

JAMMU

@srinagaradman
General public is advised to refrain from panic buying and hoarding of essential commodities. Adequate stocks of fuel, LPG & essential items are available across the district. Strict action shall be taken against black marketing & rumour mongering promoting hoarding @diprjk



@OfficeOfJGJandK
Delighted to formally inaugurate Indian Society for Training & Development's Jammu Chapter, which will play a crucial role in strengthening the learning and development ecosystem and it will position Jammu as a regional hub for training & professional development.



INDEPENDENCE:
On this day in 1971, Bangladesh declared its independence from Pakistan under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



12 TEHSILS:
In the entire Anantnag district of Kashmir division, 12 are the total tehsils.



NO STOPPING OR STANDING

Some roads demand continuous flow of traffic and stopping of one vehicle disrupt the whole traffic flow. At these areas No Stopping signs are installed. Any vehicle stopping at these places could meet an accident and also a penal action.



Dr Alim appointed as national chairman of D2C Industry Assn

JAMMU: The Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) Industry Association has announced the appointment of Dr. M. A. Alim, former Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Jammu & Kashmir, as its National Chairman. This appointment marks a significant milestone in strengthening the association's vision of building a responsible,



transparent, and growth-oriented D2C ecosystem in India. Dr. Alim is an industry leader with extensive experience in business leadership, policy advocacy, and institutional development. Over the years, he has played a pivotal role in fostering entrepreneurship, strengthening industry-government collaboration, and driving economic development. During his tenure in various leadership roles, he has spearheaded multiple initiatives aimed at supporting businesses, enhancing industry representation, and creating effective platforms for dialogue between industry stakeholders and government bodies. With his appointment as National Chairman, the D2C Industry Association aims to further expand its efforts in promoting ethical business practices, enhancing regulatory clarity, building industry awareness, and strengthening consumer trust across the D2C ecosystem. Speaking on the occasion, representatives of the association expressed confidence that Dr. Alim's leadership will provide strong strategic direction and accelerate the association's initiatives in policy advocacy, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement. Dr. Alim's deep understanding of industry dynamics, governance frameworks, and regulatory landscapes is expected to play a crucial role in shaping a more structured and resilient ecosystem for businesses operating in the Direct-to-Consumer space. Widely recognized for his contributions to industry development and entrepreneurship promotion, The D2C Industry Association is a leading industry body committed to promoting the growth and development of the Direct-to-Consumer ecosystem in India. The association works closely with industry stakeholders, policymakers, and business leaders to drive transparency, ethical practices, consumer protection, and sustainable growth.

4 drug peddlers held with heroin

JAMMU: Four alleged drug peddlers were arrested with heroin from different locations in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Wednesday, police said.

At Tikri along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, a private car was intercepted and 5.44 grams of heroin recovered from two occupants -- Sunil Sharma and Mohan Lal -- who were arrested, a police spokesperson said.

Nazir Ahmad Shah, a resident of Baramulla, was arrested at a highway checkpoint in Rehanbal after a search of his car revealed 8.98 grams of heroin.

Mission SKILL to reshape skilling landscape, propel economic empowerment: Dy CM



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary spearheaded a crucial stakeholders' workshop, "Mission SKILL - Transforming the Skilling Ecosystem," at Jammu's Convention Centre, marking a significant stride towards revolutionizing J&K's skill development landscape.

The high-level event, organized by the Directorate of Skill Development, was aimed to chart a transformative roadmap for the region's skilling ecosystem.

The Deputy Chief Minister, who was the chief guest on the occasion, described Mission SKILL as a transformative and future-oriented initiative aimed at building a unified, demand-driven skilling ecosystem in J&K.

Addressing a gathering of senior officials, industry leaders, academicians and trainees, he highlighted

the importance of the mission and emphasized that J&K possesses a significant demographic advantage with over 70 percent of its population in the working-age group.

"Our efforts are to harness this potential effectively through a structured, inclusive and outcome-oriented skilling framework," he said.

He further underlined that Mission SKILL adopts a lifecycle approach to skilling, beginning from school-level exposure to vocational education and extending to technical training, career guidance and lifelong learning opportunities.

"It will help bridge the gap between education and employment by aligning training programmes closely with industry demands," he added.

Speaking in detail about the initiative, the Deputy Chief Minister noted that Mission SKILL aims to benefit lakhs of youth across J&K, including students, job seekers and the existing

workforce.

"Focused attention is being given to integration of vocational education in schools, strengthening career guidance systems, modernization of it is and Polytechnics and promotion of future-ready skills in sectors such as IT, renewable energy, tourism, and modern services," he said.

Emphasizing inclusivity, he reiterated the government's commitment to ensure equal access to opportunities for women, rural youth and marginalized communities, thereby fostering broad-based economic participation.

The Deputy Chief Minister also stressed the adoption of a digital-first approach with an integrated platform for skill mapping, monitoring, certification and placement, ensuring transparency and real-time tracking of outcomes.

Earlier, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, Secretary, Skill Development Department, highlighted the need for convergence across the departments to ensure optimal utilization of resources.

Among others Owais Ahmed, Director, Skill Development Department; Arun Manhas, Director, Industries and Commerce, Jammu; Arun Gupta, President, Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Rahul Sahai, Chairman, Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) J&K; Harvinder Singh, Director Employment & MD YUVA and Leena Padma, Mission Director, J&K Skill Development Mission besides other industry representatives and academic leaders also shared their perspectives.

SSP Mohita conducts security review, border inspection



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Kathua Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma on Wednesday conducted an extensive security review and inspection of border areas in the district and directed police to carry out frequent search operations in nursery areas to check for suspicious movement.

Accompanied by operations officers, the Kathua SSP toured several border police posts, nurseries and adjoining areas along the International Border in the district.

The visit was aimed at assessing ground preparedness and reviewing coordination among different security agencies deployed in the sector, they said.

The officers also patrolled the sensitive Haria Chak nursery area, where the SSP instructed regular searches to detect the presence of suspicious elements.

During the inspection of Haria Chak border police post, Sharma stressed that surveillance mechanisms in the area should be strengthened by installing CCTV cameras at all border police posts and naka points to enhance real-time monitoring. She emphasised maintaining close coordination with the residents to ensure real-time information sharing.

The team later visited Maharajpur border police post and reviewed the progress of ongoing construction works.

"Directions were issued to expedite the work while ensuring adherence to security specifications and infrastructural standards," they said.

Kathua Police reiterated its commitment to maintaining safety and security in the border district through proactive policing, enhanced surveillance and strong inter-agency coordination, officials said.

India scaling up production of rare earth magnet: MoS PMO



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: India is ramping up domestic production of rare earth permanent magnets, crucial for electronics, space, aerospace, defence and electric vehicles, with the first-ever Samarium Cobalt plant becoming operational in 2023, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday.

While admitting that over 80 per cent of these magnets are still imported

due to limited domestic capacity, Singh, who is MoS Prime Minister's Office, highlighted significant strides made in the last 10-11 years through high prioritisation by the government.

"Our present requirement of rare earth permanent magnet is 4,000 tonnes but by the time we reach 2030 and are able to produce 5,000 tonnes indigenously, our requirement would have gone up to

8,000 tonnes," Singh said.

He outlined ambitious targets -- 500 tonnes per annum in the first phase, scaling to 2,000 tonnes by 2028 and 5,000 tonnes by 2030.

"Prime Minister Modi himself launched it (the Samarium Cobalt plant)... We have initiated processes and we are in the process of scaling up," the minister added, emphasising the need for further expansion to meet rising demand.

Singh noted there is "no reason to deny but modestly admit" the import reliance, but asserted that India has "started in that direction". Rajasthan and Gujarat are among the states endowed with rock minerals, though extraction involves a cumbersome process with relatively modest yields. Efforts are underway to scale up production, and the process is expected to accelerate once the SHANTI Act comes into force.

VBYP 2026: Rana advocates youth engagement in democratic processes

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The JK-Round of the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament (VBYP) 2026, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, was held at the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Wednesday with participation of young leaders to shape the nation's future.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, attended the programme as the chief guest and underscored the importance of youth engagement in democratic processes.

He said Youth Parliament programme will inculcate and nurture leadership, enhance civic awareness and promote informed policy engagement among the youth. It provides a structured

platform for individuals aged 18-25 years to deliberate on pressing national issues, articulate their perspectives and contribute meaningfully to the nation's development journey, he added.

The VBYP 2026 is being conducted in a three-tier format, District, State/UT and National level, allowing the participants to progress through competitive stages.

The JK-Round featured top performers from across districts, who demonstrated their critical thinking, oratory skills and leadership abilities through insightful deliberations.

The theme for this round, "Union Budget 2026: Strengthening the Indian Youth's Path Towards Viksit Bharat 2047," guided brainstorming discussions and

presentations.

At the Youth Parliament, the participants engaged in a thought provoking discussion on the Union Budget 2026, weighing its potential to fuel youth empowerment, innovation and inclusive growth. The exchange of ideas highlighted the budget's impact on shaping a sustainable future for the nation.

It was informed that the top three winners from this round will advance to represent J&K at the National Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament Programme.

Among those present were MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Director Nisar Bhat and jury members Sunaina Mehta, Prof. Mushtaq Wani and Simarjeet Singh besides other senior officers and dignitaries.

AIIMS organises first-of-its-kind body donation awareness prog



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA: The Department of Anatomy at AIIMS Jammu organised a first-of-its-kind body donation awareness programme, marking a significant milestone in promoting voluntary body donation for medical education and research. The initiative aimed to sensitize the public and encourage informed participation in this noble cause.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. (Dr.) D.N. Sharma, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, congratulated the Department of Anatomy for organizing this pioneering initiative and appreciated the team for bringing such an important subject to public attention. He emphasized that body donation is among the highest forms of service to humanity, as donated bodies form the cornerstone of medical education. He highlighted that hands-on learning through cadaveric dissection helps medical students develop the competence and confidence required for safe clinical practice.

He further noted that body donation significantly contributes to advanced surgical training and research, ultimately improving patient care and strengthening the healthcare system. Urging the public to come forward, he described body donation as a meaningful way to continue serving society even after one's lifetime.

In her address, Dr. Shalika Sharma, Officiating Head, Department of Anatomy, AIIMS Jammu, stated that body donation is a noble and selfless act that plays a vital role in shaping skilled doctors and advancing medical science for the benefit of society. She highlighted that India's rich heritage reflects the spirit of supreme sacrifice, symbolizing the highest form of service to humanity. Inspired by this ethos, the department aims to create awareness, dispel misconceptions, and encourage voluntary participation in this meaningful cause.

She further added that this programme will contribute to the training of future generations

and will also support the growth and development of AIIMS Jammu as a center of excellence. She humbly invited all to reflect on this noble opportunity to leave behind a lasting legacy of service to humanity, emphasizing that such acts ensure one continues to live on through their contribution to society.

The programme was organised by the Department of Anatomy, AIIMS Jammu, with the dedicated efforts of Dr. Shalika Sharma, Officiating Head, along with her team comprising Dr. Reeha Mahajan, Associate Professor; Dr. Sushant Swaroop Das, Associate Professor; Dr. Harsimranjit Singh, Assistant Professor; Dr. Sanjay Rampravesh Mishra, Assistant Professor; Dr. M. Ramkumar, Assistant Professor; and Dr. Monali Hiwarkar, Assistant Professor, Department of Anatomy, whose collective efforts ensured the success of the event. The programme is expected to create a lasting impact and foster a positive outlook towards body donation.

Iqram, Siddhant take charge of CII J&K

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Jammu & Kashmir has announced the appointment of Iqram Ali Shafiee, Managing Director, Shafiee Healthcare Pvt Ltd, as the new Chairman of CII J&K for the year 2026-27, and Siddhant Chowdhary, Director, KC Sports Hub as the Vice-Chairman



Iqram Shafiee is the Managing Director of Shafiee Healthcare Pvt Ltd and is passionate about providing quality medical services to the community. He has worked with diverse teams and

gained invaluable experience in various aspects of healthcare management enabling him to develop a deep understanding of the industry.

He holds a Law degree and has been closely associated with CII. He was the Convener of CII J&K Healthcare Panel in 2024-25. He has been member CII Northern Regional Healthcare Committee in 2023-24, Co Chairman for Entrepreneurship and

Skills, CII, Young Indians National Team Co Chairman for National Retreats 2018, member Young Indians National Team for Rural Initiatives in 2016-2017 and Chairperson Young Indians-CII Srinagar Chapter in 2014-2017.

Siddhant Chowdhary is a fifth-generation leader of the KC Group, a 70-year-old diversified conglomerate based in Jammu & Kashmir. Currently serve as the Director KC Sports Club, MD of Hotel Vivanta Jammu, oversee KC Hyundai Srinagar, and MD of Sky Soarr Entertainment Park.

For 2025-26, he serves as a CII State Council Member and Tourism Mentor, following his earlier role as Convener of the Tourism Panel, CII J&K UT Council (2024).

He contributes to strengthening the region's tourism ecosystem through innovation, collaboration, and sustainable development efforts. He is a hotelier with nearly ten national and international recognitions, including Stelliers Owner of the Year - South Asia (2020), and has consistent experience in responsible growth and community-focused leadership.