

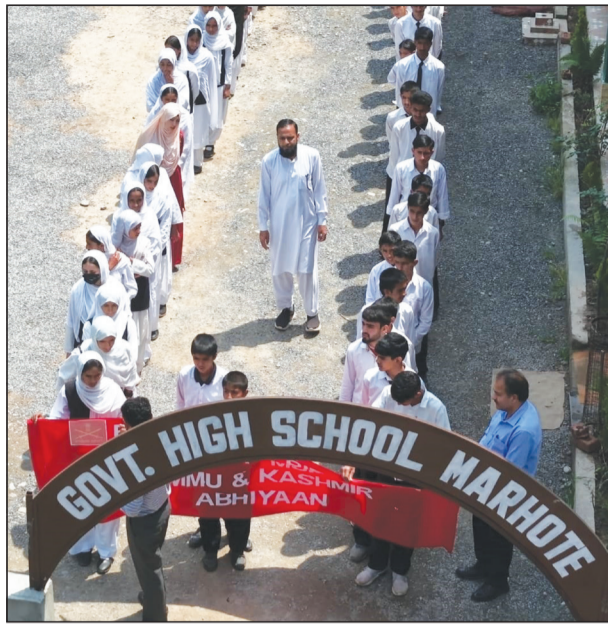
## Army hold unity March under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan at Marhot

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**POONCH:** As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, aimed at spreading awareness against drug abuse and promoting a healthy, disciplined and responsible society, a Unity March was organised at Government High School, Marhot by the Indian Army.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 40 students, 2 teachers, local residents and Indian Army personnel, who came together with the common objective of spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and inspiring the youth to lead disciplined, productive and drug-free lives.

During the march, participants carried placards and raised slogans promoting national unity, social responsibility and



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the importance of staying away from narcotics. The initiative reflected the collective commitment of the Indian Army and civil society towards building a safer, healthier and addiction-free future for the younger generation.

Speaking on the occasion, representatives of Indian Army emphasised the vital role of community participation in eliminating the menace of drugs and motivating youth towards education, sports and other constructive activities.

The programme concluded with all participants taking a pledge to support the mission of a drug-free society and to work collectively towards strengthening harmony, social awareness and national integration.

## J&K HC refuses to Quash Crime Branch FIR Against Former Engineer in DoB Case

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed a petition seeking quashing of a Crime Branch FIR registered against a former Executive Engineer accused of tampering with his service records to alter his date of birth and allegedly extend his tenure in government service.

The judgment was delivered by Justice Shahzad Azeem in CRMC No. 70/2018 titled Aijaz Hussain Sahaf versus State of JK and Others.

The case had been reserved on April 24, 2026 and pronounced on May 6, 2026.

The petitioner, Aijaz Hussain Sahaf of Karan Nagar, Srinagar, was represented by I Sofi.

The respondents—the State through Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch

Kashmir, and the Station House Officer of Crime Branch Srinagar — were represented by Mohsin S Qadri along with Maha Majeed.

The petition had sought quashing of FIR No. 09/2015 registered at Police Station Crime Branch, Kashmir under Sections 420, 467, 468 and 471 of the Ranbir Penal Code.

According to the prosecution case detailed in the judgment, the petitioner was accused of manipulating the first page of his service book by changing his date of birth from August 28, 1955 to August 28, 1958.

The matter first came to the attention of the Crime Branch through a complaint alleging tampering of official service records while the petitioner was serving as Executive Engineer in the Irrigation and Flood Control

Department. A preliminary verification conducted by the Crime Branch was initially closed as “not proved.” However, the Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Branch, subsequently recommended a departmental inquiry into the allegations.

Following directions from the Commissioner-Secretary of the PHE/Irrigation and Flood Control Department, a departmental inquiry was conducted, after which an order dated July 16, 2012 directed the petitioner to restore his original date of birth — August 28, 1955 — in the service records.

The petitioner challenged the departmental action before the High Court through SWP No. 1448/2012, following which the court permitted the competent authority to conduct a proper inquiry under rules. According to the

judgment, a fresh inquiry later concluded that the petitioner had indeed tampered with his service records and altered his date of birth from 1955 to 1958.

Thereafter, the Under Secretary to the Government referred the matter along with supporting material to the Crime Branch on February 16, 2015 for appropriate legal action, leading to registration of the FIR and commencement of investigation.

Before the High Court, the petitioner argued that the FIR was motivated and intended only to harass him. He further contended that the Under Secretary had no authority to lodge the complaint and argued that since the Crime Branch had earlier closed its preliminary verification, a second FIR on the same facts was legally impermissible.

## Admin should develop digital platform for local auto-taxi drivers: Shiv Sena (UBT)

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) Jammu and Kashmir unit on Saturday welcomed the Transport Department's action against unlicensed bike-taxi services such as Rapido in Jammu and urged the administration to develop a modern digital platform for local auto and taxi drivers.

In a statement issued here, party's J&K chief Manish Sahni said that in the era of technology and digital services, local youth and the traditional transport sector in Jammu should also get equal opportunities so that dependence on outside companies can be reduced and local drivers can benefit from online transport services.

Sahni said that external companies had been operating for a long time without valid permission and in violation of local transport regulations, adversely affecting the livelihood of local auto and taxi drivers. He termed the Transport Department's



action as a necessary step to safeguard the interests of local transporters and thousands of families' dependent on the sector. He also took a swipe at the administration, saying that despite repeated objections and complaints raised by local transport unions, the concerned departments remained silent for a long time.

He demanded that the government create a government-supported digital transport network

or mobile application for local auto, taxi and small transport operators, which would provide new employment opportunities to local drivers and strengthen the regional economy.

Sahni said that the first right over Jammu and Kashmir's resources, employment and business opportunities belong to the local people, and Shiv Sena (UBT) will continue to fight for the protection of local interests and youth employment.

## Administration organises Red Cross Awareness Rally

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**POONCH:** The District Administration Poonch, in collaboration with the District Youth Services & Sports Department, Education Department and Social Welfare Department, today organised a grand awareness rally to mark World Red Cross Day.

The event was organised under the banner of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. Around fifteen hundred students from 12 schools took part in the march.

Students carried awareness placards and raised slogans promoting humanity, social service, a drug-free society, peace and unity.

The rally aimed to spread awareness about the importance of the Red Cross movement, humanitarian values and the collective responsibility of society to-



wards building a healthy and drug-free nation. Participants marched through main town areas, reflecting the strong commitment of the youth towards social awareness and

nation-building initiatives. Officials from the district administration, DYSS, Education Department and Social Welfare Department joined the students and staff members,

highlighting the importance of such awareness programmes in guiding youth towards positive and constructive activities under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

## Army's 12 RR organises Naat-e-Nabi (SW) Programme at Banihal

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**RAMBAN:** To promote communal harmony, moral values and spiritual awareness among the youth, 12 Rashtriya Rifles organised a spiritual Naat-e-Nabi (SW) programme at Boys Higher Secondary School Banihal.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, local residents and religious scholars, creating an atmosphere of peace, unity and brotherhood.

The programme was presided over by Commander 11 Sector RR, Brigadier Ajay Pal Singh and Commanding Officer 12 RR, Colonel Vijay Kumar Poonia. Other senior Army and Police officers were also present on the occasion.

The programme commenced with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, followed by Hamd and soulful Naat recitations in praise of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Participants highlighted the teach-



ings of peace, compassion, humanity and mutual respect preached by the Prophet, inspiring the audience with messages of harmony and good con-

duct. The event aimed to encourage the younger generation to embrace positive values, discipline and cultural traditions, while strengthening

the bond between the local community and the security forces. Students of the school actively participated in the programme and showcased their talent and devotion through various performances.

The Army officials appreciated the efforts of the school administration, organisers and participants for making the event successful. They emphasised the importance of such spiritual and cultural programmes in fostering unity, brotherhood and social responsibility among the youth.

The local community and school staff expressed gratitude to 12 Rashtriya Rifles for organising the meaningful event and for continuously engaging with the people through constructive and welfare-oriented initiatives in the region.

The programme concluded with a collective prayer for peace, prosperity and harmony in the region, followed by an interaction between Army personnel, students and local residents.

## Shahsitar-KG Top Road Project; DC finalises Compensation Rates



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**POONCH:** The District Collector (Deputy Commissioner) Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma Sunday convened a meeting of the Collectors to discuss the finalization of rates for land acquired for the Shahsitar-KG Top Road project at Village Khanter-Tehsil Haveli.

Detailed discussions were held on the assessment and approval of compensation rates for the affected landowners. After due consideration, the rates were finalised and approved.

The Deputy Commissioner issued directions to the concerned Land Acquisition Collector to complete all requisite formalities and

issue the final award at the earliest in accordance with established procedures, so that the rightful claimants receive their compensation in a timely manner.

The meeting emphasized expeditious disposal of land acquisition proceedings while ensuring transparency and safeguarding the interests of the affected persons.

## DLSA Kishtwar holds 2nd National Lok Adalat

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**KISHTWAR:** In pursuance with the activities outlined in the National Calendar and under the directions of the J&K Legal Services Authority, the Second National Lok Adalat was organised here by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kishtwar.

The Lok Adalat took up criminal compoundable cases, matrimonial disputes, matters related to maintenance, civil, recovery, labour, MACT, pre-litigation and other related cases were taken up before four benches constituted for the purpose.

The first bench comprised Sudhir Kumar Khajuria, Principal District & Sessions Judge and Karan Bijyal, Munsiff/JMIC. The second bench included Deputy Kumar, Chief Judicial Magistrate and Deepika Sharma, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate. The third bench consisted of Meera Bangotra, Secretary DLSA and Jaiil Ahmed Waza Deputy Chief LADC. The fourth bench included Mamta Sudershan, ALC, and Naveed Khurshid Dev, Chief LADC.

In all, 321 cases were taken up, out of which 264 cases of different nature were amicably settled. An amount of Rs 18,23,300 was awarded to claimants in MACT, labour dispute and other cases.

## SA organizes 'Literary Forum' Programme at Kathua

Jang S. Verma

**S**ahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized its special 'Literary Forum' Programme for prominent Dogri poets at Vishvakarma Mandir, District Kathua, today. The well known poets who were invited to participate in the programme, included: Msrs. Chaman Lal Khajuria, Kuldeep Kipipi, Saroj Bala, Tilak Raj Sumbria, and Vijay Sharma. Programme was chaired by Padam Shri Mohan Singh, a Sahitya Akademi Awardee, who is also the Convener of Dogri Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi. The participating poets spellbound the audience who enjoyed the programme.

In his welcome address, he unfolded all the schemes of Sahitya Akademi for the benefit of languages and litera-



ture. He further added that Sahitya Akademi is the only organization of the country, working for the development of all the 24 languages of India, recognized by Sahitya Akademi. He added that Sahitya Akademi is also known as National Akademi of Letters.

'Literary Forum' Programme is designed for the benefit of those writers who are living

in the far-flung areas and writing in their languages. The programme is the idea of the scheme to provide them the platform of Sahitya Akademi under the banner of 'Literary Forum'.

The prominent poets like Sh. Puran Chander Sharma, Randhir Singh Raipuria etc. from different parts of Jammu and the audience also graced the occasion.

## Study finds underground treasure of Delhi's forests

**NEW DELHI:** In a city struggling with toxic air and rising temperatures, Delhi's forests have been quietly storing an underground climate treasure.

Researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the University of Delhi have found that urban forests in the national capital are absorbing massive amounts of carbon in their trees and soil, with the potential to generate over Rs 4 lakh per hectare through carbon credits.

The study said that one hectare of urban forest land inside the JNU campus could store nearly 346.9 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, or around 3,46,900 kilograms. One hectare equals nearly 2.47 acres.

Researchers estimated the carbon credit value of this storage at nearly USD

4,846, or more than Rs 4 lakh per hectare.

According to the study, the biggest carbon storage was happening underground rather than in trees.

Researchers said soil organic carbon accounted for more than 43 per cent of the total carbon stored in the ecosystem. The soil alone stored nearly 149.73 tonnes, or around 1,49,730 kilograms, of carbon dioxide equivalent per hectare, with an estimated carbon credit value of nearly USD 2,096 or around Rs 1.74 lakh per hectare.

Among tree species, neem (Azadirachta indica) and babool (Acacia nilotica) emerged as the strongest carbon absorbers in the forest ecosystem studied by researchers.

The study found neem trees stored 55.10 tonnes, or

around 55,100 kilograms, of carbon dioxide equivalent per hectare, with an estimated carbon credit value of over USD 771, or more than Rs 64,000.

Babool trees stored 54.43 tonnes, or around 54,430 kilograms, of carbon dioxide equivalent per hectare, valued at around USD 762, or over Rs 63,000.

Researchers also found that litter on the forest floor, shrubs, herbs and underground microbial activity contributed significantly to carbon storage, showing that entire forest ecosystems, and not just large trees, help absorb greenhouse gases.

The researchers said urban forests in Delhi could become critical natural buffers against rising emissions and worsening climate conditions in the city if protected.