Honesty is mandatory, not optional, in army enrolment: DB

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed a writ petition filed by Dharminder Kumar, a former Territorial Army recruit, who had challenged his discharge from service for concealing information about his involvement in a criminal case.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Shahzad Azeem, while pronouncing the verdict through virtual mode from Srinagar, upheld the findings of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), Srinagar Bench at Jammu. which had earlier rejected

156th Infantry Battalion of the Territorial Army on February 15, 2016. During his training, the authorities received communication from the police and the Sub-Judge (JMIC) Nowshera that he was facing trial in FIR No. 79/2015 under Sections 451, 147, 148, 323 of the RPC and Section 4/25 of the Arms Act.

Despite a clear question in the enrollment form about prior imprisonment, criminal cases, or police complaints, the petitioner had answered "No." The authorities, finding the response false, issued a show-cause notice and subsequently discharged him from service on December 29, 2016, under Army **Territorial** Regulations, 1948

The AFT dismissed his challenge in 2018, holding that no formal inquiry was necessary in such cases and that concealment of material facts during enrollment justified termination. A review petition filed by him was also dismissed the same year.

Endorsing the Tribunal's reasoning, the High Court noted that the petitioner had knowingly suppressed his antecedents, depriving the Army of its right to assess his suitability. The Bench relied on Supreme Court judgments

India and Union of India vs. Shishu Pal @ Shiv Pal, observing that integrity and truthfulness are paramount for military service.

"The petitioner, at the time of his enrollment, knowingly made a false statement regarding his involvement in a criminal case. The subsequent discharge order cannot be termed arbitrary or illegal," the Bench observed.

Dismissing the plea as devoid of merit, the High Court affirmed the validity of the discharge, underlining that honesty is mandatory, not optional, in Army

DB says enough is enough, orders regularization after 30 years Three decades of service can't be paid in Daily Wages: DB

JAMMU: Bringing long-awaited relief to a group of Floriculture Department workers, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has upheld their regularization after nearly three decades of continuous service, dismissing the Union Territory administration's plea against the order

A Division Bench comprising Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Rajesh Sekhri, while hearing the matter through virtual mode, ruled that denial of regular status to these workers, despite their uninterrupted service since 1993, amounted to "grave injustice"

The respondents were engaged as daily-rated workers in the Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks in 1993 for maintaining parks and gardens. Their cases were repeatedly recommended for regular-

Flood havoc at SKUAST-J: research farms, roads, equipments, greenhouses destroyed

ization by the department but were rejected in 2016 on the plea that they were not covered under SRO 64 of

After multiple rounds of litigationincluding an earlier direction from the High Court in 2016 and a fresh rejection in 2021-the workers moved the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Jammu Bench, which in December 2024 ordered their regularization with effect from the date they completed seven years of service, along with consequential benefits.

Upholding the Tribunal's verdict, the High Court noted that the workers had been engaged prior to the ban of April 1, 1994, and their continuous service for over 30 years clearly proved a sustained need for their

Citing earlier Division Bench rulings in Mushtaq Ahmed Sohail and Anuradha, the Court reiterated that when casual labourers are retained for decades, the law presumes a regular requirement, making regularization a rightful remedy.

The Bench also referred to the Supreme Court's recent judgment in Jaggo vs Union of India (2024), stressing that government departments must lead by example in providing fair and stable employment instead of exploiting workers under

temporary arrangements. "The respondents' long and uninterrupted service extending now beyond 30 years cannot be brushed aside... their sustained contribution warrants equitable treatment, and denial of this benefit would amount to grave injustice." the Bench observed.

Accordingly, the Division Bench dismissed the UT administration's plea and upheld the regularization of Floriculture daily wagers with full

HC holds discharged recruit cannot march back into Army

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed a writ petition filed by Daljeet Singh, a former Army recruit, seeking reinstatement into service after his premature discharge in

A Division Bench comprising Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Rajesh Sekhri, while pronouncing the judgment through virtual mode, upheld the order of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), Srinagar Bench at Jammu, which had earlier rejected the plea on similar grounds.

Daljeet Singh was enrolled in the Indian Army on May 1, 2021, at the Punjab Regiment Centre, Ramgarh Cantt, and was undergoing training. However, he was discharged on July 20, 2021, after submitting a sworn affidavit dated July 5. 2021. in which he expressed disinterest in continuing military service. Singh later alleged coercion and sought reinstatement, but his representation was rejected by the competent authority on August 25, rejoining the Army.

2021, citing no provision for reinstatement after dis-

Singh approached the Armed Forces Tribunal in 2023, which dismissed his application, holding that there was no evidence of coercion and that his discharge was voluntary. The Tribunal also clarified that under Regulation 142, only "ex-servicemen" are entitled to seek re-enrolment, whereas Singh, being an unattested recruit, did not

The High Court endorsed the Tribunal's reasoning, noting that Singh was an un-attested trainee and his notarized affidavit clearly demonstrated his voluntary decision to quit. "The plea of coercion is unsupported by any credible evidence," the Bench observed, adding that the discharge was carried out lawfully under Army Rule 13(3), Item IV.

Finding no illegality in the discharge process or the order, the Division Bench dismissed the petition as devoid of merit, thereby closing the door on Singh's hopes of

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A catastrophic flash flood struck the Shere-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) Tuesday severely impacting both the campuses at Chatha and R.S. Pura.

The Chatha campus was the worst hit where water levels rose to nearly seven to eight feet submerging buildings, roads, parapets, vehicles, agricultural fields while the R.S. Pura campus also reported significant dam-

The floodwaters caused widespread devastation with initial estimates suggesting losses of around ?100-120 crores. Apart from costly research equipment, vehicles, IT infrastructure, records, experimental fields and livestock units, the university suffered extensive damage to roads, boundary parapets, power house, internal pathways, drainage structures, playgrounds, library, sports facilities, stastudent centre, Community Radio Station and e-studio etc of grave concern is the potential loss of invaluable research data, experimental trials and breeding material which form the backbone of the university's academic and

research mandate. Significant losses were also reported in the assets created undervarious research and development initiatives such as the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in Jammu & Kashmir (JKCIP), hi-tech greenhouses, polyhouses, ex-situ gene bank and modern farm machinery including gensets and tractors.

Ground floors of all major buildings including class-

rooms, laboratories. libraries. hostels administrative blocks were inundated. Vehicles belonging to staff and students were seen floating across the campus.

Nearly 500 individuals, including students, faculty, staff and labourerswere stranded in different parts of the campuses

At Chatha, many students and employees were seen struggling as water levels rose dangerously while others took refuge on higher floors and rooftops waiting for rescue. They were trapped inside and had to be rescued after an hours-long struggle.

In a coordinated operation, the Indian Army, CRPF, NDRF and SDRF assisted by university officials and local volunteers carried out massive rescue

Timely intervention of rescue agencies and locals averted a major tragedy and demonstrated their continued commitment to public safety and disaster relief.

Amidst the crisis, Prof. B. Tripathi, SKUAST-Chancellor, Jammu, personally monitored the situation from the onset of flooding until the last stranded student and employee was safely res-

He remained in constant coordination with rescue agencies, faculty and staff to ensure that no life was

Prof. Tripathi commended the swift action of the Army, CRPF, NDRF, SDRF and the courage of university staff who supported evacuation operations.

Expressing deep concern over the damages, Prof. Tripathi stated, "The loss is enormous; not only in terms of property and equipment but also in terms of invaluable research data and experiments. ongoing However, I want to assure our students, faculty and the scientific community that SKUAST-Jammu will recover from this disaster with renewed strength. We will rebuild our infrastructure, restore our research fields and continue our mission of serving the farming community of Jammu and

Kashmir.' The aftermath of the flood remains grim as submerged soils, debris and silt deposits have damaged infrastructure, research farms, experimental plots and seed production units threatening years of scithe damage to critical laboratories and data but reaffirmed resilience.

The University administration has initiated a comprehensive damage assessment across both campuses and a consolidated report is being prepared for submission to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to seek immediate relief and restoration sup-

To assess the situation on the ground, a high-level team Agriculture the Production Department comprising the Secretary, Special Secretary, Director Planning, Joint Director Planning and Deputy Secretary visited SKUAST-Jammu.

As per preliminary estimates, the losses have been tentatively assessed at Rs 100-120 crores including civil works (electrical and mechanical), laboratory equipment, furniture, IT equipment, glassware, chemicals and consumables, playgrounds, library, sports facilities, stadium, student centre, Community Radio Station, estudio, vehicles etc. Detailed item-wise information is being compiled and the consolidated report will soon be

60 blood units donated by **Sant Nirankari Mission**



STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Keeping the ideologies and teachings of Satguru Mata Sudiksha ji Maharaj in mind, saints of Sant Nirankari Mission, Rajouri, organised a Blood Donation Camp at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan, Rajouri on Sunday. Satguru Mata Sudiksha ji Maharaj says, 'Our life should be devoted to the service of humanity; we all have to live a life with such a spirit'.Satguru Mata Ji says,"taking inspiration from the life and teachings of Baba Hardev Singh Ji Maharaj that, we can save someone's life by giving our valuable contribution in the service of humanity through donating blood.

This blood Donation camp had been carried out under the banner of Sant Nirankari Charitable Foundation. MLA Rajouri, Iftkar Ahmed and DDC Chairman, Adv.Naseem Liaqat jointly inaugurated the camp and urged all the members of society to come forward and donate their blood as donating blood is considered as the supreme donation towards humanity. Both of these dignitaries along with many civil society members, who marked their

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presence on this occasion, lauded the efforts saints of Sant Nirankari Charitable

Foundation for conducting

these camps annually for the

last 16 years in Rajouri.

Almost 135 saints volunteered themselves for this Humanness Blood Drive, out of which . 60 donors donated their blood for the cause. Rev. Anil Kapoor Ji, Convenor informed that "Humanness Blood drive" has been a regular activity, that the saints of the Mission from all across the globe, perform annually. This has helped in saving many lives and familes. As the Mission has been organsing these camps for more than three decades, as the first camp was organised in 1986. Since then, more than 14 lakh blood units have been donated through 8644 blood donation camps for the welfare of mankind. With the message of Satguru Baba Hardev Singh ji maharaj that "Blood should flow in Human veins and Not in Drains".the Mission volunteers have already donated more than 50,000 units of blood this year itself on the occasion of Manav Ekta Diwas on 24th April, at the blood donation camps organized at more than 250 places across India. This camp was conducted by the team of doctors from Department of Blood Transfusion Medicine

and Immunohematology GMC

and AH Rajouri. He also wel-

comed and thanked all the

Dignitaries and saints, came

from different areas and also

Rajouri District administration,

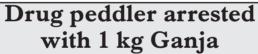
GMC hospital Administration &

CMO office . A community

langer and refreshments have

also been arranged for the

saints and the donors.



STATE TIMES NEWS SAMBA: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers & peddlers, Samba Police has arrested a drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Bari Brahmana and recovered pproximately 01 Kg Ganja like substance rom his possession.

A Police party of Police Station Bari Brahmana while performing naka Railway Station Bari Brahmana,

intercepted a person who was moving under suspicious circumstances and during frisking recovered approximately 01 Kg Ganja like substance from his possession.

The drug peddler identified as Ajay Kumar S/o Mangal Singh R/o Pipar Panti Koila Khaagaria (Bihar) has been arrested and contraband item has also been seized.

A case FIR No 123/2025 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act has been regstered at PS Bari Brahmana and investigation started.

Two arrested in sacrilegious act STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Poonch Police received reliable information regarding a sacrilegious act in the Kuniyan area. Acting swift-



ly on the input, a police team from Police Station Poonch rushed to the spot and apprehended two persons involved in the incident. A vehicle used in the commission of the act was also seized from the spot.

Search operations are underway to trace and apprehend other individuals suspected to be involved in the case.

Taking cognizance of the matter, Police Station Poonch has registered FIR No. 160/2025 under Section 299 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and further investigation is

District Police Poonch assures the public that strict legal action will be taken against all those found involved in this act.

Multiple bovine smuggling bids foiled, 23 bovines rescued, 5 vehicles seized, 5 arrested STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Police foiled three separate smuggling attempts across the district by rescuing 23 bovine animals, five Arrested and seizing five vehicles involved in bovine smug-

Naka checking was conducted by Police Post Chingus led by IC PP Chingus. A Tata Mobile (JK20-5057) was intercepted

and found transporting 08 bovine animals illegally via Keri Road without valid permission. The driver managed to flee while the bovine animals were rescued and the vehicle seized. In this regard a case FIR No. 436/2025 U/S 223 BNS & 11 PCA Act stands registered at Police Station Rajouri.

In another Incident, a police team of Police Station Kandi intercepted a Tata Mobile (JK02AF-1785) during naka checking and found it loaded with 07 bovine animals being transported without valid permission. The bovine animals were rescued and the vehicle seized. Accordingly FIR No. 109/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Kandi. Naka was laid by Police Station Sunderbani at Thandanani

where a Mahindra Bolero Pick-up (JK11C-0760) coming from Mawa towards Rajouri was stopped. On checking, 04 bovine animals were found loaded without valid permission. The bovine animals were rescued and the vehicle seized.

In this regard a case FIR No. 53/2025 U/S 281/223 BNS &11 PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Sunderbani. Naka checking teams of Police Station Nowshera intercepted two vehicles - Bolero Pick-up (JK11B-0779) and Bolero Pick-up (JK12B-7987). On checking both vehicles were found loaded with 04 bovine animals in total being transported illegally without valid permission. All animals were rescued and both vehicles were seized. In this regard FIR No. 115/2025 and FIR 116/25 under relevant sections of the law stand registered at Police Station Nowshera.

Rajouri Police successfully rescued 23 bovine animals and seized 05 vehicles involved in bovine smuggling and 05 Arrested. Further investigation in all the cases is underway.

Drug peddler nabbed with heroin STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Continuing its drive against drug menace, Udhampur Police apprehended a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

During patrolling duty, a police party of PS Rehambal led by its SHO intercepted one person for checking purposes. On his personal search, 03.83 grams of heroin-like sub-

fied as Tariq Hussain S/O

stance was recovered. The accused has been identi-Shah Mohd. R/O Dudial, Chak Udhampur. In this connection, FIR No. 135/2025 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS

Act has been registered at Police Station Rehambal and investigation has been set into motion

Five arrested, vehicles seized for illegal rooster fight and animal cruelty ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

R S PURA: In a stern action against cruelty to animals, Jammu Police apprehended six persons for organizing and participating in an illegal rooster fight at village Kharian in R.S. Pura area.

During routine patrolling, a police team of Police Station R.S. Pura led by PSI Naresh Kumar under the supervision of SHO R.S. Pura, Inspector Ravi Singh Parihar, noticed a gathering where several individuals were forcing roosters to fight in a cruel manner for unlawful gains. On seeing the police, some participants attempted to flee; however, swift action by the patrolling team led to the arrest of six persons, while oth-



ers managed to escape.

The arrested persons were identified as Ram Parshad S/o Bachan Lal R/o Kharian Tehsil R.S. Pura, Bodh Raj S/o Karnail Chand R/o Jajowal Tehsil R.S. Pura, Ranjit Singl S/o Paramvir Singh R/o Gondla Tehsil R.S. Pura, Arjur Singh S/o Jagdish Lal R/o Kalan Tehsil R.S. Pura and a minor while some other persons namely Nownit Singh R/o Miran Sahib, Sukha R/o Dhari and Satvinder R/o Deewangarh fled from the spot.

Police also seized 18 motorcycles from the scene. In this regard, FIR No. 179/2025 U/S 11(1) PCA Act has been reg istered at Police Station R.S. Pura and further investigation is underway to apprehend the remaining accused.

Thieves attempt robbery in ATM, CCTV damaged ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: In a shocking incident, a group of unidentified thieves made an abortive attempt to loot the State Bank of India (SBI) ATM booth located near the main branch on Dhar Road, Udhampur, during the intervening night of August 30 and 31. The miscreants damaged the ATM machine and CCTV cameras, and may have succeeded in stealing some cash before fleeing the scene, taking advantage of bad weather and darkness.

Sources said that the thieves targeted the ATM booth situated just adjacent to the main SBI branch. The group reportedly managed to damage the ATM machine and escape, possibly with cash, under the cover of rain and nightfall. CCTV cameras installed at the site were also deliberately damaged to erase evi-

Speaking to the media, SHO Purab Singh confirmed the attempted theft and damage to the machines. "Yes there was an attempt to rob the ATM booth, and the machines were indeed damaged. However, as today is a Sunday and a bank holiday, the actual financial loss is yet to be determined. We are waiting for the bank to provide details and CCTV footage," he said.

A police team was promptly dispatched to the spot and circumstantial evidence has been collected Further investigation is underway.

The incident has sparked concern and fear among local residents, who questioned how such a daring act could take place so close to the main branch and in busy residential area. Locals also raised serious con cerns about the apparent absence or negligence of security personnel at the ATM booth during the inci-

Despite the presence of several other banks in the vicinity, this incident has highlighted the urgent need for improved security measures at ATM booths, espe cially during night hours.