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J&K Bank registers...

this sacred pilgrimage." "We have ensured seamless arrangements at all designated branches with dedicated helpdesks, registration counters and trained staff to facilitate hassle-free registration. As always, J&K Bank remains deeply committed to be a meaningful part of this significant spiritual journey", he added.



Meanwhile, Pilgrims can register themselves in real-time at any of the designated Bank branches after undergoing Aadhaar-based biometric eKYC authentication which will enable yatri to obtain their RfID Cards without the need to wait in the long queues. The system-generated Yatra Permit is issued through the official NIC Portal <https://jksasb.nic.in>.

Those intending to undertake the Yatra and falling in the age group of 13 to 70 years as on the date of the pilgrimage, are required to submit the prescribed Compulsory Health Certificate (CHC) at the Bank's branches, the format of which along with the list of Doctors/ Medical Institutions authorized to issue it are available at Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board's website.

Notably, the Bank has urged all prospective yatri to complete their registration early to avoid last-minute inconvenience in obtaining their desired dates as Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board has allocated a limited quota of permits to the Bank.

Drug peddler's house...

contingent led by a Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) conducted raids in Balole Khad, Gujjar Basti and adjoining areas in the Bari Brahmana area of Samba and detained several people for questioning.

The raids were conducted in connection with the April 10 attack on policemen during an anti-drug operation that left three policemen, including a station house officer, seriously injured.

Our progressive farmers...

tools and real-time monitoring applications, governance is being redefined at the grassroots. "We are redefining how governance reaches the grassroots. HADP is making agriculture smart, data-driven, and future-ready," the Chief Minister said.

Terming progressive farmers as the backbone of agricultural transformation, the Chief Minister said, "Their stories of success inspire confidence in our mission and reaffirm our belief that change is happening, village by village, farm by farm."

Reiterating his government's unwavering support, he affirmed that every scheme, every platform, and every rupee invested under HADP is aimed at directly benefiting the farmer. "Our government will continue to walk alongside our cultivators in this journey of growth and innovation," he added.

Earlier, Mission Director Rahul Yadav presented a comprehensive overview of HADP's evolution, highlighting the preparation of 29 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) within a record four-month period. He noted that the programme aims to transition agriculture in J&K from a low-growth, subsistence-based model to a vibrant, commercially-driven agri-economy.

The meeting also deliberated on strategies to address structural challenges in the sector, particularly the long-standing cycle of low productivity and income. The programme is anchored around key strategic levers of change, with 29 distinct, future-ready projects forming its foundation.

It was informed that an investment of Rs 1000 crore has already been made in research and innovation across these projects. The roadmap for implementation was also shared, comprising three phases: Phase-I - Outreach and Awareness, Phase-II - Onboarding and Seeding, and Phase-III - Grounding, Monitoring, and Evaluation.

Officials presented updates on major ongoing initiatives, including the Daksh Kisan programme, monthly district performance rankings, Knowledge Systems (KS) documentation, and the KS Output Tracking App.

The meeting spotlighted a range of innovative digital interventions, including the HADP Kisan Saathi Portal, AI-based Credit Scheme Advisor, and the Online DPR Generator Tool. Further, the meeting discussed the Jammu & Kashmir Climate Innovation Platform (JKCIP), outlining its financing models, targeted beneficiaries, and geographical areas of intervention.

Since its rollout in April 2023, HADP has achieved notable milestones such as the development and multiplication of high-quality seeds, promotion of oilseeds and cash crops, technological advancements in sericulture, formation of 300 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and the launch of the JK Soil & Land Resource Information System. These initiatives, supported by research-backed strategies, have yielded tangible outcomes and are propelling the Union Territory toward the goal of a sustainable Rs 100,000 crore agri-economy by the year 2030.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister launched several digital platforms to enhance transparency, efficiency, and farmer engagement. These included the Credit Scheme Advisor App, Online DPR Generator App, KS Sathi Output Tracking App, and the Online JKCIP Dashboard. He also released the inaugural edition of "HADP Insights", a monthly newsletter, and launched the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan-JKCIP. Additionally, he e-inaugurated 1,842 Kisan Saathi Applications and conferred 10,765 Daksh Kisan Skilling Certificates.

During an interactive session, the Chief Minister engaged with progressive farmers from various districts who shared their success stories.

He enquired about different aspects of their businesses and appreciated their crucial role in driving agricultural transformation on the ground.

ECI launches first...

responsibilities as delineated in the Representation of People act, 1950 and 1951, Registration of Elector Rules 1960, Conduct of Election Rules 1961 and the manuals, guidelines and instructions issued by ECI from time to time.

The BLAs were given an overview of their appointment, roles and responsibilities as per the legal framework. The training programme familiarised them with various aspects of the election processes including the preparation, updation and revision of electoral rolls and the associated forms and formats associated.

The BLAs are appointed by the recognised political parties and play an important role at the booth level to ensure transparency and fairness in the final electoral roll. They are empowered to raise objections under the provision in the final section appeals under Section 24(1) and 24(2) of the RP Act 1950 in case they are aggrieved of the final electoral rolls as published.

CJI Khanna recommends...

He was part of a five-judge Constitution bench which in December 2023 unanimously upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370 bestowing special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Another five-judge Constitution bench, of which Justice Gavai was a part, annulled the electoral bonds scheme for political funding.

He was a part of a five-judge Constitution bench which, by a 4:1 majority verdict, gave its stamp of approval to the Centre's 2016 decision to demonetise Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 denomination currency notes.

Justice Gavai was part of a seven-judge constitution bench, which by a 6:1 majority held that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes, which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially and educationally more backward among them. A seven-judge Constitution bench also having Justice Gavai ruled that the arbitration clause in an unstamped or insufficiently stamped agreement between parties was enforceable as such a defect was curable and did not render the contract invalid. In an important verdict, a bench headed by Justice Gavai laid down pan-India guidelines and said no property should be demolished without a prior show-cause notice and the affected must be given 15 days to respond.

He is also heading the bench which is hearing matters related to forests, wildlife and protection of trees.

He had joined the bar on March 16, 1985 and was the standing counsel for the Municipal Corporation of Nagpur, Amravati Municipal Corporation and Amravati University. He was appointed as an assistant government pleader and additional public prosecutor in the Bombay High Court's Nagpur bench from August 1992 to July 1993.

He was appointed as a government pleader and public prosecutor for the Nagpur bench on January 17, 2000.

According to the memorandum of procedure -- a set of documents guiding appointment, elevation and transfer of high court and Supreme Court judges -- the law minister writes to the CJI to name his or her successor.

The MoP says the senior-most judge of the apex court is considered fit to hold the office of the CJI and the views of the outgoing head of the judiciary have to be sought "at an appropriate time".

Properties declared waqf...

that ex-officio members could be appointed regardless of their faith but others had

to be Muslims. The apex court questioned Mehta on how "waqf by user" can be disallowed as many would not have requisite documents to get such waqfs registered.

"Waqf by user" refers to a practice where a property is recognised as a religious or charitable endowment (waqf) based on its long-term, uninterrupted use for such purposes, even if there isn't a formal, written declaration of waqf by the owner.

"How will you register such waqfs by user? What documents will they have? It will lead to undoing something. Yes, there is some misuse. But there are genuine ones also. I have gone through Privy Council judgments also. Waqf by user is recognised. If you undo it then it will be a problem. Legislature cannot declare a judgment, order or decree as void. You can only take the basis," the bench said.

Mehta, however, submitted there was a large section of Muslims who did not want to be governed by Waqf Act.

The bench then asked Mehta, "Are you saying that from now on you will allow Muslims to be part of the Hindu endowment boards? Say it openly."

The apex court said when a public trust was declared to be a waqf 100 or 200 years ago, it couldn't suddenly be taken over by the waqf board and declared otherwise.

"You cannot rewrite the past," the bench said.

Mehta submitted that a Joint Parliamentary Committee had 38 sittings and examined 98.2 lakh memorandums before Parliament's both houses passed it.

The CJI at the start of the hearing said, "There are two aspects we want to ask both the sides to address. Firstly, whether we should entertain or relegate it to the high court? Secondly, point out in brief what you are really urging and wanting to argue? We are not saying there is any bar on SC in hearing, deciding pleas against the law."

Sibal, appearing for the petitioners referred to Waqf Amendment Act and said was challenging the provision that says only Muslims could create waqf.

"How can state decide whether, and how I am a Muslim or not and hence, eligible to create waqf?" Sibal asked.

He added, "How can government say only those who are practising Islam for last five years can create waqf?"

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, who represented some of the petitioners, submitted that Waqf Act would have all India ramifications and pleas should not be referred to the high court.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, opposing Waqf Act, said Waqf by user was an established practice of Islam and couldn't be taken away.

A caveat is filed by a party in the high courts and the apex court to ensure that no orders are passed without hearing it.

Gusty winds, thundershowers...

due to uprooting of trees and electric poles at several places in the city.

The power supply was snapped and efforts are on to restore the service, the officials said.

Meanwhile, reports from Ramban said heavy hailstorm hit parts of the Gool sub-division, causing damage to fruit-bearing trees and vegetables, besides loss of some livestock. Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Gool, Intiyaz Ahmed said three sheep and goats and some poultry birds were killed while the windows of two houses and plastic water tanks were damaged in the upper reaches of the sub-division.

Teams have been activated to assess the damage, he said, adding that several link roads were blocked due to landslides after hailstorm and rains in the area.

A landslide also blocked the Jammu-Poonch national highway, near the Rajouri district town, and a road-clearance operation is underway to make the vital road traffic-worthy, the officials said.

Kathua encounters exposed...

to hinterland, leading to the successful operations against the terrorists.

"The encounters exposed their traditional (infiltration) route... We will not allow them to use this route again," Saxena said.

He said the recoveries showed that they had come with ill intention and were prepared for a long stay. He said the seizure of a huge quantity of explosive material thwarted their plan to carry out Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) blasts, while some quantity of heroin suggested that they were also consuming drugs.

He praised the cooperation of the people in the anti-terrorist operations and said the "civil population helped us a lot and are providing immediate information which helped us to make an assessment about the terrorists on the run and are accordingly planning our operations to neutralize them".

According to evidence, Saxena said terrorists had recently sneaked into this side from across the border but police "did not allow them to succeed in their nefarious designs". On local support to terrorists, he said 30 people have been identified and booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) in the district so far.

Among the material seized from the terrorists include two AK assault rifles, one M4 carbine, grenades, and sophisticated gadgets for navigation, clothes, sleeping bags, Pakistan-make medicines, beverages and food items.

Govt announces free...

Cultural Heritage and symbols of Historical Importance.

Further, the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums is organizing day long Archival exhibition at Archival Repository in Jammu and at Art Gallery Museum, Old Assembly Complex, Srinagar, in order to have glimpse of historical monuments of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Department has urged all to participate in the World Heritage Day Celebration, visit the Exhibitions being organized and avail the incentive of free entry to Museums.

National Herald case: Police foil Congress protest march in Jammu

JAMMU: Police on Wednesday scuttled a protest march here by the Congress over the Enforcement Directorate's chargesheet against party leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in connection with the 2014 National Herald case.

Hundreds of Congress activists and leaders led by party's J&K unit president Tariq Hameed Karra assembled at the party headquarters at Shaheedi Chowk her and started marching on the main road but were not allowed to move forward by a strong contingent of police.

The slogan-shouting protesters, including former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) presidents Ghulam Ahmad Mir and Vikar Rasool Wani, and former ministers Raman Bhalla and Yogesh Sawhney, tried to jump over the barricades but were pushed back by the policemen, officials said.

The ED on Tuesday said it filed a chargesheet on April 9 in a money laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper. Besides Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, the chargesheet names Congress leaders Sam Pitroda and Suman Dubey as co-accused.

The case, based on a 2014 complaint by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, relates to the alleged acquisition of properties worth over Rs 2,000 crore by Associated Journals Limited (AJL), the publisher of National Herald, and their subsequent transfer to Young Indian - a company in which Sonia and Rahul Gandhi hold a 38 per cent stake each.

"We had planned this march up to the ED office to register our protest against the BJP-led Centre which is misusing central agencies like ED and Income Tax Department to browbeat the opposition parties," Karra told reporters.

Criticizing the police action, the Congress leader said democracy allows the citizens of the country a right to lodge protest but "this government once again showed that they do not believe in democracy by stopping our march".

He dismissed the ED chargesheet as a "conspiracy" against the Congress and said the party will not be cowed down by such actions and will emerge stronger with each passing day as "the BJP stands exposed before the people of the country".

Karra accused the BJP of keeping the central agencies hostage and destroying "Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb", a reference to the composite culture.

He alleged that the BJP has legalized the corruption and has squeezed the poor to benefit selective "corporate friends".

Bhalla said the ED chargesheet against the party leadership demonstrates the "frustration" of the BJP after the recent successful meeting of All India Congress Committee in Gujarat.

"The ED chargesheet reflects the political vendetta against the grand old party ahead of Bihar Assembly elections," he said.



CS pushes for achieving green goals under CAMPA

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday while addressing the 25th Steering Committee Meeting of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), emphasized on the department to work dedicatedly towards achieving the set targets in a given timeframe.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Ecology & Environment was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; PCCF, Chief Wildlife Warden; Secretary, Planning; Director, Remote Sensing; CEO, CAMPA and other concerned HoDs of the department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of the afforestation efforts made during the past year and the targets achieved during this time. He asked the officers to complete installation of Boundary Pillars (BPs) around the forests across J&K to ensure their protection.

He also enjoined upon the concerned to digitise these BPs in order to create digitized maps of all the forest areas. He urged them to give details of the areas treated in lieu of the forest areas that came under Hydro Electric Projects of Kwar, Kiru and Ratlehere.

Dulloo further remarked that forests are lungs of the earth guaranteeing its sustainability. He advised for adopting modern technology to map the highly degraded areas for its treatment on priority basis.

On the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, FE&E, Sheetal Nanda, informed the meeting about the role and responsibilities of the Steering Committee in deciding the future course of action to take up the CAMPA works during the year ahead.

She also made out that the Committee had an overarching role of monitoring the department's activities besides giving necessary directions for utilization of resources to achieve the desired goals.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta, gave out that the scheme is being implemented smoothly in the UT, obtaining tangible results over the years. He said that installation and digitization of BPs around the forests had been achieved to a larger extent with the left out forests to be demarcated in the year or two ahead.

He asserted that the department has established strong internal and social audit mechanisms, including inter-range and inter-divisional checks, alongside monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting formats to monitor the outcomes of this CAMPA scheme.

Moreover, it was given out that the public transparency is being maintained through the e-Green Watch portal, where data from 3,410 projects (including geotagged coordinates) is accessible.

Elaborating further, CEO CAMPA, T. Rabi Kumar, revealed that the third-party evaluations show improved survival rates. The third party evaluation (2012-2019) reported a 50% survival rate and in the next phase (2019-2022), conducted by AFC India Limited, survival rates improved significantly to 62.70%, with Kashmir at 65.40% and Jammu at 60%.

Giving the financial overview of this scheme as on March 2024, it was divulged that a total of Rs 851.65 crore were available with an approved outlay of Rs 276.27 crore for FY 2024-25. It was further added that an expenditure of Rs 153.67 was booked during this year leaving a balance of Rs 727.66 crore available with the department.

As far as the outcomes over the past 15 years are concerned, the meeting was apprised that during 2010-11 to 2024-25, a substantial amount of forest land has been treated under CAMPA initiatives, with the total area afforested reaching thousands of hectares. A significant financial commitment of Rs 1369.76 crore has been made during this period.

In addition, it was given out that the CAMPA budget has seen consistent increase over the years, peaking at Rs 153.67 crore in FY 2024-25 with corresponding increase in year-wise plantation efforts. These efforts are aimed at enhancing green cover, improving biodiversity, and mitigating the impact of climate change.

The Annual Plan Outlay (APO) for the fiscal year 2025-26 was presented and approved, with a total proposed outlay of Rs 193.72 crore, of which, Rs 170.47 crore have been proposed under the forest sector activities and Rs 23.25 crore under wildlife conservation.

Regarding different components of APO, the Compensatory Afforestation has an outlay of Rs 12.71 crore, Additional Compensatory Afforestation Rs 7.27 crore, NPV (Forest) Rs117.96 crore and NPV (Protected Areas) Rs 23.25 for the ensuing year.

Poonch Police conducts awareness programmes on New Criminal Laws, drug abuse

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: In a proactive initiative to combat drug abuse and educate the public on the newly enacted criminal laws, District Police Poonch organized a series of awareness programmes across the district today.

These programmes were conducted under the directions of Senior Superintendent of Police Poonch, Sh. Shafket Hussain (JKPS). During one of program, SHO PS Surankote highlighted the harmful consequences of drug use and trafficking. Citizens were urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities. The public was also cautioned that strict legal action would be taken against anyone found involved in drug-related offences.

In another program, SHO PS Mandi educated participants about the key changes and provisions in the new criminal laws. Topics included citizen-friendly measures such as Zero FIR and E-FIR, the introduction of community service as a form of punishment, leniency for first-time offenders, and the recognition of organized and cyber crimes. Officers also emphasized scientific methods in evidence collection, admissibility of digital records, and stricter penalties for organized criminal activities.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Poonch underscored the importance of public awareness in the effective implementation of these legal reforms. "The new laws aim to modernize our criminal justice system by ensuring faster trials, stricter punishments for organized crime, and better protection for victims. Public understanding of these reforms is essential for their successful execution," he said.

The District Police reaffirmed their dedication to creating a safer and drug-free Poonch, and called for continued cooperation from the community. They announced that similar awareness campaigns will be held throughout the region to ensure all stakeholders, including students and the general public, are well-informed about these transformative legal changes.

Snatching case solved; 2 arrested, gold items worth Rs. 6 lakh recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In its endeavour to provide justice to the hapless lady, acting swiftly and proactively, Nowabad Police today on 16.04.2025 solved a purse snatching case, arrested 02 snatchers and recovered Gold/ Silver items worth Rs 6 laes from their possession.

On April 6, 2025, a person namely Ishan Sodi S/O Bansil Lal R/O Tali Morh, New Plot, Jammu reported at P/S Nowabad to the effect that his wife was going to attend some function at her parents house at Bari Brahmana. She boarded off from the Bus in Jewel area and was waiting for other Bus at the road side. Suddenly, 02 unknown boys came from behind and fled away after snatching her purse which she was holding in her hand.

Acting swiftly, different Police teams were constituted to gather technical as well as human intelligence regarding unknown snatchers.

On the basis of some authenticated technical/ human intelligence, raid was conducted at a suspected location and 02 suspected were rounded up who were put to sustained questioning. They disclosed their identities as Farhan Ahmed Naik Age -19 yrs S/O Tariq Ahmed R/O H. No. 69 Gujjar Nagar Jammu and Samiullah Butt / Abbu Age- 18 yrs S/O Mohd Sabdar Butt R/O Butt Pora Gosti Tehsil Sura District Doda A/P Khatikan Talab Jammu.

During sustained questioning, both of them spilled the beans and confessed their guilt.

On their disclosure, all snatched items i.e. gold items, silver item, mobile, ladies purse were recovered from different locations Police also recovered one Black Pulsar 150 CC Motorcycle bearing registration No. JK02CD/2691 from accused persons which was used by the accused persons during the commission of crime. Recovered items included Gold Set - 1; Gents Gold Chain - 1; Ladies Chain - 2; Ladies Ring - 5; Gents Ring - 1; Ear Tots - 1 Pair; Silver Bracelet - 1; Mobile One + - 1 and Ladies Purse - 1.

Case FIR No. 46/2025 U/S 307/3(5) BNS was registered at P/S Nowabad in this connection.

Police team led by Insp. Deepak Pathania SHO Nowabad assisted by PSI Irshad Ahmed, HC Jaipal Singh, HC Faqar Din, Sget Anil Kumar made the arrests/recovery under the supervision of Farha Nishat JKPS Dy SP Hqrs Jammu and Vivek Shekhar JKPS SP City North Jammu.