

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Cabinet Sub-Committee...

assured them that the government will take viewpoint of every section of society to arrive at an amicable solution where everyone's interest is safeguarded. The Sub-Committee further said that they are open for discussions with everyone in order to reach cordial solution. The Sub-Committee added that they will present its report within the given time frame of six months to the council of ministers headed by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

Pertinently, the Cabinet Sub-Committee was constituted by the Omar Abdullah led government after assuming power to look into grievances projected by several section of aspirants against the existing reservation rules.

### Omar calls for...

Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju. Minister of State for Minority Affairs, George Kurien, also attended the event. Vice Chancellor of Kashmir University, Professor Nilofar Khan, along with other senior dignitaries, was also present on the occasion. Highlighting the importance of the programme, Omar Abdullah said the event marks a new beginning in the relationship between the Ministry of Minority Affairs and Jammu & Kashmir.

"This initiative offers a window into the rich cultural diversity, handicrafts and cuisines of the country, while also providing us the opportunity to showcase our own heritage-be it our crafts, traditional cuisine or natural beauty-to the visiting guests," he said.

The Chief Minister noted that while the Ministry of Minority Affairs may appear smaller in scope, its work holds deep national significance.

"In a country as diverse as ours-with different ways of life, multiple languages, varied cuisines and unique cultures-it is crucial to foster a sense of belonging and unity. The ministry plays a key role in ensuring that every citizen, regardless of background, feels part of the nation's progress," he said.

He further acknowledged that the event has enabled local artisans, including those involved in handicrafts and traditional wazwan cuisine, to showcase their exceptional talent.

"The magic in their hands is on full display. At the same time, it is heartening to see participants from across the country sharing this platform," he added.

Referring to the tourist rush coinciding with the onset of the spring season, he said: "I understand the challenges many of you may have faced in reaching here-especially due to the traffic around the Tulip Garden. But what can we say-the charm of Kashmir draws everyone in." The Chief Minister expressed hope that guests from across the country will carry back fond memories of the event and the valley's hospitality.

Urging the Union Minister to continue his ministry's support for Jammu & Kashmir, the Chief Minister said the region continues to face various challenges, including unemployment. "Your ministry's initiatives-be it in education, skill training or market access-are vital. Our artisans work hard but struggle to reach broader markets. They face challenges in grooming the next generation for this craft, and often do not receive adequate support in skill development and training. I hope your ministry will help bridge this gap," he said.

### India doing better...

Saturday evening, said a clear picture about the future strategy of America and the world will be clear in the next week.

"It seems that India's position is a bit heavy compared to other countries," he said. "A situation of confusion persists as of now. Many feel that some companies may face more losses. But overall, there will be negotiations and the duty structure will be stabilized. The situation should be clear in the next one or two weeks," he said.

Key stock market indices Sensex and Nifty declined over 2.5 per cent last week, dragged primarily by weak global cues and renewed concerns over a trade war after the US tariffs.

### Modi inaugurates Pamban...

ante on the delimitation issue saying Modi should allay the fears of the people on the proposed exercise, the PM, without naming anyone, hit back by picking the Tamil pitch. He batted for imparting medical education in Tamil medium to help the poor and said the state got 11 new medical colleges in recent years.

Modi said efforts were on to take Tamil language, heritage to all corners of the world. Without naming anyone, the PM said he gets letters from leaders of Tamil Nadu and "they do not sign in Tamil," and asked them to atleast sign in in Tamil. Earlier, the prime minister prayed at the Ramanathaswamy temple here.

Lauding the hard work of Tamil Nadu's fisheries community, he said that over the past five years, Tamil Nadu has received substantial funds under the PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, stressing the government's efforts to provide modern facilities for fishermen, including investments worth hundreds of crores in seaweed parks, fishing harbors, and landing centres. Referring to several projects he said work is progressing rapidly as regards the country's first bullet train, while modern trains like Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat, and Namoo Bharat are making the rail network more advanced.

Against the background of DMK regime crying foul over fund allocation to the state, Modi said over the past decade, the central government has allocated three times more funds for Tamil Nadu's development compared to the period before 2014.

He noted that this increased funding has greatly contributed to Tamil Nadu's economic and industrial growth. The PM, referring to beneficiaries from the state in respect of several initiatives, said that despite the increased allocation to Tamil Nadu, some "cry" over funds.

Beneficiaries include those under the PM Awas Yojana (over 12 lakh pucca houses built in Tamil Nadu), piped water supply initiative for rural families (includes 1.11 crore families in TN), and over 1 crore treatments in Tamil Nadu under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, saving expenses of Rs 8,000 crore for families in the state.

He also referred to over 1,400 Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the state and noted that under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, small farmers in TN received nearly Rs 12,000 crore. Also, state farmers benefited from the PM Fasal Bima Yojana, with claims amounting to Rs 14,800 crore.

Tamil Nadu's railway budget has increased more than seven fold. The PM added that before 2014, rail projects in Tamil Nadu received only Rs 900 crore annually, while this year, the railway budget for Tamil Nadu exceeds Rs 6,000 crore.

Since 2014, with the support of the central government, 4,000 kilometers of roads have been constructed in Tamil Nadu, and the project involving an elevated corridor to connect Chennai Port will be another example of remarkable infrastructure. The PM said the new Pamban bridge to Rameswaram symbolizes the union of technology and tradition. He emphasized that a town "thousands of years old" is now connected by a 21st-century engineering marvel.

Modi underlined that this bridge is India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge, allowing big ships to sail underneath while enabling faster train travel.

According to the government, the bridge linking Rameswaram to the mainland, was a remarkable feat of Indian engineering and it was built at a cost of over Rs 700 crore. It is 2.08 km in length, features 99 spans and a 72.5-metre vertical lift span that rises up to a height of 17 metres, facilitating smooth movement of ships while ensuring seamless train operations.

Constructed with stainless steel reinforcement, high-grade protective paint, and fully welded joints, the bridge boasts increased durability and reduced maintenance needs. It is designed for dual rail tracks to accommodate future demands. The over Rs 8,000 crore projects include foundation stone for four-laning of 28 Km long Walajapet - Ranipet section of NH-40 and dedication to the Nation of 4-laned 29 Km long Viluppuram- Puducherry section of NH-332.

These highways will connect many pilgrim centres and tourist places, reduce distance between cities and enable faster access besides empowering local farmers to transport agricultural products to the nearby markets and boost economic activity. Tamil Nadu Governor, R N Ravi, Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnav and L Murugan and elected representatives were present.

### Blessed to have...

force for all of us. May His blessings always remain upon us." The Ram Setu is believed by many in India to be the part of the bridge Lord Ram and his army had built to go to Lanka and assail demon king Ravana.

Modi landed in Tamil Nadu to inaugurate development projects and pray on the occasion of Ram Navami.

### We never compromised...

Minister Narendra Modi's leadership through the vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas.

"This is not just a political journey. It is a national renaissance - a mission to rebuild the nation," Chugh emphasized.

Recalling the historical roots of the party, Chugh said that from the foundation of the Jana Sangh in 1951 to the formation of the BJP in 1980, the party has never

wavered in its ideological convictions. "We are what we have always been - a party that puts the nation first," he added.

Commenting on the rise of the BJP in Jammu & Kashmir, Chugh proudly declared, "It is the hard work and dedication of our karyakartas that has made BJP the largest political force in Jammu & Kashmir today. And we have emerged as the largest party across the country because of our ideology and discipline."

Chugh urged workers to continue working with full dedication in the interest of the nation, to strengthen the organisation further, and to ensure that the BJP's vision, intent, and leadership reach every household in the region.

### Wanted gangster arrested...

Punjab, the spokesperson said. He said Khan was a member of a gangster group which was active in Manhor Gopala, Check Deyala, Check Manga Gujjrain, Mandhara, Rakh Brotia, and Vijaypur in Udhampur and Samba districts.

"His apprehension has given a blow to criminals operating in the area and provided a sigh of relief to the local residents," the spokesperson said.

### From Robbery to...

FIR 68/2025 under Sections 103, 301, and 3(5) of the BNS at Satwari Police Station. A joint investigation is underway, involving the local police and forensic experts). The case is being monitored closely under the supervision of SP South Jammu SP and SSP Jammu.

Harsh's body has been recovered and shifted to hospital for postmortem, the report of which is awaited. Further investigations are in progress and more arrests are likely to be made in this case.

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. FIR 19/25 was registered at Gangyal police station under Sections 309(3), 311, and 3(5) of BNS, and a investigative team was deployed to begin the investigation. Recognizing the gravity of the case, SSP Jammu constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the supervision of SP City South and headed by SDPO City South, Jammu.

One of the main conspirators, Rahul Sharma (Advocate), son of Congress leader Shashi Sharma, a resident of Lower Kanal near Grameen Bank, Bishmah, was identified as the kingpin behind the crime.

Two accomplices-a history sheeter, Sunil Sharma (26 years), son of Romesh Chander, resident of Bhagani Rafta, Tehsil Bhalwal, Distt. Jammu and Tushar Kumar (22 years), son of Late Seva Ram, resident of Lower Canal, Bishmah who executed the plan and committed the robbery, were also arrested on April 3, 2025.

### 10-year-old...

persons have been referred to a hospital here for treatment of their burn injuries, adding the blaze was doused by fire and emergency services personnel.

The cause of the fire is being ascertained, they said.

### SFs recover large...

a China-made binocular, two solar-powered mobile chargers, clothes, and a sleeping bag of foreign origin, according to the officials.

A large quantity of Pakistan-made medicines was also seized, they said.

## Impression Nagar Kirtan taken out at Sunderbani

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SUNDERBANI: In connection with birth of 'Khalsa Panth', the Sikh community on Sunday took out an impressive Nagar-Kirtan from village Tanda to Sunderbani town.

The Nagar Kirtan was taken out from Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Tanda to Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Sunderbani in connection of birth of the 'Khalsa Panth'. It was on April 13, 1699 that 'Amrit Sanchar' was administered by Tenth Guru, Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji to the Panj Payares (The warriors). A large number of devotees joined the religious procession. Shri Guru Granth Sahib was placed on a decorated vehicle and Ragi Jathas were accompanying, followed by Sikh Sangat. The Sikh youth displayed martial art led by Gakta Party from Nowshera which was main public attraction of the programme. A large number of Sikh community people from adjoining villages of Thanda Pani, Marchola, Tanda, Benigala and other areas thronged Gurudwara Singh Sabha. The Nagar Kirtan was started after 'Ardas' by Granthi of Gurudwara Sahib S. Gurnam Singh in presence of president of Gurudwara Singh Sabha Tanda Jasvir Singh, secretary Rattanjeet Singh, cashier Arjun Singh, and former Sarpanch Mohan Singh.

A highly decorated chariot was created by using open vehicle where the Holy Guru Granth Sahib was placed. It was fitted with loud speakers and several religious personalities of the Sikh community were leading the Nagar Kirtan and reciting Gurbani Shabad Kirtan. In front of the vehicle, 'Panj Payare' attired in a traditional dress of warriors carrying swords in hands, were leading the procession. Mid way many people hold different stalls such as, Fruit chat, Cold drinks sweets, ice cream, almond shek and sweet water also for devotees. Meanwhile team of NGO Anmol Cultural Club also hold stalls for devotees.

After reached in Gurudwara Sahib then recit Shabad Kirtan & Ardass then open Gur ka langer hundreds of devotees came in this programme. In this occasion administration played good role. Tehsildar Sunderbani Daljeet Singh, police party, CRPF, Traffic police, ambulance was also available.

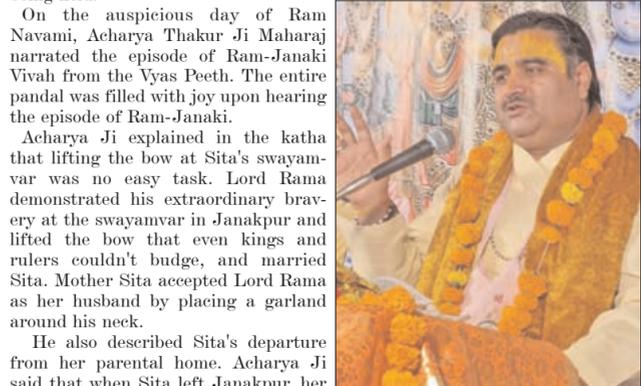
### Acharya Thakur Maharaj narrates Ram-Janaki Vivah from Vyas Peeth

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SUNDERBANI: The 59th Maha Annyagya is going to be organized on 12 April at Guru Gaddi 1008 Sadguru Baba Kanshi Giri Ji (Bangang Wale), Banpuri-Bhajwal, Sunderbani, and as part of this occasion, a Ram Katha is being held.

On the auspicious day of Ram Navami, Acharya Thakur Ji Maharaj narrated the episode of Ram-Janaki Vivah from the Vyas Peeth. The entire pandal was filled with joy upon hearing the episode of Ram-Janaki.

Acharya Ji explained in the katha that lifting the bow at Sita's swayamvar was no easy task. Lord Rama demonstrated his extraordinary bravery at the swayamvar in Janakpur and lifted the bow that even kings and rulers couldn't budge, and married Sita. Mother Sita accepted Lord Rama as her husband by placing a garland around his neck.

He also described Sita's departure from her parental home. Acharya Ji said that when Sita left Janakpur, her parents taught her how to live in her in-laws' home. Every parent should give similar advice to their daughter at the time of her marriage. A daughter should never do anything that would bring dishonor to her in-laws' and parental families. Mother Sita followed her parents' advice throughout her life and never did anything wrong, even when faced with hardships. Guru Gaddi Aseen, Guru Gosain Brij Bhushan Ji Maharaj, congratulated all devotees on the occasion of Ram Navami and urged them to take inspiration from Lord Rama's life. In his discourse, he said that we can learn from Lord Rama's life journey that progress comes from facing challenges and learning from our mistakes. Lord Rama showed compassion and forgiveness even to his enemies, teaching us the importance of finding peaceful solutions and maintaining inner peace.



## Crackdown on drugs continues; narco smuggler held with heroin

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: J&K Police Kathua under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua Sh. Shobhit Saksena IPS while continued its unrelenting efforts against the drug peddling and its suppliers with the aim of eradicating the drug menace completely from the society, has recovered approx. 4.28 Grams of Heroin (chitta) like narcotics in the jurisdictional area of PS Lakhanpur, 01 Nacro Smuggler arrested & narcotics got seized on the spot.



A Police team of PS Lakhanpur under the close supervision of Addl. SP Kathua Sh. Rahul Charak JKPS, DySP DAR Kathua Ritesh Sambyal & SHO P/S Lakhanpur Insp. Tribhawan Khajuria during special checking/patrolling duty at Bye Pass Road near Shamshan Ghat Lakhanpur area apprehended one suspect namely Paramveer Singh S/o Swarn Singh R/o Near Shiv Mandir Madhopur Tehsil & District Pathankot who was enrouted from Punjab towards Kathua under suspicious circumstances. During checking the police party was able to recover/seized approx. 4.28 grams of Heroin (Chitta) like narcotics from his possession. Thereafter all the recovered narcotics (approx. 4.28 Grams Heroin) was seized and one narco smuggler was also arrested on the spot. Regarding this incident, a case with FIR No. 38/2025 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act stands registered in the Police Station Lakhanpur and investigation has been taken up.

### Stolen scooty, motorcycle recovered; lifter arrested

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
AKHNOOR: Continuing its crackdown on vehicle thefts, Jammu Police have achieved a significant breakthrough with the recovery of a stolen scooty and a motorcycle in the Akhnoor area. The operation, led by Inspector Rohit Gandhi of Police Station Akhnoor, also resulted in the arrest of one accused involved in the case.

The case began when Rahul Kumar, son of Randev Kumar and a resident of Pull Chandian, Tehsil Akhnoor, lodged a complaint regarding the theft of his scooty. Acting swiftly on the report, an FIR (No. 59/2025) was registered under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Police Station Akhnoor.

During the investigation, police detained a suspect identified as Sabba Masih, son of Nayamat Singh originally hailing from Tarn Taran, Amritsar (Punjab), and currently residing at Nai Basti, Pargval, Akhnoor. Upon sustained interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime. Following his disclosure, the stolen scooty was recovered and seized. Moreover, a motorcycle bearing registration number JK02CJ5403 was also recovered in a separate seizure under Section 106 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

### Notorious drug peddler arrested; 902 grams of Ganja recovered

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a significant crackdown on drug trafficking, Jammu Police apprehended a suspected drug peddler during routine patrolling in the Machine Domana area of Police Station Domana. The suspect, who was moving towards Raipur Domana, attempted to flee upon spotting the police but was swiftly caught by the alert team.

The accused has been identified as Raghu Ram son of Ganesh Ram Patel resident of Paara Mahatra Kera Jhangir Champa Chattisgarh A/P Samba. Upon conducting a search, police recovered 902 grams of Ganja from his conscious possession. Following the seizure, a case FIR No. 89/2025 u/s 8/20 NDPS ACT has been registered at Police Station Domana, and further investigations are underway to uncover potential links to a larger drug network.

### Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances worth lakhs destroyed

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SOPORE: District Drug Disposal Committee headed by SP Sopore Divya D and DySP DAR Sopore in compliance to Special Court (NDPS) Baramulla order, destroyed Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances worth lakhs. This consignment of Narcotic/Psychotropic Drugs was seized in different NDPS cases registered in different Police Stations of Police District Sopore. The destruction was done through incineration at earmarked/approved location at Lassipora Pulwama. During incineration, 4.646 Kgs of Poppy Straw/Powder, 30 Bottles of Codeine Phosphate, 10 Alpha Drug Tablets & 1981 Capsules of SpasmoProxylon have been destroyed after following all legal requirements as envisaged under Rules, 2022 & done in compliance to directions issued by the Special Court (NDPS) Baramulla.

### Drug peddler arrested, contraband substance recovered

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
AWANTIPORA: Continuing its drive against the drug dealers, Police in Awantipora have arrested a drug peddler from Gadikhal area of Police Post Toll Plaza.

During vehicle checking at Gadikhal Chersoo, a Police party of Police Post Toll Plaza under the supervision of IC PP Toll Plaza apprehended a drug peddler riding a scooty, identified as Abdul Rashid Khan son of Gh Mohd Khan resident of Poshwan. During search, 2.8 Kgs of Charas Powder like substance was recovered from his possession. Scooty used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR Number 71/2025 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Awantipora and investigation has been initiated.

### Two teens killed in Rajouri road accident

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: Two teenagers on a motorcycle were killed after allegedly being hit by a private car in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district late on Sunday, officials said. Azhar Shah (19) and Toyab Raza (18) of Saim Semat village were hit by the speeding car at Fatehpur on the Rajouri-Thanamandi Road, they said. The teenagers were taken to Government Medical College, Rajouri, where they were declared brought dead. The driver of the car fled the spot after the accident and a hunt is on to arrest him, the officials said.

### Army conducts informative lecture on J&K Government Schemes at Mendhar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: In an effort to raise awareness among students about various welfare initiatives, Indian Army conducted an enlightening lecture at Chhatral Higher Secondary School attended by 40 students and 10 teachers on the key government schemes of the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

The session, led by Indian Army aimed to educate students about the benefits and opportunities available to them and their families through these schemes.

The lecture covered significant programs such as the Ladli Beti scheme, which supports the education and wellbeing of the girl child, the Mumkin scheme for youth employment, and Ayushman Bharat for healthcare benefits.

Students also learned about the scheme Mission Youth, which empowers young individuals with skill development and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Speaking at the event, Indian Army emphasized the importance of awareness in ensuring that these initiatives reach the people who need them most.

"Government schemes are designed to uplift communities, and educating young minds about these programs will enable them to guide their families and contribute to society's progress," Indian Army stated.

The interactive session also allowed students to ask questions and gain clarity on how they or their families could benefit from these programs.

School authorities expressed their gratitude to the organizers for conducting such an informative session and encouraged similar awareness programs in the future.

This initiative reflects the commitment of Indian Army to spreading knowledge and ensuring the effective implementation of government welfare programs across the region.