

## Police’s cracks down on illicit liquor trade: 76 arrests, massive seizures, 74 cases registered in 2024

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a relentless crackdown on illicit liquor smuggling, Jammu & Kashmir Police took strict action across District Jammu from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. The year-long operations led to the registration of 74 cases, the arrest of 76 offenders, and the seizure of massive quantities of illicit liquor, preventing its illegal distribution. These actions reinforce Jammu Police's commitment to curbing illegal trade and ensuring public safety.

The crackdown resulted in the seizure of 198 bottles, 3 half-bottles, and 4212 quarters of JK Whisky, along with 4 bottles of rum, 7 bottles and 49 cans of beer, and 65 litres of illicit liquor. This large-scale enforcement drive was carried out through intelligence-led raids, highway checks, and surprise inspections at vulnerable points across the district.

Police personnel from various Police Stations, including Pacea Danga, Nagrota, Jhajjar Kotli, Akhmoor, Domana, Miran Sahib, R.S. Pura, Bishnah, Arnia, and other units, played a crucial role in disrupting the illegal supply chain. The teams conducted night-long surveillance, raided unauthorized storage locations, and intercepted vehicles transporting illicit liquor to ensure strict enforcement of Excise laws.

## 46 vehicles Challaned in Rajouri amid massive enforcement drive by ARTO team

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: A team from the Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Rajouri today conducted a rigorous enforcement drive on the Rajouri-Poonch National Highway (NH) and adjoining routes today.

During the drive, the team checked both commercial and non-commercial vehicles and challaned 46 vehicles for violation of different provisions of Motor Vehicles Act. The violators were booked for various infractions, including riding without safety helmet, driving without seat belts, overloading in goods and passenger vehicles, Driving without Registration Certificate (RP), Uninsured vehicles, using mobile phone while driving, Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate violation & Driving without a valid license.

A team imposed Rs. 1,09,700 fine on traffic offenders. Additionally, two driving licenses were recommended for suspension for serious violations.

The ARTO emphasized that such enforcement drives will continue to ensure road safety and strict compliance with traffic regulations. Vehicle owners and drivers were urged to adhere to traffic laws to avoid penalties and ensure safer roads for all.

## Woman from Bihar arrested for illegal liquor sale

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu police acting tough against illegal sale of liquor,arrested a woman in the Kanachak area of Jammu for allegedly selling liquor illegally from a hut. Acting on a tip-off, the local police conducted a raid and apprehended the accused, identified as Lila Devi, wife of Ram Rishudev. She hails from Khaniavaad, Fatehpur, District Kishanganj, Bihar, and was residing in Kanachak.

During the search, authorities recovered 34 quarters of JK Special Whiskey (each 180 ml) from her possession. A case has been registered against her under relevant sections at Kanachak Police Station.

The police have intensified their crackdown on illegal liquor trade in the region and continue their investigation into the matter.

## Absconder arrested after 8 years

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: In a significant breakthrough, District Police Reasi

successfully apprehended an absconder, Mohd Tariq alias Baffer son of Mohd Aslam resident of Bhagta, District Reasi, who had been evading arrest since 2022. The accused was facing trial before the Court in case FIR No. 201/2017 U/S 382 RPC of Police Station Katra and had been on the run for years.

Mohd Tariq is a habitual offender and was wanted in multiple criminal cases 1 FIR NO. 259/2013 U/S 341/323 IPC P/S Katra, 02 FIR NO. 59/2016 U/S 457/380/109 RPC P/S Chennani, 03 FIR NO. 69/2016 U/S 457/380/109/201 RPC P/S Chennani, 04 FIR NO. 77/2016 U/S 457/380/201 RPC P/S Katra, 05 FIR NO. 132/2016 U/S 8/20 NDPS ACT P/S Katra, 06 FIR NO. 14/2017 U/S 457/380/201 RPC P/S Katra, 07 FIR NO. 201/2017 U/S 382 RPC P/S Katra, 08 FIR NO. 222/2019 U/S 457/380 IPC P/S Kangra HP, 09 FIR NO. 131/2019 U/S 379/411/414/34/201 P/S Dharamshala (HP), 10 FIR NO. 21/2020 U/S 457/380/201 341 IPC P/S Kangra (HP), 11 FIR NO. 27/2020 U/S 379 IPC P/S Sadar Dharamshala, 12 FIR NO. 154/2021 U/S 454/380 IPC P/S Nowabad, 13 FIR NO. 168/2021 U/S 379 P/S Udhampur, 14 FIR NO. 188/2021 U/S 379 IPC P/S Katra, 15 FIR NO. 191/2021 U/S 279 IPC P/S Katra, 16 FIR NO. 300/2021 U/S 379/34 IPC P/S Nurpur, 17 FIR NO. 150/2023 U/S 457/380/34 IPC P/S West Shimla across different districts/States, including Reasi, Udhampur, Kangra (Himachal Pradesh), Dharamshala (HP), Nurpur (HP), and Shimla (HP). He was involved in numerous offenses, including theft, burglary, drug-related crimes, and other serious charges under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and NDPS Act. The Hon'ble Court had earlier issued a general warrant U/S 512 Cr.PC against him.

Despite his continuous efforts to disguise his identity and change locations, a dedicated team led by SHO Insp Khaytiman Khajuria tracked him down and arrested him. The accused was produced before the Court for further legal proceedings and lodged him in Udhampur Jail.

SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh emphasized that the arrest of absconding criminals is a priority for maintaining law and order in the district. He further stated, "District Police Reasi is committed to ensuring justice by bringing criminals to trial. No stone will be left unturned to track down fugitives and uphold peace in the region."

## Four narco smugglers nabbed with heroin

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: In its continued drive against drug abuse under Operation Ek Yudh Nashe Ke Virudh, District Police Reasi is intensifying surprise Naka (checkpoints) and checking operations to crack down on offenders and criminals.

In one such operation, a team from Police Station Reasi intercepted a black Maruti 800 bearing registration number JK02V-6906 during routine checking at Naka Sulla. A search of the vehicle led to the recovery of 5 grams of heroin-like substance.

The occupants of the vehicle were identified as Parshotam Kumar son of Kaku Ram, resident of Aghar Balliyan, Reasi; Sourav Kumar son of Satish Kumar, resident of Mari, Reasi; Deepak Kumar son of Ashwani Kumar, resident of Mari, Reasi and Deep Kumar son of Puran Chand, resident of Servad, Katra.

An FIR No. 27/2025 under sections 8/21/22/29 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Reasi. Further investigation is underway to trace the backward and forward linkages of the drug supply chain.

The whole operation was conducted by team of P/S Reasi lead by SHO Reasi Insp Ranjeet Singh Rao under the overall supervision of Dy SP Reasi Vishal Singh Jamwal and Asst SP Reaso Iftkhar Ahmed.

## Power Department intensifies recovery drive, cuts connections of 70 consumers

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Power Department in Hiranagar has intensified its recovery drive to collect outstanding electricity dues. On Wednesday, under the directions of Executive Engineer Kathua Surinder Bhagat, a special campaign was conducted

under the supervision of Assistant Executive Engineer Hiranagar Bharat Bhushan, and led by Assistant Engineer Hiranagar Alokitt Sharma.

The campaign was carried out in Chadwal, Hiranagar, Dayala Chak, Sanjhi Morh, Chakra, and Bobiya areas. During this operation, the teams recovered approximately Rs 2.90 lakh in outstanding dues, while electricity connections of 70 consumers were disconnected due to non-payment.

Assistant Engineer Alokitt Sharma stated that dedicated teams are actively working across Hiranagar Subdivision to collect outstanding dues. He mentioned that the total outstanding amount from the consumers whose connections were disconnected is around ₹25 lakh. He further added that the total outstanding electricity bill in the Hiranagar subdivision has reached approximately ₹5 crore.

The campaign was carried out in the presence of Junior Engineers Rakesh Sharma, JE Ashok Sangra, JE Sham Lal, Kuldeep Kumar, and other officials.

## 4 missing persons including two females reunited with families

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba Police has traced four missing persons including two ladies from different areas and reunited them with their families whose missing reports were lodged at Police Station Ramgarh and Police Post Supwal (PS Samba).

At Police Post Supwal, two missing reports vide DD No. 05 dated 03.02.2025 and DD No. 09 dated 05.02.2025 were entered on the basis of written reports lodged by a man resident of Bhurj Sheru tehsil and district Samba, Father-in-Law of missing lady and another man resident of Chack Kur tehsil and district Samba, father of missing person respectively.

Similarly, reports of missing persons were lodged at Police Station Ramgarh vide DD No. 08 dated 21.12.2024 and DD No. 07 dated 18-02-2025 on the basis of written reports lodged by one Tilak Raj resident of Swankha tehsil Ramgarh district Samba, father of missing person and one man resident of Ramgarh district Samba, father of missing lady.

With continuous strenuous efforts, police teams of PS Ramgarh and PP Supwal have succeeded in tracing the missing persons from different areas and reuniting them with their families after completing legal formalities. The said missing reports have been closed accordingly.

## Police recovers 10 Stolen Smart Phones worth 2.80 lakhs

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: Police in Bandipora during the current year had received multiple complaints from the general public regarding missing/stolen mobile phones.

Acting on these complaints, police achieved significant breakthrough by recovering 10 stolen smart phones worth 2.80 lakhs from different places of UT J&K and outside UT. The smart phones were today handed over to their owners after completion of necessary legal formalities. Recipients expressed their gratitude & appreciation to police's relentless efforts in recovering their mobile phones.

## 4 drug peddlers arrested, contraband substance recovered

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested four drug peddlers in Anantnag & Handwara and recovered contraband substance from their possession.

Police party from Police Station Aishmuqam under the supervision of SDPO Pahalgam at a checkpoint established at Brad Aishmuqam and arrested two drug peddlers identified as Farooq Ahmad Lone son in law of Gh Rasool Itoo resident of Paith Nambal A/P Yall and Zafar Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Afzal Bhat resident of Khayar. During search 7.2Kgs of Cannabis Husk and 256 grams of Cannabis Powder like substance from their possession.

Similarly in Handwara, A police team led by IC PP Chogul

intercepted a vehicle Swift Dzire bearing registration No. JK09D-5264 with two persons on board. During search of the vehicle, 8.30 grams of a heroin-like substance from their possession. They have been identified as Faisal Ahmad son of Ab. Jabar Lone resident of Bramri, Kupwara and Tahir Habib son of Habibullah Dar resident of Jaggerpora, Kupwara. They have been arrested besides, vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of the law have been registered in respective Police Stations and further investigation have been initiated.

## 228 pressure horn violators booked; fine of Rs. 22.80 lakh imposed

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A special drive has been launched against the use of pressure horns by the drivers of passenger vehicles and commercial, goods carrier in district Samba, Kathua Rajouri & Poonch of Traffic Rural Jammu under the supervision of G.L. Sharma, SSP Traffic Rural Jammu.

During the month of Jan. 2025 till 13 Feb.2025, 228 pressure horn violation has been booked by the officers deployed in district Samba, Kathua, Rajouri & Poonch and have imposed fine of Rs. 22.80 lakh. Dy. SP Traffic Samba-Kathua and Dy. SP Traffic Rajouri-Poonch have been advised to intensify the action against the violations using pressure horns.

The campaign against the pressure horn users in addition to the other violationsin other offences like dangerous driving, over speeding, driving without helmet, use of mobile while driving, overloading etc. would be intensified in coming days in order to make the road safer for general public and reduce the accidents. Action against parents who allow their minor children to drive the vehicles would also be taken as per law. The general public is requested to follow the MV rules and the basic principle of road safety by following the traffic rules in order to minimize inconvenience to the general masses while travelling during the journey.

## Thief caught, stolen golden ornaments, i-pad recovered

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Today a swift operation by the J&K police Kathua at Lakhampur led to the arrest of a thief and the recovery of stolen goods, including gold ornaments and an iPad. The accused, Bishal Kondpan, son of Gerson resident of Uttam Nagar West Delhi was apprehended after fleeing from the scene of the crime.

Acting on a tip-off from SHO Janipur, a team from Police Station Lakhampur led by SHO PS Lakhampur Insp. Tribhawan Khajuria under the guidance of Addl. SP Kathua & DySP DAR Kathua set up a special checkpoint at Main Bazar Lakhampur. The accused was detained, and a search of his bag revealed the stolen items.

The successful recovery of the stolen goods and the arrest of the accused demonstrate the efficiency and coordination of the police teams involved.

## Fire breaks out in remote village in Ramban, 7 houses gutted

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: Seven houses were gutted in a fire that broke out in a remote village in Ramban district, officials said on Wednesday.

The fire broke out in a house at Syedpora hamlet of Chamalwas in Banihal area during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday and spread to adjoining houses, they said. Fire and emergency services department rushed several tenders and doused the flames after hours of intense fire fighting operation, they said, adding that police and local volunteers also extended their help in controlling the blaze and salvaging the belongings of the affected families. The officials said the cause of the fire was not known immediately.

Police have registered a case and further investigation is on, they said.

## Kathua Police installs CCTV cameras on key locations



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: To curb crime and road accidents in the border areas of Kathua district, police have taken a step toward high-tech security by deploying advanced CCTV cameras. On Wednesday, cameras were installed at key locations such as Sanjhi Morh, Haria Chak, Chakra Chowk, and Sherpur Chowk under the jurisdiction of Hiranagar and Rajbagh police stations. These cameras will closely monitor activities at public places, main roads, and busy intersections.

DySP Border Dheeraj Singh Katoch stated that earlier, the absence of CCTV cameras made it difficult to identify culprits in road acci-

dent cases, but now this will no longer be a challenge. These cameras will help analyze the actual causes of accidents, aiding in identifying offenders and taking appropriate action. He added that the cameras will record all vehicles passing through from every direction, making it easier to track down hit-and-run cases.

The region often witnesses road accidents due to over-speeding and reckless driving. Especially at night, suspicious individuals and high-speed drivers will now be under the watchful eyes of this 'third eye.' With high-resolution cameras, the police will be able to quickly identify and take necessary action against suspects.

Additionally, these cameras will strictly monitor over-speeding and traffic rule violations.

Former Sarpanch Pritam Singh stated that road accidents and security concerns have long been a matter of worry in the region. The step taken by the police will not only reduce accidents but also provide a safer environment for common citizens. Local residents have welcomed this initiative and hope that it will help streamline traffic management as well.

Furthermore, these cameras will also aid in cracking down on drug smuggling and cattle trafficking. It has been observed that criminals often take advantage of the darkness to carry out illegal activities. Now, with these high-tech cameras, the police will keep a close watch on suspicious activities.

Police officials have stated that the deployment of these cameras will further strengthen security in border areas, ensuring effective control over anti-social elements.

## SHEW Doda, JKRLM collaborate to promote Women empowerment initiatives

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: The Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW) Doda, in collaboration with the Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission

(JKRLM) on Wednesday organised an awareness program at the Block Development Office Assar.

The event aimed to educate Women about different empowerment and protection schemes available through the Social Welfare Department.

The District Mission Coordinator SHEW Doda welcomed the attendees and engaged with women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs), providing insights into the department's initiatives focused on women's and children's welfare.

The Centre Administrator of the One Stop Centre Doda detailed services offered under the One Stop Centre scheme, while the District Coordinator

of Child Helpline discussed the Mission Vatsalya Scheme's provisions.

The Block Development Officer highlighted the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), emphasizing that SHGs play a crucial role in sustainable livelihood development, ensuring the groups' long-term prosperity. In addition to the informative sessions, sanitary pads were distributed to promote menstrual hygiene among participants.

Concluding the event, the District Mission Coordinator of SHEW Doda expressed gratitude to the attendees and collaborating departments for their support in making the program successful.

## BGSBU organises National Seminar on Role of Regional Languages in Nation-Building wrt NEP 2020



A section of dignitaries during the seminar at BGSBU.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University successfully organized a National Seminar on "The Role of Regional Languages in Nation-Building with Respect to NEP 2020" in collaboration with Bhartiya Bhasha Samiti, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

In his address, Vice Chancellor Prof. Jawaid Iqbal stated that NEP 2020 has marked a significant change in India's education system by emphasizing multilingualism and the promotion of regional languages. Prof. Iqbal emphasized that Universities must take the lead in implementing NEP 2020's vision by encouraging research, curriculum development, and academic discourse in regional languages, ensuring their sustained relevance in the globalized world.

Prof. Jawaid said that such academic initiatives will motivate faculty members to come up with vibrant academic activities that contribute to research, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaborations. He mentioned that BGSBU remains committed to promoting regional languages as a cornerstone of India's cultural and intellectual heritage. He announced that the University is going to open

new Departments in the School of Humanities and Languages including Sanskrit. He also mentioned that FYUP programs based on NEP2020 will be rolled out in various Departments of the University including the college of Engineering and Technology. Abhishek Sharma, Registrar, BGSBU, also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the role of regional languages in effective administration and governance. He highlighted the need for policies that promote linguistic inclusivity, ensuring that regional languages remain relevant in public discourse, governance, and higher education. He mentioned that Universities can play a pivotal role in promoting and preserving the local languages through continuous research and discourse.

Chamu Krishna Shastri, Chairman, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, in his video message commended BGSBU for hosting this seminar on a subject of national importance. He underscored the vision of NEP 2020 in promoting multilingual education and stressed the need for collective efforts to strengthen regional languages as pillars of India's knowledge ecosystem. Shri. Shastri also emphasized that language is the foundation of

cultural identity and intellectual empowerment, urging universities to take a leading role in promoting linguistic inclusivity and research.

Eminent linguist Prof. R.C. Sharma from the Department of Linguistics, University of Delhi, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and shared insights on language as a powerful tool for thought, creativity, and policymaking. In his address, Prof. Sharma appreciated BGSBU for organizing the seminar on a theme of national importance, acknowledging the university's commitment to promoting regional languages as a driving force for educational and socioeconomic development.

Prof. Shreedhar Mishra, Director, Central Sanskrit University, Jammu, in his address, appreciated BGSBU for organizing this significant academic initiative and highlighted the importance of Rashtriya Bhasha in nation-building, cultural preservation, and knowledge dissemination.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. M.J. Warsi, Dean Academic Affairs, BGSBU, and Seminar Director, highlighted the intrinsic link between language and cognitive development, stressing that regional languages play a crucial role in enhancing innovation, governance,

and social cohesion. He further noted that the seminar aimed to address the challenges posed by linguistic diversity and explore ways to balance language preservation with global integration.

Sudhanshu Bhushan, Bhartiya Bhasha Smiti graced the occasion with his presence and commended the efforts of the BGSBU University in organising the seminar.

In his address Mohd Farooq Muztar Founder HEM Rajouri appreciated BGSBU for organizing this seminar on such a crucial theme, acknowledging the university's commitment to academic excellence and linguistic diversity. Qayoom Mir Administrator Auqaf Rajouri while speaking on the occasion lauded BGSBU for its commitment to academic excellence and its efforts in promoting regional languages through such an important seminar.

On the occasion, two books authored by Dr. A.A. Shah & Dr. Mushtaq Siddiqui, and Prof. Rafiq Anjum were also released, adding to the academic significance of the event. The book release was widely appreciated, reflecting BGSBU's commitment to fostering research and literary contributions in regional languages.

The seminar witnessed

the participation of prominent educationists, Associate Deans, Heads and Coordinators of various departments, research scholars, and students from the university, fostering a rich academic exchange on language and national development.

Dr. Marya Aslam, Head, Department of English, and Seminar Coordinator delivered the welcome address. She emphasized the importance of regional languages in fostering inclusive education, cultural preservation, and national progress, highlighting the seminar's alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Dr. Tanvir Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Department of English, conducted the proceedings of the day, ensuring the smooth flow of discussions and presentations.

Dr. Shams Kamal Anjum Head Department of Arabic proposed the vote of thanks.

The event featured insightful discussions, paper presentations, and interactive sessions focusing on leveraging linguistic diversity for national progress. Scholars and researchers presented papers in Hindi, English, Urdu, Gojri, Pahari, and other Indian languages, reflecting the rich linguistic diversity of India.