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### Goal of developed...



technological tools on a priority basis. Shift from rote learning to a lifelong, flexible and skill-focused learning model. Develop strong partnerships with industry and other institutions. The focus must be on experiential learning. Humanities students, in particular, need to understand that in a world dominated by artificial intelligence, the importance of things that machines cannot provide will increase. Focus should be on innovation, research, and social service, cutting-edge research and to offer solutions to local problems," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the responsibility of the teaching community to study and analyse the impact of rapid advancements in science, humanities, and technology on human civilization. He stressed that classroom methodologies must evolve to synchronize with these shifts, ensuring they drive both economic development and social progress.

"Classroom and our teachings must equip students to build better lives, foster inclusive development and create more enlightened society," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for its distinguished contributions to India's educational landscape and its steadfast commitment to public welfare.

He also extended his felicitations to the women students for their exceptional academic achievements and for setting new benchmarks of excellence.

The Lieutenant Governor entrusted upon Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University to provide scientific solutions for the challenges being faced by the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

In light of recent devastating natural calamities, the Lieutenant Governor urged the university to prioritize research into advanced early-warning systems for cloudbursts, landslides, and floods. He further emphasized the importance of sustainable infrastructure, and called for dedicated research on the recycling and reuse of road and construction materials.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University to redesign the courses for Dogri and Vedic studies to make these subjects more engaging and contemporary to attract more students. He also directed for formulating a comprehensive strategy for the swift completion of the languishing indoor stadium.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the pivotal role of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in the relief and rehabilitation of families affected by recent natural calamities. He praised the Board's ongoing commitment to cultural preservation through its support to institutions dedicated to Sanskrit and Vedic education.

He informed that the Shrine Board has procured products worth Rs 22 crore from local Self-Help Groups in Reasi and adjoining areas. The Lieutenant Governor stated that he has directed the CEO of the Shrine Board to maximize procurement from local residents to support their livelihoods.

The Lieutenant Governor further informed that the Shrine Board has undertaken the construction of the Shankaracharya Temple along with five other temples in the district, while an International Museum of the Goddess is set to be established in Katra.

"The construction of helpads at Katra and Shiv Khori is entering its final phase. I am hopeful that the devotees will be able to avail heli-services from Katra to the Shiv Khori Shrine during the upcoming Maha Shivratri", the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated 'High-End Computing AI and Deep Learning Lab' and 'Accommodation for Married Scholars'.

During the convocation, 821 degrees were awarded including 228 Masters, 26 Doctorates, and 567 Undergraduate degrees. Medals were also conferred to 25 (07 Male and 18 Female) meritorious students. A total of 10 students (04 Male and 06 Female) received Infosys Foundation Prize for Excellence, while Certificate of Distinction were awarded to 11 students.

Prof. (Dr) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University presented the University report on the occasion.

Prof. T.G Sitharam, former Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE); Dr. Ashok Bhan and Gunjan Rana, Members, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Shantmannu, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Vice Chancellors of various universities, Heads of Departments, faculty and students attended the convocation ceremony.

Saraf Singh Nag, Chairman, District Development Council Reasi; Baldev Raj Sharma, Member of Legislative Assembly, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Nidhi Malik, Deputy Commissioner Reasi and senior officials were also present.

## SP South Jammu...

ing of the philosophical, psychological, sociological and historical roots of radical behavior, offering fresh perspectives on some of the most pressing challenges in modern day society.

The achievement holds profound importance, for the officer and for JKP as an important tool establishing peace tranquility, harmony in a multicultural society. His work can also be useful for law enforcement agencies/academia/ religious scholars and government with a stronger foundation to develop effective counter-radicalization strategies, enhance community policing efforts, and foster trust within diverse communities. By addressing these issues through a socio-philosophical lens, the study emphasizes the critical role of knowledge-driven approaches in tackling security and societal challenges with greater empathy, precision and understanding.

The officer had obtained necessary permission from both Police Headquarters and Home department for carrying out his research. He has Published two research papers in reputed international Journals.

The JKP family, relatives, friends and netizens have overwhelmingly supported and appreciated the efforts of officer in exploring an issue of contemporary relevance.

## Army intensifies winter...

signifies an evolution in counter-terrorism tactics, underlining both the Army's adaptability and its resolve to maintain operational momentum, irrespective of the weather or terrain.

According to assessments by various intelligence agencies, there are "approximately 30-35 Pakistani terrorists" in the Jammu region currently, defence sources said.

Inputs gathered over the past few months suggest that these Pakistani terrorist groups, finding themselves cornered by successful counter-terror operations, have shifted deeper into the higher and middle-mountain reaches of the region, areas now devoid of habitation, they said.

These terrorists are believed to be seeking temporary winter hideouts to evade detection and avoid a direct confrontation with the security forces.

Reports indicate that these remnants of terror groups are attempting to coerce or threaten the local villagers for shelter and food supplies, even though their support among the locals and overground workers has sharply declined.

The drying local support and continuous security vigilance in the lower altitudes have forced them into isolation, further restricting their ability to regroup or plan coordinated attacks, the sources said.

According to the sources, the Army has intensified its counter-terrorism operations across Kishtwar and Doda districts.

Undeterred by freezing temperatures, treacherous terrains, and heavy snowfall, Army units have expanded their operational reach into the higher and snowbound areas to pursue and "neutralise Pakistani terrorists attempting to exploit the harsh season for concealment", the sources said.

A defining feature of this year's counter-terror strategy has been the integrated approach to operations.

The Army is leading a synchronised effort involving multiple security and law enforcement agencies, including the civil administration, J-K Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Special Operations Group (SOG), forest guards, and village defence guards (VDGs), another source said.

This inter-agency cooperation ensures seamless sharing of intelligence, resource optimisation, and sharper operational execution, the source added.

Intelligence from multiple agencies is carefully synthesised to draw "precise situational pictures" of terrorist movement and hideout patterns.

Once intelligence is verified, coordinated joint operations are planned and launched, minimising overlaps and ensuring maximum impact with tactical precision, defence sources said.

## Mock drill to...

remain alert with arms and ammunitions so that they can engage the enemy quickly. Police said they were committed to leaving no stone unturned in countering hostile activities from Pakistan and ensuring the safety and security of people.

## Police attaches Rs...

attachments, the total value of properties attached in Udhampur for the year has now reached Rs 21.5 crore, the spokesman said.

## Togadia warns of...

Togadia added that the prime minister may not be aware of this "injustice". Togadia, a former VHP leader, is currently on a six-day tour of Jammu region, beginning with Kathua on Wednesday.

Admissions for the inaugural MBBS batch of 50 students at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence in Reasi district were completed as per the NEET last month. The batch includes 42 Muslim candidates, mostly from Kashmir, seven Hindu students from Jammu and one Sikh candidate.

Officials have maintained that admissions are carried out strictly in accordance with prevailing laws and reservation norms.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Togadia urged the J-K LG to resolve the admission row at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Government Medical College at the earliest.

"Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, who is like my elder brother, should cancel the admission list immediately. Otherwise, I will go to every village and urge devotees not to make donations at the Vaishno Devi shrine and instead offer rice.

"We will earn and give our own money, but there will be Muslim doctors from Kashmir... The Hindus of this country will not tolerate this," Togadia said.

Asked about alleged atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh, Togadia suggested the central government stop supply of salt, rice and water to the neighbouring country. "If they still do not stop, go for 1971 intervention by sending the Indian Army.

"If US president Donald Trump can intervene in Nigeria to safeguard Christians, why can India not do the same there. I strongly believe that my elder brother, my long-time friend, Narendra bhai, will definitely protect the Hindus of Bangladesh," he said. He said his group will get an action plan to throw out illegally settled Bangladeshi and Rohingya Muslims from the country.

## Ensure convictions under...

Substances (NDPS) Act and narco-terror cases and POCSO cases, he said. The spokesperson said action taken under preventive measures, pending inquest proceedings and the arrest of absconders were also discussed.

The SSPs gave detailed presentations for their respective districts, highlighting their crime prevention efforts, registration of FIRs and e-FIRs, the status of investigations, and the disposal of cases in their jurisdictions.

IGP Kashmir reviewed the general crime investigation and appreciated the efforts of the district heads in crime prevention, the spokesperson said.

He said Birdi stressed the need to further strengthen the quality of investigations and underlined the importance of improving conviction rates through better investigation practices, greater use of scientific tools, and a stronger follow-up (Pairvi) system, particularly in narcotics and terror-related cases.

## Had insightful discussions...

deliberations between the Central ministries, departments, NITI Aayog, states and UTs and domain experts, the conference will deliberate on the theme 'Human Capital for Viksit Bharat', covering the best practices and strategies for the states and UTs to follow, over the weekend.

Special emphasis is being placed on five key areas: early childhood education, schooling, skilling, higher education, sports and extracurricular activities.

According to the schedule of the conference, six special sessions will be held over the weekend on deregulation in states; technology in governance: opportunities, risks and mitigation; agristack for smart supply chain and market linkages; one state, one world class tourist destination; Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Swadeshi and plans for a Left Wing Extremism future.

Besides, focused deliberations would be held on heritage and manuscript preservation and digitisation and 'Ayush for All - Integrating Knowledge in Primary Healthcare Delivery'.

Anchored in the prime minister's vision of cooperative federalism, the conference serves as the forum where the Centre and the states collaborate, designing a unified roadmap to maximise India's human capital potential and accelerate inclusive, future-ready growth.

The national conference of chief secretaries is being organised annually since the past four years. The first edition was held in Dharamsala, Himachal Pradesh, in June 2022, followed by conferences in New Delhi in January 2023, December 2023 and December 2024.

## AIIMS Jammu emerges...

Further strengthening tertiary healthcare delivery, AIIMS Jammu has operationalised Super Specialty Departments across multiple disciplines. Super specialty services are now available in Endocrinology, Pediatric Surgery, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS), Nephrology, Neurosurgery, Neurology, Urology, Burns & Plastic Surgery, Surgical Gastroenterology, Medical Gastroenterology, Neonatology, Pulmonary Medicine, Surgical Oncology and Cardiology.

The commencement of these advanced services has significantly enhanced the Institute's capacity to provide comprehensive, specialised and high-end medical care, thereby reducing the need for patients to travel outside the region for advanced treatment.

Highlighting innovation and advanced care, Prof. Gupta stated that AIIMS Jammu houses the country's only Centre for Advanced Genomics and Precision Medicine among all AIIMS, enabling high-end genomic testing within the country. The expanding Oncology Unit now offers chemotherapy, radiation therapy and immunotherapy, bringing comprehensive cancer care closer to patients.

The advanced biochemistry laboratory, equipped with waterless dry chemistry technology, ensures high-volume, rapid and accurate diagnostic reporting. Patient-centric initiatives such as the AIIMS Indoor Navigation App, Patient Care Manager and Rogi Sahayak Mitra system, Parikrama Seva e-carts, Swasthya App and dedicated AYUSH screening further enhance patient convenience and accessibility.

On the academic front, Prof. Gupta stated that AIIMS Jammu has grown from a single MBBS batch to six batches with 100 students each, along with B.Sc. Nursing, MD/MS, MDS and M.Ch programmes.

The institute's state-of-the-art digital library, offering thousands of journals and academic resources, and its 1,000-seat convention centre have strengthened its academic and conference ecosystem. With over 140 ongoing research projects and collaborations with IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu and the University of Alabama, AIIMS Jammu continues to emerge as a strong research-driven institution.

He further highlighted that AIIMS Jammu secured the 7th position in Outlook Magazine's 2025 ranking of Government Medical Universities, becoming the second-highest ranked AIIMS after AIIMS Delhi.

The Institute has also been honoured by visits from eminent dignitaries including Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and several other national leaders, who have appreciated its rapid development and patient-centric approach.

Looking ahead, Prof. Gupta outlined a visionary roadmap that includes the establishment of Centres of Excellence in Oncology, Trauma Sciences, Ophthalmology, Nursing, Telemedicine, Robotics and Predictive Medicine, along with an advanced Blood Centre, Cath Lab, Sports Complex, and Satellite Centres including the Comprehensive Rural Health Services Unit (CRHSU) at Basholi. He further highlighted that AIIMS Jammu also proposes to establish a Global Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare, aimed at leveraging cutting-edge technologies to enhance patient care, research and medical education.

Concluding the interaction, Prof. Gupta expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, faculty members, students, staff and the people of the region for their unwavering trust and support. He also sincerely acknowledged the media fraternity for their constructive, responsible and continued support in amplifying AIIMS Jammu's journey and public service mission. He remarked, "AIIMS Jammu is not just about treating diseases; it is about healing lives, nurturing hope, and building a healthier tomorrow for generations to come."

## Traffic cop suspended...

purportedly seen protruding out of the open front door of the moving vehicle near the snow-covered Peer Ki Gali, triggering safety concerns amid hazardous road conditions, traffic officials said.

The incident drew widespread criticism and raised serious concerns regarding safety and professional conduct, particularly given the hazardous road and weather conditions prevailing in the area, they said.

ASI Anil Kumar has been deployed as the new sector officer (traffic) on Mughal Road, while Sheraz has been directed to report to the Traffic Police Lines, Rural Jammu, with immediate effect, the officials said.

The SSP (traffic, Rural Jammu) has ordered a department inquiry into the incident to be conducted by the DSP (traffic), Rajouri-Poonch.

"There is zero tolerance for any violation of the Motor Vehicles Act or traffic safety norms, whether by civilians or by traffic police personnel," SSP Farooq Qaiser said. Strict action will be taken against anyone found compromising public safety while driving, he added.

## Police detain 3...

they continued to indulge in unlawful activities.

Over ground workers are people who help militants with logistical support.

Owais Ahmad Lone of Sedow, Mashooq Ahmad Shah of Shahlatoo, and Subzar Ahmad Gani of Cheek Choland have been detained, he said.

Following the completion of legal formalities, detention orders were issued by the District Magistrate, Shopian, and the detainees were taken into custody and lodged at Central Jail Kot Bhalwal in Jammu, the official added.

## Crackdown on illegal mining: 8 vehicles seized

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH/SAMBA: Police Station Surankote, District Police Poonch, during routine checking at various locations, seized three tippers for their involvement in illegal mining activities without valid permission.

During verification, the drivers of the said vehicles failed to produce valid authorization, which is mandatory for transportation of mining material.

In view of the violations, the vehicles were seized on the spot in accordance with law and taken into police custody for further proceedings.

Continuing its drive against illegal mining, Samba Police has seized five vehicles including three dumpers in the jurisdiction of Police Stations Samba and Ramgarh which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

Police teams headed by SHO Police Station Samba, Incharge PP Supwal of PS Samba and Incharge BPP Dug of PS Ramgarh while performing patrolling duty in their jurisdictional areas, have seized three dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK21G-0372, JK02BB-7986, JK21J-7881 and two tractor trolleys bearing registration Nos. JK21K-8138 & JK02W-0486 which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area.

## Samba police secures conviction in 5 NDPS cases

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba Police has secured convictions in five different NDPS cases over the past few days, owing to the professional and diligent investigation. These cases were registered at Police Station Samba, Police Station Vijaypur and Police Station Bari Brahmana.

FIR No. 30/2025 U/S 8/15/25 NDPS Act of PS Samba, wherein the accused Riyaz Ahmed S/o Mir Baaz R/o Panhed Kotranka district Rajouri was arrested along with Poppy Straw during a vehicle-checking naka at Mansar. After the due course of trial, the Hon'ble Principal Sessions Court Samba convicted the accused under the relevant sections of the NDPS Act and imposed a fine of Rs. 20,000/-.

FIR No. 92/2025 U/S 8/21/25 NDPS Act of PS Vijaypur, wherein the accused Vijay Kumar S/o Roop Lal R/o Ramgarh District Samba was arrested along with Heroin during a vehicle-checking naka at AIIMS Vijaypur. After completion of the trial, the Hon'ble Principal Sessions Court Samba convicted the accused under the relevant sections of the NDPS Act and imposed a fine of Rs. 10,000/-.

FIR No. 201/2025 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act of PS Bari Brahmana pertains to the arrest of the accused Mukesh Mundal S/o Fulo Mundal R/o Ward No. 04, Sahu Parbatta District Bhagalpur (Bihar) presently residing near Railway Colony, Bari Brahmana who was apprehended along with Ganja during vehicle-checking naka duty opposite Pahalyan Restaurant, Bari Brahmana. After trial, the Hon'ble Adtl. Special Mobile Magistrate Court Samba convicted the accused under the relevant sections of the NDPS Act and imposed a fine of Rs. 5,000/-.

FIR No. 110/2018 U/S 8/15 NDPS Act of PS Vijaypur; pertaining to the recovery of Poppy Straw and FIR No. 312/2018 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act of PS Samba pertaining to the recovery of Charas also resulted in convictions. The Hon'ble Principal Sessions Court Samba convicted the accused persons under the relevant sections of the NDPS Act and imposed fines of Rs. 12,000/- and Rs. 15,000/- respectively.

## SSP Poonch conducts PCPG meeting

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In furtherance of strengthening police-public relations and community participation in maintaining peace and security, SSP Poonch conducted a Police-Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting today in the far-off area of Sangiote.

The meeting witnessed active participation from community elders, prominent citizens, local residents and police officers. The interaction provided a vital platform for open dialogue, enabling the public to directly share their concerns and suggestions with the police leadership.

During the meeting, the SSP Poonch emphasized the collective responsibility of society in combating drug abuse, terming it a serious threat to youth and social fabric. He urged parents, teachers and community leaders to remain vigilant and to promptly inform police about drug peddling or misuse so that timely action can be taken.

The SSP also educated the participants about newly introduced criminal laws, highlighting their objectives, citizen-centric provisions and the importance of legal awareness in ensuring justice and rule of law. The residents were encouraged to familiarize themselves with these laws to safeguard their rights and responsibilities.

Local security and developmental issues were discussed at length. The SSP patiently heard grievances raised by the public and assured that all genuine issues would be examined and addressed on priority. Given the prevailing security challenges in the region, he reiterated the police department's unwavering commitment to ensuring peace, safety and normalcy in border and remote areas.

The SSP Poonch further appealed to the public to extend full cooperation to police and to share credible information regarding any suspicious movement or unlawful activity, assuring that informers' identities would be kept strictly confidential.

The PCPG meeting concluded on a positive note, reinforcing mutual trust and cooperation between police and the community, with a shared resolve to work together for a safe, secure and drug-free Poonch.

## Two booked for using VPN applications in violation of DM's orders

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Doda Police booked two individuals for using VPN applications in violation of prohibitory orders issued by the District Magistrate, Doda.

On 27.12.2025, a police party from Police Post Bhagla Bharth, under the jurisdiction of Police Station Doda, was deployed on routine patrol duty. During patrolling, at about 1530 hours, the police party reached Bagla Main Market and noticed a person using a VPN application on his mobile phone.

On being questioned by the Incharge Police Post Bhagla Bharth regarding the use of the said application, the individual failed to provide any satisfactory explanation. Exercising due caution, he was apprehended and brought to the Police Post for further questioning. Upon enquiry, he disclosed his identity as Khalid Abrar S/o Mohammad Abdullah Butt, R/o Bagla Bharth.

As the Hon'ble District Magistrate, Doda, has imposed a ban on the use of VPN applications, the individual was found to have violated the lawful orders. Accordingly, on the basis of the report received from Police Post Bhagla Bharth, a cognizable report was forwarded to Police Station Doda, leading to the registration of FIR No. 279/2025 under Section 223 BNS. Further investigation has been taken up.

Similarly, another individual namely Mohd Irfan S/o Abdul Latief, R/o Tendla, Tehsil Chilli, was spotted at Shali Pul, Gandoh, using a VPN application in violation of the orders issued by the Hon'ble District Magistrate, Doda. Accordingly, FIR No. 125/2025 under Section 223 BNS has been registered at Police Station Gandoh, and further investigation is underway.

## JKAACL hosting 'Desh Ke Rang, Nritya Ke Sang' today

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL) is organizing a vibrant Classical & Folk Dance Evening - "Desh Ke Rang, Nritya Ke Sang" on December 28, 2025 at Abhinav Theatre. The programme, scheduled to start at 4:30 PM, will celebrate India's rich cultural diversity through captivating dance performances by renowned and emerging artists from across the country featuring Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Manipuri and Folk dances of Jammu & Kashmir. The event aims to promote cultural harmony, preserve traditional art forms and provide a vibrant platform to artists. The general public and art lovers are warmly invited to attend and experience India's unity in diversity through these dance forms.

## Valley witnesses sub-zero temperatures

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The night temperatures plunged below the freezing point in Kashmir as the mercury dropped at most places owing to clear skies. The Valley is bracing up for another spell of rains and snow around the New Year's Eve, weather officials said on Saturday. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius on Friday night, nearly three degrees down from 0.2 degrees Celsius on the previous night, they said. Central Kashmir's tourist resort of Sonamarg was the coldest in Jammu and Kashmir with a low of minus 5.8 degrees Celsius, down from minus 4.7 degrees Celsius a day ago. Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, which also serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath yatra, was the second coldest place at minus 4.8 degrees Celsius, officials said.