

Narco smuggler nabbed with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Janipur police with a clear stance of zero tolerance to Drugs abuse arrested another drug peddler Vishal Sharma alias Vishu, son of Lt Ram Prakash Sharma, resident of Lane no. 01, Rajpora, Shakti Nagar, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu when the suspected person was roaming near Lohan Park Paloura and on seeing was police party try to fled away from spot but alert troops apprehended him. On his search 06 gram approx. Chitta like substance was found from him.

On further enquiry, it came to fore that the said accused is selling narcotics from last many years for undue profit generation in the local area. In this regard FIR No. 02/2025 stand registered at Police Station Janipur and investigation is in full swing.

Accused Vishal Sharma alias Vishu is part of Drug syndicate which is active in Jammu and are selling drugs to innocent youth of the area for gaining undue profits from sale of narcotics and are responsible for overdose death due to drugs happening in the area. These peddlers have become nightmare for the parents of the vulnerable children who are out of their home either for tuitions or in hostels in Jammu.

Pertinent to mention here that this is 6th FIR against Vishal Sharma also Vishu and his name also surfaced as supplier of



Chitta in Case FIR No. 162/2024 . He also remained in KotBhalwal Jail under PITNDPS Act for 05 months. The accused is hard core peddler and has no fear of law.

It is 8th FIR in last 15 days after the launch of Zero Tolerance policy against drug peddlers by SDPO City West Jammu and Newly joined SHO Janipur Insp. Vikram Sharma. SDPO City West and SP City North Vivek Shekhar JKPS are personally supervising the investigation to dug out the backward and forward linkages of these Drug peddlers to dismantle the whole ecosystem of Drug menace developed by the Drug Syndicates of the area.

SgCt Mohd Mukhtiyar, SgCt. Parwaiz Khan along with two wives Nagris Bhat & Parveen Akhtar, Karamjeet alias Chamkor, Sandeep Nirala, Farzan Shah and Vikas Manni along with wife Tanu Mehra, arrested earlier and now Vishav Sharma alias Vishu's arrest has proved that police is duty bound to save the innocent youth of this country from the menace of drug abuse with zero tolerance to peddlers who are doing this immoral trade which has resulted in many youth's death due to overdose leading to genetic death of families.

Two drug peddlers arested, 9.81 grams heroin recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers/peddlers, J&K Police has arrested two drug peddlers in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmana district Samba and

recovered 9.81 grams approximately heroin (chitta) like substance from their possession.

A Police party headed by SHO PS Bari Brahmana during vehicle checking naka established near BBIA Club Bari Brahmana, intercepted an alto car bearing registration No. JK03L-6391 coming from Haldiram factory side and moving towards Bari Brahmana for its checking. During checking, 9.81 grams approximately heroin like substance was recovered from the possession of twopersons travelling in the car.

The drug peddlers identified as Talib Ahmad Mochi, son of Ghulam Ahmed Mochi, resident of Anantnag and Arshad Ahmad Shah, son of Sharif Udin Shah, resident of Kupwara have been arrested and contraband item has also been seized. A case FIR No. 04/2025 U/S 8/21/22/25/29 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Bari Brahmana and investigation started.

7 vehicles seized, 6 arrested for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: Cracking a whip on illegal mining of minerals, Police have arrested 06 persons and seized 07 vehicles involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in Sopore. A team led by Incharge Police Post Fruit Mandi under the supervision of SDPO Sopore and SHO Police Station Sopore in collaboration with the Geology and Mining department arrested 06 persons and seized 07 vehicles, (01 JCB and

six tractors) for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals. The accused persons have been identified as Parvaiz Ahmad Khan resident of Khamoh Rafiabab, Muzafar Ramzan Sunji, Nadeem Mohiudin, Mohammad Shafi, Mudasir Ahmad Dar and Hilal Ahmad Mir all residents of Doabgah Sopore. Persons found indulging in illegal mining activities shall be dealt as per law. Community members are appealed to share information regarding the crimes in their neighbourhood with their concerned police units.

Drug peddler arrested; Contraband substance recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: Continuing its unwavering efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police in Kulgam have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession. A Police team of Police Post Jawahar Tunnel at a checkpoint established at Puranigam Crossing intercepted a suspicious person carrying a bag, who after noticing police party tried to flee from the spot but was apprehended tactfully. During search, 4.3 Kg of Grinded Cannabis concealed in the said bag was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Fayaz Ahmad Itoo son of Abdul Gani Itoo resident of Chowgam. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 07/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Qazigund and investigation has been initiated.

Ministry of MSME reaches out to Kandi belt of Kathua for PM Vishwakarma scheme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: MSME Schemes Awareness programme organised at Kishen pur Kandi Village in Kathua District , where more than 200 women and 50 men from the nearby panchayats were given awareness on the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

Dr Navneet Kour founder NGO Support, Creative Self Employed Entrepreneurs Cooperative Ltd a dedicated Social Reformer and MSME Resource Person gave the welcome address and briefed about the MSME Vishwakarma Scheme , promoting the Government of India's schemes tailored to empower Self-Help Groups, cooperatives led by women and youth of J&K . Disseminating awareness and facilitating implementation of flagship programs of PM Vishwakarma scheme has been exemplary in J&K over the last two years . She stated that , MSMEs tireless efforts have significantly contributed to bringing these transformative initiatives to the doorstep of rural communities, particularly in remote, far-flung areas and border belts of the region.

Rajesh Kumar IEDS Asst Director Ministry of MSME gave a detailed report on the PM Vishwakarma Scheme



Officials along with NGO members during the programme at Kathua.

and started that the PM Vishwakarma Yojana was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on September 2023. The Scheme aims to provide end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools. The Scheme components include recognition through PM Vishwakarma Certificate and ID Card, Skill Upgradation, Toolkit Incentive, Credit Support, Incentive for Digital Transactions, and Marketing Support.

PM Vishwakarma scheme is being implemented by the Union Ministry of MSME with the active support of Government of Jammu & Kashmir. This scheme is designed to uplift and recognize the crucial role of skilled artisans of 18 different trades in preserving and enriching cultural heritage.

Devinder Tyagi IEDS Asst

Director Ministry of MSME concluded the awareness campaign by highlighting that scheme offers Recognition and Certification, Skill Development and Training, Credit Assistance and Marketing Support. The scheme paves the way for a brighter future for J&K's talented Viswakarmas and said that T their empowered presence will not only contribute to the economic growth of the Jammu & Kashmir but also preserve and enrich the unique cultural tapestry of Jammu and Kashmir:

Sukhdev Singh a leading social Activist and key resource person of NGO SUPPORT mobilised and organised the event with his dynamic team . He has been working on empowering the underprivileged communities in the border areas of Distt Kathua.

Nirmal Singh

Entrepreneur& Executive Director NGO SUPPORT & Mrs Harpreet Kaur Principal Kartar Public School motivated the rural woman to come forward and avail these schemes by the government of India to start with micro businesses . They also insured to help them with online registration assisting with the Department of MSME .

Suryavanshi Functional Manager DIC Kathua explained about PMEGP & Vishwakarma Schemes . He assured the full support for PM Vishwakarma Scheme from Industries and commerce department J&K.

Distt Development Chairman Sarbjit Singh Johal also appreciated the initiative taken by the Ministry of MSME initiatives & NGO SUPPORT to bridge the gap between skilling of artisans and financing support by them .

Gurneet Singh Project Director NGO SUPPORT & MSME Consultant mobilised the community with his vision of collaborative work and creating Self Help Groups.

Dr Navneet Kour & Kunwar Rani Ritu Singh along with the teams of Ministry of MSME & NGO SUPPORT shall take these campaigns across Jammu and Kashmir and reach out to the rural belts in different districts to contribute through their continued support in the shared mission of fostering sustainable development through MSME initiatives.

A vote of thanks was given by Dr Kour mentioning the dedication of G.Velladurai IEDS Jt. Director/Head of Office, Devinder Tyagi IEDS Jt Director , Rajesh Kumar IEDS Jt Director MSME . She also expressed her gratitude to the Dignitaries who were present on the occasion Sukhdev Singh Social Activist & Key resource person of Support NGO Kishenpur Kandi , Indu Ex DDC, Nirmal Jit Singh & Harpreet Kaur from KPS Barnoti Kathua Key resource persons NGO SUPPORT , Nisha Kapoor Author executive member NGO SUPPORT, Monika Secty Panchayat , Sethi. Sethi was the moderator of the programme.

Over 1,500 hand pumps installed in Kathua: Col Mahan Singh



Chairman DDC Kathua, Col Mahan Singh inaugurating a hand pump.

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MAHANPUR: Chairman of District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, Col Mahan Singh (Retd), has played a pivotal role in installing and maintaining more than 1,500 hand pumps over the past four years. These efforts have brought the total number of operational hand pumps in the district to over 5,000, providing a reliable source of drinking water to residents in the Kandi and Shiwalik regions of District Kathua.

Recognizing the critical need for clean drinking water, particularly in the remote hamlets, Col Mahan Singh's leadership has ensured the installation and upkeep of these deep-drilled hand pumps, which serve as a lifeline for countless households.

Continuing this initiative, a new hand pump was installed today at Ward No. 3, SC Mohalla Pliat, and dedicated to the local residents by Col Mahan Singh. The occasion was marked by celebratory slogans and warm gestures of gratitude.

On his arrival, the DDC Chairman was accorded a rousing welcome by the residents, accompanied by Shanti Bushan, Ajay Kalotra, Saroj Verma, and other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Col Mahan Singh emphasized the DDC Council's unwavering commitment to improving the living conditions and basic amenities of the district's residents. He highlighted the Council's sustained efforts in ensuring access to clean drinking water, which remains a critical

need for rural households.

"Providing clean drinking water is a fundamental necessity, and our efforts in installing and maintaining hand pumps reflect our resolve to ensure that no household is left without access to this vital resource," he said.

Col Mahan Singh also interacted with the local residents, patiently listening to their grievances and concerns. He assured them of continued support and efforts to address their issues effectively.

The installation of the hand pump at SC Mohalla Pliat stands as a testament to the DDC Kathua's sustained efforts to bring essential services to every corner of the district, fostering a better quality of life for its citizens.

15 Bn ITBP Udampur awarded Best Border Battalion Trophy



Paras Thapa, Commandant of 15 BN ITBP, receiving trophy.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The 15th Battalion of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) stationed at Paranoo, Udampur, has been awarded the

prestigious Best Border Battalion Trophy during the 63rd Force Raising Day Parade held at 41 BN ITBP, Bhubaneswar.

The award was presented by Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs of India, in recognition of the exceptional performance, dedication, and commitment demonstrated by the battalion in safeguarding the nation's borders and fulfilling other assigned duties.

Paras Thapa, Commandant of 15 BN ITBP, received the trophy on behalf of the battalion. This achievement highlights the tireless efforts, professionalism, and hard work of the personnel who have been serving in challenging terrains and adverse conditions.

The ITBP Raising Day Parade, an annual event, honors the sacrifices and contributions of ITBP personnel while showcasing the force's discipline and operational efficiency.

HC quashes PMLA case against former Bank Chairman and others

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Javed Iqbal Wani of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court quashed 250 crores money laundering case against former chairman of Jammu and Kashmir State Co-operative Bank Limited Mohammad Shafi Dar and Chairman of River Jhelum Co-operative House Building Society, Hilal Ahmad Mir, and Abdul Hamid Hajam.

Justice Javed Iqbal Wani after hearing both the sides observed that the complaint, had admittedly been transferred/credited directly into the accounts of the land owners and the petitioners herein had never been in possession or control of the

said money, which is alleged to have been laundered. As has been pointed out earlier, in order to constitute the offence of money-laundering, it is imperative that one should be first in possession of the "proceeds of crime" and then engage in an activity to project it as untainted property, which however, is missing in the instant case. In the instant case, "proceeds of crime" in favour of the petitioners would have arisen only had the petitioners developed the plots in the colony and sold them to earn profit in the process, in that, the said profits would have been the "proceeds of crime" and any activity related to such profits may have resulted in money-laundering,

which stage in the instant case has not reached. The fact that the money that was transferred in the accounts of the land owners which had been attached on the premise that the same is "proceeds of crime" and was released in favour of the said land owners by the orders of the Apex Court cannot be overlooked, in that, if the said money in the accounts of the land owners was "proceeds of crime", the same would not have been ordered to be released in favour of the land owners and treating the said money in the accounts of the land owners for the purpose of making out a case of money-laundering against the petitioners here-

in under said circumstances cannot but said to be not only abuse of process of law, but as well an attempt to overreach the orders of the Apex Court, in that, the transaction between the land owners and the Society essentially has been treated as a genuine transaction by the Apex Court while ordering release of money in question in favour of the land owners.

Court further observed that what emanates from the above is that none of the ingredients of the offence of money-laundering against the petitioners herein is found to be existing in the present case, more so in view of the fact that an act of mortgaging the property

with the Bank for securing the loan that is said to have been obtained fraudulently without following Banking rules and regulations cannot by any stretch of imagination be termed as money-laundering and that the act of the petitioners herein of having fraudulently secured loan for development and establishment of satellite township by submitting false documents, at the most makes out a case for forgery or Bank fraud. For what has been observed, considered and analysed hereinabove, the instant petitions succeed, as a consequence whereof, the impugned complaints qua the petitioners in both the petitions are quashed, Court ordered.

DDC Chairman reviews developmental activities, sector-wise progress in Doda district

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DODA: Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Doda Dhananther Singh Kotwal on Thursday conducted a comprehensive review of developmental activities across various sectors in the district at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of DC Office.

The meeting was attended by DDC Vice Chairperson Sangeeta Rani; Deputy Commissioner Harvinder



Singh; DPO ICDS Parmjeet Singh; CPO Manesh Kumar Manhas; DDC Councillors and officers from multiple departments. Discussions encompassed key sectors including Public Works (PWD), Jal Shakti, Education, Rural Development (RDD), Health, and Agriculture, among others.

The review focused on critical issues such as road connectivity under PMGSY and PWD, water supply to water-scarce areas, and the functional status of solar street lights. The Chairman expressed concern over delays in solar light installations and directed officers to ensure timely execution in col-

laboration with local vendors. Renovation of school buildings under the Samagra scheme, improvement of toilet facilities in schools, and addressing healthcare challenges, including the provision of ambulances, maternity centers, and oxygen plants were also discussed in detail.

The DDC Chairman reviewed constituency-wise physical and financial progress of works sanctioned under DDC grants in the RDD sector, emphasizing rural roads, community halls, and water conservation projects. He directed officers to expedite projects, conduct field inspections, and

adhere to prescribed timelines. He further stressed the importance of including all eligible beneficiaries under the PMAY scheme and prioritizing delayed projects by PWD, PMGSY, and Jal Shakti departments.

The Chairman reiterated the importance of transparency, accountability, and interdepartmental coordination for efficient service delivery. He highlighted the need to resolve public grievances, address bottlenecks, and achieve targets within the stipulated timeframe. Despite challenges, he acknowledged the progress made so far and called for enhanced coordination among departments to

ensure better development outcomes.

Key directives included ensuring the payment of pending installments to PMAY beneficiaries, promoting tourism by preserving natural resources, and conducting sanitation drives. The Chairman urged the Forest Department to implement extensive plantation drives, particularly in Jai Valley, and to focus on promoting unexplored tourism areas. He also emphasized the effective utilization of funds under the PM's HADP scheme to benefit the public.

In addition, the Chairman encouraged the facilitation of young entrepreneurs in the district as part of the upcoming Republic Day celebrations, fostering growth and opportunities for local talent.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with officers assuring their commitment to resolving issues and achieving the developmental goals of the district.

Court acquits AEE in trap case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Sessions Judge Anticorruption Udampur Dinesh Gupta acquitted one Sanjay Kumar Gupta AEE PDD who was demanding an amount of Rs. 20000 as illegal gratification for giving the Shutdown of the electricity supply for cutting the trees standing on both the sides of Dhar road and later VOJ on January 1, 2017 laid a trap.

Court after hearing both the sides observed that the instant case, prosecution cited PW Vikram Singh as Shadow witness. PW Vikram Singh when appear as witness before this Court stated that on 31-01-2017 the complainant had taken him to the house of accused. As soon as they entered the room, accused was standing in between him and complainant. That place was very tight and narrow. Complainant gave something to accused, as the result of which he felt that their mission was over. He has no

knowledge that what discussion were made between complainant and accused in those 2-3 minutes because he had not heard anything. In his presence, accused neither demanded bribe from complainant, nor accept the same. The recovery of money was made in the house of accused and the proceeding of hand-wash and other post trap proceeding were made in the Dak Bangalow Udampur. PW Vikram Singh further stated that he signaled the team standing near the door and team came inside. In the mean time the wife of the accused reached there and she astonished to see the Vigilance team. After that on the saying of DSP vigilance one person had taken out the money from the pocket of the pant of the accused. This witness did not deposed that he had prepared the slip containing the serial numbers of the treated currency notes, which was per the prosecution story was prepared by both the Independent witnesses, so

preparation of slip containing Serial number of treated currency notes become doubtful.

In view of the observation made herein before, Court is not convinced that the prosecution has been able to remove the element of doubt from its accusations against the accused as well as the charge framed by this court, by such strong evidence as could lead to one and only one hypothesis pointing to the guilt of the accused. And the prosecution chain of circumstances is not established by such an evidence as may make it complete and so strong that none of the chains/links is shaken or weakened by any reasonable doubt. So, the accused is acquitted of the charge for the offences under sections 5(1) (d) r/w 5 (2) P.C. Act 2006 and 4-A J&K P.C. (Amendment) Act 2014, framed by this court. This challan is dismissed. Personal and surety bonds furnished shall stand discharged under rule.

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