

# North in News

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## Historic mandate for development politics," says PM Modi as BJP celebrates Bengal, Assam wins

**NEW DELHI, MAY 4:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday framed the Bharatiya Janata Party's assembly election victories, particularly the historic win in West Bengal and in Assam—as a decisive endorsement of "development-driven politics," that reflects a broader shift in public sentiment toward the NDA's governance model. "Addressing jubilant party workers at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, Modi said the verdict signaled "the trust of the people in performance and delivery," adding that the wins were not merely electoral victories



but a validation of the vision of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat." He also lauded party chief Nitiin Nambin's leadership. "Today is a historic day. It is unprecedented. When years of efforts turn into

success, the happiness that is seen on the faces of people is the same happiness that I see on the faces of BJP workers across the country today," he said. The PM thanked voters for their tireless commitment on the ground. "The Prime Minister placed particular emphasis on West Bengal and Assam, where the BJP's performance marked a significant political moment. He credited generations of grassroots workers—"karyakartas who have worked with dedication and patience over the years"—for building the party's presence in regions that were once considered difficult terrain for the BJP. "This victory belongs to every worker who stood firm in their resolve and served the people selflessly," Modi said.

"Highlighting what he described as a "clear message" from the electorate, Modi argued that the results reflected an expanding acceptance of the NDA's development agenda, cutting across regional and social divides. "The people have shown that they want a government that works for development, that prioritises opportunities, and that ensures dignity for every citizen," he said. "He also underlined the government's continued focus on transforming the states where the BJP has made electoral gains. Referring to

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## Inclusive Census Vital for Good Governance & Fair Resource Allocation: Governor Kavinder Gupta

**Director, Census Operations briefs on Preparedness for Upcoming Census 2027**  
**Says participation of every citizen in Census 2027 vital**  
**Asks officials to ensure no household is left out, particularly in remote and tribal areas**



apprehended him about the state's preparedness in connection with the upcoming Census 2027. During the meeting, the Director briefed the Governor on the modalities of the self-enumeration process, including the digital and mobile-based platforms through which citizens of Himachal Pradesh can register their household data independently and conveniently through the Self-Enumeration Portal ([se.census.gov.in](http://se.census.gov.in)). She further informed that the formal launch of the Self-

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## LG Manoj Sinha Chairs 7th J&K UT wildlife Board meeting



**SRINAGAR, MAY 4:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Monday chaired the 7th meeting of the Wildlife Board for the Union Territory of J&K, at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar. The meeting was attended by

Shri Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs Departments; Dr. Devinder Kumar Malyal and Shri Mian Mehr Ali, Members of the

Legislative Assembly; Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Ms. Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner

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## Op Sindoore showed India's technological warfare capability; forces must remain proactive: Rajnath Singh

**PRAYAGRAJ, MAY 4:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said Operation Sindoore was a "specimen of technological warfare," pointing out the use of advanced systems and the armed forces' readiness to adapt to evolving battle conditions. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the North Tech Symposium in Prayagraj, Singh said the operation showcased the integration of cutting-edge platforms such as the Akash missile system and



BrahMos, along with other modern equipment. "Operation Sindoore was itself a specimen of technological warfare. In this

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## Debutant VK of Vijay takes TN poll scene by storm, emerges single largest party, outcome throws up hung Assembly for the first time

**CHENNAI, MAY 4:** For the first time the Tamil Nadu election results have thrown up a fractured mandate, resulting in a hung Assembly, as none of the three leading players failing to get a majority on their own with the nascent Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) of actor-politician Vijay taking the poll scene, emerging as the single largest party in its maiden foray, but fell short of a simple majority as counting of votes polled in the April 23 elections was taken up on Monday. As per the latest trends, Vijay



proved all the post-poll predictions wrong, cashed in on the anti-incumbency factor, caused major dent in the vote base of both the ruling DMK and the Opposition AIADMK, winning 105 seats and

leading in two more-taking its tally to 107 in the 234-member House. Right from the first round of counting, TVK nosed ahead over the Dravidian majors reducing the much

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### BRIEF NEWS

**Fake MBBS Admissions Racket Busted, 18 NEET Aspirants Rescued; 4 Fraudsters Held**

**NEW DELHI, MAY 4:** Delhi Police busted an organised racket that allegedly duped NEET aspirants and their families by promising guaranteed MBBS admissions and arrested four people, including the suspected mastermind, and a doctor, an official said on Monday. Eighteen students, which included minors, were rescued from the alleged fraudsters, who had taken them to undisclosed locations on the pretext of providing "exam questions" ahead of the NEET (UG) 2026 examination on May 3, police said. The "fake" question papers were allegedly created using

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**ACB Files Charge-Sheet Against 11 Accused, Including SMC Officials, In Illegal Construction Case**

**SRINAGAR, MAY 4:** The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed a charge-sheet against 11 accused persons, including officials of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and private beneficiaries, in connection with a case involving violations of building permission norms. According to officials, the charge-sheet has been presented before the Court of Additional Special Judge Anti-Corruption Srinagar in FIR No. 24/2020 registered under relevant provisions of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and RPC.

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## SC Seeks Centre's Response On Plea Seeking Filling Of Vacancies In Armed Forces Tribunal

**NEW DELHI, MAY 4:** Taking note of vacancies in the Armed Forces Tribunal, the Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea seeking to complete the process of selection and fill the vacant posts in a time-bound manner. While agreeing to hear the petition, a bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Jyoyama Bagchi asked Attorney General R Venkataratnam to assist it in the matter. The bench told the counsel

appearing for the petitioner — Armed Forces Tribunal Bar Association (Regional Bench) — to hand over the petition to the office of the attorney general. The bench posted the matter for hearing after two weeks. The advocate appearing for the petitioners said out of the 11 benches of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), only three would be functional by the end of the year if the vacancies were not filled. The plea sought a direction to the Centre to

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## Major Judicial Reshuffle in J&K and Ladakh Several District Judges, CJMs transferred

**JAMMU, MAY 04 (JNF):** In a major administrative reshuffle in the subordinate judiciary, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has ordered the transfer and posting of several Judicial Officers across the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. As per Order No. 651 of 2026 (RG dated May 4, 2026, issued by Registrar General M.K. Sharma, the transfers have been made "in the interest of administration." Ms. Renu Dogra, Principal Judge, Family Court, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Presiding Officer, East Track Court, Jammu, against the vacant post, Shri Sandeep Gandotra, District Judge, Leave Reserve, High Court Wing, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Presiding Officer, Labour and Industrial Tribunal, J&K, on deputation

basis, replacing Shri Manoj Parihar. Shri Manoj Parihar has been posted as One Man Forest Authority against the vacant post. In another significant posting, Shri Ahsan Ullah Parvez Malik, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Poonch, has been transferred and posted as Additional District and Sessions Judge, Bandipora. Shri Sushil Singh, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Poonch, has been posted as Principal District and Sessions Judge, Poonch. Shri Mir Wajahat, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Bandipora, has been transferred and posted as Additional District and Sessions Judge, Poonch. Ms. Mehreen Mushtaq, Additional Sessions Judge, Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Principal Judge

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## Four youths from UP, MP undertake 9-Month-long 'Dandavat Yatra' to Amarnath Shrine

**RAMBAN/JAMMU, MAY 4:** Undeterred by high temperatures and difficult terrain, four youths from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have been on an extraordinary, over nine-month-long journey to the revered Amarnath Shrine, performing 'dandavat pranam' — a rigorous religious practice involving full-body prostrations — to spread "a message of Sanatan Dharma" and "communal harmony". The pilgrims, Jatinder Rajput, Rohit Ray and Nayain Jain from Madhya Pradesh, have been advancing entirely through full-body prostrations — a form of pilgrimage where devotees move forward by repeatedly lying flat on the ground — as they make their way towards the cave shrine housing the naturally formed ice lingam of Lord Shiva at an altitude of about 3,880 metres in the South Kashmir Himalayas. 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# FROM PAGE ONE

## Historic...

West Bengal and Assam, Modi said the party would strive to deliver governance that accelerates growth and improves quality of life. "We will work with full commitment to bring transformation, ensuring that every citizen feels empowered and included," he told party workers. The address came amid celebrations at the BJP headquarters following the party's victory in key states, including West Bengal, Assam, and Puducherry. Party supporters gathered in large numbers, waving flags and raising slogans, as senior leaders joined in marking what the BJP has projected as a politically significant electoral moment ahead of future contests. "The results, emerging from a fiercely contested round of assembly elections across multiple regions, are being seen as an important indicator of shifting political dynamics, with the BJP seeking to consolidate its position beyond its traditional strongholds while opposition parties reassess their strategies in the wake of the outcome."

## Inclusive...

Enumeration drive in Himachal Pradesh is scheduled for June 1, 2026, and will continue until June 15, 2026, during which citizens can log in to the portal using their mobile numbers. This will be followed by the House Listing and Housing Census Field Survey from June 16 to July 15, 2026, which will be a significant exercise for the state with the aim of ensuring comprehensive coverage of every household—including those in remote, tribal, and snow-bound areas of Himachal Pradesh—leaving no family uncounted in this landmark national exercise. The Governor expressed keen interest in the progress of Census operations in the state and underscored the importance of public awareness and active participation for the success of the exercise. He emphasized that an accurate and inclusive Census is the foundation of effective governance and equitable distribution of resources. Shri Kavinder Gupta called upon all residents of Himachal Pradesh to actively participate in the self-enumeration process and cooperate with Census officials to ensure that every individual is counted. He also stressed the need for a robust outreach campaign, particularly in remote and tribal areas of the state, to ensure that no household is left out. The Governor noted that Census data serves as a critical tool for policy planning, welfare programme implementation, and infrastructure development across sectors, and asked all departments to extend full cooperation to the Census Directorate. The Director assured the Governor that the Directorate will ensure complete and accurate enumeration through coordinated efforts, effective use of technology, and extensive field outreach, ensuring that every household is covered in this important national exercise.

## LG Manoj...

Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department; Shri Sarvesh Rai, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force; Shri Chaturbhaja Behera, PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, along with eminent conservationists, ecologists, environmentalists, representatives of the Army, NGOs working in the wildlife sector, and other members of the Board. The Board deliberated on key conservation and development matters and accorded approval for the construction of the Asha-Chema-Gurdalagali-Aphrawat-Sarson-Anita Road at Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, Baramulla. Now, the proposal will be recommended to the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) for grant of wildlife clearance.

During the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor underscored the importance of balancing developmental needs with ecological sustainability. He emphasized the need to safeguard and strengthen the unique biodiversity of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Board was also apprised of various initiatives undertaken by the Department for the conservation and protection of wildlife resources across the Union Territory.

## Op Sindoor...

operation, along with advanced missile systems like Akash/Teer, Akash missile system, and BrahMos, numerous latest equipment were also utilized. It proved that our armed forces are not only understanding the changes but are also employing them with confidence," Singh said. He stressed the need for constant preparedness in an unpredictable security environment. "I have always told one thing to my armed forces and Defence experts, and I want to reiterate it again today that we must not only remain active, but also proactive. We must also remain prepared for every kind of situation," he said. Highlighting the armed forces' capability, Singh said Operation Sindoor reflected their preparedness and adaptability. "Our forces and our industries have analyzed the changing circumstances very well. Your people's preparation always remains up to date, up to mark, and up to standard. And as the biggest example of this, Operation Sindoor is right before us," he said. Recalling the operation a year later, the Defence Minister praised the forces' response to terrorism.

"One year has passed since this Operation. Whenever Operation Sindoor is mentioned, I am reminded of the valor of my armed forces. The terrorists and their patrons received such a resounding response from our soldiers that the entire nation's head is held high with pride. It was still good that, by showing restraint, we only neutralized the terrorists—otherwise, the world already knows what our armed forces are capable of," Singh said. He also underlined the changing nature of warfare, noting the rise of unconventional threats. "If we look at the unpredictability of the war system, then in earlier times, at least we had a rough idea of what the opposing side could do. Its military capability, its platforms, its doctrine—we had an estimate of all these. But now, a surprise element keeps emerging continuously, one that could never have been imagined before. Things that we considered purely ordinary civilian life are now turning into lethal weapons," he said.

The Defence Minister also linked infrastructure development to national security, citing projects such as the Ganga Expressway. "The infra projects that we are starting will also prove to be assets for us in the future. Like, right now, Uttar Pradesh's longest expressway, the Ganga Expressway, has been launched. All these infrastructure projects are equally important for our Defence sector," he said. He highlighted government initiatives to strengthen the

defence ecosystem, including iDEX, ADITI, and Technology Development Fund.

"Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, our government has taken numerous steps to strengthen our defence ecosystem. You all are well familiar with those initiatives. Be it i-DEX, ADITI, or TDF, through all these efforts, we have sought to boost innovation in the Defence sector and increase participation from the private sector to the maximum extent possible," Singh said.

He added that infrastructure projects such as the Defence Corridor and the BrahMos assembly facility are enhancing India's capabilities.

"I feel great pleasure in saying that discussions about our industries now take place across the world. Whenever I travel anywhere abroad, I get to see a positive approach towards our industries in the world. Our industries have undertaken a long journey for this, have gained credibility, and are continuously working hard in this direction," he said.

On defence research, he said, "25 per cent of the Defence R&D budget has been allocated for industry, academia, and start-ups; and so far, more than approximately 74,500 crore has also been utilized by all of them."

He added that the Defence Research and Development Organisation has opened access to its patents and testing facilities to support industry. "DRDO has also launched a policy to provide free access even to its patents for Indian industries, which will strengthen both their technological capability and global competitiveness. DRDO's test facilities have now also been opened to industries on a payment basis. Hundreds of industries use these every year and receive R&D support," Singh said.

Future would be won in laboratories, he said, stressing the importance of research. "In today's times, there is no alternative to Research. The way wars will be fought in the future is being decided in today's labs. I am pleased to say that the government has placed defence research at the center of its priorities. Through DRDO, we have made efforts to take research to the next level. And importantly, DRDO is no longer walking this journey alone. With the motto 'If you want to go far, go together', DRDO is now moving forward with a large number of industries alongside," he said.

The Defence Minister inaugurated the North Tech Symposium themed "Raksha Triveni Sangam - Where Technology, Industry & Soldiering Converge".

The three-day event, jointly organised by the Indian Army's Northern and Central Commands and the Society for Indian Defence Manufacturers, will see participation from 284 companies showcasing indigenous defence technologies.

## Debutant...

touted four-cornered contest into a one horse race, followed by the DMK which won 74 seats and emerged as the second largest party securing trailing in initial rounds and AIADMK finishing a distant third with 53 seats. As the TVK marginally fell short of the magic number of 118 seats to form the next government on its own, post poll alignments could not be ruled out as Vijay's party needs support from another 11 MLAs. It was in this scenario reports emerged that the Congress, which had earlier showed keenness to have a tie-up with the TVK before sticking with its existing ally, the DMK, a move which seemed to have cost the National party dearly as they had promised share in power in the event of winning the polls, was said to have opened channels for post poll alignment, though it was set to win a mere five seats of the total 28 it had contested. The option of AIADMK, which headed the NDA, pitching in could not be ruled out as hectic political developments are set to be witnessed in the coming days, before Vijay assumes the Chief Minister's gadi for the first time. Throwing to winds the multiple post-poll predictions forecasting ruling DMK-led Front second successive term at the hustings, Joseph C Vijay engineered a tectonic and seismic shift on the TN poll landscape with a dominating show, that was never done by a debutant, that too within two years of floating a party and scripted history, putting an end to the six-decade long Dravidian duopoly, and emerging as the alternative for them. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi congratulated TVK and Vijay for the impressive show in the elections, and assured that the BJP-led government will always remain at the forefront in addressing people's issues and improving their lives. Mr Modi also said the Centre will have no stone unturned in furthering the progress of Tamil Nadu and the well-being of their people, while Mr Rahul noted that "This mandate reflects the rising voice of youth which cannot, and will not, be ignored." Though the well established ruling DMK and the Opposition AIADMK led Fronts were left to fight for the second position though the former, after trailing in many seats in the earlier rounds, the former emerged as the second largest party, pushing the latter to the third. It would not be an exaggeration to term it as a political tsunami that caused a massive deluge turning the poll scene topsy turvy, as Vijay defied all odds, pool-pooled post poll predictions and emerged as the key disruptive factor, heralding a long yawred change. In what was once seen as a predictable contest between the DMK and the AIADMK in long-standing bipolar political landscape, Vijay's stunning entry proved that this was not just an election—it is a generational shift, with celebrity-driven politics disrupting the entrenched party machinery, in true filmy style as Vijay announced his electoral entry with a bang bashing all the pre-poll narratives and proving his oft-repeated slogan right that this poll was a direct between TVK and the DMK. With several top leaders, including Chief Minister and DMK President M K Stalin biting the dust at the hustings, the DMK, which is all set to become the Opposition party, could win elect Stalin's son Anand Selvan as Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin as the Leader of the Opposition, as he was the only two DMK candidates to win from Chennai district, considered as DMK's bastion. The TVK made major inroads into the DMK citadel winning 14 of the 16 Assembly segments in Chennai, with Vijay himself getting elected from Perambur in the city and also from his second seat—Trichy East with handsome margins on his maiden foray. The Naam Tamizhar Kaatchi (NTK) of another actor-turned-Senator, won the fourth in the firm, finished at the bottom, having failed to make an significant impact.

## SC Seeks...

Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007. Section 5 of the Act deals with the composition of the tribunal and its benches. The petition has also sought a direction that the present judicial and administrative members of the tribunal shall continue to remain in office, subject to their consent for continuance, till such time the necessary appointments are made.

## Major...

Family Court, Srinagar, replacing Ms. Renu Dogra, Ms. Tabasum, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Sub Judge, LRP, High Court Wing, Srinagar. Shri Touseef Ahmad Magrey, Joint Registrar Inspection, High Court Wing, Srinagar, has been posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar.

The order further states that Shri Shafeeq Ahmad, Special Mobile Magistrate, Poonch, and Ms. Asma Chowdhary, Section D.I.S.A, Samba, shall swap their respective places of posting.

The charge of the court of Additional Sessions Judge, Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, has been assigned to the Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Srinagar. Ms. Farah Bashir, Principal Magistrate JIB, Ganderbal, has been relieved of the additional charge of Principal Magistrate JIB, Bandipora. The charge has now been entrusted to Shri Raja Arshad Hamid, Principal Magistrate JIB, Srinagar, who shall attend the office of Principal Magistrate JIB, Bandipora once a week as per roster.

The High Court has directed officers sent on deputation to report to the Registrar Judicial of the High Court till the deputation order is received from the Government. The transferred judicial Officers have also been directed to ensure that pending matters for judgments or part-heard cases are completed and orders are pronounced before moving to their new postings.

## Four youths...

Pradesh, along with Amit Rajput from Uttar Pradesh, began their journey months ago. While the trio from Madhya Pradesh started on September 3, 2025, Amit Rajput set out earlier on July 23, 2025. "We are on a dandavat pranam yatra to seek the blessings of Baba Barfani. It was our long-cherished wish, and we have been on this journey for over nine months," Amit Rajput said.

Unlike conventional pilgrimage, the group has been moving along step by step through repeated prostrations, while taking intermittent breaks. "For nearly a year, our daily routine has revolved around lying flat on the ground, rising, and inching forward," said Rohit Ray. Carrying minimal belongings on a bicycle, including blankets, water and limited food supplies, the youths have braved extreme weather, from scorching plains to the cold and rugged Himalayan terrain.

Despite physical strain, they remain resolute, chanting "Baba Barfani" for motivation. The annual Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to commence on July 3 via the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district, and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district, concluding on August 28 on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

The youths said their journey is guided by a higher purpose, upholding the values of Sanatan Dharma and advocacy for the recognition of the cow as India's national animal.

Beyond spirituality, they emphasised a message of unity and harmony. "Religion teaches peace and coexistence. Those who spread Hindu-Muslim hatred do not truly understand their faith," they said, highlighting lessons drawn from interactions with people across regions. As they continue through Ramban, their weather-beaten appearance reflects the hardships endured, but their steadfast faith and message of unity have turned the yatra into a living testament of devotion and social harmony.

## LG Saxena...

Ladakh, which would help improve irrigation efficiency and optimise water usage in command areas. The Lieutenant Governor further highlighted a comprehensive five-year plan for conservation, rejuvenation, and harvesting of water resources, including revival of traditional water conservation practices like irrigation canals, creation of percolation tanks, artificial glaciers, automated ice reservoirs, solar lift irrigation systems, and promotion of drip irrigation. Patil assured that all necessary support would be extended by the Ministry to Ladakh. Saxena briefed the Union Minister on key schemes being implemented with support from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, including the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) under PMKSY, Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP), and National River Conservation Programme (NRCP). During the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the unique challenges faced by Ladakh, including its fragile ecology, extreme climatic conditions, glacial dependency, and dispersed population across remote mountainous terrain. He emphasised the need for sustained financial and technical support from the Government of India to ensure water security, agricultural sustainability, and climate resilience in the Union Territory.

## Pro-Pakistan...

Bareilly on September 26 following controversy over an "I Love Mohammed" poster. Police said Sunday's incident was captured on CCTV cameras, and a monitor had accused have been identified so far. Based on the complaint, an FIR has been registered against two named accused and several unidentified persons under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Cantonment police station inspector Sanjay Dheer said six accused, including two men, had been detained following overnight raids at multiple locations. Police said that after registering the FIR, a raid was conducted at Kasit's residence, but he was found absconding. According to a complaint filed by a local resident, Vikas, he was standing near a computer shop around 12:20 pm on Sunday when a group of youths on motorcycles, carrying cricket bats, passed through the lane raising slogans. When he objected, they allegedly abused him, assaulted him and issued death threats, police said. Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Manush Pareek said police have been put on alert in the

## Cantonment area.

## 'Darbar...

extreme weather conditions in the two regions. The practice continued even after Independence to provide genuine benefits to both Kashmir and Jammu regions for six months.

The shifting of capitals was stopped during the Lt Governor's rule in 2021, but was restored by Omar Abdullah in 2025, a year after he assumed office. Ahead of the Darbar Mote, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, got a facelift with sprucing up of roads and walkways.

Roads with potholes were repaired and given a fresh coat of paint ahead of the shifting of the Civil Secretariat and other government offices.

## Fake MBBS...

previous years' material and coaching institute content. They allegedly demanded Rs 20 to 30 lakh from families of the students and took a token payment, claiming to get them guaranteed seats in medical colleges.

The action was initiated following specific input received on May 2 from Surat Police about a suspect operating from Delhi and claiming to facilitate medical admissions through NEET. Technical surveillance led investigators to Malhapur Extension, where multiple hotels were searched.

The police eventually zeroed in on four accused persons staying at a hotel, including Vinod Bhai Bhikha Bhai Patel, who had allegedly lured aspirants from Gujarat. During questioning, it emerged that the accused had collected large sums of money, original class 10 and 12 mark sheets, and blank signed cheques from parents in exchange for false assurances of securing MBBS seats.

Investigators said the accused had taken some students away from their guardians. Police laid a trap near a hospital in Ghaziabad and rescued three students while apprehending the alleged mastermind, Santosh Kumar Jaiswal. Subsequent raids at a flat in Ghaziabad led to the rescue of 15 more students, some of whom were minors scheduled to appear in the NEET exam on May 3. They were counselled and allowed to sit for the examination, police said. Two more accused — Sant Prapat Singh and Dr Akhlaq Alam alias Golden Alam — were arrested from the flat. Police said the gang had devised a well-planned modus operandi to exploit the aspirations of medical aspirants. Jaiswal allegedly conceptualised the scheme, while Alam prepared fake question papers using previous years' material and coaching institute content. Singh arranged logistics and accommodation, and Patel acted as a broker to approach families.

The accused allegedly demanded Rs 20 to 30 lakh from each applicant and collected token payments, documents and cheques as part of the fraud. During the operation, police recovered 149 pages of purported question-answer material, three blank signed cheques belonging to victims, and other incriminating documents.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of the BNS and further investigation is underway to identify other members of the network.

## ACB Files...

The case pertains to the illegal construction of six structures at Jawahar Nagar, Gonkhan, Hari Singh High Street, and Wazir Bagh areas of Srinagar without obtaining proper permission from the competent authority. Investigations revealed that the constructions were carried out in alleged connivance with officials of SMC Srinagar. The ACB stated that the investigation, based on both oral and documentary evidence, has substantiated the charges against four public servants and seven private beneficiaries. It further noted that a criminal conspiracy between the accused officials and beneficiaries was established during the probe. After securing the required sanction for prosecution from the government, the charge-sheet has been formally submitted for judicial determination. The next hearing in the case has been scheduled for June 16, 2026.

## IN THE COURT OF TEHSILDAR EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE I CLASS RAJGARH

Mohd Ayoub S/O Mohd Shafi R/o Dunger Dhandla Tehsil Rajgarh District Ramban Applicant

V/S Through BDO Rajgarh Non applicant

IN THE MATTER OF: Application for seeking direction upon the non applicant to enter/register the birth Particulars of the applicant's Daughter in the Birth Register. Wherein as applicant.

## NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AT LARGE

named above has filed an application seeking direction to the Non applicant to register the date of DOB Particulars of children as mentioned Below in the concerned register. S.No. NAME Anam Ayoub I FATHER Mohd MOTHER D-O-B Shafi SHAZIA BEGUM 24/11/2022 Therefore by virtue of this notice at large is informed that if any person have any objection in respect in the above mentioned application, he/she shall file his/her objection in this office within seven days from the issuance of this notice. Failing to do so, the said application shall be dealt into accordance with law.

Issued under my hand and seal of this court today on date 4/5/26

Executive Magistrate 1st class Rajgarh



## BJP's decade of broken promises has Left Jammu's Border areas in the Lurch: Rattan Lal Gupta

JAMMU, MAY 4: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, today launched a sharp attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), alleging that its decade-long rule has been marked by "broken promises, missed opportunities, and growing disillusionment" among the people of Jammu particularly in border and Kandi areas of District Samba.

He was addressing a well-attended party functionaries meeting of Vijaypur Assembly Constituency at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu, organised by the District President under the leadership of Sudagar Chand Gupta. Prominent among those present were Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu and several local party functionaries.

In his address, Gupta said the BJP has "squandered the trust" of the people of Jammu, especially those living in border belts, who continue to face neglect on critical development fronts. He noted that over the past ten years, Samba and



adjoining areas have seen negligible employment generation and lack of meaningful recruitment opportunities.

"There have been no significant recruitment drives like DG Bharti, no substantial induction in forces such as the BSF, and no concrete initiatives to engage the local youth," he said, adding that unemployment continues to push young people into frustration and uncertainty. He further alleged that instead of

empowering locals, jobs and contracts are increasingly being diverted to outsiders, thereby marginalising the region's youth and straining local resources. Gupta also slammed the Centre government for its failure to implement the much-publicised promise of providing 5 mra land to the border people at Safer places, calling it a "clear reflection of the gap between announcements and ground reality." Raising a key political concern, Gupta strongly

criticized the prolonged delay in the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. He said repeated assurances have failed to translate into action, leaving people deprived of their democratic rights. "The delay in restoring statehood is not just administrative neglect—it is a denial of political dignity and accountable governance to the people," he asserted. Gupta further remarked that the BJP is steadily losing ground in Jammu as public anger over unfulfilled promises, unemployment, and governance failures continues to rise. "The mood on the ground is changing. People are no longer influenced by slogans; they are asking for answers and accountability," he said. Among others who were present in the meeting included: Rajni Devi Working President Women Wing Jammu, Showket Choudhary District President ST Call Samba, Joginder Kumar, Yash Pal, Pura Chand, Swam Singh, Rahul Attri and other District/Blocks/Wings/Party functionaries were also present.

## Issue Recruitment Notification, Scrap Mandatory Urdu: Shiv Sena (UBT)



JAMMU, MAY 4: Shiv Sena (UBT) on Monday targeted the government over the recruitment process in Jammu and Kashmir, saying appointments should be based on "merit" and not "vote-bank considerations." Party's J&K president Manish Sahni said making Urdu mandatory for revenue department jobs amounts to appeasement politics and adversely affects the future of the youth. He alleged that policy ambiguity has hampered the recruitment

process. He said posts such as Patwari and Naib Tehsildar have remained vacant for a long time. Following the notification issued on June 13, 2025, a controversy erupted over the mandatory Urdu requirement, due to which the process could not move forward. Sahni said the party is not against any language, but making one language compulsory while ignoring others like Dogri and Hindi is not appropriate. Targeting Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, he

said there is a gap between the government's statements and the ground reality. He also questioned the silence of the BJP, saying all parties should take a clear stand on the issue. Meanwhile, the party submitted a memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor, demanding removal of mandatory Urdu, equal status for all official languages, and early issuance of fresh recruitment notifications for pending posts. The party wanted of a statewide agitation if its demands.

## CRWWA organizes Pariwar Milan & musical evening

JAMMU, MAY 4: A vibrant family get-together of CRWWA members was organised at the Amphitheatre, Bagh-e-Bahu, Jammu. Welcoming the guests, President M. Sadiq Nargal highlighted that such programmes are regularly organised to strengthen bonding and foster a sense of community among CRWWA members. He also emphasized that along with senior citizens, the youth are equally encouraged to adopt healthy habits and actively participate in community bonding initiatives. Two eminent Dogri artists, Padma Shri Romalo Ram and his daughter Saras Bharti, captivated the audience with their soulful singing and graceful dance performances. The event also marked a significant milestone for CRWWA, as it was dedicated to its official registration. The registration number was formally unveiled by Honble MLA Arvind Gupta along with President M. Sadiq Nargal. Children of

CRWWA members showcased their talent through delightful stage performances, which were highly appreciated by the audience. They were later honoured with medals for their participation. A special highlight of the evening was the release of the CRWWA Theme Song by Vice President Sandeep Gupta. The song, centred on the theme of care and compassion for elders in society, received immense appreciation and resounding applause. Organising Secretary Rajinder Gupta presented the vote of thanks and acknowledged the contributions of all those who supported CRWWA throughout the registration process. He also expressed sincere gratitude to the sponsors for their valuable support. The successful execution of the programme was made possible through the dedicated efforts of all Governing Body members of CRWWA, who worked tirelessly to make the event memorable.

## MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma Laid Foundation for Rs.2.55 Crore Drainage Project in Patoli Brahmana

JAMMU, MAY 4: In a significant step towards strengthening urban infrastructure and addressing long-standing sanitation challenges, the foundation stone for the construction and diversion of a drainage system in Ward No. 65, Patoli Brahmana, under Jammu North Assembly Constituency, was laid by MLA Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma. The project, to be executed by the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED), involves an estimated investment of ₹2.55 crore. It fulfills a long-pending demand of local residents who have been facing persistent issues of waterlogging, inefficient drainage, and sanitation concerns. Designed as a sustainable and long-term solution, the project includes the development of a comprehensive drainage network



along with the strategic diversion of wastewater. A key component of this initiative is to prevent the direct flow of the drainage into the Ranbir Canal, ensuring that untreated discharge does not enter the canal. diverting the drainage flow, the project aims to protect water quality, safeguard agricultural usage, and prevent environmental contamination. Speaking on the occasion, MLA

Sham Lal Sharma notably, said six such drainage and sanitation projects have been sanctioned for the Jammu North Assembly Constituency, of which this is the first to be initiated, marking the beginning of a broader infrastructure upgrade in the area. He reaffirmed his commitment to resolving core civic issues and strengthening essential infrastructure across Jammu North. He emphasized that efficient drainage and sanitation

systems are vital for public health, environmental protection, and planned urban development. He added that the project will significantly reduce waterlogging, improve hygiene standards, and create a cleaner and more livable environment for residents.

He further highlighted that with sustained and liberal funding support from the Central Government for flood restoration and new infrastructure projects, Jammu & Kashmir is witnessing accelerated development. This support is enabling the timely execution of critical initiatives such as this drainage and sanitation project. The initiative was widely welcomed by local residents and community representatives, who appreciated the fulfillment of this long-awaited demand.

## BMD Camp was successfully organized at Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable Hospital

JAMMU, MAY 4: A Bone Mineral Density (BMD) Camp was successfully organized today at Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission Charitable Hospital, Ambphalla, Jammu, in collaboration with Sun Pharma (Pantocid Division). Around 76 patients, along with their attendants, management members, and hospital staff, benefited from this initiative aimed at early detection of osteoporosis and related bone disorders. The screening was conducted by a technical expert from Delhi, ensuring accurate and reliable assessment. Notably, the Bone Mineral Density (BMD) test, which typically costs approximately ₹1200 in the market, was provided completely free of cost during the camp. On the occasion, Dr. Rajesh Gandotra, Senior Orthopaedic Consultant, empha-



sized that early diagnosis through BMD screening is vital in preventing long-term complications and fractures. Dr. Sham Jurangal, Senior Orthopaedic Surgeon, highlighted the increasing prevalence of bone-related ailments, particularly among the elderly, and stressed the importance of regular screening and awareness. The

event was graced by Sh. Amar Chand Gupta, President, SVMM, who lauded the initiative and reiterated the organization's commitment to selfless service. Sh. B.S. Jamwal (Retd. KAS), General Secretary, SVMM, expressed satisfaction over the successful conduct of the camp and stated that such initiatives embody the true spirit of

community welfare and Nar Seva Narayan Seva. Other dignitaries from the management committee SVMM were present included Sh. B.B. Gupta, Senior Vice President; Dr. Sachin Gupta, Treasurer SVMM; and Dr. Yash Pal Karsyal, Assistant Medical Superintendent SVMM. Representing Sun Pharma (Pantocid Division), Mr. Varun Sudan, Area Manager, along with his team, actively coordinated and supported the smooth execution of the camp. Dr. Arvind Kohli, Medical Director SVMM, appreciated the initiative and reaffirmed the hospital's commitment to delivering both preventive and curative healthcare services in the spirit of compassionate service. Dr. Rabinder Rattan Pal, Medical Superintendent SVMM, commended.

## People have rejected fear politics: Purnima Sharma on BJP's massive victory

JAMMU, MAY 4: BJP Spokesperson and former Deputy Mayor, Advocate Purnima Sharma, in a strong statement on ongoing Assembly Election Results 2026, termed the outcome a "decisive and historic mandate" in favour of nationalism, development, and decisive leadership under Narendra Modi. She said the results, particularly from West Bengal, clearly indicate a massive political shift and a rejection of fear-based politics, appeasement, and misgovernance.



"The people have spoken loudly against intimidation and have chosen development, dignity, and democracy," she asserted. Launching a sharp attack on Mamata Banerjee, Purnima Sharma alleged

that the mandate reflects public anger against "years of suppression and anti-people governance." She said the verdict is nothing less than a "people's revolution" and a clear message that such politics will no longer be accepted. She further stated that the results are not just a victory

for the BJP, but for every citizen who believes in national security, cultural identity, and transparent governance. "You cannot undermine democratic values, insult public sentiment, and expect continued support. The people have delivered a fitting reply," she added.

## MSCBMC Trust, 11 RR begin 'Jashan-e-Bahar' National Art Workshop

JAMMU, MAY 4: A vibrant National Art Workshop titled "Jashan-e-Bahar" is currently underway at TRC Charoo from May 4 to May 8, 2026, bringing together art, culture, and creativity on a single platform. The five-day workshop has created a lively atmosphere in the region, attracting students, local artists, and art enthusiasts from different areas. The workshop, themed "With Colours," offers participants a unique opportunity to interact, learn, and paint alongside renowned national-level artists such as Shalender Singh from Delhi, Aditya Shankar Prasad from Noida, P. Devaraj from Tamil Nadu,



Sharmila Sharma from Delhi, Govind Vishwas from Gujarat, and Apurba Kanuti from Antara, West Bengal. Their presence has added immense value to the workshop, as participants are getting hands-on guidance and exposure to diverse artistic styles and techniques. The programme is being

organized by the Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust in collaboration with the Rashtriya Rifles (11 RR). Alongside the workshop, a cultural programme celebrating art, heritage, and local traditions has also been planned, further enriching the overall experience.

## Kesri leads anti-drug drive in Arnia, pledges to protect youth from cross-border narcotics

JAMMU, MAY 4: Raising a strong voice against the growing drug menace, Shiv Sena Hindustan, Jammu & Kashmir organised an anti-drug awareness meeting in Arnia under the chairmanship of J&K State President Pandit Rajesh Kesri. The meeting saw participation from party office bearers and a large number of villagers from Arnia and adjoining areas. Addressing the gathering, Pandit Rajesh Kesri patiently heard the concerns and suggestions of villagers and office bearers. He warned that the systematic targeting of the



youth through drugs is extremely dangerous for both families and the nation. The way our younger generation is being ruined by narcotics is a grave threat to the future of our country and to countless households," he

said. Kesri highly praised Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha's 100-day anti-drug campaign, calling it a commendable initiative. He lauded the administration for mobilising police officers and all

police units across Jammu & Kashmir to crack down on the narcotics trade. Highlighting recent successes, he said the arrest of Love Guljar, a notorious narcotics smuggler, has enabled police to dismantle drug dens across several districts of the Union Territory. "The way smugglers are being arrested and their illegal properties seized is highly appreciable," Kesri remarked. He especially acknowledged the efforts of people and police along the border belts - including Arnia, R.S. Pura, Bishnah, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri, and

Poonch - and noted that there is now a renewed zeal within the police force right up to Srinagar. "The public is also stepping forward to assist the police and the government, and that is truly commendable," he added. Shiv Sena Hindustan appealed to all sections of society - social workers, political parties, and especially parents - to remain vigilant and proactive. "Parents must check their children's pockets and must not hide their children's weaknesses. Instead, bring it out in the open and inform the police so that young lives can be saved in time," Kesri urged.

# MLA Jasrotia rolls out Rs. 4.30 Crore development package for Jasrota

Jasrota, May 4  
Bringing a major development push to the Jasrota constituency, MLA Jasrota Shri Rajiv Jasrotia today launched and initiated three key public welfare projects with a combined outlay of 34.30 crore, aimed at strengthening education infrastructure and transforming irrigation facilities in rural areas. As part of the package, the MLA laid the foundation stone for a new classroom block at Government Higher Secondary School Hatli, being constructed at a cost of 11.15 crore. The project is expected to significantly improve learning conditions for students by addressing space constraints and enhancing the overall academic environment. In addition, two major irrigation projects under the Command Area Development (CAD) programme were also set into motion to directly benefit the farming community. The first project involves the remodeling and reconstruction of field channels on the Hamirpur



Mangian canal, covering villages Hamirpur, Mangian, Tharedu, and Harid Mutia. Being executed at a cost of 21.40 lakhs under the NABARD scheme, the project will develop 6.37 kilometers of field channels and cover a culturable command area of around 400 hectares.

The second irrigation project, launched at village Seswan, includes the construction of field channels on the Seswan link of the

MRC and direct outlets of the Ujh canal. With an estimated cost of 21.75 lakh, this project will benefit villages Seswan, Tanda, Chandwan, Fathu Chak, Ghair, and Bann Thathi. It will cover approximately 502 hectares of agricultural land with a total field channel length of 8 kilometers.

These projects are expected to bring tangible and long-term benefits to the people of the region. The new classrooms at HSS Hatli will

provide students with a more conducive learning environment, reduce overcrowding, and support quality education in rural areas. The irrigation projects will ensure timely and equitable distribution of water, reducing dependence on erratic rainfall and helping farmers plan crops more efficiently. With improved water management, farmers can diversify crops, increase yields, and enhance farm incomes. Execution of these projects will also create local employment opportunities during construction and maintenance phases. Strengthened infrastructure and increased farm output are expected to boost the local economy and improve the standard of living in these villages.

Addressing the gatherings at different project sites, MLA Rajiv Jasrotia reiterated his commitment to grassroots development, stating that providing basic amenities such as education and irrigation remains his top priority.

# Low paid govt employees federation marks May Day

Doda, May 4  
All Jammu and Kashmir LOW PAID govt. employees federation on Friday floral tributes to the martyrs of the historic 1886 Hymerket Affair in Chicago while warning to the government on intensified agitation of their long pending demands are not met at the earliest. The federation also commemorated comrade khan Abdul majeed khan one of its founding members for the life. Addressing a rally here speakers voiced grave concern over rising inflation, wage stagnation and inadequate welfare measures. Federation demanded the departmental formation committed (DPC). They present 10 percent points charter of demands. Using the government to the act without for the deleykey demands include 50 percent of dearness allowance for the



basic pay.8th pay commission granting 20 percent interim relief restoring old age pension scheme (OPS) Regularisation of all daily worked workers need based workers Asha workers safai karamcharis village guards and releasing DA Areas of 2percent which is pending from January 2026.who speaks on and presents in May day in press club jammu including Anil Verma.L.S .awal.Ghulam Hassan pampori.Nisz Ahmad rahi. R.K Maini.Anchal dev singh.omparkash chowdhary Mohd iqbal khan .Nizam dln Butt. Javed shah. Showkat dast.Noor Hussain Malik.Nayem Ahanzar.Riaz Ahmad shah. Molvi Abdul Hameed.Manzoor Ahmad kichloo.Gohar fani.Abful rasheed buth.

# Anti-Sanatan politics rejected, says Rekha Mahajan; leads BJP celebrations in Samba



Samba, May 4:  
Jubilant celebrations were held at the BJP office in Samba as party leaders and workers distributed sweets, marking what they described as a thumping victory in West Bengal and strong performance in other states. BJP J&K Vice President Rekha Mahajan led the cel-

brations and addressed party workers, attributing the victory to the continued trust of women voters in the leadership of Narendra Modi. She said that "mothers, sisters, and daughters across India have once again blessed the BJP with their votes." Rekha Mahajan emphasized that politics is driven

by ideas and public sentiments, adding that the BJP's governance model focused on development, national security, and empowerment of marginalized sections has resonated strongly with the people. She stated that the results reflect the growing acceptance of policies aimed at women empowerment and inclusive growth. Launching a strong attack on Mamata Banerjee, she claimed that the people of West Bengal have given a decisive response against what she termed as "politics of exploitation, intimidation, and anti-Sanatan approach."

# MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana Concludes Two-Day Mendhar Visit, Flags Irregularities; Seeks CBI Probe

Mendhar/Poonch, May 4:  
Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha nominated MP Gulam Ali Khatana concluded a two-day visit to the Mendhar Assembly constituency, during which he held multiple public meetings, interactions, and a public darbar with local residents. During his visit, several leaders associated with the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference joined the Bharatiya Janata Party, expressing support for its policies and leadership. Prominent among them were Sarfraz Choudhary (Ex-Naib Sarpanch and youth leader), Haji Mir Mohammad



(Sarpanch), Mohammad Nazir (Ex-Naib Sarpanch), Haji Sharif, Haji Yousif, Haji Bashir Sayal, Akhlaq Sayal, Haji Manner, Haji Aslam, Haji Shokat, and Haji Shafiq, along with several panchees. Khatana addressed vari-

ous gatherings across the constituency, focusing on key developmental challenges and governance issues in the region. A public darbar was organized during the visit, attended by residents from Mankote, Mendhar, and Balakote blocks. Senior officers from various government departments were present, providing a platform for people from different panchayats to directly raise their grievances and seek redressal. Residents highlighted several pressing concerns, including shortages of teachers and doctors, water scarcity, delays in road construction under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, and lack of proper quality control. Allegations of corruption, politically motivated works, and misuse of public funds were also raised. Expressing serious concern, Khatana alleged irregularities in the imple-

mentation of hand pump schemes in Poonch district. He claimed that old hand pumps were being falsely shown as newly installed to siphon off government funds. The MP also pointed to the poor condition of infrastructure in government schools and healthcare institutions, stating that both sectors require urgent intervention. Calling for accountability, he said he would recommend a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation, asserting that strict action must be taken against those involved in corruption or malpractice.

# ReT Teachers Frozen for 20 years: J&K Needs ReT Transfer Policy as Ladakh Leads by Example

RAMBAN, MAY 4:  
A Comprehensive Transfer Policy for ReT Teachers in J&K is the Need of the Hour. Jammu and Kashmir's School education system is running on two parallel tracks. On one track are General Line Teachers, Masters, and Lecturers who are covered by transfer norms and can move between Primary, Middle, High, and Higher Secondary Schools. On the other track are Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teachers, majority of whom hold postgraduate degrees, B.Ed, M.Ed and even NET/SET qualifications. Yet remain frozen in the primary or middle Schools, where they were first engaged 15 to 20 years ago. This freeze is not just unfair to the Teachers. It is a loss to the Education Department itself. At a time when High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools face acute subject teacher shortages, thousands of qualified ReTs are already working in those institu-



tions under rationalization or internal arrangement, but without the rights, seniority, or transfer benefits of a formal cadre. The Union Territory of Ladakh has already notified a Comprehensive Transfer Policy for ReTs in 2025. Jammu and Kashmir must replicate that model without delay. The Rehbar-e-Taleem scheme was launched in 2000 to universalize elementary education and reduce teacher shortages in remote habitations. Under the scheme, educated local youth were engaged as ReTs on a consolidated honorarium of Rs 1,500 per month for five years.

After five years of satisfactory service, they were regularized as General Line Teachers. The scheme succeeded in its original goal. Between 2000 and 2014, over 41,000 ReTs were engaged in J&K. They opened schools in almost all the corners of Jammu and Kashmir, where no General Line teacher was willing to go. Literacy in many such areas rose directly because of ReTs. But a problem emerged after regularization. Though ReTs became General Line Teachers in name, the department treated them as a separate category for all practical purposes, viz G2.G3. Their initial appointment was school-specific and habitation-specific. As a result, they were kept out of the routine transfer policy that applies to other teachers. An RTI reply in 2022 revealed that bearing full regularized ReTs have not been transferred even once in 15 years. On paper, ReTs are primary or upper-primary teachers. In reality,

the Education Department has been using their services in High and Higher Secondary Schools for over a decade. Every year, CEOs and ZEOs issue rationalization lists. Due to shortage of Masters and Lecturers in Science, Math, English, and Commerce, qualified ReTs with PG and B.Ed M Ed are deputed to teach Class 9 to 12. Districts like Ramban, Doda, and Rajouri, the pass percentage of Class 10 and 12 has improved mainly because ReTs with M.Sc, M.A, B.Ed ,M Ed are handling core subjects in hundreds of Higher Secondary Schools. ReTs are working as In-charge Lecturers against vacant posts, taking practicals, and completing syllabus. In short, the department already recognizes their subject competence and uses it to run the system. But because they are not transferable, the arrangement remains ad-hoc. A ReT with M.Sc Physics, Chemistry Botany, Zoology, Geology, Electronics.

# "Let go of negativity and embrace only goodness.": Mata Sudiksha Ji

Jammu, May 4:  
The grand congregation organized by Sant Nirankari Mission at the historic Dhalpur Ground in district Kullu emerged not merely as a spiritual gathering, but as a living celebration of faith and devotion. This was a joint congregation of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, where thousands of devotees from both regions and various parts of the country gathered in large numbers. Their presence stood as a testament to the enduring relevance of spirituality in people's lives. Devotees experienced inner peace and inspiration through the divine presence and blessings of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj. Prior to the main congregation, a Nirankari Youth



Symposium was also organized to spiritually awaken and inspire the youth. During the grand satgung held today, Satguru Mata Ji, in her enlightening discourse, emphasized that true devotion lies in abandoning negativity and embracing goodness. This is not merely devotion, but devotion filled with love which unites hearts. She further explained that people often waste precious time finding faults in others, whereas the need of

the hour is self-reflection—looking within, eliminating hatred, and nurturing love and brotherhood. Referring to the youth, she said it is easy to blame them, but it is equally important to understand the challenges they face. In her concluding message, Satguru Mata Ji urged everyone to eradicate hatred from their hearts and lead life with love, tolerance, and positivity—this is the true essence of devotion and humanity.

# Deputy Commander, NCC Jammu Group Headquarters delivered a Motivational Talk at SMVDU



Katra, May 4:  
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized an inspiring motivational lecture for NCC cadets and students, delivered by Col. J. V. Singh, Deputy Commander, NCC Jammu Group Headquarters and a Shaurya Chakra awardee. The session aimed at encouraging youth towards discipline, dedication, and nation-building. Addressing the gathering, Col. Singh motivated the cadets and students to work diligently to achieve their

goals and contribute meaningfully towards building a strong and progressive nation. Emphasizing the importance of a healthy and focused lifestyle, he urged the youth to stay away from drug abuse and become responsible citizens. The lecture was conducted as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukt Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan, reinforcing the commitment towards a drug-free society. Lieut. (Dr.) Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator, SMVDU, expressed his gratitude to the esteemed speaker for delivering an impactful and thought-provoking lecture that greatly inspired the cadets and students. The event was also attended by Prof. R. K. Mishra, Dean Students Welfare, and Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS Programme Coordinator, along with faculty, staff, and students. The session concluded with a strong message of determination, discipline, and commitment towards a drug-free and empowered youth.

# JKTF & NPSEUF delegation meets AIRF General Secretary, pushes for restoration of OPS

Jammu, May 4  
In a major push towards the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), a joint delegation of Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) and J&K NPS Employees United Front (NPSEUF) today met Shri Shiv Gopal Mishra, General Secretary of the All India Railway Federation (AIRF) and National Convener of the National Joint Council of Action (NJCA), during his visit to Jammu. The delegation, led by Chief Patron JKTF Shri Ganesh Khajuria, extended a warm greetings to Shri Mishra and held detailed deliberations on the growing concerns of government



employees governed under the New Pension Scheme (NPS). The leaders strongly emphasized that the issue of pension security has evolved into a nationwide movement, cutting across departments and states.

The delegation included senior representatives Shri Darshan Sharma, P.D. Singh, Bharat Bhushan, Parveen Kumar, Ashwani Sharma, Gulzabir Daing, Lekh Raj Parihar, S. Manpreet Singh, Pawan Kumar, and

Surinder Kaith, who collectively raised the hardships faced by employees due to the uncertainty associated with NPS. During the interaction, Shiv Gopal Mishra elaborated on the sustained nationwide agitation being spearheaded by NJCA, stating that the demand for OPS restoration is rooted in the fundamental right of employees to secure post-retirement life with dignity. He assured the delegation of full support and reiterated that coordinated efforts at the national level would continue to mount pressure on the Central Government to scrap NPS and reinstate OPS for employees appointed after January 1, 2004.

*Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyaan*

**DC Bandipora interacts with 'Mahila Samitis' during 'Maa se Guftagu' Series**

**BANDIPORA, MAY 04:** As part of the ongoing 100-Day Mission Mode Campaign under the Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, District Administration Bandipora on Sunday organised an interaction and awareness programme with Panchayat-level Mahila Samitis under the "Maa se Guftagu" initiative, aimed at strengthening grassroots efforts against drug abuse.



During the programme, the functioning of Mahila Samitis across all 151 Panchayats and 43 Municipal Wards of the district was reviewed, with special focus on their role in strengthening grassroots implementation of the anti-drug campaign.

The programme witnessed participation from District Programme Officer ICDS Bandipora, Yash Ali Khan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shabir Ahmad Wani, CDPOs, Mahila Samitis, ICDS Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs), NRLM representatives and other stakeholders.

A comprehensive 100-day action plan focusing on training programmes, awareness drives, identification of addicts, home visits, and follow-up

assessments was also shared. Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, underscored the vital role of women in building a drug-free society and called upon Mahila Samitis to serve as "change agents" at the village and ward levels.

She stressed the need for intensified door-to-door awareness campaigns, mohalla meetings, community vigilance, and timely identification of vulnerable youth.

The Deputy Commissioner observed that parents have a crucial role in safeguarding children from addiction and noted that substance abuse often contributes to domestic violence cases. She urged participants to counsel affected individuals

while strengthening preventive awareness at the grassroots. The meeting also deliberated on a multi-pronged strategy involving ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, Self Help Groups (SHGs), and PRI institutions. Directions were issued to organise awareness drives, school rallies, and nukkad natak, besides facilitating counselling and rehabilitation support through the District De-addiction Centre. Representatives of Mahila Samitis also shared challenges related to social stigma and increasing peer pressure among adolescents. Emphasising a compassionate approach, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to support rehabilitation and reintegration of drug addicts into society to help them lead dignified lives.

**SWD Bandipora organises series of activities under BBBP at HSS Mantrigram**

**BANDIPORA, MAY 04:** A series of activities including a girls' volleyball match, plantation drive and sports kit distribution were organised at Higher Secondary School Mantrigram under the aegis of Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP HEW, Mission Shakti Bandipora under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative.



The programme aimed at promoting holistic development, awareness and empowerment among girl students through sports and community participation. The girls' volleyball match witnessed enthusiastic participation from underprivileged backgrounds. Pamphlets highlighting various government schemes and women empowerment initiatives were also distributed during the programme.

An awareness session was conducted on the services provided by SANKALP HEW Hub, emphasising the importance of sports, environmental awareness and informed decision-making in the overall development of students. The programme concluded with felicitation of the winning and runner-up teams of the volleyball match, while PT teachers were appreciated for their dedicated efforts.

**Baramulla's Young Athletes shine in Multi-Zonal School Competitions**



**BARAMULLA, MAY 04:** DYSS Baramulla continues its relentless drive to promote sports culture and youth engagement across the district, with a series of Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions being successfully conducted in multiple zones, witnessing overwhelming participation and enthusiasm among students. Zone Dagerpora today

encouraged students to actively engage in sports for their holistic development. Meanwhile, Zone Pattan successfully conducted an Inter-School Chess Competition for Under-14 and Under-17 boys at GHSS Pattan under the banner of the Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyaan. The competition witnessed the participation of 42 young chess enthusiasts, showcasing strategic brilliance and competitive spirit.

In a similar stride, Zone Singhpora Kalan is actively conducting an Inter-School Badminton Competition for Under-14 and Under-17 girls at GHSS Singhpora Kalan, where budding athletes are demonstrating remarkable skill and determination.

organized an Inter-School Under-14 event at AFI Dagerpora, drawing participation from an impressive 420 students representing both government and private institutions. The event was graced by Mushtaq Soori, Principal Higher Secondary School Dagerpora, as the Chief Guest. He lauded the department's efforts in nurturing young talent and

**District Treasury Shopian bids adieu to outgoing DTO**  
*Extends warm welcome to newly appointed DTO*

**SHOPIAN, MAY 04:** A farewell cum welcome function was organized by District Treasury Officer Shopian to bid a heartfelt farewell to the outgoing District Treasury Officer (DTO) Shopian, Muzaffar Ahmad Ratham and to extend a warm welcome to the newly appointed District Treasury Officer Shopian, Umar Javid.



The event was marked by appreciation, reflection and optimism as officers and staff gathered to acknowledge the contributions of the outgoing officer and to greet the incoming leadership. Speaking on the occasion, officers and officials highlighted the professional excellence and dedication demonstrated by the outgoing DTO during his tenure.

They noted that the officer's leadership significantly strengthened financial management systems and ensured smooth functioning of treasury operations. Employees of the District Treasury Office shared their experiences and praised the outgoing DTO

for his approachable nature, administrative competence, and commitment to staff welfare. In his farewell address, DTO Shopian, expressed deep gratitude and emotion, describing his tenure of more than two years in Shopian as both profes-

sionally fulfilling and personally enriching. He said he felt proud to have worked with such a capable and dedicated team, acknowledging both those who had been with him since the beginning and those who joined over time.

He concluded by thanking all staff members for their unwavering support and expressed hope that they would continue their excellent work under the new leadership. The incoming District Treasury Officer, Umar Javid, in his address, expressed gratitude for the warm welcome extended to him. He acknowledged the strong foundation laid by his predecessor and assured the staff that he would work collaboratively

with the team to maintain efficiency, transparency, and accountability in treasury operations. He emphasized the importance of teamwork and mutual support in achieving organizational goals and expressed his commitment to strengthening the functioning of the office. The function was attended by District Fund Officer Shopian, Ershad Ul Haq Manhas; DIO Shopian, Showkat Hussain Ganie; Additional Treasury Officer Shopian, Raza Ali Khan; Treasury officers of Zainapora and Kapran, Section Officers, AAOs, Accounts Assistants, employees from Sub Treasury Office Shopian, Zainapora and Kapran and other departments.

**Yoga Awareness event under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan held at Polo Ground Srinagar**

**SRINAGAR, MAY 04:** A Yoga Awareness Event was today organized at Polo Ground Srinagar under the aegis of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, aiming to promote a healthy and drug-free lifestyle among youth. The programme was conducted in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir under the directions of District Administration Srinagar and was coordinated by the District AYUSH Office Srinagar. On the occasion, speakers emphasized the importance of yoga as a holistic discipline that significantly contributes to physical and mental well-being. They highlighted its role as an effective tool in preventing substance abuse and fostering a balanced lifestyle. The event was organized with the objective of raising awareness



about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraging the adoption of healthy and disciplined living through yoga practices. Participants were sensitized about preventive approaches to addiction and the importance of building a drug-free society. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students

and staff of various government schools, along with officials from the AYUSH and Education Departments. Among those present were Chief Education Officer Srinagar, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din; District AYUSH Officer Srinagar, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Payer; Nodal Officer (Yoga & Naturopathy), Dr. Seema Mustafa; and District Coordinator (CEO Srinagar), Hina Amin. A mass yoga demonstration by participating students, an awareness session on drug abuse prevention, and interactive engagements promoting healthy lifestyle practices were key highlights of the event. Participants actively performed yoga exercises and reinforced the message: "Say No to Drugs, Say Yes to Life."

**HKM GDC Bandipora organizes Awareness Programme on Drug De-addiction under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan**

**BANDIPORA, MAY 04:** NCORD Cell of HKM Degree College Bandipora on Monday organised a one-day awareness programme on drug de-addiction under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan to sensitise students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and promote preventive measures for a healthier society. The programme was organised under the guid-

ance of Principal of the college, Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra, and witnessed active participation of faculty members and students. Resource person from the Health Department delivered a detailed lecture on the harmful effects of drug addiction on physical and mental health, social relationships and overall well-being. The importance of early intervention, awareness and adoption of a dis-

ciplined and healthy lifestyle to combat substance abuse was stressed. The resource person also interacted with students and encouraged them to play an active role in building a drug-free society. A pledge-taking ceremony was also held during the programme wherein faculty members and students collectively resolved to stay away from drugs and contribute towards creating a drug-free society.

**DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Kheer Bhawani Mela 2026**

**Calls for ensuring adequate arrangements for Mela, focus laid on accommodation, sanitation, power, security and seamless transport for devotees**

**GANDERBAL, MAY 04:** A high-level preparatory meeting was today convened here under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore to review and finalise arrangements for the annual Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela 2026, scheduled for 22nd June, 2026. Reviewing the preparedness, the DC noted that the mela witnessed a footfall of more than 15000 devotees in 2025 and said that adequate arrangements should be put in place this year to cater large gatherings. Devotees are expected to start arriving from 21st June, with the main congregation on 22nd



June. It was informed that the Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple premises and the Central University of Kashmir campus at Tulimulla have been designated as the main accommodation sites. Adequate tents, bedding and essential facilities will be put in place well in advance. The DC directed the R&B department to ensure timely completion of all tendering processes so that transit camps are fully equipped before the arrival of pilgrims. The Irrigation and Flood Control department were directed to expedite desilting and cleaning of the Tulimulla Nallah, particularly in areas requiring manual intervention. Sanitation arrangements will be jointly managed by the Municipal Council and Rural Development department, with strict measures in place to maintain cleanliness across the area. KPDCCL was directed to

ensure uninterrupted power supply with sufficient backup at all venues and along approach roads. Street lighting and mobile charging facilities are to be made fully operational ahead of the mela. Reviewing security and medical preparedness, the DC was informed that comprehensive arrangements are being put in place by the district police, SDRF and traffic authorities. A joint control room will be established for effective coordination. The Health Department will deploy ambulances, specialist doctors and set up a dedicated medical camp at the shrine and other designated venues.

**E - Tender Notice no. 02 of 2026 Dated 02-05-2026**

**Tender Id: 2026\_SPDC\_309248\_1**

**GIST OF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS**

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, JKSPDC, e-tenders in two cover system (Technical & Price Bid) are invited from the Interested Bid Four Accounting Companies for the Engagement of a Consultant to assess the Impact of GST and abolition of toll in the case of EPC Contract of 66KV Transmission Line Dah Hanu. The e-Bids should be uploaded on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) by or before 25-05-2026 up to 12:00 Noon. Original copy of the demand draft shall be submitted to the office of the General Manager, Accounts, JKSPDC, Ashok Nagar, Srinagar, Jammu by or before the last date of bid submission.

The GIST of Work is as under:

S.No	Name of the Work	Earnest Money	Duration/Assignment	Last date of Submission of e-bids
1	Engagement of a Consultant to assess the Impact of GST and abolition of toll in the case of EPC Contract of 66KV Transmission Line Dah Hanu.	Bid Security Documentation	90 days	25-05-2026

The detailed e-NIT can be downloaded from and submitted online on JK tenders portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). E-NIT can also be downloaded from JKSPDC Portal <https://spdc.jk.gov.in> or can be obtained from DGM (Finance) Cell No: 9419702700,7897398920.

S/-  
(Harjeet Kour)  
General Manager (Accounts)  
JKSPDC, Jammu.

DIP/J-481-P/26

## North in News

## EDITORIAL

## Election results of Bengal and Assam will cast a shadow over upcoming UP elections

The election results in West Bengal and Assam will certainly cast a shadow over the upcoming Uttar Pradesh elections, because Indian politics rarely moves in watertight compartments and the momentum, messaging, and morale generated in eastern India inevitably travel to the Hindi heartland. The outcomes are already being read by strategists in Lucknow as signals of what issues, alliances, and voter behavior could dominate the Uttar Pradesh contest. With this Victory the party will project it as proof that its governance model, welfare delivery, and identity narrative continue to work in a complex, multi ethnic state, and that story will be amplified in Uttar Pradesh to counter any fatigue and to argue that a "double engine government" delivers roads, medical colleges, law and order, and protection of cultural identity. Assam result gives the BJP a tested template to talk about infiltration, land rights, and demographic stability, which resonates in parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh and the Terai districts that share a similar debate on border security and resource pressure. The victory would also allow Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to campaign in Uttar Pradesh as a successful administrator. Turning to West Bengal now when BJP has got the mandate to form its first government in Bengal, the psychological impact on Uttar Pradesh will be huge. Because it breaks the perception that the party has hit a ceiling outside the Hindi belt and proves it can defeat a formidable regional satrap like Mamata Banerjee who is personally popular among women and minorities, and that victory will energize the cadre in Uttar Pradesh by showing that no state is unwinable and that the combination of central schemes, organizational depth, and messaging on corruption and law and order can overturn entrenched regimes. Bengal win would also give the BJP fresh ammunition to attack opposition unity, because the TMC is a key pillar of the INDIA bloc and its defeat would be framed as rejection of the alliance's ideology, and that narrative will be used in Uttar Pradesh to tell voters that the opposition cannot protect its own forts and therefore cannot govern the country, and the party will import campaign elements that worked in Bengal, such as hyper local booth management, aggressive social media campaigns, and the use of central agencies to highlight graft, and it will also highlight the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls that removed 90 lakh names in Bengal as a model to clean voter lists in Uttar Pradesh. Also the high turnout in both Assam at 85.38 percent and Bengal at 92.47 percent sends a message to Uttar Pradesh that voters are energized and are willing to defy conventional predictions. That means the BJP cannot take its core base for granted and the opposition cannot rely only on arithmetic, and the results will also influence resource allocation, because Bengal's victory will allow the BJP to shift money, leaders, and attention to Uttar Pradesh with greater confidence. Victory in Assam allows the RSS and BJP to deploy northeastern leaders and success stories in Poorvanchal and Awadh, and the caste dynamics are linked too, because Assam's win was built on a coalition of OBCs, STs, tea tribes, and Bengali Hindus, and that model will be studied for Uttar Pradesh where the party needs to balance non Yadav OBCs, non Jatav Dalits, and upper castes, and the Bengal result will affect Muslim political behavior in Uttar Pradesh.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

## Smart, Sustainable, Seamless: How Technical Textiles Are Stitching India's Footwear Future



BY GIRIRAJ SINGH

When we speak of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat we are not just speaking of self reliance in production but of leadership in global value chains. Few sectors capture this opportunity as clearly as footwear. It is one of the most universal products in daily life used by a school student walking to class, a worker standing through long shifts, a delivery partner constantly on the move and an athlete pushing physical limits. Yet despite being the world's second largest producer India holds only a marginal share in global footwear exports.

The gap is not due to lack of capacity but due to the need for a shift towards materials design and performance. At the centre of this shift lies a category that often goes unnoticed - technical textiles. I began to understand this more clearly during a recent visit to Agra. Agra is known for its footwear industry. Walking through its production clusters and interacting with manufacturers it became evident that innovation was already underway. Several units were using materials that improved comfort, durability and flexibility. Yet many of them did not describe these as technical textiles, they simply saw them as better inputs that met evolving

consumer needs. This insight deepened during a subsequent meeting in Delhi with the footwear association. Industry stakeholders spoke about changing consumer expectations lighter shoes better cushioning improved breathability and longer durability. These were no longer premium features but were becoming standard requirements. It was in this discussion that my department highlighted a critical point: the footwear industry is already using technical textiles extensively even without formally recognising it.

That realization reframed the entire conversation. Globally the footwear industry produces nearly 23.9 billion pairs annually with a market size of around \$500 billion. India contributes about 12.5 percent of global production yet its export share remains at only 2 percent which highlights a clear gap between capacity and global positioning. At the same time nearly 86 percent of global footwear is non leather while India's industry has historically been centred around leather.

At home the story is evolving rapidly. The Indian footwear market reached a size of \$20.67 billion in 2025 reflecting rising incomes and changing consumption patterns. While the average Indian still buys around 2 pairs of footwear per year compared to 7 to 8 pairs globally. As affordability improves and consumer preferences shift towards comfort and performance the domestic market is set to expand significantly.

This is where technical textiles become central to the next phase of growth. At the Ministry of Textiles this transition is being approached through the Smart, Sustainable & Seamless

framework. Smart footwear reflects the growing integration of technology and design. Digital tools AI driven modelling and foot scanning are enabling customised solutions at scale. This aligns with broader consumer trends. In 2025 India recorded 28.9 million smartwatch sales generating \$780 million in revenue which indicates a growing preference for products that combine functionality with everyday use. The sneaker segment further illustrates this shift. It is projected to grow from \$3.2 billion in 2024 to nearly \$6 billion by 2030 with volumes increasing from 55 million to 70 million pairs. Consumers are clearly moving towards footwear that delivers both comfort and performance and this is where technical textiles play a defining role.

Sustainability is also becoming a decisive factor. Materials such as recycled PET and biodegradable fibres are gradually entering mainstream production. For India this represents not only an environmental imperative but also a strategic opportunity to position itself as a supplier of sustainable materials in global markets. Equally transformative is the move towards seamless manufacturing. Technologies like 3D knitting and advanced fabrication are reducing waste, improving efficiency and enabling faster production cycles. This allows manufacturers to respond more effectively to evolving demand while maintaining consistency and quality.

What strengthens this transition further is the scale of India's existing ecosystem. The footwear industry already employs over 2 million people with nearly 50 percent women participation making it a major

source of inclusive employment. With an annual production of around 2.9 billion pairs productivity stands at approximately 4 to 5 pairs per worker per day in India. In comparison global production reflects a much higher level of efficiency with workers producing approximately 17 to 20 pairs per day. Established clusters in Agra Kanpur Chennai Ranipet Ambur and Kolkata are not just production hubs but the foundation on which India can scale efficiency competitiveness and global leadership in footwear.

The shift towards technical textiles is not about building a new industry but about unlocking the full potential of an existing one. The visit to Agra and the discussions in Delhi brought out a simple but powerful insight technical textiles in footwear are not an emerging concept. They are already embedded in the industry quietly shaping products and processes.

The task ahead is to recognise, organise and scale this integration. Bringing the footwear sector more explicitly within the technical textiles ecosystem can drive innovation, expand exports and create high quality employment. It can also align India's manufacturing capabilities with global demand trends particularly in non leather and performance driven segments. India's journey towards becoming a global manufacturing leader will depend on how effectively it leverages such intersections where traditional industries meet advanced materials and modern design. Footwear is one such intersection. Technical textiles are the thread that can help stitch this opportunity into a global success story.

## When justice becomes a mirage

BY RISHAN KUMAR CHUGH

As a child, I played a game called 'Saap Seer' (Snakes and Ladders). It was a simple pursuit: except for an occasion or two - having not mastered the "art of throwing dice" - I climbed the ladders of progress only to be swallowed by a snake that pulled me back to the threshold. No more a child, I have meandered through the circuitous routes and sharp curves of a journey spanning 72 years and 6 months. Having served the Government of India for 40 years, I retired on 30 September 2013. Post-retirement, when most would have preferred the tranquillity of morning walks and afternoon siestas, I remained in the arena as a guest faculty and a National Facilitator for Ethics and Values in Public Governance - a subject very close to my heart.

I spent years in classrooms interacting with the future of our bureaucracy. We spoke with pride of our cricket team winning the World Cup, the legacy of Sardar Patel, our landing on the moon, and our commitment to becoming the world's third-largest economy. Above all, we spoke of a Constitution that owes its origin to "We, the People," secur-

ing justice - social, economic, and political - to every Indian. Yet, lamenting the huge gap between preaching and practicing, I did not mince words regarding the casual approach to disposal. I spoke of the RTI Act, 2005, the strengthening of CPGRAMS, and the creation of Tribunals for "speedy" justice. Yet, after throwing the dice in various forums, a citizen often finds himself back at the beginning of the board.

What I am sharing here is not a figment of imagination; it is a sobering reality. Apart from the classroom and now courtroom, I have been actively taking up issues with the Delhi Police, MCD, and DDA. The 30-day mandate for RTI applications and 45-day deadlines for appeals very often lead to a prolonged wait in the Central Information Commission or vague answers that force people to either reconcile with the status quo or gasp for breath as the length of delay is no longer measured in yards, but in miles. Exceptions apart, this rot has gone deep into the veins of those who created the guidelines and those tasked with adjudicating upon them.

I open three chapters from my life to illustrate these institutional failures: The CAT Mirage: In 2019, I submitted an

inquiry report as an Inquiry Officer. Per DoPT guidelines, 50 per cent of the honorarium is payable upon submission and the remaining 50 per cent within 45 days. Met with casual silence, I wondered if the fruits of my labour would ever manifest. Donning my black robes at age 70, I knocked on the door of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). In an apparent hurry to add to its tally of "disposed cases," the Bench disposed of my OA at the admission stage by granting the respondents another 45-day ladder to pass a "speaking order." When that, too, was met with silence, I filed a Contempt Petition.

At the hearing on 7 April 2026, I encountered another "snake": while the Tribunal granted the Respondents a mere four weeks to respond, it adjourned the matter to 8 July 2026. By doing so, it created a two-month cushion of unaccountability, ensuring that the "Speedy Justice" promised to a 72-year-old remains suspended in a vacuum of dates and diaries. The Police Silence: Unable to bear noise pollution and unauthorized parking, I sent an email to the Commissioner of Police in 2014. I was delighted to receive an acknowledgement and

thought relief was near. Instead, while the law enforcers' attitude turned stubborn, I continue to receive these acknowledgments in 2026, while the grievances remain unaddressed despite advertisements promising timely redressal.

The Civic Vacuum: The same approach persists with the MCD and DDA regarding encroachments and the conversion of the public street behind my house into an extended yard for law violators. Even the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), approached with photographic proof of the indifference of law enforcers, could only call for "Reports and Reports," which eventually vanished under the weight of paper. In June 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel told the pioneers of our service: "The future of this service will depend much upon the foundation and traditions that will be laid down by you, by your character and abilities and by your spirit of service." It is a mockery when officials take a pledge of integrity on 31 October 2025, without committing to the tasks they are obliged to perform. We remember Mahatma Gandhi on his martyrdom day while forgetting the country he dreamt of.

**WORLD ASTHMA DAY 2026: "ASTHMA DOESN'T PAUSE - MAKE IT STOP" - EMPOWERING PREVENTION THROUGH AYURVEDA AND MODERN CARE**

**DR HARBANS SINGH**  
World Asthma Day, observed annually on the first Tuesday of May, is a global initiative dedicated to raising awareness about asthma, a chronic respiratory disease affecting over 250 million people worldwide. The day serves as a platform to highlight the medical, social, and economic challenges faced by individuals living with asthma and to promote effective management strategies.



Dr. Harbans Singh speaking at the podium during the World Asthma Day 2026 event.

The significance of World Asthma Day: The primary goal of World Asthma Day is to increase public understanding of asthma, its causes, symptoms, and management. It also emphasizes the need for better access to treatment, especially inhaled medications that are critical for controlling symptoms and preventing life-threatening attacks. Each year, the Global Asthma Network (GAN) and the World Health Organization (WHO) collaborate with healthcare organizations worldwide to set themes and initiatives.

Understanding Asthma: Asthma is a chronic condition characterized by inflammation and narrowing of the airways, causing recurring episodes of Shortness of breath, Wheezing, Chest tightness, and Persistent coughing, often worse at night or during exercise. The development of asthma is influenced by a combination of genetic and environmental factors, including exposure to air pollution, allergens (dust, pollen, pet dander), and recurrent respiratory infections. Diagnosis typically involves a clinical assessment of symptoms, evaluation of medical and family history, and lung function tests.

Managing Asthma: Asthma can be effectively managed through Medications such as bronchodilators and inhaled corticosteroids, Avoidance of triggers, like allergens and smoke. Healthy lifestyle choices, including appropriate physical activity and regular medical follow-ups for monitoring and treatment adjustment, and proper management, enable individuals with asthma to lead normal, productive lives, minimizing emergency episodes and improving quality of life.

Global Advocacy and Challenges: Despite the availability of effective treatments, many patients, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, still lack access to essential inhaled medications. WHO and its partners, through initiatives like the Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases (GARD) and campaigns led by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), aim to advocate for better healthcare infrastructure, policy support, and universal access to asthma care.

The Ayurvedic Perspective on Lung Health: In Ayurveda, the lungs are governed by the Vata and Kapha Doshas, which influence breathing, moisture balance, and immunity. The respiratory system is seen not just as a physical structure but as a vital channel for Prana Vayu—the life force. When these doshas are imbalanced due to poor diet, pollution, or stress, respiratory issues like asthma, bronchitis, and allergies can arise.

Ayurveda emphasizes Dinacharya (daily routine) to maintain balance.

Rasayana (rejuvenation therapies) to strengthen immunity  
Herbal remedies like Tulsi, Pippali, Vasaka, and Licorice for respiratory support  
Pranayama and Yoga to enhance lung capacity and calm the mind  
Tulsi: Known for its anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial

properties  
Vasaka: A powerful expectorant used in treating bronchial conditions  
Haridra (Turmeric): Rich in curcumin, it helps reduce inflammation in the lungs  
Panchakarma Therapies for chronic Asthmatic Patients: The typical sequence in asthma management includes: Snehana (internal and external oleation) to liquefy and mobilize Kapha, Swedana (fomentation) to open channels and promote excretion of morbid dosha. Specific Panchakarma procedures: Vamana (medicated emesis): Frequently used in kapha-dominant bronchial asthma to expel excess kapha from the upper respiratory tract; case reports show reduction in wheezing, chest tightness, and serum IgE levels after Vamana Karma. Virechana (purgative): Employed when there is a Pitta component or systemic ama; helps clear toxins and reduce airway reactivity. Basti (medicated enema): Especially in chronic asthma, Basti stabilizes Vata, improves digestion, and may modulate systemic inflammation; improvement in dyspnoea and PFT parameters after medicated Basti. Dhupana (therapeutic inhalation): Medicated fumes or herbal smoke help clear bronchial mucus, reduce bronchospasm, and improve pulmonary function in T s h w a s a (Asthma). Review/level and case/study data suggest that Snehana, Swedana, Vamana, Virechana, Basti, and Dhupana can reduce symptom frequency and severity in bronchial asthma, sometimes with measurable improvement in pulmonary function tests and IgE.

In Ayurveda, the respiratory system is deeply connected to the Prana Vaha Srotas—the channels that carry life force. Maintaining clear, balanced airways is essential not only for physical vitality but also for mental clarity and emotional well-being. One of Ayurveda's most powerful therapies for respiratory wellness is Nasya. Nasya is the practice of administering medicated oils or herbal extracts through the nostrils. It is part of Panchakarma, the five-fold detoxification system in Ayurveda. Nasya is believed to cleanse the nasal passages, sinuses, and upper respiratory tract, while also nourishing the brain and calming the nervous system.

Nasya offers multiple benefits for respiratory wellness:  
Clears mucus and congestion from the nasal and sinus cavities  
Reduces inflammation in the upper respiratory tract  
Improves oxygen intake by

opening nasal channels  
Supports immunity against allergens and pollutants  
Balances Kapha dosha, which governs mucus and fluid regulation  
Avoid Nasya during acute attacks, fever, or severe dyspnea  
Anu Taila: A classical oil used to cleanse and protect the sinuses, after steam inhalation to loosen mucus, and in a lying-down position, with the head tilted back

Benefits of Respiratory Rasayana: Enhances lung capacity and oxygenation  
Strengthens immune response to allergens and infections. Reduces inflammation in the respiratory tract. Promotes mucus clearance and balances Kapha. Supports recovery from chronic respiratory conditions like asthma, bronchitis, and COPD.

Herb Properties & uses  
Pippali (Piper longum) Rejuvenates lungs, acts as a bronchodilator, and enhances the bioavailability of nutrients  
Vasaka (Adhatoda vasica) Expectorant, anti-inflammatory, used in bronchitis and asthma  
Tulsi (Ocimum sanctum) Antiviral, antimicrobial, clears congestion, and boosts immunity  
Yashthimadhu (Glycyrrhiza glabra) Soothes throat, reduces inflammation, supports adrenal health  
Haritaki (Terminalia chebula) Detoxifies lungs, supports digestion, and promotes respiratory cleansing  
Chyavanprash A classical Rasayana formulation rich in Amla supports overall respiratory health  
Agastya Haritaki Rasayana Rejuvenates and strengthens the respiratory health and prevents asthma and other respiratory ailments.

Prevention Through Lifestyle: Ayurveda teaches that prevention is better than cure. The following are the timeless practices that can help to improve lung health:  
Avoidance of cold, heavy, and mucus-forming foods during vulnerable seasons.  
Practicing Abhyanga (oil massage) to balance Vata.  
Usin Nasya (nasal oil drops) to protect the sinuses. Nasya clears the nasal passages and also supports the upper respiratory tract.  
Pranayama: Breathing exercises like Anulom Vilom and Bhramari improve lung function. Regular Pranayama to cleanse and energize the lungscan significantly reduce the risk of respiratory illness.  
Steam inhalation with herbal oils like eucalyptus or camphor.

World Asthma Day acts as a reminder that every person with asthma deserves the right to breathe freely. Observing this day helps educate the public, support patients, and guide policymakers toward solutions that ensure asthma is effectively managed worldwide. Awareness, timely diagnosis, and access to treatment remain the pillars in reducing the global impact of this chronic respiratory condition. By advocating for these goals, the global community can work together to ensure a healthier future for millions living with asthma. Ayurveda provides a holistic framework through herbs, diet, lifestyle, and therapies to support lung function, manage symptoms, and enhance the quality of life for asthma patients. Combining both traditional wisdom and modern medicine can offer a well-rounded approach to asthma care.

**PCCF felicitates Winners of Forest Photography Competition**

SRINAGAR, MAY 04: Principal Chief Conservator Forests (PCCF) Head of Forest Force (HoFF), J&K, Sarvesh Rai felicitated the participants of Inaugural Forest Photography Competition organized by the Planning and Publicity Division of Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department. Launched by the J&K Forest Department, the initiative was designed to document the rich ecological heritage of the region and encourage field staff to actively record biodiversity, landscapes, People and forest sceneries. Speaking at the event, Sarvesh Rai emphasized that the competition serves a dual purpose: showcasing the unparalleled beauty of Jammu and Kashmir's forests to the world and fostering a culture of conservation and observation among forest frontline.

**NOTICE**

I Abul Gani S/o Nizam Din R/o Khanga Ramban have applied for licence of D class Contractor card objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

**NOTICE**

AJEET SINGH S/O CHB RAM R/O BHAIMASTA TEHSIL & DISTT. RAMBAN is "DEE" class contractor holder bearing registration No. 327/BEE/SE/HCD/201-2 BEE/SE/HCD/201-22 has applied for up-1 gradation as "CEE" class contractor card in the Superintending Engineer Jal Shakti Department Hydraulic Circle Doda objection if any may be conveyed to the above said office within 07 days.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIVISION- III, JAMMU**

**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Short e-NIT No. 05 of 2026-2027 Dated 02-05-2026

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MBS and other State / Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertisement Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Estimate document Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time and date of opening of tender	Class Of Contractor
1	Day to day Repair/Maintenance of PWD Guest House, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. CNO-13 NP	PWD (Rail)	5.00	600	2% of Admitted Cost	(1300 Hrs) or as after 08-05-2026	A, B, C & D

Position of AAA:- *Accorded*  
Position of TS :- *Accorded*

**NOTE :-** Since continuous repair and maintenance (Civil and Electrical works) of the Government Quarters is the essence of stage contract the Monthly Progress alongwith satisfactory completion and gottagged photograph of work shall be certified by the Sub Division Office on the 30<sup>th</sup> of every month during the currency of the contract. If the same is not provided for 2 consecutive months the stage contract shall be terminated and fresh tender be called at risk & cost of contractor without any notice.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> per below schedule:-

S. No.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-05-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02-05-2026 to 08-05-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	08-05-2026 at 1200 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	02-05-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date	08-05-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	09-05-2026 or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 059 (Revenue) favouring **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu** and upload the same in treasury challan / receipt. Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu. The date of both should be in between publishing and closing of NIT. The CDR / FDR / BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of I1 be submitted to the **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu** within 03(three) days after the issuance of the Letter of Acceptance.
- The e-tronice bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per severtime. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial Bids of responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.**
- The **earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-**
  - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
  - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
  - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/C/1260-87 dated 07-10-2021.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above or on the next working day if the mentioned date happens to be a holiday.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.

**Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.**

The department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission due to any reasons.

No:- PWD(R&B)/PD-III/889-90  
Dated: 02-05-2026

sd  
(Er. Rabat Gupta)  
Executive Engineer  
Project Division III  
Jammu

**DIP/J-1512/26**

**NOTICE**



I, Mohammad Hussain S/O Md. Jainul and Rukhsana do hereby declare that my name and my parents name is wrongly written in my school record as Mohd. Hussain S/O Mohd. Jainul and Rukhsana according to my previous documents. I have updated all my documents. Now, I am applying for correction of the same in my school record. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the publication of this notice.

**NOTICE**

I, Sham Lal Sharma, s/o Sh Kakaram R/o Jognatalb, Rrathian, Loundna, Udhampur, 182101 have applied for the issuance of contractor card (Dee) class in the office of the Superintendent Engineer PWD(R&B) UDHAMPUR. Any person having any objection can file it before the Superintendent Engineer PWD(R&B) UDHAMPUR, within 7 days, after which no objection will be entertained.

**NOTICE**

I Sunita Devi W/o Sh. Surinder Kumar R/o Dadwara Tehsil Billawar Distt. Kathua J&K U.T. That the Date of Birth Certificate of my Son Aarav Verma has been issued by the Registrar Birth and Death Station House Officer Billawar on 20-10-2021 under registration No. 1511/15-A in which his name is inadvertently written AS Aarav kumar instead of Aarav verma. Now I am applying for correction of his name in DOB certificate as Aarav Verma instead of Aarav Kumar in the office of registrar BDO Office Billawar. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within 7 days, from the date of publication of this notice

**NOTICE**

I, Ajay Kumar Gupta, s/o Sh. Govind Ram R/o, Near Evergreen School, Battal Ballian Road, Udhampur, 182101 have applied for the issuance of contractor card (Dee) class in the office of the Superintendent Engineer PWD(R&B) UDHAMPUR. Any person having any objection can file it before the Superintendent Engineer PWD(R&B) UDHAMPUR, within 7 days, after which no objection will be entertained.



# Rahane hails KKR bowlers after dominant win over SRH

New Delhi, May 4: Kolkata Knight Riders captain Ajinkya Rahane praised his team's bowling unit after their strong comeback performance helped them secure a convincing seven-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad on Sunday. Meanwhile, SRH skipper Pat Cummins admitted his side fell short of a competitive total despite a flying start. "Very good game. The way we came back with the ball. Looked like they will get 190-200. It was a good wicket to bat on. 190-200 would've been challenging to chase. But credit to our bowling unit, especially the spinners. They kept taking wickets. Those small moments are really important, really happy with the win," Rahane said after the match. Earlier, Kolkata Knight Riders bowled out SRH for 165 in 19 overs, led by a disciplined effort from Varun Chakravarthy, who picked up three wickets. SRH had got off to a blazing start, with Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma attacking from the outset. The



team raced to 71/1 in the power-play, with Head smashing a 22-ball fifty and eventually scoring 61 off 28 balls. However, once Head was dismissed, the innings lost momentum. KKR bowlers tightened their grip, with Sunil Narine and Karim Tyagi taking two wickets each. Ishan Kishan tried to steady the innings with a 42-run knock, but regular wickets meant SRH could not build partnerships and ended with a below-par total. Cummins reflected on the missed

opportunity. "Well, not our best day. We got off to a pretty good start. And then after that, we weren't at our sharpest. Probably from where we were, we should have found a way to get higher, you know, up around 200 or past 180. But not to be." Chasing 166, KKR began cautiously before Finn Allen injected momentum with a quick 29 off 13 balls. After his dismissal, Rahane and Angkrish Raghuvanshi took charge of the innings. Raghuvanshi top-scored with a composed 59 off 47 balls, while Rahane contributed 43 off 36. Their 84-run partnership put KKR firmly in control of the chase. Rahane credited the team's preparation and support staff. "The bowling unit has been doing really well last 3-6 games. Credit to our bowling coaches - Bravo and Southie. During practice sessions, lot of talking, lot of planning, different positions, different grounds. It's all about planning and executing. Here and there you will go for runs, but as long as you're clear in your head, that's important." Even after losing both set batsmen towards the end, Rinku Singh and Cameron Green finished the chase comfortably with 10 balls to spare. Cummins admitted that his team failed to adapt in the latter half of the innings. "I think you just got to adapt. I actually thought, 180 was where it started. I thought the way we chose our matchups really well. And probably the second half didn't quite choose the moments, myself included."

# Phil Salt flies to England for finger scans, RCB await update

New Delhi, May 4: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) opener Phil Salt has returned to England for scans on his injured finger, which has kept him out of the team's last three matches in IPL 2026. In his absence, fellow England player Jacob Bethell has been opening the batting alongside Virat Kohli. Salt, 29, picked up the injury while diving to stop a boundary during RCB's match against Delhi Capitals at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on April 18. According to a report, he travelled back home on the advice of the England and Wales Cricket Board to undergo further medical checks. "Both player and franchise remain hopeful that the finger will heal soon enough for Salt to return to India this month, with RCB aiming to defend the title that they won for the first time last season." RCB would be



eligible to sign a replacement for Salt under IPL regulations in the event that the injury is deemed season-ending, but they are expected to give him every opportunity to recover," the report added. Before getting injured, Salt had been in good form, scoring 202 runs in six innings at a strike rate of 168.33 and providing quick starts at the top of the order. His absence comes as a setback for RCB, who are currently second on the IPL 2026 points table, just behind Punjab Kings. RCB are currently on a short break and will next play Lucknow Super Giants at the Bharat Kuma Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Thursday.

# After Mocking CSK And RCB, Shubman Gill Refuses To Spare Punjab Kings On Instagram

New Delhi, May 4: Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill once again entertained fans with his trademark social media digs, this time targeting Punjab Kings. Shreyas Iyer and Co.'s phenomenal run in IPL 2026 suffered a shocking setback on Sunday when they lost to Gill's GT in Ahmedabad. Despite posting 163.9, PBKS bowlers managed to stretch the game to the final over before Washington Sundar sealed the win with a six. After the victory, Gill took to social media and shared a hilarious picture mocking PBKS. In the photo, Gill, along with Sai Sudharan and Washington Sundar, recreated Punjab Kings'



signature pose. This was not Gill's first playful jab at rival franchises. It began after GT's clash against Chennai Super Kings, when Gill posted a picture holding a yellow whistle - a CSK trademark. Later, he mocked Royal Challengers Bengaluru by sharing a photo with Virat Kohli, captioned: "Play Bold @jaseholder98." In the

# Sahil Seth gets major roles at Para Powerlifting Punjab, India Para Powerlifting

New Delhi, May 4: Sahil Seth has been nominated as Honorary Chairman, Para Powerlifting Punjab as well as Honorary Director (Public Relations & Communications), India Para Powerlifting, by the body functioning under the Paralympic Committee of India. The roles are honorary in nature and form part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the development and outreach of para powerlifting in India, with continued emphasis on inclusivity and accessibility in sports. "It is a privilege to be associated with efforts aimed at supporting para athletes. Para sport carries an important social dimension, and it is essential that we approach it with sensitivity while strengthening systems that enable athletes to perform and progress," Seth said in a statement. "The focus will remain on con-



tributing constructively to development, accessibility, and recognition," Seth added. Seth, an officer of the Indian Revenue Service (2011 batch), has served in various administrative capacities in government. In his capacity as Honorary Chairman for Punjab, he will be associated with supporting grass-

roots participation, facilitating identification of athletes, and contributing to the development of the sport within the state. As Honorary Director (Public Relations & Communications), Seth will be engaged in public outreach initiatives, communication, and stakeholder coordination at the national level. Along with his official responsibilities, he has been associated, in an honorary and voluntary capacity, with initiatives across sports, arts, and social outreach. Among these include his association with the Delphic Games, aimed at supporting and promoting artistic talent. Moreover, Seth has been involved in social initiatives via Prasara Foundation, making significant contributions towards activities such as food distribution drives, tree plantation efforts, support for orphanages and old-age homes, and seasonal relief initiatives including blanket distribution. Additionally, he has engaged with creative pursuits reflecting an interest in the arts, including acting in the film "Bal Narain" and authoring the book "A Confused Mind Story." He has also been associated, in an honorary capacity, with initiatives linked to BRICS platforms.

# DC, CSK face must-win clash as playoff race tightens; MSD 'recovering' back in Chennai

New Delhi, May 4: Delhi Capitals will be looking for consistency when they face five-time champions Chennai Super Kings in their Indian Premier League (IPL) match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Tuesday, after a season where their performances have swung sharply between impressive wins and disappointing defeats. Both teams are in a similar position, sitting on eight points from nine matches. With only five games left in the league stage, neither side can afford many more mistakes if they want to stay in the race for the playoffs. Delhi, placed seventh in the IPL points table, head into Tuesday's game after Friday's much-needed win in Jaipur, where their batting finally clicked after three straight losses.



However, the damage from the earlier defeats still lingers. Two of them came at home, including a record chase of 265 by Punjab Kings and a heavy loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru, who

exposed Delhi's fragile batting against quality pace bowling. There was also a painful one-run defeat to Gujarat Titans at the Feroz Shah Kotla, a match Delhi had in their control but failed to close out. Despite these setbacks, there have been some positives for Delhi. Opekar Pothum Nissanka has started to find form and is building a solid partnership with the reliable KL Rahul at the top. Mitchell Starc has added pace and aggression to the bowling attack, giving the team an edge with the new ball. Kuldeep Yadav, however, will be under pressure to improve after an expensive outing in Jaipur, where he conceded three sixes in his final over. His overall performance this season has also been below expectations with an economy rate above 10 and only seven wickets in nine matches. T Natarajan, who is expected to control the middle and death overs, has also struggled to make an impact, picking up just five wickets so far.

# MS Dhoni Out Of IPL 2026? Chennai Super Kings Coach Provides Big Update: 'Above My Pay Grade'

New Delhi, May 4: Veteran wicketkeeper-batter MS Dhoni is steadily recovering from a calf injury, but Chennai Super Kings bowling consultant Eric Simons confirmed that he has not travelled with the squad to New Delhi for their upcoming IPL 2026 clash against Delhi Capitals, to be played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday. "An update on MS Dhoni is way above my pay grade. He is not with us but steadily improving. He will be ready when he is ready and he knows when he is ready to play. No, he hasn't travelled with the team," Simons said in the pre-match press conference. Dhoni hasn't featured in a single game this season.



with his last IPL appearance coming against Gujarat Titans on May 25 in the 2025 edition. Five-time champions CSK, meanwhile, sit at third place on the points table with four wins from nine games. "The equation is straightforward for CSK - they need at least four more victories from their remaining fixtures to stay in the hunt for the playoffs. A positive thing for CSK has been that skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad was among the runs in the past two games via unbeaten knocks of 74 and 67 respectively. Describing Gaikwad as a "surgoon in this world of chaos bat", Simons noted that the right-handed opener has found his rhythm again.

# KKR Star Sends Special Message As Vijay And TVK Sweep Tamil Nadu Election



New Delhi, May 4: Vijay on his Instagram story along with the caption, "Anna," The Indian cricket team spinner earlier revealed that he was a fan of Vijay and legendary actor Rajinikanth. Earlier, Chakravarthy, after being named Player of the Match in his side's Indian Premier League (IPL) clash against the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), reflected on how IPL conditions evolve, noting that early-season pitches tend to be flat, making life difficult for spinners. He felt this

was a common challenge for all spin bowlers, but conditions generally become more favourable as the tournament progresses. Commenting on the opposition, he mentioned how Travis Head was batting aggressively and extending his reach well, and said his focus was on disrupting that rhythm. He also expressed confidence in his team's growing cohesion, stating that both the bowling and batting groups are coming together well, and if they maintain this momentum, they can make a strong impact in the tournament. A sensational three-wicket spell by Chakravarthy and a well-complicated knock by Angkrish Raghuvanshi helped KKR secure their third win of the season, by seven wickets. Heading into the tournament after a mixed bag T20 World Cup,

# 'Still on top of the table': Iyer stays positive after narrow loss to Titans

New Delhi, May 4: Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer conceded that his team fell short in executing their plans despite putting up a strong fight in their four-wicket loss to Gujarat Titans in IPL 2026 on Sunday. He, however, pointed out that staying at the top of the points table despite back-to-back defeats gives the team some perspective. Iyer praised the effort shown by his players, especially on a pitch that was not easy for batting. Punjab Kings managed to post 163.9, and the captain felt it was a competitive total given the conditions. "I personally feel it was a great score on a wicket where the ball was doing a bit at the start, especially the new ball," he said. He also credited Gujarat's bowlers for making full use



of the surface. "Their bowlers made the best use of the surface - the way they were hitting the lengths and the deck. It was right at the stumps and not giving us much options to open our arms and score runs." Punjab had a tough start with the bat, losing three wickets inside the powerplay and slipping further to 47/5. However, a counter-attacking stand between Suryansh Shedge and Marcus Stoinis helped them recover and reach a fighting total. Iyer highlighted the importance of that partnership. "We lost four wickets. I assume in the powerplay. To get to 160 from there was a phenomenal effort." Talking about the bowling performance, Iyer admitted that his team could not match Gujarat's execution with the new ball. "With the new ball I thought we would be able to hit our line and length and get

early wickets. But that didn't work out," he said. Even so, he appreciated the overall effort and attitude of the team. "But the way we fought till the end, kudos to the efforts. The attitude and approach was excellent." He also pointed out where things went wrong from a tactical point of view. "We missed out on hitting the hard lengths." Iyer explained that batting was not straightforward on the pitch due to uneven bounce. "Hitting over mid-wicket or pull shot wasn't easy on this wicket because there was variable bounce. Wasn't an apt wicket to bat on." He admitted that execution was the key factor in the result. "In terms of execution, we fell a bit short." Despite the loss, Iyer remained positive about the team's position in the tournament. "We're still on top of the table, which is what matters. We'll take positives from this game," he said. He also felt that playing on such surfaces can help the bowlers improve. "It's a great challenge going forward in the IPL (playing on such pitches) because it tends to bring up the attitude of the bowlers as well. It can level up their confidence." While acknowledging that the team wanted to win, Iyer said they are focused on moving forward. "We wanted to win but it didn't click. Excited for the opportunity, want to get that two points." He ended by stressing the importance of staying consistent in preparation and mindset.





## Ludhiana Consumer Commission holds KFC liable in food poisoning case

New Delhi, May 4: In a significant ruling reinforcing consumer rights and food safety standards, the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Ludhiana, has held a KFC outlet and its parent company liable for serving food that allegedly caused food poisoning to a customer. The Commission President Sanjeev Batra and its member Monika Bhagat have directed the outlet to pay a compensation of Rs 25,000 to the consumer for deficiency in service and sale of a hazardous product. "It cannot be said that the consumption of food item was not the immediate or proximate cause for deterioration of health of the complainant. In the given set of circumstances, the product liability action initiated by the complainant against the opposite parties on account of sale of hazardous/harmful product is sustainable", observed the commission, rejecting the demand of dismissal of complaint. The orders came on a complaint moved by Amarjot Singh, a resident of New Janta Nagar, Ludhiana. He had alleged that on November 11,



2023, he had purchased take-away food items including hot wings, a regular cold drink, and regular fries for Rs 256 from the KFC outlet located at JMD Govardhan City Centre in the city. According to the complaint, the outlet's staff assured him that the food was fresh. However, within 30 minutes of consuming the hot wings, Singh experienced severe abdominal pain, vomiting, weakness, and mental distress. He immediately sought medical treatment from a local doctor, who, after examination, indicated symptoms consistent with food poisoning and administered medication, including an injection. The complainant claimed to have remained bedridden for nearly a week and claimed loss of business and mental agony. He further contended that despite serving a legal notice to the company, no action was taken, forcing him to approach the Consumer Commission. The opposite parties—M/s KFC PUN Sapphire Foods India Ltd. and KFC Pvt. Ltd.—contested the complaint, raising objections regarding its maintainability. They argued that the complainant was not a "consumer" under the Act and alleged that he had concealed material facts. The company maintained

that on the day in question, it had served around 215 food items without receiving any complaints regarding quality or safety. It also argued that no laboratory report or conclusive medical evidence was produced to establish the food contaminated. After examining the evidence and hearing both sides, the Commission ejected the objections raised by the opposite parties. It stated that food items fall within the definition of "goods" under the Consumer Protection Act, and consumers have a statutory right to safety against hazardous products. The commission further observed that the timeline of events supported the complainant's case. It noted that the food was consumed around noon and the complainant sought medical attention shortly thereafter, with supporting prescriptions and bills placed on record. Importantly, the Commission ruled that the consumption of the food item was the proximate cause of the complainant's illness. It held that the complainant had successfully established a case of product liability and deficiency in service.

## Sensex, Nifty surge 1 pc in early trade over de-escalation hopes, assembly poll result trends

New Delhi, May 4: Indian equity benchmarks opened on a strong note on Monday, with indices gaining 1 per cent each in the morning trade, aided by softer crude oil prices amid indications of easing tensions in West Asia amid early Assembly election trends in key states. Sensex surged as much as 833 points or 1.08 per cent to hit an intraday high of 77,746.79 in early deals, while Nifty touched 24,245.85, up 250 points or 1.03 per cent. On the sectoral front, buying interest was seen across auto, realty, metal, FMCG and energy stocks, with Nifty Auto, Nifty Realty, Nifty Metal, Nifty FMCG and Nifty Oil & Gas indices gaining up to nearly 2 per cent. However, some stocks remained under pressure, with Kotak Mahindra Bank, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, TCS, Etemal, ITC, and Bharti Airtel among top losers on



from the 50-scrip basket. US President Donald Trump said the United States will initiate efforts to help vessels stranded in the Strait of Hormuz, describing the move as a 'humanitarian gesture' aimed at assisting neutral countries not involved in the ongoing US-Israeli conflict with Iran. Tehran, meanwhile, said Washington has responded to its 14-point peace proposal via Pakistan and that the reply is under review, though Trump signalled it may not be acceptable. Back home, results of

## Crude oil prices slip up to nearly 3 pc as President Trump signals Hormuz relief

New Delhi, May 4: Global crude oil prices declined almost 3 per cent on Monday after US President Donald Trump said Washington would take steps to help clear vessels stranded in the Strait of Hormuz, though the lack of a breakthrough in US-Iran talks kept prices above the \$100-mark. International benchmark Brent crude slipped 66 cents or 0.61 per cent to \$107.51 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) fell \$2.83 or 2.77 per cent to \$99.11 a barrel. On the domestic front, crude oil futures on the Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCX) were trading at Rs 9,621, down Rs 44, or 0.45 per cent, from the previous close. The easing in oil



prices came after Trump hinted at possible de-escalation in the West Asia conflict. In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the US would help ensure safe passage for ships through the restricted waterway, enabling them to continue operations without disruption. He noted that several countries, many of them neutral and not involved in the conflict, had sought US assistance to free vessels

## India's mfg growth sees mild recovery in April, Iran war exerts upward pressure on inflation: PMI

New Delhi, May 4: India's manufacturing sector activity witnessed mild recoveries in growth of new business intakes and production, but rates of increase were the second-weakest in nearly four years. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Purchasing Managers' Index rose from 53.9 in March to 54.7 in April, signalled the second-slowest improvement in overall operating conditions in close to four years. HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is a gauge of overall conditions derived from measures of new orders, output, employment, supplier delivery times and stocks of purchases. In the PMI expansion, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. The two largest sub-components of the PMI, new orders and output, rose since March but trailed read-



ings seen in at least three-and-a-half years. "India's manufacturing PMI rose to 54.7 in April, up from 53.9 in March, but still marking the second-slowest improvement in operating conditions in nearly four years," said Pranjud Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC. Survey participants indicated that advertising and demand resilience supported sales and production,

said, adding that "output, new orders (including exports) and employment all grew moderately, pointing to continued resilience in India's manufacturing sector." Meanwhile, new export orders expanded sharply at the start of the first fiscal quarter, with the pace of growth reaching a 7-month high. Firms noted better demand from clients in several countries, including Australia, France, Japan, Kenya, mainland China, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and the UK. On the price front, companies continued to indicate that the war in the Middle East exerted upward pressure on inflation. Input costs and output charges rose at the quickest rates in 44 and six months respectively. Amid reports of higher prices for aluminium, chemicals, electrical components, fuel, leather, petroleum products and rubber, average cost burdens rose further in April.

## Indian banks well-positioned to transition to RBI's ECL norms

New Delhi, May 4: Indian banks are well-prepared to adopt the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) new Expected Credit Loss (ECL) provisioning framework, backed by strong capital buffers and improved asset quality, to a report by CareEdge Ratings. The RBI has notified the Commercial Banks - Asset Classification, Provisioning and Income Recognition Directions, 2026, which will come into effect from April 1, 2027. The new norms mandate a shift from the traditional incurred loss model to a forward-looking ECL-based framework, aligning Indian banking practices with global standards and Basel III norms. Under the revised system, banks will be required to assess and provision for potential credit losses based on future risks rather than past defaults. This involves classifying financial assets into three stages depending



on credit risk and calculating provisions using parameters such as probability of default (PD), loss given default (LGD), and exposure at default (EAD). The transition will also require banks to conduct a one-time fair valuation of their entire loan portfolio. Any differ-

ence between fair value and current book value will be adjusted against retained earnings, a move expected to limit volatility in profit and loss statements. Despite the higher provisioning requirements under the ECL regime, the report noted that Indian banks are in a strong position to absorb the impact. As of September 2025, banks reported a capital adequacy ratio (CAR) above 17% and a common equity tier-1 (CET-1) ratio exceeding 14.5%. The overall impact on capital adequacy is estimated at around 60-70 basis points, which is manageable over the four-year transition period. However, the shift is expected to exert some pressure on profitability in the near term. Increased provisioning, particularly for Stage 2 assets—where credit risk has significantly risen—could weigh on return on total assets (ROTA) during the implementation phase. Experts suggest that while public sector banks may face relatively higher pressure due to greater exposure to unsecured and MSME segments, private sector banks are likely to see a more muted impact owing to conservative provisioning practices.

## Gold and silver prices slide as Trump signals easing US-Iran tensions

New Delhi, May 4: Gold and silver prices declined up to 1 per cent on Monday amid signs of easing geopolitical tensions between the US and Iran, following remarks by US President Donald Trump. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold contracts for June 5 opened at Rs 1,51,150, down Rs 382 or 0.25 per cent from the previous close of Rs 1,51,532. At around 11.30 a.m., gold was trading at Rs 1,50,623, lower by Rs 729 or 0.48 per cent. The yellow metal touched an intraday low of Rs 1,50,400, a decline of 0.62 per cent or Rs 952, and an intraday high of Rs 1,51,347. On the other hand, silver contracts for July 3 opened at Rs 2,50,699, down Rs 238 or 0.09 per cent compared to the previous close of Rs 2,50,937. The white metal was trading at Rs 2,49,600, down Rs 1,337 or 0.53 per cent. So far in the session, silver futures hit a low of Rs 2,49,600, a decrease of 1.05 per cent or Rs 2,599, and a high of Rs 2,51,231. Meanwhile, in the international market, both precious metals remained under pressure. COMEX gold was down 0.55 per cent at \$4,619 per ounce, while silver declined 0.48 per cent to \$76.065



per ounce. A commodity market expert said gold prices extended last week's decline, hovering near one-month lows, as a stronger dollar and elevated crude oil prices weighed on sentiment. The expert further noted that while easing US-Iran tensions reduced some safe-haven demand, supply risks in the Strait of Hormuz continued to fuel inflation concerns, prompting a cautiously hawkish stance from major central banks, which also weighed on bullion. US President Donald Trump said the United States would initiate efforts to help vessels stranded in the Strait of Hormuz, describing the move as a humanitarian gesture aimed at assisting neutral countries not involved in the ongoing US-Iran conflict.

## Govt allows 100% FDI in insurance, amends FEMA rules

New Delhi, May 4: The Central Government has notified key amendments to the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules, 2019, significantly liberalising foreign investment norms in India's insurance sector. The amendment retains a differentiated structure for Life Insurance Corporation of India, where foreign investment continues to be capped at 20% under the automatic route. Issued through a Gazette notification dated May 2, 2026, by the Ministry of Finance, the revised framework permits up to 100%



foreign direct investment (FDI) under the automatic route in insurance companies and a broad range of insurance intermediaries. Under the amended rules, "aggregate holdings by way of total foreign investment... is permitted up to one hundred per cent of the paid-up equity capital" of Indian insurance companies. The liberalised regime also extends to intermediaries such as insurance brokers, reinsurers, insurance consultants,

## Manufacturing activity grows in April, PMI spikes to 54.7

New Delhi, May 4: The private sector manufacturing activity growth recovered in April as HSBC's India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global, which measures monthly change in manufacturing output, rose to 54.7 in April, up from 53.9 in March. The growth was riding on the back of sharper export growth, after plummeting to a four-year low in March due to West Asia-linked disruption. A weighted average of new orders, output, employment, suppliers' delivery times and stocks of purchases indices was lower than the Flash India Manufacturing PMI of 55.9, released last month. "India's manufacturing PMI rose to 54.7 in April, up from 53.9 in March, but still marking



the second slowest improvement in operating conditions in nearly four years. Spillovers from the Middle East conflict are becoming more evident, particularly through inflation: input costs increased at the fastest pace since August 2022, and output prices rose at the quickest rate in six months," Pranjud Bhandari, Chief India Economist

at HSBC, said. Meanwhile, new export orders expanded sharply at the start of the first fiscal quarter, with the pace of growth at a seven-month high. Industrial production growth moderated to a five-month low of 4.1% in March on the back of the West Asia conflict as compared to the growth of 3.9% a year ago and a little slower than the 5.1% growth registered in February. As per the National Statistics Office (NSO) data, the manufacturing sector, which accounts for nearly a fourth of the index, grew 4.2% in March, compared with 4% a year ago and 5.9% in February. The cost burdens in April rose further due to higher prices of aluminium, chemicals, electrical components, fuel, leather, petroleum products and rubber.

## DC Kishtwar reviews progress of RDSS, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Sets deadline for smart metering & solar rollout

KISHTWAR, MAY 04: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review progress under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district. At the outset, Executive Engineer JPDCL, Abdul Hamid briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the prevailing power supply scenario and ongoing initiatives, including loss reduction measures and smart metering under RDSS. The DC conducted a detailed assessment of infrastructure works such as installation of electricity poles, cable laying, smart meter-



ing and transformer augmentation. He also reviewed feeder-wise performance along with physical and financial progress under the schemes. The DC directed the concerned executing agencies to submit comprehensive feeder-wise reports covering both urban and rural areas. Stressing timely execution, the Deputy Commissioner called for intensified efforts to accelerate smart metering, noting its critical role in improving efficiency and

boosting rooftop solar adoption. Expressing dissatisfaction over the slow pace of work by M/S Genus in the smart metering sector, he directed the agency to immediately enhance manpower and speed up smart metering. The DC further instructed Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) to begin advance ducting for underground cabling, particularly in areas slated for road blacktopping, to prevent future disruptions and safeguard infrastructure. The DC set clear timelines for completion of smart metering across the district and directed the JPDCL to ensure close coordination

## District Cooperative Development Committee meeting held at Udhampur

Focus on strengthening cooperative ecosystem

UDHAMPUR, MAY 04: A meeting of the District Cooperative Development Committee was convened today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa to deliberate on strategies for strengthening the cooperative movement in the district and enhancing its outreach at the grassroots level. The meeting was attended by Additional District Registrar Cooperatives listed the initiatives being undertaken to strengthen the cooperative sector in the district. She also highlighted the awareness programmes organized to promote cooperative societies and educate the public about their benefits. The DC emphasized the need for greater synergy



among Cooperative Department and line departments to effectively implement awareness campaigns. He directed the concerned authorities to intensify efforts to sensitize the public, promote local products especially Garlic, Guchi mushroom, Jaggery and strengthen market linkages with special focus on high-value produce such as Guchi.

## GDC Basohli organises awareness lecture on POSH Act, SHe Box initiative

BASOHLI, MAY 04: Government Degree College Basohli organized an awareness lecture on provisions of the prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act 2013 and SHe Box initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the College Prof Raj Kiran Sharma emphasized the importance of creating a safe and respectful and inclusive environment. Special focus was laid on the SHe Box initiative launched by the Government of India which provides an online platform to register complaints related to Sexual Harassment at work place. She also made the audience aware of various forms of Sexual Harassment at work place and within the educational institutions. She also emphasized the importance of lodging complaints on SIGMA portal. Convener ICC Dr Irinder Kour focused on sensitizing participants about their rights, responsibilities and the mechanisms available for addressing grievances



related to sexual Harassment. She also emphasized the provisions of SPARSH (Sensitization to Prevention of and Redressal of Sexual Harassment).

## Poonch unites for a drug free future: Thousands Rally in 'Nasha Mukh' Campaign

POONCH, MAY 04: District administration Poonch today organised a massive 'Nasha Mukh' (Drug Free) awareness rally as part of the ongoing 100 day Jammu & Kashmir anti drug campaign. The rally commenced from the Sports Stadium and passed through Dunga Chowk, Labour Chowk, Parade Chowk and Nakha Wali Chowk, before culminating back at the Sports Stadium. Thousands of school and College students participated in the rally with great enthusiasm, alongside officers,



officials and members of civil society. Participants carried the National Tricolour, symbolising their love for the nation and raised impactful slogans such as "Yes to Life, No to Drugs" along

with their 'Nasha Mukh' messages, spreading awareness among the public throughout the route. Earlier, the rally was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma in presence of SSP Faqat Hussain. Notable participants included Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, Principal GDC Dr Jasbir Singh, along with other officers. At the end, participants took solemn pledge, reaffirming their commitment towards building a drug

free society. District Social Welfare Officer Khalil A Bandy administered the pledge. Heads of the district level departments also participated, reflecting a coordinated and unified approach of the administration in tackling the menace of drug abuse. The rally forms a key component of the Government's 100 day campaign aimed at sensitising the public, particularly the youth, about the ill effects of substance abuse and encouraging community participation.

## DI&C Jammu organises awareness-cum-registration prog on Trade Receivables Discounting System

JAMMU, MAY 04: Directorate of Industries and Commerce (DI&C) Jammu, in collaboration with Receivables Exchange of India Ltd. (RXIL) successfully organized a Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) awareness-cum-registration camp today at the Bari Brahmana Industrial Association Office. The RXIL delegation was led by Manager - Business Development Akshay Batwara and Senior Manager - Business Development Martand Srivastava. The pro-

gramme was attended by Joint Director (Planning) Shivwali Sharma along with General Manager District Industries Centre (DIC) Jammu Abhishake Abrol and other officials from the Directorate and DIC. The event saw active participation from approximately 70-80 industry stakeholders, including MSME buyers and sellers. During the session, the RXIL team delivered a comprehensive presentation on the operational framework of the TReDS platform, detailing the onboarding requirements, documentation process and

the wide-ranging benefits for both sellers and buyers. Emphasis was laid on the platform's ability to significantly reduce financing costs for MSMEs in comparison to conventional banking channels. A key highlight of the discussion was the recent Union Budget announcement regarding the integration of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) with the TReDS platform. This strategic linkage is expected to facilitate timely payments for MSME vendors supplying to government departments, thereby enhancing liquidity and

financial stability within the sector. The team also provided insights into the existing base of registered buyers and sellers on the RXIL platform and outlined strategies to expand participation among local enterprises. The interactive session encouraged valuable inputs from the industry participants. Suggestions included enhancing platform flexibility to broaden MSME accessibility and introducing enabling provisions to support new and emerging entrepreneurs in leveraging TReDS benefits. Participants requested that

these recommendations be escalated to higher authorities for consideration and implementation. The programme concluded with a constructive exchange of views, underscoring the importance of addressing MSME concerns, streamlining onboarding processes and strengthening the overall TReDS ecosystem to ensure wider adoption. The Directorate reaffirmed its commitment to forwarding the feedback to the appropriate authorities and facilitating necessary reforms to improve the system's effectiveness and inclusivity.

## Intensive NMBA Awareness Campaign conducted in Thathri

THATHRI, MAY 04: An awareness campaign under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) was conducted today in the rural and municipal areas of Thathri. A mobile van mounted with a Public Address System generated awareness among the public about the harmful effects of substance abuse and to promote a drug-free society. The mobile awareness van started from the local Community Health Centre (CHC) and covered the entire market area along with adjoining localities and rural pockets before returning back. Throughout the campaign,



audio announcements and awareness messages were disseminated to educate people about the adverse impact of drug addiction on health, family life and society. The programme was organized under the supervision of the Block Medical

Officer Dr Shakeel Ahmed Kichloo and aided by CMO Dr Tanveer Ahmed Rather. The Block Nodal Officer NMBA, accompanied the mobile van team during the entire awareness to ensure proper execution and supervision of activities.

## Census 2027: 3-day Training begins for Field Trainers at Doda

DODA, MAY 04: A three day Training programme to train Field Trainers in connection with the upcoming Census 2027 began today at the VC Hall of the DC Office Complex Doda. The training programme aims to equip more than 500 Field Trainers from across the district with the

necessary skills and knowledge to further train Enumerators and Supervisors for the House Listing and Housing Census. The training is being conducted under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal, who is also the Principal Census

Officer for the district. Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur (District Census Officer) and Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Ashraf Pervez (Nodal Officer Census) are ensuring effective coordination and smooth execution of the training. Experienced Master Trainers, including Dr. Akhter Hussain (Assistant Professor) and Ramesh Kumar (Senior Lecturer) would provide detailed guidance to the trainees on enumeration procedures, use of formats and maintaining accuracy in data collection. District Coordinator from the District Census Office (DCO) Vinay Kumar Singh is facilitating the overall coordination and logistics of the programme.

## Historic mandate for BJP reflects nation's faith in PM Modi: Sat Sharma

J&K BJP celebrates massive electoral victories across India, hails Modi leadership

Jammu, May 4: Jammu & Kashmir BJP celebrated the party's massive gains and victories in the Assembly elections held across West Bengal, Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala at the Bharatiya Janata Party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. BJP leaders and activists danced, distributed sweets, and congratulated one another over what they termed as a "historic endorsement" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership and the BJP's people-centric governance model. The celebrations were led by J&K BJP President & Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, and BJP National Secretary & MLA Dr. Narinder



Singh. Senior party leaders including Vice-Presidents Rajiv Charak and Rekha Mahajan, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Baldev Singh Billawaria, MLAs Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Dalip Singh Parihar, RS Pathania, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, and Shagun Parihar, along with hun-

dreds of BJP activists, participated enthusiastically in the celebrations. Similarly, BJP senior leaders led by J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul led the victory celebrations in Kashmir. Sat Sharma, while congratulating the party activists, said that the resounding mandate in favour of BJP

across the country reflects the unshakable trust of the people in Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP's development-driven governance. He said that BJP's remarkable performance in West Bengal and Assam, along with impressive gains in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, proves that the nationalist ideology of BJP is continuously expanding across every region of the country. He credited BJP workers for tirelessly taking the achievements of the government to every household and strengthening the connect between the party and the public. Launching a sharp attack on opposition parties, Sat Sharma accused them of indulging in opportunistic and divisive politics merely to secure power. He said that the opposition has repeatedly ignored public aspirations, particularly the sentiments of women, by opposing transformative initiatives like the Women Reservation Bill. He stated that the people of the country have now rejected policies of appeasement, corruption, and dynasty. Sunil Sharma, who was also the Seh-Prabhan for Assam elections, said that the election results have exposed the weakening foundations of the opposition alliance across the nation. He said that despite spreading misinformation and fear among the people, opposition parties failed to counter the credibility and performance of the BJP-led governments. He asserted that the BJP has emerged stronger because it consistently works for the poor, youth, farmers, women, and marginalized sections without discrimination.

**Several MLAs call on CM Omar Abdullah, raise constituency issues**



**Chief Minister assures time-bound redressal, reiterates commitment to people-centric governance**

**SRINAGAR, MAY 04:** Several MLAs of Kashmir valley today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here at Civil Secretariat to appraise him of several issues related to their constituencies. Those who met the chief minister include MLA Chadoora Ali Mohammad Dar, MLA Beerwah Dr Shafi Ahmed Wani, MLA Khan Sahib Saifuddin Bhat

of Budgam district, MLA Pattan Javid Riyaz Bedar and MLA Pampore Justice (Retd) Hassan Masoodi and flagged different issues related to their constituencies. The legislators, representing different constituencies of Budgam, Pattan and Pampore areas apprised the Chief Minister of various local issues and demands pertaining to development works, civic amenities and public service delivery in their respective areas. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns raised by the MLAs and assured them that all genuine issues flagged during the meeting would be addressed on priority. He reiterated the government's commitment to responsive and people-centric governance, emphasizing that coordination with elected representatives remains key to ensuring effective and timely resolution of public grievances.

**Deputy CM Choudhary visits Shopian; reviews development works, stresses expeditious completion**

**SHOPIAN, MAY 04:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted an extensive tour of Zainapora Constituency in Shopian district to assess the progress of ongoing development projects across Chitragam, Zainapora and adjoining areas. During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction of a vital 45-meter span bridge on the Sujan-Chitragam-Zainapora road. The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by Chief Engineer PMGSY Ashwani Kumar, Additional District Development Commissioner Dr. Nasir Lone, SDM Zainapora, Tehsildar, DMO and senior officers from PWD, PMGSY and Mechanical Engineering departments. Emphasizing strict adherence to quality standards, he directed the concerned authorities to ensure timely completion of the bridge to enhance connectivity and facilitate smooth movement for the local population. "Ensure use of quality material including cement and iron



and dedicate the bridge to the public at the earliest," he said. The Deputy Chief Minister also assessed the progress on the under-construction Health Care Centre at Chitragam. Stressing the importance of strengthening healthcare infrastructure, he directed for expeditious completion of ground levelling works and called for immediate initiation of construction activities. He reiterated the government's commitment towards ensuring seamless delivery of essential healthcare services to the people. "This government is focused on accelerated development and ensure seamless service delivery to the public," he said. Reviewing the pace and quality of work on the other road bridge projects, the Deputy Chief Minister instructed the officials to maintain efficiency, transparency and quality in the execution of all projects to meet the public expectations and ensure holistic growth across the district. Stressing on labour welfare, he called for organising the awareness-cum-registration camps to facilitate workers' enrolment for labour cards and enable them to

avail benefits under various government schemes. He further directed the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Shopian to ensure strict adherence to SOPs by workers during project execution for safety of life. The Deputy Chief Minister reviewed ongoing road and bridge projects across Shopian district and underscored the need for timely and quality execution. He also directed that the local representatives be actively involved in project implementation to ensure smooth and effective execution on the ground. Taking stock of mining operations in the district, he instructed the officials to ensure uninterrupted supply of construction material while strictly adhering to mining regulations. Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the residence of MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganai, at Chitragam and expressed heartfelt condolences on the demise of his mother. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family in this hour of grief.

**Over 13,000 MSMEs assessed by JKMHC across J&K**

**CS calls for scaling up interactions and AI-driven interventions**

**SRINAGAR, MAY 4:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the functioning and progress of the Jammu & Kashmir MSME Health Clinic (JKMHC), a digital initiative aimed at diagnosing, reviving and strengthening micro, small and medium enterprises across the Union Territory. The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce and Director, IIM Jammu was attended by Executive Director, JKEDI, Director, Industries Jammu; Director, Employment and



other concerned officers. During the meeting, Chief Secretary issued a series of strategic directions aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and institutional capacity of the MSME Health Clinic. He emphasized the adoption of an advanced, Large Language Model (LLM)-based solution for conducting root cause analysis of stressed units, with a mature agentic AI framework backed by appropriate guardrails. He also directed that the system be trained on local datasets to enhance contextual relevance and explore development on indige-

formally integrated into the MSME Health Clinic framework, with dedicated personnel deployed for implementation support. He also called for inclusion of representatives from key institutions such as banks, NABARD and allied departments including agriculture, positioning SBDU as a nodal platform for coordinated guidance and execution at the grassroots level. Clarifying institutional roles, the Chief Secretary underlined that IIM Jammu should primarily focus on training and capacity building, while implementation

responsibilities should rest with field-level institutions. He further stressed the need to develop a robust pool of trained human resources at the district level through repeated and structured capacity-building interventions. The Chief Secretary also directed the Industries & Commerce Department to convene joint meetings with the Labour Department and other stakeholders, while actively seeking inputs from leading financial institutions including J&K Bank, SBI and NABARD, as well as industry bodies such as

**DC inspects lodgement centres, CSCs, RFID counter in Udhampur**



**UDHAMPUR, MAY 04:** Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today inspected Lodgement Centres and Community Sanitary Complexes along the National Highway to assess and expedite preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026. He was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh and Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr.

Umesh Shan. The arrangements being put in place for the pilgrims were thoroughly reviewed. The Additional Deputy Commissioner informed that as many as 31 Lodgement Centres have been identified along the National Highway in the district to facilitate the yatri. The DC carried out a detailed review of the available infrastructure and essential facilities at the designated centres. He also enquired about the status of augmentation of drinking water supply, sanitation arrangements, power, lodging facilities and bedding capacity at these locations. He emphasized proper hygiene and regular cleanliness at all centres. The concerned officers were directed to ensure foolproof arrangements with all basic amenities, leaving no scope for inconvenience to the pilgrims during the Yatra.

**Team of Officers visits Migrant camps to review Ration distribution under Special Relief Ration Scheme**

**JAMMU, MAY 04:** On the directions of Principal Secretary to the Government, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Chandrak Bhatti, a team of officers headed by Additional Secretary to the Government Sudhir Bali, accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Relief, Vijay Sharma and senior officers of Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Jammu and field officers from the Relief Organization and FCS&CA

visited various Migrant Zones and ration depots to take stock of the ration distribution in terms of the Special Relief Ration Scheme for Kashmiri/Jammu Migrants, notified by the J&K Government recently. The team interacted with migrant beneficiaries and informed them that ration distribution is being carried out by the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department in accordance with the Special Relief Ration Scheme for Kashmiri/Jammu Migrants notified

vide Government Order No. 15-JK(FCS&CA) of 2026 dated 05.03.2026 from all the designated ration depots in Jammu Province and the migrant can get ration from any nearest ration depot. It was further clarified that all Relief Ration Card holders, whether PHH, NPHH or Special Category, shall continue to receive 11 kg of free ration per person per month along with 1 kg of sugar, while migrants under the non-relief category, such as pensioners, categorized as NPHH, are entitled to 5

**State Tax Department Enforcement Udhampur realizes Rs.18.22 lakh penalty in one week**

**UDHAMPUR, MAY 04:** The Enforcement Wing of the State Tax Department Udhampur, in its sustained drive against tax evasion, has achieved significant success by realizing a penalty of ₹11.93 lakh from two tax defaulters during a recent operation. The interception was carried out on the intervening night of 30.04.2026 and 01.05.2026 after persistent and well-coordinated efforts by the enforcement team. This operation marks the second major success within a week, the first being a penalty of ₹6.29 lakh, other than several other minor recoveries. This achievement reflects the effective command and control of the Commissioner, P.K. Bhat, over tax administration and the robust implemen-

tation of GST laws by field enforcement formations. The success is a testament to the team's dedication, use of modern investigative tools and coordinated field action. Acting on the input directions of Anil Kumar Chandali Deputy Commissioner two teams led by STOs Ayush Sharma and Kamal Gupta were mobilized. One of them headed by Inspector Amir Hussain and assisted by SIs Hardeep Singh and Harminder Singh successfully tracked and intercepted two vehicles. The vehicles were found carrying scrap goods without proper documentation, leading to the imposition and recovery of penalties as per GST provisions.

**15 Illegal Structures Razed In Demolition Drive In Jammu**



**JAMMU, MAY 4:** The Jammu Development Authority (JDA) on Monday carried out a major anti-encroachment drive on the outskirts of Jammu city, demolishing over 15 structures built without requisite permissions, officials said. They said notices had been served to the violators according to legal procedures, giving them adequate time to comply. "In a significant enforcement action undertaken today, the JDA carried out a major demolition drive along the Ring Road corridor to check illegal constructions," an official spokesperson said. He said more than 15 struc-

tures, built without obtaining necessary building permissions from the competent authority, were razed during the operation. "These structures were in clear violation of approved land use norms and building regulations," he added. According to the officials, preliminary assessments indicated that several of the unauthorised constructions posed a serious threat to public safety. "Many of these structures

were either structurally unsound or had encroached upon critical areas, increasing the risk to life and property, particularly for nearby residential and commercial establishments," they said. The Enforcement Wing of the JDA carried out the demolition drive with assistance from the local administration and law enforcement agencies, ensuring a smooth operation without any untoward incident. Reiterating its commitment to planned development, the JDA urged the public to adhere to building norms and obtain necessary permissions before undertaking construction. "Unauthorised constructions not only violate the law but also endanger public safety and disrupt orderly urban growth," a JDA spokesperson said, adding that similar drives will continue in future. Some residents alleged that JDA officials allowed illegal constructions to come up over the past two years in exchange for monetary benefits. They claimed no action has been taken against such officials. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had earlier informed the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly that over 16,000 kanals (1 sq km is equal to 1,976.84 kanals) of JDA land was under encroachment.

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