

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Translate your ideas...

innovations," the Lieutenant Governor told the young innovators in his keynote address. He said new innovations are touching the lives of common man in ways that we cannot even fully imagine today. Our focus should also be on innovations that would benefit society at large like water and energy conservation, waste management, precision agriculture and e-governance, he added. He also asked the young innovators to explore diverse areas in Agriculture sector pertaining to soil health, pest infestation, climate change, real time data etc.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that inclusive development and economic growth should be the main aim behind every innovation.

"Innovation should lead us to social change and drive India's economic growth. Augmented Reality (AR) in Industry 4.0 technology should contribute to design, product development, maintenance and quality control in different sectors and help our manufacturers and find solutions to their operational problems and production downtime," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He highlighted that better system integration and smart factories will be the most dynamic aspect of Industry 4.0 involving physical equipment and digital tools and also it will be the best example of collaboration between human and technology.

"For Industry 4.0 Factories and to mitigate the social challenges of food, water, environment and energy, we need intelligent and integrated devices. All the core components of Industry 4.0 technologies, Internet of Things, Big Data, Augmented Reality, Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Advanced Robotics, additive manufacturing and Simulation will profoundly impact traditional area of space, atomic energy and defence technologies," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor underscored the need to strengthen the partnership between academia, industry and policymakers to provide solutions to the challenges of society and the nation. He further asked the mentors and faculty members to encourage students to focus on "Problem First" and promote entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Universities' campuses.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized the role of educational institutions in establishing India as a Knowledge economy and stressed on implementation of National Education Policy 2020 in letter and spirit.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the pioneer initiative by Government of India, celebrating the spirit of innovation and collaboration, and providing a dynamic platform for brightest minds of the country to develop and showcase their creative solutions to real-world problems. "I see Smart India Hackathon as a powerful instrument to bridge the gap between educational institutions and industries," the Lieutenant Governor said.

In the next 4 days during the Hackathon, participants from across the country will work on critical problem statements to develop successful innovation.

Highlighting the transformation in innovation landscape of the country in the past 10 years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Lieutenant Governor said, India has emerged as one of the global leaders in new inventions, which are seen as critical to the future well-being of society and to drive the nation's economic growth.

The Chancellor of the Galgotias University, on the request of Lieutenant Governor, announced 50 percent scholarship for the students from J&K.

Ashok Bajpai, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Suneel Galgotia, Chancellor; Galgotias University; Dr. K. Malikharjuna Babu, Vice Chancellor;

<div>► Highlights transformation in innovation landscape across country in past 10 years</div> <div>► Says India has emerged as one of global leaders in new inventions</div> <div>► We should ensure that fruits of new inventions reach all sections</div> <div>► New innovations touching lives of common man in ways that we cannot even fully imagine today. Our focus should also be on innovations that would benefit society at large like water and energy conservation, waste management, precision agriculture and e-governance</div> <div>► We need cutting edge technologies to be leading nation in technological inventions</div> <div>► To achieve goal of Developed Nation by 2047, we need knowledge, capability, commitment of innovators, collaborations, support for new ideas, discoveries, marketing and commercialization of innovations</div> <div>► Emphasises that inclusive development, economic growth should be main aim behind every innovation</div>
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faculty members, students of the University, prominent citizens and young innovators from various regions were present.

LS passes Railways...

Minister Ashiwni Vaishnav targeted the opposition, saying their "fake narrative" regarding railways will fall flat just like the one about the Constitution failed.

"A few members have said the Bill will lead to privatisation of railways, an attempt has been made to set a fake narrative. I want to appeal to them with all sincerity not to do this, their one fake narrative about the Constitution has already failed," Vaishnav said.

The Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 which seeks to enhance the functioning and independence of the Railway Board was introduced in the Lok Sabha during the previous Parliament session.

With the inclusion of the Railway Board under the 1989 Railway Act, the appointment, qualifications, tenure and criteria for the Chairman and members of the Board will be the responsibility of the central government.

As part of the plan to improve railway operations, the Bill also includes provisions to appoint an independent regulator that will oversee matters like fare determination and ensure the competitiveness of the Railways.

Earlier, during the debate, opposition members alleged that the Bill would lead to the privatisation of railways and demanded that it be referred to a joint parliamentary committee for further scrutiny.

They also requested the restoration of concessions for senior citizens. Vaishnav stressed the need to significantly enhance the capacity of the country's railway system.

"Ours is a country of 1.40 crore people which is a rapidly growing economy. There is a need to significantly enhance railway's capacity. There has been a lack of investment in railways for over 50-60 years.

"When PM Modi took over in 2014, the railways budget which used to be around Rs 25,000-30,000 crore, was increased to Rs 2.52 lakh crore.

"Railway tracks up to 31,000 km have been added since then, including 5300 km within the last year which is more than Switzerland's entire railway coverage," he said.

Jammu equally important...

Chief Minister said while holding an extensive interaction with members of Jammu's civil society at his official residence.

This marks his first meeting with Jammu's civil society since assuming office as Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. A similar interaction was held on 30th October this year with civil society representatives in Kashmir.

Reiterating that his government represents all citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, regardless of their political affiliations, he said Jammu is equally important as Kashmir from governance perspective.

Omar Abdullah highlighted his deliberate decision to appoint a Deputy Chief Minister from Jammu, not out of compulsion but to underscore that Jammu is as integral to this government as Kashmir.

Addressing the concerns about the Darbar Move, the Chief Minister reaffirmed his government's commitment restore this biannual administrative tradition.

"Some things cannot be weighed merely in financial terms. The Darbar Move symbolizes the unity and inclusivity of Jammu and Kashmir. It is a tradition that ensures governance remains accessible to both regions."

He dismissed financial arguments against this 150 year old practice which has now been stopped, stating, "The role of the government is not to focus solely on profit. Our responsibility is to serve and ensure balanced development across regions. Ending the Darbar Move would only alienate the people of the two regions from one another and harm the collective unity we strive to preserve."

The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives of women's organizations, non-governmental organizations, ex-servicemen, Kashmiri Pandits, traders, hoteliers, tourism players, transport associations, religious leaders, pensioners, senior folk singers, Sikh representatives, RTI activists, and leaders from various political parties.

The Chief Minister expressed concern over Jammu's limited share of the burgeoning tourism industry and laid out plans to diversify the region's economy.

"Over one crore pilgrims visit Mata Vaishno Devi annually, but we have yet to tap into even 15 percent of this potential to promote tourism in Jammu. If

we can redirect a fraction of these pilgrims, Jammu's economy can transform," he noted.

He announced plans to establish a craft & culture fair modeled on the Surajkund Mela, to showcase the region's rich heritage and boost tourism. The initiative will involve collaboration between industries, farmers, cultural representatives, and tourism stakeholders, he stated.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah highlighted several key issues raised during the interaction and outlined his government's commitment to addressing them.

He said that Smart City projects are nearing completion and there is no scope for this government to do any course correction but we shall take new initiatives for Jammu and Srinagar, which aim to modernize the city's infrastructure and enhance its liveability.

The government, he said, will resolve the shortage of Punjabi teachers in schools catering to Sikh children and address some of their genuine concerns.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by the Kashmiri Pandit community, the Chief Minister stated, "While their return depends on restoring a sense of security among the community, we are committed to improving their living conditions and addressing their grievances."

The Chief Minister emphasized the need for regular dialogue with civil society to maintain a pulse on ground realities. Unlike in the past, when such meetings were convened only during crises, he committed to holding biannual interactions-twice each in both the regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our goal is to maintain a continuous dialogue with you. By our next meeting, we will present an action-taken report outlining the progress on issues discussed today," he assured.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah thanked the participants for accepting his invitation, emphasizing the significance of such meetings for the government authorities to receive valuable feedback from outside four walls of their offices.

"Whether you benefit from these meetings or not, my colleagues and I certainly do. These interactions provide us with an opportunity to hear your thoughts on our work and governance directly," he said.

In his closing remarks, Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the participants for their valuable insights and suggestions.

"Your feedback and ground realities help us improve our governance. I hope that when we meet again, you will continue to provide your constructive input to guide us in serving Jammu and Kashmir better," he said.

On the occasion, the civil society members hailed the initiative and termed it as a step towards transparent and inclusive governance, and said the much needed interaction has set the tone for fostering stronger ties between the government and the people it serves.

The interaction programme was attended and addressed by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakeena Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani. Senior officials from the civil and police administration were also present during the outreach session.

Army busts terror...

rounds, two pistols, two magazines with 14 rounds and four hand grenades. The search operation in the area was continuing and further details were awaited, they added.

2-member UN...

without providing information to police as per the order of the district magistrate.

"The civil administration has also launched a drive to identify the people who facilitated electricity and water connections to the plots housing Rohingyas," Sharma had said.

Afghan refugee minister...

not immediately claim responsibility for the attack. Khalil Haqqani became a minister in the Taliban's interim government after foreign forces withdrew from Afghanistan in 2021. He was a senior leader of the Haqqani network, a militant faction blamed for major attacks during the 20-year war, according to the U.S. State Department.

"We lost a very brave Mujahid," his nephew Anas Haqqani told Reuters, using the Taliban's term for its fighters, meaning holy warrior. "We will never forget him and his sacrifice."

He said the blast took place as Khalil Haqqani was leaving a mosque after afternoon prayers.

Ishaq Dar, the foreign minister of neighbouring Pakistan, said in a statement he was "shocked" by the attack.

"Pakistan unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," he said.

The Taliban took over Afghanistan in 2021 as foreign forces withdrew, vowing to restore security, but attacks have continued in urban areas.

In 2022, a blast took place near the interior ministry, led by Haqqani network leader Sirajuddin Haqqani, killing four people. In 2023, Islamic State claimed an attack outside the Taliban-run foreign ministry that killed at least five.

Washington classified Khalil Haqqani, who Taliban members said was in his 50s, as a "global terrorist" in 2011 and offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to his arrest.

Adopting silence on...

Ram Rattan. Sunil Sethi said that Hindus in Bangladesh are facing atrocities, they are being killed, and women are being raped. A wave of uncertainty and total insecurity is prevailing there. It is most unfortunate that parties like NC, PDP and even Congress, which project them as champions of human rights, have adopted silence and not showing any sympathy towards the affected Hindus in Bangladesh. He said that these parties have double standards even in matters of human rights violations.

"If Hindus are subjected to atrocities and physically assaulted in Bangladesh or elsewhere, none from NC, PDP and Congress condemns the inhumane treatment to the minority community", said Sunil Sethi, adding that selective condemnations by these parties have exposed their anti-Hindu mindset.

Sunil Sethi, while appreciating the united protests and condemnations of Bangladesh incidents by the people of Jammu, belonging to all sections and religions, raised questions for no reaction from Kashmir over the inhumane treatment of Hindus in Bangladesh. He said this speaks of the communal approach of the valley-based parties and people there.

"Whereas these parties are making hue and cry over the illegal settlement of Rohingyas and also showing concerns over the distant Israel-Palestine war, these parties are least concerned for the Hindus of Bangladesh which were very part of this nation before partition", he added.

Sunil Sethi, while quoting that during partition of the country in 1947, said there were over 20 per cent Hindus in Pakistan and today they have been reduced to just 2 per cent. Similarly, the number of Hindus in Bangladesh has also come down. This all speaks of the conspiracy to eliminate Hindus, he added. "In India, people of all religions are treated equally, they enjoy freedom of expression, follow their religious practices and all are equal in all matters and at all levels", he said, adding that Hindus from all over the world closely long for help from India. Sethi said that people in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country are minutely watching the anti-Hindu approach of few political parties and would condemn them in the strongest words.

Suspected IED found on Handwara-Baramulkla highway destroyed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces detected and destroyed a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) on the Handwara-Baramulla highway on Wednesday, officials said.

A joint patrolling party of police and the Army found a suspicious bag by the roadside at Langate in the Handwara area of Kupwara district, the officials said.

They said the bomb disposal squad was rushed to the spot and the bag taken to an isolated place.

The bomb disposal squad destroyed the suspected IED in a controlled explosion, the officials said.

Meanwhile, during routine patrolling, security forces found a rusted explosive device in an orchard in the Zainapora area of Shopian district.

Troops of the Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles unit and 178 battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) found the unexploded shell in the orchard at Kashew, an official said.

He said the bomb disposal squad was summoned to the spot and the device destroyed, without causing any damage.

Labourer from Bihar hacked to death in Jammu, 1 held: Police

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A 39-year-old labourer from Bihar was allegedly hacked to death here and a man has been arrested in connection with his killing, police said on Wednesday.

Pappu Paswan's body was found in a field in the border area of Garkhal in the Akhnoor sector on the outskirts of Jammu on Tuesday, a police spokesperson said.

He said a blood-stained grape hoe with a broken handle was found near the body that had visible head and facial injuries.

Paswan's wife Meena Devi provided significant information, revealing that her landlord, Balwinder Singh alias Happy, was harassing her and attempting to force her into an illicit relationship with him, the police spokesperson said.

Acting on this lead, the suspect, a resident of Garkhal, was summoned and subjected to sustained questioning, during which he confessed to the crime, police said.

Notorious drug peddler arrested, heroin recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Continuing the drive against the menace of drug Abuse, District Police Reasi under the command of Paramvir Singh Senior Superintendent of Police Reasi arrested a notorious drug peddler and recovered 6.25 grams of heroin-like substance from him.

Acting on a specific information team of Police Station Reasi led by SHO Reasi laid a surprise Naka at IRP Chowk Reasi and during checking and frisking intercepted and arrested notorious drug peddler Altaf Ahmed, son of late Ghulam Ahmed Malik, resident of Ward No. 7, Muslim Mohalla, Reasi, while he was traveling on black Scooty (JK20C-3123) from Sula towards Reasi along with the contraband.

Case FIR No. 211/2024 under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS stands registered at Police Station Reasi to unearth forwarded and backward linkages with other drug peddlers, police official said. While sharing the details about the operation, SSP Reasi, conveyed that Reasi Police is working on multi-pronged strategy to deal with the menace of drug abuse in District Reasi. Pertinently Reasi Police booked and arrested 16 notorious drug peddlers and lodged them in judicial custody yesterday.

SSP Reasi further added that drug peddlers should shun the path of spoiling our future generations otherwise they will have to face the music of the law as no one will be allowed to spoil our youth.

Eight drug peddlers arrested; contraband substance recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to combat the menace of drugs in the society, Police have arrested eight drug peddlers in several districts of Kashmir Valley and recovered contraband/psychotropic substances from their possession.

A police party from Police Station Pattan, led by SHO Police Station Pattan at a checkpoint established near Railway Crossing Pattan intercepted a vehicle (Ertiga) bearing registration number JK05M-8404 with Three persons onboard.

They have been identified as Jhon Mohd Mir son of Gh Mohd Mir and Mohd Yaqoob Mir son of Late Ab Aziz, both residents of Nillah Palpora, Faisal Ahmad Hajam son of Gh Qadir, resident of Pushwari Anantnag. During search, 78 grams of contraband charas in powder form was recovered from their possession. The vehicle used in the commission of the crime has been seized. Meanwhile, a police party of Police Station Baramulla headed by DySP Hqrs Baramulla at a checkpoint established at Cement Bridge Baramulla, intercepted a suspicious person. He has been identified as Ikhlas Noor son of Noor Din Khan resident of Baghi Rehmat Sopore. During search, 40 strips of banned tablets was recovered from his possession.

Moreover, a police party of Police Post Kalaroos during routine naka checking near Higher Secondary School Kalaroos apprehended a suspicious individual identified as Javid Ahmed Lone son of Abdul Khaliq Lone, resident of Lashtiyal Kalaroos. During search, 4 grams of a brown sugar-like substance was recovered from his possession.

In another action, Police Station Awantipora received reliable information regarding presence of contraband substance in a residential house at Larkipora. Accordingly, a police party of Police Station Awantipora led by SHO Police Station Awantipora along with Tehsildar Awantipora under the supervision of SDPO Awantipora raided the said house.

During the search, 20.500 Kgs of charas like substance has been recovered from the residential house belonging to a lady namely Fareeda Akhter resident of Larkipora.

In Pulwama, a police party of Police Station Litter at a checkpoint established near Arihal crossing intercepted two suspicious persons. During search, around 82 grams of brown-sugar like substance was recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Nisar Ahmad Rather son of Gulzar Ahmad Rather resident of Kanjipora Lajoora and Fayaz Ahmad Bhat son of Ghulam Qadir Bhat resident of Malangpora Pulwama.

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

Property worth Rs 15 lakh of notorious drug peddler attached

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HANDWARA: In a significant crackdown on drug trafficking, Police in Handwara have attached two story building comprising of two shops and one Hall belonging to a notorious drug peddler namely Reyaz Ahmad Lone, son of Sonullah Lone, resident of Badrah Payeen under section 68-F of NDPS Act 1985. The property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of investigation/enquiry conducted by Kralgund Police Station. The property was prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking of Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances by the owner. The aforesaid notorious drug peddler was involved in case FIR No. 84/2020 U/S 8/21 NDPS Act of Police Station Kralgund. The notorious drug peddler is currently under detention at Kot-Bhalwal Jammu under PIT-NDPS Act.

This operation reaffirms the commitment of Police to combat the drug menace.

Bovine smuggling attempt foiled; 18 bovines rescued, vehicle seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, J&K Police has foiled bovine smuggling attempt in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmana district Samba, rescued eighteen bovines and seized vehicle used for illegal transportation of bovines.

A Police team of Police Station Bari Brahmana headed by SHO PS Bari Brahmana under the supervision of ASP SDPO Bari Brahmana and under the overall supervision of SSP Samba, while performing patrolling duty near Balole Bridge, signalled to stop a truck bearing registration number UP11AT-4952 for checking.

But the driver instead of stopping the vehicle accelerated the speed and tried to flee away from the spot. The alert police party successfully chased the vehicle and intercepted it near SIDCO Chowk Bari Brahmana. During checking of the vehicle, eighteen bovines were found laden inside which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. All the rescued bovines have been shifted to a safer place. A case FIR No. 162/2024 under section 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at PS Bari Brahmana and investigation started.

Two dumpers seized for illegal mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against illegal mining in district Samba, J&K Police on Wednesday seized two dumpers in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal and Police Station Ranghar which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material. Police teams headed by SHO Police Station Ghagwaland SHO Police Station Ranghar while performing patrolling duty in their respective jurisdictional areas, have seized two dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK20-2893 and JK02BT-4177 which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area.

The abovementioned vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further legal action.

Man injured in alleged firing by night patrol troops in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR/JAMMU: A 39-year-old man was injured allegedly after Rashtriya Rifles troops on night patrol opened fire on observing suspicious movements in a village in the Mendhar area of Poonch district, officials said on Wednesday. Mohd Saleem, a Madana-Surankote resident who works as a tractor driver, was hit by a bullet in his left foot at Sanghiote village in the incident around 9 pm Tuesday, they said. The injured was shifted to a hospital and his condition was stated to be stable, they said. The officials said the troops were on night patrol duty when they observed suspicious movements and opened fire.According to locals, Saleem, along with several labourers, was engaged in Bhata Dhurian-Chittibatti road construction work, and the incident happened when he stepped out from his rented accommodation.

They also alleged that another labourer, Murtaza Ahmad (34), was beaten up by the troops, leaving him injured.

Missing lady traced out, reunited with family

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Police here today traced out a missing lady Taro Devi, wife of Jaspal Singh, resident of Bhatmas, Tehsil Gandoh, District Doda and reunited her with her family. Giving details SSP Doda said that she was missing since November 30, 2024 and her missing report was registered at Police Station Gandoh after which police swung into action and a team was constituted from Police Station Gandoh in search of missing lady.

The Police team by using all possible means as well as technical help and after getting some clues about her presence in Bhalla area, succeeded in tracing her out from Seri Bhalla on Wednesday.

Accordingly, after completing all codal formalities, the lady has been handed over to her husband and missing report has been closed.