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J&K now India's...

temperatures, water scarcity, slow growth of native species, and fish health risks. "To unlock its full potential, we must advance cold-water agriculture scientifically, genetically improve trout and carp breeds, prioritize climate-resilient systems, disease diagnostics, and aquatic health management. Innovation in indigenous feeds and robust seed-feed supply chains are vital for Fisheries Sector," he said.

Model Guidelines for the Development of Cold-Water Fisheries was released on the occasion. Best FFPOs, Progressive Fish farmers, and Fisheries Start ups were felicitated. Sanction letters were also handed over to beneficiaries under Kisan Credit Card and other schemes.

The conference brought together policymakers, experts, researchers and stakeholders from various states and UTs to explore collaborative pathways for sectoral advancement. The discussions centered on sustainably harnessing the potential of India's cold-water fisheries for long-term growth and prosperity.

Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister J&K; Prof. S P Singh Baghel, Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, J&K; Dr. Abhiksh Likh, Union Secretary, Department of Fisheries; Dr Ashish Chandra Verma, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production department, J&K; Sagar Mehra, Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries, GoI; Dr. J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science), ICAR; Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, senior officials, policymakers, experts, researchers and stakeholders were present.

DG Territorial Army...

and community outreach across the Union Territory.

Lt Gen Kalia appreciated the unit's commitment to environmental stewardship. He noted that the battalion's efforts have encouraged ecological responsibility among the children, youth and local communities.

The director general praised the battalion for its work in reviving awareness about India's heritage trees, many of which hold profound historical significance and were silent witnesses to the nation's freedom struggle.

He commended the initiative to educate the local populace about the ancient botanical treasures of medicinal plants and indigenous tree species, thereby reconnecting communities with the rich ecological wisdom embedded in India's traditional knowledge systems.

The DG particularly praised the innovative collaboration between the Chinar Eo Warriors and the State Forest Department in promoting the Miyawaki techniques of medicinal tree plantation, through which clusters of medicinal tree species are being distributed and planted across villages and forest areas.

Such forward-looking initiatives, he foresighted, not only accelerate ecological restoration but also open avenues for value-added forest produce and sustainable income generation for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, thereby harmonising environmental conservation with socio-economic development.

Omar calls for...

country, the Chief Minister cited the example of a youth entrepreneur from Hyderabad producing trout through advanced techniques in tropical climate. "We heard about a young entrepreneur in Hyderabad who has established a facility producing around 200 metric tonnes of trout. This shows that technology can overcome geographical limitations.

It also means that regions like ours must improve techniques and adopt modern scientific practices to stay ahead," he said.

The Chief Minister said the government has a responsibility to support fishermen and aquaculture entrepreneurs who depend on fisheries for their livelihoods. "Our responsibility is to strengthen those who have taken up fisheries as their livelihood. We must help them increase production, improve infrastructure in remote areas and ensure better post-production facilities," he said.

Calling for greater use of science and research, Omar Abdullah stressed that innovation would be crucial for the future growth of cold water fisheries. "Science and research must guide the development of this sector. We need to identify new techniques and innovations that can help increase cold water fisheries production in a sustainable manner," he said.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the importance of balancing production with environmental protection. "While increasing production, we must ensure sustainability. Our environment must not be damaged and our natural fish stocks must remain protected," he added.

He further pointed out that climate change poses new challenges for agriculture, horticulture and fisheries in the region. "Climate change is becoming increasingly visible. We recently witnessed unusual temperatures in Srinagar in February and early flowering of trees this year. Even the Tulip Garden is ready much earlier than usual. These changes will inevitably impact sectors like fisheries, and we must be prepared," he said.

Emphasizing the value of knowledge sharing, the Chief Minister said hosting the conference in Srinagar would help Jammu and Kashmir learn best practices of other states and share its own long experience in trout farming.

"It has been about 126 years since trout was first introduced in Kashmir around 1900. We have a rich experience in this sector and we must share it with others while also learning from the best practices of states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and those in the Northeast," he said.

Omar Abdullah expressed confidence that collaborative efforts between the Centre, states and stakeholders would further strengthen India's fisheries sector. "Fish production in the world has reached new heights. With the focused attention now being given to this sector and the creation of a dedicated ministry, I am confident that the day is not far when India will be among the leading countries in fish production globally. In that journey, cold water fisheries will hold a special place," he said.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister welcomed delegates from across the country and expressed hope that the conference would result in meaningful knowledge exchange and future collaboration.

"I once again welcome all participants to Srinagar and hope that everyone who has come here will benefit from the discussions and return with new ideas and learnings," he added.

The conference brought together policymakers, experts, researchers and stakeholders from Jammu & Kashmir; Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala to explore collaborative pathways for sectoral advancement.

Massive search ops...

there was no air-dropping of weapons or narcotics from across the border. Security forces recovered over 3.5 kgs of heroin worth over Rs 20 crore in international market after the consignments were dropped by drones in border villages in R S Pura sector near here in the past two days. Two suspected narcotic smugglers were detained for questioning in connection with latest recovery in R S Pura sector on Friday.

Centre revokes Sonam...

was kept in Jodhpur Central Jail, where he had already undergone nearly half of the detention period stipulated under the Act, according to a statement issued by the Centre announcing the decision to revoke his detention "with immediate effect".

"He was released from jail at about 1.30 pm today following an order from the central government," Ratanada Police Station SHO Dinesh Lakhawat said in Jodhpur, adding his wife, Geetanjali Angmo, was there to complete the formalities.

The decision, which the Centre said was to foster an environment of peace and mutual trust in Ladakh to facilitate constructive dialogue with all stakeholders, comes days after the Supreme Court adjourned to March 17 the hearing on a plea filed by the activist's wife challenging his detention.

In its official statement, the government on Saturday reiterated its commitment to foster an environment of peace, stability and mutual trust in Ladakh to facilitate constructive and meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders.

"In furtherance of this objective, and after due consideration, the Government has decided to revoke the detention of Sonam Wangchuk with immediate effect by exercising the powers available under the National Security Act," it said.

Reiterating its "commitment" to provide all necessary safeguards for Ladakh, the government expressed hope that the issues concerning the region will be resolved through constructive engagement and dialogue, including through the "mechanism of the High-Powered Committee", constituted to address the concerns of the people of Ladakh, and other appropriate platforms.

Two days ago, Wangchuk had written on X that a just future for Ladakh would require sincere dialogue.

"I have not stepped away from activism. My commitment to Ladakh remains unchanged... But activism must serve a larger purpose: a just, lasting future for Ladakh. It will require clarity, unity, and sincere dialogue.

"Our struggle has always been for Ladakh's protection, dignity, and long-term well-being and shall continue to be!!" he had said.

Democracy invests in...

experience, this ultimately determines the trajectory of life".

The CJJ said there are graduates of the most-celebrated institutions who have faltered under pressure, not because they lacked knowledge but because they were never tested by anything other than a school or college examination.

"And then there are professionals from institutions nobody has heard of, who rise with composure and seriousness, earning the confidence of every room they enter," he said.

So what is the distinguishing factor then, he asked the students.

"In my view, it has nothing to do with the talent one may display in the classroom and almost everything to do with upbringing.

"Those who grew up observing their families manage scarcity with dignity, who understood early on that the world does not rearrange itself for your convenience and who entered professional life already knowing that hard work is not just a phase but a permanent state, they carried something that no curriculum can teach. They carried a seriousness that was not performative but genuine," Justice Kant said.

Many of the students present on the occasion carry exactly this formation, he said.

"You grew up in homes where a university degree was not a given but a goal that the entire family organised itself around. The investment by your families was not made so that you could merely earn a comfortable living.

"It was made because they believed, even if they could not always articulate it, that an educated daughter or son would use what they learned to build something beyond themselves," the CJJ said.

This belief is the bridge between "what your upbringing gave you and what the world is now entitled to expect from you", he told the students.

The CJJ said it is often discussed what education provides to an individual.

SIT formed to...

chief minister, had a miraculous escape when a gunman opened fire on him after coming from behind while he was leaving a marriage function at the Royal Park banquet hall in the Greater Kailash area.

The 63-year-old accused Kamal Singh, a resident of Jammu, was overpowered and arrested on the spot. A revolver used in the crime was also recovered from his possession.

"At about 10 pm (on March 11), while the protectee (Abdullah) was leaving the (marriage) venue, an individual flashed a revolver and attempted to open fire from close range. However, owing to the prompt action of the police personnel deployed with the protectee, the attempt was foiled. In this regard, a case under Section 109 BNS and Section 3/25 of the Arms Act has been registered at Police Station Gangyal, Jammu," the IGP said in his order issued on March 12.

The police shared a copy of the order on Saturday evening.

Govt working to...

clothes) exhibition," he said.

Modi said the entire country condemned "this vulgar" protest, but the "royal family of the Congress" is "patting themselves on the back".

"Congress is left with nothing but to tear its own clothes," he added.

Alleging that the Congress engages in activities against the nation's interest, the PM said it can never ensure the welfare of the people of any state.

"Congress is losing one election after another, and in the near future, the party will hit a century of its losses. The despair of its losses has led it to open a front against the nation, and its leaders are busy defaming the country," he said.

Modi alleged that the Congress kept the Northeast away from both "dil (heart) and Delhi", ensuring that development did not reach the region's people, leaving them mired in violence and backwardness.

"Just as the Congress left the Northeast on its own, in a similar way, it played a major role in weakening the Barak Valley. When India became Independent, Congress allowed a border to be drawn that cut off Barak Valley's access to the sea," he alleged.

"Barak Valley, once known as an industrial centre, was stripped of its very strength. For decades after Independence, Congress governments remained in power, yet the region saw little development. Today, the BJP government is working to change that," he added.

Modi said connectivity is being developed in the Barak Valley to link it to other parts of the Northeast and West Bengal.

"It will be developed as a big logistics and trade hub of the region," he said, noting that Barak Valley is also at the centre of the government's Act East Policy and will be a bridge connecting India with Southeast Asia.

The PM alleged that Congress misguided Assam's youth into paths of violence and terrorism, while the BJP has ensured the state becomes a place of unlimited opportunities where they can reach for the sky.

"Where Congress stops thinking, we start working," he said, noting that the BJP's mantra is to give priority to those left behind in development.

"Assam's youth have immense opportunities in the semiconductor and technology sectors. The current era of peace and progress has been achieved through immense sacrifices, which must be protected from regressive forces," he said.

Modi said education, skill development, and healthcare have become the primary pillars of the government's development thrust.

Assam is rapidly emerging as a health hub, with AIIMS and cancer hospitals now forming a strong network, he said.

The PM said that during the Congress rule, the border villages were considered the "last villages", but his government views them as the nation's "first villages".

"The second phase of the Vibrant Village Program has begun from the Cachar district and is already bringing visible improvements to border areas. The historical neglect of these areas is now being replaced by proactive development and strategic focus," he said.

Six IAS Probationers...

and Kashmir, while the remaining officers have been allotted postings in the Union Territory as part of their cadre training. The posting of the young officers is expected to strengthen the administrative setup in the Union Territory as they begin their probationary assignments under the AGMUT cadre.

PK expels ex-chairman...

foreign links, including a reported interaction with US-based Pakistani ISI agent Ghulam Nabi Fai, a circular said on Saturday.

Chrungoo has been replaced by Tito Ganju, the circular issued by Panun Kashmir said.

Chrungoo was not immediately available for comment.

The circular was issued by Panun Kashmir convenor Agnishekhar, following consultations with senior leaders and recommendations from general secretary Kuldeep Raina, organising secretary Behari Lal Kaul, publicity and media secretary, vice chairman and several senior activists.

The leadership said the decision was taken to safeguard the "ideological clarity, organisational discipline and historic mission" of the movement representing the aspirations and struggle of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community.

According to the circular, serious concerns had been raised regarding the functioning of the organisation in the years following a controversial write-up associated with Fai, a proclaimed and convicted ISI agent.

"The representation cited allegations of anti-organisational conduct, deviation from ideological principles, character assassination of senior activists through proxies, attempts to dissolve the organisation without mandate, obstruction to organisational expansion, defuncting of several units and attempts to create parallel units," it said.

The circular also referred to statements attributed to Chrungeo involving criticism of the Ram temple and remarks perceived by activists as hostile towards the nation, which caused deep concern within the organisation.

Questions were also raised regarding his certain foreign engagements and interactions with individuals alleged to be linked with hostile agencies, including Fai.

The organisation sought clarifications from Chrungeo regarding the purpose and sponsorship of his foreign visits and whether due permissions had been obtained from the competent authorities, the circular said.

In keeping with the principles of natural justice, senior office bearers met Chrungeo on March 14 last year and apprised him of their concerns while giving him an opportunity to respond. However, he declined to provide any clarification and subsequently refused further engagement, it said.

A formal representation seeking clarification was also sent to him later, but it remained unanswered, it added.

"In view of the seriousness of the allegations and the continued absence of clarification, it was resolved that Ajay Chrungeo stands expelled from the organisation with immediate effect," the circular said.

Tito Ganju has been nominated as chairman and will oversee the restructuring of the global organisational structure in accordance with the mechanism devised by the convenor and the team nominated by him will hold deliberations on drafting a revised constitutional framework, it said.

Panun Kashmir has also decided to constitute a commission of enquiry to examine Chrungeo's alleged foreign engagements, sponsorship of overseas visits and interactions with individuals alleged to be linked with hostile agencies, it said.

SSP Doda organizes Iftar party

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In a gesture of goodwill and communal harmony, Senior Superintendent of



Police (SSP) Doda Sandeep Mehta (JKPS) organized an Iftar party at District Police Lines (DPL) Doda during the holy month of Ramzan.

The event was attended by members of the local community, prominent citizens, representatives from various social and religious organizations, senior police officers, retired police personnel and the media fraternity.

The Iftar gathering aimed to foster better relations between the police and the public, promoting understanding, cooperation, and communal harmony during the holy month of Ramzan. It also provided an opportunity for interaction in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, further strengthening the bond between law enforcement and the community. Speaking on the occasion, SSP Doda extended his warm greetings to the people on the holy month of Ramzan and emphasized the importance of peace, unity, and mutual respect in society. He appreciated the spirit of togetherness and highlighted that such initiatives help foster trust and cooperation between the police and the community. During the interaction, discussions were also held on community concerns and initiatives to enhance safety and security during the month of Ramzan. SSP Doda reiterated the commitment of Doda Police to serve the community with dedication and compassion.

Jammu South Police cracks consecutive theft cases; accused arrested, stolen gold worth Rs. 26.75 Lakh recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu Police, South Zone, successfully solved two theft cases reported on consecutive days at PS Bagh-e-Bahu. The accused were arrested, and stolen gold and silver ornaments worth Rs. 26,75,000 were recovered. The operation was conducted under the overall supervision of SSP Jammu, with close guidance from SP City South, SDPO City East, and the SHO of PS Bagh-e-Bahu, reflecting effective coordination, vigilance, and strategic policing.

Following this swift action, two theft incidents took place on 14th and 15th February 2026 within the jurisdiction of Police Station Bagh-e-Bahu, resulting in the registration of two separate cases, FIR No. 13/2026 and FIR No. 14/2026 under Sections 331(3)/305 BNS. During the investigation, the police conducted thorough crime scene inspections, sought assistance from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), and analyzed CCTV footage from cameras installed in the vicinity. By carefully tracing the movements of the suspect captured on the footage and carrying out extensive local enquiries, the police were able to identify and apprehend Mohd. Shabir S/o Gul Mohd R/o Kilyal, Billawar, residing in the Qasim Nagar area.

During sustained interrogation, the accused confessed to committing both thefts on consecutive days. Based on his disclosure, the police recovered the stolen gold and silver ornaments from a location where they had been concealed. The recovered items were subsequently verified and identified by the complainants of both cases and seized according to law.

In case FIR No. 13/2026, gold ornaments weighing approximately 6.4 tolas, valued at Rs. 11,75,000, were recovered, while in case FIR No. 14/2026, gold ornaments weighing approximately 9.5 tolas, valued at Rs. 15,00,000, were retrieved. Out of total stolen property worth Rs. 31,00,000, Jammu Police, South Zone successfully recovered Rs. 26,75,000, highlighting the swift, coordinated, and highly effective action of South Zone police. Further investigation in the matter is ongoing.

Big action against hoarding & black-marketing; 75 LPG cylinders recovered, 3 arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In a major action against hoarding and black-marketing of LPG cylinders, Doda Police conducted a successful operation in Bhadarwah, resulting in the recovery of 75 LPG cylinders and the arrest of three accused persons.

On 14.03.2026, on the directions of SSP Doda Sh. Sandeep Mehta (JKPS), a police team from Police Station Bhadarwah received reliable information that some persons were illegally selling LPG cylinders to the public in the Bhadarwah area. Acting promptly on the information, the police team rushed to the spot and conducted a raid. During the operation, police apprehended three persons namely Abdul Hamid S/o Mohd Sultan R/o Masjid Mohalla Bhadarwah, Ghulam Rasool S/o Abdul Aziz Wani R/o Mashra Dhar Tehsil Marwah, Kishtwar (A/P Pasari Bhadarwah) and Mohd Sakhi S/o Gh. Mohd R/o Kulhand Doda (A/P Chakka Bhadarwah).

During checking, 08 filled LPG cylinders and 15 empty cylinders were recovered from the possession of Abdul Hamid, while 28 filled LPG cylinders and 24 empty cylinders were recovered from the possession of Ghulam Rasool. In total, 75 LPG cylinders were recovered from their joint possession.

In this regard, Case FIR No. 29/2026 under Section 3/7 of the Essential Commodities Act has been registered at PS Bhadarwah, and investigation has been taken up.

Narco smuggler nabbed with 72.29 grams heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Continuing its efforts against drug menace, J&K Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma IPS recovered approx. 72.29 grams of Heroin (Chitta) like narcotics in Chak Shama area of PP Marheen (PS Rajbagh), 01 more drug peddler arrested.

On 13-03-2026, In continuation of the backward link of FIR No. 61/2026 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act of P/S Rajbagh dated 06/03/2026 in which one drug peddler namely Bagh Hussain S/o Lal Din R/o Mukandpur Tehsil Marheen, District Kathua was arrested and recovered 15.20 grams Heroin (chitta) like narcotics from his possession, acting on reliable information regarding movement of narcotics, a naka was laid by the police team of PP Marheen at Chack Shama.

During naka checking, one suspect namely Sultan Ahmed S/O Mohd. Ali, R/O Chack Haria was intercepted and subjected to search in accordance with the legal provisions of the NDPS Act. During the search, approx. 72.29 grams of heroin-like narcotic substance was recovered from his possession. The accused was immediately apprehended on the spot and the recovered contraband was seized and sealed as per procedure under the NDPS Act. The accused has been taken into custody and further investigation is underway to establish forward and backward linkages of the narcotics supply chain. The whole recovery was made by the Police team led by IC PP Marheen PSI Gulshan Partap Singh under the close supervision of SP Ops. Kathua Mukund Tibrewal IPS, SDPO Border Dheeraj Katoch & SHO PS Rajbagh Insp. Sushil Sharma.

Bootlegger arrested with Illicit Liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Police team of Police Post Ghordi led by its ICPP, while conducting routine naka checking at Ghordi Tawi, intercepted one Auto Load Carrier bearing registration No. JK14L-3785. The driver disclosed his identity as Ajay Kumar S/O Santokh Ram R/O Ghordi, Tehsil Ramnagar, District Udhampur.

During checking of the vehicle, 100 quarters (180 ml each) of JK Special Whisky were recovered from his possession without any valid permission.

Accordingly, the accused was arrested on the spot and the illicit liquor was seized. In this regard, FIR No. 31/2026 U/S 48(a) Excise Act has been registered at Police Station Ramnagar.

Army JCO martyred during anti-terrorist operation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: A junior commissioned officer (JCO) died after he slipped and fell on ground during an anti-terrorist operation in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, the Army's White Knight Corps said.

"While operating in the challenging and rugged terrain during prolonged operations in the general area of Poonch, as part of Operation Sheri Kalan, today at about 2.30 pm, Subedar Sandeep Kumar Dhaka slipped and fell on ground and subsequently became unresponsive. He was immediately evacuated to Military Hospital at Potha. Despite determined medical efforts to revive him, the gallant JCO lost his life in the line of duty," the Army said in a post on X.

The Army paid solemn tribute to the unwavering courage, steadfast devotion and selfless service of the departed soldier.

"In this moment of profound grief, we stand firmly with the bereaved family and honour the memory of a warrior who served the nation till his last breath," the White Knight Corps said.