Amit Sharma could assess their expertise-level in various domains such as Mapping, Census, CRS, SRS, DDU, Statistics, Finance, Admin, etc so as to ensure their optimal utilisation in the upcoming actual census coming soon. It was also decided by the chair Amit Sharma that the issue regarding filling-up of vacancies in DCO J&K and Ladakh shall be taken-up on top priority with Office of Registrar General of India so that Census in snow-bound areas of the UTs can be conducted during October 2026 as per notification with full strength of employees. DCO Amit Sharma expressed in his main meeting with the employees that he has highest expectations from UT's Census team and believed that a landmark performance shall be made while performing Census activities in J&K and Ladakh in 2026-27.



## MVD Poonch intensifies action against traffic violators; Rs 1,31,600 collected as fine, 3 DLs suspended

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

POONCH: The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Poonch conducted a major enforcement drive across Mandi, Chandak, Kalai, Dalera, Bainch, and Chaktroo under the leadership of Inspector Imran Choudhary, (MVD) who spearheaded the campaign to curb growing traffic violations. The team carried out rigorous checking of vehicles, documents, and compliance with safety norms throughout the day. During the drive, 23 challans were issued for various offences including overspeeding, overloading, driving without mandatory documents, and non-compliance with safety guidelines. The initiative reflects the department's firm commitment towards strengthening road safety measures and improving traffic discipline in the region.

Under the supervision of Inspector Imran Choudhary and the ARTO Poonch team, fines amounting to Rs 1,31,600 were imposed on defaulters, sending a clear message against negligent driving. Furthermore, three driving licences (DLs) were suspended on the spot for serious violations and repeated disregard for traffic rules. Authorities have affirmed that such enforcement drives will continue in the coming days to prevent accidents and ensure safer travel for commuters. The MVD Poonch has appealed to the public to adhere to traffic regulations and support the department's efforts in promoting a safer and more disciplined road environment.

## GRP Jammu seizes Rs 4 Lakhs worth banned drugs

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Govt Railway Police (GRP) Jammu has recovered and seized more than 6 gm Heroine (Chitta) like substance from the possession of accused Rohit Kumar @ Makhori Don S/o Darshan Kumar R/o Matandi Jagatpur, Tehsil & District Kathua and Gourav Kumar S/o Late Dharam Paul R/o Ward No. 5, Tehsil & District Kathua worth market price Rs. 4,00,000/-

Accordingly, FIR No. 12/2025 under sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station GRP Kathua and investigation initiated. This is the 28th case of narcotics drug registered in GRP Jammu in past 19 months.

## Notorious inter-state drug smuggler booked under PITNDPS Act

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA: Taking stringent action against notorious drug peddlers/ smugglers involved in illicit narcotics trade, Samba Police has booked a notorious inter-state drug smuggler under Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act for his continues involvement in spreading drug menace in the area and lodged him in the Central Jail Kotbhalwal Jammu.

The notorious drug smuggler detained under PITNDPS Act has been identified as Abdul Habib @ Bheem S/o Maon Din R/o Ladana tehsil Ramnagar district Udhampur A/P Badheri Nanak Chak tehsil & district Samba. The said drug smuggler has involved in different cases registered against him under NDPS Act at Police Station Samba and Police Station Nurpur (Himachal Pradesh) for his role in spreading the evil of drug addiction in the society especially amongst the youth of the area.

In view of repeated indulgence of notorious drug smuggler Abdul Habib @ Bheem in illicit drug trafficking in the area, District Police Samba prepared and submitted a dossier & other connected documents to the office of Divisional Commissioner Jammu. Accordingly, notorious drug smuggler Abdul Habib @ Bheem has been lodged in the Central Jail Kotbhalwal Jammu after obtaining formal detention order from Divisional Commissioner Jammu.

It is pertinent to mention here that the said notorious inter-state drug smuggler was earlier detained under PITNDPS Act in the year 2024 and was released by Jail authority in March, 2025 after the completion of one year detention period. After being released, the accused repeatedly and continuously involved in drug trafficking which leads to registration of fresh FIRs against him under NDPS Act.

## Missing woman traced, reunited with family

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: J&K Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Ms. Mohita Sharma IPS traced out one missing lady and handed over to her legal heirs in the jurisdictional area of PS Billawar.

On 22-11-2025 one person namely Asif Hussain S/O Mohd.Ramzan R/O Dher Phinter Tehsil Billawar Distt.Kathua came at this P/S and lodged a written complaint regarding missing of his Sister namely Shabnam Akhter D/O Mohd.Ramzan Age- 19 years R/O Dher Phinter Tehsil Billawar. On receiving complaint a missing report was entered at this P/S Billawar vide GD No.41 dated 22-11-2025 and a team of P/S Billawar led by SHO Billawar Insp Zahaer Mushtaq under the supervision of SDPO Billawar Sh Neeraj Padyar searched various places with technical assistance along with timely human intervention recovered the missing lady from Rajouri .After completing all legal formalities the said missing lady handed over to her legal heirs.

## Drug peddler arrested; intoxicating capsules, injections recovered

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJOURI: Police Party of Police Station Rajouri while on routine patrolling duty in the Dharali area intercepted a suspicious person who attempted to hide upon noticing the police near Dharali Bridge.

During questioning he identified himself as Talib Hussain S/O Shabir Hussain R/O Dhanidhar Rajouri.

During his personal search the police recovered one polythene bag containing 100 capsules of Pregabalin and 03 injections of Tramadol Hydrochloride both falling under the category of narcotic/psychotropic substances.

In this regard, a case FIR No. 568/2025 under relevant sections of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Rajouri. The accused has been arrested and further investigation is in progress.

The forward and backward linkages of the accused are being thoroughly probed to identify his associates and to trace the source and destination of the recovered contraband.

## 6 litres of illicit liquor seized, one arrested

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SUNDERBANI: Police Station Sunderbani established a special naka at Devak Chowk, during which a suspicious person carrying a bag was signaled to stop.

During questioning, the individual disclosed his identity as Sanjay Kumar S/o Sat Paul R/o Seiya Sunderbani Rajouri. On checking the bag police recovered 01 plastic gallon of 5 litres and 01 transparent bottle of 1 litre.

In this regard a Case FIR No. 73/2025 under relevant Sections of the Excese Act has been registered at Police Station Sunderbani and investigation is underway.

## Narco smuggler nabbed, 11 grams heroin seized

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

SUNDERBANI: In a major action against drug trafficking a police party of Police Station Sunderbani established a special naka at Channi Chowk. During Naka checking a Mahindra Bolero vehicle bearing Registration No. JK11E-1187 was stopped for Checking. During the search of the vehicle, the Naka team recovered 11 grams of heroin-like substance from the possession of the driver. He was identified as Harun Jamil S/o Mohd Jamil R/o Shahdhara Sharif Tehsil Thanamandi District Rajouri. In this regard a case FIR No. 75/2025 under the relevant sections of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Sunderbani. The accused has been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of the offence has been seized.

## DC Rajouri orders deduction of one day's salary of absentees

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, today conducted a series of surprise inspections across various government offices to assess functioning, service delivery, and staff attendance.

During a surprise inspection at the Office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunderbani, the Deputy Commissioner found four employees absent from duty without authorization. Strict directions were issued for immediate explanation from the concerned officials, and the controlling officer was instructed to initiate necessary action as per rules. The DC also inspected the Block Development Office (BDO) Siot, where he reviewed the attendance register, ongoing works, and public service delivery mechanisms. Later, the Deputy Commissioner conducted an inspection at Lamberi, during which eight employees were found absent. Taking serious note of the absenteeism, he directed strict disciplinary action and stressed that such negligence will not be tolerated, especially in public-facing departments. The Deputy Commissioner also stated that such inspections will continue in the coming days to ensure effective implementation of government schemes and responsive administration at all levels.

