

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Proud that J&K...

key interventions made by the government to create a vibrant film ecosystem in J&K. "Today I am proud that Jammu Kashmir has found its place in film-making. Our efforts of peace and development in the past five years have made Jammu Kashmir more attractive destination for Hindi, Regional and Foreign film shooting," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He highlighted that the Technological advancement has helped the local budding film-makers, actors and professionals in different fields of Cinema to showcase our rich and varied cultural heritage.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the film-makers and artists of Jammu Kashmir to raise awareness about social issues and promote positive change through their creative endeavours.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Creativity is not only be a source of fulfilling your dream, but it is also a vehicle for social change. I have seen the deep impact of different creative genres on society but the impact of Cinema is unparalleled and they have helped in raising awareness on many social evils.

I want our youth to nurture this creativity to eliminate social evils like drug addiction from society and use the creative talents for good deeds that will change the lives of others. I want our youth to help the government in reaching out to the disadvantaged and ensure their life of dignity".

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released a brochure of 'Tawi Filmotsava'. He also commended the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) for its constant efforts to promote artistic and cultural heritage of Jammu Kashmir.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Nitish Rajora, Director Information; Harvinder Kour; Secretary JKAACL; Dharminder Kohli, President, J&K Cine Association; senior officials, renowned artists, film-makers, members of J&K Cine Association and prominent citizens from different walks of life were present.

HIGHLIGHTS...

actors, professionals in different fields of Cinema to showcase rich and varied cultural heritage

Cinema an effective medium of education; powerful agent of social change
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"Over 350 films...

than 350 films and web series were shot in J&K. When there is peace, it leads to overall development and such types of programmes as well," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Encounter underway in...

five in number. It is believed that they infiltrated from across the border last night and had taken shelter in the sprawling area, according to the officials.

A seven-year-old girl, Anchal Kumar, suffered injuries and was shifted to a local hospital. However, the exact cause of her injuries is not yet known, the officials said.

Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat is at the spot and supervising the anti-terrorist operation, they said.

"Based on intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists, a joint operation has been launched by police, and troops of Rising star corps on March 23 in general area Saniyal Hiranagar. Operations in progress," the Army's Rising Star Corps said in a post on X.

District Development Councillor Karan Kumar said heavy gunfire rocked the entire area after security forces launched the operation to track down the terrorists who were found hiding in the nursery.

In related developments, terror hideouts were busted in Doda and Poonch districts of the Jammu region.

A terrorist hideout was unearthed in a remote forest area in Doda district, leading to recovery of a pistol and some ammunition, officials said.

The hideout was unearthed during a joint search operation by the Special Operations Group (SOG) of local police and Army in Bhalra forest area of Bhaderwah on Saturday, the officials said.

A pistol, its three magazines and six rounds and 25 rounds of AK assault rifle were recovered from the hideout, they said, adding no one was arrested during the operation which was conducted on a specific intelligence input following reports of suspicious movement.

Meanwhile, the officials said a joint search operation by police, army and CRPF is also underway in Gurinal, Thathuri and Chatroo forest in adjoining Kishtwar district.

The operation was launched on Thursday after some villagers shared information about the presence of suspected terrorists in the higher reaches, they said.

However, the officials said no contact was established with the suspected persons so far.

Security forces also busted a major terrorist hideout in a remote forest area in Poonch district, leading to the recovery of a huge cache of arms and explosives, officials said.

The hideout was unearthed during a joint operation by Rashtriya Rifles and Special Operations Group of local police in Sarabara near Sangla top during the day-long operation, the officials said.

They said three AK assault rifles, 23 magazines, 922 rounds, seven grenades, four Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), one watch-type timer mechanism, 19 detonators, three meters of cortex, one four-inch cylinder, one combat dress, 10 centimeter safety fuze and 200 grams of heroin

The IEDs, grenades, detonators, timer device, cortex and safety fuze were later destroyed on the spot by the experts of the bomb disposal squad, the officials said.

CE Project Sampark ...

widening, tunnel construction, land acquisition and forest clearance were discussed, the spokesman said.

He said the chief engineer directed all stakeholders to ensure seamless coordination in addressing bottlenecks to expedite project execution.

Brigadier Madan also stressed the importance of maintaining the highest standards of construction quality and road safety measures for both workers and road users.

He also emphasized the need for accelerated construction without compromising quality standards, recognizing these projects as crucial for improving mobility and boosting economic opportunities in the region.

During the visit, the chief engineer had separate meetings with Poonch Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal and Rajouri Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma.

The two officials expressed the administration's commitment to strengthening infrastructure in Rajouri and Poonch, ensuring better road connectivity for residents and enhancing overall regional development, the spokesman said.

Project Sampark is a Border Roads Organisation (BRO) initiative focused on maintaining and constructing roads, particularly in the Jammu and Kashmir region.

Road crash on...

families. Praying for the swift recovery of the injured. Authorities are providing all possible assistance," Abdullah said in a post on the chief minister's X handle.

CS receives prestigious...

He spoke about various initiatives like bringing governance to doorsteps of people besides several other welfare measures for common masses.

He also enumerated the steps that resulted in enhancing the influx of tourists to J&K which rose to more than two crore. He also gave credit to the new connectivity measures like tunnels, highways, railways and enhanced air connectivity for this feat.

He reiterated the commitment of government of Jammu & Kashmir to furthering its agenda of growth, peace and prosperity, ensuring a brighter future for its citizens.

The Diamond States Summit 2025 witnessed participation of eminent policymakers, industry leaders, and experts, highlighting the achievements of states and UTs in governance, social welfare, and economic progress. Jammu & Kashmir's recognition at this prestigious platform reaffirms its commitment to transformative governance and development.

Tourism-related infra...

minister in-charge Tourism, said.

The Chief Minister gave the information in a written reply to an unstarred question by independent MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay in the Assembly on Saturday.

Kullay represents Shopian constituency and has sought information about the steps proposed to be taken for providing tourism related infrastructure along the Mughal road to attract more tourists there.

Abdullah said the tourism department has undertaken various initiatives to develop tourism-related infrastructure in the area.

The department has already developed various tourism-related infrastructure in Shopian at sanctioned cost of Rs 6.32 crore under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, he said, adding under the CAPEX budget, the department has completed 12 works cost-

ing Rs 2.51 crore and eight new works have been initiated at an estimated cost of Rs 84 lakh for FY 2024-25.

Besides, the department intends to develop tourism infrastructure at Dubjan and Peer-ki-Gali. However, construction is currently not permitted in the area, which falls under the jurisdiction of the department of forest, the chief minister said.

However, he said in order to develop infrastructure at Peer-ki-Gali, the department has taken up work "construction of cafeteria and public convenience on the way to Peer-ki-Gali at Hirpora" at a project cost of Rs 35 lakh under State Capex Budget 2024-25. The identification and transfer of land for construction of the said facility is under process.

The department also intends to construct eco-log huts, cafeterias, dormitories, viewing decks and other requisite infrastructure in these areas for which the department will take up the matter with the department of forest and will also apply for transfer of land on Parivesh portal, he added.

RSS resolves to...

the world, taking entire society together under the leadership of righteous people (Sajjan Shakti)," said the resolution.

The Sangh also paid tribute to Rani Abakka, the queen of Ullal on her 500th anniversary. The queen valiantly fought against the Portuguese aggression.

Meanwhile, amid the ongoing debate over the Karnataka government's decision to provide a four per cent reservation for Muslims in government contracts, RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale has asserted that the Constitution does not allow religion-based quota.

He also said such reservations go against the architect of our Constitution, B R Ambedkar.

Addressing reporters here on the concluding day of Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, Hosabale said, "Religion-based reservation is not accepted in the Constitution authored by Babasaheb Ambedkar. Anybody doing it is going against the wishes of the architect of our Constitution."

He also pointed out that previous attempts by erstwhile Undivided Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra to introduce religion-based reservations for Muslims were set aside by the High Courts and Supreme Court.

Hosabale emphasised that the courts have rejected provisions for such quota. Responding to a query about the controversy over 17th century Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's grave in Maharashtra, Hosabale remarked that Aurangzeb was made an icon and not his brother Dara Shikoh, who believed in social harmony.

People who went against the ethos of India were made icons, he said. Hosabale lauded figures like Rajput king Maharana Pratap for resisting Mughal emperor Akbar and said those who resisted invaders were also "freedom fighters".

The RSS leader claimed that people with an "invader mindset" pose a threat to India. "We should stand with those who are with the Indian ethos," he added.

Asked if the RSS believed that it should convey its views to the Centre on certain matters, Hosabale said there is no necessity as everything was running smoothly.

"Sangh does not tell the government on a day-to-day basis about things to be done but whenever people raise certain issues, RSS workers working in different fields in various organisations drawing inspiration from RSS convey it. We have a mechanism where such things are discussed," the RSS general secretary said.

Noting that the present situation did not require an evaluation of the Centre's performance, the RSS leader said people have already assessed the government's work.

To a question if the RSS considered the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya as its achievement, he said the shrine was not solely an achievement of the Sangh, but the Hindu society as a whole.

He also emphasised that the RSS has maintained that identifying as 'Hindu' is not a matter of shame. Instead, it has become a source of pride for many.

"Being a Hindu is not just a religious identity, but a nationalistic, spiritual and civilisational expression," Hosabale said.

He acknowledged the challenges in organising and awakening the Hindu society, which the RSS has achieved.

The RSS leader, however, admitted that the society requires many corrections.

According to Hosabale, while a vibrant Hindu society is emerging, much remains to be done. He also stressed the need for internal reflection and continued efforts for improvement.

"For example, issues of untouchability or the approach of a large section of men towards women folk, all these things are not up to the mark. All these things are yet to be achieved," Hosabale observed.

On the issue of eradication of casteism, he opined that Sangh Shakhnas are ideal platforms for addressing it and highlighted that many inter-caste marriages have taken place between Sangh cadets.

To a query on the appointment of a new BJP national president, the RSS general secretary said the Sangh does not interfere in the party's internal matters.

Commenting on the Sangh's idea of 'One Nation, One Culture', Hosabale said it draws inspiration from India's rich cultural heritage and ethos.

"A person who tried to destroy this country and its cultural identity will remain an outsider. Anyone in India who tries to present a distorted narrative should be challenged," he said.

He further said decolonisation of mind is a continuous struggle, that Sangh is committed to pursuing.

India imposes anti...

products -- Soft Ferrite Cores, certain thickness of vacuum insulated flask, aluminium foil, Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid, and Poly Vinyl Chloride Paste Resin -- were exported to India from China at below normal prices.

In separate notifications, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, Department of Revenue, said that the duty imposed "shall be levied for a period of five years" on imports of Soft Ferrite Cores, vacuum insulated flask, and Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid.

The anti-dumping duty of up to USD 873 per tonne was imposed provisionally on aluminium foil for six months.

The government has imposed the duty in the range of USD 276 per tonne to USD 986 per tonne on imports of the acid (a water treatment chemical) from China and Japan.

On imports of Soft Ferrite Cores (used in electric vehicles, chargers, and telecom devices), up to 35 per cent duty was imposed on CIF (cost, insurance freight) value.

Similarly on vacuum insulated flask, USD 1,732 per tonne anti-dumping duty was levied. The levy, which ranges from USD USD 89 per tonne to USD 707 per tonne, on Poly Vinyl Chloride Paste Resin was slapped on the imports from China, Korea RP, Malaysia, Norway, Taiwan and Thailand for five years.

These duties are imposed after recommendations for the same were made by the commerce ministry's investigation arm DGTR (director general of trade remedies).

Anti-dumping probes are conducted by countries to determine whether domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in cheap imports.

As a countermeasure, they impose these duties under the multilateral regime of Geneva-based World Trade Organization (WTO). The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.

India has earlier already imposed anti-dumping duty on several products to tackle cheap imports from various countries, including China.

India and China both are members of the WTO. China is the second largest trading partner of India. The country has time and again flagged serious concerns over the widening trade deficit with the neighbouring country, which stood at USD 85 billion in 2023-24.

Sunshine hosts inter-school Bocce Ball meet

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An Open Inter-School Bocce Ball Championship held at Sunshine High School R S Pura

under the banner of Reffa Boules India Federation. The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation of around 70 young boys and girls. The valedictory function was graced by Sharat Chander (DySP PCR Jammu) as Chief Guest. Principal of hosts Sun Shine School, RK Sharma was the guest of honour. Other dignitaries present were Sunny Nanda, general secretary Reffa Boules India Federation (RBIF), Renu Devi (Director RBIF) and Gurvansh Choudhary, international athlete. Speaking on the occasion, Sharat Chander encouraged the participants to continue their dedication to sports and bring laurels to the country. Winners were felicitated with trophies and certificates. The medal winners: Boys: Under-12 yr: Urvansh Kumar, gold; Samer Katru, silver and Vikrant Bazila, bronze. Under-14 yr: Harsh Kumar, gold; Anmol Mehra, silver and Aryan Mehra, bronze. Open Solo: Yuvraj, gold and Gagandeep Singh, silver. Girls: Under-12 yr: Kavya Kaith, gold; Harshita, silver and Khushi Sohal, bronze. Under-14 yr: Vaishali Kumari, gold; Cuenca Raj, silver) and Jaanvi Lakhotra, bronze. Open: Bhavan Sharma, gold; Indu Bala, silver and Mansi Bharti, bronze.



Jammu police strengthens community ties, holds police-public meeting

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a continued effort to strengthen police-public relations and address community concerns, a Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting

was held today at Niki Tawi, chaired by DySP Headquarters Jammu, along with SHO



Nowabad, IC PP Canal, and IC PP Talab Tillo. The meeting saw active participation from local residents, who engaged in discussions on various pressing issues.

During the session, police officials sensitized attendees about drug abuse, illegal construction and mining, theft cases, and the newly introduced criminal laws, emphasizing the role of community cooperation in tackling these challenges. The forum also provided an open platform for locals to voice their grievances, ensuring their concerns were heard and addressed.

Citizens were assured that all genuine concerns would be forwarded to the relevant authorities for necessary action, while issues related to police matters would be resolved on priority. The meeting reinforced Jammu Police's commitment to public welfare, fostering trust and proactive engagement with the community.

Two drug peddlers arrested with Ganja, liquor

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing with its Policy of Zero tolerance against drug peddling, Jammu Police achieved one more success against drug trafficking and substance abuse by apprehending two drug peddlers and seizing 520 grams of Ganja along with 12 quarters of JK Special Whisky from their possession. The operation was conducted in the jurisdiction of Police Station R.S. Pura as part of the ongoing anti-narcotics drive.

A police team from PS R.S. Pura, led by SHO PS R.S. Pura Sh. R S Parihar along with other officials, was conducting routine patrolling when they established a naka at Main Chowk Agra Chak. During checking, a suspicious vehicle, bearing registration number JK02W/8307, was intercepted. Upon frisking, the occupants of the car were found carrying narcotic substances and liquor.

The accused have been identified as Swaran Lal, son of Rattan Lal, and Rattan Lal alias Pidhu, son of Tunda Ram-both residents of Old Agra Chak, Tehsil R.S. Pura. Following their arrest, a case has been registered under FIR No. 53/2025 U/S 8/20/29/60 NDPS Act & 48(a) Excise Act at PS R.S. Pura, and further investigation is underway to trace the supply chain.

Jammu Police organises Cricket Tournament at Sports Stadium Marh

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the second day of the ongoing cricket tournament organized by



Jammu Police at the Sports Stadium Marh under the Civic Action Program, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation and two thrilling matches. The tournament aims to promote community engagement, encourage local talent, and foster a spirit of sportsmanship among the youth.

MLA Marh, Surinder Bhagat, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He lauded the efforts of Jammu Police for organizing such initiatives to strengthen ties with the community and motivate young sports enthusiasts.

In First Match, Singh Cricket Club faced Marh Cricket Club. Marh Cricket Club put up an impressive performance and emerged victorious.

In Second Match, Marh Rising Star competed against Barnai Cricket Club. In a nail-biting contest, Marh Rising Star clinched the win.

The tournament has garnered immense support and appreciation from the local community, with large crowds gathering to cheer for their favorite teams. The organizers have ensured smooth execution and fair play throughout the matches.

Jammu Police cracks down on drug trade in Bishnah area, seizes heroin from Juvenile peddler

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a breakthrough against drug trafficking, Police Station Bishnah apprehended one Juvenile drug peddler and recovered 10.75 grams of heroin from his possession. This successful operation underscores Jammu Police's unwavering commitment to curbing the drug menace.

A police team of P/S Bishnah after receiving an information from reliable source established naka at Lalyana Road Bishnah under the command of *SHO P/S Bishnah, Inspector Sh. Sushil Choudhary conducted a naka checking operation. During the drive, the team intercepted one Juvenile and his search, leading to the seizure of the contraband.

An FIR (No. 26/2025) under Sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Bishnah and investigation has started.

The Juvenile has been taken into custody and further investigations are underway to dismantle the drug supply network.

Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao

Girls' Cricket Tournament kicks off at GDC Doda

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In a significant step towards promoting women's empowerment through sports, a Girls' Cricket Tournament commenced on Sunday at the Government Degree College Doda Ground under the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" initiative.



The event was organized under the guidance of District Development commissioner Harvinder Singh to encourage young girls to actively participate in sports and showcase their talent on the field.

The tournament was inaugurated by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Sunil Bhutyal as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, the chief guest emphasized the importance of sports in building confidence, leadership, and teamwork among young girls.

Opening match of the tournament was played between Dhronacharya academy and GDC Doda.

A large number of students, and sports enthusiasts gathered to witness the spirited match. The event saw participation from various teams, reflecting the growing interest of girls in cricket. The tournament is expected to provide a platform to budding female cricketers to enhance their skills and gain recognition.

The event aligns with the broader goal of the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign, reinforcing the message of education and empowerment of girls through extracurricular activities. The tournament will culminate with the final match on March 26, 2025 at GDC grounds where the best-performing teams will be felicitated. Among others present were Chairman DCSA Bharat Bushan; Dr. Arjun Singh and Dr. Jaswant Singh Physical Director GDC Kastigarh and GDC Doda respectively. The event was officially conducted by the officials of DYSS Department Vinod Bandral, Anil Singh, Kamashveer Chandail Bandana kotwal and Saba Anjum.