

Over 40 Journalists attend Media Workshop on AI Impact Summit; PIB Jammu holds Training Session on use of AI

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JAMMU: Press Information Bureau (PIB), Jammu organised a media workshop 'varta' on the theme "AI Impact Summit 2026" at Press Club here Thursday.

The programme was aimed at building awareness and capacity among journalists on the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in the media ecosystem. The workshop also featured a dedicated capacity building session on the use of AI tools for journalists to enhance productivity and improve newsroom workflows.

Speaking on the occasion, Director, PIB Jammu, Neha Jalali emphasized that accessibility, democratization of AI technology, and responsible use of artificial intelligence were the core principles of the AI Impact Summit 2026.

She said Artificial Intelligence is increasingly influencing every sector, including media and communication.



She emphasised the need for media professionals to collectively prepare for the evolving technological landscape and adapt to emerging AI-driven tools.

She highlighted that AI offers immense potential for enhancing productivity, improving content creation, and strengthening fact-checking mechanisms in journalism.

Jalali further underlined that

the government is proactively advancing initiatives under the national AI mission to promote inclusive technological growth. She informed that initiatives such as IndiaAI Mission, YuvaAI, and SOAR Initiative are aimed at democratising technology and ensuring equitable access to AI tools.

This, she said, would help bridge the digital divide, and enable

responsible use of technology for societal good. The Director also highlighted the initiatives of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, including the establishment of the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT), with significant budgetary allocation to strengthen India's media and entertainment technology ecosystem.

The workshop witnessed participation from more than 40 journalists. The workshop provided practical insights into the responsible and effective use of AI in journalism, including tools for productivity, content generation, data analysis and fact-checking.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice President of Press Club of Jammu, Zorawar Singh Jamwal said that journalism is undergoing rapid transformation globally, and it is the need of the hour for media professionals to understand and responsibly use AI technologies.

Army hold awareness talk on harmful effects of drug abuse

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RAJOURI: The Indian Army organized an 'Awareness Talk on the Harmful Effects of Drug Abuse' at JNV, Kotranka on Thursday.

The event was conducted under the theme 'Protecting the Youth and Promoting the Welfare of Humanity.'

Drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking are critical issues affecting societies worldwide.

Drug abuse refers to the harmful or excessive use of substances for non-medical purposes, leading to physical, mental and social harm.

Illicit drug trafficking involves the illegal production, distribution and sale of drugs, contributing to numerous



negative consequences for individuals and communities.

To address the intertwined challenges of drug abuse and trafficking, a multi-faceted and holistic approach is essential.

The collaboration of government, communities, healthcare providers, law enforcement agencies and individuals is vital in prevention, intervention

and treatment efforts. A total of 6 teachers and 41 students (24 girls and 17 boys) attended the awareness session.

The students and locals expressed their sincere gratitude towards the Indian Army for organizing such awareness programs, which are greatly benefiting the youth and people of remote areas in Rajouri District.

Peddler held with Heroin

SAMBA: Continuing its drive against drug smugglers/peddlers, Samba Police has arrested a drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ramgarh and recovered approximately 15.58 grams of heroin-like substance (chitta) from his possession.

Acting on information received from reliable sources, a team of Police Station Ramgarh intercepted a pedestrian under suspicious circumstances who was coming from Rakh Barotian via Tarapur toward Gudwal side. During frisking, approximately 15.58 grams of heroin-like substance (chitta) was recovered from the possession of said person.

The drug peddler identified as Sarvjeet Singh S/o Sukhjeet Singh R/o Kathil Ganju tehsil Rammagarh district Udhampur has been arrested and contraband item has also been seized.

A case FIR No. 15/2026 u/s 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at PS Ramgarh and investigation started.

Security for BJP leaders, vulnerability for opposition; Tony slams Govt

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JAMMU: Launching a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government, senior Congress leader and former DDC Suchetgarh Taranjit Singh Tony on Thursday termed the alleged assassination attempt on former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah as a "shocking security breach" and a "wake-up call" that exposes the deep flaws and political bias in the current security policy of the government.

Tony said the incident has once again raised serious questions about the functioning and preparedness of the security apparatus in Jammu and Kashmir. He said it is deeply disturbing that such a grave threat could emerge even when a senior leader like Farooq Abdullah is under Z+ security cover, which is considered among the highest levels of protection in the country.

"Despite such a high-level security arrangement, if an individual can come dangerously

close to a former Chief Minister and attempt an attack, it clearly shows that the local security mechanism has failed miserably," Tony said, adding that the incident reflects negligence and complacency within the security system. Taking a direct dig at the BJP Government in Centre, Tony alleged that security cover in Jammu and Kashmir has become highly politicised, where leaders affiliated with the ruling party are being given disproportionate protection while opposition leaders are left exposed to potential threats.

"Today, even minor BJP functionaries are moving around with multiple security personnel and escorts, whereas opposition leaders who constantly raise public issues, expose administrative failures and question the government's policies are denied adequate security cover," he said.

Tony asserted that this selective approach has created a dangerous environment where those speaking truth to power are becoming soft targets due to lack

of protection.

"The BJP government must understand that security cannot be distributed on the basis of political loyalty. It has to be based purely on threat perception. Unfortunately, what we are witnessing today is a biased and discriminatory system where the ruling party leaders enjoy maximum security while opposition voices are neglected," he said. Referring to the incident involving Farooq Abdullah, Tony said it should serve as a serious warning to the administration. "If such a breach can occur in the presence of heavy security cover and during a public gathering, one can imagine the vulnerability of leaders who do not enjoy similar protection," he remarked.

He further alleged that the BJP government appears more concerned about protecting its own political cadre rather than ensuring the safety of all public representatives.

Tony said the alleged assassination attempt has exposed glaring gaps in the security apparatus and reflects

poorly on the claims of the government regarding improved security in the Union Territory.

"The government keeps boasting about normalcy and improved law and order in Jammu and Kashmir, but incidents like this expose the ground reality. If senior political leaders are not safe, what message does it send to the common people?" he asked.

Demanding a thorough and transparent investigation, Tony said accountability must be fixed for the lapse and those responsible should be held answerable.

He also urged the administration to immediately review the entire security policy in Jammu and Kashmir and ensure that the same yardstick is applied to every political leader, irrespective of party affiliation.

"The government must stop playing politics with security. The safety of political leaders and public representatives cannot be compromised. This incident is a wake-up call and the administration must act before it is too late," Tony added.

Anti-Drug campaign Rs 4.20 L CSR funds provided to reinforce CCTV surveillance

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KISHTWAR: Mega Engineering Private Limited (MEIL) associated with the Ratle Hydroelectric Power Project has provided Rs 4.20 Lakh under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to strengthen drug control measures in the district.

The CSR funds shall be utilized for installing CCTV surveillance systems at vulnerable locations to reinforce surveillance and curb drug-related activities.

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma

handed over the cheque worth ₹4.20 lakh to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Naresh Singh provided under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative by Mega Engineering Private Limited, which

is executing the Ratle Hydroelectric Power Project at Drabshalla.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the proactive contribution of MEIL in supporting the administration's efforts to combat drug abuse and strengthen surveillance in sensitive areas. He emphasized that such collaborative initiatives between the administration and corporate stakeholders are bound to play a crucial role in making the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan more effective at the grassroots level.

Earlier, MEIL provided Rs 5 Lakh under the CSR for reconstruction of a flood damaged approach road connecting Kuntwara.

GM Administration Burhan Andrabi Ratle HEP was also present on the occasion.

Adequate stock of LPG, petrol available in District: Abhishek

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REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek, Thursday chaired a meeting to review the supply and availability of petroleum products in the district. Amid speculations about a shortage of LPG cylinders and fuel, the district administration assured residents that adequate stocks are available to meet public demand and there is no need for panic buying. The Deputy Commissioner informed that LPG cylinders are currently being refilled within 25 days in the district and directed the concerned agencies to ensure timely supply to consumers. He also ordered the formation of district and sub-division



level committees to regularly monitor the stock position of petroleum products. With the support of the Police and the Civil Supplies Department, strict measures are also being taken to prevent hoarding of LPG cylinders in the district.

He further informed that a grievance redressal

cell has been established to address public concerns related to petroleum products. Residents can contact the helpline number +919419839557 for assistance and the concerned officers have been instructed to ensure prompt redressal of complaints.

Judicial Academy trains Labour Officers on new Labour Codes

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SRINAGAR: Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy) Arun Palli and guidance of Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy in collaboration with the Labour Department organised a one day training programme on "Labour Codes" was organized today at the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Moominabad, Srinagar, for the officers and officials of the Labour Department of Kashmir Province.

The programme commenced with an introductory address by Naseer Ahmad Dar,



Director, J&K Judicial Academy. He emphasized the growing importance of capacity building in understanding the evolving labour law framework.

He highlighted that the consolidation of multiple labour legislations into four comprehensive labour codes marks a significant transformation in India's labour law regime and necessitates continuous training of administrative

and quasi-judicial authorities responsible for implementation.

Naseer Ahmad Dar also acknowledged the presence of Charandeep Singh, Labour Commissioner, J&K and underscored the importance of institutional collaboration between the Judicial Academy and the Labour Department in strengthening effective enforcement and interpretation of labour

laws.

In his special address, Labour Commissioner Charandeep Singh stressed the need for continuous capacity building of labour officers in light of the recent labour law reforms. He appreciated the role of the J&K Judicial Academy in providing structured training programmes that enhance the professional competence of administrative and quasi-judicial officers.

The first technical session, "Overview of Labour Law Reforms: Transition from Multiple Legislations to the Four Labour Codes," was delivered by Mir Mubashir Altaf, Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Kashmir. He provided a detailed overview of the

rationale behind labour law reforms and explained the transition from 29 central labour legislations to four consolidated labour codes. The session highlighted the objectives of simplification, rationalization, and improved compliance mechanisms within the labour law framework.

The second session was conducted by Dr. Yasir Latief Handoo, Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Kashmir, who spoke on the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. He focused on the compliance framework, responsibilities of labour authorities, and enforcement challenges in implementing these codes.

CUJ holds special online lecture on 'Sri Aurobindo and his Poetry'

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JAMMU: Under the Shiksha Shastrath Platform, the Department of Educational Studies, Central University of Jammu, organised a Special Online Lecture on 'Sri Aurobindo and his Poetry'. In his introductory remarks, the Head of the Department, Prof. Asit Mantry, conveyed his regards to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain for his guidance and encouragement to invite experts from across the country to interact with the students of CU Jammu.

The program aimed to enhance students' understanding of Sri Aurobindo's poetry and his literary and philosophical vision. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Shruti Bidwaikar, Assistant Director, Sri Aurobindo Centre for Advanced Research.



audience. During her lecture, Dr. Shruti Bidwaikar elaborated on the spiritual depth, mysticism, and philosophical vision reflected in Sri Aurobindo's poetry. She explained how Aurobindo's poetic works integrate spirituality, philosophy, and literary creativity, offering deeper insights into human consciousness and the evolution of the soul.

The session was highly interactive as students posed several thought-

provoking questions to the speaker. Among them were queries regarding the difference between human consciousness and Divine consciousness, the ways to balance the spiritual and material dimensions of life, and how one can gradually overcome the ego. Responding to these questions, Dr. Bidwaikar emphasized that Sri Aurobindo's philosophy encourages inner awareness, self-discipline, and spiritual aspiration

as means to elevate human consciousness toward the Divine and achieve harmony between worldly responsibilities and spiritual growth. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Mridu Sharma, who expressed gratitude to the guest speaker for her enlightening lecture and thanked the faculty members and students for their participation in making the event successful.

Rajesh reviews arrangements for Eid, Navratri festivals in Kathua

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KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Thursday convened a meeting with officers from line departments and representatives of religious organizations to review the arrangements for the Eid and Navratri festivals.

The meeting focused on ensuring smooth celebrations, with discussions centering on the security measures, provision of safe drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, medical aid services, sanitation, fire safety measures, street lighting, cleanliness and smooth transport management across the district.

To ensure the success of the festivals, the Deputy Commissioner issued directives to the heads of different departments, emphasizing meticulous planning and execution in their respective areas of responsibility. Particular attention was given

to security to mitigate any potential untoward incidents during the festive period.

The Jal Shakti department was entrusted with ensuring a consistent supply of potable water, while the Power Development Department (PDD) was directed to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply throughout the festival duration.

To prevent profiteering and black marketing, committees of enforcement departments were constituted to conduct market inspections to ensure essential commodities are sold at government-approved rates and meet quality standards.

The Traffic Department was directed to regulate traffic particularly in areas prone to traffic congestion, ensuring smooth traffic flow during the festivities.

The representatives from religious institutions apprised the Deputy Commissioner about



different issues, in response to which the DC assured their resolution on priority basis.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of maintaining peace, harmony and brotherhood during the festivals and appealed to the people to cooperate with the administration in ensuring

smooth celebrations.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma, ASP Kathua Rahul Charak, ADC Kathua Vishavjeet Singh, RTO Kathua, Surinder Sharma, Executive Engineers and other concerned stakeholders. The ADCs and SDMs joined the meeting through virtual mode.