

Absconder evading arrest since 2017 arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Doda Police has arrested an absconder involved in case FIR No. 100/2017 US 435/RPC of Bhaderwah and produced in the court of law..

Official sources said that absconder namely Anooj Kumar S/o Sudesh Kumar R/o Shaja Thesisil & District Doda was arrested in case FIR No. 100/2017 US 435/RPC of Bhaderwah. After completion of investigation of the case, challan was produced in the court of law. The accused person was declared as absconder for his continuous absence and warrant of arrest under section 512 Cr. PC was issued against him by the Hon'ble court of CJM Doda. On the directions of SSP Doda Sh Sandeep Mehta-JKPS, a special police team was constituted from PS Bhaderwah led by Inspector Sandeep Parihar SHO PS Bhaderwah and PSI Ankush Nagra. The Police team so constituted, during search utilized human and technical services and ultimately after hectic efforts the team arrested the absconder from Udhampur and produced him before the court of law. Mentionable here that, special drive has been launched by Doda Police and special teams have been constituted at Police Station level for the arrest of absconders/wanted criminals.

Bootlegger arrested; 48 bottles of illicit liquor seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Doda Police have made a significant breakthrough in its crusade against Drug peddling and bootlegging by apprehending a notorious bootlegger, Himat Raj, in possession of whom a large quantity of illicit liquor was recovered. Official sources said that today, on January 30, 2025, a police party from PS Gandoh was conducting routine checking at the



Motor Bridge area in Gandoh when they intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK06C 1455.

During checking, the police recovered 48 bottles of 375ml JK Special Whiskey from the possession of driver. On questioning driver disclosed his name as Himat Raj S/o Krishan Lal R/o Kansoo Tehsil Kahara Gandoh. Consequently, a case was registered under FIR No.07/2025 U/S 48 Excise Act at PS Gandoh, and an investigation is currently underway.

This arrest is a testament to Doda Police's unwavering commitment to eradicating the scourge of bootlegging, drug peddling, and bovine smuggling from the district. The police are resolute in their mission to maintain a safe and secure environment for the community.

In recent times, Doda Police have been actively cracked down on bootleggers, with multiple arrests and seizures made. These efforts demonstrate their dedication to enforcing the law and protecting the public from this menace.

3 drug peddlers arrested; contraband substance recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a significant breakthrough in the ongoing fight against the drug menace, Police have arrested three drug peddlers in Kulgam & Handwara and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A Police party of Police Station Qaimoh during patrolling at Khudwani, intercepted a suspicious person carrying a bag, who on noticing the patrolling party tried to flee from the spot. However, he was chased and tactfully apprehended. During search, officers present were able to recover 2.5 Kgs of Cannabis-like substance has been recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Aidil Ahmad Sheikh son of late Abdul Gani Sheikh resident of Laram Ganjipora.

Meanwhile, in Handwara, following a specific input, a police team from Vilgam Police Station set up a checkpoint at Lilam Crossing. During checking, two individuals, identified as Ayaz Ahmad Bhat son of Kamal Din Bhat, resident of Harduna and Nisar Ahmad Lone son of Fayaz Ahmad Lone resident of Hadipra Watergam, attempted to evade the checkpoint suspiciously. However, they were swiftly intercepted by the police. During searching, officers recovered 140 grams of charas-like substances from their possession. They have been subsequent-

ly arrested.

Accordingly, cases under respective section of law have been registered in respective police stations and investigations have been initiated.

Two nabbed, 7 stolen mobile phones recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba Police apprehended two persons and recovered seven stolen mobile phones from their possession in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmana.

On January 27, 2025, a written complaint was lodged at Police Station Bari Brahmana by one Nisha Devi W/oBalvir Singh R/o Trewa Jammu A/P Lower JalloChak Bari Brahmana, Samba regarding snatching of her mobile phone by some unknown persons.

Acting upon the complaint, a case FIR No. 13/2025 U/S 304 BNS was registered at Police Station Bari Brahmana and investigation started.

During the course of investigation, a Police team headed by SHO PS Bari Brahmana after relentless efforts and meticulous investigation, successfully apprehended two persons namely Nitish Kumar S/o Santosh Kumar R/onear railway station Bari Brahmana and one juvenile who upon sustained questioning confessed their involvement in the instant case. On their disclosure, 07 Nos. of mobile phones valuing worth rupees one lakh approximately were recovered from their possession.

The juvenile has been lodged at observation home in R.S.Pura district Jammu. Further investigation of the case is going on.

Notorious drug peddler on run since 2023 nabbed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: In a significant breakthrough in the ongoing fight against the drug menace, Police in Kupwara apprehended a notorious drug peddler who had been evading arrest for the past 14 months.

The accused, Jameel Khan son of Gh Qadir Khan resident of Dever Lolab, was wanted in connection with case FIR No.

90/2023 registered under Section 8/20 NDPS Act at Police Station Lalpora. The FIR was lodged on 14/11/2023, and since then, the accused had been on the run to avoid legal action.

After sustained efforts and credible intelligence inputs, a police team from PS Lalpora launched a planned operation, leading to his arrest. His arrest marks a step in curbing drug-related activities in the region and J&K Police's commitment to ensuring a drug-free society.

Norco smuggler nabbed with 10 grams of heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a Significant action against drug menace,a police party from Police Station Mendhar while conducting



naka checking near the Jaaba bridge, stopped and frisked an individual, during the personal search 10 grams of heroin (Chitta)-like substance was recovered from his possession.

The individual identified himself as Waseem Ahmad S/O Mohd Maqsood R/O Gohlad, tehsil Mendhar who is arrested on spot.

A case under FIR No. 11/2025 has been registered under the relevant sections of the NDPS Act at Police Station Mendhar. The investigation is underway to ascertain both the backward and forward linkages.

Dy CM holds Public Outreach Programme at Seri Tributes paid to nation's freedom fighters

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Thursday conducted a public outreach programme at Seri to take stock of issues and concerns of local residents besides reviewing development works there.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the public, who raised various developmental concerns and sought immediate intervention from the administration in redressal of the same.

Among the key issues highlighted by the people included construction of multi-storey building for government offices, upgradation of schools, acute shortage of teaching and medical staff in schools and Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Seri.

Additionally, the public demanded deployment of technical staff, installation of an X-ray machine and laboratory facilities, provision of a dental chair and establishment of new veterinary centres at Kalal and Sail.



DyCM Surinder Choudhary speaking during the grievances camp at Seri.

Other pressing concerns included pending Administrative Approval (AAA) for a grid station, requisition of electricity poles and wires, installation of new transformers and upgradation of existing ones in various panchayats. The people also sought expeditious execution of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works, bifurcation of panchayats and construction of check dams.

The Dy CM issued directions for prompt action and redressal of grievance of general public on priority basis.

He instructed for rationalisation of staff in schools and health institutions to

address the deficiencies. He emphasised that the work under Jeevan Mission (JJM) must be executed as per guidelines to ensure water supply reaches every panchayat. He asked the officers not to solely rely on feedback from field staff but to personally visit each panchayat and assess the ground situation. The Dy CM reiterated that corruption would not be tolerated and firmly stated that the "commission culture" must end. He asked the concerned departments to ensure availability of essential public amenities. The Dy CM ordered a strict ban on mining activities near water sources to prevent environ-

mental degradation and safeguard drinking water supply.

The outreach program was attended by ADDC Rajouri, Raj Kumar Thapa; ADC Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandon; ADC Sunderbani, Rajeev Magotra, along with other district and sectoral officers.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, also laid foundation stone for upgradation of Conference Hall at PWD Dak Bungalow, Nowshera, and remodelling of Palaash Nowshera.

The upgradation of the conference hall, to be raised with a sanctioned cost of Rs 249.39 lakh, aims to

improve conference and meeting facilities in the region. Speaking on the occasion, Surinder Choudhary emphasised the government's commitment towards strengthening infrastructure to facilitate efficient governance and better service delivery. He highlighted that the upgraded conference hall will serve as a modern venue for official meetings, public interactions and other important deliberations.

Additionally, the Remodelling work on Palaash Nowshera, to be done with an estimated cost of Rs 107.48 lakh, was also launched by the Deputy Chief Minister. The project aims to provide a better environment for the residents.

Promoting Road Safety: MVD organises debate competition at GHSS Khour

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KHOUR: To raise awareness about road safety among young minds, the Motor Vehicle Department, in collaboration with Government Higher Secondary School Khour, organized a debate competition on Thursday. The event aimed to ignite discussions on the critical issue that can save thousands of lives daily.

As many as 20 students shared insightful perspectives and solutions to improve road safety awareness.

The students took a solemn pledge to promote the message about road safety in the community. A team of medical officials gave a demonstration on the First Aid, sharing life saving tips with the students.

Later, certificates of participation were presented to the participants.

The event concluded with a strong message-road safety starts with each one of us. Obey rules; drive responsibly, and save lives!

Earlier, ARTO Hq. Rehana Tabassam highlight-

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: A two-minute silence was observed with deep reverence across all police stations and police establishments in the district to honor the sacrifices of the nation's freedom fighters.

The main event took place at the District Police Lines Doda, where a large number of officers and officials gathered to participate in this solemn tribute.

The ceremony, led by SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta, was attended by several senior police officers.

During the event, SSP Doda reflected on the immense contributions made by the freedom fighters, underscoring the values they upheld and the enduring



responsibility we carry to fulfill their vision for a better future. He expressed deep respect for the sacrifices made by the martyrs in the nation's freedom struggle. This observance served as a

poignant reminder of the selfless sacrifices made by these brave individuals and reinforced the importance of remembering and upholding their legacy for the generations to come.

MVD conducts Road Safety signature Campaign, awareness drive in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: As part of the ongoing National Road Safety Month, the Motor Vehicles department Poonch conducted a signature campaign to spread awareness among the public about traffic rules and safe driving. The campaign was initiated by Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, who is the Chairman District Road Safety Committee in the lawns of the DC Office complex with a message to the people of Poonch to abide by the road safety rules in order to avoid accidents and save precious lives.

The Deputy Commissioner also took a selfie with the road safety selfie boards installed at the veme. Assistant Regional Transport Officer Basharat Mahmood urged people to adopt Road safety principles in their daily life. He also requested the parents not to give motor bikes and vehicles to their young children till they attain a valid Driving license. Dy. SP Traffic Rajouri-Poonch Shiv Kumar also participated in the event

Later, a joint awareness drive was conducted at Naka Wali Chowk P where commuters were advised to wear seat belts while driving and drive within speed limits.

Mission Director reviews progress of JJM works in District Reasi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) J&K UT Khursheed Ahmad Shah conducted a detailed review of the ongoing JJM works in District Reasi at a meeting held here today.

The Executive Engineer PHE Division Reasi gave a detailed Presentation about the progress achieved in implementation of JJM in the District. It was informed that 69 Schemes out of 121 Schemes have been completed in the district as on date.

The Mission Director JJM emphasized the importance of completing all pending schemes and works and ensuring the quality of the works being executed. He stressed on achieving 100%



Mission Director JJM J&K UT Khursheed Ahmad Shah chairing a meeting.

"Har Ghar Jal" certification for covered villages.

The chair urged all stakeholders to work on a war footing to achieve the set targets and ensure seamless implementation of JJM in District Reasi.

The review meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer PHE (Mech.) Bodhraj Bhagat, Executive

Engineer and MID Dharmari, Executive Engineer JPDCL, AEEs, AEs, JEs, DPMU and officers from forest, PMGSY, besides Sunil Khoul and Vijay Arora, Consultants for the district.

The Mission Director also inspected a number of Water Supply Schemes being implemented in the District.

Bamboo Workshop and Exhibition held by Handicrafts & Handloom Department in Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: The Handicrafts Department successfully organized a Bamboo Workshop under National bamboo Mission and Handicrafts & Handloom Exhibition in Udhampur, showcasing the rich craftsmanship of local artisans. The event was inaugurated by Sh. Pawan Kumar Gupta, Hon'ble MLA of Udhampur West Constituency, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, alongside Sh. Suraj Parkash Rukwal (JKAS), Director, Handicrafts & Handloom Udhampur, who attended as the Guest of Honour.

The exhibition featured stalls by artisans specializing in bam-



boo craft, sozni embroidery, and other traditional handicrafts, reflecting the cultural heritage and artistic excellence of the region.

Speaking on Occassion MLA Sh. Pawan Kumar Gupta, assured full support to the artisans of Udhampur, reaffirming his commitment to promoting local crafts and ensuring their sustainable growth. Speaking

at the event, He lauded the efforts of the Handicraft & Handloom Department in promoting bamboo-based crafts and generating employment opportunities. He encouraged artisans to leverage government schemes and modern techniques to enhance production and marketability.

Addressing the gathering, Director H&H Suraj Parkash

Rukwal motivated and encouraged artisans to put forth their best efforts in preserving and enhancing traditional crafts. He emphasized the department's commitment to supporting artisans through various skill development and financial assistance schemes.

The event served as a platform for artisans to showcase their talent, interact with officials, and explore new opportunities for growth and development in the handicrafts sector. Assistant Director Ujwal Sambhal provided a comprehensive overview of the department's functioning in the district, elaborating on various government schemes available to artisans.



Students along with MVD officials and faculty members.

ed the crucial role of parents in instilling road discipline among their children.

She emphasized that road safety is not just a slogan but a practice that must begin at home. She added

that with the rising number of vehicles, the need to adhere to traffic rules has never been more urgent.

The ARTO urged students to be role models for society-avoiding overloaded vehi-

Narayana Hospital returns Rs 42,000 to cochlear implant patient's family after five months

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Sometimes, life gives us more than we expect. For Surjeet Kumar, the father of little Surya Malhotra, the greatest gift was hearing his son's voice for the first time after a successful cochlear implant surgery at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital. In the joy of this life-changing moment, he completely forgot that Rs 42,000 had gone missing during their hospital stay. Five months later, an unexpected call reminded him-not of his loss, but of the honesty that still exists in the world.

Surya, who was born deaf and mute, underwent cochlear implant surgery on September 14th, a procedure made possible through the generous funding of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board. Overwhelmed by the miracle of his son beginning to hear and speak, Surjeet Kumar didn't even formally report the lost money-he simply left a casual note in the hospital's lost and found department and moved on, his heart full of gratitude.

Two days ago, during a routine maintenance check,



nursing staff Preeti and Khalda Parveen found an envelope carefully tucked away. Inside was ₹42,000. Instead of dismissing it, they immediately informed hospital authorities, who traced it back to Surjeet Kumar. When he received the call, he was stunned. "I had completely forgotten about the money. My son's voice was the only thing that mattered. But this act of honesty has touched my heart-I have never seen such integrity," he said.

Preeti and Khalda, who had cared for Surya post-surgery, were just as emotional. "We already felt joy seeing Surya respond to sounds for the first time. Returning this money was just another way of showing that at our hospital, every patient is family," they shared.

Dr. M. M. Mathavan, Facility Director, reflected on the incident, saying, "This story isn't just about returning lost money-it's about the values we stand for. At Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, honesty, compassion, and trust define us as much as medical excellence does. Surya's journey to hearing is a testament to medical science, and this act of integrity is a testament to humanity."

At a time when heartwarming stories are rare, this one reminds us that kindness still thrives. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital continues to not only heal patients but also nurture trust, proving that the greatest treasures are not just found but also returned.

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