

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Adventure tourism vital...

Abdullah praised the author's dedication and passion. "Mr. Shah is truly fortunate to have explored these routes over the last 20-25 years. His experiences, beautifully documented in this volume, reflect deep commitment and love for the land."

The Chief Minister emphasized the need for digitizing the book to ensure wider accessibility. "If we want this work to benefit those who are truly interested in trekking, we must digitize it-perhaps through an app. Let the coordinates, photographs, anecdotes, and waypoints become a digital guide for adventure lovers," he suggested.

He added that while the book will adorn coffee tables, its real value lies in becoming a functional resource that inspires exploration and fosters sustainable tourism.

On the occasion, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, and the author Mehmood A. Shah also spoke. The event was moderated by noted endocrinologist Dr. Shariq Masoodi and was attended by prominent figures from the travel, trade, tourism and media.

Another batch of...

pilgrims.. including 4,691 men, 1,248 women and 17 children, left the Bhagvati Nagar base camp here in 235 vehicles between 3:30 am and 4:00 am, the officials said.

The first pilgrim convoy, carrying 2,215 pilgrims in 100 vehicles, left for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district, followed by the second convoy of 3,928 pilgrims in 135 vehicles who are undertaking the yatra via the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route in Anantnag district, they said.

With this, a total of 89,101 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for the Valley since July 2, when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch.

More than four lakh persons have registered online for the pilgrimage so far.

With the yatra entering its second fortnight, the rush of pilgrims from various parts of the country continues, with over 3,500 fresh pilgrims having arrived in Jammu for their onward journey to Amarnath.

Union Jt Secy...

Minga Sherpa, Joint Director Planning, Principal GMC, ACD, CMO and officers from various line departments.

The Union Joint Secretary was informed that the district has made remarkable progress in its Delta Ranking, issued by NITI Aayog and has improved significantly, moving from the 108th position to 35th out of 112 districts, achieving a composite score of 61.3.

Apprising the JS of key health indicators, the DC stated that the district has achieved 100% saturation in major areas, including nutrition support for pregnant women, full child immunization, institutional deliveries and major reduction in infant and maternal mortality rates, reduction in TB cases and effective implementation of Poshan Abhiyan in combating malnutrition.

Further, the Central Prabhari Officer was informed that the education sector has seen marked improvement with increased student enrolment, 18 Model Academic Schools and Lab Schools in each of the educational zone, increase in Atal Tinkering Labs from 2 to 42, consistent pedagogical teacher trainings and sanitary facilities like incinerators and vending machines.

Meanwhile, the Union Joint Secretary took a comprehensive review of the district under Agriculture and Financial Inclusion, Skill Development and Infrastructure.

The Union Joint Secretary also conducted a comprehensive review of the progress on projects undertaken under the ADP, along with key centrally and state-sponsored schemes such as PMSBY, PMJBY, PM-JDY, PM-APY, PM-MUDRA and HADP.

Speaking during the meeting, Ajeet Kumar Sahu directed the Health Department officials to carry out comprehensive research to identify the root causes of TB in the district and take targeted measures to eliminate them.

Addressing the issue of low uptake of KCC loans by the farmers, the Central Prabhari Officer directed the concerned department to constitute a team to thoroughly examine the reasons behind the poor response and suggest measures to improve participation in the scheme.

Meanwhile, the Union Joint Secretary instructed the concerned department to carry out thorough soil testing across agricultural lands in the district. He asked to ensure that farmers are clearly informed about the findings, particularly any nutrient deficiencies and provide them with tailored recommendations on the types of fertilizers and soil health measures needed to enhance the productivity and sustainability.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner, Minga Sherpa presented a comprehensive overview of the district's performance under 5 key indicators of the ADP, including Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development besides Infrastructure.

Kavinder Gupta appointed...

Minister Narendra Modi. He has also held ministerial posts in Andhra Pradesh government. Senior BJP leader from West Bengal Ashim Kumar Ghosh will be the new Governor of Haryana.

Ghosh, who headed the party's West Bengal unit between 1999 and 2002, will succeed Bandaru Dattatraya. Former Labour and Employment Minister Dattatraya assumed charge as Governor of Haryana on July 15, 2021.

BJP leaders felicitate...

as a recognition of Gupta's lifelong commitment and service to the party and the nation. Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that Kavinder Gupta's appointment is a reflection of his unwavering dedication, ideological strength, and tireless service spanning decades. "From his early days as an RSS Swayamsevak to a grassroots BJP worker serving the party on various key posts, from participating in numerous public struggles to his tenure in jail, and later serving as Mayor of Jammu, Speaker of the J&K Legislative Assembly, and Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder ji has proved his mettle at every stage," he said. Kavinder Gupta expressed his gratitude to the party's top leadership including the Prime Minister, BJP National President, National General Secretary and J&K Prabhari, State President, and all senior leaders for their trust and support. He assured that he would work with full dedication to serve the people of Ladakh and contribute towards national progress.

Gupta added, "This responsibility is not merely a post, but an opportunity to serve the nation with greater intensity. I seek everyone's blessings and support in fulfilling this role effectively." The BJP leadership reiterated its full support and confidence in Kavinder Gupta as he embarks on this prestigious assignment.

CB registers FIRs...

alias Sonu, son of Mohan Choudhary, both residents of Ward No. 13, Purana Pind, near SBI Bank, RS Pura, Jammu,"a CB official said.

The complainant, the official added, alleged that the accused persons assured him that his son would be sent to Portugal on a work visa, and accordingly, he arranged and paid Rs 17.5 lakhs in multiple transactions, both via RTGS and cash.

Despite repeated assurances, the son was first sent to Armenia on a tourist visa, where he remained stranded for 9 months before returning without any job or onward transfer to Portugal, the official said.

To mislead the complainant further, official added, the accused issued dummy flight tickets, conducted a fake interview in Delhi, and finally issued two cheques of Rs 8 lakhs each, which were subsequently dishonoured.

Investigation revealed that the accused were involved in a deliberate and well-planned conspiracy to cheat the complainant under the guise of overseas employment.

The omissions and commissions by the accused persons constitute offences punishable under Sections 420, 120-B IPC, and a formal case has been registered at Police Station SCW, Jammu, official said.

In another case, official said, the Branch Manager of Bank of Maharashtira, Trikota Nagar, Jammu filed a complaint against M/s Shuhul Automobiles Pvt. Ltd. (an authorized Mahindra dealership) and Rakesh Sharma, son of Ratan Lal, resident of Marh, Jammu, a Sales Representative, alleging fraud in the disbursement of a vehicle loan worth Rs 12,07,110.

As per the complaint, the dealership issued a Proforma Invoice dated January 17, 2024 for a Mahindra Thar LX (2WD) under the name of M/s CM Enterprises (Proprietor: Chand Gupta), following which the bank transferred the entire loan amount to the dealer's SBI account.

However, despite repeated follow-ups and even legal notices, the vehicle was never delivered, and the loan was never hypothecated - causing a direct financial loss to the bank and depriving it of its security, the official said.

Preliminary verification confirmed that the accused persons, in criminal connivance, misrepresented facts to obtain the loan amount and never intended to fulfill the contractual obligations, thereby committing fraud and criminal breach of trust, official said adding that the omissions and commissions by the suspects constitute offences punishable under Sections 420, 120-B IPC, and a formal case stands registered at Police Station SCW, Crime Branch Jammu.

"The Special Crime Wing Jammu reiterates its commitment to act firmly against white-collar crimes and bring fraudsters to justice, ensuring that the interests of common citizens and financial institutions are protected," the official said.

CAT stays mandatory...

and non-discrimination enshrined in the Constitution.

During the course of hearing Sr. Adv Abhinav Sharma submitted that the applicants have further expressed their grievance with regard to the impugned advertisement notification No. 05 of 2025, dated June 9, 2025, wherein the minimum qualification for the post of Naib Tehsildar is once again restricted to Graduation with knowledge of Urdu.

He further submitted that this restriction unfairly excludes individuals who possess proficiency in any of the other official languages, including Hindi, Kashmiri, English, and Dogri, and thereby impedes their eligibility to apply for the said post in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The applicants have also sought appropriate directions from this Court restraining the respondents from cancelling the candidature of individuals, including the petitioners, for the post of Naib Tehsildar solely on the ground that they do not possess knowledge of Urdu, despite their proficiency in Hindi, Kashmiri, English, and Dogri, all of which are recognized under the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Act, 2020. It is the petitioners' contention that such a restriction is arbitrary and discriminatory, as the Act recognizes multiple languages as official languages of the Union Territory.

CAT after hearing Sr. Advocate Abhinav Sharma with Adv Abhirash Sharma for the applicants whereas AAGs Rajesh Thappa, Sudesh Magotra and Deputy AG Hunar Gupta for the UT, observed that this Court is of the considered view that the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Revenue (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules of 2009, to the extent it mandates Urdu as the exclusive language qualification, prima facie appears to be discriminatory, especially in light of the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Act, 2020. In light of the above, this Court hereby stays the operation of the relevant provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Revenue (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules of 2009, insofar as they mandate Graduation with knowledge of Urdu as the minimum qualification for the post of Naib Tehsildar. Further, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Recruitment Board (SSRB) is directed to accept applications for the post of Naib Tehsildar from candidates who possess Graduation with knowledge of any of the five official languages enumerated in the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Act, 2020, which includes Hindi, Kashmiri, English, Dogri, and Urdu.

CAT also issued notices to the respondents, who are directed to file their reply within four weeks from the date of this order and directed to list this matter on August 13, 2025.

ACB arrests Postal...

bribe from complainant, he was immediately taken into custody after following due process of law. Further investigations are going on, the official said.

Advisor to CM...

growing acceptance of counterfeit goods and smuggled products in everyday commerce", emphasized Wani.

Wani said that we wholeheartedly support this important cause and stand united in the fight against illicit trade. "We are committed to taking this initiative forward with sustained efforts, greater collaboration, and impactful action in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

The rally marked yet another milestone as FICCI CASCADE's national awareness campaign, aimed at engaging with communities, spreading awareness about the serious consequences of illicit trade, and mobilizing public support to curb the menace of smuggling and counterfeiting.

The auto rally was meticulously organized and proceeded through Nehru Park, Boulevard Road, and proceeded past prominent city landmarks including SKICC and Royal Springs Golf Course Gate, before culminating back at Nehru Park. The convoy of auto rickshaws carried vibrant banners, vividly highlighting the urgent issues associated with illicit trade. Emphasizing its severe repercussions, the banners carried messages about how illicit trade contributes to job losses, finances terror activities, fuels crime syndicates and is a health hazard. Tanvir Sadiq, MLA, said that "Illicit trade poses a serious threat to our economy, endangers livelihoods, and compromises public safety. In a region like Jammu and Kashmir, where we are working tirelessly towards stability and progress, combating counterfeiting and smuggling must be a shared priority. Strong enforcement and public awareness are essential to protect the rights of genuine businesses and the future of our youth."

Mushtaq Ahmed Burza, Chairman, FICCI J&K State Council, said that "In a region like Jammu & Kashmir, where economic stability and employment are key pillars of progress, curbing illicit trade is vital to ensuring growth, trust, and lawful enterprise."

Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi, said, "Illicit trade is not just an economic issue, it is a threat to national security. Often, proceeds from smuggling find their way into funding organized crime and terrorist activities. Every smuggled product in the market is a blow to legitimate business, a loss to the exchequer, and a potential hazard to public health. Through this rally in Srinagar, we aim to empower and involve every citizen as an active partner in this vital fight against illicit trade."

The Auto Rally in Srinagar stands as a significant step forward in FICCI CASCADE's ongoing efforts to engage with communities, local authorities, and the general public in the fight against illicit trade. By fostering awareness and encouraging public resistance to smuggling and counterfeiting, initiatives like this play a crucial role in building a more informed and vigilant society. Through sustained outreach campaigns, FICCI CASCADE continues to strengthen consumer awareness and mobilize nationwide support to eradicate the menace of illicit trade.

According to a recent report by FICCI CASCADE titled "Challenging Landscape of Illicit Trade: How Changing Factors of Consumption Affect Illicit Markets in 5 Key Industries in India", the size of the illicit market in just five key sectors including FMCG packaged goods, personal and household care, alcohol, tobacco, and textiles & apparel, has been estimated at Rs 7.97 lakh crore.

The report further reveals that the illicit market in textiles & apparel alone stands at Rs 4,03,915 crore, accounting for over 50% of the total illicit trade; FMCG packaged foods account for Rs 2,23,875 crore; and Personal and household care goods represent Rs 73,813 crore.

The tobacco and alcohol industries, historically subject to higher tax regimes, are especially vulnerable. The report states that over 50 per cent of the illicit tobacco market and 46 per cent of the illicit alcohol trade are direct consequences of punitive taxation, which drives consumers and suppliers toward illegal alternatives. Illicit trade in these sectors not only results in reduced tax collections but also distorts market competition and discourages innovation by harming law-abiding businesses.

'Citizens must know...

and expression. If they don't then the state will step in and who wants the state to step in? Nobody wants the state to step in (sic)."

The top court, in the meantime, extended the interim protection from coercive action to Khan which was initially granted on June 23. He had filed a complaint against another social media influencer Sharmistha Panoli for allegedly making communal remarks in a video.

Justice Nagarathna during the hearing said, "The citizens must know the value of the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression. The State can step in case of violations... Nobody wants the State to step in (sic)."

The bench observed the "divisive tendency" on social media had to be curbed.

It added, "The freedom of speech and expression is a fundamental right. But there is no self restraint and self regulation... if the citizens want to enjoy this fundamental right they will have to regulate themselves and there has to be some kind of self restraint." Referring to the observations of Justice Viswanathan, Justice Nagarathna said, "My learned brother rightly said that there should be fraternity between the citizens then all this hatred will come down." "We are not speaking about censorship. But in the interest of fraternity, secularism and dignity of individuals...We will have to go into this beyond this petition," the bench observed. The top court outlined the reasonable restrictions under Article 19 (2) of the Constitution on freedom of speech and expression, saying they had "rightly been placed".

Market inspection drive carried out in Poonch; 32 shopkeepers challaned

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Acting on various complaints received from locals regarding overcharging and sale of sub standard Fruits, sweets and other eatables by shopkeepers a team of officials from Food Standard Safety department and Municipal Council today inspected various markets of Poonch. The team comprising Police, Municipal council, CAPD, Food safety Department conducted surprise inspections at different business units at Poonch town and its adjoining areas and few shops selling substandard vegetables and sweets were challaned and the team immediately seized substandard eatables and realized a fine to the shopkeepers. Under the supervision of Tariq Mehmud, Assistant Commissioner Food safety Department & Naib Tehsildar Parkash Singh the team raided various markets of Poonch.

Unidentified body found

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An unidentified male body, approximately 25-27 years of age, about 5'5" in height, was found at Tawi Bund, under the 4th Tawi Bridge, Niki Tawi, Jammu. The deceased was found wearing a grey "Nike Air" T-shirt, brown trousers, and black rubber chappals (slippers). The body has been shifted to GMC Jammu mortuary for preservation and further medico-legal formalities. In view of the suspicious circumstances, inquest proceedings under Section 194 BNSS have been initiated at Police Post Canal Road, vide DDR No. 04 dated 13/07/2025. Anyone having any information that may assist in establishing the identity of the deceased is requested to contact: I/C Police Post Canal Road: 7780948609; PP Official Contact: 9541927299.



Theft case cracked; 6 inter-state thieves arrested, 120 grams gold, 530 grams silver recovered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NOWSHERA: Nowshera Police successfully cracked a theft case within 72 hours, recovering 120 grams of gold (worth approx. Rs 12 lakh) and 530 grams of silver ornaments (worth approx. Rs 65,000). Acting on a complaint regarding the theft of golden ornaments from Jewellery shop at Nowshera, FIR No. 90/2025 was registered U/S 305(A)/331(3) BNS. Special teams were constituted under senior officers, and a swift investigation using technical surveillance and field intelligence led to the arrest of six inter-state thieves, identified as Jaswant Singh S/O Jagmohan; Raj Kumar S/O Chanda Ram; Gagan Kumar S/O Shora Ram; Ritu W/O Jaswant Singh (All R/O Fatehabad, Haryana); Seema Rani D/O Pappu (R/O Bathinda, Punjab) and Poonam W/O Ram Partap (R/O Rajasthan). The accused are part of an inter-state gang operating across Haryana, Punjab, and Rajasthan. Further investigation is underway to identify their involvement in other similar cases.

Gangster held with sharp-edged weapon

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

R.S. PURA: In a display of alertness, Jammu Police apprehended a man in possession of an illegal sharp-edged weapon during routine naka checking at Daljit Chowk, R.S. Pura.

The arrested accused has been identified as Ashwani Kumar, son of Sardar Chand, a resident of Abdullahi, Tehsil Suchetgarh, District Jammu. According to information received, police stopped an auto-rickshaw for checking at Daljit Chowk. During the search, the police recovered a sharp-edged weapon ('Toka') from Ashwani Kumar, who was traveling as a passenger. He had concealed the weapon in the back of his black shorts. When questioned, the accused could not give any satisfactory reason for carrying the weapon. Police have registered a case under FIR No. 145/2025 under Section 4/25 of the Arms Act at Police Station R.S. Pura, and further investigation is underway.

Interstate drug network busts; 2 nabbed with 11.6 Kg Ganja

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant crackdown on drug trafficking, Police Station Miran Sahib, Jammu, achieved a major breakthrough by apprehending two drug peddlers during routine naka checking at Balol Naka, leading to the recovery of a large quantity of Ganja

The operation resulted in the seizure of 11.6 Kgs Ganja.Motorcycle bearing registration number JK02CX 6327 was also seized. The arrested accused have been identified as Girdhari Lal S/O Salla R/O Mandnipur District Chaterpur M.P and Suraj Kumar S/O Vijay Choudhary R/O Jamalpur District Mangair State UP. Both are working as drug peddler, and their further questioning is expected to provide further leads on the supply chain and distribution network of the contraband. In this regard, FIR No. 93/2025 has been registered at Police Station Miran Sahib under sections 8/20/29/60 of the NDPS Act. The operation was led by SHO Miran Sahib, Inspector Sh. Jai Paul Sharma and PSI Ajesh Singh Janwal, under the supervision of SDPO R.S. Pura and SP Headquarters Jammu.

Kidnapped girl traced, accused arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: n a major breakthrough, Doda Police successfully traced a kidnapped minor girl and apprehended the accused within 15 hours, showcasing swift action and a strong commitment to the safety and security of the public. Following a written complaint regarding the kidnapping of a minor girl from Jammu, FIR No. 41/2025 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Thatthri. Acting swiftly on the directions of SSP Doda Sandeep Mehta (JKPS), a special team was constituted, led by SHO PS Thatthri DySP (Prob.) Afeer Jalal Khan, under the close supervision of SDPO Bhaderwah. Utilizing a combination of technical surveillance and human intelligence, the police team successfully traced and rescued the kidnapped girl from Jammu within a short span of time. The accused, identified as Atul Bhagat, son of Ashok Kumar, resident of Ward No. 3, Akhhil Kothey, Jammu, was also arrested from Jammu. After completion of all medico-legal formalities, the recovered girl was safely handed over to her family.

Movable property worth lakh of notorious bovine smuggler attached under new criminal laws

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: As a part of its relentless effort against bovine smuggling in the district, Udhampur Police has attached a vehicle bearing Regd. No. JK02DA-8994 worth Rs. 10 lakhs owned by habitual Bovine smuggler namely Murad Ali S/O Nek Alam R/O Kadyal, R.S Pura, Jammu. The case pertains to FIR No. 92/2025, registered under Section 223 BNS U/S 11 PCA Act of PS Rehambal. During the investigation of the case,the movable property was identified as proceeds of crime and was thus attached under section 107 BNSS after obtaining orders from competent court.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled; 4 bovines rescued, accused arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Continuing its sustained efforts against bovine smuggling, Doda Police today foiled a smuggling attempt and rescued four bovines being transported in an inhumane manner.

A naka was established at Pul Doda by officials of Police Post Pul Doda, under the jurisdiction of Police Station Doda. During the naka checking, a vehicle bearing registration number JK06B-6441 was intercepted. Upon inspection, 04 bovines were found mercilessly crammed inside the vehicle without any provision for food or water. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Mohd Raffiq, son of Ghulam Ali, resident of Kulhand, Doda. He failed to produce any valid permission from the competent authority for the transportation of the animals. Accordingly, FIR No. 165/2025 under Section 223 BNS and Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was registered at Police Station Doda. The accused has been arrested and the vehicle seized. Further investigation is underway.

Theft case solved within 24 hours; accused arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a swift and efficient response,Jammu Police have successfully solved a temple theft case within 24 hours in the Jhajjar Kotli area. Earlier this morning, one individual, Ravi Kumar, identifying himself as the priest of Kali Mata Mandir in Siranjli, appeared at the police station and lodged a written complaint. He reported that a golden nose ring (gold Nath) adorning the deity and five silver coins were stolen from the temple premises. Acting promptly on the complaint, a case was registered under FIR No. 86/2025, invoking Section 305 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The investigation team employed a strategic blend of human intelligence and technical surveillance, which led to the swift identification and apprehension of the accused. During sustained interrogation, the accused confessed to committing the theft.The stolen items were recovered from his possession, including one golden nose ring; five silver coins.

UTDRF Doda unit organizes disaster awareness session at Police Public School Doda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In a significant move to strengthen disaster preparedness among students, the Union Territory Disaster Response Force (UTDRF) Doda Unit today conducted an awareness session at Police Public School (PPS), Doda, located within the District Police Lines (DPL), Doda. The program was organized under the supervision of DySP SDRF Doda, Adil Rishu, and aimed at sensitizing students and staff about basic disaster management techniques, emergency response procedures, and life-saving skills. During the session, trained personnel from the UTDRF provided detailed demonstrations on first aid, CPR, use of fire extinguishers, and evacuation drills. The participants were also briefed on safety protocols during natural calamities such as earthquakes, landslides, and floods. Special emphasis was laid on practical learning, with students and staff actively participating in mock drills and interactive Q&A sessions. The initiative was well-received by the school community, with the Principal of PPS Doda appreciating the UTDRF team for their dedicated efforts in promoting awareness and resilience among young citizens.