

North in News

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J&K Administration Working On 3-Year Monitoring Programme For Drug Abuse Victims' Rehabilitation: LG

SRINAGAR, MAY 2: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is working on a three-year monitoring programme for rehabilitation of drug abuse victims, while mulling stringent measures, including the cancellation of driving licenses and recommending revocation of passports of the peddlers, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said here on Saturday.

The LG also said that he believes that the drug trafficking in J-K has a direct link with terrorism. "Some drug traffickers might be building narco



palaces, becoming economically prosperous. But ultimately, most of the money ends up fuelling terrorism and radicalisation," he added. Ahead of a mega 'padayatra' on Sunday here as part of the 'Nasha Mukh

J-K Abhiyaan', the LG said that while more rehabilitation centres would be built, the infrastructure in the existing ones would also be ramped up. "It is true that we need to build more rehabilitation centres. But those cannot be built immediately, so, in the rehabilitation centres that exist, arrangements are being made for their (victims) treatment. The Health Department has been instructed that both OPD and IPD facilities should be sufficiently available for such people in our hospitals," Sinha told reporters at the Raj Bhavan. He said the administration is working on a three-year monitoring programme for the rehabilitation of victims. "We are also creating a detailed rehabilitation plan, so that if someone gets into

drug addiction and then gets out, we can track them for three years and make complete arrangements for their rehabilitation," he added. On the stringent action against drug peddlers, the LG said the administration has created some deterrents under a well-thought-out strategy. "An SOP has been issued stating that anyone caught in drug trafficking will not only face a criminal case, but their driving licenses will be cancelled. If they have a vehicle, its registration will be terminated. If

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Govt Appoints R Balasubramaniam, Joram Aniya As Full-Time Members Of NITI Aayog



NEW DELHI, MAY 2: The Centre on Saturday appointed academician Joram Aniya and scholar-author R Balasubramaniam as full-time members of the Niti Aayog, taking the total number of such members in the government think tank to seven, along

with a vice-chairman. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the chairman of the Niti Aayog. "In continuation of the Cabinet Secretary's notification dated 24.04.2026, the prime minister has approved the appointment of the following persons as full-time members of the NITI Aayog with effect from the date of assumption of charge and until further orders, on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to full-time members: (i) Dr R Balasubramaniam; (ii) Dr Joram Aniya," a notification issued by the Cabinet Secretary said. On April 24, while reconstituting the Niti Aayog, the government appointed Ashok Kumar Lahiri as its vice-chairman and economist K V Raju, AIMS Director M Srinivas, Secretary in the Department of Science and Technology, Abhay

(Contd on Pg 2)

Home Minister Amit Shah Stresses Sustainable Development In Ladakh



LEH/JAMMU, MAY 2: Union Home Minister Amit Shah stressed the need for a focused approach on sustainable development in Ladakh, with plantation and water security identified as key

pillars for the region's overall progress, Ladakh LG VK Saxena said on Saturday. The LG apprised him of the ongoing work to create 50 water bodies in different villages under Project Him Sarovar and a recent plantation drive. "While emphasising the spiritual nature of his visit to Leh on the pious occasion of Buddha Purnima, he urged for a focused approach on sustainable development. Large-scale plantation and water security were identified by HM as key pillars for overall development of Ladakh," Saxena said on X while sharing a post by the home minister. Senior Ladakh leader Thupstan Chewang underscored the need to tap water from the Shyok river for drinking water and irrigation purposes.

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Inauguration Of Holy Relics Of Buddha In Leh Offers Opportunity To Pay Respects: PM



NEW DELHI, MAY 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hailed the inauguration of the 'Sacred Exposition of the Holy Relics of the Tathagata' in Leh, and said it offers a valuable

opportunity for people from across Ladakh to pay their respects. Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday inaugurated a sacred holy relics exposition of Tathagata Buddha and the 2569th Buddha Purnima celebrations in Leh during his two-day visit to Ladakh. "It is a matter of immense delight that yesterday, on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, the 'Sacred Exposition of the Holy Relics of the Tathagata' was inaugurated in Leh," PM Modi said in a post on

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Dr Jitendra Urges Public Not To Panic Over Hot Weather Forecasts For May



NEW DELHI, MAY 2: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today reassured the common public that there is no cause for panic regarding the heat conditions predicted or expected during the month of May, and any unwarranted reaction can be avoided by understanding the forecast correctly and by following simple

day-to-day precautions. Briefing the media in his office, Dr Jitendra Singh said that while certain regions may witness above-normal temperatures and heat wave conditions, these are not uniform

across the country and can be effectively managed through timely preparedness and adherence to advisories issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) from

(Contd on Pg 2)

BRIEF NEWS

LG Manoj Sinha Promotes Two DySPs To SP Rank In J&K Police

JAMMU, MAY 2: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has ordered the promotion of two Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs) to the rank of Superintendent of Police (SP) in the Jammu and Kashmir Police. According to Government Order No. 265-Home of 2026 dated May 2, 2026, issued by the Home Department, sanction has been accorded for the elevation of the following officers from DySP (General Cadre) to SP (Level-11) in the Pay Matrix (Rs.67,700-Rs.2,08,700) with immediate effect: Mudasser Ahmed Trambho (KPS1258) Vaseem Mehmood (KPS125754) The order was

(Contd on Pg 2)

Doda-Kishtwar Road Bkcked After Major Landslide At Gatsoo

SRINAGAR, MAY 2: Traffic movement on the Doda-Kishtwar road has been suspended following a major landslide at Gatsoo near Pul Doda, officials said on Saturday. A traffic police official said, the landslide occurred early morning, leading to complete blockage of the road and halting vehicular movement on the vital stretch. Official said that men and machinery have been pressed into service and efforts are underway to clear the debris. However, restoration of traffic is likely to take some time due to the magnitude of the landslide. Commuters have been

(Contd on Pg 2)

ACB Director's Authority Under Legal Fire: Police Cop Moves HC to Quash Corruption FIR

JAMMU, MAY 02 (JNF): In a significant legal challenge raising questions over the authority and jurisdiction of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Vijay Singh Choudhary has moved the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu seeking quashing of an FIR registered against him by the ACB and questioning the legal competence of the officer holding additional charge of Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau. The matter came up before

the Bench of Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani in WP(Cr) No. 32/2026, titled Vijay Singh Choudhary vs UT of J&K and Ors. The petitioner was represented by Mr. Sunil Sethi, Senior Advocate with Mr. Ravi Abrol, Advocate, and Mr. Raman Sharma, AAG with Ms. Saliqa Sheikh, Advocate, appeared for respondent Nos. 1, 2 and 4. Mr. Amit Gupta, Senior Advocate with Mr. Sumit Moza, Advocate, appeared for respondent No. 3.

(Contd on Pg 2)

Kulgam Police Bust Inter-State Drug Network; Property Worth Rs.92.73 Lakh Attached In Jammu



KULGAM, MAY 2: In a major crackdown on narcotics trafficking, Kulgam Police have dismantled an inter-state drug network and attached illegally acquired property worth ₹92.73 lakh at Beli Charana in Jammu, officials said. The action stems from a case registered on March 20, 2026, when a police team from Qazigund Police Station apprehended a

suspicious individual during routine patrolling at Kurigam near the Railway Station Qazigund. The suspect, identified as Mohammad Rafiq Mir of Panzania, Srinagar, was found in possession of approximately 16 grams of heroin, commonly known as brown sugar.

Following the recovery, FIR No. 43/2026 under Sections 821 of

(Contd on Pg 2)

Suspension Of BDO Plangher Revoked

RAJOURI, MAY 2: The District Panchayat Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Rajouri has revoked the suspension of Assistant Electoral Registration Officer/Block Development Officer (BDO) Plangher, Mohd Hashim Hanief, with immediate effect.

According to an official order issued on May 2, 2026, the officer had earlier been placed under suspension vide Order No. 01 of 2026 dated April 27, 2026, over alleged unsatisfactory performance during the revision process of the Panchayat Electoral Roll 2026. The order states that the matter was subsequently reviewed by the competent authority, and the explanation submitted by the officer was taken into consideration on sympathetic grounds. "In view

(Contd on Pg 2)

DIG Reviews Security, Preparedness In Shiv Khori Belt In Reasi



JAMMU, MAY 2: Deputy Inspector General of Police Shiv Kumar Sharma on Saturday conducted a comprehensive security review and assessed operational preparedness in the Shiv Khori-Ransoo belt in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi, stressing effective use of surveillance systems to ensure safety, officials said. He also carried out an on-the-spot security audit of the Teryath area in the Shiv Khori-Pouni belt, where terrorists had opened fire at a bus carrying pilgrims on June 9, 2024, killing nine people and injuring 33 others. The 53-seater bus, in Shiv Khori temple to Katra, veered off the road following heavy gunfire and plunged into a deep gorge near Teryath village in the Pouni area.

"Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Reasi range, conducted a comprehensive security review and assessed operational preparedness of Police, Shivlingam, Special Operations Group (SOG), and CRPF units deployed at Sansoo, Shiv Khori, and Pouni," a police official said. During the visit, Sharma reviewed the overall security arrangements for the smooth and safe conduct of the Shri Shiv Khori yatra. Shiv Khori is a renowned natur-

al cave shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, located in the Reasi district. The 200-meter-long cave contains a 4-foot-high, naturally formed Shivlingam, attracting over 15 to 20 lakh devotees, especially during Maha Shivratri annually. He inspected key deployment points and took stock of preparedness to deal with any contingency at the cave shrine and its area dominations, the officials said.

(Contd on Pg 2)

ED's Arrests Decline; Highest-Ever Raids, Attachments During FY26: Annual Report

NEW DELHI, MAY 3: Arrests effected by the ED in money laundering cases have reduced by about 27 per cent during the last financial year, but the value of attached assets recorded an all-time high at over \$1,000 crore for the period. Searches or raids conducted by the central agency under the stringent provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) almost doubled to 2,892 during the 2025-26 fiscal that ended on March 31. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sweeping powers under the PMLA in connection with the detection of the

(Contd on Pg 2)

FROM PAGE ONE

J&K Administration...

they have a passport, there will be a recommendation to cancel the passport," he said. Bank accounts will be frozen, action will be taken on Aadhaar cards, and if absconding, a lookout notice will be issued, and their property will be attached under the NDPS Act, Sinha added.

He said the administration is roping in religious leaders to create awareness in society, and called upon people to launch a collective fight against the menace. "This work can only be accomplished with everyone's cooperation. I feel that the people here have decided to fight a decisive battle. When the police's baton, the fear of law, and the power of society all come together, I believe success is achieved more easily," he said.

The LG launched a 100-day campaign in J-K on April 11 from MA Stadium in Jammu. So far, foot marches have taken place in eight districts of Jammu division. "I feel that in 21 days, its widespread impact is visible. Roughly, more than 50-60 lakh people have participated in various campaigns so far. There has also been a significant increase in the registration of cases in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, and these actions are also being carried out very effectively," he said. As part of the campaign, the LG would lead a foot march to Lal Chowk on Sunday from the astroturf football stadium at TRC Chowk in Srinagar.

Govt Appoints...

Karandikar, scientist Gobardhan Das and former Cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba as full-time members. Sources said Aniya's inclusion in the government think tank marked a historic moment, bringing an eminent intellectual voice from Arunachal Pradesh to the highest level of national policymaking. An accomplished academician, associate professor, and member of the Arunachal Pradesh Private Educational Regulatory Commission, Aniya has more than 18 years of experience in teaching, research, and public policy engagement. Notably, she is the first woman from the Nyishi community to earn a PhD, and the first in Hindi language in the state, with significant contributions to literature, culture and indigenous knowledge systems. She has authored and edited many books on Nyishi literature and culture, along with numerous research publications. Scholar-author Balasubramaniam is a public policy expert and development activist. A qualified physician, he is the founder of the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) and the Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM). Balasubramaniam has a master's degree in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University.

Home Minister...

Environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk said only around one per cent of glacial melt in Ladakh is currently utilised, while the rest goes waste, and stressed the need for innovative methods to conserve it, the LG said. Officials said that the Union Territory administration has already launched a large-scale drive to meet the twin objectives of plantation and water conservation to ensure climate-resilient development in Ladakh. "I am pleased to share that in the last 40 days, more than 4500 trees of native species have already been planted across Leh and Kargil to promote environmental sustainability," the LG said. Nearly 500 saplings of species such as bamboo, amalans, gulmoohar, jacaranda, bougainvillea, banyan, peshal and inili have also been planted in Leh on an experimental basis, he said. As directed by Shah, the plantation exercise and water conservation efforts will be further intensified across the region, with authorities aiming to create at least 100 large water bodies over the next year. Officials said the long-term goal is to increase forest cover in Ladakh from less than one per cent at present to at least five per cent over the next two years.

Inauguration Of...

'X'. The prime minister said these revered relics are linked to the Piprahwa Stupa in Kapilavastu and were excavated in the closing years of the nineteenth century. They embody the enduring teachings of Lord Buddha, he said. PM Modi said this exposition will continue until May 14 and in the coming days, it will also travel to Zanskar. "It offers a valuable opportunity for people from across Ladakh to pay their respects. It will also boost spiritual and cultural tourism in Ladakh," he said. The revered Piprahwa relics of Tathagata Buddha — ancient sacred remains and associated objects linked to the lord discovered at Piprahwa, near the Nepal border in the present-day Uttar Pradesh — arrived in Leh on Wednesday.

Dr Jitendra...

time to time, referring to the latest monthly outlook and extended-range forecast issued by IMD, the Minister said that above-normal maximum temperatures are likely over southern peninsular India, parts of the northeast and northwest India, while a large part of the country is expected to experience normal to below-normal temperatures during the month. Minimum tem-

peratures in several regions are also likely to remain above normal.

The forecast indicates that heat wave conditions are expected over the Himalayan foothills, parts of the east coast including Odisha, Coastal Andhra Pradesh and adjoining Tamil Nadu, as well as Gujarat and Maharashtra, with an increase of about 2-4 heatwave days above normal in these regions, he added.

As per the extended range forecast, Dr Jitendra Singh said, relatively higher temperatures are expected during the second (May 8-14) and the fourth (May 22-28) weeks of May, which may lead to heat wave conditions across parts of Northwest, Central and West India, along with the East Coast. During the first and third weeks (May 1-7 and May 15-21), most parts of the country are likely to experience normal to below-normal temperatures due to rainfall and clouding associated with western disturbances and thunderstorms.

The Minister said that higher nighttime temperatures during certain periods may add to heat discomfort, particularly in urban and coastal areas. Hot and humid weather conditions are also likely along the East Coast, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

On global climate conditions, he said that ENSO-neutral conditions are currently prevailing, and El Niño conditions are likely to develop during the Southwest Monsoon season.

The Minister said that the Government is fully prepared to deal with heat-related conditions and emphasized coordinated efforts at the state and district levels to ensure availability of drinking water, functional cooling arrangements and uninterrupted power supply. Special attention is being given to vulnerable groups including infants, the elderly and outdoor workers.

With regard to agriculture, the Minister said that prevailing conditions remain generally favourable for harvesting of late Rabi crops in northern and northwestern regions. However, localized heat stress in parts of southern and northeastern India may affect certain summer crops such as rice (Boro), maize and pulses. Farmers have been advised to carry out field operations during morning and evening hours, ensure light and frequent irrigation, and take protective measures for livestock.

Issuing a clear public advisory, Dr. Jitendra Singh urged citizens to stay hydrated, avoid prolonged exposure during peak heat hours, and remain attentive to the needs of vulnerable individuals in their surroundings. He said that following IMD's daily updates and impact-based forecasts will help minimise any potential health risks.

The Minister said that India's forecasting capabilities have significantly improved in recent years, enabling more accurate and timely dissemination of alerts, which are crucial for effective response and public safety.

Updated weather information is available on IMD's official website (www.mausam.imd.gov.in), mobile applications including Mausam App, Mausamgram portal, and through various media platforms.

ACB Director's...

As per the petition, Choudhary has challenged FIR No. 0002/2026 dated February 24, 2026, registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu, under Sections 13(2) and 13(1)(b) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The petition alleges that the FIR and the consequential proceedings are legally unsustainable as they were initiated under the command and supervision of respondent No. 3, who, according to the petitioner, does not hold a substantive appointment as Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau.

The petitioner has contended that by Government Order No. 55-Home of 2024 dated January 27, 2024, respondent No. 3 was only transferred and posted as Assistant Director, ACB, and was merely given additional charge of the post of Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau. The plea argues that such an additional charge cannot be equated with a lawful statutory appointment to the post of Director and, therefore, the entire investigation stands vitiated on the ground of lack of jurisdiction.

In the petition, Choudhary has sought issuance of a writ of certiorari for quashing the FIR and for setting aside the government order to the extent it permits respondent No. 3 to act as Director, ACB. He has also sought a writ of quo warranto, calling upon respondent No. 3 to show under what authority he is holding the office of Director, Anti-Corruption Bureau. The petition further pleads that the office of Director, ACB, is a statutory office under the Prevention of Corruption Act and cannot be filled through casual or temporary executive arrangements. It has been argued that where a statute creates a specific office and gives it serious investigative powers, the person exercising such powers must hold the post in accordance with law. Petitioner has also claimed that the FIR alleges disproportionate assets disproportionate to known sources of income during the period 1996 to 2024, but the main thrust of the writ petition is not on the factual merits of the allegations at this stage. Instead, the challenge is founded on the alleged absence of lawful authority in the person supervising the ACB proceedings.

After hearing the counsel for the petitioner in part on the interim relief application, the High Court issued notice to the respondents. The court recorded that Ms. Saliqa Sheikh, Advocate, accepted notice on behalf of respondent Nos. 1, 2 and 4, while Mr. Sumit Moza, Advocate, accepted notice on behalf of respondent No.

3. The case is likely to draw attention as it raises a larger legal question regarding whether investigations under anti-corruption law can proceed under the supervision of an officer holding only additional charge of the Director's post, or whether a substantive statutory appointment is mandatory. (JNF)

NIA Court...

The court observed that, at the stage of bail in UAPA cases, it is not required to conduct a detailed appreciation of evidence or a mini-trial. The court held that the material on record indicated the applicant's involvement in furtherance of conspiracy and that release at this stage could create a likelihood of influencing key witnesses.

The court further noted that the trial was already underway after framing of charges on July 28, 2025, and that witnesses were being examined. It held that delay in trial, particularly in cases involving serious offences under special statutes, cannot by itself be a ground for bail when prima facie material exists.

Rejecting the application, Special Judge Prem Sagar held that keeping in view the nature and gravity of the offences and the larger interest of the State/UT, the applicant was not entitled to bail at this stage. (JNF)

Mobile Phones...

launched the Cell Broadcast Alert System, developed indigenously by C-DOT in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), under the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah," an official statement said.

Through this system, critical information related to disasters, emergencies, and public safety will be transmitted directly and instantly to citizens' mobile phones, the statement said.

The system is based on the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) as recommended by the UN body International Telecommunication Union. It is currently operational across all 36 States and Union Territories of India and delivers disaster and emergency-related alerts via SMS to mobile users within geo-targeted areas.

Cell Broadcast (CB) technology has been introduced alongside SMS, enabling alerts to be transmitted to all mobile devices within a defined geographic area simultaneously, ensuring near-real-time delivery.

Kulgam Police...

the NDPS Act was registered and investigation was initiated. During sustained interrogation, the accused revealed that the contraband was sourced from Bagh Hussain Kasana, a resident of Channore Basti Gajansu, Jammu, currently residing at Nikki Tawi. Acting on this disclosure, police obtained a search warrant and conducted a raid at the suspect's residence, leading to the recovery of 265 grams of heroin-like substance.

Subsequently, Section 29 of the NDPS Act was invoked, and the accused Bagh Hussain Kasana was arrested on March 22, 2026.

Investigations revealed that the accused was actively involved in inter-state drug trafficking, supplying narcotics across various parts of the Kashmir Valley for monetary gains. Police further found that he had no legitimate source of income and had been engaged in drug peddling for a considerable period. He is currently lodged in District Jail Anantnag.

A detailed financial probe conducted by the investigating team led to the identification and attachment of immovable assets acquired through proceeds of drug trafficking at Betti Charana, Jammu. These include land valued at approximately ₹71.52 lakh and a residential house worth around ₹21.21 lakh, taking the total to ₹92.73 lakh.

Senior Superintendent of Police Kulgam, Anayat Ali Choudhary, reiterated the police's commitment to dismantling drug networks and taking strict action against those involved in narcotics trade or its facilitation. He also urged the public, particularly the youth, to stay away from drugs and encouraged citizens to share any information related to drug trafficking, assuring complete confidentiality.

Kulgam Police reaffirmed its resolve to eradicate the menace of drugs and warned that stringent legal action will continue against offenders, with public cooperation playing a key role in building a drug-free society.

Suspension Of...

of the case and on lenient grounds, the suspension of Sh. Mohd Hashim Hanief is hereby revoked with immediate effect," the order reads.

The officer has been directed to immediately resume his duties and ensure strict adherence to responsibilities, maintaining diligence and accountability in all election-related assignments going forward.

The order was issued by District Panchayat Election Officer Abhishek Sharma (IAS), with copies circulated to concerned senior officials for information.

DIG Reviews...

The DIG also interacted with pilgrims at Shiv Khori and enquired about their experience and safety measures, emphasising the need to maintain a pilgrim-friendly environment while ensuring strict security protocols.

He inspected critical locations, including the X-ray baggage scanning points, CCTV control room, market area, bus stand, Yatra Parchi control, Kanda More, and Jandi More.

Sharma directed officers to remain vigilant, ensure seamless coordination among agencies and maintain a high level of alertness.

He stressed the effective use of surveillance systems, proper checking mechanisms, and crowd management to ensure the safety of visitors.

The officers were instructed to continue proactive measures and maintain close coordination with all stakeholders to ensure a peaceful and incident-free Yatra.

ED's Arrests...

proceeds of crime, power of arrest, search and seizure and attachment of properties. The provisions of the Act also make securing bail extremely difficult because the court must be satisfied that the accused is not guilty, as well as not likely to commit another crime while on bail.

In the past fiscal, the ED breached its set target of restoring attached assets to victims of fraud by double, as it restituted properties worth more than Rs 32,000 crore during the said time period. The agency had set a target of restoring assets worth Rs 15,000 crore at the start of the FY26 in April 2025.

PTI accessed the data furnished by the agency in its annual report (FY 2025-26) and found that the ED arrested 156 persons during the fiscal as compared to 214 in 2024-25, a decline of about 27 per cent. During 2023-24, the number stood at 272.

The ED reasoned that the arrests were reduced because it was undertaking "more targeted and evidence-based investigations".

Elaborating on the "highest-ever" provisional attachment of assets done by it in a single year (FY26) — a whopping 171 per cent increase in value of attachments at Rs 81,422 crore under 712 orders — the agency said this was a "central instrument" through which it ensures that criminals are deprived and stripped of the fruits of crime generated "illicitly".

In comparison, the agency had issued 461 provisional attachment orders with assets valued at Rs 30,036 crore frozen during FY25.

As the name suggests, these attachment orders are provisional and are confirmed by the Adjudicating Authority of the PMLA, a quasi-judicial body. The raids undertaken by the ED, often covered extensively in television news and newspapers, jumped to more than double at 2,892 during FY26, compared to 1,491 during the previous year.

The report added that the ED was not relying "entirely" on physical searches but its investigators were "triangulating" financial intelligence from multiple databases simultaneously, tracing cryptocurrency flows through block chain analytics and accessing corporate and property records in real-time.

This led the ED to successfully file a "record" 812 chargesheets during FY26 as compared to 457 such complaints for prosecution filed before courts during the previous year.

That is why, the report said, ED has been able to "significantly" able to reduce the life cycle of cases from the earlier three-four years to 1-1.5 years now.

Data showed that the number of Enforcement Case Information Reports (ECIRs) registered to trigger PMLA probes, jumped 39 per cent to 1,080 cases during the last fiscal as compared to 775 cases filed during FY25.

The most critical data was reflected in the restitution of assets category where the ED restores assets attached by it under the PMLA to the victims of fraud such as investors, homebuyers and banks.

The agency restored assets worth Rs 32,678 crore during the last fiscal as compared to Rs 15,263 crore handed over to the victims of fraud during FY25. ED Director Rahul Navin had set a target of restoring assets worth Rs 15,000 crore at the start of FY26, PTI reported last year.

The report said that the ED could "double" this figure as it got a major success in the PACL "ponzi" case in which the amount of assets restored was 15,582 crore, almost half of the total restored amount of Rs 32,678 crore.

The report also included figures of legal requests, like Letters Rotatory (LR) and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLATs) requests, sent by the ED to countries for assistance in money laundering cases has grown "considerably".

As of March 31, 2026, there were 353 pending MLAT/LR requests with the most before the UAE at 69 (about 19.6 per cent), Singapore 55, UK 39, Hong Kong 36, USA 26, Switzerland 23 and Mauritius 15 among others.

The agency also got such legal cooperation requests from foreign shores and out of the 246 received till FY26, maximum were sent by the UK at 79 (32.9 per cent), Singapore 33, USA 32 and France 7 among others.

LG Manoj...

issued with the approval of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. As per the official document, the promotions shall remain subject to the outcome of any writ petitions.

Doda-Kishtwar...

advised to avoid travel on the Doda-Kishtwar road until it is fully cleared and traffic movement is restored.

Authorities said further updates will be issued as the situation develops.



1-Month Certified Yoga Instructor Course inaugurated at Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre

JAMMU, MAY 2: A 'One-Month Certified Yoga Instructor Course' was inaugurated today at the Mahabodhi Yoga & Meditation Centre, Leh. The course is joined by the aspiring instructors, including Army personnel, to begin a meaningful journey of self-development and service through yoga. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Brig. Ankush Thakur, Dy GOC 3 Infantry Division. He was joined by Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder and Spiritual Director of Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre; Dr. I. V. Basavaraddi, the Former Director of Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga and currently visiting Professor at Mahabodhi Yoga Institute; and Ms. Rishika, Yoga Instructor from Yoga Institute Mumbai. On the occasion, special



appreciation was extended to Dr. I. V. Basavaraddi, a pioneering figure in India's yoga education landscape, who will be mentoring participants - offering a rare and valuable learning experience. Chief Guest Brig. Ankush Thakur lauded the initiatives of Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre under the patronage of Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena is developing a beautiful and enriching landscape which is also equipped with a world class Yoga Training Institute. He said, "Yoga

discipline, awareness, and service. Structured sessions, daily meditation, and group reflection will help participants deepen their practice and prepare to share it meaningfully with others. He also informed that Centre will be developed as a high standard Yoga Research Centre especially designed for this high altitude region. Dr. Dr. I. V. Basavaraddi emphasized that this training goes beyond techniques and postures. He dwelt about the various aspects of Yoga and its usefulness in staying mentally as well as physically fit and also the reducing stress level. The speakers emphasized that Yoga is aimed at nurturing compassionate and conscious individuals who can contribute to peace, harmony, and well-being in society. They acknowledged the visionary leader-

ship of Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena whose dedication over three decades helped establish MIMC as a leading centre for yoga, meditation, and humanitarian service in Ladakh. On the occasion, the esteemed dignitaries also distributed course material among the participants. Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena also felicitated the esteemed dignitaries with traditional scarf (khatak) and mementos. This course reflects MIMC's commitment to promoting yoga and meditation in the region. MIMC is proud to be Ladakh's first Yoga Certification Board (YCB)-accredited institute, recognized by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. In 2021, Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder and Spiritual Director of MIMC, was honoured with the Prime Minister's Yoga Award.

NSF strongly opposes demand for separate Jammu State

JAMMU, MAY 2: The National Sikh Front (NSF) today expressed strong opposition to the recurring demand for carving out a separate Jammu State from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, describing it as a move that could further fragment the Sikh community's already scattered demographic presence and undermine the region's composite unity. In a press release issued here, NSF Chairman Varinderjeet Singh cautioned that any bifurcation along regional lines would exacerbate the challenges faced by the Sikh population, which constitutes roughly 1.9 per cent of J&K's populace and remains thinly dispersed across districts in Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, and pockets in the Kashmir Valley and Pir Panjal areas. The recent delimitation exercise has already diluted Sikh influence in these several constituencies, making meaningful political representation increasingly difficult in the absence of a compact territorial base. Singh highlighted the community's profound historical sacrifices, noting that Sikhs, along with Hindus, endured massive losses during the 1947 Partition and the Pakistani tribal invasion of Jammu and Kashmir. In areas that became Pakistan-



occupied Kashmir (PoK), including Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Bhimber, and Kothi, thousands of Hindus and Sikhs were killed, women abducted, and properties looted or destroyed. Survivors from these ancestral lands faced brutal massacres - with estimates of over 20,000 non-Muslims perishing in Mirpur alone on November 25, 1947 - and were forced into long-term displacement. Many refugee families from PoK continue to await full rehabilitation even after nearly eight decades, their generational trauma persisting without closure or restoration of lost assets.

MLA Arvind inaugurates lane & drain works worth Rs 25 lakh in Ward 13

JAMMU, MAY 2: Continuing his unwavering commitment to grassroots development and public welfare, MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta, today inaugurated newly constructed lane and drain works in Ward No. 13 of the Jammu West Assembly Constituency. The project, executed at an estimated cost of Rs 25 lakh, is aimed at significantly improving basic civic infrastructure in the area. The upgraded lane and drainage system will not only enhance accessibility but also ensure better sanitation, thereby contributing to the convenience, health, and dignity of local residents. Speaking on the occasion,



Arvind Gupta reiterated his dedication to ensuring holistic and sustained development across Jammu West. He emphasized that strengthening core infrastructure remains a top priority and assured residents of continued efforts to address public needs efficiently and promptly. The inauguration ceremony was conducted in the presence of Mandal Vice President Sonu Manhas, Mandal General Secretary Mohit Vaid, along with Arun Sharma, Rajesh Kumar, and Pappu Malhotra. Officials from the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), including the concerned Junior Engineer (JE), as well as the executing contractor, were also present.

JKNPP Bhim Reaffirms Historic Resolution, Launches Mass Movement for a Separate Jammu State

JAMMU, MAY 2: JKNPP Bhim today formally announced the launch of a comprehensive political and grassroots movement to secure full statehood for the Jammu region. Addressing a press conference here today, Vilakshan Singh, President JKNPP Bhim, stated that this announcement serves as the operational roadmap for the unanimous resolution passed on March 23. The resolution, which marked the Fourth Day of the party, honours the unyielding legacy of its founder, Sher-e-Jammu Prof. Bhim Singh, and declares that the only path to secure justice, equity,



and dignity is the creation of a separate state of Jammu. During the press conference, Vilakshan Singh emphasized that alongside the demand for statehood, the JKNPP Bhim has strongly resolved to fight

for the absolute protection of land and job rights exclusively for the original residents of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that for decades, the people of Jammu have contributed their labour and taxes only

to witness their resources consistently diverted elsewhere. Highlighting severe historical disparities in the allocation of state funds and development packages, Singh asserted that the youth of Jammu continue to face an uneven playing field in government recruitment, making strict constitutional safeguards for local lands and employment an urgent and non-negotiable necessity. Vilakshan further highlighted that the demand for a separate state is not born out of division, but driven by the vital need to protect a distinct geographic and cultural entity. Bound by the rich heritage of the

DSS marks 24th 'Save Birds, Save Water Day' A Living Tribute to Late Th. G S Charak

JAMMU, MAY 2: Dogra Sadar Sabha (DSS), in collaboration with Department of Forest, today, observed 24th 'Save Birds, Save Water Day' at Dogra Hall, Zanana Park and various locations across the city, drawing hundreds of citizens - veterans, environmentalists, students, educators and civil society members - in a powerful collective affirmation of the Dogra ethos of compassion for all living beings. Col. Karan Singh, President DSS, presided over the function, remembered his predecessor Late Th. Gulchain Singh Charak (Former Minister) who laid the foundation of this movement decades ago. His absence was profoundly felt; his ideals, more alive than ever. Singh also emphasised the



necessity to care for nature and preserving water. Working President Adv. Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, coordinated the whole event with the active support of Mr. Akhileshwar, Vice President, Youth Wing DSS. Charak while addressing the gathering urged the younger generation to internalise this movement as a way of life. "Placing water in an earthen pot, feeding grains to birds before you eat - these small, consistent acts, done by many, reshape civilisations," he

said, invoking the age-old Dogra tradition of feeding the voiceless before oneself. The Eminent Guest, Shri Anurag Arya, DFO Jammu emphasised the necessity to care for nature and preserving water. He also lauded the efforts of the Sabha and the organising committee. In its annual tradition, the Sabha in collaboration with the Forest Department held a painting competition for school and college students on the theme of 'Save Birds, Save Water'. Certificates of Merit were awarded on the spot by the eminent guests. The judges were Maj. Gen. Sunita Kapoor, VSM and Col. Dr. Virendra K. Sahi, VrC (Colleges); Shri G.A. Khwaja, Shri Nandinder Singh Jambwa (Schools).

RRCM Dr. Arvind Karwani Inaugurates Multi-Speciality Free Medical Camp

JAMMU, MAY 2: The People's Hut Foundation (PHF), in collaboration with the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation (M) J&K, successfully hosted a comprehensive 'Free - Multi-Speciality Medical Camp' today at the Community Hall in Purkhoo Camp, Jammu. The initiative, designed to deliver high-quality healthcare to vulnerable populations, successfully served 396 patients, with a specialized focus on the elderly, women, and children. According to Mr. Vikas Koul, Advisor to PHF, this medical camp serves as a core component of the foundation's "Mobile Health Clinic Program," a dedicated effort aimed at enhancing healthcare accessibility across Jammu



& Kashmir. The camp was officially inaugurated by Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), Dr. Arvind Karwani, alongside DC Relief Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma, eminent social worker and youth leader Sh. Muktesh Yogi, and special guests Mr. Rockey Pandita and Sh. Kamal Ganjoo. The event was meticulously organized by key PHF members, including Dr. Rohit Koul, Dr. Ritu Koul, Ms. Zoha Barkat, Mr. Vikas Koul, Ms. Lalita Sharma, and dedicated PHF volunteers. During the inauguration, Chief Guest Dr. Karwani urged residents to fully utilize the services, noting that the overwhelming response highlights the critical need to bridge the gap between specialized facilities and the communities that struggle.

NC raising conflicting issues to divert attention from basic amenities: Khatana

JAMMU, MAY 2: Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Nominated Er. Gulam Ali Khatana addressed a massive public rally at the outskirts of Jammu in Kot Bhalwal today. During his address, he alleged that the National Conference (NC) and other Kashmir-based political parties have a history of raising conflicting and emotional issues to mislead the people, rather than addressing their day-to-day needs. Khatana stated that in the past, slogans like autonomy and self-rule were used to "befool innocent people," who placed their trust in such parties but did not receive adequate attention



to basic amenities, peace-building, tourism promotion, industrial growth, or employment generation. He questioned the Omar Abdullah-led government for what he described as ignoring its mandate and manifesto commitments. Highlighting concerns from the kandi belt of the Jammu region, Khatana

Rohiin Chandan Hails Nationwide Launch of SACHET Emergency Alert System

JAMMU, MAY 2: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Jammu South Media Secretary Rohiin Chandan today expressed strong appreciation for the successful nationwide launch of "SACHET" (System for Advanced Communication and Holistic Emergency Transmission), the Government of India's advanced cell broadcast emergency alert system. He described the initiative as a landmark step towards strengthening public safety and disaster management across the country. Rohiin Chandan stated, "I am so glad that under the visionary and decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, things are improving all around. Today, every mobile user in India received a test alert through the newly



launched SACHET system. This reflects the government's unwavering commitment to leveraging technology for the safety and security of every citizen." The SACHET initiative was joint-

ly activated today by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. Developed indigenously by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) using the internationally recognized Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), the system enables authorities to deliver critical emergency messages directly to all mobile phones in a targeted geographical area without depending on cellular networks being congested or individual phone settings. Rohiin Chandan highlighted that SACHET marks a major upgrade in India's emergency response capabilities. "In a country of India's size and geographical diversity, timely dissemination of

alerts during natural disasters, security threats, or public health emergencies can save countless lives. The Modi government has once again demonstrated its focus on self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) by building this robust system domestically," he added. The test alert sent today clearly mentioned that it was only a trial run and no public action was required. This transparent approach has been widely appreciated, as it familiarizes citizens with the new system without causing any panic. The system is now fully operational across all 36 States and Union Territories, ensuring uniform coverage from Jammu & Kashmir to Tamil Nadu and from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh.

BJP transformed political communication under PM Modi: Sat Sharma

J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma chaired a meeting of the party's Social Media and IT Departments at the BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP General Secretary Sanjita Dogra, Secretary Reema Padha, Library Department Incharge Prof Kulbushan Mohtra, Social Media Department Incharge Dr. Makson Tickoo, IT Department Incharge Gaurav Balgotra, along with the teams of Social Media and IT Departments participated in the meeting.

Sat Sharma, while addressing, stressed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP has transformed political communication in the country by directly connecting with the masses through technology, transparency, and public-centric governance. He asserted that while opposition parties are attempting to mislead the people through false narratives and divisive politics, BJP workers



must actively expose their hypocrisy and take the achievements of the Modi government to every household. Sat Sharma reviewed the functioning and ongoing activities of both departments. He discussed future strategies aimed at strengthening political outreach, public engagement, and ideological communication through digital platforms. He said that in the present political

scenario, social media and IT platforms have become decisive battlefields where truth and nationalism must prevail over propaganda and misinformation. Sat Sharma said that the Social Media and IT Departments are not merely organizational units, but powerful instruments to protect nationalist ideology, promote developmental politics, and counter anti-India and anti-devel-

opment narratives being spread on digital platforms. He stressed that BJP workers must remain proactive and fact-driven in highlighting the government's welfare schemes, historic reforms, and commitment towards the empowerment of youth, women, farmers, and marginalized sections. Sanjita Dogra said that the digital strength of the BJP reflects the confidence and support the party enjoys among the people, particularly the youth. She called upon the departmental teams to work with greater discipline, coordination, and creativity so that the voice of nationalism, development, and good governance reaches every corner of Jammu and Kashmir. During the meeting, Dr. Makson Tickoo and Gaurav Balgotra presented detailed reports regarding the activities, achievements, digital campaigns, training initiatives, public outreach efforts, and technological support systems being undertaken by their respective departments.

Chinar Eco Warriors organises Ecological Plantation Camp for Children

Samba, May 2: In a trailblazing and one-of-its-kind endeavour, the Chinar Eco Warriors, the Eco Task Force unit of the Territorial Army, in consonance with the Director General Territorial Army's directive for expansive outreach and the advancement of Sustainable Development Goal-oriented programmes, successfully organised a two-day Plantation Awareness and Training Camp for the children of Samba Military Station under the aegis of the Greening J&K Initiative in close synergy with the State Forest Department, J&K.

This novel initiative was conceptualised to sensitise and empower the young wards of Army personnel particularly for the soldier's family who need to get accustomed with transfers to new military stations upon posting, with



contemporary and adaptable plantation techniques that can be practised across diverse geographical locations. The programme aimed to foster environmental responsibility among the younger generation while equipping them with practical plantation skills, using greenening activities as a means to promote mental well-being and reduce the stress associated with the frequently changing environments of

soldiers' families. Conducted by the Chinar Eco Warriors, under the efficient coordination of Sub Mohinder Singh the module featured a blend of theoretical and hands-on learning. Participants were introduced to India's rich legacy of heritage trees, including those associated with the nation's freedom struggle, alongside awareness sessions on medicinal plants and their ecological significance.

UNNAT NGO Educates Students on HPV Prevention at GHSS Jhiri, Jammu

JAMMU MAY 2: UNNAT NGO organized a health awareness programme on HPV vaccination for the prevention of cervical cancer at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Jhiri Jammu. The initiative aimed to educate students, parents, and the local community about the importance of early vaccination in safeguarding the health of young girls. On this occasion, Principal of the School, Kasturi Lal Verma was the Chief Guest in the program and Dr Anuradha Treasurer of the NGO presided over the function. The programme was conducted under the supervi-

sion of NGO General Secretary Neena Abrol, who highlighted the growing need for awareness regarding cervical cancer prevention. She emphasized that timely vaccination against Human Papillomavirus (HPV) can significantly reduce the risk of cervical cancer among women. Addressing the gathering, Dr Anuradha urged parents, especially those with 14-year-old daughters, to ensure vaccination at the nearest healthcare centre. She stressed that prevention through vaccination is a crucial step towards building a healthier future for the younger generation. Speaking on this occasion,

Kasturi Lal Verma said that the Unnat NGO is doing a very good job. He said that today a health awareness program was organized in our school in which children were made aware of various diseases and we wish that in future also Unnat NGO will keep organizing such programs in our school to continue awareness about health education imperative for the children besides academic studies, he added. The session included informative discussions on the causes, risks, and prevention of cervical cancer, along with guidance on accessing vaccination facilities.

Teli Urged party workers to begin preparations for the Upcoming Panchayat elections

Udhampur, May 2: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Chairman Abdul Gani Teli today attended a workers' meeting as the Chief Guest in a Panchayat Kotli Ward No 05 District Udhampur. The meeting was organized by Mrs Suman Verma District Vice President OBC Cell Udhampur. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Teli strongly criticized the local MLA of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), alleging failure to resolve key public issues. He highlighted poor road conditions, frequent electricity shortages during the summer, and a lack of employment opportunities



during the previous BJP regime. Mr. Teli further stated that the BJP-led central government has ignored the concerns of the OBC community and

failed to provide adequate relief to weaker sections. He urged party workers to begin preparations for the upcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Body (ULB) elections. Emphasizing the performance of the government led by Omar Abdullah, Mr. Teli praised its governance, stating that it has delivered significant relief, especially for women and youth. He pointed to job opportunities in both government and private sectors as key achievements that are helping young people earn their livelihood. On the occasion, several women workers joined the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC).

The names are Kiran Kumari, Serah Begum, Mena Begum, Kushalya Devi, Sonia Devi, Neha Devi, Bina Devi, Tehra, Begum Naseema Begum, Gulzar Begum, Jameela Begum, Mumtaz Begum, Sofia Bano, Zareena Bano, Babli Devi and Gulshan Begum. Mr Teli welcomed the new members and urged them to work actively at the grassroots level to strengthen the party. Among others who were present included: Anantullah OBC Cell District President Jammu, Ch. Mohd Gani District President ST cell Udhampur, Taj Ali District Secretary OBC Cell, Capt Pavitar Singh District Secretary Udhampur, Ravi Kumar, Nijam Din, Jagmohan Singh and others.

"Mere Man Bhandey Geet" a Dogri Book penned by Subhan Mohammad released

Jammu, May 2 Ch. Lal Singh former Cabinet Minister was Chief Guest on the occasion whereas Om Vidyarthi IFS and Sahitya Academy Awardee presided over the function. Dr.Nasib Singh Manhas writer, artist, film maker and former director Doordarshan was Guest of Honour. Usman Salaria Senior Advocate Was Special Invitee and Shailender Singh SSP Railway and Sahitya Academy Awardee was Special Guest on the occasion. Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila President NDS and Prof.Anupama Sharma Patron NDS also shared the dias. Yash Pal Yash General Secretary NDS compared the proceedings of the programme



At the outset Suman Sharma noted Dogri Writer read a detailed paper on the book which set a vibrant tone for the programme to follow. There after the signatories on the dias released the book. This is the second book of Dogri Lyrics by the poet Subhan Mohammad who is an upcoming lyricist who is bestowed with melodious

voice as well. Ch Lal Singh while speaking on the occasion congratulated the author for his magnificent book. He called upon more young writers and poets to write in dogri and prove their creativity. He emphasized upon the Government to introduce Dogri in School as a mandatory subject up to class 12th in tune with the

new National Education Policy -2020. Dr.Nasib Singh Manhas who is himself a famous Dogri lyricist praised the contents and range of the lyrics of Subhan Mohammad and expressed that we have lot of expectations from this promising lyricist in future as well. Shailender Singh said that the poetry of Subhan is fully compatible with the nature, flavour, pride and ethos of dogri language and imbibes mesmerizing effect on the readers. Usman Salaria said that the poetry of Dogri Language is identity of Dogras and it is high time that we start projecting our sweet mother tongue Dogri. Dogra Culture and environment. Om Vidyarthi lauded NDS for

the tireless endeavours to propagate the cause of Dogri Language and Duggar Culture. He described the book a welcome addition in dogri literature. Anupama Sharma Patron NDS said that there is dire need of Good Music in Dogri in tune with the choice of the public especially, the youth so as to make Dogri a household voice. She called upon elder and young Lyricist, Music Composers and singers to work in close coordination to make Dogri Music popular and favourite of one and all. Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila assured Good Dogri Music programmes in future by NDS. The vote of thanks was extended by Wing Commander Nirmal Secretary NDS.

Teachers' Workshop on NCF-ECCE Strengthens Foundational Learning at DPS Junior

Kathua, May 2 Delhi Public School Junior, Kathua organised a dynamic and insightful Teachers' Workshop for Pre-Primary educators aimed at reinforcing foundational learning in alignment with the National Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCF-ECCE). The workshop was led by distinguished educationist Mrs. Anjali Singh, who brings over four decades of exemplary experience in the field of education. Her session was deeply rooted in addressing real-life classroom challenges, offering practical, activity-based strategies that educators can effectively implement. A strong emphasis was placed on child-centric pedagogy, experiential



learning, and the development of foundational literacy and numeracy skills, in accordance with NCF-ECCE guidelines. Mrs. Anjali Singh's engaging delivery and profound insights enabled teachers to seamlessly bridge the gap between theory and practice, making the session highly interactive, relevant, and impactful. Speaking on the occasion, School In-charge Mrs. Monika Singh highlighted that such initiatives are

instrumental in empowering educators with contemporary teaching practices. She emphasized that aligning classroom strategies with real-life learning contexts and NCF-ECCE principles is essential for nurturing confident, curious, and future-ready learners. School Administrator Mrs. Gauri Thakur appreciated the initiative and underscored the importance of continuous professional development in maintaining academic excellence.

BSP organize review meeting with Kathua Assembly Segment Party workers



Jammu, May 3: Engaged in formulating a strategy for the upcoming assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has launched a campaign to strengthen its organizational structure at the assembly, sector, and booth levels. While new units are being constituted

by the party, veteran cadres are simultaneously being called upon to re-enter active politics and lend strength to the BSP. On Saturday, a review meeting for the Kathua Assembly constituency was organized by the BSP. During this meeting, discussions were held regarding the strengthening of the party

at the assembly, sector, and booth levels, and directives were issued to party leaders and workers to undertake a fresh review of the newly formed committees. Presiding over this significant meeting was Darshan Rana, the BSP President for Jammu and Kashmir, while the BSP Central In-charge, Daya Chand, attended as the Chief Guest. Additionally, other party leaders also participated in the meeting. Addressing the gathering, BSP Central In-charge Daya Chand stated that, as part of the effort to strengthen the organization, the party is continuously conducting review meetings at the assembly level.

NC not Congress lagged behind in the struggle for statehood - Congress NC addressing people's resentment over the issue by diverting attention: Bhalla

JAMMUSRINAGAR, MAY 2: Congress has said that it is National Conference not Congress that lagged behind in the struggle for restoration of statehood, whereas Congress has always remained on the forefront and on the streets for the demand, right from day one. Reagains to the statement of NC President Dr Feroq Abdullah in this regard, Congress has said that he is addressing the people's resentment over the issue by diverting attention as Congress party and its leadership has played a front role all these years over the issue and intensified its struggle, especially after the Assembly elections & remained on the streets to press for the most important demand of people of J&K, asking NC to explain what it did to achieve the legiti-

mate demand, committed by centre. Working President of JKPCCC said that Congress party didn't join even the cabinet, which is the right of every pre poll alliance partner, only to expose the BJP government over the issue which had committed to restore statehood immediately after Assembly elections, but has not honoured the same. Since then the Congress party intensified its struggle under the slogan "Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq" in many phases including chain hunger strike, Srinagar Chalo, Jammu Chalo and Delhi Chalo call, where our senior central leadership, on the directions of top leadership joined our protest demonstration at Jantar Mantar and march to Parliament giving nationwide attention to the most legitimate demand of people

of J&K exposing the betrayal of Modi government to honour its commitments on the floor of Parliament, in public domain besides before Supreme Court. Our top leadership of Congress President Shri Malikarjun Kharge and LOP Shri Rahul Gandhi wrote open letter to the Prime Minister to honour his public commitments regarding grant of statehood, on the eve of JK Congress protest outside Parliament House. Unfortunately, at that time too, our alliance partner NC raised questions over Congress struggle in this regard, instead of appreciating or extending support to our struggle. Congress openly offered the NC leadership to lead the struggle extending full support, as it is not only issue of Congress alone but for 1.40 cr people of J&K, for

which not only Congress but all parties committed to fight at the time of elections, although BJP backed out later after getting mandate in Jammu but failing in its dream to gain majority, said Bhalla. He said that instead of passing on the buck to the INDIA Block, the NC should tell people what it did to achieve the goal except raising the issue of and on, after declaring signature campaign which didn't land anywhere. Taking a dig, he said Statehood can't be achieved by showering praises on the central government, quite openly, despite the fact that BJP government ignored and betrayed the people of J&K on the most vital commitment of restoration of statehood even after over one & half years, now, of the taking over of elected.



SKUAST-K launches Student Rural Exploration in 300 villages across Kashmir

SRINAGAR, MAY 02: In a landmark move to redefine the landscape of agricultural education and extension in India, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Kashmir today launched the Student Rural Exploration Program (SREP) under the framework of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP-20). This pioneering initiative, launched under the leadership of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, saw a massive grassroots outreach this weekend as more than 3000 students ventured into more than 300 university-adopted villages across the Kashmir Valley. By transitioning from the traditional classroom setting to immersive field experiences, the university is



bridging the critical gap between advanced scientific techniques and traditional indigenous practices, ensuring that the next generation of agricultural professionals is deeply rooted in the realities of rural livelihoods. Speaking at the occasion, Prof. Ganai said, "The Student Rural Exploration Program is not just an academic initiative-it is a

transformational movement. By placing our students directly in villages for sustained engagement, we are creating a living bridge between science and society. This program will generate real-time rural intelligence, empower communities with knowledge, and shape a new generation of socially committed professionals." The program is structured

as a sophisticated, multidisciplinary engagement where students from various faculties, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary Sciences, Fisheries, Sericulture, Forestry, and Agriculture Engineering, work in specialised cohorts. Each group typically consists of four undergraduate students, two postgraduate students, and one PhD scholar, all operating under the direct guidance of a scientist mentor. This collaborative model allows for a tiered level of learning and field execution, marking a historic first in the country as a university-led effort to engage with the farming community at the panchayat level on such a significant scale. These teams are conducting Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)-cum-survey exercises, providing students with hands-on exposure to the complexities of the rural economy in diverse terrains. The impact of the initiative is designed to be mutually beneficial for both the academic and farming communities. While students collect vital data and gain a firsthand understanding of grassroots challenges, farmers receive expert technical advisories, diagnostic services, and updated information regarding various government schemes and agricultural interventions. With this program, SKUAST-K shall strengthen the bonds with the farming community by gaining their trust and enlightening them with the latest technologies, whether in the form of high-quality seeds, improved varieties, resilient rootstocks,

DC Shopian reviews progress of Mission YUVA

Emphasizes capacity building & enterprise mentorship to boost youth entrepreneurship

SHOPIAN, MAY 02: A review meeting of Mission YUVA was today held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (Chairman, DLIC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta at Mini Secretariat Shopian to assess progress under the scheme and streamline its effective implementation. Reviewing bank wise performance, it was informed that 2853 cases have been sponsored, of which 1318 have been sanctioned and 1178 disbursed, while 1057 cases are under process at various stages, underscoring the need for faster credit linkage and timely disbursement. On capacity building, six internal trainers have been taken on board, conducting 48 training batches and benefiting 787 entrepreneurs. It was also informed that four batches



involving 120 candidates are currently ongoing. Under enterprise mentorship, 15 mentors have been verified, of which 14 have initiated batches, while 70 candidates are undergoing mentorship training. Speaking on the occasion, the DC stated that Mission YUVA is a transformative initiative aimed at enabling youth to become self-reliant entrepreneurs through financial assistance, skill development, and sustained mentorship. He directed all concerned departments, banks, and implementing agencies to ensure time-bound sanctioning, hassle-free disbursement, and zero unnecessary pendency. The DC further emphasized the need for continuous monitoring, skill enhancement, and improved market access to ensure long-term sustainability of the enterprises. He reiterated that special focus must be given to underprivileged and marginalized youth to strengthen their socio-economic conditions.

DYSS Ganderbal organises Zone-Wise Sports Activities under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan



GANDERBAL, MAY 02: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Ganderbal conducted a series of zone-wise sports activities under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Abhiyan. The programme commenced with a pledge ceremony, where participants vowed to stay away from drugs and contribute

towards building a drug-free society. During the session, awareness was also raised about the harmful effects of substance abuse, including its impact on physical health, mental well-being, academic performance, and social life. Students were encouraged to make informed choices, support their peers, and act as ambassadors of a drug-free community.

In Zone Kangan, Kabaddi for U-14 girls and a Cyclothon were organised. Zone Hariganwan hosted Kabaddi competitions, while Zone Tulmullah also conducted Kabaddi events. In Zone Ganderbal, Table Tennis competitions were held. Students from various institutions participated actively, promoting fitness, teamwork, and awareness against drug abuse. District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ganderbal, Sheikh Shafiq Iqbal, appreciated the efforts of the staff and the enthusiastic participation of students. He emphasized that awareness combined with sports plays a crucial role in steering youth away from substance abuse and towards a healthy, disciplined lifestyle.

DC Bandipora chairs 'Maa se Guftagu' at Bankoot under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

Calls for collective fight against Drug Abuse

BANDIPORA, MAY 02: Continuing its sustained outreach under the 100-Day Mission Mode Campaign of the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Bandipora today organised another edition of 'Maa se Guftagu' at Bankoot. Bandipora aimed at strengthening community participation in the fight against drug abuse. The programme was attended by District Programme Officer, ICDS Bandipora, Naar Ali Khan and witnessed active participation of women, members of Panchayat Samitis, Anganwadi workers, Self Help Groups (SHGs),



NRLM representatives, teachers, and local residents, who also interacted with the Deputy Commissioner during the awareness programme. Addressing the gathering,

the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, stressed the need for collective vigilance and community counselling to curb the growing menace of smoking and substance

harmful effects of smoking. She urged participants to counsel their family members and neighbours about the dangers associated with smoking and passive smoking. She said that addiction not only destroys the health and future of an individual but also affects the entire family and society.

Awareness activities poster exhibitions, Yoga Sessions held across Shopian

SHOPIAN, MAY 02: As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, multiple awareness and engagement activities were organized across district Shopian today, to sensitize youth and the general public against drug abuse and promote a healthy lifestyle. A series of poster exhibitions were conducted in various schools and Anganwadi Centres of the district. Students actively participated by showcasing creative posters highlighting the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of making positive life choices. These exhibitions served as an effective medium to spread awareness and encourage community participation in the anti-drug movement. In continuation of the campaign, a yoga session was organized at PS School Wachi, Shopian, aimed at promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, and discipline among youth. Around 50 participants took part in the session.

Zainapora Shopian intensifies Anti Drug Campaign Vehicle Sticker Drive expands grassroots outreach

Admin targets Awareness, Enforcement and Rehabilitation

SHOPIAN, MAY 02: As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan and the district-wide campaign spearheaded by Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, the Sub-Divisional Administration Zainapora, in coordination with Zainapora Police, intensified its IEC outreach through a large-scale vehicle sticker campaign across the sub-division. The drive was conducted under the supervision of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate Zainapora. Bilal Ahmad with active participation from local police units.

Anti-drug awareness stickers were pasted on hundreds of passenger vehicles, commercial transport, and private cars across Zainapora market and adjoining areas. The initiative aims to transform every vehicle into a mobile awareness platform, ensuring sustained visibility of the anti-drug message at the grassroots level. This effort aligns with the broader vision of taking the message of a drug-free society to every household. The administration has emphasized that awareness, enforcement, and rehabilitation will continue



simultaneously to dismantle the narcotics ecosystem. As part of strict enforcement measures, illegal structures and assets linked to drug peddlers have been demolished and attached in previous actions. Authorities reiterated a zero-tolerance policy, stat-

ing that action against illegal assets and encroachments connected to drug activities will continue without exception. Over the past two years, more than 800 kanals of land previously under illicit cultivation have been reclaimed and converted

into productive agricultural use, including oilseeds and paddy. This shift has significantly improved farmers' income and reduced dependence on narcotics-linked activities. Enforcement efforts remain consistent, with nearly 60 FIRs registered under the NDPS Act in the last six months. Multiple properties of drug peddlers have been attached, and illegal constructions, including shops and encroachments on state land, have been removed. Community participation continues to be a key pillar of the campaign. Ex PRI

Members, religious leaders, teachers, and youth volunteers are actively contributing to awareness generation and behavioral change. Victims of substance abuse are being connected with de-addiction services, counselling, and skill development programmes to facilitate rehabilitation and reintegration. Complementary initiatives such as the "Promote Books, Not Drugs" donation drive and intensified inspections of medical shops by the Drug Control Department are also underway to reinforce preventive measures.

100-Day Nasha Mukht JK Campaign District Admin Anantnag intensifies crackdown on drug peddlers

15 illegal structures built on State Land, linked to NDPS Act violators demolished at Waghama
ANANTNAG MAY 02: Intensifying the crackdown and punitive action against Drug Peddlers and NDPS Act violators under the 100 Day Intensified Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign, the District Administration Anantnag, in coordination with the Police department, today carried out a significant demolition drive at Waghama, Bijbehara. During the joint operation, revenue authorities supported by a police team demolished illegal structures including 15 shops raised on State and Kachcharai land falling under Kharsa No. 2494 (min) and 2495 (min) in Estate Waghama. The demolished structures were found to be linked with persons involved in cases under the NDPS Act. The revenue department also ensured the retrieval of the encroached State and

Census 2027: 3-day training programme for Field Trainers begins in Shopian

SHOPIAN, MAY 02: District Administration Shopian today commenced a three-day training programme for Field Trainers (FTs) in connection with the forthcoming Census 2027 operations. The training programme is being organized under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Shopian (Principal Census Officer), Shishir Gupta, to strengthen preparedness for Phase I, House Listing and Housing Census (HLC). As many as 14 Field Trainers drawn from different departments are participating in the programme. These Field Trainers will further impart training to



Supervisors and Enumerators at their respective charge levels to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of census

Operations, J&K and Ladakh, Jhoni Pokhyral and Rais Ahmad Durr, along with Naveen Raghav, District Coordinator, Shopian who are providing detailed guidance on the procedures and operational framework of Census 2027. The participants are being sensitized about house listing and Housing Census schedules, House-listing block definitions, use of Mobile HLO application, Data quality and confidentiality, and practical field exposures. During the sessions, emphasis is being laid on maintaining data accuracy, adherence to prescribed guidelines, and timely completion of census

activities. Interactive discussions are also being held to address participants' queries regarding technical and field-level aspects of the census process. ADCC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, while speaking, emphasized the crucial role of Field Trainers in ensuring accurate and smooth Census 2027 operations and urged them to carry out their responsibilities with dedication and professionalism. Among others, the training programme was attended by ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, and DSEO Shopian, Bilkeesha Zahoor.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No: 433, TELE, JAT, 30, 35-36 Closing Date/Time: 25.05.2026, 15:00
 Date: 01.05.2026
 In: 03/TELE/ET for and on behalf of The President of India under E-Procurement on https://www.gepp.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433, TELE, JAT, 30, 35-36
 Closing Date/Time: 25.05.2026, 15:00 hrs. Bids will be able to submit free original sealed bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender; and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are advised to make payments against the tender documents under document code and serial number only through online payment modes available on IRPFIS portal. No cash payment, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker Cheque, Deposited receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

MT HEADERS

Contract Type	Work
Position of Personnel	Assistant of JAT station under District Division at PF number 4.5.5 and 7.
Name of Work	
Tender Closing Date/Time	25.05.2026, 15:00
Advertisement Value (Rs.)	17,26,502.70
Estimated Money (Rs.)	1,19,900.00
Period of Completion	4 Months

147/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

North in News

EDITORIAL

Entrepreneurship can change India's future

Entrepreneurship can change India's future because it shifts the country from a job seeking economy to a job creating one, and with sixty five percent of the population under thirty five years, that shift is not just desirable but necessary for Viksit Bharat, because government jobs and large corporates alone cannot absorb the million people entering the workforce every month, and entrepreneurship fills that gap by turning ideas into enterprises that solve local problems with local talent, and the impact is already visible in sectors like fintech, agritech, healthtech, and clean energy where startups have built affordable solutions for payments, crop advisory, telemedicine, and solar power that reach villages as easily as cities, and each successful venture creates a multiplier effect, because one founder hires ten people, those ten support ten families, and the business buys from dozens of suppliers, pays taxes, and inspires more youth to start up, and this cycle reduces unemployment, raises incomes, and expands the middle class, which in turn grows demand and attracts investment, and entrepreneurship also makes growth inclusive because a young woman in a small town can now sell handicrafts on e-commerce, a farmer's son can run a drone spraying service, and an ITI graduate can build a machine tool unit with help from Mudra loans, Startup India, and incubation centers, and this decentralizes opportunity away from metros and reduces migration pressure, and it drives innovation because entrepreneurs are forced to be frugal, fast, and customer focused, so they build products suited to Indian price points and conditions, which global firms often miss, and many of these innovations like UPI, low cost diagnostics, and electric three wheelers are now being exported, turning India from a market into a creator, and entrepreneurship strengthens self reliance because local startups reduce import dependence in electronics, defense, and pharma, and during crises they pivot quickly to make PPE, ventilators, or apps, showing resilience that large systems lack, and the digital public infrastructure of Aadhaar, UPI, and ONDC has lowered the cost of starting up, so a person with a phone and an idea can access identity, payments, and markets in minutes, and state policies that simplify compliance, protect IPR, and offer tax breaks further reduce friction, and when schools and colleges teach problem solving and Atal Tinkering Labs let children build prototypes, the pipeline of future founders grows stronger, and the cultural shift is equally important because failure in business is slowly losing stigma and is seen as learning, and family support for risk taking is rising, and this mindset change is what will sustain the movement, and challenges remain like access to early stage capital in tier two towns, patchy power and logistics in some districts, and the need for better mentorship, yet the direction is clear that entrepreneurship is not just about unicorns but about lakhs of micro and small firms that together form the backbone of the economy, and if India supports them with credit, skilling, and ease of doing business, they will create the jobs, exports, and innovation needed to lift per capita income, fund social programs, and give every young Indian a stake in growth, and that is why entrepreneurship can change India's future, because it puts the power to build the nation into the hands of its people.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

Saam, daam, dand, bhed, SIR

BY JYOTI MALHOTRA

FROM Punjab to Bengal, a certain inflammation is evident in the politics of two states on both ends of the country. In Punjab, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) hoped to use May Day not as a distress signal (origin, the French phrase, "m'aider," to help), but to show that despite the defections in its ranks, the party stands united. Except, the special Assembly session called to celebrate workers' rights on May Day was overshadowed by a political slanging match that caused the House to be briefly adjourned and allowed the Opposition to accuse the ruling party of turning water into wine. How will this episode roll the already-muddying waters of Punjab politics? In one fell blow, the BJP has acquired seven new MPs, as AAP's Rajya Sabha faction broke away to join the BJP last week. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will meet the President soon to say the split is a violation of the anti-defection law. Still, the badly shaken party is evaluating its strengths and weaknesses these days.

Even if none of the newly installed BJP seven are mass leaders — in fact, the perception that they quit AAP to join BJP either under fear or favour is likely to go in AAP's favour — the fact remains that the BJP has thrown the first punch. The bout has begun. It will end when Punjab votes in the Assembly elections less than ten months from now.

On the other end of the country, 48 hours from now, Bengal and the rest of the country will know if the wind has turned. Most exit polls have already awarded the state to the BJP. But something else is happening on the soil of Bengal. For the first time in years, India's fore-



most social science institution devoted to the study of democracy, the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) and its research arm, Lokniti, did not conduct any poll surveys in this round of Assembly elections. Well-known psephologist, Pradeep Gupta of Axis My India, refused to give seat projections for Bengal — although he gave projections for all other states that went to the polls — saying that 70 per cent of voters in the state refused to speak to his polling surveyors. And C-Voter polling agency's head, Yashwant Deshmukh, while refusing to give seat projections, said that if Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress was able to hold on to five key districts in and around Kolkata — Kolkata, Howrah, 24 North Parganas, 24 South Parganas and Nadia, because these account for 108 seats in the House of 294 seats — then she could still be chief minister.

Indeed, if the BJP wins Bengal, it will have proven its determination to take the only state that has resisted its charms — via saam, daam, dand, bhed and SIR. The BJP would have certainly added to Chanakya's famous treatise that speaks of the four methods

that any smart ruler uses to curb his flock — manipulation, bribery, punishment and treachery — by imposing the Special Intensive Revision of rolls in Bengal. This meant that apart from the 27 lakh deletions of voters under the "logical discrepancy" clause, several thousand people simply ran out of time because they didn't have their papers in order.

Now every political leader's DNA — except, perhaps, Rahul Gandhi who was wandering in the forests of the Great Nicobar Island or admiring the rain-shot hillsides of Dharamsala around the April 29 do-or-die Bengal vote — has the first four determinations ingrained in him. AAP's Manish Sisodia blurted them out last August when he said his party would not be averse to using them ('saam, daam, dand, bhed, sach, jhooth, sawaal, jawaab, ladai jhagra') in the fight for Punjab. Punjab BJP's Sunil Jakhar shot off a complaint to the Election Commission on Sisodia's comment at the time — but both leaders were certainly entitled to say what they did, their remarks well within the lakshman rekha of everyday politics.

In Bengal, it was the addition

of SIR — not a bad exercise in theory — to the electoral process, especially when time was running short and all kinds of silly mistakes with awful consequences were being made by the human hand in the attempt to digitise the state, that transformed the exercise into one of callous cruelty.

Be that as it may. The die is cast. The ballot boxes are shut. Three days after they were, on May Day, the announcement of hiking the price of a commercial gas cylinder by Rs 993 was made.

Back here in Punjab, AAP will certainly need to stay the course if it has to fight off the Opposition. For the moment, it has the upper hand. The Congress remains a divided house — the qualities of its many leaders hardly add up to being more than the sum of their parts.

After the leadership training session by Rahul in Dharamsala, as my colleague Rajmeet Singh reports, its leaders were told to organise padayatra focusing on law and order in September. Moreover, a new evaluation system mandates office-bearers to upload photos and reports of their activities. Under Nehru's great-grandson, the transformation of the grand old party into an NGO is all too apparent to see.

As for the BJP, while it smells the weakness in AAP's Punjab, it still lacks the wherewithal to move in for the kill.

Or at least that's exactly what Bengal thought about the BJP until now. Whether or not the state succumbs to the charms of PM Modi's party, fact is, it has been changed forever by the party's push in this state. All eyes now on May 4.

Does Trump's war with Iran mark the start of de-dollarisation?

BY KAUSHIK BASU

As the economic consequences of US President Donald Trump's war against Iran become evident, policymakers around the world are running out of patience. The recent Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Washington made this abundantly clear, with UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves lamenting the "folly" of a war that is "not ours".

But much of the cost will be borne by the US itself. The immediate effects are visible: a sharp rise in gas prices, inflation climbing to a two-year high, and growing concerns that, as consumers cut back on spending to offset higher costs, unemployment will rise. While these short-term shocks are serious, a major risk that has received less attention is that the dollar could lose its status as the world's primary trade and reserve currency.

The decline of a reserve currency is a slow process. The British pound ceded its dominance to the US dollar over roughly two decades, beginning in the 1920s. As Barry Eichengreen has noted, the Roman denarius — arguably the world's first international currency — also unravelled over a long period, starting

when Emperor Nero debased it in the first century CE.

Any international currency ultimately depends on trust. I witnessed this during my time as chief economic adviser to the Indian government under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. On August 5, 2011, S&P downgraded the US long-term credit rating from AAA to AA+, fuelling fears of immediate capital flight. Instead, the opposite happened: money flowed into the US economy. In the face of global turbulence, investors trusted that the US would honour its obligations, no matter the cost.

That trust, a cornerstone of soft power, is rapidly eroding. Samantha Power, the former administrator of US Agency for International Development (USAID), highlighted this in a recent lecture at Cornell University, where she criticised the Trump administration's decision to dismantle the agency. The abrupt and "heartless" manner in which it was shut down, she said, halted humanitarian aid without warning, leading to immense suffering among populations around the world that had depended on its continuity.

The closure of USAID, alongside Trump's military adventures in Iran and Venezuela and relentless attacks on longstanding allies like Canada and Denmark, has cast a shadow

over America's global standing and trustworthiness. This, in turn, puts the dollar's hegemonic status at risk.

To understand the potential cost, consider seigniorage: because the dollar is globally trusted, the Federal Reserve can print a USD 10 bill for less than seven cents, and it will be accepted at full value around the world. As empires from Rome to Britain have shown, issuing the world's leading currency allows a country to create value almost out of thin air. Losing that capacity would slow economic growth.

Unless US policy reverses course, this year may go down in history as the moment the US dollar began to lose its status as the world's currency.

This raises the question: Which currency will replace the dollar? The renminbi appears to be the strongest candidate. A decade ago, the Chinese currency gained credibility when the IMF included it in the basket of special currencies underpinning Special Drawing Rights (the Fund's reserve asset), but it was still widely dismissed as "no match" for the greenback. Today, the prospect of renminbi primacy no longer seems unthinkable.

Yet China's ability to assume that global role is far from assured. As economist Qiao Liu observed in his 2016 book 'Corporate China 2.0', the

country combines an 'authoritative political regime' with more flexible institutional arrangements in which 'relationships still matter', a hybrid that does not readily inspire the kind of global confidence a reserve currency requires.

Chinese President Xi Jinping appears to understand this dynamic. In a 2024 speech, Xi emphasised the need to internationalise the renminbi to bolster China's soft power, calling for a "powerful currency that can be widely used in international trade, investment, and foreign-exchange markets and attain reserve currency status". But the main obstacle to reserve-currency status for the renminbi — the maintenance of capital controls — remains firmly in place.

The strongest rebuke of Trump's policies over the past year came from an unexpected source: King Charles III. His address to Congress on April 28, delivered with characteristic British wit and restraint, sent a clear message that the US is on the wrong path, one that could destroy its global standing.

There was, however, cause for optimism. The repeated bursts of bipartisan applause Charles received from members of Congress suggested they were already aware of America's predicament.

Maharashtra Diwas and Gujarat Gaurav Din celebrated at Lok Niwas

LEH, MAY 3: Maharashtra Diwas and Gujarat Gaurav Din were celebrated with great enthusiasm at Lok Niwas under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative, showcasing the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and unity of the two states. The event witnessed participation from employees and defence personnel from Maharashtra and Gujarat currently serving in Ladakh. Observed annually on May 1, Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day commemorate the formation of the two states in 1960 following the enactment of the Bombay Reorganisation Act, which led to the bifurcation of the erstwhile Bombay State into Marathi-speaking Maharashtra and Gujarati-speaking Gujarat. The historic development was the outcome of the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement and the Mahagaurav Movement, which advocated for linguistic reorganisation of states. The celebration highlighted the distinct cultural identities and contributions of

both states. Maharashtra, known for its illustrious legacy of stalwarts such as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Savitribai Phule, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, continues to play a pivotal role in India's socio-economic landscape, with Mumbai serving as the country's financial and entertainment capital. Gujarat, the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, stands as a symbol of enterprise and innovation, emerging as a hub of business and start-ups. On the occasion, video messages from the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, and the Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat, Shri Acharya Devvrat, were played. The state song of Maharashtra was presented, and a documentary showcasing the art, culture, and traditions of Maharashtra was screened for the audience. Dr. Mahesh Jadhav, Scientist at DIHAR-DRDO, emphasised the importance of preserving India's ancient cultural heritage.

MLA Jasrotia inaugurates multiple road projects worth Rs.1.01 Crore

JASROTA, MAY 2: In a major step towards improving rural connectivity and strengthening public infrastructure, MLA Rajiv Jasrotia on Saturday inaugurated a series of key road and protection works in the region, developed at a cumulative cost of 71 crore and 1 lakh.



The inaugurated projects include the PWD link road at Panaman along with a protection wall constructed at an estimated cost of 716 lakh, aimed at safeguarding the road from erosion and ensuring long-term durability. Additionally, protection work on the Dunga Ghatti link road, completed at a cost of 25 lakh, has been undertaken to address safety concerns and prevent damage during adverse weather conditions. The highlight of the inauguration was the Sufian link road, constructed at a cost of 80 lakh, which is expected to significantly improve accessibility and reduce travel time for residents of the area. Addressing the gathering, MLA Rajiv Jasrotia underlined that road connectivity is a lifeline for rural communities, directly impacting access to education, healthcare, markets, and essential services. He

stated that the government remains committed to bridging developmental gaps and ensuring that even remote areas are equipped with reliable and safe infrastructure. He further emphasized that such developmental initiatives are not only aimed at improving transportation but also at generating economic opportunities, facilitating smoother movement of goods, and enhancing the overall quality of life for the people. The

MLA assured that more projects are in the pipeline to meet the growing infrastructure needs of the region. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of a large number of local representatives and community members, reflecting strong public participation and support. Among those present were Sarpanch Deepak Singh, Sarpanch Om Prakash, Sarpanch Jagdish Poonia, Sarpanch Kamal, Sarpanch Kumar

Manjlam, Chairman Vijay, Panch Kamal Singh, Vinod, Sarpanch Niku, Kanu, Kuldeep Singh, Mandal Pardhan Balwant Singh, Chaggar Singh, Roop Singh, Vipin, Randeep, Capt. Balraj, Capt. Onkar Singh, and Panch Vinod.

Officials from various departments were also present on the occasion, including AEE PWD (R&B) Mahesh, BDO Barnoli Suraj Singh, and officers from the PHE Department. They briefed the gathering about the technical aspects of the projects and assured that all works have been executed as per quality standards and will be properly maintained to ensure long-term benefits.

Local residents expressed appreciation for the initiatives, stating that improved road connectivity will ease daily commuting, enhance safety, and contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of the area. The inauguration of these projects marks a meaningful step towards inclusive development, reaffirming the commitment to strengthening infrastructure and improving public convenience across rural pockets of the region.

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR, POWER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
 Elect. Central Workshop Division, Near R.T.O Office, Jammu-180006 (J&K)
 JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS LTD.
 CIN No: 1402002X0125G003896

ATT No: ECWD/J/Repair of D/S/06 of 2026 Dated 30/04/2026

1. INVITATION:
 For and on behalf of the Executive Engineer of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer, Elect. Central Workshop Division, JPDCJ, Jammu hereinafter referred as Employer, invites online e-bids from registered Contractors or Class 'A' registered contractors for "Fixing Job Contract (Labour) for Re-Installation of Damaged Distribution Transformers (11KV/6.6KV/0.44KV) of different capacities viz 25 KVA, 50/63 KVA, 100 KVA, 200/225 KVA, 300/400 KVA, 500/630 KVA & 800 KVA at Elect. Central Workshop Division, JPDCJ, Jammu for one year from the date of issuance of LOA or till finalisation of next tender."

Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully, submission of e-bid against this SBO shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and comparison of the procedure, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

The tender document is available at website: <http://tenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-bid document, see, clarification and submit their e-bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://tenders.gov.in from 30/04/2026 16:00 Hrs.
B	Clarifications start date.	30/04/2026, 16:00 Hrs.
C	Clarifications end date.	12/05/2026, 16:00 Hrs.
D	Pre-bid meeting	30/04/2026, 16:00 Hrs.
E	E-bid submission (start) date & time	30/04/2026, 16:00 Hrs.
F	E-bid submission (end) date & time	31/05/2026, 16:00 Hrs.
G	Technical and Financial Bid opening date & time	LATEST BY 27/05/2026, 16:00 Hrs.
H	Online e-bid opening date & time	27/05/2026, 16:00 Hrs.
I	Online Financial bid opening date & time	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders
J	Value of opening of techno-commercial bids	Soft Copy Electronically & Hard copy in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Elect. Central Workshop Division, JPDCJ, Jammu Rs. 1,00,00,000/-
K	Tender Value	(Rs. One hundred and fifty lacs only)
L	Cost of e-bid document	Rs. 3,000/- (Non Refundable)
M	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rs. Three lacs only)

The Bidders need to submit the proof of deposit of EMD document as stated in the above table through Demand Draft from any Nationalised/Scheduled bank pledged to the Executive Engineer, Elect. Central Workshop Division, JPDCJ, Jammu payable at Jammu. The original demand draft shall be submitted in a separate envelope to the Office of the Executive Engineer, Elect. Central Workshop Division, JPDCJ, Jammu, and should reach at least one day before opening of commercial and technical e-bid. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be uploaded along with the e-bid.

Bidders must quote for all the particulars of the items in the Technical Bid and in the price schedule/Bill of Materials bid. The bids of Bidders who will not quote for all the particulars for any item in technical and financial bids shall be liable to be rejected at the discretion of the Employer keeping in view the interest of the JPDCJ.

All the e-bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of COPY/PASTE Guarantee only from any Nationalised/Scheduled bank only pledged to Executive Engineer, Elect. Central Workshop Division, JPDCJ, Jammu. No interest shall be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

A hard copy of original e-tender file and EMD must reach in the office of the Elect. Central Workshop Division, JPDCJ, Jammu latest by 22/05/2026, 16:00 Hrs.

The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site: <http://tenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the technically qualified Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. Bidders should be opened accordingly online on the same Web Site.

No: ECWD/J/288-91
 Dated: 30/04/2026
 DIP/J-458-P/26

Ashok Koul, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi lead anti-drug awareness programme

SRINAGAR, MAY 3: J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul addressed a public gathering at Rapora on the theme of "Nasha Mukat Bharat", reiterating the party's firm commitment to safeguarding the younger generation and eliminating the growing menace of drugs from society. J&K BJP leader and J&K Waqf Board Chairperson Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, J&K BJP State Secretary Mudassar Wani, and BJP Kissan Morcha General Secretary Arshad Bhat were also present on the occasion. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, youth, and party workers, who pledged to work collectively for a drug-free and socially responsible Jammu and Kashmir. Ashok Koul, while addressing the gathering, said that drug abuse



effectively combat the menace. He emphasized that the Bharatiya Janata Party is fully committed to supporting every initiative aimed at building a drug-free society and ensuring a secure future for the coming generations. Koul asked the youth to stay away from drugs and channel their energy towards education, sports, skill development, and nation-building activities. He said that awareness campaigns at the grassroots level are playing a vital role in educating people about the harmful consequences of substance abuse and encouraging positive social change. Dr. Darakhshan

Andrabi highlighted the importance of social awareness and community participation in fighting drug addiction. She said that society must stand united to protect youth from falling prey to narcotics and other harmful substances. Mudassar Wani and Arshad Bhat also emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to strengthen anti-drug awareness campaigns across Jammu and Kashmir. They appealed to the public to actively support the mission of "Nasha Mukat Bharat" and contribute towards creating a healthy and progressive society.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division No.II Jammu

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
 E-NIT No PHE/CW/ BCSF 2026-27

The Executive Engineer JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division No.II Jammu for and on behalf of The Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir invites Tenders by e-tendering from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Government. (U.T now) for the below mentioned works. The bidding process shall be completed online on www.tenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st containing of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions, Scope of work and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd containing of Financial Bid on Percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOD.

S. No.	Name of work.	Esti. Cost	Cost of documents	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Class of contract
1	Construction of Manifold and shifting of Pipe line from the drain to safer place at Tuba well Channi Kamala under Own Source.	Rs. 335000.00	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 6700/-	03 Months	A, B, C and Dae

Position of Funds: Available AA = Accorded vide No- AA/JJC/W20 of 2026-27 Dated 18.04.2026

S. No.	Date of Publishing.	Period of Downloading of bidding documents:	Period of Submission Start date.	Bid Submission End date.	Date and time of opening of pre qualification bids (online).
1	30.04.2026	04.00 PM	01.05.2026	10.00 AM	
4			01.05.2026	01.00 PM	
5			13.05.2026	04.00 PM	
6			14.05.2026	02.00 PM	

- The Tender can be downloaded from J&K Govt. website.
- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE City Division No.II Jammu /tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC (link: <http://www.jamkarn.gov.in/online-payment.html>)
- Scanned copy of the EMD will also be required to be uploaded along with the original instruments in respect of cost of documents. Performance security @ 3% and relevant documents of Lowest Bidder (L1) will be required to be submitted to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE City Division No.II Jammu within 07(Seven) days of opening of financial bids on-line. In case the original documents are not submitted by the Lowest Bidder (L1) within 07 (Seven) days after opening of financial bid, the tender of lowest bidder will be rejected and the lowest bidder (L1) will not be allowed to participate in any further /future tendering process in the Divisional office for a period of two years. The work can be offered to L2 after necessary approvals etc. from competent authority
- The complete bidding process shall be online from 30.04.2026 upto 13.05.2026 upto 4.00PM and shall be opened on 14.05.2026 at 02.00 PM or on any convenient date in the office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE City Division No.II Jammu. In case office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids due to holiday, bids shall be opened on the next working day or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority
- The performance security shall be forfeited, if any bidder withdraws his online bid/tender during the period of bid validity or fails to start the work within stipulated period.
- No Engineer or Gazetteed/other gazetted officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the State Government is allowed to work as a contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. The contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who has not obtained the permission of the Government as forecasted before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.
- The contractor or intending bidder are advised to understand the nature of job advertised in E.NIT. He may contact this office for any further discussion in case of a doubt.
- No MSME exemptions are allowed.
- If any typographical error/omission in respect of rate/unit is found in the E.NIT it shall be corrected as per sanctioned schedule of rates 2022.
- Any item not included in the BOD but found necessary during execution shall be carried out only with the prior written approval of the Engineer-in-Charge. Payment for such items shall be made at the rates of SSR 2022, adjusted by the overall depreciated rates quoted by the contractor. If the item is not available in the SSR, payment shall be made at analyzed market rates, duly approved by the competent authority.
- The work identified for execution shall be started within 07 days from the date of allotment. Delay in completion of particular work within the stipulated period shall lead to imposition of penalty upto 10% of the allotted value of the work / Job depending upon the reasons given by Engineer incharge

-sd-
 Executive Engineer,
 JAL SHAKTI (PHE) City Division No.II
 Jammu

NO PHE/CW/511-25
 DIP/J-1478/26

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public/parents/guardians that a School Management Committee (SMC) is being constituted for the proposed school for its establishment and smooth functioning.

Name of Proposed School: Foundation World Darda
Village: Topo
Tehsil: Darnal
District: Rajouri
PIN Code: 185135

Interested parents/guardians and respectable members of the locality are requested to submit their willingness/objections (if any) within 7 days from the date of publication.

If no objection is received, the SMC shall be finalized accordingly.

S.No.	Name	Designation
1	Shahid Mehmoode	Chairman
2	Mohd Anil	Secretary
3	Wajidat Hussain	Vice Chairman
4	Qazi Mohammad Farooq	Advisor
5	Arjun Majeed	Treasurer
6	Imkhaso Hussain	Member
7	Awas Ahmed	President
8	Nawaz Ahmed Malik	Member
9	Hameera Kousar	Member
10	Mohd Yaseen	Member
11	Majid Ali Khan	Member
12	Weeseem Raja	Principal

Issued by: Proposed Chairman (SMC)
 Name: Shahid Mehmoode

Kyle Jamieson Breaks Silence On Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Duel: "Never Been So Afraid"

New Delhi, May 2: As the Delhi Capitals looked to revive their campaign in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match against the Rajasthan Royals, the biggest threat that stood in front of them was 15-year-old prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. Fortunately for the Capitals, Kyle Jamieson struck early to remove Sooryavanshi, but what followed was an aggressive act of celebration that even saw the Kiwi pacer being reprimanded by the IPL Governing Council. After the match, Jamieson opened up on his duel with Sooryavanshi, saying he has never been as afraid of a 15-year-old kid as he was against the Rajasthan Royals teenager. It was a Yorker from Jamieson that ended Sooryavanshi's stay in the middle prematurely. His dismissal gave DC a strong foundation to build on, though the likes of Ryan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, and Donovan Ferreira fought back to take the



team's total to 225 runs. "I don't think I have ever been so fearful of a 15-year-old kid in my life. But yeah, we have obviously done a little bit of planning going into the game. It was nice that it paid off," Jamieson said in a video shared on the IPL website. Jamieson opened up on his team's plans going into the match, stressing how important it was for the Delhi Capitals to get rid of RR's

opening duo of Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi early. "For most teams looking at Rajasthan's side, it's their top two that have got them off to fliers. Starcy got one with a high full toss and I got one with a Yorker. It was nice to get away early and sort of I guess stem the flow in a little in the power play," said the tall Kiwi pacer. Jamieson, who came into the DC team in place of injured Lungi Ngidi, welcomed new-ball partner Mitchell Starc with open arms. The Australian marksman went on to pick three wickets in the match, playing a crucial role in the team's win. He is world class right, so whenever you can have one of those guys in your squad, it's a huge benefit. He came at the right time, we sort of needed to get a bit of a move on, on the points table. Nice to share the new ball with him, he is pretty surreal," he concluded.

Lakshya Sen out of Thomas Cup semi-final vs France with elbow injury

New Delhi, May 2: India have been dealt a major blow ahead of the Thomas Cup 2026 semi-final, with Lakshya Sen ruled out of the clash against France due to an elbow injury sustained during the quarterfinals. The world No. 6 picked up the injury after an intense match that saw him repeatedly drive on court, forcing the team management to take a precautionary call ahead of Saturday's tie. "Following a thorough evaluation by the team's medical staff, the decision has been taken as a precautionary measure to allow Lakshya adequate recovery time and ensure he is in optimal condition for the final, should India progress. He is currently under close medical observation and receiving all necessary support. The team remains confident and optimistic about his



swift recovery and return to peak form," Sanjay Mishra, general secretary, said in a statement. Sen is currently under close medical observation, with the team remaining optimistic about his recovery. The setback comes just after a heroic performance from Sen in the quarterfinals, where he battled past Chou Ten Chen in a gripping three-game contest, winning 18-21, 22-20, 21-17. The Indian shuttler showed immense resilience, saving two match points in the second game before turning the tide in his favor. With the tie finely poised, Sen stepped up in the decider with aggressive, attacking play to give India the early advantage. India carried that momentum forward, as the experienced doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty extended the lead to 2-0 with a clinical performance. Rising talent Ayush Shetty then sealed the tie in style, defeating reigning All England champion Lin Chun-Yi 21-16, 21-17 to complete a dominant 3-0 win over Chinese Taipei. The 2022 champions India now face France in the semi-final.

McLaren's Lando Norris storms to Miami Sprint pole, ends Mercedes streak

New Delhi, May 2: Reigning world champion Lando Norris delivered a statement lap to clinch pole position for the Miami Grand Prix sprint, edging out Mercedes' rising star Kimi Antonelli and breaking the Silver Arrows' early-season dominance. Under the lights at the Hard Rock Stadium, Norris clocked a stunning 1:27.869 to secure top spot for Saturday's 100km sprint, finishing 0.222 seconds ahead of Antonelli. The result also denied McLaren a front-row lock-out, with Oscar Piastri settling for third, while Ferrari's Charles Leclerc took fourth. Fresh



upgrades appear to have transformed McLaren's fortunes, and Norris didn't hold back in praising the team's effort. "A perfect result for us. A nice way to reward the team," he said. "We have a lot of new upgrades on the car. It's nice to feel some grip again and to reward the guys and the girls that have put a lot

Parthiv Patel Hits Back At Fan's Insulting Post On Social Media

New Delhi, May 2: Former India wicketkeeper-batter Parthiv Patel shut down a troll in style after his IPL record was questioned on social media. Parthiv, who made his international debut in 2003, went on to represent India in 25 Tests, 38 ODIs, and two T20Is, scoring 1,706 runs across formats. In the IPL, he featured in 139 matches, amassing 2,848 runs. While Parthiv is now widely recognised for his insightful commentary and cricket analysis, one user on X (formerly Twitter) claimed that the 41-year-old never won a Player of the Match award during his IPL career. The claim, however, was quickly debunked by Parthiv himself. Responding to a post that asked fans to name a player who played 13 IPL seasons



without winning a Player of the Match award, the user tagged Parthiv. The former Royal Challengers Bengaluru player replied with a screenshot of his statistics, showing that he had actually won the award five times, cap-

Hyderabad, and the now-defunct Kochi Tuskers Kerala and Deccan Chargers. Currently, Parthiv serves as the batting coach of Gujarat Titans in IPL 2026. Under Shubman Gill's captaincy, GT have won five of their first nine matches, with their best victory coming against defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Thursday. "Feels very satisfying, you know, on a wicket like this, restricting a team like them under 160 was a tremendous job by the batsmen, (reason for the win tonight?) I think our fielding was one of the things, it's something I think at phases, we haven't fielded that well in the game. And I think today was one of those days, everyone came together," Gill said after the win.

Pakistan Captain Salman Agha Says "Went To India's Room" After Handshake Row

New Delhi, May 2: In the high-stakes arena of international cricket, the rivalry between India and Pakistan often transcends the boundary ropes. However, last year's Asia Cup saw certain episodes unfold that are still fresh in the minds of fans. While Indian captain Suryakumar Yadav and his squad maintained a principled stance in line with national sentiment following the Pahalgam attacks, Pakistan's Salman Agha has now provided a detailed account of how the "handshake row" unfolded from his perspective. The atmosphere surrounding the fixture was charged long before the players took the field. While the Indian camp, backed by the BCCI, had made it clear that "business as usual" was not an option, Agha described how the information



regarding the lack of a handshake between the two captains was passed on to him right before the toss took place. "I went for the toss. Before that, there was a press conference. There was a handshake, trophy shoot, there was a

handshake," Agha recalled in a video shared on social media. "When I was going for the toss, I was pretty normal. Obviously, I had an idea that it wouldn't be that normal, but I didn't know there would be no handshake. I didn't have that idea." "I went for the toss with our media manager, Naem Bhai," Agha explained. "The match referee, I don't remember his name, he took me aside and said, 'We're going to do like this. There won't be a handshake.' So, please look at that. I said, 'It's fine if there's not going to be a handshake. I am not too keen either.' So, this is what happened. He told me beforehand that there won't be a handshake." The match ended in a comfortable victory for the Indian side. While the pre-match "no-handshake" rule was understood by Agha, he believed a post-match handshake would still occur between the two teams. He revealed that he took the entire Pakistan team to the Indian dressing room, only to find the door shut.

Will Rohit Sharma play vs CSK? Mahela Jayawardene gives major fitness update

New Delhi, May 2: Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene has provided a cautiously optimistic update on Rohit Sharma's fitness, stating that the opener is progressing well from his hamstring injury, with a final call on his availability to be taken on match day ahead of their clash against Chennai Super Kings. Rohit, who has played just four matches this season, returned to the nets in Chennai on Friday after missing the last four games. However, Jayawardene made it clear that the decision will depend on daily medical assessments.



"It's progressed well. He's working really hard to get back. For us, it's a day-to-day process with the medical team. We'll see how he feels after training and then decide," Jayawardene said ahead of the game at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. With just two wins from eight matches, Mumbai are in a must-win situation, currently languishing near the bottom of the points table. Injuries and frequent changes in the playing XI have only added to their struggles this season.

India announce Women's T20 World Cup 2026 squad; Yastika, Radha return, Nandini gets maiden call-up

New Delhi, May 2: India have unveiled a refreshed and forward-looking squad for the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup, with key returns and a notable new face grabbing attention. Wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia and all-rounder Radha Yadav make their return to the national setup, while uncapped pace sensation Nandini Sharma has been handed a maiden call-up following her standout performances in the WPL. The squad was announced at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai, with captain Harmanpreet Kaur, chief selector Amita Sharma, and secretary Devajit Saikia addressing the



media. The 15-member squad will also feature in a three-match T20I series against England from May 28 to June 2, serving as crucial preparation ahead of the global tournament. Radha returns on the back of consistent performances, including a strong showing in India's T20I series win in England last year. Yastika, meanwhile, is back after recovering from knee surgery that had ruled her out of the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup. All eyes, however, are on Nandini Sharma, one of the breakout stars of WPL 2026 and the first Indian bowler to claim a hat-trick in the competition. Her inclusion adds firepower to a relatively inexperienced pace unit, currently hit by injuries to seam-bowling all-rounders Amanjot Kaur and Kashvee Gautam.

KL Rahul Picks Up Orange Cap, Sends Fiery "Strike Rate" Message To Ajit Agarkar After Years Of T20 Snub

New Delhi, May 2: Undoubtedly one of the most talented and consistent batters in Indian cricket, KL Rahul is a name synonymous with reliability. However, the accelerating strike rate in T20 cricket made it difficult for him to hold onto a spot in the shortest format. The wicket-keeper-batter last played a T20I for India in 2022, with his low strike rate being labelled as the primary reason for his snub. Nevertheless, Rahul, who is currently the top-scoring batter in IPL 2026, has averaged 54 with a strike rate of over 180 this year for Delhi Capitals. As Rahul emerged as the Player of the Match in Delhi's win over the Rajasthan Royals, he sent a clear "strike-rate message" to critics and the BCCI selection committee chief.



Ajit Agarkar Rahul arrived at the post-match presentation ceremony, and his face lit up as he saw the Orange Cap, awarded to the top-scoring batter of the season, in front of him. He exchanged his DC cap for it, and a grin of satisfaction remained on his face throughout the post-match interview. "Yeah, of course it does. At the end of the day, we play the sport to win. After playing for so many years, numbers do matter. I mean,

you're happy that you score runs, and you score these big runs and break records, but if you don't get the 'W' after the game, it's not as much fun," he said. Rahul was also asked about the dressing room atmosphere, especially considering the nature of certain defeats in the last few matches. He said that some honest conversations had taken place and that it was important not to wait for second chances, but to deliver when it matters most. "The dressing room has always been in a decent place. We try to keep that dressing room as balanced as possible. We realise that the results haven't gone our way, but if you really dig deep and see if we're making blunders or big mistakes, that wasn't the case. We had some honest conversations in the dressing room. Yes, we couldn't cash in on the big moments. Except for the last game, we were in the contest in every other match; if one over had gone our way, we would have been on the winning side. So, we realise that we played some decent cricket, but there were some areas where we really needed to get sharp and crisp. "This competition and T20 cricket don't allow you a second chance. So, it was important that we take our chances and, when we're ahead, really press hard and finish the game, which we weren't doing. I'm really happy that we could get this win and we look forward to stringing a few more together, that will give us more confidence," he asserted. KL Rahul's Message To Critics And Selectors When asked if there was any particular aspect of his game that he was most satisfied with this season, Rahul responded: "The strike rate." He further added: "I think it was a big talking point for a few years. That is something I have really worked on. I'm happy that I've worked on that and that I'm doing what is required for the team, first and foremost, and doing what modern T20 cricket requires."



No exclusive use of public land for Namaz, equal rights apply: Allahabad HC

New Delhi, May 2: The Allahabad High Court has made it clear that no individual or group can claim public land just for religious use, including offering Namaz, saying such activities must respect public order and the rights of others. The observation came as a Division Bench of Justice Saral Srivastava and Justice Garima Pasad dismissed a petition filed by a Sambhal resident seeking relief over the use of land for offering Namaz. The petitioner, Aseen, had sought permission and police protection to hold regular prayers at a site in village Iona, claiming ownership through a registered gift deed dated June 16, 2023.

Court underscores limits of religious freedom on shared spaces
The Bench made it clear that no single party can claim unilateral rights over public property for religious activities. "Public land cannot be unilaterally used by any individual or group," the court stated, adding that such spaces belong equally to all citizens. The Uttar Pradesh government opposed the plea, stating that the land in question is recorded as public land meant for public use and that the petitioner had failed to establish ownership. It also argued that Namaz at the site had traditionally been limited to specific occasions such as Eid, and that the



attempt to hold regular gatherings involving outsiders could disturb communal harmony. Referring to earlier rulings, including the Munzir Khan vs State of Uttar Pradesh case, the court reiterated that while genuine religious practices within private premises are protected, this does not grant unrestricted permission for organised or regular collective gatherings. State can step in if activities affect

public order. The court emphasised that when religious activities spill beyond private limits and begin affecting the public domain, the State is well within its rights to regulate them. It observed that the right to practise religion is not absolute and remains subject to public order, morality and health. "Private property may be used for personal and limited religious activity so long as it remains genuinely private, occasional and non-disruptive," the Bench said, adding that once such use extends to regular or organised congregational activity involving a wider group, it may attract regulatory control. "It cannot be interpreted that there is an unrestricted right to convert private premises into unregulated collective spaces for regular gatherings," the Bench said. The court also noted that authorities are not required to wait for an actual disturbance before acting.

Nadda, Patil to address concluding session of VGRC-South Gujarat today

New Delhi, May 2: Union Minister Health J.P. Nadda and Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil are addressing the concluding session of the third edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC) - South Gujarat, being held on Saturday in Surat. The two-day event draws to a close with participation from senior political leadership, diplomats and industry representatives. On the occasion, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel is releasing the book titled 'South Gujarat - The Industrial Catalyst', marking a key programme highlight of the valedictory session. The conference began on Friday at Auro University, where Chief Minister Patel and Deputy Chief Minister Harsh



Sanghani inaugurated the event and addressed the inaugural session. Sanghani welcomed delegates from partner countries and various organisations and noted the presence of Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri and Union Minister C.R. Patil during the opening proceedings. In his presentation titled 'South Gujarat as a Growth Centre', Sanghani highlighted the role of policy implementation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Patel, stating that "VGRC is aimed at accelerating regional industrial development, attracting sector-specific investments and strengthening global partnerships in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat at 2047".

Punjab Police file FIRs, begin arrest push against Sandeep Pathak days after AAP to BJP switch

Chandigarh, May 2: The Punjab Police have initiated proceedings to arrest Sandeep Pathak, a Member of Parliament following the registration of two separate First Information Reports (FIRs) against him. Pathak, who recently defected from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is facing serious allegations involving corruption and the exploitation of a woman. Pathak was seen leaving his Delhi residence without offering any immediate comment on the legal action. The crackdown is not limited to Pathak; Rajinder Gupta, another leader who moved to the BJP, recently faced



raids by the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) at his industrial units, through the Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed further action in that matter until May 4. Sandeep Pathak was long regarded as the primary architect of AAP's organisational strength and electoral success. Joining the party in 2016, he rose to prominence for his data-driven approach to candidate selection and booth-level management. He was widely credited as the "election machine" behind AAP's landslide victory in the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections, which subsequently led to his proposed election to the Rajya Sabha in April 2022.

New Delhi, May 2: In a bid to provide relief to contractors amid the fast-evolving West Asia situation, the government has allowed them to invoke 'Force Majeure' in view of disruptions, recognising "war" as a valid trigger under procurement rules. In an office memorandum, the Ministry of Finance said the prevailing conditions in West Asia should be treated as a war-like event for contractual purposes, enabling relief to contractors impacted by delays. Under the revised guidance, contracts with completion deadlines on or after February 28, 2026, that have been affected

Govt allows Force Majeure, grants up to 4-month relief to contractors amid West Asia crisis



directly or indirectly by the West Asia disruptions may be granted an extension of at least two months and up to four months, without any penalty or additional cost to contractors. "Not with standing the punitive provisions contained in the contract for delay or breach of contract, the supplier would not be liable for imposition of any such sanction so long as the delay... is the result of an event covered in the FM clause." The memorandum noted. Moreover, the gov-

ernment also reiterated that delays attributable to 'Force Majeure' must be assessed on a case-by-case basis, with procuring entities required to re-fix delivery or completion timelines without imposing liquidated damages or denial clauses. However, the relief with conditions. Invocation of Force Majeure will be considered valid only if contractors were not already in default as of February 27, 2026, and only for disruptions directly linked to the West Asia situation. Contracts may still be terminated by either party if Force Majeure conditions persist beyond 90 days, without any financial repercussions. "All contractual obligations shall revive upon completion of the period," the ministry added. The clarification builds on provisions outlined in the "Manual for Procurement of Goods, 2024", "Manual for Procurement of Consultancy Services, 2025", "Manual for Procurement of Non-Consultancy Services, 2025" and "Manual for Procurement of Works, 2025", which define Force Majeure as extraordinary events beyond human control, including war, strikes, riots and natural calamities

Mamata Banerjee, Abhishek to address virtual meeting with Trinamool's counting agents today

Kolkata May 2: West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee and Trinamool Congress General Secretary and Lok Sabha member, Abhishek Banerjee will be addressing a virtual meeting with counting agents of the party later on Saturday, just 48 hours before the crucial counting of votes on Monday for the recently-concluded two-phase Assembly elections in the state. Insiders from Trinamool Congress said that at the virtual meeting both the Chief Minister and the party's General Secretary are expected to give last moment instruction to the counting agents on the steps to be followed from the beginning of the counting at 8 A.M. on May 4 till the end of the process, which is handing over the winning certificates to the elected candidates. Before the virtual meeting on Saturday, Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee had a long,



close-door and one-to-one meeting on Friday night. However, no information surfaced on what exactly was discussed at the crucial meeting. "Initially, it was decided that only our party's General Secretary will be addressing the virtual meeting on Saturday. However, later we came

to know that the Chief Minister will also be present at the virtual meeting and address the counting agents," said a senior leader of Trinamool Congress, who did not wish to be named. Already, in a social media video message posted on April 30, the Chief Minister had spelt out a number of suggestions for the party's counting agents. She asked the counting agents to keep their morale high and remain at the counting table on May 4 till the end. "Remain at the counting tables unless I address the press conference after the counting is over. If you have to leave the counting table temporarily to go to the washroom or to have your food, ensure your replacement before that. The replacement will be only by those individuals who are trustworthy and cannot be purchased," the chief minister said in her video message. She also issued an appeal to the Trinamool Congress not to be disheartened by the different exit poll predictions, the majority of which had predicted the end of the 15-year Trinamool Congress regime and the beginning of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rule in West Bengal.

BJP slams Punjab govt over FIRs against Sandeep Pathak after AAP exit



Chandigarh, May 2: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has strongly condemned the Punjab government following the registration of non-bailable FIRs against Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak, shortly after his exit from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). Ashwani Sharma, the Working President of BJP Punjab, characterised the legal action as a blatant act of political vendetta and an attempt by the Bhagwant Mann-led administration to transform Punjab into a "police state" where dissent is punished with legal harassment. Sharma alleged that the timing of the cases, which reportedly involve allegations of corruption and exploitation, clearly indicates that the state police are being utilised as a political tool

by the top leadership of AAP to silence those who challenge their authority. The controversy follows a major political shift on April 25, 2026, when Sandeep Pathak, along with six other AAP Rajya Sabha MPs, including Raghav Chadha and Ashok Mittal, formally joined the BJP in New Delhi. Following the registration of the non-bailable cases, a team from the Punjab Police reportedly reached Pathak's residence in Delhi to effect an arrest. According to reports, Pathak left his residence shortly before the news of the FIRs became public, avoiding immediate media interaction as he departed in his vehicle. While the Punjab Police and government spokespersons have yet to issue an official response, the BJP has labelled the move as a shameful attempt to execute a political.

Karnataka: 40 peacocks die of bird flu in Tumkur, containment zone set up



New Delhi, May 2: About 40 peacocks have died due to the H5N1 virus in Karnataka's Tumkur district, Deputy Commissioner Subha Kalyan said. According to the district administration, 10 kilometer radius from the epicentre has been declared a containment zone, and efforts are being made to contain the spread of the virus. Deputy Commissioner Subha Kalyan has advised people to consume only well-cooked and boiled meat. "We have identi-

fied around 31 poultry shops and around 10 farms in this particular area. The samples of the birds which have died today in has also been sent for further examination. There is no need to panic. People need to have only well-cooked and boiled meat. The district administration is prepared, and the teams are in place," she added. Earlier in March, the district administration in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, had prohibited the sale of poultry products within a 10-kilometre radius of a government-run farm, following the confirmation of Bird Flu. About 5,500 chickens had died in one poultry farm. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Avian influenza A (H5N1) is a subtype of influenza virus that infects birds and mammals, including humans in rare instances.

May begins with below-average temperatures, 'moderate' AQI; IMD predicts partly cloudy skies

New Delhi, May 2: Residents of Delhi are currently experiencing noticeable relief from the intense heatwave that gripped the city in April. For Saturday as well, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted partly cloudy skies throughout the day, which is expected to keep the rise in temperature in check. Meanwhile, air quality in the capital remained in the 'moderate' category. Following rainfall and hailstorms that lashed parts of the city on Thursday, temperatures dropped below normal levels on Friday, making the weather significantly more comfortable compared to the recent heatwave conditions. According to the IMD, the maximum temperature settled at 36.4 degrees Celsius, which is 2.9



degrees below the seasonal average. The minimum temperature was recorded at 22.8 degrees Celsius, also 1.9 degrees below normal. For Saturday, similar conditions are likely to persist. The IMD has forecast partly cloudy skies, with the maximum temperature expected to range between 38 and 41 degrees Celsius. While the intensity of the heatwave has reduced, residents may still experience some discomfort due to humidity. However, light winds in the evening are likely to bring partial relief. Weather stations across the national Capital reported lower-than-usual temperatures. Safdarjung, the city's base station, recorded the day's highest temperature at 36.4 degrees Celsius. Other areas also witnessed a dip, with Palam recording a maximum of 35.1 degrees Celsius, Lodhi Road 34.6 degrees, Ridge 34.9 degrees, and Anagar 35.4 degrees all several degrees below normal. Minimum temperatures also followed a similar trend across the city. Palam recorded 21.3 degrees

Celsius, Lodhi Road 18.8 degrees, Ridge 20.4 degrees, and Anagar 21.4 degrees, all below the usual range for this time of the year. This drop in temperature has come as a welcome respite for residents who had been coping with rising heat over the past few days. Meanwhile, air quality in the capital remained in the 'moderate' category, with AQI readings recorded at Anand Vihar (136), Aya Nagar (115), Barari Crossing (122), Chandni Chowk (100), Commonwealth Sports Complex (109), DTU (112), Dwarka Sector 8 (131), IIT Delhi (116), IPU (95), Jahangirnari (157), Mundka (136), Narela (140), North Campus (109), RK Puram (108), Rohini (149), Sonia Vihar (141), and Wazirpur (106).



Gujarat Focuses On Import Substitution In Fertiliser Sector, Tribal Tourism Growth At VGRC

Ahmedabad, May 1: A series of policy and industry discussions at the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC) in Surat on Friday emphasised strengthening self-reliance in the fertiliser sector alongside expanded investment in tourism infrastructure across the state's tribal regions. At Auro University, a national-level panel discussion on the theme "Strategies to achieve self-reliance through import substitution in the fertiliser sector" was held, jointly organised by the state government's Energy and Petrochemicals Department and VGRC. The session brought together more than 100 participants, including experts from the fertiliser industry, the agriculture sector, academia, and policy institutions. Participants discussed India's continued dependence on imports for key fertiliser inputs, particularly potash and phosphatic raw materials, and examined the need to enhance domestic production capacity. The deliberations also focused on technology-driven solutions and policy interventions to improve long-term sustainability in agriculture. Experts highlighted that while India remains one of the largest global consumers of fertilisers, it continues to rely on external sources for several critical components. The discussion underlined the importance of increasing domestic output of urea, diammonium phosphate (DAP), and complex fertilisers, while also promoting alternatives such as nano urea, bio-fertilisers, and organic inputs to reduce import dependence and production costs. They also noted that evolving global geopolitical conditions, supply chain disruptions, and fluctuating input prices have made self-reliance in fertilisers increasingly significant for India's agricultural economy. The discussion concluded that coordinated efforts among government bodies, industry stakeholders, and research institutions are essential to ensure a stable and affordable fertiliser supply for farmers. A separate session at the same conference, the state government outlined its focus on developing tourism infrastructure in tribal and rural regions, alongside promotion of eco-tourism and cultural heritage initiatives. Addressing a seminar on



tourism development, State Tourism Minister Dr Jayram Ganit noted the rising tourism potential in South Gujarat's tribal belts, citing Saputara as a key destination. He said tourist arrivals in Saputara increased from 1.13 lakh in the financial year 2023-24 to 1.19 lakh in 2025-26. The minister also highlighted emerging opportunities in wedding tourism in regions such as Narmada, Saputara, and Dang. He referred to ongoing development work undertaken by the state government and the Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited, including a Rs 9.85 crore project to develop Sunrise Point in Saputara. For the financial year 2025-27, the state government has allocated approximately Rs 220 crore in the budget for infrastructure development and promotion of tourism in tribal areas. Officials stated that the focus is on strengthening eco-tourism, rural tourism, and tribal heritage circuits, with the aim of diversifying tourism offerings and attracting both domestic and international visitors.

India's domestic fundamentals strong, rising public debt poses global risks: RBI Governor

New Delhi, May 1: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra said that India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain robust despite geopolitical tensions and flagged risks from high public debt in major economies. The RBI Governor warned that continued fiscal expansion abroad, together with rising defence spending amid geopolitical tensions, could strain global fiscal sustainability. He cautioned that stretched valuations in some asset classes, especially in the technology sector, could pose broader risks for markets. Speaking at the 25th FIMMDA-PDAI Annual Conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Malhotra said India's macroeconomic fundamentals remained robust supported by strong consumption and sustained public investment, despite macroeconomic headwinds from geo-political tensions. The government's focus on capital expenditure has helped crowd in private investment and expand productive capacity, Malhotra said. The RBI Governor said the disrupted supply chains and rising energy prices "has already affected economic activity." "If the crisis persists longer, it may also translate into second-order inflationary pressures," Malhotra said. The central bank will move ahead with efforts to deepen financial markets, broaden participation and strengthen institutional frameworks as global uncertainty mounts, he said, adding financial markets in India had matured significantly due to policy efforts but required further progress. "We will continue to deepen financial markets, broaden participation, and further strengthen institutional frameworks. We will continue to strive for efficiency, consumer protection, fairness, transparency, and ethical conduct. In this pursuit, we will continue to assess and meet the emerging market needs," he said.



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US Believes Naval Blockade Costs Iran \$4.8 Billion In Oil Revenue: Report

Washington, May 1: The Pentagon has estimated that Iran has suffered losses of around \$4.8 billion in oil revenue due to a blockade imposed by the United States Navy on its ports, according to a report by Axios, which cited unnamed officials. The report noted that two tankers have been seized during the course of the blockade. In addition, officials said that as many as 31 tankers are currently "stuck in the Gulf," highlighting the scale of disruption caused to Iran's oil exports. According to the same officials, some vessels are now opting for a costlier and longer route to deliver oil to China for fear of US maritime interdiction, "indicating that shipping patterns have been altered due to concerns over enforcement actions by US forces. The blockade was imposed by the United States on Iranian ports during a temporary truce, as part of efforts aimed at pressuring Iran to accept a Pakistan-brokered ceasefire that would permanently end the ongoing conflict involving Israel, the United States, and Iran. Iran had stated last month



that it had fully reopened the Strait of Hormuz to commercial shipping following the announcement of a 10-day truce between Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon. However, the waterway was subsequently restricted again after the US declined to lift its blockade, maintaining that restrictions would remain in place until a permanent agreement to end the war with Iran is reached. On the other hand, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) continue to provide support to the market, emerging as net buyer during last month, with investments totalling Rs 51,000 crore. Last week, FIIs sold net about Rs 13,000 crore while DIIs infused around Rs 11,500 crore during the same period. "A weaker rupee and an elevated oil price have led to selling by the FIIs, they have remained seller all the four months of the current calendar year offloading Rs 2,40,750 crore, as per provisional exchange data," said Pabtro

FIIs remain net seller for 10th consecutive month in April, domestic investors provide cushion

New Delhi, May 1: Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) continued to remain net seller for the 10th consecutive month in April, as they sold Rs 70,100 crore worth Indian equities last month, according to the provisional exchange data. On the other hand, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) continue to provide support to the market, emerging as net buyer during last month, with investments totalling Rs 51,000 crore. Last week, FIIs sold net about Rs 13,000 crore while DIIs infused around Rs 11,500 crore during the same period. "A weaker rupee and an elevated oil price have led to selling by the FIIs, they have remained seller all the four months of the current calendar year offloading Rs 2,40,750 crore, as per provisional exchange data," said Pabtro



Mukherjee, Associate Vice President-Research, Broking. DIIs are absorbing a significant portion of the selling pressure and limiting deeper market declines. Meanwhile, crude oil prices surged during last week following confirmation from the White House that President Donald Trump had asked officials to prepare for a prolonged blockade of Iranian ports. Such a move points to sustained supply disruptions, particularly through the strategically critical Strait of Hormuz. Elevated energy prices have reignited inflation concerns. It has led to selling by the FIIs in all the four trading sessions during last week, said market watchers. The Indian equity benchmarks closed in the red this week, as persistent selling from the foreign institutional investors (FIIs) and higher crude oil prices weighed on market sentiment. Nifty lost 0.73 per cent during the week and dipped 0.74 per cent on the last trading day to reach 23,997. At close, the Sensex was down 582 points or 0.75 per cent at 76,913.3. It dropped 0.97 per cent during the week. Going ahead, institutional activity is likely to be primarily influenced by global news developments, they added. In particular, progress or setbacks in US-Iran negotiations will remain a critical factor to monitor, given their significant implications for geopolitical stability and their potential to drive volatility in the crude oil prices. "The outcome of the state assembly election on Monday will also have impact on the Indian equity market in the coming week," said analysts.

US Bypasses Congressional Review For Military Sales Of \$8.6 Billion To Middle East Allies

Washington, May 1: U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has bypassed congressional review to approve military sales totaling over \$8.6 billion to Middle Eastern allies Israel, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. The State Department announcements on Friday came as the U.S. and Israel's war against Iran marked nine weeks since its start and more than three weeks since a fragile ceasefire came into effect. The State Department said U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio determined that an emergency existed that required immediate sales to those countries and waived the congressional review requirements for the sales. The announcements included approving military sales to Qatar of Patriot air and missile defence replenishment services costing \$4.01 billion and of Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems (APKWS) costing \$992.4 million. They also included approval of the sale to Kuwait of an integrated battle command system costing \$2.5 billion and to Israel of Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems costing \$992.4 million. The State Department approved a sale to the



UAE of APKWS for \$147.6 million. The U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on February 28. Iran responded with its own strikes on Israel and Gulf states that host U.S. bases. U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran and Israeli attacks in Lebanon have killed thousands and displaced millions. The principal contractor for the APKWS sales to Qatar, Israel and the UAE was BAE Systems, the State Department said. RTX and Lockheed Martin were the principal contractors in the integrated battle command system sale to Kuwait and in the Patriot air and missile defence replenishment sale to Qatar, the State Department added. Northrop Grumman was also a principal contractor in the Kuwaiti sale. Over the years, Washington has faced scrutiny for military ties with Kuwait, the UAE and Qatar over those countries' human rights track records that rights advocates say involve restrictions on and reported abuses of minorities, journalists, voices of dissent, the LGBT community and laborers. Those nations have denied supporting or engaging in domestic rights abuses.

GST collections climb 8.7% YoY to all-time high of Rs 2.43 lakh crore in April

New Delhi, May 1: The gross goods and services tax (GST) collection increased by 8.7 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in April to an all-time high of Rs 2.43 lakh crore, majority due to rise in import revenue, according to the data released by Finance Ministry. The import-related taxes exceeded the domestic collections at the beginning of the new fiscal year, the data showed. The latest collection exceeded the previous record of more than Rs 2.23 lakh crore achieved in April last year. Net GST mop-up increased 7.3 per cent to approximately Rs 2.11 lakh crore after adjusting for refunds. In April 2026, GST mop-up from imports grew 25.8 per cent to Rs 57,580 crore, while gross revenues from domestic transactions gained 4.3 per cent to over Rs 1.85 lakh crore. Refunds totalled Rs 31,795 crore in April, up 19.3 per cent. The April GST figures revealed a record gross collection, with increased revenues from imports and domestic activities. Data shows that Telangana (36 per cent), Puducherry (108 per cent), Maharashtra (40 per cent) and Karnataka (42 per cent) all had significant on-year growth in April.



GST collection increased by double digits in the majority of major states, with Punjab and Chandigarh showing the fastest growth rates of at least 65 per cent. After Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the Sikkim saw the worst decline in the yearly collection, falling by almost 45 per cent. Manoj Mishra, Partner and Tax Controversy Management Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat, said the 25.8 per cent surge in import revenues pointed to resilient external demand linkages and supply chain normalisation. With refunds up 19.3 per cent, the system continues to balance revenue buoyancy with liquidity efficiency, an important marker of GST maturity.

Air India to cut international flights till July amid jet fuel price surge, airspace curbs

New Delhi, May 1: Loss-making Air India will reduce its international flights till July, as the airspace curbs and surge in jet fuel prices have made many routes unprofitable, its CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson said on Friday. "We have reduced some flying for April and May...massive rise in jet fuel prices which, together with airspace closures and longer flying routes, have caused many of our international flights to become unprofitable to operate," he told the staff in a message. Airspace restrictions in the wake of the West Asia conflict have forced the airline to take longer routes for many



international destinations, resulting in increased fuel burn. Wilson, who has announced plans to step down later this year, said the airspace and jet fuel price situation remains extremely challenging. The situation leaves the airline with no choice "but to further trim schedules for June and July", he added. "We very much regret the disruption to our customers' plans and our crew's rosters, and hope that the Middle East situation settles - and the Strait of Hormuz opens - soon so that we can get back to a more normal state," Wilson said.

Sonalika enters FY'27 with Best-Ever April overall Sales of 16,223 Tractors; Surges Ahead of Industry with 35.6 Percent Growth

New Delhi, May 1: India's No. 1 tractor export brand, Sonalika Tractors has marked a strong and strategic beginning to its FY'27 journey with best-ever April overall sales of 16,223 tractors and stands tall among the highest market share gainers in the industry. This is driven by its staggering overall growth of 35.6% and it has also beaten industry performance of 27% growth (est). The company has continued to bank upon its former-first philosophy of delivering 'Jeetne ka Dum' in its landmark 30th year, supported by advanced agri-innovations for greater farmer efficiency and income potential. With record foodgrain production and increasing mechanisation after GST rate reduction, the next phase of India's agri-growth story will be defined by technology-led product portfolio and relentless execution speed. At a time when rural sentiment is being shaped by weather volatility and rising performance expectations, Sonalika continues to stand tall as a dependable partner to 19+ lakh farmers and ensures its high-quality tractors per-



form seamlessly across applications. Backed by the world's largest integrated tractor manufacturing plant and advanced R&D capabilities, the brand continues to lead the transformation in Indian agriculture with powerful and future-ready solutions. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Raman Mittal, Joint Managing Director, International Tractors Limited, said, "In our landmark 30th year, our highest-ever April performance of 16,223 overall tractor sales signals a strong shift towards technology-driven farming as we step into new FY'27 journey with even greater commitment to deliver 'Jeetne ka Dum' applications. We have also unlocked our robust growth of 35.6% to beat industry performance and stand tall among leading market share gainers in the industry. The momentum we are building for FY'27 remains anchored in building sharper innovations and deepening farmer connect in India's agri-transformation. The future of farming is set to be bolder than ever and we are ready with sharper focus, futuristic products such as Gold Series and an unshakable commitment to strengthen Indian farmer's aspirations." About Sonalika Tractors:

to deliver 'Jeetne ka Dum' applications. We have also unlocked our robust growth of 35.6% to beat industry performance and stand tall among leading market share gainers in the industry. The momentum we are building for FY'27 remains anchored in building sharper innovations and deepening farmer connect in India's agri-transformation. The future of farming is set to be bolder than ever and we are ready with sharper focus, futuristic products such as Gold Series and an unshakable commitment to strengthen Indian farmer's aspirations." About Sonalika Tractors:

Int'l Workers' Day: Labour Department organises awareness camps, welfare activities in Poonch

POONCH, MAY 02: To mark International Workers' Day, the Office of the Assistant Labour Commissioner Poonch organized a series of awareness and welfare activities across the district to promote labour rights and social security. International Workers' Day, also known as May Day, traces its origins to the labour movement of the late 19th century, particularly the Haymarket Affair in the United States, which highlighted the demand for an eight-hour workday. As part of the celebrations, multiple awareness camps were hosted at different locations. A medical camp was organized at the local Bus Stand in coordination with the Health Department. The camp witnessed significant partici-



participation from labourers, daily wagers, construction workers and members of the unorganized sector. During the camp, representatives of labourers actively shared their concerns related to wages, job security, occupational safety and access to welfare schemes. Officials from the Labour Department addressed these issues and conducted awareness sessions on various Government of India social security schemes including Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) - providing accidental death and disability coverage at a nominal premium. They were further acquainted to Pradhan

Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) - offering life insurance coverage and Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) - ensuring old-age pension benefits for unorganized workers. Officials also highlighted the importance and benefits of registration under the e-Shram portal, which enables workers to access centralized social security benefits and the Labour Card to gain eligibility for financial assistance, education support and health benefits. Special emphasis was laid on the new Labour Codes, which aim to simplify and modernize labour laws in India. Workers were informed that these codes consolidate numerous existing laws into four major categories-wages, industrial relations, occupa-

tional safety and social security. The reforms seek to ensure timely payment of wages, improved workplace safety standards, universal social security coverage and transparency in employer-employee relations. A similar awareness and medical camp was organized at the Pernai Hydropower Project-Bufflazz Draba, where labourers working at the project site, along with local shopkeepers and residents, participated actively. After Health check-up and basic diagnostic services, the participants were provided free medicines. Labour officials reiterated the importance of safety at construction sites and encouraged workers to register under government schemes to secure their future.

DC reviews implementation of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, MAY 02: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of officers from the line departments to review the implementation of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan campaign in the district. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Assistant Commissioner Development Om Parkash; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anil Manhas and other concerned officers. The DC took a detailed review of the IEC activities being carried out across the district under the Nasha Mukta campaign. He emphasized the need for intensified awareness drives at the grassroots level, particularly targeting youth, students and other vulnerable sec-



tion of society. The DC directed the concerned departments to ensure capacity building through training of ASHA and Anganwadi workers. He further instructed that counselors be upgraded and adequate training be imparted to teachers in Government Higher Secondary Schools, Government High Schools and Degree Colleges. He also stressed that at least one teacher in every school and health institution should be provided with basic training to address substance abuse-related issues. Highlighting the importance of vigilance, the DC urged officials to strengthen reporting mechanisms and identify drug peddlers. He also called for the organization of inter-school competitions to engage youth positively and spread awareness.

Swift medical help provided to Lassana Road Accident victim

POONCH, MAY 02: Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Poonch, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan ensured a prompt and coordinated medical response following a tragic road accident near Lassana. As per the Health Department, immediately after receiving news of the accident, ambulance services were rushed to the spot and the injured were shifted to Government Sub-District Hospital Surankote for emergency care. Two persons, identified as Shafiq Ahmed S/O Mohammad Rafiq and Sheraz Ahmed S/O Mohammad Bashir, both residents of Gunthal, Surankote, were brought to the hospital in critical condition. Unfortunately, Shafiq Ahmed was declared dead by doctors on arrival. The second injured, Sheraz

Ahmed was provided immediate treatment under the PM Rahat Scheme. Considering the severity of his head injury, he was referred to Government District Hospital Poonch for CT scan and specialized treatment, where he is currently under medical care. CMO Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan personally supervised the entire process and directed Block Medical Officer Surankote to ensure timely and effective treatment. The swift action by the health department played a crucial role in providing urgent care to the injured. The Health Department has reiterated its commitment to providing immediate and efficient emergency medical services across the district.

DAJ reviews availability of fertilizers in Billawar

JAMMU, MAY 2: Director Agriculture Jammu (DAJ) Anil Gupta today conducted an extensive field visit to Billawar Subdivision of Kathua district to assess the position of fertilizer availability on the ground and review ongoing agricultural activities and interventions aimed at strengthening the farming sector. The Director Agriculture was accompanied by DAO (Extension) Raj Singh; SDO Ravi Sharma; SMS SDL Rakesh Sharma; Enforcement Inspector Anil Kumar along with other officers and field staff of the department. During the visit, Director



Anil Gupta conducted a surprise inspection of input dealers in the Sub Division Billawar including Gupta Multipurpose Fertilizer Store located at Amuala, Tehsil Ramkot, Sub Division Billawar, Zone Nagrota Gujroo. He thoroughly checked the availability and quality of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs and reviewed adherence to prescribed norms and regulations. Speaking on the occasion, Anil Gupta reiterated the department's commitment

to ensuring timely availability of quality inputs to farmers. He issued strict directions to field functionaries to intensify monitoring of input dealers, ensure transparency in distribution and create awareness among farmers regarding the judicious use of fertilizers and adoption of integrated nutrient management practices. The Director also instructed fertilizer dealers to strictly avoid misuse or unnecessary stocking of fertilizers. He warned that any lapse including improper maintenance of records, would invite strict action under rules. He further directed that stock and rate lists must be prominently displayed and proper records maintained at all times in accordance with government guidelines. Later, Director Agriculture inspected a Vermicompost Unit established at Narshing Ghoshalla, Khoon. He reviewed its functioning and interacted with stakeholders regarding production processes and quality parameters. Subsequently, Anil Gupta visited a Hi-Tech Polyhouse in Khoon, where he assessed the cultivation of high-value crops under protected conditions.

Mission Shakti Jammu felicitates meritorious girl Students of GGHSS R.S. Pura

JAMMU, MAY 02: Mission Shakti Department of Social Welfare, J&K, on Saturday organized a felicitation ceremony to honor meritorious students of Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS), R.S. Pura. The event recognized students for their outstanding academic achievements in the recently declared Class 10th and 12th examination results. The program was conducted under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer, Dr. Preeti Sharma. Addressing the gathering, District Mission Coordinator Manisha Shakti Shagun Manchanda



appreciated and motivated the students to believe in their abilities, remain focused on their goals and pursue success with determination and hardwork. Educational kits were distributed by Mission Shakti among the meritorious students in recognition of their excellence. The initiative aimed to encourage academic dedication and further the objectives of Mission Shakti in promoting education and women empowerment. The event was efficiently organized under the leadership of the School Principal Dr. Bhavna Abrol, who appreciated Mission Shakti Jammu for recognizing talent at the

grassroots level. Faculty members, including Anita Devi (Senior Lecturer), Somraj (Lecturer), Nazia (Lecturer), Preeti Loria and Khushboo Kapte from Mission Shakti were present on the occasion. They shared their insights and experiences, emphasizing the importance of such initiatives in boosting students' confidence and inspiring them to achieve greater heights. The program also featured engaging student performances themed on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Nasha Mukta Bharat, highlighting important social messages.

ALC Samba celebrates Int'l Labour Day with workers Bari Brahmna

SAMBA, MAY 2: The Office of the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Samba celebrated International Labour Day at EMCURE Pharmaceuticals, Bari Brahmna, with enthusiastic participation from workers and management. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Vice President Dilip Kumar Sahoo, who underscored the vital contribution of the workforce towards the growth and success of the organization. The Assistant Labour Commissioner highlighted the provisions and significance of the Labour Codes. A dedicated interactive session was also held, during which



workers actively participated and sought clarifications on various aspects of labour laws. As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, awareness was imparted on the harmful effects of drug abuse, emphasizing the importance of a healthy and productive workforce. To mark the occasion, a cake-cutting ceremony was organized, fostering a spirit of unity and celebration among the workers. Top-performing workers were also felicitated in recognition of their dedication and contributions. The ALC reiterated the pivotal role of workers in the functioning and success of any industrial establishment and urged the management to further strengthen.

GDC Kakryal organises awareness Lecture on POSH Promotes Safe and Inclusive Campus Environment

REASL, MAY 2: Government Degree College Kakryal Katra today organized an awareness lecture to sensitize students and staff on important social and institutional issues, with a focus on fostering a safe, respectful and inclusive campus environment. The event was held in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit and the POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) Committee and under the guidance of

and the crucial role of institutional mechanisms like the POSH Committee in ensuring justice and support. During the session, special awareness was generated about the SHE-Box (Sexual Harassment Electronic Box), an online complaint management system launched by the Government of India. Students were informed about the process of accessing and using the platform to register complaints related to workplace sexual harassment, ensuring a transparent and accessible grievances redressal mechanism. Participants were encouraged to openly share their concerns and were briefed on the procedures for reporting grievances both within the institution and through online platforms like SHE-Box. The Principal Dr. Rajni Bhagat. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members and NSS volunteers. Resource person, Dr. Usha Sharma, Head of the Department of Sociology, delivered an insightful lecture highlighting the importance of awareness, legal provisions and preventive measures related to harassment and discrimination. She emphasized understanding individual rights and responsibilities

DC Kathua reviews HADP performance, stresses improved outreach maximum farmer enrolment

Calls for strengthening Daksh Kisan registrations, credit linkage

KATHUA, MAY 02: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a review meeting of concerned officers at the DC Office Complex to assess the performance and progress under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) across the district. The meeting held a detailed discussion on the implementation status of different HADP components with focus on Daksh Kisan portal enrolment, credit linkage, J&K Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP), Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG), tracking mechanisms, farmer outreach initiatives etc. It was informed that a total of



41,428 courses have been enrolled by farmers across Kathua on the Daksh Kisan portal, out of which 35,662 courses have been successfully completed. The Deputy Commissioner laid special emphasis on enrolment of all eligible

ensure that no eligible farmer is left out of the ambit of the programme. He stressed the need for better coordination among departments to facilitate smooth registration, training completion and timely benefit delivery. The meeting also decided to take all Farmer Organizations (FOs) on board for wider outreach and effective handholding of farmers, particularly in remote and rural areas. The DC said that active involvement of FOs would strengthen farmer mobilization, besides enhancing awareness regarding various agricultural and allied sector interventions being implemented under HADP. Reviewing the status of credit linkage, the Deputy Commissioner asked the concerned departments and banking institutions to work in close coordination for timely sanction and disbursement of financial assistance to beneficiaries. He also stressed on regular monitoring of JKICP, strengthening of services through Kisan Khidmat Ghars and robust tracking of progress under all verticals. The meeting was attended by CPO Ranjet Thakur, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Sheep Husbandry Officer, AD Fisheries, Dy Registrar Cooperatives, Lead District Manager, officers of allied departments and other concerned officials.



Dy CM Surinder Choudhary Calls For Speedy Completion New Assembly Complex Jammu



JAMMU, MAY 2: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today conducted inspections of New Assembly Complex and other important ongoing infrastructure works in Jammu. During inspection the Deputy Chief Minister called for speedy and quality work completion of New Assembly Complex and timely execution of development projects and strengthening public infrastructure in Jammu. Taking stock of the pace and quality of construction, he directed the concerned officials to ensure timely completion of this vital project. He stressed adherence to set deadlines and high construction standards, given the significance of the Assembly Complex. Taking stock of the pace and quality of construction, he directed the concerned officials to ensure adherence to set deadlines and high construction standards, given the significance of the Assembly Complex. Taking stock of the pace and quality of construction, he directed the concerned officials to ensure adherence to set deadlines and high construction standards, given the significance of the Assembly Complex.

Reiterating the Government's focus on development, the Deputy Chief Minister said that strengthening infrastructure and addressing public needs remains a top priority, and all executing agencies must work with dedication and accountability to deliver results efficiently. Later, Deputy Chief Minister also conducted surprise inspections at the Chief Engineer's Office, PWD Jammu, as well as the offices of the Deputy Labour Commissioner and Assistant Labour Commissioner Jammu. Reviewed functioning, the Deputy Chief Minister stressed accountability, and directed officials to ensure efficient service delivery and responsiveness to public grievances. Senior officers of several departments were also present.

emphasized the need to maintain quality standards while expediting the work to minimize inconvenience to the public. Reiterating the Government's focus on development, the Deputy Chief Minister said that strengthening infrastructure and addressing public needs remains a top priority, and all executing agencies must work with dedication and accountability to deliver results efficiently. Later, Deputy Chief Minister also conducted surprise inspections at the Chief Engineer's Office, PWD Jammu, as well as the offices of the Deputy Labour Commissioner and Assistant Labour Commissioner Jammu. Reviewed functioning, the Deputy Chief Minister stressed accountability, and directed officials to ensure efficient service delivery and responsiveness to public grievances. Senior officers of several departments were also present.

Rana reviews annual action plan 2026-27 for Poonch; emphasizes timely project completion

JAMMU, MAY 02: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting to review the annual action plan for the financial year 2026-27 for Poonch district.



The meeting was attended by senior officers from various departments including tourism, planning, public works, forest, Jal Shakti, health, education, rural development and power. During the meeting, detailed discussion was held on sector-wise priorities, ongoing projects and proposed new works under the plan. The Minister stressed the need for realistic planning, timely execution and optimal utilisation of resources. He directed the officers to ensure that the plan reflects the actual needs of the people, with a focus on improving the basic infrastructure, drinking water supply, road connectivity, healthcare facilities and education services.

Emphasising transparency and accountability, Javed Rana asked the departments to maintain close coordination and adhere strictly to the set timelines for projects completion. He also underscored the importance of involving the elected representatives in the planning process to ensure inclusive and need-based development. The Minister called for prioritising the works that have maximum public impact, particularly in remote and under served areas of the district. He further directed the officers to closely monitor the progress on key projects and resolve the existing bottlenecks in a time-bound manner.

During the meeting, the departments presented their proposed outlays and highlighted the achievements and challenges. The Minister reviewed the proposals in detail and issued necessary directions for refining and consolidating the plan. Reiterating the government's commitment to balanced and equitable development, Javed Rana said that the annual action plan should serve as a road map for accelerating the development and improving the quality of life of the people in the district.

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Javed Rana assures action on public issues in Durga Nagar

JAMMU, MAY 2: The Durga Nagar Welfare Coordination Committee today called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at his official residence to highlight the pressing problems faced by the locals there.



The Minister was apprised of the difficulties being faced by the residents due to irregular water supply, dependence on private water tankers and gaps in sanitation services. The committee also requested that the Power Development Department (PDD) be directed to classify the MU-9 Feeder at CPS Muthi as an essential services feeder. The delegation also informed Javed Rana that a survey for construction of a one lakh gallon water reservoir at Durga Nagar had already been conducted as per earlier directions and an estimate amounting to ₹32 lakh had been prepared. However, they informed that the required funds have not been released so far and sought Minister's intervention for expediting the same. Javed Rana acknowledged the hardships faced by the

public and emphasised that ensuring easy access to essential facilities, particularly safe drinking water, power and other essentials remains a top priority of the government. Taking a serious view of the matter, the Minister directed the concerned departments, particularly Jal Shakti, to take immediate steps to streamline and augment the water supply in the area.

public and emphasised that ensuring easy access to essential facilities, particularly safe drinking water, power and other essentials remains a top priority of the government. Taking a serious view of the matter, the Minister directed the concerned departments, particularly Jal Shakti, to take immediate steps to streamline and augment the water supply in the area.

Govt. committed to bridge developmental gaps: Sakeena

KULGAM, MAY 02: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today inaugurated a newly constructed primary school building at Zambalard in DFI Pora area of Kulgam district.



Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized that education remains a top priority for the government and efforts are being intensified to upgrade infrastructure, ensure quality teaching and improve overall learning outcomes in educational institutions across Jammu and Kashmir. "Access to quality education is the cornerstone of a progressive society. This new school building will not only strengthen the educational framework in the area but also encourage higher enrolment and retention of students," the Minister said. The Minister emphasized the government's commitment towards improving educational facilities and ensuring a conducive learning environment for students, especially in rural and far-flung areas. She highlighted that strengthening primary education remains a top priority for the administration. The Minister also interacted with locals, teachers and students, and assured that all necessary steps will be taken to further enhance educational standards and infrastructure in the district. She highlighted that this newly inaugurated school building, equipped with modern facilities, will provide a conducive learning environment for young students. Later, the

Minister also laid the foundation stone for the Zumbalard-Baidjahan road, reaffirming the government's commitment to holistic development and improved connectivity in rural areas. Addressing the gathering, the Minister reiterated the government's focus on inclusive and equitable development. "We are committed to bridge developmental gaps and ensure that no area remains underserved. Projects like these reflect our resolve to bring governance closer to the people," she added. She highlighted that this project is expected to significantly improve connectivity, ease transportation challenges and boost local economic activities. She underlined that improved road infrastructure is essential for ensuring access to essential services like education, healthcare and others.

STOP...!

MOSQUITO BREEDING
PREVENT MALARIA, DENGUE & CHIKUNGUNYA

- Do not allow water to stagnate in and around your surroundings.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Get your Blood tested from Govt. Hospital/Health Worker in case of fever with chills, rigors and headache.
- Empty water coolers once in a week.

- Discard/destroy Junk items like old tyres etc.
- Empty air coolers, drums, flower pots and birds bath weekly.
- Use mosquito repellent creams and Bed nets while sleeping.
- Use netted screens on doors and windows.
- Wear full body clothes to prevent mosquito bites.
- Improve basic sanitation.

Symptoms

- **Dengue:** High fever, frontal headache, pain behind the eyes worsening with eye movement, muscle & joint pain, rash on the body, pain abdomen, nausea, vomiting, bleeding and low BP in severe cases.
- **Chikungunya:** Fever, joint pain, muscular pain, fatigue, headache, rash.
- **Malaria:** High grade fever with chills, sweating, headache, vomiting, convulsions, weakness.

Visit nearby Health Institution if any of above diseases is suspected. Investigations & Treatment are free of cost in Govt. institutions

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