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LG visits Baltal...

Governor was accompanied by K.N Rai, Member, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Science & Technology Department; Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal and senior officials of SASB, Police, Security Forces and stakeholder departments.

Captured Pak national...

he was overpowered and arrested by alert Army troops on Sunday afternoon. The terrorists with him jumped from a steep cliff and returned to the Pakistani side with injuries, the officials said.

Arif, a resident of Datote village in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), was arrested from the forward Hajura post in Gambhir area under the Army's Ace of Spades division, they added. Recapping the events of the day, they said vigilant troops, maintaining an aggressive surveillance posture in the rugged terrain, detected suspicious movement of a group of suspected terrorists attempting to exploit the difficult terrain and dense foliage in order to infiltrate.

While Arif, in his late 20s, was "tactfully captured", the four terrorists jumped off the cliff when they noticed the Indian Army. They landed in 'No Man's Land' and returned to Pakistani side under the cover of thick foliage and adverse weather conditions, the officials said.

Army troops could not open fire on the terrorists due to the presence of Pakistani posts nearby, they said. Drone footage of the area showed a blood trail, indicating that the terrorists had suffered injuries due to the fall.

Arif was in possession of a mobile phone and some Rs 20,000 in Pakistani currency and told his interrogators he was aware of the topography of the area as he is a resident of the Line of Control on the Pakistani side and working at the behest of Pakistani army to help the terrorists to infiltrate into the Indian side, the officials said.

They said the terrorist guide is undergoing detailed interrogation and crucial intelligence is being extracted. This will help in further strengthening the counter-infiltration grid.

6000 students participate...

yearly financial assistance to the academically promising students belonging to economically weaker sections for a period of four years.

The NMMSS being flagship scheme of Central Government has been instrumental in encouraging the meritorious students to chase their academic dreams over the years. The Central Government has allotted a quota of 1068 seats for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir this year.

The J&K BOSE had made elaborate arrangements for ensuring complete transparency through multi-layer monitoring mechanism involving CEOs, HOIs, Board officials and the invigilators.

CM for revival...

initiatives like this, we are trying to revive that connection-to bring the buyers back and reestablish the relationship between creators and customers."

He emphasized that the event is not a one-off showcase.

"Under the scheme, we are committed to organizing six regular Buyer-Seller Meets and six reverse meets. These will ensure sustained engagement and provide deeper market access for our artisans and entrepreneurs," he said.

Underscoring the importance of inclusivity, the Chief Minister urged the Industries Department to prioritise artisans and entrepreneurs who have not yet had the opportunity to participate in such platforms, particularly those with limited financial means. "They have the skill and the product, but lack exposure. If we bring them into the fold, we can address many challenges related to marketing and reach," he said.

He further stressed that the real benefits of such initiatives must directly reach the artisans themselves.

"We must ensure that no one else takes credit or benefit for the work done by our craftspeople. The recognition and rewards must go to the actual creators," CM Omar Abdullah said.

Calling for innovation and adaptation, the Chief Minister said that artisans need to modernise-not just in design and product development, but in processes and infrastructure as well. "Consumer tastes are constantly evolving, and if we remain rigid, we risk falling behind. The government is ready to extend every possible support-be it raw material banks, colour banks, or design innovation centres-to help our artisans compete effectively in international markets," he said.

Appreciating the participation of buyers and dignitaries, he said: "Your presence here is deeply encouraging-not only for us in the government but also for the artisans, entrepreneurs, and all others participating in this event. It gives us confidence and reaffirms that the direction we have taken is the right one."

Reflecting on the journey and continued challenges, he added that while the past few years seem to have passed in the blink of an eye, many of our issues remain unresolved. "Our artisans have magic in their hands, and I urge all visitors to witness it at the exhibition stalls."

He noted that many of the exhibits are the result of years of dedicated craftsmanship.

"One piece I saw today took over three years to complete. Some stalls reflect the rich heritage we have inherited, while others showcase modern interpretations of our traditional crafts. This fusion of the old and new is essential."

In his concluding remarks, the Chief Minister invited visiting buyers to explore the scenic beauty and rich culture of Kashmir.

"I urge you to travel Srinagar and beyond to experience the essence of Kashmir. Take back with you not just world-class products, but unforgettable memories."

Earlier, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, inspected the stalls set up by the sellers. He interacted with both buyers and sellers and appreciated their participation and efforts.

ACB arrests Patwari...

a discreet verification was conducted, which corroborates the demand of bribe by the public servant concerned and accordingly, a case FIR No. 13/2025 under Section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered in Police Station ACB Jammu and investigation taken up.

During the course of investigation, official said, a trap team headed by Gazetted rank officer was constituted.

The team laid a successful trap and accused public servant was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe amount of Rs 30,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses, official said adding that the accused was arrested on the spot by the ACB team after following due process of law.

The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team. Moreover, search is being conducted in the residential house of the accused situated in Kishanpur, Dungara, Billawar, District Kathua in presence of independent witness and Magistrate, official said adding that further investigation of the instant case is going on.

Court rejects bail...

hearing both sides, emphasized the gravity and societal impact of the offence, noting the seizure of an exceptionally large quantity of heroin from the conscious possession of the accused.

Quoting the Supreme Court's guidelines, Judge Sharma underlined that for offences under the NDPS Act, particularly those involving commercial quantity, bail can only be granted if the court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to believe the accused is not guilty and is unlikely to commit such offences while on bail-conditions that were clearly not met in this case.

"The offence is of a serious nature and directly affects society at large. The drug menace is rising at an alarming rate and is eating into the future of our youth like a termite," the court observed. "Given the magnitude of the crime and the evidence presented, including jail visit records and call data analysis, the petitioner does not deserve the judicial discretion of bail."

The court further held that the rigours of Section 37 of the NDPS Act applied squarely to the case, making the accused ineligible for bail in the absence of a prima facie finding of innocence. Accordingly, the bail application was dismissed as devoid of merit.

Sunny Gupta promoted...

Branch, J&K, and Malikzada Idrees DySP, AC&HG, Samba to ACB. Additionally, two Inspectors Kamal Sangra and Rajesh Sharma, on their promotion as DySP in December 2024, have been re-adjusted in ACB as Deputy Superintendents.

CEO issues show...

since 2019. The parties' current addresses are also unknown, raising questions about their active existence.

The CEO has given the parties an opportunity to make a representation and show cause why they should not be delisted. They are required to submit their written representation, accompanied by an affidavit and supporting documents, by July 7, 2025. A hearing has also been scheduled for July 11, 2025.

If the parties fail to respond, the CEO office will presume that they have nothing to say and pass appropriate orders without further reference.

This significant move has been initiated to ensure that the registered political parties are active and functional and that the electoral process is streamlined.

Court sentences 2...

the court of the Third Additional Munsiff in Jammu.

The court delivered a unique verdict on Monday marking a progressive step towards reformative justice.

Rather than imposing traditional imprisonment, the court opted for community service as a corrective measure, he said.

"Both accused are convicted for commission of an offence under Section 355 BNS and shall render community service from 8 am to 10 am for a period of one week at the government hospital in Gandhi Nagar," he added.

Section 355 under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) deals with misconduct in public by a drunken person.

Police conducts mock...

the safety and security of pilgrims at the base camp," a police spokesperson said.

The mock drill involved various agencies, including the Special Operations Group (SOG) Jammu, CRPF, Security Wing, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Fire and Emergency Services, Health Department, civil administration, zonal officers, and other territorial police officials, he said.

Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) from sub-divisional level security setups also participated in the drill.

A detailed briefing was conducted for all personnel to reinforce surveillance measures, validate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and maintain a high state of alertness, the spokesperson said.

"The primary objective of the exercise was to provide hands-on training to all teams, ensuring they are equipped to manage real-time operations in case of any emergency," he added.

The exercise concluded successfully, showcasing the readiness and coordination among participating agencies.

The Security Wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police has assumed charge of security within the Bhagwati Nagar base camp, while the CRPF is tasked with managing the outer perimeter. The Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu serves as the main base camp for pilgrims arriving from across the country en route to the cave shrine nestled in the Himalayas of south Kashmir.

Railway Ministry hikes...

officials are working to prepare the reservation chart eight hours before the train's departure instead of the current four hours, it said.

For trains departing before 2 pm, the charts will be prepared the previous night at 9 pm, the statement said, adding that the minister has directed the change to be implemented in a phased manner to ensure no disruptions.

This move will reduce uncertainties for passengers with waitlist tickets, it said, adding that the first update on waitlist status will be shared in advance.

"It will benefit passengers travelling from remote locations or suburbs of major cities for catching long-distance trains. It will also provide more time to make alternative arrangements in case the wait list is not confirmed," the ministry said.

"The new upgraded Passenger Reservation System (PRS) will allow over 1.5 lakh ticket bookings per minute. This will be an increase of roughly five times from 32,000 tickets per minute in the current PRS," it added.

The ministry said the new PRS also has a multilingual and user-friendly booking and enquiry interface. In the new PRS, users will be able to submit their choice of seat and see the fare calendar. It also has integrated facilities for Divyangian, students and patients, officials said.

The ministry further said that only authenticated users would be allowed to book Tatkal tickets on the IRCTC website and mobile app from July 1 onwards.

It emphasised that OTP-based authentication will be done for Tatkal bookings from the end of July.

The minister instructed officials to broaden the authentication mechanism for Tatkal bookings.

"The authentication should be done using Aadhaar or any other verifiable government ID available in the user's DigiLocker account," the statement said.

According to the ministry, these measures reflect the Railways' continuous efforts to modernise its systems and make them more citizen-friendly.

Sinha inaugurates SASB's...

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; senior officials of SASB, Police and Civil Administration were present at the inaugural ceremony.

Shri Amarnathji Yatra...

Braving rain, pilgrims aspiring to undertake the Yatra thronged the centre to get tokens for their on-the-spot registration.

"The distribution of tokens has started today. For this purpose, a token centre has been set up at Saraswati Dham, from where tokens are being distributed to pilgrims undertaking the Yatra on both routes - Pahalgam and Baltal," Manu Hansa, sub-divisional magistrate, Jammu South, told reporters here.

He said after getting the tokens, the pilgrims can get themselves registered for the Yatra on Tuesday and undertake the pilgrimage beginning July 2 from the Jammu base camp in Bhagwati Nagar.

"The registration will begin tomorrow at three centres - Vaishnavi Dham, Panchayat Bhawan and Mahajan Sabha. This is the only centre from where devotees can get the token. The centre opens at 7 am," he said.

The SDM said the per-day quota of tokens and registration is 2,000 each, and the counters will remain open till the daily quota is exhausted.

Aakash felicitates NEET UG 2025 toppers from Jammu at 'Champions of Aakash' event

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), India's premier test preparatory institute, celebrated the outstanding performance of its NEET UG 2025 toppers from Jammu at the 'Champions of Aakash' felicitation event, honour-



ing meritorious students who personify the institute's spirit of being "problem solvers."

Despite the increased difficulty and changes in the NEET UG 2025 exam format, Aakashians delivered yet another stellar performance. AESL students bagged five ranks in the Top 10 (AIR 2, 3, 5, 9, and 10), with 35 students in the Top 100 and 11 Aakashians emerging as State Toppers, including Jammu & Kashmir.

From Jammu, 13 Aakashians were felicitated, led by Harivansh Rai Sudan (AIR 930), who topped the region. Other notable rankers include Rahul Singh (AIR 1542), Riddhiman Sharma (AIR 2103), Arnav Baghotia (AIR 2934), and Arnav Jandial (AIR 3990).

AESL also celebrated achievers in JEE Advanced 2025 from the North Region, with students like Angad Singh (AIR 3070), Kanwar Harshvardhan Singh Rana (AIR 7479), and Yatharth Kanethia (AIR 8744) earning top All India Ranks.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Deepak Mehrotra, MD & CEO, AESL, said, "NEET 2025 was not only different, it was tougher. But our students have shown that with the right mindset and problem-solving skills, no challenge is too big."

Dr. Surender Chauhan, Regional Director, AESL, praised the resilience and determination of the students. "At Aakash, we empower students to become problem solvers-focused, calm, and solution-oriented, even in uncertain situations," he said.

The event featured an inspiring interactive session where toppers shared strategies for exam preparation, time and stress management, and staying motivated. Students and parents also engaged in Q&A sessions to clarify doubts and learn from the success journeys of the achievers.

The celebration reaffirmed AESL's role in shaping future-ready learners and underscored its commitment to nurturing academic excellence through strategic preparation and mentorship.

Eight narco smugglers nabbed with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH/DODA/SAMBA: In its sustained efforts to curb the menace of drug trafficking and substance abuse, District Police Poonch today achieved a significant breakthrough by apprehending a drug peddler and seizing a heroin-like substance from his possession.

At approximately 1700 hours, a routine naka was laid by the alert personnel of Police Post Mankote in the Mankote area. During the checking operation, a suspicious individual approaching on foot from the Mendhar side towards Sagra attempted to flee upon spotting the police. However, the vigilant naka party acted promptly and successfully intercepted him.

Upon personal search, 2.5 grams of a heroin-like substance was recovered from the individual. He has been identified as Sameer Khan, son of Mohd Rashid Khan, resident of Sagra, Mankote.

Following the recovery, a case has been registered under FIR No. 105/2025, under the relevant sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Mendhar. The accused has been arrested, and further investigation is in progress to ascertain the source and possible network behind the illegal trade.

Poonch Police apprehended a drug peddler and recovered a heroin-like substance from his possession.

Around 2100 hours, during the intervening night a police team from Police Post Chaktroo had established a routine naka at Chaktroo. During the checking, an individual approaching from the Chandak side, on noticing the police presence, attempted to flee from the spot. However, the alert naka party swiftly intercepted the suspect.

Upon conducting his personal search, approximately 5.28 grams of heroin-like substance was recovered. During preliminary questioning, the individual disclosed his identity as Imran Qazmi, son of Gulzar Hussain, resident of Sathra.

In this connection, a case FIR No. 54/2025 under sections 8/21/22 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Mandi. The accused has been taken into custody, and further investigation is underway to unearth the broader network, if any.

Continuing it war against drug, Doda Police arrested two drug peddlers and recovered 05 grams of Heroin (Chitta) like substance from their possession in Bhaderwah area of District Doda.

While giving details, Officials sources has said that on 29-06-2025 reliable sources informed at Police Station Bhaderwah that two persons namely Shubam Raina S/O Daya Krishnan R/o Mohalla Doda and Balvir Singh S/O Om Parkash R/o Gai Dessa are staying in hotel BROAD WAY room No 06 at sari Bazar Bhaderwah. Some contraband like Chitta is in their possession and are involved in smuggling of Heroin (chitta) narcotic contraband substance. Both the individuals are habitual of smuggling such contraband substances. Upon the receipt of this information, a case under FIR No. 88/2024 U/S 8/21/29 NDPS Act was register and PS Bhaderwah an investigation of the cases was entrusted to PSI Amit Sharma No EX-1196691 of PS Bhaderwah. Accordingly the IO along with Executive Magistrate raided the room of the Hotel BROAD WAY where both the persons were found staying. On their personal search 02 grams of Heroin like substance recovered from the possession of Balvir Singh S/O Om Parkash and 03 grams from the possession of Shubam Raina S/O Daya Krishnan total 05 grams of Heroin like substance was recovered from both the accused and were arrested on the spot, further investigation of the case is going on. Forward/back word link are being ascertain.

Continuing its drive against drug smugglers & peddlers, Samba Police has arrested two drug peddlers in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ramgarh and recovered 20 grams approximately heroin (chitta) like substance from their possession.

Acting on information received through reliable sources, a Police party of PS Ramgarh intercepted a Motorcycle bearing registration No. JK21H-1973 near Hira Chak, Ramgarh for its checking. During checking, 20 grams approximately heroin like substance was recovered from the possession of both the rider and pillion rider. The drug peddlers identified as Talib Hussain S/o Masoom Ali R/o Chak Bagla, Ramgarh and Mom Hussain S/o Shamash Din R/o Rakh Barotian, Vijaypur have been arrested and contraband item has also been seized.

A case FIR No 46/2025 U/S 8/21/22/25/29 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Ramgarh and investigation started.

Bovine smuggling attempt foiled, 12 bovines rescued

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Police team of Police Station Panchari led by its SHO have foiled one bovine smuggling bid in which 12 bovines were rescued which were being illegally transported on foot towards Kashmir Valley without any valid permission. Bovine Smuggler namely Mohd. Hanief S/O Dulla R/O Panjar has been arrested on the spot. All the bovines were rescued and have been shifted to a safer place.

In this regard, case FIR No. 31/2025 under relevant sections of law stand registered at Police Station Panchari.

Notorious drug peddler booked under PIT-NDPS Act

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Acting tough against drug peddlers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Jammu Police booked the wanted notorious drug peddler from the jurisdiction of Police Post Pounichak, Sub Division Domana under PIT-NDPS Act and lodged him in District Jail Udhampur.

The notorious drug peddler namely Mahavir Singh @Appu S/O Jodh Singh R/O Ranjitpur Camp Gole Gujral Jammu has been booked under PIT NDPS Act after obtaining formal detention orders from the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu. After the issuance of his arrest warrant, the habitually addicted to crime Mahavir Singh @Appu was evading his arrest and Domana police led by SHO Domana and IC PP Pounichak made strenuous efforts and nabbed him. The booked drug smuggler has been subsequently lodged in District Jail Udhampur.

It is pertinent to mention here that multiple FIR's under NDPS are already registered against the above mentioned drug peddler,who was involved in promoting drug trade by supplying drugs to local youths of the area. Despite so many arrests in different cases after registration of multiple cases, he was not mending his ways and keep indulging in illegal and immoral trade of supplying drugs to innocent youth victims.

Despite his arrest in NDPS cases, he did not mend his activities and was again involved in promoting drug abuse trade by supplying drugs to local youth, in order to achieve monetary gains by illegal, wrongful methods.

The above said notorious drug peddler, criminal has remained successful every time in securing the bails from the Courts and in order to refrain the subject from indulging in criminal activities, a dossier under stringent PIT NDPS Act was recommended against the subject, upon which, the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, after getting satisfied issued a PIT NDPS warrant against him. The arrest was made under the close supervision of SDPO Domana and SP Rural Jammu.

4 drug peddlers held with contraband substances worth Rs 7 lakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Four alleged drug peddlers were arrested along with narcotic substances including heroin in Udhampur district on Monday, police said.

Jeevan Kumar and Sunil Kumar, both residents of Jaganoo village, were arrested after 9.40 gm of heroin worth about Rs 6 lakh was recovered from their possession at Tikri on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, a police spokesman said.

He said they were moving on a motorcycle when they were intercepted and subjected to checking by police.

Two more peddlers, driver Sanjay Kumar and Rohit Kumar of Kah-Phalata village, were arrested after 9.60 kg around Rs 1 lakh of poppy straw was recovered from their vehicle at Flata checkpoint in the Rehambal area, the spokesman said.

He said all four arrested peddlers were booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The spokesman said police have so far registered 61 cases under NDPS since January this year in the district and arrested 87 accused, including seven under the stringent Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act.

The spokesman said 22 vehicles used for the transportation of narcotics were seized while six pharmacy shops were also attached for violating drug norms.

As part of financial disruption, he said 43 bank accounts linked to drug peddlers were frozen, involving an amount of Rs 16,72,948.

The seized contraband including heroin, charas, poppy straw and ganja during this period was valued at Rs 2.42 crore in the black market, the spokesman said, adding police also attached properties worth Rs 4.69 crore, including multiple vehicles, residential houses and commercial assets related to both NDPS and bovine smuggling cases.

Police have also successfully secured convictions against 28 drug peddlers in 21 cases from courts, which marks the professional approach towards case investigation and prosecution, the spokesman said.