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NEP promotes sense...

and Values, guides us for the welfare of society and nation-building. He said the deliberations and exchange of ideas during the Summit on overarch-ing issues in education will explore challenges and opportunities and prepare a future roadmap for educational institutions.

"In the educational journey, students develop consciousness and their moral val-ues become sharper. During this journey, students adopt life values like compas-sion, peace, truth, love, virtuous life, harmony and benevolence and collect all the experiences. All these physical, intellectual and emotional experiences together develop student's knowledge" the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the aim of National Education Policy 2020 is that students should become a living source of knowledge rather than a storehouse of memories obtained from books.

"National Education Policy promotes creative imagination, ethical values and a sense of determination to contribute towards building an equitable, inclusive and pluralistic society," he further added.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the educational institutions to focus on develop-ing personalities that are perfect blend of compassion and innovation.

"Three 'H'- Head, Heart and Heritage- will help in this mission and they will also restore the broken moral link in the education system.

We need students who are proficient in algorithms, talented in their chosen field, sensitive towards social issues and also realise their duty towards nation building.

Our students should be a selfless individual as well as a skilled researcher; writer or artist, deeply connected to their roots. This perfect balance in personality could be transformative for students, educational institutions and the society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the teachers need to integrate moral values with skills needed in the modern world so that qualities like strong charac-ter and intellectual curiosity can be nurtured.

"Without unprecedented inventions, moral values alone will have no value. But it is also true that without ethics and values, cutting-edge education and skills would be aimless.

There should be conversations and not monologues in the classroom. There is a need to link innovation and growth with the ethical values of the society and inte-grate them with the course curriculum," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further called for encouraging hands-on, experiential and project-based learning. The young minds should be exposed to challenges of the real world. Now the time has come to take education out of the lab and into the real world, he said.

During an interactive session, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the educa-tional reforms taking place in J&K, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the past few years. He said the innovative programmes launched in the UT have ensured inclusive and quality education for all.

"The talent pool within Jammu Kashmir is being provided with better opportuni-ties. Dedicated efforts have been made to promote multidisciplinary learning, and skill development of youth. We have also actively initiated campaigns to bring dropout students back to school. Through Mission Yuva, we have prepared a blue-print to foster entrepreneurship culture at college and university level.

Schools, colleges and universities are functioning without any disturbances. Earlier practice of hartals, strikes, stone pelting and bandhs are things of the past now. Today, J&K, with its full potential, is moving ahead towards a prosperous and brighter future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the prominent personalities and institutions are also conferred with the Bharat Shiksha Samman for their valuable contribution in the field of education.

Naveen Jindal, Member of Parliament; Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities; Rajshri Rai, Chairperson, Balaji Foundation; educationists, experts, heads of various institutions, teachers and youth in large number were present.

Two suspected terrorists...

provide any information they have about suspected individuals to the police. "We are committed to ensuring peace and security. We appeal to the public to report any relevant information immediately."

According to sources, the two suspected terrorists fled with food and a phone.

It appears that these are the same terrorists who were spotted in the Panjtirthi area of Billowar (Kathua district), where security forces had a brief encounter on Monday night, they said.

J&K Govt cracks...

sanction study leave. Any breach of standing orders or service rules constitutes misconduct, warranting disciplinary action.

Legal precedents further support this position. In Rabindra Nath Barman vs. Gauhati High Court (2012), the court upheld that obtaining a law degree without authorization constituted misconduct and led to disciplinary action. Similarly, in Nongmaithem Rejan Singh vs. State of Manipur (2013), it was ruled that an unau-thorized degree could not be used for career advancement, as it encouraged mis-conduct.

Based on these findings, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has issued a com-prehensive order under Government Order No. 264-JK (Edu) of 2025, dated April 3, 2025, prescribing specific measures.

Employees who completed regular classwork before joining government service but appeared for final exams after entering service will have their cases reviewed by the committee formed under Government Order No. 188-JK (Edu) of 2024, dated March 15, 2024. The committee will recommend their eligibility for seniori-ty and promotion.

Employees who began their higher education before joining service but complet-ed their degrees after entering government employment will have their study peri-od marked as Dies-Non. Recovery of salaries for that period will be enforced on a case-to-case basis by concerned DDOs.

Employees who pursued and completed higher education during service without drawing salaries during that period will also have their study period marked as Dies-Non. Additionally, they will face the penalty of withholding two annual incre-ments under Rule 30 of the J&K CCA Rules, 1956, and will be excluded from seniori-ty lists.

Employees who pursued and completed higher education during service while drawing salaries will have their study period treated as Dies-Non. They will also face the penalty of withholding two annual increments, and salary recovery will be initiated by the respective DDOs in consultation with departmental authorities. These employees will be permanently excluded from seniority lists.

Moreover, the government has directed that seniority for eligible employees will be reckoned from the date of acquiring higher qualifications, ensuring transpar-ency in promotions. To prevent similar cases in the future, amendments will be made in the J&K Government Employees Conduct Rules, 1971, or other applicable regu-lations, ensuring strict compliance with service rules.

This firm action by the government underscores its commitment to maintaining discipline and integrity within the education sector. The School Education Department has been directed to take immediate steps to enforce these measures, ensuring that violations of service rules do not undermine the merit-based promo-tion system in the state.

ACB registers case...

well as disguised in the name of his family members which includes multiple well furnished houses, multiple plots of land, shops, luxurious vehicles and other assets.

In this way, official said, Darbar Chowdhary has enriched himself illicitly by indulging in corrupt practices and has acquired huge assets which are prima facie disproportionate to his known source of income.

Anti Corruption Bureau, after registration of case under relevant sections of law, also conducted simultaneous searches with the help of local police in presence of Magistrates/Independent Witnesses at the premises of above named accused per-son, official said adding that detailed and in-depth scrutiny of the seized record will be carried out during further course of investigation.

GK Gold Shop...

resident of Lower Canal, Bishnah who executed the plan and committed the rob-bery, were also arrested.

The infamous daylight heist at Anand Jewelers, Greater Kailash, Fowara Chowk, Jammu, had sparked concerns among the Sawarnkar community and sent shock-waves throughout the city.

Jammu SSP Joginder Kumar said the focused, professional, and dedicated efforts of the police led to the identification and arrest of the criminals behind this highly planned crime.

On February 1, during noon, two armed robbers stormed into Anand Jewelers wielding a deadly weapon, a Toka, to intimidate the lone woman owner present inside the shop. By placing the sharp-edged weapon on her throat, they induced instant fear of death and looted valuable gold, cash, and a mobile phone (Vivo V20,

SIM No. 9906015489) before fleeing the scene. A case was registered under FIR No. 19/25 at PS Gangval under Sections 309(3), 311, and 3(5) of BNS, and a highly skilled investigative team was deployed to begin the investigation. Recognizing the gravity of the case, SSP Jammu later constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the supervision of SP City South and headed by SDPO City South, Jammu.

Preliminary questioning revealed a shocking and disgraceful inspiration behind the robbery-a similar gold heist that took place in Delhi's Samaypur Badli in 2023. More arrests are likely to be made shortly.

SSP Joginder Kumar urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspi-cious activities to the nearest police station or dial 100.

"Business owners are advised to install CCTV cameras around their establish-ments, keep valuables locked, and ensure that minimal stock is kept for display. The swift and precise action in this case sends a strong message that crime will not be tolerated, and offenders will be brought to justice-no matter how elaborate their planning may be", SSP said.

The culprits made an attempt to sell the jewellery in Delhi and the Jammu police got a tip, which led to their arrest.

"With the culprits now in custody and the stolen goods recovered, the Jammu Police have once again proven commitment to safeguarding the city and ensuring that justice prevails," said SSP Joginder Kumar.

The recovered jewellery included, Jhumkas - 07 pairs and 01 single piece (Total: 15 pieces), Chains - 09 pieces, Chain sets - 01 piece, Bangles - 30 pieces, Rani Haar - 02 pieces, Ladies small sets - 07 pieces, Rings - 11 pieces, Lockets (with-out chain) - 07 pieces, Kante - 49 pieces, Tops - 16 pieces, stone earrings - 06 pieces, Sterling Silver Watch - 01 piece.

CJ e-inaugurates...

were present in the ceremony. Deepak Sethi, Principal District & Sessions Judge, in his welcome address, expressed optimism regarding the positive impact this new facility will create in terms of reducing delays in case processing. He said that this step was not just the opening of a new court building but enhancement of our judi-cial system, a commitment to justice and a promise to uphold the rule of law.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Justice emphasized the importance of expand-ing the judicial facilities across the region. He stated that this is a momentous occasion that will significantly improve the accessibility of justice for the people of Ukhral, which is a rural and far-flung area.

He also remembered the Former Chief Justice of India, T.S. Thakur and named the construction of this Court building as his dream project. He stated that with establishment of this court, we are taking a crucial step towards ensuring that the legal needs of our citizens are met efficiently and fairly.

Amarjeet Singh, Bar President, Munsiff Court Ukhral, emphasized that the new Court building will play a vital role in expediting the delivery of justice, especially for the people residing in the Ukhral area and surrounding villages. He also appre-ciated the role of Former Chief Justice of India, T.S. Thakur who had laid down the foundation stone for the building. Manzar Muneer, Munsiff, Ukhral presented vote of thanks.

CB books 7...

orders reported at Head Quarters where they were told that orders were fake. The fraud was conveyed to accused and he was told to return Rs 15.00 lakh but he flatly refused to return the amount," official stated.

Accused Piara Singh, son of Kartar Singh, resident of Fathepur Salarian, Tehsil R.S Pura, District Jammu has been booked on a written complaint of Karanjit Singh from Dablehar Tehsil R.S Pura, District Jammu for duping of Rs 8 lakh on the pretext of providing work permit in Australia to the nephew of complainant, official said.

Official added, accused persons namely Gurjant Singh alias Bonny, son of Late Iqbal Singh, resident of Makhanpur, Simbal Camp, Jammu and Harsimran Singh, son of Rajinder Singh, resident of Sant Nagar, Gadigarh, Jammu have been booked on a written complaint of Gagandeep Singh of Kunjwani, Jammu for dup-ing of Rs. 22 .25 Lakh on the pretext of providing tourist visa of Australia.

The accused persons were running an office in the name of "STUDY ABROAD" near National Hospital, Karan Bagh, Jammu, Official said.

Accused Property Dealer namely Rahul Dasgotra, son of Manohar Lal, resident of village Kotli Mian Fateh, Jammu has been booked on a written complaint of Dr. Anjan Bhola Channi Himmat Jammu for duping Rs. 16.50 Lakh from com-plainant by falsely assuring him that he would buy a land near Bishnah adjoining area and need financial assistance to purchase and he would return the amount with interest.

Later on, the complainant got information that Rahul Dasgotra had not pur-chased any land and he had also duped other people by making false promises on same pretext.

Two accused Khairwood dealers namely Parveen Kumar, son of Pathu Ram, res-ident of Thandi Choi, Tehsil Kahra Bali, District Jammu and Jitender Kumar Sharma, son of Krishan Lal, resident of Barnara, Tehsil Sunderbani, Distt. Rajouri have been booked on written complaint of Dhian Chand, son of Zulfi Ram, resident of District Hamirpur; HP through Akhil Sharma, son of Rattan Lal Sharma, resident of Roop Nagar; Jammu for duping Rs. 70.20 lakh on the pre-text of providing Khairwood to the complainant, CB official said.

Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu Benam Tosh confirmed that five separate cases viz. case FIR No. 17/2025, case FIR No.19/2025,case FIR No. 20/2025,case FIR No. 21/2025 and case FIR No. 22/2025 have been registered at Police Station Crime Branch EOW Jammu and investigations are underway.

J&K Govt enhances...

Under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), the pension for individuals aged 60-79 years has been increased from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500, while those aged 80 years and above will now receive Rs 2,000 instead of Rs 1,000.

Similarly, under the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), widows aged 40-59 years will receive Rs 1,250 (earlier Rs 1,000), those aged 60-79 years will receive Rs 1,500 (earlier Rs 1,000), and widows 80 years and above will now receive Rs 2,000.

Additionally, the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) has been revised, with pensions for disabled individuals in the 18-59 years cate-gory raised to Rs 1,250, those 60-79 years receiving Rs 1,500, and those 80 years and above now receiving Rs 2,000.

Furthermore, under the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), which is UT-funded, pension rates have been revised across multiple beneficiary groups.

Old Age Pensions have been increased to Rs 1,250 for females aged 55-60 years, Rs 1,500 for those 60-79 years, and Rs 2,000 for those aged 80 years and above.

Similarly, Widow/Divorcee Pensions have been enhanced to Rs 1,250 for widows below 60 years with a legal marriageable age, Rs 1,500 for those 60-79 years, and Rs 2,000 for those 80 years and above.

The Disability Pension has been revised to Rs 1,250 for those below 60 years, Rs 1,500 for those 60-79 years, and Rs 2,000 for those 80 years and above.

A similar structure applies to the Transgender Pension, ensuring increased finan-cial assistance across all age categories.

Marriage assistance raised...

beneficiary's bank account through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system before the marriage.

In another major welfare initiative, the J&K government has approved the dis-tribution of additional food grains free of cost to AAY households with four or more members under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

This move aims to strengthen food security for the region's most vulnerable fam-ilies and fulfills a key commitment made in Budget 2025-26.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah hailed the initiative as a significant pro-people decision, emphasizing that the government is delivering on its promises. "We are committed to ensuring food security for our most vulnerable families. Under this initiative, all AAY households will receive additional food grains free of cost. Each beneficiary in a family with 4 or more members will get up to 10 kg of food grains, reinforcing our commitment to social welfare," he stated.

Furthering his Government's commitment to women's empowerment, the Chief Minister had also flagged off the Zero-Ticket Travel Initiative-a free Government bus service for women-on April 1 from the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Center (SKICC).

Speaking at the launch event, CM Omar Abdullah said, "This initiative will cre-ate an environment where women feel empowered to travel freely, without finan-cial constraints. It marks another step towards ensuring gender equality and mobility for women across Jammu and Kashmir." The Omar Abdullah-led Government has fulfilled yet another promise by implementing Zero Stamp Duty on property transfers through Gift Deeds within blood relations. In this regard, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has issued S.O. 75, dated 27th March 2025, under Section 9(a) of the Stamp Act, 1977, to remit Stamp Duty on such transfers.

The term "Blood Relations" includes parents, siblings, children, and grandpar-ents. This notification has come into force w.e.f. 1st April 2025.

DB reject bail of LeT supporter

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court (Srinagar Wing) Comprising Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice MA Chowdhary upheld the rejection of bail of Javed Ahmed Bhat who is supporter of LeT.

According to the police case that the appellant Javaid Ahmed Bhat had accommo-dated the foreign terrorists initially in his hotel and then in his house and also arranged sim card for them, besides accommodated them in Padshahibagh and used to meet them in Bishambar Nagar area occasionally to discuss and plan their move-ment and other terrorist activities.

The police concluded the investigation establishing that all the accused persons including the appellant conspired with each other to wage war against the Govt. of India by receiving, transporting, concealing, harboring and by extending all phys-ical and communicational logistics to the freshly infiltrated Pakistani terrorists of proscribed terror organization "Lashker-e-Toiba" with the aim and motive to spread terror by way of carrying out terror attacks on the security forces and on the per-sons working in the security grid in J&K in particular and based on the investiga-tion, the chargesheet was concluded against the appellant for the commission of offences punishable under sections 13, 18, 19 & 39 of UAP Act as he was alleged to have voluntarily provided accommodation to the two alleged slain militants in his hotel (Section 19 of UAP Act) and asked one of his employees (Saqib) to provide a SIM card to one of the two alleged slain militants for use (Section 18 of UAP Act).

DB further observed that the trial court while considering the application for grant of bail and so this appellate court while hearing the appeal against the rejec-tion of bail cannot go into the intricate questions of whether the offences are made out or not as the evidence cannot be appreciated so minutely at the stage of consid-eration of bail, which is expected to be considered at the trial stage.

It appears that the learned judge presiding over the NIA Court has discussed all the points raised by the appellant before the trial court and the point wise determi-nation has been given with elaborate discussion on each and every point raised.

DB after hearing both the sides, perusal of chargesheet and other incriminating material, while exercising appellate jurisdiction, does not find any illegality or per-versity in the impugned order, which is, thus, upheld, as a result the appeal fails and is, accordingly dismissed.

Kathua combing operation enters 12th day to track down terrorists

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The multi-tier operation to track down three infiltrating terrorists, who escaped three encounters and are believed to be hiding in a forested area in Kathua, has entered its 12th consecutive day with security agencies also cracking down on terrorist supporters and setting up ambushes.

Additional troops have been deployed to beef up the multi-tier cordon and set up ambushes over a 6-7 km radius in the region.

"The combing operation has been going on. It is underway to track down terror-ists on the run," said an officer.

The search operation was intensified with aerial surveillance, including the use of choppers, UAVs, and sniffer dogs. Teams comprising joint operations of the army, NSG, Police, SoG, CRPF, and BSF are combing all areas to cover the region, offi-cials said.

They said additional troops have been deployed in the rugged terrain and dense forested areas to ensure that terrorists do not escape towards upper reaches.

The troops have established multiple ambushes in a large area to apprehend the terrorists. They have further expanded the area of operation to include Billowar, Bhaddu, Ghatti, and Kog-Mandli.

To dismantle the overground network supporting terrorists, security agencies are focusing on OGWs and cracking down on them to cut off the supply of food, shelter, and guidance in the hills, the officials said.

Over 27 individuals have been questioned for gathering information about the ter-rorists' movements. Terrorists have entered two houses to get away with food too during the operations.

Security agencies emphasise that it is difficult for terrorists to survive without a network of overground workers who provide them with food, shelter, and guidance from the International Border (IB) to the hills of Kathua and other districts like Doda, Kishtwar, and Udhampur.

The forces have detained six individuals, including three females from a single family, for questioning. It is alleged that they provided assistance to terrorists op-erating in the region, officials said.

The detained persons belong to the family of suspected over ground worker Mohammad Latief, who is already in jail under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for aid-ing terrorists in Malhar during an attack on an Army truck last year, resulting in the deaths of six soldiers.

It is believed that the slain terrorist Abu Tala also stayed at Latief's house.

Officials said the three terrorists are believed to be part of a group that first engaged security forces in the Nursery area near the International Border on March 23. All terrorists managed to escape after a brief encounter, during which a girl was injured. Four days later, security forces encountered them in a forested area of the Sanyal belt in Kathua. Two terrorists were eliminated, while the rest escaped.

With the hiding terrorists constantly changing their locations in the jungle, secu-rity forces are maintaining a high level of pressure in a multi-agency operation to track them down. This led to an encounter with terrorists in the Panjtirthi-Juthana on March 31, but they managed to escape.

Absconder arrested after twelve years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In continuation to its drive against the absconders/criminals, District Police Jammu apprehended an absconder who was wanted in a case registered at Police Station Bishnah before almost 12 years.

A Police team of Police Station Bishnah succeeded in apprehending the absconder namely Saif Ali son of Main resident of Laswara Tehsil Bishnah Distt Jammu who was evading his arrest in in case FIR No 150/2013 U/S 341/323/147/148/201 RPC of PS Bishnah and 147/2014 U/S 341/323/147/148 RPC of Police Station Bishnah.

A warrant U/S 512 CRPC was issued by the JMJC Bishnah against him. The said accused was evading arrest since long after the commission of the crime.

After completing legal formalities, he was produced before the Court of Law for judicial determination.

Two major bovine smuggling bids foiled; 44 bovines rescued, 2 vehicles seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Tightening noose against the bovine smugglers and their propagators, Samba Police has foiled two major bovine smuggling attempts in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal and rescued forty four bovines from the clutches of bovine smugglers. The vehicles used for illegal transportation of bovines were also seized.

An information was received at Police Station Ghagwal from reliable sources regarding smuggling of bovines in a truck container bearing registration No. NL01N-0553. Acting on information, a Police team headed by SHO Police Station Ghagwal successfully intercepted the said truck at naka NHW Tapyal for its check-ing. During checking, twenty six bovines found inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. All the bovines have been rescued and the said truck has also been seized.

A case FIR No. 48/2025 u/s 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started. Similarly in another bovine smuggling attempt foiled by Police, a truck container without registration No. was intercepted at naka NHW Tapyal and during its checking, eighteen bovines were found inside the vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission. All the bovines have been rescued and the truck has also been seized. A case FIR No. 47/2025 u/s 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act has been reg-istered at Police Station Ghagwal and investigation started. The whole operation was carried out under the supervision of DySP Hqrs Samba and under the overall supervision of SSP Samba.

Three vehicles seized for illegal extraction & transportation of minerals

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AWANTIPORA: In a significant crackdown on illegal mining activities, Police have seized three vehicles engaged in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in Police District (PD) Awantipora. As per police report, a police party headed by Incharge Police Post Reshipora seized 03 vehicles (one JCB bearing registration number TP74082CM1015590 and 02 Tipper bearing registration numbers Jk05-6580, JK01L-9877) involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in Reshipora Awantipora. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 65/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Awantipora and further inves-tigation has been initiated. Police urged the public to remain vigilant and report any such illegal activities by dialing 112.