

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Shri Amarnath Yatra...

there and offer her prayers. She is part of a six-member family group and they have chosen the Baltal route to complete their first yatra.

Last year, over 5.12 lakh pilgrims visited the shrine which was the highest in the past 12 years.

## Need to increase...

to its local economy. I pray that the aspirations of the people of this state are fulfilled and Himachal keeps strengthening the nation's growth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the need to increase the Cultural exchanges between the States and Union Territories. He said the cross-cultural engagement programmes can strengthen India by fostering mutual understanding, breaking down barriers, and building social cohesion.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that when people from different states and regions share traditions, food and art, they reduce the division and bridge the gaps.

"Cultural exchanges between the States and UTs under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat can also spur economic benefits. The local festivals will attract tourists and cross-state collaborations will help in curating mega festivals and also boost community pride and local economies," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to General Zorawar Singh, the great warrior and military strategist. He also recalled the significant contributions of army brave-hearts and prominent luminaries from Himachal Pradesh.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released an Activity Calendar of Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

## NIA files chargesheet...

and wage a war against India, the NIA said. He also provided them with arms, ammunition and hand grenades, etc to carry out the violent agenda of the terrorist organisations seeking to spread terror among the people, it said.

The case was registered by the NIA on the basis of a police FIR of October 2024. The FIR was based on the arrest of Abdul Aziz and seizure of two grenades from his bag by a police party at Surankote, Poonch, according to the statement.

"His interrogation had led to the arrest of Munawar Hussain, from whom one pistol with one magazine and nine rounds was seized," it added.

Both the accused were in contact with handler Nazir, subsequent investigations revealed, exposing a conspiracy from across the border to destabilise Jammu and Kashmir through acts of violence and terror aimed at disrupting the region's communal harmony and peace, the NIA said.

## Special Vande Bharat's...

the rest of the country, they said. A multi-tier security setup has been put in place along the track and at vital locations in the Katra-Sangaldan section, as well as along the entire track to Kashmir, they said.

"We have made full preparations and now this USBRL section is ready for the inauguration and flag-off ceremony. This entire area is very important from the religious, tourism and connectivity points of view of Kashmir," a senior railway official said.

The official further said two Vande Bharat Express trains - one from Srinagar to Katra and another from Katra to Srinagar - will run on the inauguration day.

The Railways has conducted eight trials over the past three months on various segments of the Katra-Kashmir track, including major milestones such as India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, the Anji Khad Bridge and the iconic arch bridge over the Chenab at Kauri - the world's highest railway bridge.

The Railway officials said stretching 1,315 metres across the Chenab River near the Salal Dam, the bridge features a main arch span of 467 metres and can withstand wind speeds of up to 266 kmph.

The bridge surpasses the Eiffel Tower in height and is nearly five times taller than the Qutub Minar from the riverbed to the rail level.

The construction of this engineering marvel involved over 28,000 metric tonnes of steel. It introduced a first-of-its-kind cable crane system which was used to ferry materials across a 915-metre-wide gorge with two massive cable cars and pylons towering over 100 metres high, they said.

The bridge is part of the USBRL project and connects "not just terrain but aspirations - linking the Kashmir Valley to the rest of India with an all-weather, reliable rail route". The ministry claimed that it is the "world's highest railway bridge" at 359 metres above the riverbed.

Out of the total 272-km USBRL project, 209 km was commissioned in phases, with the first phase of the 118-km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009, followed by 18 km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013, 25 km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014 and the 48.1-km-long Banihal-Sangaldan stretch in February last year.

The work on the 46-km Sangaldan-Reasi section was also completed in June last year, leaving a 17-km stretch between Reasi and Katra, which was finally completed in December 2024.

## J&K Govt holds...

department officers to visit these districts to take cognisance of the issues and resolve them on the spot, in consultation with the local administration and the security forces.

Kumar, the agriculture department principal secretary, said his department was ready to provide the necessary handholding to farmers for cultivating these land patches.

He advised the deputy commissioners to do the prior groundwork so that the obstacles could be ironed out on the day of inspection.

The BSP's Anand flagged some demands of locals for successful cultivation of the land patches, besides assuring full cooperation on part of the forces.

## Govt imposes complete...

health and medical education portfolio, was speaking at a meeting to review the existing traffic regulations for enhanced safety and security of students.

She expressed displeasure over rising accidents and urged the transport department and police to launch drives against speeding, drink-driving as well as licence violations, with a special focus on students.

Two students of Government Degree College, Sogam, were killed and 21 injured when their college bus, heading for a picnic spot, turned turtle in Kupwara district on April 12.

It emphasised the need for stricter enforcement of traffic laws and enhanced coordination among schools, the police and the transport department for effective implementation of road safety regulations.

"It is our collective responsibility to create a safe and secure environment for students," she said.

She asked officers to keep a check on stunt-biking and rash driving among youngsters and juveniles and make their parents fully responsible for such incidents.

The minister also called on the transport department and the police for strict implementation of the 'no helmet, no fuel' rule.

It assessed several aspects of traffic regulations such as validity of driving licences, fitness certificates and documents of college and school buses, and installation of CCTV cameras and fire safety tools in them.

She passed strict directions for installation of CCTV cameras in all buses, including private ones, transporting schoolchildren.

While reviewing other safety regulations, the minister emphasised on routine checking of all college and school buses in terms of fitness and other aspects.

She directed the additional chief secretary of education to conduct an in-depth departmental inquiry regarding the recent accident.

She also asked the director of colleges to conduct fresh driving tests of all college bus drivers.

It assessed the standard operating procedures and protocols for conduct of picnics by academic institutions and issued strict orders to enforce a complete ban on them on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

She directed the officers that higher secondary schools and high schools in a district should seek prior permission from the chief education officer concerned for making a proper list, according to applications received, and accordingly grant permissions.

Middle schools and below should seek permission from respective zonal education officers who will inform the chief education officer so that the schools can be allowed to organise picnics in a hassle-free manner, she said.

The minister also directed the officers that the schools intending to organise picnics located outside their districts would need permission from the director of school education concerned who would allow them after checking the influx of visitors at these locations.

She asked the director of colleges to establish a mechanism for granting per-

mission to colleges regarding picnics.

## National Herald case...

the ED had started its investigation in the present matter, from another court to Judge Gogne's court.

The predicate offence is required to be tried by the same court which takes cognisance of the offence under Section 3 PMLA, the judge said, and Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi were members of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha respectively.

"Essentially, the two offences viz the predicate offence and the PMLA offence are required to be tried by the same court," the judge said.

Since the allegations in the present complaint were arising from the predicate offence, the file in the predicate offence were required to be called for perusal, the court added.

"However, the power of assignment or transfer of a matter is not vested with this court and is rather the prerogative of the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Rouse Avenue Courts Complex, New Delhi," the court pointed out.

The ED investigation began in 2021 after a metropolitan magistrate in Patiala House courts in Delhi took cognisance of a private complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on June 26, 2014.

The complaint, the ED said, highlighted a "criminal conspiracy" by several prominent political figures, including the first family of the Congress party led by Sonia, her MP son Rahul, late Congress leaders Motilal Vora and Oscar Fernandes aside from Dubey, Pitroda and a private company Young Indian for their alleged involvement in money laundering in relation to the fraudulent takeover of properties valued over Rs 2,000 crore belonging to the Associated Journals Limited (AJL).

"The legal proceedings against the accused have faced challenges but have been upheld by both the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court of India, allowing the investigation to proceed," the ED said.

AJL is the publisher of the National Herald news platform (newspaper and web portal), owned by Young Indian Private Limited.

Congress leaders Sonia and Rahul are majority shareholders of Young Indian with 38 per cent shares held by each one of them. They were questioned for hours by the ED in this case a few years ago.

The ED claimed its investigation has "conclusively" found that Young Indian, a private company "beneficially owned" by Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, "acquired" AJL properties worth Rs 2,000 crore for a mere Rs 50 lakh, significantly undervaluing its worth.

"Young Indian and AJL properties were used for generation of further proceeds of crime in the form of bogus donations to the tune of Rs 18 crore, bogus advance rent to the tune of Rs 38 crore and bogus advertisements of Rs 29 crore," the ED has alleged.

## Long incarceration no...

long period of incarceration would not, in itself, be ground enough to enlarge an accused on bail," said the bench's order on April 9.

Hurriyat Conference leader Khan was arrested on July 24, 2017 and is currently in judicial custody.

In the case registered in 2017 under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the NIA claimed secessionists entered into a criminal conspiracy to instigate the general public to resort to violence and create a surcharged atmosphere for the propagation of their agenda in the valley.

The court, in its decision, observed prima facie, the accused persons, including Khan, conspired for secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the union of India through terrorist activities, which threatened the unity, integrity and security of the nation, and granting him bail would be detrimental to the security and safety of the public as well as the trial.

The court took note of the documentary evidence, statements of the witnesses and other material found by the prosecution to opine there were reasonable grounds to believe the accusations against Khan to be true, therefore, attracting the limitation on grant of bail under UAPA.

"The evidence prima facie show that the appellant (Khan) was a member of the Hurriyat and the chairman of Jammu and Kashmir National Front and a part of the conspiracy.. It can prima facie be gathered that the appellant was leading the pro-ISIS rally and had attended the Hurriyat meetings wherein directions were given to organise rallies and anti-India demonstrations, to make anti-national speeches and slogans," the court said.

The order observed protected witnesses had also brought out the nexus between the Hurriyat and the appellant and the Pakistan establishment aside from the funding received from Pakistan for organising secessionist activities.

"The main purpose of the appellant was to engage himself to create unrest in Jammu and Kashmir," it added.

The bench noted there was no delay in proceeding with the trial on the prosecution's end and the same had now been fast tracked.

"The prosecution is also conscious of the fundamental right of the appellant to liberty and they have also made efforts to expedite the trial by dropping 92 witnesses. A trial hurried is also detrimental to the accused persons. Nonetheless, the present is not a case where the appellant is in custody where either the charges have not been framed or that the witnesses are not being examined at regular intervals," the court said.

## Srinagar witnesses hottest...

degrees Celsius recorded the third highest maximum temperature ever in the month of April.

The meteorological department said the weather in the valley is likely to stay generally dry till April 17.

From April 18-20, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain/snow in the higher reaches at most places with possibility of moderate to heavy rain at isolated to scattered places, it added.

## Soldier electrocuted after climbing atop train

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: A 24-year-old soldier was electrocuted when he came in contact with a live wire after climbing on top of a passenger train in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said on Tuesday.

Ramechandra Choudhary, a native of Rajasthan's Jodhpur, met with the accident near Bari Brahmana station late Monday night, the officials said.

They said the soldier was posted in the Territorial Army battalion in Srinagar and was moving to his new posting in Sikandrabad.

It was not immediately known what prompted him to climb on the roof of the train, the officials said, adding that the body was shifted to Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu for post-mortem.



Er. Abdul Ghani Kohli, former Minister and senior BJP Leader calling on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Tuesday.

## Five injured in Rajouri road accident

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: At least five persons were injured in a road accident in Rajouri district of Jammu division on Tuesday.



An official said that three people got injured in a road accident that took place on Tuesday morning after a passenger bus plunged from Jammu Rajouri Poonch National Highway at Katarmal near Gambhir Brahmana in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the injured were shifted to GMC Associated Hospital Rajouri where they are under treatment. Injured were identified as Sunika Kumar resident of Gambhir Brahmana, Mohd Younis son of Mohd Ismail resident of Katarmal, Shazia Kossar daughter of Mohd Bashir resident of Katarmal, Irfan Ahmad and Mohammad Irfan. Meanwhile police have taken cognisance and started an investigation.

## Community service punishment awarded to 3 persons for creating public nuisance

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SUNDERBANI: Three persons namely Mohan Lal, son of Sansar Chand, resident of Thandapani Tehsil Sunderbani District Rajouri; Romesh Lal son of Suram Chand resident of Dhar Tehsil Beripattan District Rajouri, and Jawahar Matto son of Ramaen Matto resident of Hassanpur District Goalganj Bihar; at present Sunderbani has been sentenced to Community Service under the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) by the order of JMJC Sunderbani. The aforesaid persons were booked U/S 355 BNS and produced in the court of JMJC Sunderbani. They were accused of creating public nuisance under the influence of liquor.

## Sunderbani Police executes Proclamation Order

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SUNDERBANI: Police on Tuesday executed Proclamation order issued U/s 82 Cr.Pc by the Court of Munsiff (JMJC) against accused Sandeep Tandon son of Darshan Tandon resident of village Changi Kangral Tehsil Beripattan District Rajouri. The aforesaid accused has been absconding in case FIR No. 36/3022 u/s 451/323/324 IPC police station Sunderbani.

The challan of said case has been produced before the Hon'ble court of Munsiff (JMJC) Sunderbani u/s 299 Cr.Pc and general warrant of arrest has also been issued against him by the Hon'ble court. The Proclamation order was served with the beats of drum and loudspeakers. The Proclamation order was pasted in the chowk leading to his house and at his house.

## Female narco smuggler nabbed with heroin

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a continued effort to eliminate drug trafficking under its ongoing anti-narcotics drive, the Domana Police have achieved a significant breakthrough by arresting a female drug peddler and recovering a substantial quantity of heroin like substance from her possession.



A Patrolling team from Police Station Domana apprehended one woman, identified as Saleema Bibi, daughter of Mangta Ali, resident of Balol Khad, Bari Brahmana, Samba. A search conducted at the time of her arrest led to the recovery of 12.56 grams of heroin (Chitta) like substance. Following the recovery, an FIR No. 97/2025 under sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Domana. Further investigation is currently underway.

## Illegal transportation of Khair logs foiled

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a significant action against illegal timber smuggling, the Domana Police intercepted a vehicle carrying a large quantity of Khair logs without valid documentation.

During routine naka checking at Domana, police personnel stopped an INTRA Pick-up vehicle bearing registration number JK02DE 6792. Upon inspection, the vehicle was found to be loaded with 55 Khair logs, weighing approximately 20 quintals. During preliminary questioning, the driver failed to produce any permission or valid documents for transporting the forest produce. Acting swiftly, the police seized the vehicle and brought it to Police Station Domana for further investigation.

The Forest Department was immediately informed, following which Forester from Paloura Range, Jammu, along with his team, arrived at the police station. The seized vehicle, driver, and Khair logs were formally handed over to forest officials for necessary legal action.

## 11 vehicles including 5 dumpers seized for illegal mining

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: In major drive against illegal mining, Samba Police has seized eleven vehicles including five dumpers across the district which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material.

Police teams headed by SHO Police Station Samba, SHO Police Station Ghagwal, SHO Police Station Vijaypur; Incharges of Police Posts Rakh Amb Talli and Supwal of PS Samba while performing patrolling duty in their jurisdictional areas, have seized eleven vehicles including five dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK21J-0059, JK21J-3837, JK02CU-8647, JK21E-9867 & JK21D-0133, a tractor trolley bearing registration No. JK21D-9563 and five tractor trolleys without registration Nos. which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area. The above mentioned vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to the Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further legal action.

## Bovine smuggling attempt foiled, 4 bovines rescued, vehicle seized

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: Police team of Police Station Kud led by its SHO while performing vehicle checking duty at Kud Naka point signalled to stop one vehicle bearing regd. No. JK14K-8040 for checking purposes. Driver abandoned the vehicle and fled.

Upon checking, 04 Bovines were found tied cruelly inside the vehicle. All the bovines were rescued and shifted to a safer place.

In this regard, case FIR No. 13/2025 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Kud.

## Udhampur cyber cell solves 8 financial frauds amounting to Rs 2,67,211

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
UDHAMPUR: Continuing its efforts to extend services to the general public and address their grievances, Cyber Cell of District Police Udhampur recovered and successfully refunded an amount of Rs 2,67,211/- in 08 different complaints.

Brief fact of the cases are that Cyber Cell DPO Udhampur received 08 complaints regarding the online financial fraud. After receiving these Complaints, team of Cyber Cell DPO Udhampur immediately swung into the action and started the inquiry into the matter and initiated the process for reversal and recovery of the amount. As a result, the amount of Rs 2,67,211/- of total cheated amount have been recovered and credited to the victims account.

## Elderly lawyer shoots himself dead in Kishtwar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: An elderly lawyer allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his licensed gun in Kishtwar district, police officials said on Tuesday.

Ghulam Nabi Zargar shot himself at his residence in the Alyarabad locality of Kishtwar town around late last night, the officials said.

According to preliminary investigation, the octogenarian was suffering from depression and used his 12-bore gun to end his life, police said.

The body was shifted to hospital and handed over to Zargar's family for last rites after completion of post-mortem and other legal formalities, the officials said.

Police has started inquest proceedings in this connection, they said.