

Drug peddler nabbed with 30 grams Charas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In its ongoing drive against drug smuggling and peddling, Poonch Police has achieved another success by arresting a drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Poonch. Approximately 30 grams of cannabis (charas)-like substance was recovered from his possession. Acting on specific inputs, a police team led by the SHO of PS Poonch set up a vehicle-checking naka near Betar Bridge Ajote, Poonch. During the operation, a suspicious youth was intercepted, and a search led to the recovery of the contraband substance.



The accused has been identified as Sangeet Kumar, son of Mangat Ram, resident of Purani Poonch Ward no 17, Tehsil Haveli, District Poonch. He was immediately arrested, and the contraband was seized. A case under FIR No. 230/2024, U/S 8/20 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Poonch, and investigations are underway.

Dr Jitendra calls for awareness about Central schemes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh chaired the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee Meeting (DISHA) here today in the office of Deputy Commissioner to review the status of ongoing projects and public welfare schemes. Speaking on the occasion,

Dr Jitendra Singh called for maximising awareness at the local level about the salient features of the schemes, namely PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijili Yojana, PM Vishwakarma Yojana and Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, with focus on providing health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above. He said the former has twin objectives of providing free electricity to house-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh chairing District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee Meeting (DISHA) at Ramban on Sunday.

holds by facilitating the installation of rooftop solar panels, and incentivising the beneficiaries to sell surplus power.

Underlining the importance of PM Vishwakarma Yojana, Dr Jitendra Singh said that it aims to uplift individuals skilled in various traditional crafts, thereby preserving India's rich cul-

tural heritage. He said the initiative is also aimed at improving the quality and reach of handicraft products as well as ensuring that craftsmen are integrated with the domestic and global value chains.

The Minister directed the officials and PRIs to work in close coordination for effective implementation of the

schemes related to water, electricity, housing and other civic amenities. He said all out efforts must be made for ensuring ease of living for inhabitants of far-flung areas of the district. Dr Singh stated that the government is taking more steps to improve the educational infrastructure and medical facilities for the local populace.

The DISHA meeting was attended by DDC, Chairperson, Shamshad Shan, MLA, Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, DDC Councillors, and SSP, Kulbir Singh, ADCC, Roshan Lal, ADC, Sh. Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACR, Sh. S. Harpal Singh, CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather and other officers.

Narco-smuggler arrested with Heroin

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JAMMU: In its ongoing drive against drug peddling, Jammu Police tightened its noose on narcotics smuggling in the region. A patrolling party from Police Station Kanachak, on 28-12-2024 while conducting routine checks at Bawa Talab area around 4:15 PM, apprehended a suspicious individual near the backside of a tube well.

Upon noticing the police, the suspect attempted to flee but was swiftly apprehended by the vigilant team. The individual was identified as Rahul Sharma, son of Rattan Lal Sharma, a resident of Gharota, Tehsil Bhalwal, Jammu.

During a search, 2.59 grams of heroin (Chitta) like substances were recovered from his trouser pocket. Subsequently, a case FIR No.205/2024 U/S 18/21/22 of NDPS Act stands registered at Police Station Kanachak, and further investigation is underway.



KVK Reasi promotes Nano kitchen gardening

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the aegis of Directorate of Extension, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) promoting and educating farmers/students/rural youths on nano kitchen garden technology at KVK, Reasi campus and people are taking keen interest in it. KVK Reasi is working under the dynamic stewardship of Vice Chancellor, Prof. BN Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension (DE), Prof. Amrish Vaid of SKUAST-J.

Chief Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi, Dr. Banarsi Lal said that Nano kitchen garden is a unique method for the production of various types of fresh organic vegetables in a specified small unit. He further said that the nano kitchen garden technology has been demonstrated at KVK, Reasi campus and people can avail benefits by establishing such units in their premises.



He further said that nano kitchen garden technology is a very simple, labour and water saving technology to produce the fresh organic vegetables without the use of pesticides and fertilizers. He narrated that the demand of organic, safe and high quality vegetables is increasing day-by-day and through this technology one can produce the number of quality organic vegetables consistently throughout the year from the small unit. He added that organic vegetables are beneficial for health and through this technology, plants get the nutrients in a uniform way and thus give outstanding results. He expressed that this technology is an efficient

method of organic vegetables production in modern era when the climate is impacting the agriculture.

He narrated that in this system, plants of different vegetables are grown in a specified unit and the infestation of insects-pests, diseases and weeds in the crops can be easily managed. He said that vegetables crops such as cauliflower, coriander, parsley, broccoli, radish, bottle gourd, bitter melon, capsicum, tomato, sponge gourd, chilli, tomato, Brinjal etc. can be grown at a time in the nano kitchen garden without many expenses. He added that this system has the potential to provide the nutritional security to the fam-

ilies as it produces chemical free vegetables throughout the year and families can reduce their expenses by producing the quality vegetables at their homes. He informed that small area in the house can be utilized for the establishment of nano kitchen garden as the crops are grown in the small unit containing balanced plants nutrition. He expressed that the nano kitchen garden can be very useful to produce the fresh organic vegetables even in the urban and semi-urban areas. He narrated that this technique requires less space and has immense scope in future also. He also informed on the water use efficiency in this system and said that even the landless people can also adopt this technology. He narrated that the nano kitchen garden technology solves number of technologies such as lack of space, water and even time. He said that this technology yields healthy, safe, fresh and high quality vegetables due to a variety of factors.

Complete support to ongoing protest in Katra: Sawhney

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KATRA: Former Minister J&K and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney, along with J&K Congress Sewa Dal Chief Vijay Sharma, joined the ongoing protests in Katra to extend their support to the protesters. While joining the protest, they demanded the immediate release of 18 protesters who were detained by the administration in earlier protests against the ropeway project. The J&K Congress leaders said that they will show solidarity to the protesters on this issue as they are fighting for their right, and while the world is happily celebrating the new year to come, the families of the detained protesters are in distress due to the administration's actions. The protesters vowed to continue their peaceful demonstration until their demands are met.

Addressing the issue, Former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawhney criticized the



Senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney addressing protesters at Katra.

administration for suppressing the voices of people fighting for their rights. They expressed their disappointment over the arrests, calling it a blatant misuse of power and an infringement on democratic values. The proposed project which is being resisted by the local traders will hamper the livelihood of thousands of families who earn their bread and butter from the pilgrimage. It is very shocking that the administration instead of listening to the genuine concerns of the traders who are major stakeholders in this issue, they are detaining and arresting the protesters. This is highly con-

demnable. Sawhney further said that while the world is preparing to celebrate the New Year with joy and hope, it is deeply saddening that here in Katra, people demanding their rightful dues are being silenced by detentions. The administration's actions are unjust and unacceptable. These individuals have committed no crime; they were merely exercising their constitutional right to protest. Sawhney urged the government to release the detained individuals immediately and address the concerns of the protesters. Also speaking on the matter, Congress Sewa Dal Chief

Vijay Sharma stated that the Congress party has always stood with the people and for the people. We cannot remain silent when such injustice is being meted out to innocent citizens. The administration must remember that democracy thrives on dialogue and understanding, not on high-handed tactics. We demand that the detained members be released unconditionally and the grievances of the protesters be addressed at the earliest. We will continue to question administration's handling of dissent, and its commitment to democratic principles.

Udh CA Association celebrates victory of CA SK Agarwal



Udhampur CA Association along with CA Sanjay Agarwal.

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UDHAMPUR: Udhampur CA Association held a meeting with CA Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Central Council Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) who was recently re-elected for another term of

four years by securing 2nd position in the north region. It was disclosed in meeting CA. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal again mark victory. He expressing his gratitude to the association, reiterated his commitment to working tirelessly for the professional community

and his 24x7 availability for CA members. He emphasized the importance of collaboration and mutual support among CAs in promoting the interests of the profession and business. However elite members hold sparked dynamic discussions on empowering local businesses, fostering economic growth, and exploring emerging areas of practice for CAs. Prominent among who present were CA Ashok Nargotra, Sourav Sharma, Nikhil Abrol, Vishal Thappa, Neha Agarwal, Neha Khajuria, Shubham Gupta, Ayush Gupta, Rajat Verma, Ajay Sharma, Sakshi Gupta, Paras Mahajan and Ajay Vaid.

Sunil encourages youth to avail benefits of welfare schemes of Omar Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: In a significant step towards empowering local youth and fostering employment opportunities, Sunil Verma, District President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Udhampur and contested MLA candidate for Udhampur East constituency, today inaugurated the office of E-Auto Union at City Udhampur.

The event was organized under the leadership of Union Chairman Yogesh Kumar and presided over by its President Sohail Malik. The inauguration was graced by the presence of Vice President Parveen

Singh and Cashier Raghuraj Abrol, along with other notable dignitaries including Sardar Gurmeet Singh Josh, Sardar Surinder Singh, City President Om Parkash, Block President Om Prakash Bhagat, and Senior leader JKNC Akash Verma Ji. In his address, Sunil Verma congratulated the newly formed body and commended the hardworking nature of Udhampur's youth. He expressed concern over the rising unemployment across the country, stating, "Unemployment is at its peak, and it is imperative for us to seek innovative solutions to address this pressing issue."

Highlighting the achievements of the NC-led government under Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, he mentioned various welfare schemes introduced for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. He further emphasized that while it is not feasible for any government to provide a job for every single youth, there are ample opportuni-

ties for self-employment and entrepreneurship through government schemes. "The youth should come forward, utilize these schemes, and become job providers rather than waiting for government jobs," Verma said. The senior NC leader assured the youth of district Udhampur that if anyone faces issues in accessing or availing government schemes, they can directly approach him for assistance. "I am always available to guide and support you in navigating these schemes and ensuring that you benefit from the opportunities provided by the government," he stated.

Sunil Verma reiterated the commitment of the National Conference to uplift the youth of the region and ensure they are equipped with tools and support for a brighter future.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a call for collective efforts to enhance the socio-economic landscape of Udhampur.

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KATRA: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) hosted the 8th Alumni Meet 2024 bringing together graduates to celebrate their enduring connection with their alma mater. The event, organized by the Office of International and Alumni Affairs, highlighted the university's commitment to fostering lifelong relationships with its alumni. The meet witnessed enthusiastic participation from alumni spanning multiple graduating batches. Former students, now excelling in various fields such as engineering, management, architecture, civil services gathered at the picturesque campus to reconnect with old friends, mentors, and the institution that shaped their future. Prof. Yugalkhajuria (Dean International and Alumni Affairs) welcomed the alumni and briefed about the various initiatives and schemes being launched by the university in which alumni can actively participate. The event commenced with a formal inau-



gural session graced by Prof. Pragati Kumar (Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU) and other distinguished faculty members. In his keynote address, Prof. Kumar welcomed the alumni and emphasized their pivotal role in shaping the university's legacy and future. "Our alumni are our pride and our strongest ambassadors," Prof. Kumar stated. "Your achievements inspire our students, and your support propels SMVDU to greater heights." Prof. Balbir Singh (Dean, Academic Affairs) also emphasized on the role of alumni in shaping academic curriculum and mentorship of current students. Various notable alumni spoke at the occasion and provided

their feedback. Alumni interacted with faculty, current students, and each other, sharing career insights and experiences. Vibrant performances by SMVDU's current student cultural groups and alumni added a festive touch to the proceedings.

The meet also hosted a group discussion in which Alumni participated on topics like "Bridging Academia and Industry" and "Building a Global Alumni Network." chaired by Prof. Yugalkhajuria (Dean, IAA) wherein various notable alumni such as Mr. Rahul Mahajan (JKAS), Mr. Rohit Saini (CEO, Wonder Homz), Mrs. AnisaNabi (JKAS), Mrs. RuchitaBakhshi (State Project Manager, Himayat

Mission), Amit Sharma (AE, JKSPDC), Ar. Satyanshu (Assistant Professor) participated. The discussion also included groundwork for a more robust alumni network. The university announced initiatives to enhance alumni engagement, including an online alumni portal, mentorship programs for current students, and collaborative research opportunities. The alumni pledged their support to further SMVDU's mission of academic excellence and global outreach. Moderated by Dr. Mir Irfan UIHaq (Associate Dean, International and Alumni Affairs), the discussion was attended by Prof. Balbir Singh (Dean Academic Affairs,

SMVDU), Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO TBIC SMVDU and B.K. Bhatia (TPO, SMVDU) and Dr. Rajiv Kumar (NSS Coordinator, SMVDU). Dr. Mir Irfan UIHaq (Assoc. Dean, IAA) in the formal vote of thanks thanked all the alumni, student and NSS volunteers, university administration for their support. Dr. Irfan also informed that it was the first step towards reviving the alumni interaction at SMVDU and more such events are planned in the coming days. The event concluded with a gala dinner, where alumni shared anecdotes, celebrated milestones, and rekindled the SMVDU spirit.

MLA Bishnah calls on LG



Dr. Rajeev Kumar Bhagat MLA Bishnah calling on LG Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan in Jammu.

Hospital, Special recruitment drive for Border Villages, Double Lane road from Kunjwani to Arnia, Separate Feeder for Farmers for Agriculture Pump Sets, Birdge on AIK, Sanction of ENT, Orthopedic and Dermatologist posts at SDH Bishnah, Sports Stadium each at Bishnah and Arnia, Improvement of Irrigation system for Agriculture purpose upto

Jabowal so that irrigation water to be provided to the farmers for irrigation purpose, Bifurcation of Family Ration Cards, Waiver off the electricity bills to the weaker section of the society those who not in a position to pay i.e. Widow, Handicapped, Orphan etc., Guest House to be constructed at BDO Office Bishnah, Improvement of Dak Bunglow Pandorian and

Canal Front view from Chack Avtara Circular road to RKS School Bishnah. Dr. Rajeev apprised the Lieutenant Governor of other public concerns and grievances stemming from the infrastructural deficit in Bishnah constituency.

The Lieutenant Governor gave a patient hearing to MLA and assured him that all the major demands put forward would be redressed

on priority. Expressing satisfaction over the visionary approach of Hon'ble LG towards changing the perception about J&K in the rest of world, Dr Rajeev said that he is grateful to LG for tireless efforts in engaging with the people of J&K towards early solution of their various problems. He said that LG has inspired renewed confidence and brought positive changes on the ground through his initiatives. He thanked LG for his tireless efforts in championing their cause.

Dr Rajeev have a dream that he made Bishnah constituency as a model of constituencies of the state and desired that he provide every facilities to the people of his constituency in coming years and he also stated that people voted him for development and he wants to be full fill their dream and put every efforts on his parts.

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