

## Notorious drug peddler booked under PIT NDPS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Taking stringent action against notorious drug peddlers/smugglers involved in illicit narcotics trade, Samba Police on Saturday booked a notorious drug peddler under Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act for his continues involvement in spreading drug menace in the area and lodged him in district Jail Bhaderwah.

"The notorious drug peddler namely Ashwani Kumar alias Rinku, son of Surinder Kumar, resident of Vijaypur district Samba has been taken into custody under PITNDPS Act as per Order No. PITNDPS 07 of 2025 dated February 27, 2025," police official said.

"The accused was involved in illegal drug activities, posing a significant threat to the peaceful environment of the region by attempting to lure local youth into drug addiction," official said adding that different cases have already been registered against the aforesaid drug peddler for his role in promoting the drug trade by supplying narcotics to locals of Samba district.

The locals have highly appreciated the efforts of the Samba Police in curbing the criminal activities in the area.

## Kidnapped girl rescued, accused arrested

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KULGAM: Kulgam police rescued a kidnapped girl and arrested the kidnapper Mohd Anwar, son of Bashir Khatana, resident of Arnas area of Reasi district.

In a statement, police spokesperson said, Police Station Kund on February 17, 2025 received a written complaint from a person Namely Manzoor Ahmad Bakarwal, resident of Koka Basti Nageenpora Nard that his daughter (name withheld) was missing at Koka Basti Nageenpora Kund.

Acting promptly upon the complaint Case with FIR No. 03/2025 U/S 87,49 BNS was registered in Police Station Kund and investigation was set into motion.

On tip off a team headed by SHO Kund under the close supervision of ASP and SDPO Quazigund constituted to rescue the kidnapped girl and to nab the culprit, spokesperson said.

Utilizing all available means, with strenuous efforts specific information was generated by the investigating team which led in rescuing the kidnapped girl and arrested the accused involved in committing the crime. Further investigation regarding the incident is in process, he further said.

General public, especially the family members of the rescued girl applauded the strenuous put forth by Kulgam police in rescuing their girl, the statement added.

## Bovine smuggling bid foiled

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AKHNOOR: In a successful operation, authorities foiled a bovine smuggling attempt and rescued several animals at Muthi, Maria, Akhnoor.

The smuggling attempt was being carried out using an Alto car (registration number JK02CR-5319) and a Mahindra Tata mobile (registration number JK19A-6356), police official said. The operation was led by Chowki Officer Jourian, Sanjeev Singh, under the supervision of Dy. SP Akhnoor, Variender Gupta, official adding that their swift action prevented the illegal transportation of animals, earning appreciation from the local residents. Locals have urged senior officers to intensify checks on inter-district vehicles, particularly commercial ones, to curb illegal activities and ensure stricter enforcement of regulations.

## SSP Doda pins SI ranks to newly promotee officers



SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta along with promoted officers.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: A piping ceremony was held in the premises of Police Station Doda on Saturday in which the SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta decorated six recently promoted officers with Sub-Inspector rank.

DySP DAR Doda Adil

Rishu and SHO PS Doda Inspr Pervaiz Ahmed Khanday were also present on the occasion.

The officers who were decorated with SI rank included Bashir Ahmed, Mohd Rafiq, Isher Singh, Baldev Singh and Khadam Hussain.

## Rana emphasises on massive awareness on rainwater harvesting techniques, preserving water resources

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BALAKOTE (POONCH): Continuing with its efforts of connecting with the people at grassroots level, Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, concluded his Rajouri-Poonch tour with an extensive public outreach camp held at Balakote where he met several delegations who raised their concerns and issues.

The camp was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik besides SDM Mendhar and various district and sectoral officers from line departments and locals.

During the outreach camp, the Minister interacted with several deputations who highlighted pressing issues like establishment of Government Degree College and Girls High School for Balakote, upgradation of various educational institutions, enhancement of healthcare infrastructure,



Jal Shakti Minister Javed Ahmad Rana during visit to Poonch.

provision of fire and emergency vehicles for the area, improvement of road infrastructure, establishment of model residential full boarding school, improvement in Power infrastructure, welfare of tribal communities, timely completion of Khanetar Basooni WSS, upgradation of WSS Naloi and installation of water hand pumps in the areas and other developmental needs.

The Minister assured the delegations of government's

commitment towards resolving their concerns in a time bound manner.

Javed Rana was on a five day tour to Pir Panjal region during which he convened a series of public camps in Mankote, Mendhar to assess the developmental needs of the people so that the same are prioritised in the government policies.

Addressing the people at Balakote, Rana emphasised the government's proactive approach towards addressing

their development needs and prioritising their basic requirements to enhance overall quality of life.

The Minister also announced several development initiatives for the area which included a significant investment of 1 crore for construction of Tehsil Office Complex and doctors' residential quarters in Balakote. Additionally, there is a plan to build two guest houses at Bhimber Gali which is a proactive step towards boosting tourism in the area.

The Minister further stated, "Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, has given clear directions to listen and address public issues at their doorstep and our government is committed to fulfil all the promises made with the people".

Javed Rana said that outreach camp is part of the government's initiatives to ensure that citizen voices are heard and concerns

addressed. "Community engagement helps to improve the efficiency and transparency of our decision making. It enables the government to make more informed decisions and mapping out the needs of local communities on issues that matter to them," he maintained.

Emphasising the need to provide all-weather connectivity to unconnected habitations in Balakote block and other areas, Rana called to conduct surveys for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to identify eligible habitations and routes. He also directed the concerned to make adequate provisions for drinking water in high school Balakote.

Rana also set targets for the Jal Shakti Department and Power Development Department in the Block and asked the officers to work in tandem so that all the works are completed in time.

The Minister also called for urgent action on rainwater harvesting techniques and said there is a need to raise awareness among the people to protect and preserve this vital resource. "Water scarcity combined with climate change has a huge impact on the lives of people. Water table is receding at a fast pace and water resources are also drying up. We need to act fast and collectively for our future generations," he added.

He said that this proactive approach paves the way for sustainable resource management, ensuring that water scarcity issues are addressed and that agricultural productivity is maintained.

As part of the outreach initiative, the Minister also participated in a plantation and awareness drives organised by the J&K Forest Department under the theme "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam".

## Udhampur Police bids farewell to Outgoing officers



Farewell being given to DySP DAR Udhampur Bhattu Choudhary and SDPO Chenani Tahir Amin Sheikh.

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UDHAMPUR: The District Police Office (DPO) Udhampur on Saturday organized a farewell ceremony to honour the outgoing officers, DySP DAR Udhampur Bhattu Choudhary and SDPO Chenani Tahir Amin Sheikh.

SSP Udhampur, along with senior officers, bid an emotional farewell, acknowledging their dedicated service and invaluable contributions to maintaining law and order in the district. During the event, SSP Udhampur extended his best wishes to Bhattu Choudhary and Tahir Amin Sheikh for their future endeavours, appreciating their commitment and professionalism. He encouraged them to continue their exemplary service in their new assignments.

## Five days training programme on new criminal laws concluded at DPL Samba



Police officials after the training programme at DPL Samba.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba Police on Saturday concluded five days training programme on new criminal laws at District Police Lines (DPL) Samba for the officers/officials of Samba

Police/Traffic Police/CID which was commenced from February 24, 2025.

The objective of the training programme is to acquaint the police officers & officials with the three new criminal laws.

Master trainers of Samba Police have imparted training to 100 Police officers/officials from Samba Police/Traffic Police/CID.

Special lectures have also been delivered by the

Gazetted Police Officers and Sr. Prosecuting Officer during the course of training programme.

During the training period, lectures were delivered on new criminal laws namely "Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita" (BNS), "Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita" (BNSS), and "Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam" (BSA) which have replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act.

The training programme was coordinated by DySP DAR Samba (Nodal Officer) and conducted under the overall supervision of SSP Samba.

## Shakti Udghosh foundation flags off 800 km motorbike expedition to promote drug-free borders

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Shakti Udghosh Foundation has officially flagged off its much-anticipated Motorbike Expedition from Kathua to Poonch, covering 800km across Jammu & Kashmir.

Organised to redefine safe boundaries and promote a drug-free society, this four-day journey, running from 1st to 4th March 2025, unites passionate bikers committed to raising awareness about substance abuse and inspiring positive change. The flag-off ceremony



A biker being felicitated during the programme.

took place at Government Degree College, Kathua, at 9:30 AM, drawing enthusiastic participants and sup-

porters.

The event was a remarkable gathering, bringing together women from across India to take a stand against drug abuse in Jammu & Kashmir. Leading the charge was Preeti Chaudhary, the convener of the programme who, alongside her team of female bike riders, embodied the spirit of the initiative. Rakesh

Minhas DC Kathua emphasised that, "Shakti Udghosh Foundation is doing a fantastic job of empowering women with the focus on youth by eroding drug menace among them." He wished women riders to be safe in their journey.

"Biking is our passion, but beyond that, we aim to inspire young people not to let drugs destroy their lives. Instead, they should take up biking and embrace a healthier, more fulfilling path," said Preeti Chaudhary.

The rally saw the participation of 25 female and 10 male riders, all united in their mission to spread the message of a drug-free India.

The event was organised by Shakti Udghosh Foundation, an NGO that

has been working tirelessly for women's empowerment for the past four years. Female bikers from Chennai, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, and Rajasthan joined this inspiring expedition, demonstrating solidarity and strength beyond state borders.

With a vision of a drug-free India, the foundation continues to inspire and mobilise young people towards positive lifestyle choices.

The event was honoured by the presence of chief guest Rakesh Minhas DC Kathua. Special guests included Professor Anil Saumitra, Chairman of PRSI Jammu Chapter, Ravinder Choudhary secretary, and Divya Sharma co-ordinator who lent their support to the initiative.

## Tejinder Pal felicitated by YNC Activists in Samba



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SAMBA: Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President of Youth National Conference (YNC), was felicitated on Saturday by the YNC activists of District Samba for his recent nomination as the Provincial President YNC Jammu.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of party workers and supporters who expressed their con-

fidence in his leadership and vision for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Expressing gratitude for the warm reception and the support of YNC activists, Tejinder Pal Singh reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the party at the grassroots level.

He called upon the youth to actively participate in the political process and work collectively to address the challenges faced by the region.

Singh emphasized that the YNC would continue to fight for the rights of every section of society and ensure inclusive development across Jammu and Kashmir.

During his visit, Tejinder Pal Singh held an interactive session with members of the Gujjar community, who voiced their concerns regarding the inclusion of their land in the upcoming Cluster University project in

Samba. The community members highlighted the potential displacement and loss of livelihood they might face due to the project.

They urged the YNC leadership to intervene and safeguard their rights. Tejinder Pal Singh assured the community that their issues would be taken up with the party high command.

The YNC activists of Samba District expressed their confidence in Tejinder Pal Singh's leadership and pledged their full support in strengthening the party's presence in the region.

The visit concluded with slogans of unity and commitment to the party's vision of equitable development for all.

Those who were present included: Rajesh Pargotra Senior leader, Muzamil Malik, Sunil Sharma, Jasen Malik, Sakib YNC Leaders and others.

## Red Ribbon Club of GDC Akhnoor organises HIV/AIDS Awareness Program

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AKHNOOR: The Red Ribbon Club of GDC Akhnoor, under the leadership of Professor Gopal Singh, organized a series of activities to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS among students.

The event aimed to educate students on the causes, prevention, and impact of the disease while encouraging them to contribute to breaking the stigma surrounding it.

The program was chaired by Prof. Dr. Romilla Malla Bhat, Principal of the College, who emphasized the importance of awareness initiatives in promoting a healthier society.

A key highlight of the event was an informative lecture delivered by Professor Slony Gupta, Assistant Professor of

To further engage students, a poster-making competition was conducted, where participants creatively expressed their understanding of the issue.

The event also featured the formation of a human chain symbolizing unity and commitment to spreading awareness and supporting those affected by HIV/AIDS.

The program was graced by the presence of Professor Vijay Rukwal, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Sonu, Physical Training Director, who encouraged students with their inspiring words.

Professor Gopal Singh appreciated the active participation of students and faculty members, highlighting that such initiatives play a vital role in fostering an informed and responsible



Zoology, who discussed the biological aspects of HIV/AIDS, methods of transmission, and preventive measures.

The event concluded with a strong call to action, urging students to spread awareness and contribute to a stigma-free community.

## Range Police Headquarters Udhampur organises Thana Divas



Rayees Mohammad Bhat DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range addressing public.

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UDHAMPUR: "Thana Divas" has been organized by Range Police Headquarters Udhampur at PS Rehambal under the leadership of Rayees Mohammad Bhat DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range. He was accompanied by Amod Ashok Nagure SSP Udhampur, Addl. SP Udhampur & Dy.SP Hqrs Udhampur.

The event saw participation from various sections of society, including members of civil society, shopkeeper associations, and other respected individuals

from the area. During the program, attendees raised multiple concerns which were attentively heard by the police officers. The officers assured the public that their grievances would be addressed on a priority basis, while issues requiring intervention from the civil administration would be promptly forwarded for necessary action with feedback to the participants.

Addressing the gathering, The DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range, welcomed the attendees and emphasized the importance of community cooperation with the police

and administration in maintaining law and order. He urged the general public to assist police in identifying anti-national and anti-social elements, as well as drug peddlers operating in the area. Participants were also briefed about the growing threat of cyber-crime and various tactics being adopted by cyber-criminals.

This initiative highlights the commitment of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in strengthening community policing and ensuring the safety and security of the residents.

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