

## Nursing orderly among 3 most notorious drug peddlers arrested with heroin

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Police team from Police Station Rehambal led by its SHO while performing routine vehicle checking at Rehambal naka point stopped one bike bearing registration number JK14J-0690 for checking purpose which was coming from Jammu towards Udhampur.

Upon conducting a thorough frisking of rider and pillion, police team recovered 39.9 grams of heroin (chitta) like Contraband substance from their possession .

The arrested individuals have been identified as Vikrant Sharma, son of Narinder Sharma, resident of Chabutra Bazar, Udhampur, who is working as a nursing orderly at GMC Udhampur and Arjun Dubey, son of Bushan Dubey, resident of W.No 12, Paba Gali, Udhampur, who works as a receptionist on a contractual basis in the medical department.

On this, a case vide FIR No. 15/2025 U/S 8/21/22/ NDPS Act stands registered in P/S Rehambal and further investigation was set into probe.

Jammu Police arrested a notorious criminal, Pankaj Singh alias Panku Raja, son of Gopal Singh, resident of Kotli Mian Fateh,Miran Sahib, against whom 12 FIRs are registered. The accused, also a history-sheeter of PS Miran Sahib, had recently come out after completing his detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Acting on specific inputs, a police team of PS Bishnah conducted a raid and arrested the said criminal. During the search, 25 grams of heroin-like substance and a 9mm pistol were recovered from his possession..

A case has been registered at Police Station Bishnah under

relevant sections of law and further investigation is underway to trace the network behind the recovered narcotics and illegal weapon.

## 7 drug peddlers arrested; contraband substances recovered

### Notorious drug peddler detained under PIT-NDPS Act

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 07 drug peddlers in Kulgam, Baramulla, Anantnag & Avantipora and recovered contraband substances from their possession. Besides police detained a notorious drug peddler under PIT-NDPS Act in Kupwara.

In Kulgam, a police team of Police Station Kulgam at a checkpoint established at Chawalgam, Kulgam intercepted a suspicious person. During search, 02 kgs of poppy straw like contraband substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Mashooq Ahmad Hilla son of Abdul Rashid Hilla resident of Vesbatpota, Kulgam.

In Baramulla, a police team of Police Post Old Town Baramulla headed by Incharge Police Post Old Town Baramulla at a checkpoint established at Janbazpora Baramulla, intercepted a suspicious person. During search, 288 banned capsules were recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Aijaz Ahmad Sofi son of Ghulam Hassan resident of Chakloo.

In Anantnag, a police team of Police Station Srigufwara at a checkpoint established on the Sirhama link road intercepted a suspicious individual carrying a bag. He has been identified as Ab Rehman Mir, son-in-law of Mohd Akbar Nengroo, resi-

dent of Sirhama. During search, 1.270 kg of cannabis powder was recovered from his bag.

Moreover, based on specific information, a police team from Police Station Mattan conducted a raid at the residence of Javid Ahmad Padder, son of Gh Ahmad Padder, resident of Pethnambal Mattan. During search, 5 kilograms of charas powder was recovered from the said house.

In Avantipora, a police team from Police Station Pampore under the supervision of SHO Police Station Pampore, at a checkpoint established at Galander Crossing intercepted a scooty bearing registration number JK13E-7562 ridden by 03 persons. They have been identified as Owais Gull son of Gh Mohd Bhat resident of Drangbal Pampore, Tariq Ah Sheikh son of Gh Qadir resident of Tulbagh Pampore and Mushtaq Ah Mir son of Ab Khaliq Mir resident of Namblabal Pampore. During search, 8.160 Kgs of grinded poppy straw like substance was recovered from their possession. Vehicle used in the commission of the said crime has also been seized.

All the accused have been arrested and cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation have been initiated.

Meanwhile, Police in Kupwara detained a notorious drug peddler namely Mohd Shafi Sheikh @Shafi Tractor son of Gh. Hassan Sheikh resident of Sheikhpora, Trehgam, under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (PIT-NDPS), 1988. The accused was involved in multiple cases of drug trafficking, including FIR No. 12/2021 under Section 8/20 NDPS Act and FIR No. 23/2023 under section 8/20 NDPS Act of Police Station Trehgam.

The detention warrant was issued by the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir and accordingly the accused has been taken into custody and lodged in District Jail

Udhampur. The detention is aimed at preventing his further involvement in illicit drug trafficking and ensuring a safer society.

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

## Samba police foils bovine smuggling bid; 4 bovines rescued, vehicle seized

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against the bovine smugglers and their propagators, Samba Police has foiled bovine smuggling attempt, rescued four bovines from the clutches of bovine smugglers in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal. The vehicle used for illegal transportation of bovines was also seized.

An information was received at Police Station Ghagwal from reliable sources regarding smuggling of bovines in a Mahindra Load carrier bearing registration No. JK21H-6198 from Kootah Hiranagar side towards Nichla district Samba. Acting on information, Police team headed by SHO Police Station Ghagwal reached Nichla area and rescued four bovines which were tied in a cruel manner inside the said vehicle and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. The driver of the vehicle after causing an accident, escaped from the spot taking advantage of darkness.

A case FIR No. 14/2025 u/s 281/223 BNS, 11 PCA has been registered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started.

# CEO Shrine Board reiterates commitment to pilgrim welfare on 76th R-Day celebrations at Katra

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: 76th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm, fervour and national spirit at Shrine Board's Sports Complex Katra wherein Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board unfurled the tricolour and took salute of the impressive march past of contingents from J&K Police, CRPF, NCC, Shrine Enforcement & Security besides, the students of various educational institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO reiterated the Shrine Board's unwavering commitment to the welfare and facilitation of pilgrims visiting the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji. He added that the Shrine Board has been tirelessly working to upgrade and expand the existing infrastructure to cater to the ever-increasing number of pilgrims visiting the shrine across the country and abroad. He exhorted that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine has witnessed a steady influx of devotees, with the annual pilgrimage exceeding 90 lakh for the



Anshul Garg CEO Shrine Board taking slauete from march past.

third consecutive year. Last year yatra followed a similar trend and touched the mark of 95 lakh," he remarked.

The CEO highlighted the significance of the upcoming Delhi-Srinagar train connectivity stating that it will establish Katra as a crucial transit station and is expected to further boost the pilgrimage to the Holy Shrine. He underscored that in view of this development the Shrine Board has operationalised a Yatri Facilitation Centre at the Katra Railway Station for enabling pilgrims to complete their registration for the yatra conveniently, right from the railway station thereby enhancing their overall pilgrimage experience. He also drew attention to the Shrine Board's ongoing

ing efforts to enhance the traditional route to the Holy Shrine stating that major project, estimated at Rs. 20 crore is underway, which includes the development of a state-of-the-art Darshani Deodi Queue Complex designed to accommodate 1500 devotees to wait in all weather conditions. Besides, the completion of other mega projects in the Banganga sector including the 3-storey Shubhra Bhawan, upgraded track quality and drainage network, proposed Laser Light and Sound project with an aim to enhance the overall pilgrimage experience. CEO also highlighted key initiatives undertaken collaboratively by the Government of India and the Shrine Board to rejuvenate the Banganga rivulet for enhancing the rivulet's ecology and aesthetics through

synchronized development and contiguous embankments.

A Rs 25 crore new exit track inspired by the Skywalk aimed at decongesting the Bhawan area and New Vaishnavi Bhawan for enhancing the overall pilgrimage experience for devotees were also highlighted by the Chief Executive Officer. He also announced several new upcoming facilities including Battery Car Parking, Adhkuwari holding area, AI-based CCTV cameras on the track and a Command Control Centre during the upcoming Chaitra Navratras for enhancing the overall pilgrimage experience for devotees.

The CEO outlined ambitious plans to establish Katra as a regional hub, with several key projects underway including four temples along the Trikuta Hills Parikrama Marg and development of a helipad to improve connectivity to the Shiv Khori Shrine with an aim to boost tourism in the region. In addition, the Board's social support initiatives were spotlighted by the CEO including scholarships for Baridar families aiming to support the education and well-being of these families

and the upcoming Medical College, a flagship project of the Board, promises to deliver high-quality healthcare services to the region. He also announced that the residents of Katra Town & all 41 villages falling in Sub-Division, Katra shall be provided priority darshan at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Bhawan on production of Aadhaar Card as valid address proof at Durga Bhawan.

Among those present on the occasion were Additional CEO, Jt CEO, Dy. CEO, , Asstt CEOs of the Shrine Board; SDM, Katra; Adtl. SP, Katra; Commandant, CRPF; Managers, Engineers and staff of the Shrine Board. Others who participated in the function included Members of Hotel Association, Municipal Committee, Katra, Civil, Police and Security Forces Officers, Prominent Citizens, Heads of various Educational Institutions, Media Persons, a large number of people of the area, teachers, school children and the pilgrims.

As part of the Republic Day celebrations, Anshul Garg, also hoisted the tricolour at the Central Office of the Shrine Board at Katra.

# DD News Jammu team presents Coffee Table Book ‘The Journey’ on J&K Assembly Elections 2024 to DC Ramban

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Reporters Ravinder Kichloo and Raja Rehber Jamal, presented a Coffee Table Book of Doordarshan News Jammu on the coverage of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly Elections to DC Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chowdhary on the eve of 15th National Voter's Day on Saturday.

The book highlights Doordarshan's extensive coverage of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly Elections, showcasing its dedication to informing and engaging citizens.

The presentation took place during the celebrations of National Voter's Day in Ramban, marking the significance of the media in promoting democratic values and voter awareness.

The Coffee Table Book highlights key initiatives undertaken by the Regional News Unit (RNU) of DD News Jammu under the supervision of Regional Head DD NEWS Jammu Vivek Pathak, including social media campaigns, signature drives under the Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program, and spe-



Team members presenting book to DC Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chowdhary.

cial voter education programs.

These efforts were designed to reach out to voters across Jammu & Kashmir, with a particular emphasis on remote areas.

During the event, Raja Rehber Jamal and Ravinder Kichloo briefed the DC on the collaborative efforts made by DD News Jammu to inform and engage the electorate, ensuring that every voter had access to essential election-related information. Congratulating Doordarshan for its outstanding coverage of the electoral process, the DC lauded the media's critical role in fostering democracy. He emphasized that the media serves as a bridge

between the administration and the public, ensuring transparency and accountability.

DC Ramban also acknowledged the media's contribution to highlighting developmental initiatives and addressing public concerns in the district, which helps in achieving inclusive growth and progress.

The DC Ramban also appreciated the significant contributions made by DD News Jammu, especially in increasing voter awareness in underserved areas.

The event was attended by senior officers, including SSP Ramban Kulbir Singh, ADC Ramban Varunjeet Singh Charak along with other officials.

## GDC Khour celebrates 76th Republic Day



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KHOUR: Govt. Degree College Khour celebrated 76th Republic Day on 26th January 2025 in the College premises to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India and the country's transition to a Republic which came into effect on 26th January 1950. The event was organized by the NCC cadets and NSS volunteers of the College. The event started with the Drill Parade by NCC cadets. The Principal of the College Prof (Dr.) T. K Sharma unfurled the National flag and the Indian National Anthem was played. One NSS volunteer namely Bhavana Sharma of Sem 4th recited a poem comprising of National sentiments capturing the essence of pride, freedom and unity among audience. The Principal Prof. (Dr.) T. K Sharma delivered motivational speech on this occasion and aware the students and audience regarding the history and significance of republic day celebration. He added that the Constitution replaced the Govt. of India Act 1935 as the governing document of India, thus turning the Nation from a domin-

ion into a republic post its Independence from the British Raj in 1947. The Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on 26 November 1949 and came into effect on 26 January 1950. He further inspired the youth to become a responsible citizen and contribute to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji of making India as Viksit Bharat by 2047. The Programme culminated with the plantation drive assisted by the Officials of Social Forestry Department, Principal, Teaching & Non teaching Staff of the College.

# SVS's birthday celebrated with full enthusiasm, religious fervour

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: The birthday of his Holiness Atal Pithadishwar Shri Shri 1008 Rajguru Acharya Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishwatmanand Saraswati ji (SVS) Maharaj was celebrated with full enthusiasm and religious fervour at SVS Gyan Ganga Ashram, Shiv Kashi, Sunderbani. The celebrations commenced with 'Sapt Cheerjeevi Pujan' in the early morning followed by cultural programmes in which students from various schools and colleges of SVS Educational Trust across the UT gave their participation and mesmerized the local audiences with their colourful programmes and performances. Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP, Jammu- Reasi, Ravinder Raina, Former J&K UT BJP President were the guest of honour on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Swamiji stressed upon that we should never discriminate on the basis of colour, creed or reli-



gion. He further added that in order to unite people and empower society, spiritual or social programmes should be organised to uphold the moral values. He thanked everyone for their wishes and overall cooperation. Scores of people were gathered on the occasion who came from various parts of JKUT as well as from other states also. Devotees from Punjab, Kolkata, Maharashtra, Delhi, M.P, Dubai, London, Australia came here to celebrate this auspicious day with great pomp. Also large number of saints including Mahamandleshwars, Mahants were also came and mesmerised

the gathering with their sermons. While addressing the gathering, Ravindra Raina said that Swamiji is doing tremendous job for the welfare of the society by giving education to many girl childs of this border belt which also empowers the Beti Padhao Beti Bachao campaign. Also while speaking on the occasion, Mr.Sham Lal Sharma, MLA, Jammu North said that Swamiji is a great scholar, social reformer and educationist and has brought tremendous change in our society and also helped in bringing awareness about drugs and its increasing meance in present



P. F. Commissioner, Rizwan Uddin speaking during the programme.

Chief Education Officer, Doda, Shri Parkash Thapa,Shri Ikhlqaq Ahmad, President of the Private School Association, Doda, and President of National Academy Thathri,and Mr. Shahab of M/s Chenab Valley Public Higher Secondary

School for their outstanding coordination, assurance to increase the coverage and support for assuring the implementation the EPF and MP Act in all schools of District Doda. Their collaborative efforts ensured a smooth and successful rollout

scenario.

At last, prize distribution was held in which various students and other dignitaries were honoured followed by the langer which was organised in the ashram in which the people from all walks and from every nook and corner have participated and took the Parshad. The prominent personalities present on the occasion were Yugal Kishore Sharma, M.P, Ravinder Raina, Former President, JK UT BJP, Sham Lal Sharma, MLA, Jammu North, Thakur Randhir Singh, MLA, Kalakote, Choudhary Zulfikar Ali, Ex.Minister, Satish Sharma, MLA, Akhnoor; G.L Sharma, SSP, Traffic, Jammu Rural, Abhshkek Sharma, DDC , Rajouri, Gourav Sikarwar, SSP, Rajouri, Nazir Hussain, Social Worker; ADCs of Sunderbani and Nowshera, Principals, Teachers and other staff members of concerned institutions of SVS Educational Trust.

## Republic Day 2025 celebrated at Shridhar Bhawan

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHAWAN: The nation's pride and sovereignty were celebrated with great fervor and patriotism on the occasion of Republic Day at the SDM Bhawan. The distinguished event was graced by Vikas Anand, Sub Divisional Magistrate, who unfurled the national flag, symbolizing the unity and strength of India.

The celebration featured a spectacular display of discipline and dedication by various esteemed organizations, including the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Jammu & Kashmir Police (JKP), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), and representatives from the Jal Shakti and Fire and Emergency Services. Their impeccable parade highlighted their unwavering commitment to the safety and security of the nation.



Vikas Anand, Sub Divisional Magistrate being honoured during the programme.

In his address, Chief Guest, Vikas Anand emphasized the significance of Republic Day in shaping India's democratic values. He spoke of the critical role each citizen plays in preserving these ideals and expressed his gratitude towards the forces and departments working tirelessly to ensure peace and progress in the region.

The Tehsildar Bhawan also shared a heartfelt Vote of Thanks, acknowledging the contributions of the security

forces, departmental staff, and citizens whose support made the event a resounding success.

The celebration concluded with a warm high tea arrangement, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect among the attendees. The event at SDM Bhawan reflected India's core values of unity, diversity, and progress, showcasing the collective strength of the people who continue to make the nation proud.

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