

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform that the untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Santosh Bhat** on 7 March 2024 W/o Lt. Sh Dina Nath Bhat, resident of Gund Dolipora, Handwara, Kashmir left us heavenly abode on 07/03/2024, Flat No-18 Block No-123 Lane No: 21 Jagti Colony Nagrota Jammu.

**MOURNING PLACE** Lane No: 21, Block No-123, Flat: 18 Jagti Colony).  
**TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be held performed at mata badrikali temple thalwal jammu on Saturday 16 March 2024 at 7:30 am.

**MOURNING ASSEMBLY** will be held in Jagti Township Nagrota at community Hall Lane No- 24/25 (back side) at 12 Noon.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

**(DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)**  
SMT. SWEETY PANDITA & SH.SATISH JI PANDITA MOB:-7889429521)  
**(DAUGHTER & SON IN LAW)**  
SMT. PINKY BHAT & SH.INDER JI BHAT MOB:-7006592830)  
**(SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)**  
SH. KRISHAN KUMAR BHAT & SMT.SUDHA BHAT MOB: 9622304005)  
**(SON & DAUGHTER IN LAW)**  
SH. RAVI JI BHAT & SMT.POOJA BHAT MOB:-7006038250)  
SMT. RUPAWATI PANDITA W/O LT. RESH RAM PANDITA (SISTER IN LAW)  
SMT. VEENA JI W/O LT.MAKHAM LAL DHAR (SISTER IN LAW)  
SMT. MOHINI KOUL W/O LT.RAM JI KOUL (SISTER)  
**GRAND CHILDREN:** MEGHA PANDITA, BHUVAN PANDITA, RESHIKA BHAT, MIVAN BHAT & MANIKA BHAT  
**SMASHT BHAT & DHAR PARIVAAR**



Smt. Santosh Bhat

**CUJ organises national seminar on 'Opportunities for Botanical Tourism in J&K UT'**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Department of Botany at the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) on Friday organized a one-day national seminar focusing on the theme "Opportunities for Botanical Tourism in Jammu & Kashmir, UT."

The event brought together distinguished scholars and academicians to explore the convergence of botanical sciences and the burgeoning travel and tourism industry in the region.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, the Vice-Chancellor of CUJ, commended Prof. Brijmohan Singh Bhaui and his team for spearheading this initiative, emphasizing the importance

of interdisciplinary education in academic institutions.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. (Retd.) AK Koul from the University of Jammu, who stressed the need to address environmental challenges and advocated for the inclusion of botanical tourism courses to meet the increasing demand for serene destinations among tourists.

Other notable speakers included Prof. Namrata Sharma from the JU, OP Sharma Vidyarthi, IFS (Retd.), PCCF Govt. J&K, and Dr. Ranjeet Kumar Raman, Head of the Department of Tourism and Travel Management at CUJ. The seminar highlighted

J&K's status as a premier ecotourism destination and emphasized the importance of conservation efforts.

Prof. Deepak Pathania and Prof. Sunil Dhar from CUJ suggested exploring and nurturing opportunities in the field, including the development of unique gardens like the Spice Park in the Jammu region.

Prof. N. Sharma advocated for exploring local flora and promoting organic homestays for sustainable tourism.

OP Sharma Vidyarthi discussed niche tourism opportunities under botanical tourism, such as promoting traditional cuisine crafted from indigenous plants. Dr.

Ranjeet Kumar Raman proposed promoting botanical tourism as a product to create entrepreneurial opportunities in J&K.

Dr. Dharam Chand, the Organizing Secretary, reported the participation of around 150 attendees from across the state and country, with several invited talks, oral presentations, and poster sessions.

During the valedictory session, Prof. Bhaui congratulated the organizing team and presented awards for the best oral and poster presentations.

The conference was sponsored by the University Grants Commission, and Dr. Ashok Kumar proposed the vote of thanks.

**National Seminar on Bhakti Literature concludes at CSK**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A national seminar was organized by the Hindi Department of Central Sanskrit University (CSK), Shri Ranbir Campus, Jammu on Bhakti literature in the context of Sanskrit, Hindi and Dogri language on 13 to 15 March. The chief guest of its inauguration was Prof. Ram Kumar Sharma of Central Sanskrit University, Jaipur Campus. He said that there is an inexhaustible store of devotional literature in Sanskrit. Along with this, Prof. Manoj Kumar Singh of the Hindi Department of Banaras Hindu University, in his address as a special guest, said that the rise of the Bhakti period was a transformative event in Hindi literature. The litterateurs indirectly worked to unite the society through devotional literature.

The program was presided over by Campus Director Prof. Shreedhar Mishra. A total of four sessions were organized in the national seminar in which about 150 research papers were read. The reading of research papers was done on hybrid mode in which eminent professors and research students from different universities and colleges of the

country participated.

The chief guest of the concluding session of the national seminar was Prof. Manoj Kumar Mishra of Central Sanskrit University, Ganganath Jha campus.

He made a minute review of various points of Bhakti literature in Sanskrit. He stated that there has been a distinct tradition of devotional literature in Hindi, Sanskrit and Dogri languages. Special guests of the program, Vice Chancellor of Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Divyang University, Chitrakoot, Prof. Shishir Kumar Pandey, Guest of Honor, Prof. Prabhakar Singh of Kashi Hindu University, Saraswat Guest, Guests of Dogri Department of Jammu University, Dr. Padmdev Singh, Sanjay Bansal, Prof. Satish Kumar Kapoor, Dr. Ramdas Sharma were present. A detailed report of the seminar was presented by Kamal Kishore, Professor of Dogri subject.

The program was presided over by Campus Director Prof. Shreedhar Mishra. Dr. Pawan Kumar Singh was the coordinator of the program. Technical support was provided by Tirupati Bala and Manoj Abrol.

The vote of thanks was given by Dr. Rekha Mishra of the Hindi Department. The program was successfully conducted by Dr. Sarvesh Tripathi.

**Mandeep Kaur awarded eight women achievers with "ASSOCHAM J&K Women Achievers Award-2024"**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) on Friday honoured women achievers of Jammu and Kashmir in the 4th Edition of "The ASSOCHAM J&K Women Achievers Award-2024" for their excellence in their professional fields, to mark International Women's Day.

Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner/Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department of J&K was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Madeena Mir, CEO, CNS Infotel Services was awarded in Retail Category, Gurnehar Kaur Sethi of ARC Hospitality Institute got the award in Education Category, Radhey Mahajan, Founder & CEO of DIIGROX and Shivani Sharma of Impression World Pre-School in Startup & Innovation category, Pooja Vaid, MD, Shine-n-Glow and Gayatri Broota Mahajan of Your Space with Gyatri Broota were awarded for Beauty and Wellness, Hiya Aneja, of The News Now was awarded in Media Category and Renu Billoria of Renu Billoria Multi

Craft Handicraft Society was awarded in Manufacturing Category.

Mandeep Kaur, while congratulating the winners, said, "It is important to recognize the contribution of women in society and nation-building. Such award events encourage the women to come forward and show their talent to the world."

Manik Batra, Chairman ASSOCHAM J&K Council said, "We started this award in 2021 and today we hosted the Fourth edition of it. We will keep doing such events in the future to encourage Women

Entrepreneurs of Jammu and Kashmir."

All other participants were given Certificates of Participation.

"There are many examples of women achieving heights in every professional area and all they need is recognition and acknowledgment among people," said Bhupesh Gupta, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM J&K Council.

The event was sponsored by Batra Group and Ruchika Makeovers as Title Partners and Dr. Amit's Multispecialty Hospital & Prevest DenPro Ltd. as Gold Partners.

**IIT Jammu initiates Abhyuthanam: Academic Leadership Engagement for Directors/VCs from CFTIs, CUs**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: In adherence to the principles outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Abhyuthanam, a five-day Academic Leadership Engagement, commenced with an opening address by Prof. Manoj S Gaur.

The event featured a screening of the IIT Jammu Film, a warm welcome from the hosts, agenda setting, and participant introductions, each lasting 2-3 minutes. Under this initiative, IIT Jammu is hosting 22 Directors from NITs, IIITs, IISERs, SPAs, NITTRs, and Vice Chancellors from central universities, who are expected to attend and actively participate. The first session, led by Professor U B Desai, focused on pioneering innovation in institutional leadership. Prof. Desai highlighted the importance of challenging conventional norms and fostering innovation in institution-building. He advocated for a mindset that embraces ambiguity, encouraging individuals to nav-

igate the complexities of uncertain situations and remain open to diverse perspectives and ideas.

Following this session, an engaging panel discussion was moderated by Prof. Ashok Ganguli, featuring Prof. Usha Natesan, Prof. Somyajulu, and Prof. HM Suryavanshi as panelists. The discussion centred on the "Changing Context of Higher Education."

During this insightful session, the panel examined the challenges and opportunities presented by NEP 2020, underscored the importance of traditional classroom learning in today's technology-driven era, and engaged in critical discussions regarding skill gaps and employability, among other key topics.

This five-day engagement is designed to include participatory sessions, case studies, panel discussions, and workshops aimed at developing a strategic plan for each institute, along with an implementation roadmap.

**CUJ organizes rally to celebrate "Chunav Ka Parv"**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Office of the Dean Students' Welfare, Central University of Jammu organized large rally to create awareness about the "Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye" under the theme "Chunav Ka Parv".

The event aimed to active participation in the electoral process among students and the wider community. To celebrate "Chunav Ka Parv" a rally was

flagged off by Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice-Chancellor, Central university of Jammu who encouraged the students to spread the message in the campus and nearby vicinity.

The awareness rally started from the campus followed by the visits to nearby localities and showed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and staff members, who marched in unity to emphasize the significance of democratic

principles and the importance of voting rights. Prof. Sanjeev Jain, in his address, urged everyone to exercise their franchise responsibly.

He said the purpose of these activities was to ensure universal enlightened participation of youth in elections. The rally showcased colorful banners, placards, and spirited chants, resonating with the theme of electoral participation and civic responsibility.



**Three storey shopping complex gutted**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

BHADERWAH: Property worth lakhs reduced to ashes as a three-storied building shopping complex was gutted in a devastating blaze in wee hours on Friday at Bhaderwah.

According to reports, a massive fire broke out in Gazi shopping complex near Ikhwan Chowk Bhaderwah belonging to Khalid Usman, son of Late Mohd Aslam Khateeb, resident of Mohalla Masjid Bhaderwah.

The three storey building have Readymade Shop in First floor, Dental Clinic in 2nd and Hotel in 3rd floor.

According to eyewitnesses, the fire broke out at about 3:00 AM. After getting information, Inchrage Fire and Emergency Service Bhaderwah Nadeem Akhter along with team immediately reached to the spot and along with Police, CRPF and locals doused the flames.

After hectic efforts by fire tenders, Police, CRPF and locals, Readymade Shop at ground floor and adjoining structures were saved.

No injury or casualty has been reported in the incident, while the exact financial loss could not be ascertained yet.

A team has been constituted to access the exact loss and submit the report. Tehsildar Bhaderwah along with other revenue officials also visited the spot to access the loss.

"Three story building had been damaged in the incident, while the exact cause of fire is not known yet as it could be a short circuit," said Tehsildar Bhaderwah Kamalpreet Singh, adding that we will submit our report of assessment to the administration for further procedures.

The police had taken cognizance of the incident and a probe was started.

Khalid Usman owner of the complex appeal government and administration for help as he lost his lifetime earnings.

**Police attaches property of drug peddler**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: District Police Kathua on Friday attached property belonging to a drug peddler in the Kathua district under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act).

The property was identified as illegally acquired property during the course of the investigation and inquiry conducted by the Police team of PS Kathua under the guidance of DySP Headquarters Kathua & SHO PS Kathua.

The property (double-story residential house) measures 1400 Sq. ft., valued approx. worth Rs. 70



Lakhs respectively, belongs to a drug peddler, namely Ashwani Kumar, son of Jagga Ram, resident of Chak Drab Khan Kathua.

As the property was, prima facie, acquired by the owner from illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The said drug peddler was involved in said case and action was taken U/S 68(E) & 68 (F) of NDPS Act of 1985 and is linked with case FIR No 84/2016 under section 8/21/22/NDPS Act and FIR No. 425/2018 under section 8/21/22/NDPS Act at PS Kathua.

This action of the Kathua Police is the part of relentless effort to curb the menace of drug peddling in the Kathua district. This action reaffirms the commitment of District Police Kathua to combat the drug menace.

**3 drug peddlers arrested; contraband substances recovered**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 03 drug peddlers in Kulgam & Budgam and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A police party of Police Station Qazigund during patrolling at Kurigam crossing Qazigund intercepted a suspicious person identified as Riyaz Ahmad Dar son of Ghulam Ahmad Dar a resident of Churat Qazigund carrying a nylon bag. During search, officers were able to recover 4.2 Kgs of Poppy Straw like contraband substance filled in the said bag from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to PS where he remains in custody.

Moreover, a police party of Police Station Kulgam at a checkpoint established at Pariwan Gadihama intercepted a suspicious person identified as Fayaz Ahmad Ganie son of Ghulam Qadir Ganie a resident of Pariwan. During search, officers were able to recover 270 grams of Charas like contraband substance from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to PS where he remains in custody.

In Budgam, a Police party of Police Station Beerwah at a checkpoint established at Chewdara Crossing intercepted a Suspicious person carrying a nylon bag who tried to flee from the spot after noticing police party but was apprehended tactfully. He has been identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Malik son of Gh Rasool Malik resident of Chewdara Beerwah. During search, officers were able to recover 05 slices of charas like substance weighing about 87 grms from his possession. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigations have been initiated.

**6 vehicles seized for illegal extraction & transportation of minerals**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

HANDWARA: Cracking a whip on illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police have seized 06 vehicles in Handwara.

Police in Handwara seized 06 vehicles bearing registration and chassis numbers JK13E-2804, JK01AJ-0543, JK1AH-2552, JK09C-7853, AZUDR1046001S3 & 0013 involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in Handwara.

**Police reunites minor missing girl with family**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBA: Police on Friday reunited a minor missing girl with her family in the jurisdiction of Police Station Vijaypur.

As per details, On March 12, 2024, a written report was lodged at Police Station Vijaypur by the mother of minor missing girl, a resident of RahyaMorh, Vijaypur stating therein that her daughter has gone missing from home. All efforts were made out by the family members but the whereabouts of the missing girl could not be ascertained.

Acting swiftly on complaint, a case FIR No. 35/2024 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at Police Station Vijaypur and search started to recover the said girl.

With continuous strenuous efforts coupled with technical assistance, a police team of Police Station Vijaypur headed by SHO PS Vijaypur has recovered the said minor girl and handed over to her legal heirs after completing all legal formalities.

**Excavator among 11 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: An excavator and 10 other Vehicles involved in illegal mining were on Friday seized by District Mineral Officer (DMO) Rajinder Singh Rana from different locations of the district.

The surprise raids were conducted at Lakhampur, Taraf Tajawal, Keerian Gandial, Bhagtali and Nagri areas by the team of Geology and Mining with the assistance of police officials. A total of 10 vehicles and one JCB machine were seized and kept in

the custody of police.

During the seizure it was found that 7 dumpers, 2 tractor trolleys and a truck were transporting crushed minerals from stone crushers without e-challans and other documents required as per the rules of the geology and mining department.

Meanwhile, over Rs. 2 lakh penalty was imposed on JCB machine for excavating raw mineral for dumping at stone crusher from unauthorized location at Gandyal without any valid permission from the department.

The DMO informed that there are 19 mineral leases in the district for supplying material at prescribed rates and over 30 stone crushers for providing crushed mineral like sand, aggregate, dust etc. but despite this some violators turn towards illegal mining.

The action was initiated on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas.

**Notorious & wanted absconder nabbed after 10 years**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A notorious absconder who had been absconding from his arrest for the past 10 years has been traced out by the Jammu after making strenuous efforts.

In order to trace out said absconder team under the supervision of SP City North Jammu Shivam Sidharth and SDPO City North Jammu Davinder Singh Bandhral & under the leadership of Inspector Vikas Dogra SHO Bus Stand was constituted to arrest a notorious absconder namely Mohd. Iqbal, son Abdullah Bhat, resident of Gunduna District Doda who had been absconding from arrest in FIR No. 74/2014 under section 4/5 Sapphire act for the past 10 years and was wanted to be arrested u/s 512 CRPC.



**60 Vehicles Challenged for violating traffic rules**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KISHTWAR: In continuation to the operation 3rd Eye, kishtwar Police challaned 60 violators under Motor Vehicle Act for wrong parking, without helmet, overloading in Kishtwar town.

Under the directions of the SSP Kishtwar Abdul Quayoom-JKPS\*the team so constituted for the purpose of traffic Challan, the team with the help of technical aid CCTV surveillance mechanism shot photographs/conducted videography for violation of traffic rules, identifying the vehicles through number plate reading system and subsequently, after ascertaining residential addresses of owners of vehicle and accordingly the copies alongwith photograph of violation of traffic rules sent at their residential addresses.

The vehicle numbers of violators are JK12B8862, JK17A2529,JK02CW6969, JK171922,JK06C0178,JK174623,JK17A5971,JK17A9949...JK174028, JK175677,JK175677,JK179154,JK17A5165,JK02DE4550,JK179778,PB07T1331,JK175394,JK063200,JK170744,JK17A6718,JK179225,JK17A0450,JK17A4864,JK178886,JK175114,JK172727,JK179103,JK02DF4532,JK17A7186, JK17A1793,JK02BC8673,JK17A3113,JK178410,JK173055,JK17A2253,JK02AN8231,JK02CH7226,JK062715,JK06B9351,JK17A1523,JK02CK1397,JK17A2443,JK179995,JK176705,JK174687,JK17A0252,JK17A0304,JK174841,JK178906,JK063171,JK17A5137,JK176883,JK06B6300,JK02CP4722, JK17A6947,JK06A8909,JK02DH9922,JK177004,JK17A4722,JK175009, JK17A5762.

**Police files charge sheet against 12 in Rs 300-Cr drug haul case**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday filed a charge sheet against 12 suspects in a court here in a Rs 300-crore drug haul case, an official said.

The case pertains to the recovery of a huge quantity of drugs from Jammu and Kashmir and some neighbouring states last year.

The accused wanted to revive terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir using proceeds of illicit drug sale, they said.