

North in News

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Postal Regd. No. JK/504/19-21

VOL. NO. 14 | ISSUE NO. 115

JAMMU, WEDNESDAY, 6 MAY 2026

E-paper: <https://northinnews.com/epaper/> PAGE 12 RS. 3.00

LG Sinha joins Mega Padyatra in Budgam, pledges sweeping action against drug smugglers

SRINAGAR, MAY 5: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha joined a large people's movement in Budgam today as part of drug-free J&K campaign and assured the citizens that every arm of administration would act with resolve and unity to confront the issue and ensure that the threat is effectively eliminated. The Lieutenant Governor appealed to every family, social organization, spiritual and political leaders in Budgam to intensify drug-free J&K campaign across the district and assured them that the administration and its full strength is committed to eradicating drugs. The Lieutenant Governor also announced an informal

Lieutenant Governor announced an informal 'Parents Brigade' in every village and city wherever possible



'Parents Brigade' in every village and city, wherever possible. He said the aim is to create a voluntary network of parents, women and youth who will be trained and empowered to identify early signs of drug use in villages or wards, and to immediately connect families with resources. The Lieutenant Governor said the entire district of Budgam must stand against the poison of drugs that is destroying the souls of our youth. "I believe that every young

(Contd on Pg 2)

PM Modi condemns UAE attacks, reaffirms India's support for peace and stability

NEW DELHI, MAY 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday strongly condemned the recent attacks on the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that left three Indian nationals injured, calling the targeting of civilians and critical infrastructure "unacceptable." In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Strongly condemn the attacks on the UAE that resulted in injuries to three Indian nationals. Targeting civilians and infrastructure is unacceptable. India stands in firm solidarity with the UAE and reiterates its support for the peaceful resolution of all issues through



dialogue and diplomacy." Highlighting the broader regional implications, the Prime Minister also stressed the importance of maintaining secure global trade routes, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz. He noted that "ensuring safe and unimpeded navigation through the Strait of Hormuz is vital for enduring regional peace, stability and global energy security." The strikes, which reportedly hit the Fujairah Petroleum Industries Zone (FOIZ), left three Indian nationals

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Patriotism, Leadership & Youth Power Key to Nation Building: Kavinder to RIMC Cadets



SHIMLA, MAY 5: Twenty-four cadets of the Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC), Dehradun, called on the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Kavinder Gupta, at Lok Bhawan, Shimla today. The delegation was led by Naval Officer Sneha, accompanied by Faculty members Aruna

Sharma and Nitin Vaishnav of RIMC. The cadets, drawn from various states across the country, warmly introduced themselves to the Governor and shared their aspirations to serve in the National Defence Academy (NDA) and the Indian Navy. The Governor warmly received the young cadets and lauded RIMC for its dedicated and exemplary role in preparing the youth of the nation for a life of service in the armed forces. He acknowledged the institution's unwavering contribution in shaping disciplined, focused and

(Contd on Pg 2)

Shah Named BJP's Central Observer For Election Of Legislative Party Leader In West Bengal

NEW DELHI, MAY 5: The BJP on Tuesday named Union Home Minister Amit Shah as the party's central observer for election of its legislative party leader in West Bengal. The party also appointed Union minister JP Nadda as its central observer for election of the legislative party leader in Assam, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini was made co-observer for election of the BJP's legislative party leader in Assam, accord-



ing to a notification issued by the party. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Mahi was appointed as co-observer for election of the BJP's legislative party leader in Assam, accord-

(Contd on Pg 2)

CM Omar reviews status of implementation of Budget announcements, directs time-bound achievement of targets and key initiatives

SRINAGAR, MAY 5: As a follow-up to the Budget Announcements for implementation during 2026-27, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to fast-track implementation of key Budget initiatives, with a focus on timely delivery of welfare measures for the people of Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Ministers



Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Javid Dar and Satish Sharma; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Ahsan Wani; Chief Secretary Atal Dilloo; Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Secretaries of Jal Shakti, Public Works and Finance, besides all Administrative Secretaries, senior officers of the Finance Department, Chief heads of departments and other concerned officials. At the outset, Additional

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BRIEF NEWS

Mughal Road Car Accident: Two Bodies Recovered, Say Police

POONCH, MAY 5: District Police Poonch on Tuesday recovered two bodies from a nallah near Chhattapani after a search and rescue operation was launched to trace out the missing vehicle along Mughal Road. Police officials said that four individuals travelling in a vehicle were reported missing yesterday while en-route on the Mughal Road. Acting swiftly on the information, District Police Poonch launched a large-scale search and rescue operation in the area. During the course of the search operation today, the missing vehicle was traced in a nallah near Chhattapani. Upon retrieval, two dead bodies were

(Contd on Pg 2)

EOW Kashmir Cracks Health Educator Recruitment Scam; Accused Arrested

SRINAGAR, MAY 5: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of the Crime Branch J&K has intensified its crackdown on recruitment fraud by conducting searches in connection with FIR No. 19/2017 registered under Sections 420, 467, 468, and 471 RPC of Police Station Crime Branch Kashmir (now EOW Kashmir), and arresting a habitual offender involved in the case. The arrested accused has been identified as Shahnawaz Ahmad Mir, a Senior Assistant in the Health Department and a resident of Tankipora Shaheed Gunj.

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PSA Detention Cannot Rest on Stale Grounds, Rules High Court

JAMMU, MAY 05 (JNF): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has quashed two separate preventive detention orders passed under the Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act, holding that stale allegations cannot be made the basis for curtailing personal liberty under the garb of "maintenance of public order."

Justice Rahul Bharti, in two similarly reasoned judgments, set aside the PSA detentions of Irfan Majed Lone, 36, resident of Logripora Zaingear Sopore, and Suhail Ahmad Parry, 27, resident of Bangar Mohalla Hajin, Bandipora, and directed

their immediate release from the concerned jails. In the case of Irfan Majed Lone, the detention order had been passed by the District Magistrate, Baramulla vide Order No. 04/DMB/PSA/2025 dated April 28, 2025. He was taken into preventive custody on April 30, 2025, and the order was subsequently approved and confirmed by the Government through the Home Department. The petitioner had challenged the detention through his father, pleading that criminal cases pending against him were wrongly used to impose punitive

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Govt Orders Reshuffle In Power Development Department

SRINAGAR, MAY 5: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has ordered a significant reshuffle in the Power Development Department (PDD), transferring and posting multiple engineers across various divisions with immediate effect. According to Government Order No. 111-JK(PDD) of 2026 dated May 05, the decision has been taken in the interest of administration to ensure smooth and efficient functioning of office work. As per the order, several Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers (AEs), and Assistant Engineers (AEs) have been transferred or assigned additional charges in different wings of KPDC, JPDCL, and JKPTCL. Among the key changes, Mudast Amin Baqal has been posted to S&O Division JKPTCL

Kashmir, while Tassaduq Nabi Chowdhary has been assigned additional charge of Executive Engineer IT&C Division KPDC, Hamidullah Thokar and Umer Majid Kamli have also been given new postings with added responsibilities. In addition, several AEs including Ghulam Qadir Mir, Nazir Ahmad, Irfana Chicken, and others have been shifted across various divisions in Kashmir and Jammu regions. Some officers have been deputed, while others have been adjusted against available vacancies in different units. The order further states that all concerned engineers shall be deemed relieved from their previous postings and are directed to assume their new assignments immediately. The reshuffle is

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Rs.1.20 Crore Property Of Notorious Drug Peddler Attached In Srinagar Under Nasha Mukht J&K Drive

SRINAGAR, MAY 5: In a significant crackdown on drug trafficking, Srinagar Police on Tuesday attached immovable property worth approximately ₹1.20 crore belonging to a notorious drug peddler as part of the ongoing 100 Days Campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan. Acting under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act, Police Station Nowhatta carried out the attachment in connection with FIR No. 61/2019 registered under Sections 8/20 of the NDPS Act. The

attached assets include a fully renovated three-storey residential house, a separate single-storey concrete kitchen block equipped with three washrooms, and land measuring 09 marlas. The property belongs to Nisar Ahmad Sheikh, son of Habibullah Sheikh, a resident of Kani Dewar, Sheikh Mohallah, Hawal in Srinagar. Police investigations revealed that the said property was acquired through proceeds of illicit drug trafficking. Following due legal

(Contd on Pg 2)

Last-Seen Theory Demolished, Recovery Doubtful HC Upholds Acquittal in Udhampur Murder Case



JAMMU, MAY 05 (JNF): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed the State's acquittal appeal in a 2014 murder case, holding that the prosecution failed to prove the chain of circumstantial evidence against the accused. A Division Bench comprising Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Shahzad Azeem upheld the judgment dated April 30, 2016 passed by the Principal Sessions Judge, Udhampur, whereby accused Rakesh Singh, son of Kartar Singh, resident of Assi Palata, District Udhampur, was acquitted of offences under Sections 302, 404 and 201 IPC. The prosecution case was that the accused had allegedly taken sexual advantage of deceased Subadri Devi, a

divorced woman and mother of two children, and later took her towards Maand Jungle on the false pretext of solemnising court marriage. It was alleged that he murdered her to get rid of her and concealed her mobile phone and gold earrings in Bai Nallah, Katra Jungle. Her body was recovered on April 24, 2014. The State challenged the acquittal, arguing that the trial court had failed to properly appreciate the evidence and ignored material witnesses. The State was represented by Advocate Saliga Sheikh, appearing vice AAG Raman Sharma, while the respondent was represented by Advocate Sachin Sharma. The Bench noted that the entire prosecution case rested on circumstantial evidence, mainly the last-seen theory, disclosure statement and recovery. However, the Court found serious contradictions in the statements of key prosecution witnesses, including the deceased's father, mother, brother, sister-in-law and minor son, regarding the time and manner in which the accused and deceased allegedly left the house together. The Court observed that some witnesses stated that the accused and deceased left together, while others said that the accused left earlier and

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Wanted In Multiple NDPS Cases, Woman Drug Peddler Arrested

ANANTNAG, MAY 5: As government intensify crackdown on drug trafficking under the 'Nasha Mukhtsar J&K Abhiyan' across the UT, Anantnag Police apprehended a notorious woman drug peddler involved in multiple narcotics cases and seized contraband substances from her possession, officials said on Tuesday. A police spokesperson said in a statement that a police party of Police Post Diagam had established a routine naka checking point at Laalan Bypass. During checking, one lady was noticed approaching from Diagam towards Laalan. On observing the police party, she attempted to flee from the spot, arousing suspicion. However, the alert naka

(Contd on Pg 2)

Dr Jitendra Addresses Prayagraj Defence Symposium Highlights 174% Rise In Defence Production

PRAYAGRAJ, MAY 5: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said that India has entered a decisive phase in its defence journey, where technology, indigenous innovation and private sector participation are shaping a new global identity for the country. Addressing the North Tech Symposium 2026 in Prayagraj, the Minister said that warfare is no longer defined by physical strength alone but increasingly driven by advanced technologies, real-time data systems and automated platforms. He said this transformation has significantly enhanced



India's operational capabilities and global standing. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that in the last decade, India has transitioned from being a major importer of defence equipment to an emerging exporter, with defence production reaching ₹1.54 lakh crore recording 174% rise in one decade and export growth rising to ₹23,622 crore recording 34 times rise in one decade. The Minister said a substantial contribution of around Rs 15,000 cr to total exports came from the private sector, reflecting a major shift towards collaborative defence manufacturing. Referring to the increasing support from the government, the Minister said, the current budget 2026-27 earmarks Rs 68100cr for budget, which is 9.5% more than last year. Referring to India's expanding technological base, the Minister

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FROM PAGE ONE

LG Sinha...

person lost to addiction is a loss of strength for our future workforce, and a lost soldier for our police and army. Every family broken by addiction is a crack in the foundation of our society," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor observed that in this war against drugs, society must accept the truth that many boys and girls are in the grip of narcotics. He said there is no harm in accepting this, as they are our own children. They are victims, not criminals, and they need our embrace, compassion and care. "Furthermore, the public must eliminate the stigma, so that if a family is suffering, they do not have to endure the pain in silence. This tradition must change because today's circumstances are such that silence will not defeat this; the public must raise its voice," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further stated that drug addiction is not just a health issue; it is also a crisis of national security. He said drugs entering into our society do not only hollow out the aspirations of our youth and damage their self-confidence, but the drug trade is also funding terrorism and radicalization.

"The entire world knows that our neighbour, a major patron of terrorism smuggling drugs into Jammu Kashmir. Drug trafficking and drug funding are no longer separate issues; they are two hands of the same enemy. We must remember that when we fight against drugs, we are also fighting against terror. When we protect our youth, we protect our nation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that he launched the Drug-Free Jammu & Kashmir campaign 24 days ago on 11th April in Jammu with the faith that no enemy, no matter how conspiratorial, can stand before a united society. "The law enforcement agencies alone cannot win this war; the administration alone cannot win it. But together, every teacher, parent, spiritual leader, elder, doctor, youth and woman become an invincible force, and I have full faith that Budgam will carry this campaign forward with this spirit," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said in this 100-days campaign, people have 76 days left and in these 76 days, we must prove that when society decides to fight against a social evil, every citizen wins.

"I have directed every police station in the Kashmir Valley to gather full information on active drug smugglers and peddlers in their jurisdiction and take decisive action within 30 days. We are monitoring every financial transaction of drug cartels, and action will be ensured not just against small-time peddlers but against major smugglers. The palaces built with drug money will be razed to the ground," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also urged every citizen to participate actively in the awareness campaign and become the eyes and ears of the police and administration. "If you see any suspicious activity in any corner of Budgam, report it immediately. With your cooperation, it will be ensured that no drug peddler can remain around any village, neighbourhood, or college in Budgam. I want to tell the drug smugglers, elements linked to the narcotic terror network, and drug peddlers active in Budgam that your time on the soil of Budgam has ended. Our agencies know who you are. Our administration is coming after you, and today I promise every resident of Budgam that not a single drug smuggler will escape accountability," the Lieutenant Governor said.

PM Modi...

injured. In a post on X, Indian Embassy in the UAE said, "Three Indian nationals have been injured in today's attacks in Fujairah. We are in touch with local authorities for ensuring adequate medical care and welfare of the affected Indian nationals."

Earlier, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated India's firm stance against targeting civilians. "The attack on Fujairah that resulted in injury to three Indian nationals is unacceptable. We call for immediate cessation of these hostilities and the targeting of civilian infrastructure and innocent civilians," he said.

India also emphasised the importance of maintaining stability in critical global trade routes, urging "free and unimpeded navigation and commerce" through the Strait of Hormuz in accordance with international law. Reaffirming its diplomatic position, New Delhi underscored that dialogue and diplomacy remain the only viable path to restoring peace across West Asia.

As tensions escalate in the region, the MEA reiterated that "India stands ready to support all efforts for a peaceful

resolution of issues," stressing the need to prevent further escalation and safeguard civilian lives.

Patriotism...

patriotic officers of tomorrow. Shri Kavinder Gupta asked the cadets to make the recitation of the Gayatri Mantra a part of their daily discipline, underlining its timeless relevance in fostering mental clarity, inner strength and spiritual grounding.

Invoking the spirit of national integration, the Governor quoted the celebrated verse - "Alag Bhasha, Alag Bhash, Phir Bhi Apne Ek Desh" - reminding the cadets that despite the diversity of language, attire and tradition, India remains one indivisible nation. He urged them to be proud custodians of the country's rich cultural heritage and to carry its civilisational values forward with pride.

Addressing the cadets, the Governor emphasised that discipline is the bedrock of all achievement and that character must be built before rank is sought; for integrity is a virtue that can only be lived, never decorated. He reminded them that they are not merely soldiers-in-training but future leaders of the nation, and urged them always to place the country above self. Stressing that mediocrity has no place in uniform, he asked them to strive for excellence in everything they undertake and to embrace adversity as their finest teacher, for it is through challenges that true growth is forged.

On leadership, Shri Kavinder Gupta counselled that a true leader leads from the front, for a team watches what its leader does, not what is said. He underscored that leadership is an act of service, not an assertion of authority. Acknowledging the demands of the modern battlefield, the Governor also exhorted the cadets to remain curious, stay intellectually sharp and never cease to learn.

Concluding his address, the Governor left the young aspirants with a thought that resonated deeply - "The nation sleeps peacefully because brave men and women stand ready to guard it. Be worthy of that trust."

As part of their visit, the RIMC cadets also had the privilege of undertaking a guided tour of Lok Bhawan, Shimla - the official residence and seat of the Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh. Built during the British era and steeped in layers of colonial and post-independence history, it has been home to the highest constitutional authority of Himachal Pradesh since the state's formation in 1971. For the young cadets, walking through its elegant corridors, stately halls and well-preserved precincts was an experience that went far beyond a mere sightseeing visit - it was an encounter with the living heritage of Indian democracy and governance.

Shah...

West Bengal, according to the notification. The BJP ousted Trinamool Congress from power in Bengal and captured power for the third time in a row in Assam in results of assembly polls declared on Monday.

CM Omar...

Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, briefed the Chief Minister, outlining the status of various Budget announcements across departments under different grants and status submitted by the departments. Administrative Secretaries briefed the Chief Minister on the progress achieved so far and the action taken by their respective departments in implementing the Budget proposals.

Departments reviewed during the meeting included General Administration, Planning, Development & Monitoring, Information, Science & Technology, Power Development, School Education, Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, Finance, Agriculture Production, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Culture, Public Works, Jal Shakti, and Housing & Urban Development. During the deliberations, the Chief Minister issued a series of directions aimed at expediting implementation, strengthening inter-departmental coordination, and ensuring strict adherence to timelines. He stressed the importance of translating Budget announcements into tangible outcomes on the ground, with a focus on efficiency, transparency and public welfare. He also called for equitable development across all regions in terms of funding and resource allocation.

Reiterating the government's commitment to development and good governance, the Chief Minister directed all departments to closely monitor progress and remove bottlenecks to ensure that the benefits of Budget provisions reach the people in a timely manner.

PSA Detention...

punishment in the garb of preventive detention. He was represented by Advocate Arshad Andrabi, while Dy. AG H. Aman Ali appeared for the respondents.

In the second matter, the High Court quashed detention Order No. 02/DMB/PSA of 2025 dated May 1, 2025, passed by the District Magistrate, Bandipora, against Suhail Ahmad Parry. He was taken into preventive custody on May 2, 2025, and the order was later approved and confirmed by the Government. The petition was filed through his brother Aqib Zahoor Parry. Suhail was represented by Advocate Humaira Shaif, while GA Jahangeer Ahmad Dar appeared for the UT.

After examining the grounds of detention, the Court observed that the alleged antecedents relied upon by the District Magistrate were stale and could not validly justify preventive detention. The Court further held that the material relied upon by the authorities fell within the realm of "law and order" and not within the arena of "maintenance of public order."

The Court held both preventive detentions to be illegal and accordingly set aside the detention orders along with the approval and confirmation orders passed by the Government of UT of J&K through the Home Department.

Justice Bharti directed that both detainees be restored to their personal liberty by immediate release from the concerned jails, with the Jail Superintendents asked to act in compliance with the Court's directions.

The judgments underline that preventive detention cannot be used as a substitute for ordinary criminal prosecution, especially where the grounds are stale and do not disclose any real threat to public order. (JNF)

Govt Orders...

part of the government's ongoing efforts to streamline operations and improve efficiency within the Power Development Department.

Rs.1.20 Crore...

process, the assets have been identified as illegally acquired and attached under the provisions of the NDPS Act.

This decisive action underscores Srinagar Police's unwavering commitment to dismantling the financial infrastructure of drug networks and eradicating the menace of narcotics from society. Authorities have reiterated their resolve to intensify operations against drug peddlers and urged the public to cooperate by sharing any information related to drug abuse or trafficking.

Last-Seen...

the deceased followed after a gap of one to two hours. The minor son of the deceased also stated that his mother had told him she was going for work and would return in the evening. The Bench held that these contradictions completely demolished the last-seen theory.

The Court also found the alleged disclosure and recovery of the deceased's mobile phone and gold earrings highly doubtful. One witness to the disclosure and recovery did not support the prosecution version, while another witness stated that the mobile phone was found near the dead body and the earrings were still worn by the deceased, thereby falsifying the prosecution claim that these articles were recovered at the instance of the accused.

The medical evidence also did not support the prosecution case, as no definite cause of death could be ascertained in the post-mortem report. The Bench held that crucial links in the chain of circumstances were missing and the prosecution failed to bridge the gap between suspicion and proof.

Referring to the settled principle that in an appeal against acquittal there is a double presumption in favour of the accused, the Court held that when two views are possible, the view favouring the accused must be adopted.

Accordingly, the High Court dismissed the State's appeal as devoid of merit and upheld the acquittal of Rakesh Singh. (JNF)

Wanted In...

party acted swiftly and tactfully, successfully apprehending her on the spot, he added.

During search, he said, contraband substance, apparently heroin-like in nature, was recovered from her possession. Upon sustained questioning, she identified herself as Shugata Akhter D/O Mohd Hussain Dar R/O Dargopora, Anantnag.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 130/2026 under Sections 82/1 of the NDPS Act has been registered at the concerned police station and investigation has been taken up.

police said that the arrested woman is a notorious and most-wanted drug peddler, already involved in multiple NDPS cases, and her arrest is being viewed as a major success in the ongoing drive against the drug menace in the district.

Dr Jitendra...

said sectors such as space, atomic energy, artificial intelligence and quantum technologies are now integral to defence preparedness. He said India has already achieved rapid progress in quantum-secure communication capabilities, which will play a critical role in future warfare systems.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said reforms in key sectors have opened new opportunities for industry participation, enabling faster innovation cycles and scaling of indigenous technologies. He added that government support through funding mechanisms and policy initiatives is creating a strong ecosystem for research, development and deployment.

Emphasising the importance of synergy, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the alignment of operational requirements of the Armed Forces with scientific research and industrial capability is essential for building a resilient and self-reliant defence ecosystem. He called for accelerated timelines from design to deployment, with focus on reliability, scalability and long-term sustainment.

The Minister also spoke about the evolving role of the Armed Forces, highlighting their critical contribution not only in national security but also in disaster response and humanitarian assistance, recalling recent instances where timely intervention saved lives.

The North Tech Symposium 2026, being held in Prayagraj from May 4 to 6, is themed "Raksha Triveni Sangam: Where Technology, Industry and Solidifying Convergence." The event is jointly organised by the Northern and Central Commands of the Indian Army in collaboration with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).

The symposium serves as a premier platform bringing together the Armed Forces, industry, academia and start-ups to develop mission-oriented indigenous solutions for evolving operational requirements. Key focus areas include artificial intelligence, unmanned systems, counter-drone technologies, robotics, cyber and electronic warfare, communication systems, mobility platforms and high-altitude operational support.

Over 280 industry partners are participating in the event, with 284 exhibition stalls showcasing cutting-edge defence technologies. The programme includes live demonstrations, structured interactions, and extensive stakeholder engagement through one-to-one meetings, conferences and technology showcases aimed at accelerating indigenous capability development.

The event was attended by senior Army commanders from Northern and Central Commands, senior officers of the Armed Forces, representatives of SIDM, leading industry stakeholders, scientists, academia and start-ups engaged in defence and advanced technology domains. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that India's pursuit of self-reliance in defence is rooted in technological sovereignty, with a focus on developing, owning and sustaining critical technologies within the country. He expressed confidence that collaborative efforts between the Armed Forces, industry and research institutions will accelerate India's emergence as a leading defence technology nation.

He said the outcomes of the North Tech Symposium will play a significant role in strengthening India's defence preparedness and advancing indigenous innovation for future battlefield requirements.

Mughal...

recovered from the site, officials said. They further said that search operations are still underway to locate the remaining missing individuals, and all efforts are being made to trace them at the earliest. Further details will be shared as the operation progresses, officials added.

EOW Kashmir...

Srinagar. He has been taken into custody for his alleged involvement in the health educator recruitment scam. The case originated following a communication from the Deputy Director Health Services Kashmir, which revealed that one Bashir Ahmad Sofi of Mazhama, Budgam, had fraudulently secured his appointment as a Health Educator by procuring forged transfer orders and a fabricated Last Pay Certificate.

Investigations uncovered that the accused had illegally entered government service at Block Sheeri, Baramulla, and subsequently drew salary, resulting in wrongful loss to the state exchequer.

Officials further stated that Shah Nawaz Ahmad Mir is involved in multiple similar cases, some of which are under investigation while others have already been charge-sheeted. Further investigation in the case is underway.

DC Kulgam visits JNV Mirhama, reviews construction progress

KULGAM, MAY 05: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam today visited Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) Mirhama and took stock of the ongoing construction works at the site. During the visit, the DC reviewed the physical progress of the project. It was informed that the total project cost is estimated at Rs 40.47 crore. The DC issued several directions to the concerned departments to ensure timely completion of the project. He instructed for the preparation of estimates for PHE and PDD connections and emphasized the need for a comprehensive DPR for additional development works at the campus. Stressing the importance of infrastructure resilience, the DC called for adequate flood protection measures to safeguard the campus. The DC also instructed to develop



proper road connectivity to the campus and completion of allied development works. He emphasized ensuring safety and security measures for labourers engaged at the site.

CM sends Minister, Advisor to demise of his son in Anantnag

ANANTNAG, MAY 05: On the directions of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Minister Javid Ahmed Dar and Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani today visited the residence of Director Finance Zahoor Ahmad Wani in Anantnag to offer condolences on the untimely demise of his son, Amaan Zahoor Wani. Amaan Zahoor Wani passed away in Delhi following a sudden cardiac arrest yesterday. The Minister and the Advisor were accompanied by MLA Gulmarg

Farooq Ahmad Shah and MLA Pahalgam Altaf Ahmad Wani. They visited the bereaved family at their residence in Akad, Anantnag, and conveyed heartfelt condolences to Zahoor Ahmad Wani on behalf of the Chief Minister and the entire government. Expressing deep sorrow over the tragic loss, they offered words of comfort to the grieving family and prayed for strength and forbearance in this hour of grief, as well as for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Department of Social Welfare Srinagar organizes Facilitation Camp

SRINAGAR, MAY 05: Department of Social Welfare Srinagar through its SANKALP - Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), organized a facilitation camp at Dargopora, Srinagar today. The initiative aimed to extend welfare services and create awareness among the local population about various government schemes. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from residents, with officials from SANKALP-HEW Srinagar providing on-the-spot assistance and guidance on a wide range of social welfare schemes. Beneficiaries were informed about eligibility



criteria, required documentation, and application procedures for pensions, scholarships, financial aid, and other social security initiatives and nearly 50 beneficiaries were onspot linked to various schemes. A special emphasis was placed on reaching margin-



Bhalla flags civic crisis, urges immediate redressal at JKPCJ Jammu Urban Meet

JAMMU, MAY 5: The Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCJ) District Jammu Urban on Tuesday held its monthly meeting under the leadership of District President Yogesh Sawhney, with the proceedings presided over by Working President and former Minister Raman Bhalla.

The meeting witnessed participation from senior leaders including former Minister G M Saroori, Satish Sharma, Pawan Dev Singh, Surinder Kumar, Rajesh Sharma, Sohni Sharma, Sandeep Dogra, R P Magotra, Rakesh Sharma, Lataish Sharma, H S Bagai, Ram Magotra, Gurmeet Singh, Prem Sharma, Vinod Pandita, Vinod Sawhney, Michael Wazir, Ashok Sharma, Rishu Kumar, Vijay Malhotra, Sonu Dogra, Parveen Singh, Surinder Sharma, Nasir Masih, Parveen Basotra, and Rajinder Singh. The meeting focused on pressing public concerns and organizational preparedness ahead of forthcoming local body elections. Addressing the gathering, Raman



Bhalla launched a scathing attack on the administration for its failure to address basic civic issues affecting the common people. He highlighted the growing public distress due to irregular water supply, unshed power cuts, and deteriorating infrastructure across urban and peripheral areas of Jammu. He stated that residents are facing immense hardships due to damaged roads, poor drainage systems, and lack of proper sanitation, which reflect administrative apathy and lack of accountability. Raman Bhalla further expressed

serious concern over rising unemployment among youth, stating that the absence of concrete job opportunities and delayed recruitment processes have pushed many into frustration and uncertainty. He pointed out that inflation and the rising cost of living have added to the burden of common households, making survival increasingly difficult for economically weaker sections. He emphasized that every section of society, including daily wage earners, traders, employees, and students, is grappling with multiple challenges due to policy

failures and lack of effective governance. Continuing his address, Raman Bhalla said that the Congress party remains committed to raising the voice of the people and holding the government accountable. He stressed the need for immediate corrective measures to ensure regular supply of essential services such as drinking water and electricity, improvement in civic amenities, and implementation of employment-generating initiatives.

He urged the J&K Government to act promptly and responsibly to mitigate the sufferings of the people and restore public confidence. Highlighting seasonal concerns, Raman Bhalla also urged the government to gear up its preparations well in advance of the upcoming monsoon season to avoid any untoward incidents. He emphasized the urgent need to strengthen and clean the drainage system, prevent water logging in vulnerable areas, and ensure proper disaster preparedness to safeguard lives and property.

BTSM Celebrates 28th Foundation Day Reaffirms Commitment to Tibetan Cause



JAMMU, MAY 5: Bharti Tibet Sahyog Manch (BTSM) celebrated its 28th Foundation Day in Jammu today. On this occasion, BTSM activists cut a cake and pledged to work wholeheartedly for the organization's cause. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Vivek Sharma, State President of BTSM (Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh), said that when the forum was established in Dharamshala on May 5, 1999, the idea of Tibet's independence seemed

unimaginable. At that time, even speaking about Tibet's independence appeared impossible. However, today, he expressed pride in stating that the demand for Tibet's independence has spread worldwide, originating from Dharamshala. He added that the issue of Tibet is now being heard across the globe, and Bharti Tibet Sahyog Manch has played a significant role in raising this awareness. He further stated that the

journey of 28 years is, in itself, a remarkable achievement. He emphasized that members of the forum should understand that Tibet was never a part of China, and China has never been a natural friend of India. He also outlined BTSM's plans to further spread awareness about Tibet and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to the Tibetan cause. In conclusion, he reiterated that Tibet was once an independent country and has never been a part of China. He expressed confidence that a day will come when Tibet and Kalash Mansarovar will be liberated through the efforts of Bharti Tibet Sahyog Manch, which will also strengthen India's security. Mr. Rajinder Sadotra, General Secretary, stated that BTSM's 28-year journey has been highly positive.

Communist collapse reflects shift towards Development and Unity: Dr. Pardeep

JAMMU, MAY 5: India is steadily liberating itself from the divisive and outdated politics propagated by Communist parties and opportunistic opposition forces that thrived for decades on social fragmentation, class conflict, regional divisions, and appeasement politics, stated J&K BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra. Dr. Pardeep said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is moving decisively towards becoming a strong, united, and globally respected power, while opposition parties like Congress and those driven by communist ideology continue to act as obstacles to national growth, stability, and progress. Referring to the recent Assembly election results, Dr. Pardeep termed the defeat of the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala as a "historic political turning point" in independent India. He said that with the fall of the last communist government in the country, India has entered a new era where the people have overwhelmingly rejected politics based on division, ideological rigidity, and

anti-development narratives. "Kerala had made global headlines in 1957 for electing the world's first democratically elected communist government. Today, the people of the same state have decisively rejected communist rule, exposing the failure of their outdated model and anti-growth governance," he said. Dr. Pardeep asserted that the decline of communist parties has been caused by rampant corruption, economic stagnation, rising public debt, unemployment, industrial backwardness, and governance failures masked behind hollow slogans and ideological propaganda. He said that the people of India now seek development, employment, infrastructure, investment, national pride, and social harmony rather than conflict-oriented politics. Highlighting the BJP's growing footprint across the country, Dr. Pardeep pointed to the party's remarkable success in Assam and West Bengal and the NDA's strong performance in Puducherry as clear indicators that the nation is rallying behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi's agenda of development.

Cleanliness Is a Public Movement and the Moral Duty of Every Citizen: Brahm Jyot Satti

Jammu | May 5, 2026
Cleanliness drive was successfully organised by the OBC Morcha Sunderbani team at Ward No. 03 and Ward No. 04, Sunderbani, with the objective of spreading awareness regarding sanitation, hygiene, and community participation in maintaining a clean environment. The programme was organised by Sham Mehra, State General Secretary, OBC Morcha, who emphasised the importance of public cooperation in achieving the vision of a clean and healthy society. Several prominent leaders and dignitaries remained present on the occasion, including Senior BJP leader Capt Ramesh, State General Secretary OBC Morcha Sham Mehra, Mandal Pardiyan Sunderbani Sukhdev Singh Jaisalwal, District Incharge Senior Citizen Cell Pushpinder



Chadha, State Executive Member Chand Mehra, Senior BJP leader Rakesh Sharma, Mandal General Secretaries Parshotam Gupta and Joginder Paul Sharma, Mandal Vice President Chanan Lal Sharma, Mandal Vice President Anu Radha Gupta along with the dedicated Safai Karamcharis of Municipality

Sunderbani. In his message Brahm Jyot satti, President BJP obe morcha jammu kashmir stated that cleanliness is directly linked with health, discipline, and social responsibility. He said that every citizen must actively participate in keeping their surroundings neat and clean, as a clean environment

ensures a healthier and more progressive society. He further said, Cleanliness is not only the responsibility of the government, but a public movement and the moral duty of every citizen. He urged people to adopt cleanliness as a daily habit and inspire others to contribute towards making towns, villages, streets, and public places cleaner and greener. The leaders present also appreciated the efforts of municipal workers and volunteers who participated enthusiastically in the drive. They stressed that such initiatives help strengthen public awareness and encourage collective responsibility among citizens. The programme concluded with a pledge by all participants to continue working for cleanliness, sanitation, and environmental awareness in the Sunderbani area.

Kesri holds anti-drug awareness meeting in Arnia, Mothers lead community pledge

JAMMU, MAY 5: Members of Shiv Sena Hindustan organized a large awareness meeting in Marhoul village of Block Arnia, with a special focus on involving mothers, sisters, and the younger generation in the fight against drug abuse.



The meeting witnessed active participation from women, who played a crucial role in the proceedings. Several mothers assured the organizers that they would remain vigilant about their children's activities and immediately report any instance of drug use, sale of narcotics, or illicit liquor in the village. They pledged to inform either Shiv Sena Hindustan members or the local Panchayat representatives if any such activity comes to their notice. The participants appreciated the ongoing anti-drug awareness cam-

paign being carried out by the organization at the grassroots level. Addressing the gathering, Rajesh Kesri, President of Shiv Sena Hindustan, Jammu & Kashmir, expressed gratitude to the women and youth for extending their support to the campaign. He emphasized that community participation is key to eliminating

the drug menace from society. Kesri also urged the gathering to actively support the ongoing 100-day anti-drug campaign launched under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. He called upon mothers and youth to work in close coordination with the police and administration to ensure that the younger generation is protected

from the harmful effects of drugs. He further stressed that collective efforts at the community level can effectively curb the spread of drugs and send a strong message against anti-social elements attempting to harm society. The meeting concluded with a strong resolve to continue the anti-drug movement and safeguard the future of the youth.

Prominent members present on the occasion include Border President Sanjeev Sharma, Deputy Chairman Balbir Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Vice Chairman Rajkumar, Prem Kumar, Dheeraj Kumar, Arnia President Balwant Fauji, Rajkumar, Sonu, and several women participants including Darshana Devi, Geeta Devi, Neeru Devi, Proja Devi, Sidesh Devi, and others who actively supported the initiative.

Young Climbers Showcase Talent at Mass Sport Climbing Competition

JAMMU, MAY 5: As part of its continued efforts to identify and nurture grassroots talent and to prepare Jammu & Kashmir's team for this year's Asian Kids Sport Climbing Competition, Tawi Trekkers J&K, in collaboration with Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantalaab, organized the first in a series of mass sport climbing competitions for children. The event was held at the Tenzing Norgay Sport Climbing Wall located within the school campus. The inaugural competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 380 students, including both boys and girls, representing various schools from across Jammu. Apart from the host institution, partici-



pants came from St. Xavier Convent Senior Secondary School, Bantalaab; Shiksha Niketan Secondary School, Gandhi Nagar; JK Montessori Higher Secondary School, Talab Tillo; SOS Hermann Gmeiner School, Gole Gajral; Shangrila Public School, Sarwal; Stephens International Public School, Miran Sahib; Elite Public High School, Udhewyala; Shastri Memorial Higher Secondary School, Patoli; Shri Ram Universal School, Jakh, Samba, among others. The competition was inaugurated by Rahul Sharma, Chairman of Sprawling Buds ICSE School and Patron of Tawi Trekkers J&K. He was joined by Sumit Khajuria, President; Shawetika Khajuria, Working President; Atri Sharma, Senior Vice President; Sonam Sidharth, General Secretary.

MLA Arvind inaugurates community hall slab, lane & drain works in Ward 33

JAMMU, MAY 5: MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta continued his focus on grassroots development by inaugurating key civic projects in Ward No. 33, Jammu West, aimed at improving infrastructure and public convenience. MLA Arvind inaugurated the newly constructed slab of a community hall near Lakshmi Narayans Mandir, completed at a cost of Rs 30 lakh. Highlighting its importance, Arvind Gupta said the facility will provide a dedicated space for social and community activities, ensuring convenience and dignity for local residents. Demonstrating his commitment to addressing everyday civic issues,



Arvind Gupta also inaugurated the newly developed lane and drain in the area. He emphasized that such projects are essential for improving sanitation, connectivity, and overall living standards. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "Development of every ward in Jammu West is my priority. We are working continuously to ensure that basic amenities reach

every household and that people experience real change on the ground." Reiterating his vision, Arvind Gupta added that sustained infrastructure development and public welfare initiatives will remain at the core of his efforts. "My aim is to transform Jammu West through planned and need-based development," he stated.

BJP reviews arrangements for District Training Camps under Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan 2026

JAMMU, MAY 5: J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma chaired an important meeting at planning meeting and party headquarters for the upcoming District Training Camps in the Jammu region under the "Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan 2026". The meeting was attended by J&K BJP Vice-President Bharat Bhushan, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Baldev Singh Billawaria, Training Department Convener Dr. Parnesh Mahajan, along with department members Dr. Himja Mengi, Anil



Bhagat, Sohan Gupta, Ramesh Gupta, and Magan Grover. Sat Sharma, while addressing the meeting, emphasized that the training camps must be conducted in a highly organized and disciplined manner with foolproof arrangements at every level. He

said that the party's training programmes are crucial for strengthening the organizational structure and ideologically empowering the cadre. He stressed that every party activist should take these camps seriously and ensure active participation. Sat Sharma said that the

party's vision and policies. Sanjita Dogra elaborated on the necessity of systematic planning and proper arrangements for the successful conduct of the camps. She said that well-managed training sessions create a productive atmosphere for learning and interaction, enabling workers to become more effective at the grassroots level. Baldev Singh Billawaria urged the attendees to work collectively and ensure timely completion of all preparations related to accommodation, logistics, session management, and coordination.

SCERT J&K organises online orientation on AI-enabled features and PAL courses on DIKSHA

JAMMU, MAY 5: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) Jammu & Kashmir, Divisional Office Jammu, in collaboration with CIEF-NCERT, on Tuesday organised an online orientation programme on AI-enabled features and Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) courses on DIKSHA. The orientation programme aimed to build the capacity of DIET faculty, who will further lead district-level orientations to promote effective utilisation of DIKSHA among teachers, school heads and students. The event was held under the leadership of Dr. Naseem Javid Chowdhary Director School Education Jammu and Director SCERT J&K and under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, SCERT Jammu Division. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from all 20 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) of the Union Territory

along with teams from both SCERT Divisional Offices, reflecting a strong collective commitment towards strengthening technology-integrated education. The session commenced with a welcome address by DIKSHA Coordinator SCERT Jammu Vivek Jandial, who outlined the objectives of the programme and emphasised the need to enhance the effective utilisation of DIKSHA across the Union Territory. In her address, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor described the initiative as a timely and forward-looking step towards embedding emerging technologies in education. She highlighted DIKSHA as a transformative platform aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, promoting competency-based and learner-centric pedagogy through AI-enabled tools and PAL courses. She urged the DIETs and other stakeholders to adopt a proactive and outcome-driven approach for effective dissemination and implementation.

DC Poonch reviews preparations for Census 2027

Self-Enumeration from May 17-25, 2027; Emphasis on awareness, coordination

POONCH, MAY 5: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, who is also the District Principal Census Officer for Census 2027, today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness for the smooth conduct of Census 2027 in the district. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; Assistant Commissioner Development; Shaheel Ahmed; District Statistics and Evaluation Officer (DSEO) Javed Ahmed; District Informatics Officer Parvinder Singh; Tehsildar Azhar Majid; Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafeez; AD statistical and other concerned officers and officials. The meeting was informed that the Self-Enumeration phase shall be



conducted from May 17 to May 31, 2026. The citizens can complete their online on the official portal (<https://se.census.gov.in/>). The DC asked officials to encourage residents to actively participate

and ensure timely submission of their details through the self-enumeration facility. To ensure maximum outreach, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Education Department to educate

students about the importance of census at morning assemblies and encourage them to motivate their families to complete the self-enumeration process within the stipulated timeframe. Further, the Deputy Commissioner instructed Tehsilدارs and concerned officials to ensure that all preparatory activities are completed well in time, facilitating a seamless and efficient census process. It was also informed that the House Listing and Housing Census (Phase-I) shall be conducted from June 1 to June 30, 2026. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized on close coordination among all departments to ensure the successful conduct of house listing & Housing (HLO) Census 2027 Phase-I in the district.

Jasrotia hails BJP's electoral wave, calls it reinforcement of "politics of performance" and democratic mandate

JASROTA, MAY 5: BJP MLA from Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia on Tuesday hailed the Bharatiya Janata Party's strong performance in the recent assembly elections across multiple states, describing it as a "clear and emphatic victory of truth, good governance, and the unwavering trust of the people in leadership."



where coordination between the Centre and States has accelerated infrastructure development, welfare delivery, and administrative efficiency. Rajiv Jasrotia emphasized that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has witnessed transformative progress in key sectors such as road and rail infrastructure, digital governance, rural development, women empowerment, and national security. He said the vision of a

"Developed India by 2047" is not just a slogan but a structured roadmap being implemented through sustained policy reforms and inclusive growth. He further stated that the election results send a strong message ahead of forthcoming electoral exercises, including Panchayat and Urban Local Body elections in various states and Union Territories. According to him, the growing public support for performance-based politics will significantly

influence voter sentiment at the grassroots level, where people are increasingly prioritizing development, accountability, and service delivery over traditional political narratives. Rajiv Jasrotia added that the mandate reflects a clear democratic choice made by the electorate, reinforcing the strength and maturity of India's democratic system. He said that Indian democracy continues to thrive because voters are actively shaping governance outcomes based on performance, transparency, and long-term national interest.

He also remarked that the results indicate a decisive rejection of divisive and appeasement-driven politics, with citizens choosing unity, stability, and development-oriented leadership. He stressed that democracy in India belongs equally to all citizens, regardless of caste, creed, or religion, and is anchored in constitutional values and national integration.

Ritika hails BJP's "Historic Breakthrough" across states, credits leadership for expanding footprint

JAMMU, MAY 5: Bebi Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) J&K UT Convenor Ritika Trehan on Tuesday hailed the Bharatiya Janata Party's strong performance in the recent assembly elections across multiple states, describing it as a reflection of growing public trust in leadership, welfare schemes, and inclusive growth.

She further remarked that the elections also reflect a broader cultural consciousness among voters, with greater emphasis on national identity, tradi-

tional values, and social cohesion. According to her, this alignment between public sentiment and governance priorities has played an important role in shaping the mandate.

She said the electoral outcomes in West Bengal, Assam, and Puducherry, along with the party's emerging presence in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, demonstrate a widening acceptance of its development agenda and organizational strength. She added that the results indicate a clear mandate in favour of stability, welfare-oriented governance, and long-term vision. Crediting the top leadership for the performance,

Ritika Trehan said that consistent public outreach, policy continuity, and focus on grassroots development have strengthened the party's connect with voters. She stated that people across states have responded to governance models that prioritize infrastructure, welfare schemes, and inclusive growth. She said such programmes continue to strengthen social development and encourage wider participation of women in public life.

Rekha Mahajan chairs BJP organisational meeting in Samba, calls for stronger grassroots connect

SAMBA, MAY 5: Rekha Mahajan, Vice President, J&K BJP and Prabhari District Samba chaired a comprehensive organisational meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Samba, laying strong emphasis on strengthening structured functioning, and effective grassroots outreach.



The meeting was attended by District President Samba Asha Rani, State Secretary Arun Sharma, District Prabhari Mamohan Singh, District General Secretaries Amit Dubey and Rakesh Sambyal.

along with members of the district team and Mandal Presidents. In her address, Rekha Mahajan underlined that the strength of the party lies in its well-organised booth-level structure. She

directed party leaders to ensure regular and result-oriented monthly meetings at District, Mandal, and Shakti Kendra levels, stressing that consistent engagement with booth workers is essential for

maintaining organisational vibrancy and public connect. She further highlighted the importance of the upcoming District Prashikshan Varg organised at Sumb, at the

sacred Dev Sthan of Baba Brahm Dev Ji Shrine. She stated that such training camps play a vital role in enhancing the ideological clarity, leadership skills, and organisational efficiency of party workers, enabling them to effectively communicate government policies and party's ideology among the masses. Rekha Mahajan also reviewed ongoing organisational activities and sought detailed feedback from district and mandal-level leaders regarding public outreach programmes, booth management, and coordination

mechanisms. She instructed all office bearers to strengthen communication channels within the organisation and ensure timely implementation of party directives. Detailed discussions were also held on strengthening booth committees, expanding outreach initiatives, and ensuring the successful conduct of the upcoming training programme. The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to further intensify organisational efforts and ensure a robust and active party structure across Samba district.

BSP organizes monthly review meeting

JAMMU, MAY 5: With the objective of infusing new energy into party workers and discussing upcoming programs, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) organized a monthly review meeting on Tuesday at its party office located in Satwari. Presided over by the BSP JKUT President, Darshan Rana, the meeting was attended by the BSP Central Coordinator and JKUT In-charge, Randhir Singh Beniwal, and Daya Chand, who served as the chief guests. Additionally, BSP Central State Coordinator Pratap Singh was Guest of honour. Earlier, upon their arrival at the venue, the three senior party leaders were accorded a rousing welcome by other party functionaries. Addressing the meeting on this occasion, BSP Central Coordinator and In-charge Randhir Singh Beniwal stated that the Assembly elections scheduled for 2029. He emphasized that, prior to achieving this, party workers and leaders must engage in rigorous hard work. He further remarked that, throughout the history of Jammu & Kashmir, every government that has held power to date has worked to divide the people along religious and regional lines, while failing to even initiate a dialogue regarding issues directly affecting the populace. He asserted that the people of Jammu & Kashmir now view the BSP as a



the Assembly elections scheduled for 2029. He emphasized that, prior to achieving this, party workers and leaders must engage in rigorous hard work. He further remarked that, throughout the history of Jammu & Kashmir, every government that has held power to date has worked to divide the people along religious and regional lines, while failing to even initiate a dialogue regarding issues directly affecting the populace. He asserted that the people of Jammu & Kashmir now view the BSP as a

Central State Coordinator Pratap Singh shared their views, emphasizing that the role of a party worker is pivotal to any organization, as it is through their efforts that a party can effectively disseminate its policies to the common people. They urged the party workers to move forward with renewed vigor and to take the party's policies to every section of the masses. On this occasion, Darshan Rana, the JKUT President of the Bahujan Samaj Party, spoke regarding the activities being conducted by the party in the region. He stated that the party is continuously organizing review meetings at every Assembly constituency, sector, and booth level. Furthermore, directives are being issued to party workers to form new committees while simultaneously bringing forward veteran workers to seek their suggestions. Present at the meeting, alongside other party members, were the party's Zonal In-charge and Vice President Charanjit Chagotra, Udhampur Zonal In-charge.

Vibrant scenes in Chatroo as MSCBMC Trust's 'Jashan-e-Bahar' art workshop enters day 2

KISHITWAR, MAY 5: The ongoing National Art Workshop "Jashan-e-Bahar," organised by the Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust (MSCBMC Trust) in collaboration with 11 Rashtriya Rifles at TRC Chatroo, entered its second day with vibrant participation and creative expression. Day 2 of the workshop witnessed enthusiastic involvement of students, who actively participated in a unique outdoor activity by painting rocks along the roadside, transforming the area into a colourful artistic stretch. The initiative not only showcased their creativity but also added aesthetic value to the surroundings. Renowned national-level artists including Shalender Singh (Delhi), Aditya Shankar Prasad (Noida), P.



Devaraj (Tamil Nadu), Sharmila Sharma (Delhi), Govind Vishwas (Gujarat), and Apurba Karati (Amtala, West Bengal) guided the participants, encouraging them to experiment with colours and themes reflecting nature, culture, and harmony. Personnel from 11 Rashtriya Rifles also joined the event, encouraging students and contributing to the spirit of collaboration between the armed forces and civil society. President of MSCBMC

Trust, Anuradha Rishi, appreciated the active participation of students and highlighted the importance of such creative engagements. She said the workshop continues to serve as a platform for nurturing young talent and promoting cultural expression. The multi-day workshop, themed "With Colours," is witnessing growing enthusiasm with each passing day, bringing together students, artists, and the local community in a celebration of art, creativity.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Tender
 Sr. DEPT/PR/BL/SH acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites tenders against Tender No. 2025-26/50A. Bidders will be able to access the original / scanned bids upto closing date 20.05.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall not be considered. Bidders are advised to make payments against the tender towards cost of tender documents and earnest money only through online payment modes available on NEFT/PS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Demand receipts, FDRs etc. are not allowed.
 Tender No.: 2025-26/50A
 Name of work: Checking of CO-CD High adhesion logs of 3 wheel locomotives of EL S01/4 for a period of 03 years.
 Age: Cost: Rs. 2,74,00,000/-
 Cost of tender form: Rs. 2
 Date & time of submission of tender: 10.05.2026, 10:00 Hrs.
 Earnest Money: Rs. 2,49,000/-
 Completion period: 24 months.
 Opening of tender: 20.05.2026 at or after 15:00 Hrs.
 Website Particulars: www.nips.gov.in
 No: 230/Exec/HR/1/AM/CD-CD/2025/3325/26/50A. Date: 05.05.2026 14:05:20/26



NIT Srinagar hosts lecture on Raman Spectroscopy

Srinagar, May 05: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday organized a high-profile invited lecture on "Raman Spectroscopy: Transforming Research Across Scientific Fields." The event was conducted as part of the outreach activity of the Indian National Young Academy of Science (INYAS), in collaboration with the University of Kashmir and IIT Jammu. The lecture was delivered by the distinguished scientist Prof. Chandrabhas Narayan, from the Chemistry and Physics of Materials Unit at the Jawaharlar Nehru Center for Advanced Scientific Research (INCASR). The event was attended by senior faculty members, including Prof. Prince A. Ganai, Head, Department of Physics;



Prof. Kowsar Majid, Head, Department of Chemistry; Prof. Mohd Iqam; Dr. Vijay Kumar, along with other faculty members, researchers, and students. Prof. Narayan, a renowned expert in the field, delivered a comprehensive lecture on the fundamental principles of Raman Spectroscopy and its evolution into a cornerstone of modern scientific research. During the technical session, he offered deep insights into how Raman

Spectroscopy bridges physics, chemistry, and biology, emphasizing its pivotal role in materials science, particularly in understanding molecular vibrations and nanoscale structural properties. He began by explaining the interaction of light with matter through processes such as transmission, reflection, absorption, and luminescence. Prof. Narayan further distinguished between elastic (Rayleigh) scattering and

the rare phenomenon of inelastic scattering, which produces the characteristic "Red Shift" (Stokes) and "Blue Shift" (Anti-Stokes) discoveries that led Sir CV Raman to receive the Nobel Prize. He also recounted the historic experiment in which Raman used a simple prism and sunlight to capture the first photographic evidence of this scattering phenomenon. A major part of the lecture focused on Raman Spectroscopy as a "molecular fingerprint," enabling the precise identification of chemical structures through molecular vibrations such as asymmetric stretching and symmetric bending. Prof. Narayan also highlighted the significance of analyzing peak shifts to evaluate internal stress and strain in materials, along with the impor-

ance of spatial resolution and penetration depth in advanced imaging applications. The discussion was further extended to advanced characterization techniques, particularly Angle-Resolved Photoemission Spectroscopy (ARPES). He explained how ARPES allows scientists to directly observe the electronic structure of solids by mapping the energy and momentum of electrons, making it a powerful tool for studying complex materials and phenomena such as the Quantum Hall Effect. He emphasized that such spectroscopic techniques are fundamental to modern condensed matter physics. Earlier, the coordinator of the event, Dr. Vijay Kumar, welcomed the Chief Guest and stated that such lectures

AA&M takes custody of Rare Artifacts recovered from Lolab Kupwara

SRINAGAR, MAY 05: A team of the Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums (AA&M), J&K led by Dr. Javed Ahmad Mantoo, Surveyor Cum Excavation Assistant of the Department has taken over the possession of the recovered artifacts from the SDM Lolab in presence of Tehsildar Lolab and Police officials for their detailed examination, preservation, identification as per established procedures. District Administration Kupwara recently reported the recovery of rare Artifacts which includes a stone sculpture stela, from the bed of the local nullah in village Meer at Kharhama in Lolab District Kupwara and a stone slab with rare tubular impressions. Preliminary observations suggest that the sculpted



stone may represent a memorial Stela, tentatively attributable to the late medieval period (circa 12th-14th centuries CE), and bearing features consistent with regional folk artistic traditions. Traces of possible Sharada script inscriptions have also been noticed; however, their reading and authentication are presently under examination. In addition, a stone slab displaying tubular impressions has been reported, which may be of

paleontological interest. Initial assessment indicates the possibility of these being traces, fossils associated with the geological formations of the Lolab Valley. Their precise identification and scientific evaluation are also under process. The Department extends its gratitude and appreciation to the District Administration Kupwara and District Police Kupwara for their cooperation, facilitation, and coordination.

GCOE Srinagar announces Admissions for FYUG Honours in Education

SRINAGAR, MAY 05: Government College of Education Srinagar, functioning under Cluster University Srinagar, has announced admissions to its four-year undergraduate programme (FYUG Honours in Education) for the academic session 2026-27. According to an official notification, candidates who have completed their 10+2 from recognized boards, including JKBOSE and CBSE, are eligible to apply. Admissions will be granted strictly on a merit basis, determined by Class 12 examination marks. The registration process will be conducted through the centralized admission portal: <https://jkadmissions.in> from May 9 to May 27, 2026. Applicants have been advised to select

Government College of Education, M.A. Road, Srinagar as their top preference while filling out the online form. The FYUG programme offers Education as the major subject, with minors available in Psychology, Geography, English, and History. Notably, the college claims to be the only institution in Srinagar offering the FYUG Honours programme in Education with both research and non-research tracks. In addition to the FYUG Honours programme, the institution offers a range of courses including PG Diploma in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECE), B.Ed., M.Ed., Integrated B.Ed.-M.Ed., M.A. Education, and Ph.D. in Education, and the

Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP), comprising B.Sc. B.Ed. and B.A. B.Ed. To assist applicants, the college has set up a Counselling and Facilitation Centre on campus. Aspirants are encouraged to seek guidance for form submission and preference filling to avoid errors during the application process. Applicants are required to upload scanned copies of essential documents, including Class 10 and 12 mark sheets, a recent passport-size photograph, Aadhaar card, domicile certificate (if available), and category certificate (if applicable). For further assistance, candidates may contact the helpline numbers: +91 7006599228; +91 7006178850.

Awareness programme under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan held at GBHS Hathbura

GANDERBAL, MAY 05: An awareness programme under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) was today organised at Government Boys High School Hathbura by Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Ganderbal, Department of Social Welfare, in collaboration with REACHA (Research and Extension Association for Conservation of Horticulture and Agro Forestry) and the Department of Education. The programme witnessed active participation from students and staff, and featured a series of well-structured activities



aimed at maximizing outreach and impact. The event commenced with an interactive awareness session, wherein students were sensitized about

the ill effects of substance abuse, its adverse social and health consequences, and the importance of making informed and responsible life choices. An awareness rally was also organized, marked by enthusiastic participation of students and staff, who carried placards and raised slogans advocating for a drug-free society. The rally served as an effective medium to disseminate the message of Nasha Mukta Bharat among the local community, fostering a sense of collective responsibility. Adding an environ-

HKM GDC Bandipora organises Awareness Rallies under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan

BANDIPORA, MAY 05: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan, HKM Degree College Bandipora on Tuesday organized a series of awareness rallies aimed at promoting a drug-free society and spreading awareness on road safety among the general public. The programmes were conducted under the guidance of the Principal, Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra. The NSS Units in collaboration with the NCORD Cell, and the Road Safety Club of the college organised separate rallies involving active participation of students and faculty members. Students carried banners and placards displaying messages against drug abuse, rash driving, and intoxicated driving, while advocating healthy and responsible lifestyles.



College coordinators for the 100-day campaign, Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Parey and Dr. Wasia Hamid, addressed the participants and interacted with shopkeepers, chemists, drivers, and commuters

during the rallies. They sensitised the public about the harmful effects of drug abuse, the importance of road safety, adherence to traffic rules, and the collective responsibility of society in curbing

substance abuse. The Road Safety Club rally, organised under the mentorship of Convener Dr. Mubashir Hamid Mir, also focused on discouraging negligent driving and promoting the use of safety gear. During the outreach, faculty members counselled pillion riders without helmets and distributed helmets to some riders as part of the awareness initiative. The programmes witnessed active cooperation from the District Police Department, which ensured the smooth conduct of the rallies. The events served as an effective outreach initiative, extending awareness beyond the college campus into the wider community and reinforcing the message that a united effort is essential to build a safe, healthy, and drug-free society.

DC Bandipora reviews proposals under Vibrant Village Programme-II

BANDIPORA, MAY 05: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District Level Screening Committee to review and finalize departmental proposals under the Vibrant Village Programme-II (VVP-II) for identified border villages in the district. During the meeting, various departments presented action plans for approval under VVP-II, focusing on infrastructure development, renewable energy, education, healthcare, disaster management, skill development, public utilities, and livelihood generation initiatives. Detailed discussions were held on proposals aimed at strengthening educational institutions, healthcare facilities, rural infrastructure,



power supply, water conservation, disaster preparedness, tourism promotion, and employment genera-

tion in the identified villages. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of practi-

cal, sustainable, and community-oriented project planning under the programme. She directed departments to ensure proper coverage, avoid duplication of works, and prioritize projects that directly benefit the local population while improving essential services in remote border areas. Emphasizing coordinated implementation, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the need for effective inter-departmental coordination to ensure smooth execution of approved works under VVP-II. The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora, officers from various line departments, and other concerned officials.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU, TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED
 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIVISION, PULWANA JAMMU
 CEN No. J-4630M/K-D/15/2026/08100

Tel No. : 8191-262693

e-NIT No: ED-16-NIT/19 of 2026-27 dated 04.05.2026

NOTIFICATION:

For and on behalf of the Executive Engineer of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer Electric Division-I, JPDCL, Pura Jammu, hereby invited as "Employer" service bids, which shall be opened on the date of the regional committee for "Bidding of Basic Contract for Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Sub Station, HT/LT Distribution Network and other allied works in various Sub Divisions of Electric Division-I Jammu (JPDCL) in Pura Jammu as well as Partial Tender. Bids for 19.05.2026 up to 04.05.2026 are invited."

- Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bids require the BIDD to be stored in hard form from all certified bidders and submission of the proposals, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.
- The tender document is available at website <http://www.jkpsc.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarifications and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

S. No.	Particulars	Date & Time
A	Tender Document Sub-Download Start Date	04.05.2026: 02:00 PM
B	Tender Document Sub-Download End Date	18.05.2026: 02:00 PM
C	e-Bid submission (start) date & time	04.05.2026: 10:00 AM
D	e-Bid submission (end) date & time	18.05.2026: 02:00 PM
E	Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Doc	18.05.2026: up to 04:00 PM
F	Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time	19.05.2026: 02:00 PM
G	Online Bidding e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders.
H	Years of opening of techno-commercial bids	5th Copy Electronically & Hard copy in the Office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division-I JPDCL, Pura Jammu.
I	Tender Veto	
J	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 1000 (Non-Refundable)
K	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 50000.00 (50% thousand only)

- The Bidders must submit the photocopy of e-bid document as stated in the above table through internet (GAT) from any Nationalized Schedule Bank designed for Executive Engineer Electric Division-I JPDCL, Pura Jammu, payable at Jammu. The original document shall be submitted in a separate envelope in the Office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division-I JPDCL, Pura Jammu and should reach at least one day before opening of commercial and technical e-bid. The scanned copy of the document must be submitted along with the e-bid.
- Bidders must quote for all the particulars of the work in the Technical Bid and also in a prior schedule (BIDD) of financial bid. The latest Bidders will not quote for all the particulars for any item in technical and financial bid shall be liable to be rejected at the discretion of the Employer keeping in view the interest of the JPDCL.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CD/BD/FFD/Third Cheque only from any Nationalized Schedule Bank along with proper Executive Engineer Electric Division-I JPDCL, Pura Jammu. The bid shall be payable in Earnest Money deposited with the Corporation.
- Hard Copy of original statement of EMD shall be submitted from the successful bidders after the opening of the financial e-bid.
- The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://www.jkpsc.gov.in>. This is intended to the technically qualified bidders conveniently through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bid shall be opened accordingly online on the same Web Site.

Sd/-
 (Dr. Rajesh Kaur)
 Executive Engineer
 JPDCL, Electric Division-I
 Pura Jammu

No. ED-16-NIT-19
 Dated: 04.05.2026

DIP/J-508-P/26

North in News

EDITORIAL

Tamil Nadu is a preview of the voter India is becoming

The Tamil Nadu Assembly election results have sent a new political message that every party across India will be forced to decode, because the verdict from a state that has long set ideological and electoral trends is not simply about who won or lost seats but about how voters redefined the terms of political competition. The outcome has unsettled established assumptions and opened space for fresh strategies, and while exit polls were sharply divided, with some forecasting a clear return for the DMK-led alliance, the actual result has gone beyond arithmetic to signal a deeper shift in Tamil Nadu's political culture, and the first message is that governance delivery cannot be taken for granted even in a state known for high human development indicators. The result shows that a party cannot rest on legacy or ideology alone when the electorate is younger, aspirational, and connected, and the second message is that the Dravidian duopoly that dominated Tamil Nadu for five decades is now genuinely contested. Vijay's entry brought in first time voters, urban youth, and a section of women who were looking for a face that felt apolitical yet empathetic, and his campaign focused on corruption, education, and dignity rather than traditional identity planks, and that resonated enough to deny a clean sweep to either major front, and this tells all parties that charisma plus a clear issue based pitch can create a third pole even in a state with deep party loyalties. The third message is aimed at the BJP and the Congress, because the national parties have once again learned that Tamil Nadu cannot be won with a Delhi driven template. The state's political vocabulary remains rooted in social justice, state autonomy, and Tamil identity, and the Congress discovered that alliance dependency without grassroots revival leaves it vulnerable, and the fourth message is for the AIADMK, because the verdict indicates that leadership crises, splits, and lack of a coherent narrative will be punished, and the party's inability to project a credible alternative to the DMK or to absorb the TVK surge cost it dearly. The cadre based structure that once made it formidable now needs ideological renewal and generational change. Every party headquarter from Delhi to Lucknow to Patna will now study the Tamil Nadu result not as a regional event but as a national play-book, because what happened in the 234 seats of Tamil Nadu is a preview of the voter India is becoming, and the parties that learn this message will survive and the ones that ignore it will be surprised again.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

Maritime chokepoints reshape security

BY UPASHA KUMARI

Recent developments highlight how maritime chokepoints remain critical to both geopolitical contestation and geo-economic stability. In the Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant share of global energy trade transits, U.S. President Donald Trump indicated that naval forces have been directed to respond to potential mine-laying activities by Iranian vessels. This follows the seizure of a tanker linked to Iranian oil shipments and reported incidents involving Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and commercial shipping. Taken together, these developments signal a calibrated escalation rather than an isolated episode, reinforcing the fragility of this maritime corridor.

The Strait of Hormuz is not just a maritime passage; it is a point where geographic realities underpin energy security and strategic signaling. Nearly a fifth of globally traded oil passes through this narrow waterway, making even limited disruptions disproportionately consequential. What is at play is not only the risk of closure, which remains unlikely given the costs to all actors, but the persistent possibility of managed instability. Low-intensity, deniable actions such as mine deployment, vessel harassment, or targeted seizures create uncertainty without crossing thresholds that would trigger full-scale

conflict. This "grey zone" dynamic allows states to exercise coercive leverage while retaining plausible deniability.

Such dynamics point to a broader structural condition. Contemporary maritime competition is increasingly defined not by decisive naval battles but by the ability to shape risk environments in critical corridors. Chokepoints like Hormuz function as strategic pressure valves, where even the perception of insecurity can influence insurance premiums, freight rates, and routing decisions. In this sense, disruption operates as much through market psychology as through physical interdiction. The result is a form of economic statecraft that weaponises uncertainty rather than outright blockade.

Beyond Hormuz, the Indian Ocean's wider chokepoint architecture reinforces this logic. The Strait of Malacca remains indispensable for East Asia's energy lifelines, while secondary routes such as the Mozambique Channel and the Lombok Strait offer limited redundancy at higher economic and logistical cost. This uneven geography creates asymmetries of vulnerability. States dependent on uninterrupted flows bear higher exposure, while those capable of threatening disruption gain strategic bargaining power. A shift is visible from sea control to what may be better understood as chokepoint-centric deterrence.

Here, influence is exercised through positional advantage, selective disruption, and the credible signaling of escalation potential. Control is rarely absolute; instead, it is contingent, episodic, and often indirect. The strategic objective is not domination of the commons in a classical Mahanian sense, but the ability to modulate access at critical nodes. For India, these evolving dynamics carry layered implications. Geographically central to the Indian Ocean Region, India is both a stakeholder in the stability of maritime flows and a potential security provider.

Its maritime vision, articulated through SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), must therefore move beyond presence-based diplomacy to capability-driven deterrence. This includes enhancing maritime domain awareness, investing in mine countermeasure capabilities, deepening interoperability with partner navies, and strengthening institutional mechanisms for cooperative security. Equally, it requires recognition that economic resilience, including diversification of energy routes and strategic reserves, is inseparable from maritime strategy. An additional layer of complexity lies in the growing entanglement between state and non-state actors, and the blurring of military and commercial domains.

The presence of paramilitary

forces, private shipping interests, and globally distributed supply chains means that chokepoint tensions are no longer confined to traditional state-to-state confrontation. Instead, they unfold across a hybrid battlespace where legal ambiguity, fragmented accountability, and asymmetric tactics prevail.

This complicates deterrence, as responses must be calibrated not only to avoid escalation but also to maintain the legitimacy of maritime norms such as freedom of navigation. In this environment, the challenge is not simply securing sea lanes, but governing risk in a domain where disruption is diffuse, attribution is contested, and the economic consequences are immediate and far-reaching. The developments in the Strait of Hormuz ultimately point to a larger conclusion. In an interconnected global order, chokepoints are not peripheral constraints but central theatres of geopolitical contestation. Their significance lies not only in their physical narrowness, but in their capacity to compress risk, amplify leverage, and transmit shocks across the international system. As great power competition intensifies, the governance of these narrow seas will increasingly define the stability of both regional security architectures and the global economic order.

A flawed system

S S SAXENA

India, proud of its dynamic democratic credentials, has over the years allowed a criminal justice system to develop that shields the accused far more than it supports victims or protects witnesses - an unfair imbalance left unchecked as reform proposals have consistently failed to see the light of day. The vibrancy of its elections, the scale of citizen participation, and the resilience of its democratic institutions are undeniable, yet these strengths have not translated into a justice framework that inspires equal confidence.

The imbalance remains stark: while the accused, especially the powerful, find protection in procedure and delay, victims and ordinary citizens are left waiting for fairness that often never arrives. The principle of presuming innocence was meant to safeguard liberty, but in India it has morphed into a shield for the powerful. Legislators with criminal records contest elections while trials drag on. Over 40 per cent of MPs face criminal cases, including murder, kidnapping and crimes against women. This is no aberration but a structural imbalance that corrodes faith in justice and turns lawmakers into lawbreakers. When those accused of grave crimes continue to legislate, the system itself stands accused of complicity.

The bail system illustrates this imbalance vividly. Bail is supposed to prevent arbitrary detention, but in reality it is a privilege of the rich and influential. High-profile controversies in recent years, including the cancellation of bail for Olympian Sushil Kumar in

2025, have shown how liberty can be misused to intimidate witnesses and obstruct justice. Yet countless political figures continue to exploit bail provisions, walking free while victims wait endlessly for closure. The poor, meanwhile, languish in jails as undertrials, unable to furnish sureties or navigate the complex procedures. The National Crime Records Bureau reported in 2025 that nearly three quarters of prisoners were undertrials, amounting to close to four lakh individuals. Many languish longer than the maximum sentence for their alleged offences.

Custodial deaths in Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh and Sultanpur jails in April 2026 underline the human cost of delay and neglect. Overcrowding in prisons has crossed 120 per cent occupancy, and nearly half of undertrials are aged between 18 and 30, showing how the young are disproportionately trapped in the system. The contrast between the liberty enjoyed by the powerful and the confinement suffered by the poor is stark and corrosive. Conviction rates remain dismal. While specialised agencies like the National Investigation Agency boast over 90 per cent conviction in terror cases, the overall conviction rate for ordinary crimes hovers around 20 to 25 per cent, far below global standards.

This means acquittals are the norm, not the exception, eroding public faith in justice. The Jessica Lal case, where a model was shot in front of 100 witnesses yet the accused initially walked free, exposed how money and muscle power can bend justice. Priyadarshini Mattoo's murder trial revealed

how faulty investigations forced a judge to acquit a man he believed guilty. The Best Bakery case showed how witnesses were coerced into silence. The Nithari case revealed how poor families begging for help were brushed aside by police, while the child of a corporate executive received immediate attention.

These cases are not relics of the past; they are symptoms of a system that continues to favour the accused over the victim. Each case demonstrates how the presumption of innocence, when stretched beyond reason, becomes a licence for impunity. The message to society is clear: if you have money, muscle, or political patronage, the law bends in your favour. Victims in India are reduced to mere pieces of evidence. Their suffering is ignored, their rights to reparation sidelined. Witnesses fare no better. They are threatened, bribed, or abandoned. In January 2026, the Supreme Court clarified that witness intimidation, under Section 398 BNSS, is a cognizable offence, allowing police to register FIRs directly. Yet statutory protection remains weak.

Witnesses continue to turn hostile, victims continue to be sidelined, and justice continues to be delayed. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, enacted in 2023, introduced provisions against false evidence and witness intimidation, even mandating electronic summons and digital recording of statements. But without enforcement, these remain cosmetic. The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam recognised electronic and digital records as primary evidence, reducing reliance

on oral testimony, but this has not translated into stronger protection for witnesses or faster trials.

The reality remains that witnesses are left vulnerable to threats, inducements, and coercion, and victims are left to fend for themselves in a system that treats them as incidental. In other democracies, witness protection is statutory and robust, with relocation programmes and anonymity provisions. India's failure to provide similar safeguards is a glaring omission. The investigative machinery remains deeply compromised, shaped more by political control than by professional standards. Police continue to be rude, poorly trained, and governed by the colonial Police Act of 1861, a statute designed to protect rulers rather than serve citizens, zealously preserved by successive governments.

Transfers are wielded as instruments of reward or punishment, ensuring that officers who toe the political line are promoted while those who act independently are sidelined. The Malimath Committee in 2000 sought stronger prosecution, victim rights, and modernised investigation, while the Padmanabhan Committee urged separation of policing from investigation and insulation from political interference. Yet their clear recommendations never resonated with the political establishment, and both reports have gathered dust for over two decades. This refusal to implement reform is deliberate, for politicians benefit from a police force that can be manipulated, investigations that can be stalled, and prosecutions that can be weakened.

DC Kathua hails active public participation in fight against Drugs

KATHUA, MAY 5: In a major push to the anti-drug campaign, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, today flagged off a massive awareness rally here from the Zila Sainik Welfare Office organised under the banner of 'Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan'. The rally witnessed overwhelming participation from officers, ex-servicemen, youth, students, members of civil society and prominent citizens, reflecting a united community resolve against the growing menace of drug abuse. The enthusiastic participants marched through the town carrying placards, banners and awareness messages, while raising powerful slogans advocating a healthy, disciplined and drug-free lifestyle. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the fight against drugs cannot be won by the administration alone and requires active cooperation from every section of society. He highlighted that awareness at the grassroots level, coupled with strong community participation, is the key to making the campaign truly effective and impactful. Calling upon the youth to stay away from drugs, he urged them to channel their energy towards education, sports, innovation and nation-building and become ambassadors of positive change in their communities. He also stressed the importance of family support, social vigilance and institutional coordination in ensuring the success of the 'Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan'. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the active involvement of ex-servicemen and civil society members, stating that such collective participation sends a strong and inspiring message across the district and strengthens the administration's efforts in creating a safe and healthy social environment. The rally concluded with

all participants taking a solemn pledge to work actively towards the vision of a 'Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir' and to contribute in every possible way towards eliminating the scourge of drug abuse from society. Among others, ADC Vishavjeet Singh; District Social Welfare Officer, Varun Choudhary; District Information Officer Kathua, Rajinder Kr. Diga; ZSWO Col (Retd) Jagmeet Singh besides officials from the Zila Sainik Welfare Office were present on the occasion. On the occasion, Dr. Poonam Mohod, Research Officer (RO), delivered an insightful lecture highlighting the importance of balanced nutrition during pregnancy, lactation, and early childhood. The session emphasised practical dietary practices, prevention of malnutrition, and the role of Ayurveda in promoting holistic well-being. In addition, an awareness

Promoting Nutrition and Health: Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu Organises Poshan Pakhwada Awareness Activities at Barnai Anganwadi Centre



JAMMU, MAY 5: As part of Poshan Pakhwada, the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu, under the guidance of the Institute in-charge, Dr. Harbas Singh, conducted an informative awareness programme at the Anganwadi Centre, Barnai, Baniatalab, focusing on maternal and child health and nutrition. On the occasion, Dr. Poonam Mohod, Research Officer (RO), delivered an insightful lecture highlighting the importance of balanced nutrition during pregnancy, lactation, and early childhood. The session emphasised practical dietary practices, prevention of malnutrition, and the role of Ayurveda in promoting holistic well-being. In addition, an awareness

lecture was also delivered at the ongoing 100-Day Campaign under the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, aiming to enhance community understanding about tuberculosis, its prevention, early detection, and management. To further strengthen community awareness, a KAP (Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices) study was also conducted among beneficiaries, Anganwadi workers, and health seekers attending Ayurveda clinical research facilities to assess and enhance their understanding of maternal and child health and nutrition. The programme witnessed active participation from beneficiaries and Anganwadi staff. IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials on maternal and child health and nutrition were distributed to disseminate key messages effectively among the community. The activity was supported by Dr. Sanjana Sharma (SRF), Dr. Shreya Saraf (SRF), and Dr. Shubam Singh Pathania (SRF), who contributed to organising the programme and interacting with the participants. The initiative reflects continued efforts towards creating awareness and fostering healthy practices among mothers and children in the community under the Poshan Pakhwada campaign.

COTPA Awareness Programme held at Doda to promote Tobacco-Free environment

DODA, MAY 5: An awareness programme on the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (COTPA) was organised today at Mini Secretariat, Durganagar-Doda. The programme was organised by LADC Advocate Tahir Hussain Dar and Advocate Abhi Kumar along with Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) Paramveer Manhas and Surjya Begum. The speakers educated participants about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and highlighted key provisions of the COTPA Act. They elaborated on the prohibition of smoking in public places, restrictions on the sale of tobacco products near educational institutions and penalties.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (I&FC) DIVISION BHADERWAH

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No.04 of 2026-27 dated 04-05-2026

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-Tender in single cover system i.e technical bid and financial bid are invited from registered vehicle owners/ firm for hiring of light passenger commercial vehicle (fuel type ISD/Petrol).

S/N	Particulars	Quantity	Unit	Amount of EMD in Rs.	eNIT tender fee	Rate per Month	Major Head of Account
1	Hiring of Light Motor Passenger Commercial Vehicle with J&K Registration on monthly basis for office use along with the Driver (must be available for 24x7) for the year 2026-27 (excluding fuel but including the day-to-day maintenance charges of the vehicle/tyre). Fuel:- ISD/Petrol Vehicle Type:- SUV Make:- Toyota Innova/ Mahindra Scorpio, equipped with hot and cold AC or equivalent. Model :- Not less than 2024.	01	Month	5000/-	Rs. 600/- Non-refundable	RTQ	2702-110 Handling & Transport, 4702- District Capex, 4702- 4711 UT Capex, and contingencies of various Heads.

Position of Finance/Budgetary Provision

Approval by CE I&FC Jammu vide No: IFC/JAW/21742-43 Dated 12.12.2025.

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, Bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of hiring and other details can be seen/downloaded from departmental website www.jstenders.gov.in

S/N	Particulars	Amount of EMD in Rs.	eNIT tender fee	Rate per Month	Major Head of Account
1	Publishing Date	04.05.2026	1600 Hours		
2	Download date start	04.05.2026	1600 Hours		
3	Bid submission date starts	04.05.2026	1600 Hours		
4	Bid submission date ends	15.05.2026	1600 Hours		
5	Bid Opening date	18.05.2026	1100 Hours		

1. Date of Publishing from 04-05-2026 4:00 PM.

2. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jstenders.gov.in> from 4:00 PM on 04-05-2026 to 16-05-2026 (04:00 PM).

3. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jstenders.gov.in> from 4:00 PM on 04-05-2026 to 16-05-2026 (05:00 PM). The bids received will be opened at 04-18-05-2026 11:00 AM.

a. The complete bidding process will be online.

b. The bidder has to upload the scanned copy of Registration of Vehicle, Driving License of Driver, Comprehensive Insurance of vehicle, Pollution Certificate, Permit of vehicle, PAN card, GST Registration/GST form 39 Latest, Affidavit regarding acceptance of terms and conditions and contact Details and the 11 bidder shall have to submit these documents in physical form in the office of the undersigned within 03 days positively after opening of the financial bid.

4. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jstenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

5. Bids must be accompanied by bid security (EMD), cost of tender document payable at Bhaderwah pledged in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (I&FC) Division Bhaderwah.

a. Financial bids will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (I&FC) Division Bhaderwah and the date of opening of financial bid shall be on the date of opening of the technical bid as specified or the next working day at the same time and venue.

6. No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or administrative duties in an Engineering department of the state Government is allowed to work as a contractor for the period of 02 years after his retirement from Government services without permission of the Government. This contract is

liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any office employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the contractor's service.

7. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents

8. Instructions to the bidders regarding e-tendering process

i. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology act - 2000 to participate in online bidding.

This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid. Bidders can get above mentioned Digital Certificate from any approved vendors. The bidders, who already possess valid DSC, need not to procure new DSC.

ii. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic form with digital signature. No proposal will be accepted in physical form.

iii. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule.

iv. Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copy of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid.

v. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.

vi. All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online.

ix. The detail of cost of document, EMD specified in the tendered document should be same, as submitted online (scanned copies) otherwise bid will not be accepted.

vii. Bidders can contact the undersigned for any assistance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.

viii. The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website <http://jstenders.gov.in>.

9. In order to qualify the bidder must upload:-

1. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of e-challan/ treasury receipt (amounting to Rs 600.00 MH 0702 Remittance of Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Bhaderwah

2. Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Bhaderwah.

3. Copy of registration certificate of Vehicle.

4. Permit of Vehicle.

5. Driving License of the Driver.

6. Copy of valid comprehensive insurance.

7. Copy of Pollution under control certificate.

8. PAN card

9. GST Registration certificate along with GST 3B of the last month (Latest).

10. Affidavit regarding acceptance of terms and conditions.

No - BID/eNIT/2026-27/

Dated: - 04.05.2026

DIP/J-1608/26

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (I&FC) Division
Bhaderwah

IN THE COURT OF NAIB TEHSILDAREXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS RAJGARH

Bashir Ahmed S/O Mohd Maqbool Resident Of Mangla Rajgarh Tehsil Rajgarh District Ramban.

Applicant

Versus

Through Block Development Officer Rajgarh.

Applicant

IN THE MATTER OF Application for seeking direction upon the non applicant to enter/register the birth particulars of the applicant in the Birth Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas the applicant named above has filled an applicant seeking direction to the Non Applicant to register the Date of Birth Particulars of children as mentioned.

Below in the concerned register: S/NO NAME ISHTIAQ AHMED FATHER NAME BASHIR AHMED MOTHER NAME SHARIFA BEGUM DATE OF BIRTH 04-08-2007

PLACE OF BIRTH At Home

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 file his/her objection in this office. Within seven days from the issuance of this notice falling which said application shall be dealt in accordance with law.

Issued under my hand and seal of this court today date 04/05/2026.

Executive Magistrate Class

Tehsildar Rajgarh

COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE, SAMBA

Present: Arvind Sharma

Jyoti Devi W/O Late Birbal Sharma, R/O Village Harshat, P/O Ghagwal, Tehsil Ghagwal, District Samba for herself as natural guardian of her minor children Mivaan Sharma S/O Late Birbal Sharma aged about 4 years and Yashana Sharma D/O Late Birbal Sharma aged about 9 years

...Petitioner

Versus

Kailasho Devi W/o Late Janak Raj R/O Village Ghagwal, Harshat, Tehsil Ghagwal, District Samba

.....Respondent

In the matter of: Petition for issuance of Succession Certificate in respect of the estate to the NOKs of Late Birbal Sharma S/O Janak Raj R/O Village Harshat P/O Ghagwal Tehsil Ghagwal District Samba-184141 (selection Grade Constable no. 499/IRP-17TH PID No. ARP-095681).

NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Whereas the above named petitioner has applied for issuance of Succession Certificate in favour of the petitioners in respect of Estate to the legal heirs of deceased Late Birbal Sharma S/O Janak Raj R/O Village Harshat P/O Ghagwal Tehsil Ghagwal District Samba-184141 (selection Grade Constable no. 499/irp-17TH PID No. ARP-095681) who was died on 07.11.2025. Through this publication, the public in general is informed that if any person/persons has/have any objection in appointment of petitioner as guardian of the above said minors, he/she shall file his/her objections personally or through any authorized agent in this Court on or before date fixed in the case, failing which appropriate orders shall be passed. -18/5/26 the next

Take note that if the next date fixed is declared holiday, the case shall be taken up on the next working day.

Given under my hand and seal of this court today the 05-05-2026 at Samba.

Sd/-
Additional District Judge,
SAMBA

NOTICE

L/Sham Lal Sharma, S/O Sh. Kalam R/o Jagna Talab, Rathian, Loundha, Udhampur.182101 have applied for the issuance of a contractor card (Dce) 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 from the publication of this notice , after which no objection will be entertained.

NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I, Karam Chand S/O Tej Ram, resident of Ghari, Tehsil Rajgarh, District Ramban, I am applying for the issuance of a new Govt./Contractor Card 'D' Class civil /Registration Certificate from the concerned department. If anyone has any objection regarding the issuance of the new contractor card, the same may be conveyed to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no claim/objective shall be entertained.

NOTICE

I, Sayeeda Begum, W/o Firdous Ali, R/o Kunfer Chanderkote, Tehsil & District Ramban, J&K - 182148, hereby inform the general public that I have applied for a civil DEE-Class Contractor Card. If anybody has any objection regarding this application, they may file their objection within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

NOTICE

I Savitri Devi W/O Sansar Singh R/O VPO mali Tehsil Billawar Distt. Kathua J&K 184204 Change my name to Samitan Devi . objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority with in 7 days, from the date of publication of this notice

NOTICE

I Mukhtar Ahmed S/o Sadar ali R/o Chachawah Tehsil Gool Distt Ramban have applied for correction of my name and Father name adhar card which has been wrongly written as Mukhtar Ahmed S/o Sadar ali and instead of correct name Mukhtar Ahmed S/O Sarder ali in my Aadhar card bearing No 4581 4625 9412 objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I Babu Ram S/O Isher dass R/O Chachawah Tehsil Gool Distt Ramban have applied for correction of my name and adhar card which has been wrongly written as Baabu ram instead of correct name Babu Ram in my Aadhar card bearing No 6506 4640 2566 objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I Sanjay Kumar S/o Kaka ram R/O Pernote Tehsil and Distt Ramban have applied for correction of my son namey adhar card which has been wrongly written as Ayush Rajput and instead of correct name Ayush Singh in my Aadhar card bearing No 2534 3684 5423 objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I Sanjay Kumar S/o Kaka ram R/O Pernote Tehsil and Distt Ramban have applied for correction of my son namey adhar card which has been wrongly written as Ayush Rajput and instead of correct name Ayush Singh in my Aadhar card bearing No 2534 3684 5423 objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

Mumbai Indians Reveal True Reason Behind Hardik Pandya's Absence From LSG Match

New Delhi, May 5: The Mumbai Indians pulled off a major surprise right before the start of their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match against the Lucknow Super Giants on Monday. Fans were left scratching their heads as Suryakumar Yadav walked out for the toss, with captain Hardik Pandya missing the game. Surprisingly, even Hardik's MI teammate Ryan Rickelton did not know about the skipper's injury until Monday afternoon. After the match concluded, Rickelton revealed what had actually happened. Hardik, who has faced significant criticism during Mumbai's poor run in this campaign, paved the way for Rohit Sharma's return to the team. Another change made to the side saw Robin Bosch replacing Trent Boult, while the rest of the lineup remained unchanged. When MI's stand-in skipper, Suryakumar Yadav, was asked about the reason behind



Hardik's absence, he stated that the all-rounder "was not well." However, it has since been revealed that Hardik was sidelined due to back spasms. "I don't know when he is expected to be back, I found out myself this afternoon that he had back spasms. I don't know the extent of the injury or how bad it is. I am not sure how he is feeling, but I am sure that he will be with us again as we head to Raipur this week," Rickelton said during the press conference when asked about Hardik's

return and the nature of the injury. While the precise details of Pandya's condition remain unclear, Rickelton remained hopeful that the star all-rounder would rejoin the team soon for the upcoming fixtures. Regarding the match itself, MI opted to bowl first. Knicks from Nicholas Pooran (63 off 21 balls, with one four and eight sixes), Mitchell Marsh (44 off 25 balls, with six fours and three sixes), and Himmat Singh (40* off 31 balls, with two fours and two sixes) propelled LSG to 228/5. However, a 143-run partnership between Rickelton (83 off 32 balls, with six fours and eight sixes) and Rohit (84 off 44 balls, with six fours and seven sixes) helped MI make light work of the target, completing the chase in 19.4 overs. MI currently sit in ninth spot with three wins and seven losses, while LSG are at the bottom of the table with two wins and seven losses.

'Do you want to take a break?': Former Cricketer urges honest chat with Bumrah as lean run continues

Mumbai, May 5: Mumbai Indians registered a convincing win over Lucknow Super Giants, but the lingering question after the match was Jasprit Bumrah's continued lean run in IPL 2026. Former India cricketer Veda Krishnamurthy has called for an open and honest conversation between the Mumbai Indians think tank and the star pacer, suggesting that the management may need to check in on his physical and mental state as his struggles persist. Bumrah endured another difficult outing at the Wankhede Stadium, returning with figures of 0/45 against LSG. It marked the seventh instance this season in which the premier fast bowler has gone wicketless. Speaking on ESPNCricinfo, Veda stressed the importance of direct communication within the MI setup, especially given Bumrah's role and experience. "We are in that space that the management, or coach, or even captain — Surya is pretty close to him, he is the vice-captain of the squad — and Rohit is around, they can probably honestly sit and have a chat," she said. "Do you want to take a break for a game or so?" So that he comes back fresh. That is something you can probably ask him and expect him to answer you honestly." Despite Bumrah's off night, Mumbai Indians chased down a massive 229-run target in 18.4 overs, powered by a 143-run opening partnership between Rohit Sharma (84) and Ryan Rickelton (83). Former India cricketer Sanjay Bangar also weighed in, saying the decision will depend on how MI want to approach the rest of the tournament.



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Baramulla clinches UT-Level U-17 Cricket Title at Kishtwar

BARAMULLA, MAY 05: In a remarkable display of skill, determination, and team spirit, District Baramulla emerged victorious in the UT-Level Under-17 League of Classics Cricket Tournament organized by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K at Kishtwar, under the supervision of Director General Youth Services and Sports J&K, Anuradha Gupta. In the highly anticipated final, Baramulla faced District Anantnag and, after winning the toss, elected to field first. The decision proved strategic as Baramulla's bowling unit delivered an exceptional performance. Captain Tazeel Nabi led



from the front with a classic spell, claiming 4 crucial wickets. He was well supported by Shah Aasim, who picked up 3 wickets, while Asim contributed with 2 wickets. Their combined bowling effort restricted District Anantnag to a modest total of 119 runs in 18 overs. Chasing the target, Baramulla displayed composure and confidence with the bat. Irfan contributed a steady 27 runs, while Aasim Bhat played a crucial knock of 31 runs. Rizwan added 16 valuable runs, and Aasim chipped in with 24 runs, ensuring a smooth and comfortable chase. The team successfully surpassed the target, sealing a well-deserved victory and bringing laurels to District Baramulla. The achievement stands as a testament to the dedication of the players and the

continued efforts of the Department in nurturing young sporting talent across the district. DYSSO Baramulla, Sheikh Shafiq Iqbal, congratulated the team for their outstanding performance and appreciated their commitment, discipline, and sportsmanship. He also acknowledged the role of coaches and field staff in guiding the players to this remarkable success. The victory has further strengthened Baramulla's position as a rising power house in cricket at the UT level and reflects the positive impact of structured sports initiatives undertaken by the department.

DC inaugurates Inter Block/MC Football Tournament at Kulgam sports stadium

KULGAM, MAY 05: Under the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, today inaugurated an Inter Block/Municipal Committee (MC) Football Tournament at sports Stadium Kulgam. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the initiative aims to actively engage youth in sports and provide them a vibrant platform to showcase their talent. He emphasized that such constructive engagements are crucial in steering young minds away from drug abuse and towards a healthier, more promising future. He added that the event is



designed to identify grassroots talent and provide players opportunities to excel at district and national levels. The Deputy Commissioner further assured that sports infrastructure across the district will be strengthened, with plans to upgrade sports grounds in the near future to better support budding athletes. It was informed that the teams from all blocks and municipal committees, including a team from the district administration, are participating in the tournament. Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Viqar Ahmad Giri, Tehsildar Kulgam, and large number of sports lovers were also present on the occasion.

'There's a lack of consistency,' says Shastri as LSG crash to sixth straight defeat

New Delhi, May 5: Former India cricketer Ravi Shastri has pointed to inconsistency between Lucknow Super Giants' batting and bowling units as the key reason behind their poor run in IPL 2026, following their sixth consecutive defeat. LSG went down by six wickets to Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday, despite posting a strong 228/5. MI chased down the target in 18.4 overs, powered by a 143-run opening stand between Rohit Sharma (84) and Ryan Rickelton (83). Analysing LSG's ongoing struggles, Shastri said the team has failed to put together complete performances. "The problem



with LSG is that when their bowling unit performs, the batters fail to back it up, and when the batters score runs, the bowlers go for plenty. There's no consistency," Shastri said on JioHotstar. "Six losses in a row can really dent a side's confidence, and even in games where you are in a comfortable position, there are

Rajasthan Royals takeover sparks row as Somani Consortium says it "never withdrew bid"

New Delhi, May 5: In a record-breaking sale that turned into a stunner, a new controversy has erupted around the Rajasthan Royals (RR) ownership deal, with the Kal Somani-led consortium now claiming they were sidelined from the process despite insisting they never withdrew their bid and were "fully funded" throughout. Just days after the Mittal family, along with Adar Poonawalla, announced the acquisition of IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals, the US-based Kal Somani consortium has contested their exclusion from the deal, saying they remained active in the process from start to finish of the process. In March, reports had suggested that the Somani-led group had agreed to acquire a 100 per cent stake in Rajasthan Royals for a record USD 1.63 billion, with the transaction expected to close after



the 2026 IPL season. However, on Sunday, Lakshmi N. Mittal and Aditya Mittal, in partnership with Adar Poonawalla, announced a definitive agreement to acquire the franchise from Manoj Badale and his consortium. Following this, the four-member Somani consortium — Kal Somani, Rob Walton, Jordan Walton, and

Michael Hamp — issued a detailed joint statement expressing disappointment at being left out of the final ownership structure. They said: "We are deeply disappointed not to be part of the Rajasthan Royals ownership group, following a long six-month process in which we were the lead bid from start to finish." The consortium highlighted their global sports investment background and claimed strong positioning throughout the bidding process. "Our consortium worked tirelessly to assemble a distinguished group of investors with ownership experience across the NFL, MLB, EPL, La Liga, and TGL. Included in the group were select global superstars from the top tiers of professional sports. We were all motivated by the opportunity to help take the IPL to new international heights. Throughout the process, we were the strongest group at every stage, competing against some of the most prominent investors across the sports investment landscape." Reaching to reports that suggested financial constraints or a withdrawal from their side, the consortium strongly rejected those claims.

India retain no. 1 spot in ICC T20I rankings, extend dominance in shortest format

New Delhi, May 5: India's supremacy in T20I cricket remains untouched as they retained the No. 1 spot in the latest ICC Men's T20I Team Rankings released on Tuesday, reaffirming their status as the world's leading force. Led by Suryakumar Yadav, India top the table with 275 rating points. While their lead has slightly reduced, they are still comfortably ahead of England (262), with Australia close behind in third (258). The annual update applies 100 per cent weightage to matches played since May 2025 and 50 per cent to earlier results, placing greater emphasis on recent form. India's consistency stands out, backed by a domi-



nant run that includes back-to-back T20 World Cup titles in 2024 and 2026, along with an unbeaten streak in bilateral series. There was stability in the top seven, with no changes in positions. New Zealand (247) remain fourth, followed by South Africa (244), Pakistan (240), and West Indies (233). In the mid-table, Bangladesh moved up to eighth after a rating gain, while Sri Lanka slipped to ninth. Afghanistan are 10th, just one point behind Sri Lanka, reflecting a tightly packed middle order. Among notable movers, the United States climbed to 13th after gaining six points, overtaking the Netherlands and Scotland.

"Not a big fan of 15 points": HS Prannoy questions BWF's new 3x15 scoring system

New Delhi, May 5: India shuttler HS Prannoy has raised concerns over the Badminton World Federation's decision to introduce a 3x15-point scoring system from January 2027, saying the existing 21-point format offered a more complete and demanding test of a player's game. While acknowledging that the rule change brings a new dimension to the sport, Prannoy made it clear he is not entirely convinced. "It's going to be interesting. Obviously, a point change is definitely an interesting aspect of the game. I'm not a big fan of 15 points; I would say 21 points was the best. As players, we all agreed to that," he said during a press conference organised by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).



Prannoy pointed out that shorter formats could increase unpredictability, particularly in tricky playing conditions. He noted that even under the current system, matches can move quickly in venues affected by drift, and reducing the points further would leave little room for recovery. He warned that matches could shrink to as little as 20-25 minutes, potentially

benefit more from the change. Prannoy's comments come on the back of India's bronze medal finish at the Thomas Cup 2026, only their second podium result in the tournament, which highlighted both the strength of the core group and concerns around squad depth after a heavy semifinal loss to France. India doubles star Chirag Shetty also weighed in on the proposed change, explaining how it could significantly alter the rhythm and demands of the game. Recalling earlier discussions around even shorter formats, Chirag said players had resisted such moves in the past. "I think 6-7 years back, when it was first introduced, they were planning to change it to 11.5 games. That's when we all, as players, collectively didn't want that to happen because it would have completely changed the way badminton would be played," he said. Drawing from his experience in shorter formats, he explained that players would have far less time to recover or stage comeback. "By the time you are actually ready, two games are already gone. You're already two games down. So it could have completely changed the sport, but 15 is still somewhat similar to 21," he added. Chirag emphasised that the traditional 21-point system tested endurance and tactical depth, while the proposed format could tilt the game towards speed and power. "It was a very complete format, but 15 will now become more about speed and power."



Weather takes turn in Delhi-NCR: Rain likely today; air quality improves

New Delhi, May 5: The weather in the Delhi-NCR has taken a noticeable turn once again. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), there is a strong likelihood of rain accompanied by thunder and lightning on Tuesday across Delhi, Noida, and Ghaziabad. Gusty winds have also been forecast, adding to the changing weather conditions. Rainfall recorded over the past 24 hours has led to a significant drop in temperatures, bringing much-needed relief to residents from the intense summer heat. As per IMD, on Tuesday morning, the maximum temperature was recorded at 33 degrees Celsius, while the minimum settled at 19 degrees Celsius. The day is likely to be dominated by conditions described as "thunderstorms with rain." For May 6, temperatures are expected to rise slightly, with the maximum likely to reach 36 degrees Celsius and the



minimum around 21 degrees Celsius. Partly cloudy skies are expected, along with the possibility of lightning. Looking ahead, temperatures are projected to hover around 37/24 degrees Celsius on May 7 and may rise further to 38/23 degrees Celsius on

May 8. By May 9 and 10, the maximum temperature could climb up to 39 degrees Celsius, although the skies are expected to remain mostly clear during this period. At present, no specific weather warnings have been issued for these days. Meanwhile, the recent spell of

rainfall has led to a marked improvement in air quality across the Delhi-NCR. In several parts of Delhi, the Air Quality Index (AQI) has moved into the "Good" and "Satisfactory" categories. AQI levels were recorded at 51 in Alipur, 60 in Ashok Vihar, 63 in Aya Nagar, and 68 in Bawana. However, areas such as Anand Vihar (111) and Chandni Chowk (106) remained in the "Moderate" category. In Noida, AQI was recorded at 100 in Sector-125, while it stood at 64 in both Sector-62 and Sector-1, and 65 in Sector-116. Ghaziabad also reported improved air quality, with AQI levels at 96 in Govindpuram, 66 in Indrapuram, 46 in Sanjay Nagar, and 60 in Vasundhara. Continuous rainfall and strong winds have significantly cleansed the air. Experts believe that if such conditions persist, pollution levels are likely to remain under control in the coming days.

Cabinet approves Bill to raise SC Judges strength to 37 to tackle pendency

New Delhi, May 5: The union Cabinet today approved a proposal to introduce the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2026 in Parliament to increase the sanctioned strength of judges in the Supreme Court of India by four, from the present 33 to 37 (excluding the Chief Justice of India), Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said after the meeting. Briefing reporters here, Vaishnaw said the move is aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the apex court and ensuring quicker delivery of justice. "The increase in the number of judges will enable the Supreme Court to function more efficiently and effectively, helping in reducing pendency and

ensuring speedy justice," he said. The proposed legislation seeks to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, which governs the sanctioned strength of the apex court. The expansion will take the number of judges, excluding the Chief Justice of India, to 37 once Parliament clears the amendment. The Minister said that the additional expenditure on salaries, staff and related infrastructure will be met from the Consolidated Fund of India. The move comes against the backdrop of rising caseloads and the need for faster adjudication at the highest level of the judiciary. The strength of the Supreme Court has been increased periodically since Independence to keep pace

with growing litigation. Under Article 124 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court was originally envisaged to consist of the Chief Justice of India and up to seven other judges, with Parliament empowered to increase this number through legislation. The strength was first expanded through the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, and subsequently raised multiple times—in 1960, 1977, 1986, 2008 and most recently in 2019, when it was increased from 30 to 33 judges. Officials said the latest proposal reflects the government's effort to strengthen judicial capacity and improve access to timely justice, as the apex court continues to deal with a growing volume of cases.

Himanta Biswa Sarma says Assam verdict matched his assessment, calls BJP win a 'historic blessing'



New Delhi, May 5: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said the Assembly verdict broadly aligned with what he had anticipated, revealing that he had written down his own assessment on April 9, the day polling concluded. The BJP-led alliance has secured a clear mandate in the 2026 Assembly elections, strengthening its hold on the state and pushing the oppo-

sition, particularly the Congress, to the margins. The BJP won 82 seats, while the Congress managed 19. Sarma said that the actual outcome had gone a step further than his expectations, with the party gaining an additional seat. He described the result as a "historic blessing" from the voters of Assam. The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to voters, saying he was "truly humbled" by the verdict that has brought the BJP back to power for a third consecutive term in the state. "Mandate for development, identity," Sarma on poll outcome said the result reflects public trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership as well as the state government's governance model. He added that the mandate endorses the government's focus on development and protection of Assam's identity. Speaking to reporters after the results, the Chief Minister termed the outcome a "historic mandate" and said the electorate had once again backed the party's agenda.

'Abusing PM Modi does not win votes': Kiren Rijiju hits out at TMC, Congress after BJP's strong electoral gains

New Delhi, May 5: In the wake of the BJP's strong showing in the latest Assembly elections, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on leaders from the Congress and Trinamool Congress (TMC), accusing them of using "foul language" against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and calling it a sign of "arrogance and ignorance." Rijiju's remarks come as the election results have reinforced the BJP's growing political momentum, particularly in West Bengal, where the party made significant electoral gains. Against this backdrop, he argued that personal attacks on the Prime Minister reflect poorly on opposition leaders and fail to resonate with voters. "No basic manners," says Rijiju. In a post on X, Rijiju alleged that several opposition leaders have



repeatedly crossed the line in their criticism of the Prime Minister. He said such behaviour indicates a lack of basic political decorum. "The Congress and TMC leaders have used foul language against PM Modi Ji. They think that abusing PM would make them popular, not realising that it smacks of arrogance and ignorance! I've

observed that 7-8 Congress leaders don't even have basic manners. The nation trust Modi Ji," he said. Warning of political fallout, Rijiju reiterated his earlier remarks from an interview, Rijiju suggested that targeting Modi personally could hurt the opposition politically. He claimed that the Prime Minister's popularity remains

strong across the country and that voters tend to reject leaders who resort to personal attacks. According to him, the "Modi wave" continues to influence ground-level politics, and criticism framed as abuse could lead to a decline in the political standing of those making such remarks. The minister's comments follow BJP's impressive performance in West Bengal, where the party secured 206 seats, a substantial rise from its previous tally of 77, as per Election Commission data. The outcome marks a notable shift in the state's political landscape, long dominated by the Congress, Left parties, and later the TMC. The results have not only strengthened the BJP's position but also intensified the war of words between the ruling party and the opposition.

'Can someone be above the law after joining the BJP?': Bhagwant Mann flags defection of 7 RS MPs before President meeting

New Delhi, May 5: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday raised questions over political defections ahead of his scheduled meeting with President Droupadi Murmu, asking whether individuals become "above the law" after joining the BJP. The development comes amid a fresh political flashpoint over the exit of several Aam Aadmi Party leaders from the Rajya Sabha and their subsequent move to the BJP. Mann indicated that he would place the matter before the President, stressing that legal principles must remain paramount in such cases. "There should be a law; otherwise, five people from a party will claim that they are a different party. Can someone be above the law after joining the BJP? The law is supreme. I will inform the President and apprise her about everything," Mann told reporters before leaving for Delhi. AAP raises legal questions over



Rajya Sabha exits Mann is travelling to the national capital along with Punjab MLAs, though Rashtrapati Bhavan has formally invited only him for the meeting. The Chief Minister is expected to brief the President on what he described as the "development of the whole issue" concerning MPs who left the AAP Punjab ministerial. Lal Chand Kataruchakk alleged that the BJP was uneasy

ahead of the meeting and said the AAP would press for action against the MPs who switched sides. "We will demand the cancellation of the membership of the AAP Rajya Sabha MPs who joined the BJP...Punjab will not get scared...We will show the nation how to fight against the BJP," he told ANI. Demand to cancel membership of MPs who switched sides, Hardeep Singh Mundian,

said the Chief Minister would seek cancellation of Rajya Sabha membership of leaders who joined the BJP. He also referred to a parallel meeting by Raghav Chadha, criticising it as political posturing. "We will demand the cancellation of the membership of the AAP Rajya Sabha MPs who joined the BJP...Raghav Chadha is also going to meet the President to do drama," Mundian told ANI. Notably, Chadha is also expected to meet the President separately and may raise concerns over what he alleges is targeting of AAP MPs who moved to the BJP in Punjab. Seven MPs switched sides last month. The political row follows the recent exit of several AAP Rajya Sabha members, including Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak and Ashok Mittal, who joined the BJP last month. Others who switched sides include Harbhajan Singh, Rajinder Gupta, Vikramjit Singh Sahney and Swati Malviya.

Bihar cabinet expansion on May 7 preparations at Gandhi Maidan in full swing

New Delhi, May 5: Political activity in Bihar has intensified ahead of the much-anticipated cabinet expansion of the NDA government, scheduled for May 7 at Gandhi Maidan in Patna. Led by Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary, the event is being viewed not just as a routine swearing-in ceremony but as a significant political showcase. Governor Syed Ata Hasnain is expected to administer the oath of office and secrecy to the newly inducted ministers. The cabinet expansion follows extensive consultations between the state leadership and the central command of the BJP. A key meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah played a crucial role in finalising the ministerial lineup. Parallel discussions were



held with key NDA leaders, including Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Jitan Ram Manjhi, and Chirag Paswan. These consultations underline efforts to maintain coalition cohesion and political balance. In a notable political gesture, Samrat Chaudhary also met former Chief Minister and JD(U) National President Nitish Kumar. This meeting is being interpreted in political circles as a strong message of unity within the NDA alliance and a signal aimed at countering opposition narratives. Sources suggest that representation will be carefully distributed among alliance partners, including Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Janata Dal (United), Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), and Rashtriya Lok Morcha.

'TMC's good fight on uneven pitch': Mahua Moitra on West Bengal elections defeat



New Delhi, May 5: Aditya Tharoor on Monday said the BJP is all set to form the next government in West Bengal with a two-third majority, ending the TMC's 15-year rule in the state. "The will of the people is supreme. If Bengal wanted BJP then Bengal has got BJP. We respect that. We fought the good fight against unimaginable odds on an uneven pitch and for that I am proud of my leader & my party," Moitra wrote on X.

She added, "We will continue to stand & fight for a secular country where the constitution, not brute majoritarianism, is the last word. Jai Hind." The BJP has bagged 206 seats and remains ahead of the TMC, which managed 81. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lost her Bahubanjur seat to BJP's Suvendu Adhikari by more than 15,000 votes. Notably, the results were declared for 293 seats of the 294-member Assembly, on Monday, with repolling scheduled in the Falta seat of South 24 Parganas district on May 21, as announced by the Election Commission of India, with counting for that seat due on May 24. The Congress bagged two seats, while the CPI(M) received one. The AISF and the Aam Janata Udayan Party secured one and two seats respectively.

'There are things that all of us can learn': Shashi Tharoor backs Modi-Shah poll playbook



New Delhi, May 5: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Monday said there were "things that all of us can learn" from the BJP's election strategy, even as Kerala delivered a sweeping mandate in favour of the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF), pushing the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) into one of its sharpest setbacks in recent years. Speaking in Thiruvananthapuram, Tharoor credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for their electoral organisation, saying, "They have done a good job in Bengal and Assam... They are professionally organised. They have strong organisational strength. They put a lot of resources, including financial resources, into their

campaign. There are things that all of us can learn from that." He added that he hoped the message would be one of "uniting Indians and not dividing them". Reacting to the election results in four states and one Union Territory, Tharoor said the Congress would need to look closely at its own performance. "I think the party will have to

do some very serious introspection, no doubt about it. We've said this before and today we have a very good example of what worked right. If we can get it right in Kerala, what can we do to get it right elsewhere? That is a lesson the Congress party should learn," he said. The remarks come as the Congress-led UDF

stormed back to power in Kerala after a decade, dismantling several entrenched Left bastions and signalling a wider churn in opposition politics across states. UDF sweep redraws Kerala's political map. The scale of the UDF's victory was evident across districts. The alliance swept all seats in Malappuram, Wayanad, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Idukki, leaving the LDF without representation in these regions. Ernakulam emerged as the standout, with the UDF winning all 14 constituencies. Malappuram followed a similar pattern, where all 16 seats went to the UDF, with candidates from the Indian Union Muslim League registering significant margins. The LDF's presence shrank sharply elsewhere too, managing just one seat each in Kasaragod, Pathanamthitta and Kozhikode. In Kozhikode, long seen as a Left stronghold, the UDF secured 12 out of 13 seats, with only Minister P.A. Mohammed Riyas retaining Beypore. The ripple effects were visible across southern Kerala. The UDF secured a majority in Kollam and Alappuzha, while the Left held on only to Konni in Pathanamthitta. Senior leaders fall anti-incumbency bites The verdict proved particularly harsh on the ruling establishment, with several senior ministers and prominent leaders losing their seats. Among those defeated were Venna George, VN Vasavan, V Sivankutty, R Bindu and MB Rajesh.

OpenAI Co-Founder Discloses Nearly \$30 Billion Stake, Financial Ties To Altman

New Delhi, May 5: OpenAI's co-founder and president, Greg Brockman, on Monday disclosed deeper financial ties to CEO Sam Altman than previously known as well as a stake in the ChatGPT maker worth almost \$30 billion. The details were shared in court during questioning by a lawyer for Elon Musk, who co-founded OpenAI and is now suing the company on grounds that it improperly became a for-profit company, abandoned charitable goals and should turn back into a nonprofit. Musk's team said Brockman's independence was potentially compromised by financial incentives that led him to support Altman, the driver behind OpenAI's reinvention as a for-profit company. Brockman also disclosed in court that he holds stakes in two startups backed by Altman as well as a percentage of Altman's family fund. The trial, in its second week in a California courtroom, could determine the future of OpenAI, which sparked a widespread craze over generative artificial intelligence after launching its ChatGPT chatbot in late



2022. Since then, OpenAI has raised well over \$100 billion from investors to hire researchers, buy computing power and expand the company ahead of a potential trillion-dollar IPO. Musk is seeking the ouster of Altman and Brockman from leadership as well as \$150 billion in damages. Brockman early in his testimony agreed that his stake in OpenAI was worth close to \$30 billion, a figure not previously known. In 2017, Altman gave Brockman a stake in Altman's family office that was worth \$10 million at the time.

That same year, Brockman, Musk and other OpenAI executives discussed restructuring OpenAI as a for-profit so the organization could pay for the pricey computing power required to train AI systems. In 2017 COMPENSATION ARRANGEMENT Brockman said he did not discuss his compensation directly with Musk. Emails read out in court showed that Altman mentioned the arrangement during a separate conversation with Jared Birchall, Musk's head of family office, who relayed the details to Musk.

"One thing worth mentioning now is that he compensated Greg on the side by giving him a percentage ownership of Sam's personal family office," Birchall wrote in the email, adding the deal could mean that "Greg is going to have a greater allegiance to Sam as a result of this arrangement." Musk forwarded Birchall's note to Brockman with two question marks. When pressed on whether he was loyal to Altman, Brockman said, "I don't know I would say it quite like that."

STAKES IN ALTMAN-BACKED STARTUPS

On Monday, Brockman disclosed that he owned shares of AI chip startup Cerebras, including during various moments when OpenAI discussed buying the chipmaker. This year, OpenAI has said it will spend a significant amount of money to buy Cerebras chips. Brockman also said he has a stake in Helion Energy, a fusion startup in which Altman has already invested hundreds of millions of dollars. In March, Altman stepped down from Helion's

Stock market rebounds sharply as election results lift sentiment

New Delhi, May 5: Stock market staged a strong rebound on Monday recovering from Thursday's sharp sell-off amid the election results announcement in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala, and the Union Territory of Puducherry. At close, the Sensex was up 355.90 points or 0.46 percent at 77,269.40, and the Nifty was up 121.75 points or 0.51 percent at 24,119.30. Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices rose about 0.5% each. Among the sectors, metal, realty, infrastructure, and pharma indices gained around 0.5-1%, while IT, media, and PSU Bank indices ended lower.

On Nifty, the top gainers were Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Adani Enterprises, Eicher Motors, Reliance Industries, and Jio Financial while on the losing end were Bharti Airtel,



Kotak Mahindra Bank, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, and Tata Consultancy Services. More than 180 stocks touched their 52-week high on the BSE. These included BHEL, Astar DM Health, CESC, Laurus Labs, Adani Green Energy, Aether Industries, HFCL, Schneider Infra, Bandhan Bank, Adani Ports, Adani Power, NLC India, Siemens, Kirloskar Oil, Bajaj Auto, Lloyds Metals, Aarti Industries, Varadhan Textiles, Hitachi Energy,

among others. The overall market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms jumped to more than Rs 467 lakh crore from Rs 463 lakh crore in the previous session with the investors came over Rs 47 lakh crore in a single session. Bharat Heavy Electricals surged 7.5% after the company reported a sharp jump in its Q4 earnings while Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone gained 5.5%. Indian Rupee fell 39 paise to close at an all-time low of 95.23 against the US dollar.

Rupee closes at all-time low of 95.23 against US dollar

New Delhi, May 5: The Indian Rupee on Monday, May 4, fell by 39 paise to close at an all-time low of 95.23 (provisional) against the US dollar. This was majorly due to the ongoing tensions in the Middle East causing volatility in global markets and keeping oil prices high, besides raising fears of inflation and economic slowdown. According to forex traders, Brent oil is hovering around \$110 per barrel and maintaining pressure on oil-importing economies like India, agencies reported. Further, investor sentiments were dented by various factors like unabated foreign capital outflows amid rising geopolitical uncertainties. Notably, the rupee ended at 94.95 against the US



dollar at the interbank foreign exchange market, but soon lost ground and settled at 95.23 (provisional), marking a 39 paise fall over its previous close. Earlier, the rupee had settled at 94.84 against the American currency on Thursday. On Friday, the stock exchanges and currency markets remained due to Maharashtra Day. Dilip Parmar, Senior Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said the Indian

Global Market Slide, Oil Prices Elevated As US-Iran Truce Prospects Dim

New Delhi, May 5: Stocks in Asia slid on Tuesday while oil prices eased but remained well above \$100 a barrel, as the U.S. and Iran continue to work towards a truce while at the same time trading blows over the Strait of Hormuz. Traders also had their eyes on the yen after the Japanese currency briefly jumped in the previous session, stoking speculation of another round of intervention from Tokyo. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was down 0.3%. Shares in Australia fell 0.4% in thinned Asia trade, while markets in Japan and South Korea were closed for a holiday. Nasdaq futures and S&P 500 futures edged down about 0.1% each, while S&P futures lost 0.2% and futures fell 0.75%. The U.S. and Iran launched new attacks in the Gulf on Monday as they



wrestled for control over the Strait of Hormuz with duelling maritime blockades, not long after U.S. President Donald Trump launched a new effort to get stranded tankers and other ships through the vital energy-trade chokepoint. Maersk said the Alliance Fairfax, a U.S.-flagged vehicle carrier operated by its Farrell Lines subsidiary, exited

the Gulf via the Strait of Hormuz accompanied by U.S. military assets on Monday. Still, the renewed hostilities jolted markets and served as a stark reminder that the war in the Middle East was far from over. "We started yesterday with high hopes that operation 'Project Freedom' would be, I guess, a success on the ground, that it was being pitched as more of a humanitarian effort," said Tony Sycamore, a market analyst at IG. "But as we saw, the Iranians weren't taking that bait at all... It really signifies that the stalemate remains in place, it's been a very shaky start." In oil markets, Brent crude futures fell 0.5% to \$113.85 a barrel while U.S. crude slid 1.3% to \$105.03, having jumped in the previous session on heightened worries about supply disruption. Geopolitics aside, investors were also bracing for earnings reports this week, with Advanced Micro Devices and Pfizer among those set to release results later in the day. Data from S&P Global Market Intelligence showed 83% of S&P 500 companies that have already reported have beaten EPS estimates and 78.2% of them have beaten revenue estimates.

Markets Open Lower As Renewed Hormuz Tensions Weigh On Sentiment

New Delhi, May 5: The equity markets came under pressure on Tuesday, with benchmark indices opening lower as renewed hostilities in the Strait of Hormuz pushed crude oil prices higher, denting investor sentiment. The Nifty 50 index opened at 24,052.60, declining 66.70 points or 0.28 per cent, while the BSE Sensex opened at 77,102.88, down 166.52 points or 0.22 per cent. Market participants said the weakness was largely driven by a surge in oil prices and rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, which have raised concerns about inflation and global economic stability. Foreign and domestic institutional investors remained net buyers in the previous session. On May 4, FII's bought equities worth Rs 2,835.6 crore, while DII's purchased Rs 4,764.2 crore. Sectorally, the trend remained mixed. Nifty FMCG Nifty IT, and



Nifty Pharma indices opened in the green, while Nifty Auto, Nifty Media, Nifty Metal, and PSU Bank indices faced selling pressure in early trade. Crude oil prices remained elevated, with Brent

crude trading at around USD 113 per barrel, driven by ongoing tensions in the Hormuz region. In developments related to the Strait of Hormuz, Danish shipping company Maersk confirmed that one of its subsidiary vessels crossed the strait with a US military escort. The US Central Command also said that two American-flagged ships have passed through as efforts continue to restore normal shipping activity. Other Asian markets also reflected cautious sentiment. Singapore's Straits Times index declined 0.36 per cent to 4,906, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 1.2% to 25,758, and Taiwan's weighted index slipped 0.15 per cent to 40,651. Markets in Japan and South Korea remained closed. In the United States, markets ended lower on Monday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 557.37 points or 1.13 per cent to 48,941.90, the S&P 500 declined 0.41 per cent to 7,200.75, and the Nasdaq Composite fell 0.19 per cent to 25,067.80.

NSE Launches Electronic Gold Receipts To Bring Transparency, Boost Participation In Gold Market

New Delhi, May 5: National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) announced the launch of Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs), a new segment aimed at bringing greater transparency, efficiency and formalisation to India's gold market, according to an official statement. In an official statement, NSE stated that the launch, effective from May 4, 2026, is expected to bridge the gap between physical gold and financial markets by offering a regulated and secure platform for trading in gold. EGRs are dematerialised securities that represent ownership of physical gold, which is stored in SEBI-accredited vaults and held electronically through depositories. Each EGR is fully backed by physical gold and can be traded on the exchange, integrating gold into the formal financial system. NSE stated, "With this launch, NSE aims to create a robust and transparent ecosystem for gold trading, enabling efficient price discovery, improved market participation, and enhanced trust across stakeholders including jewellers, refiners, traders, and institutional investors. As part of the launch, NSE also successfully demonstrated the dematerialisation of a 1000-gram gold bar into an Electronic



Gold Receipt. This highlights the system's ability to convert physical gold into a secure and tradable digital instrument within a regulated framework. Sirram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer (CBDO), NSE, said: "The introduction of Electronic Gold Receipts at NSE marks a pivotal evolution in how India interacts with its most cherished asset. By leveraging NSE's robust technology and liquidity framework, we are democratising access to gold, enabling investors across the nation to trade with unprecedented transparency and confidence."

Bitcoin tops \$80,000 after 3 months as Asian stocks near record highs

New Delhi, May 5: Bitcoin climbed above the \$80,000 mark for the first time in more than three months on Monday, tracking a broader risk-on sentiment in global markets as Asian equities edged closer to record highs. The cryptocurrency rose as much as 1.9% to \$80,393 in early trading, its highest level since January 31. Other digital assets, including Ether, also posted gains, reflecting renewed investor appetite for riskier assets. The rally in cryptocurrencies coincided with strong equity performance, with MSCI's Asian stock gauge approaching its February peak. The



surge in stocks has been supported by stronger-than-expected earnings from technology companies, which have helped sustain momentum in the sector despite recent geopolitical tensions. Bitcoin's latest upswing marks a continued recovery from its recent slump. The cryptocurrency had surged to a record high of over \$126,000 in October last year before falling sharply to around \$60,000 in February during a prolonged correction phase. Since then, it has gradually regained ground.

D-Mart posts 19.17% YoY growth in net profit in Q4 FY26

New Delhi, May 5: Avenue Supermarts Ltd, which owns and runs the retail chain D-Mart, has posted a net profit of Rs 656 crore for Q4 FY26, as compared to Rs 551 crore in the corresponding quarter of last year, representing a 19.17 per cent year-on-year (YoY) rise. The rise in net profit was driven by the D-Mart's newly opened 58 stores, reaching the milestone of 500 total stores during the Q4 FY26. The company's profit margin stood at Rs 14,872 crore in the same period last year. While Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) in Q4 FY26 stood at Rs 1,211 crore, as compared to Rs 955



crore in the corresponding quarter of last year. Profit After Tax (PAT) margin stood at 3.7 per cent in Q4 FY26 as compared to 3.7 per cent in Q4 FY25. Basic Earnings per share (EPS) for Q4 FY26 stood at

Rs 10.09, as compared to Rs 8.47 for Q4 FY25. Anshul Asawa, Managing Director & CEO, Avenue Supermarts Ltd, said the geopolitical tensions led to some spike in consumer-buying during the month of March 2026 which was not witnessed in the rest of the month. The company's business has largely not witnessed any supply chain disruptions thus far. "Two years and older D-Mart stores grew by 10.8 per cent during Q4 FY26 as compared to 8.1 per cent in Q4 FY25. Gross margins saw slight improvement and costs are largely in-line with business growth," said Asawa. "Our D-Mart business continues to focus in key metro towns. We have further rationalised our delivery channels with renewed focus on home delivery as the preferred channel. We have discontinued our operations in one city during the quarter."



DDC Doda reviews developmental priorities for Annual District plan 2026-27

Pushes for timely execution of proposed projects

DODA, MAY 05: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a comprehensive review meeting in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex to assess the implementation of key decisions and streamline developmental planning for the financial year 2026-27. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar; Assistant Commissioner Development Din Mohd Afazi; District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmed and officers from the line departments. The meeting held detailed deliberations on the formulation and finalization of the District Capex Budget plan for



2026-27. Emphasis was laid on aligning departmental priorities with the overall developmental goals of the district, ensuring need-based planning and avoiding duplication of works. The DDC stressed the importance of timely preparation of plans, prioritization of high-impact

prescribed quality standards. The progress and allocation of funds under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) were also reviewed. The DDC instructed concerned departments to expedite the execution of approved works and ensure transparency and accountability in fund utilization. The meeting also reviewed achievements under key financial inclusion schemes-Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Saraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY).

Emphasis was laid on mass awareness through regular outreach activities to ensure maximum coverage of eligible beneficiaries, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Further, the implementation of social security and welfare schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PMSYM), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY), National Pension Scheme for traders and self-employed persons and the pension schemes for old age, widows and persons with disabilities was also reviewed. Officers were directed to ensure timely disbursement of benefits and maintain updated beneficiary records.

KATHUA, MAY 05: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the delivery of mandated services by Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKG) and their role in facilitating farmer-centric initiatives in the district.



The Deputy Commissioner took a comprehensive review of the functioning of the Kisan Khidmat Centres and stressed the need for expanding outreach to benefit the farmers in remote and peripheral areas. He directed the concerned officers and KKG representatives to actively spread awareness in their respective peripheral areas regarding government welfare schemes, agricultural support services, crop advisory, soil testing, seed

and fertilizer availability, crop insurance. PM Kisan benefits and other farmer welfare programmes. "The KKGs must function as accessible and reliable support centres for the farmers and ensure prompt redressal of grievances besides guiding them on modern agricultural practices and government interventions aimed at enhancing farm productivity and income," Rajesh Sharma emphasized. He further asked KKG operators to maintain close coordination with the Agriculture, Horticulture and allied departments to ensure seamless service delivery and effective implementation of various agricultural development programmes in the district. The meeting was attended by CPO Ranjeet Thakur; CAO Jatinder Khajuria; SDAOs, representatives from Kisan Khidmat Centres.

Activity Plan for Red Cross Day discussed at Bhadarwah

BHADARWAH, MAY 05: Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhadarwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today chaired a meeting to finalize the Activity plan for World Red Cross Day. The meeting aimed at finalizing the planning, arrangements and overall strategy for the observance of the event on May 8, 2026 across the district. The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer BDA Sanjeev Sharma; SDPO Naveen Qazi; Tehsildar Kamal Preet Singh; Tehsildar Bhalla Mohammad Tahir; AO BDA Mammit Ganjoo; BMO Dr. Varsha Sharma; CDO Farhat Shamim Khan, Principal Boys and Girls Higher secondary Schools, BDO, Bhalla and other officers, representatives from the Indian Army and CRPF. After detailed discussions, the meeting finalized the activity plan envisaging awareness programmes, health camps, blood donation drives, first-aid demos etc. The ADC emphasized



mobilizing maximum number of volunteers for blood donation being held in the Sub district. He also reviewed the functioning of blood banks and stressed the need to further strengthen these facilities. The ADC directed the departments to work in close coordination for the successful organization of the event and maximum public participation.

Arrangements for 3-Day Mounгри mela discussed at Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, MAY 05: The 3-Day historic Annual Shiv-Parvati Shrine mela at Mounгри is commencing from May 15, 2026. In this regard, a meeting of District Officers of the line departments, besides representatives of the management committee of Lord Shiv Parvati cave shrine Mounгри was held today. Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa chaired the meeting which was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shrivastava; Additional SP Sandeep Bhat and other officers. Thorough discussions were held on the arrangements related to smooth conduct of the mela, like maintenance of road, deployment of security personnel, besides provisions for sanitation, Health care,



Transport, drinking water and power supply. The meeting decided to constitute teams to keep a check on overpricing and quality of edibles, oversee ration supply and prepare a calendar of Cultural activities and sports etc. The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure all arrangements

timely filing of the potholes and completion of repair work on the road leading to the Mela Site. It was decided that District Police would deploy adequate security personnel during mela days while AKTO would deploy a sufficient number of buses from different locations. For first aid facilities, the DC directed the Chief Medical Officer to deploy a team of doctors and an ambulance to meet any emergency. The Youth Services & Sports department was asked to organize cultural programmes and sports events at the venue in coordination with the Education department. The government departments were directed to put up their departmental stalls to sensitize the public regarding flagship government schemes.

DC reviews progress under HADP and functioning of KKGs in Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, MAY 05: The implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), besides the working of Kisan Khidmat Ghard (KKGs) was reviewed today by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma at a meeting held here today. The Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed review of the progress achieved in the implementation of flagship interventions under HADP across Agriculture and allied sectors. The Deputy Commissioner laid emphasis on timely completion and monitoring of units established under HADP. He directed the field staff and District Officers to ensure that all 6351 proposed units are established within a period of 10 days.



He further warned that any failure to meet the set deadline would invite strict action including seeking explanations from the concerned officials and withholding salaries. The Nodal Officer KKG was directed to immediately

to expedite the clearance of all pending credit applications. He was also asked to ensure timely sanctioning of new applications, as this component carries a significant 15% weightage in the overall district ranking under the programme. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the importance of coordinated efforts among departments and stressed accountability at all levels to achieve the desired outcomes under HADP and KKG. The meeting was attended by ADDC Vinod Kumar Behral; CAO Kushal Chandel; CHO Sajid Mustafa; DSHO Dr. Jamil Nasir; LDM Harsh Rawal, besides other officers, concerned staff from Agriculture Department and Krishi Udhayis.

DLSA Reasi hosts series of awareness events to promote benefits of Lok Adalat

REASI, MAY 05: Under the visionary leadership of Khali Choudhary, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge) and the able guidance of Pooja Gupta Secretary, an awareness programme to encourage maximum participation in the upcoming National Lok Adalat was organized today at LAC Chassana. The PLVs from TLSC Mahore sensitized the participants to the importance, benefits and procedures of National Lok Adalat. The public was informed that Lok Adalat provides an effective platform for amicable settlement of disputes, ensuring speedy justice without incurring heavy litigation costs. The participants were informed about the types of cases that can be taken up in Lok Adalat, including matrimonial disputes, motor accident claims, bank recovery cases and other civil matters. Emphasis was laid on the advantages such as finality of awards, no court fees and reduction of case backlog. Another awareness programme on Labour Rights, Legal Aid and Access to Justice was conducted at Panchayat Karna by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of the

TLSC Karna. The PLVs sensitized the participants about the labour laws, rights of workers, minimum wages and legal remedies available in case of exploitation or denial of rights. Emphasis was also laid on the importance of legal aid services provided by the Legal Services Authorities and how economically weaker sections can avail free legal assistance. A Door-to-door awareness campaign to mobilize public participation for the upcoming Special Lok Adalat was conducted across various areas of the District. The Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) visited households and interacted directly with the public to spread awareness about the significance and benefits of Lok Adalats. The PLVs informed the residents about the easy, speedy and cost-effective mechanism of dispute resolution available through Lok Adalats, encouraging them to take advantage of this platform for amicable settlement of their cases. Pamphlets and informational materials were also distributed among the public, highlighting the date and importance of the Special Lok Adalat.

Drug awareness camp, rally organised at Bhella under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan



THATHRI, MAY 05: In continuation to the ongoing Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, two impactful drug awareness programmes, including a mega rally, were organized today at Bhella, sensitizing youth and the general public about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

The speakers emphasized the importance of informed decision-making, healthy lifestyle choices and encouraged students to act as ambassadors of awareness within their communities. Subsequently, a mega anti drug rally was organized by the students of Moon Light Academy Bhella. The rally commenced from the school premises and passed through the main Bhella market, drawing significant public attention before culminating near the Tehsil Office Bhella. The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from various departments. Medical Officer Dr. Sadeeq Wani; (Tehsildar Gulshan Kumar; Naib Tehsildar Zakir Hussain and In-charge Police Post Anil Kumar along with other officials attended.

Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express: Passengers Applaud Amenities; Massive Surge in Occupancy

Jammu, May 5: The 'Vande Bharat Express', recently launched between Jammu and Srinagar on May 2nd, continues to be a major attraction among passengers—not only for its speed but also for its premium services. This semi-high-speed train, a symbol of modern India, has set new records of popularity within just the initial days of its operation, thereby instilling unwavering confidence among travellers. A tremendous surge in daily passenger volume has been observed on the Vande Bharat Express operating on this route. On May 4th, the train recorded an occupancy rate of 82 percent, with approximately 4,680 passengers traveling across the two pairs of Vande Bharat services. This figure rose to 96% the very next day, i.e., May



5th. (Note: On Tuesdays, only a single pair of Vande Bharat trains—Nos. 26404 and 26403—remains operational.) On this day, approximately 2,744 passengers undertook their journey. Overall, analyzing the occupancy statistics for the four-day period of successful operations from May 2nd to May 5th, approximately 16,349 passengers enjoyed their jour-

neys, and the average occupancy rate for these four days stood at approximately 82 percent. This massive volume of passengers clearly demonstrates that pilgrims and tourists are now prioritizing the modern travel experience offered by the Vande Bharat Express over traditional trains. Appreciation for World-Class Amenities During their journey, pas-

sengers expressed their delight regarding the train's state-of-the-art amenities. In their feedback, passengers lauded the following features and offered positive responses; notably, several passengers specifically highlighted the train's smooth and jerk-free ride, even while navigating through winding tracks. Passengers praised just the quality of the pure and nutritious food being served on the Vande Bharat train, noting that officials from the Jammu Division are conducting continuous inspections on board to ensure that passengers experience no deficiencies whatsoever in the amenities provided. Speaking on the Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat train—which is helping to realize the dreams of the people of Jammu and Kashmir—Mr. Uchit Singh, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, stated: "The operation of the Vande Bharat Express on the Jammu-Katra route symbolizes the modern transformation of Indian Railways. The fact that occupancy levels have surged from 82% to 96% in just two days is a matter of immense pride for us. We are delighted that passengers are not only satisfied with the services but are also viewing this train as the most reliable option for their travel needs. We are continuously analyzing the feedback received from passengers to ensure that their journey becomes even more memorable. In the coming times, as the tourism season gains momentum, we anticipate that this train will operate at 100% occupancy."

LG Sinha interacts with students and faculty of JU's Design Your Degree Programme



JAMMU, MAY 5: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today interacted with achiever students and faculty of Jammu University's Design Your Degree (DYD) programme at Lok Bhavan and reviewed the initiative's impact on academic growth and innovation. During the interaction, the students from different semesters presented a detailed overview of their learning experiences, pedagogy of DYD, and

shared their major achievements secured on national platforms and landmark competitions. They also briefed the Lieutenant Governor of the technology-driven projects aimed at solving real-world challenges, including Agri Vimaan for providing drones to farmers for spraying in farms, Rustray for sustainable tourism in rural areas, Arpan- waste to wealth, Bloomify for turning waste paper into high

quality biodegradable products. The Lieutenant Governor commended the students for their practical approach to learning and their focus on social impact. He encouraged them to develop an effective mechanism for temple waste management in Jammu. Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, along with department heads and faculty members, were present during the interaction.

Deputy Chief Minister reviews progress on PWD works sets deadline for completion of restoration works

SRINAGAR, MAY 5: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today chaired a high-level meeting to review progress on the ongoing Public Works Department (PWD) projects being executed across Jammu and Kashmir.

While reviewing the division-wise status of works, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to ensure timely completion of projects under R&B, PMGSY, Cities and Towns, Potholes, Mechanical and NABARD, with zero tolerance for delays, spill overs, lapses or quality standards. Emphasizing quality and efficiency, the Deputy Chief Minister called for strict adherence to timelines in execution of all PWD works, including those related to health and education sectors. He warned that contractors causing undue delays would face strict action. He directed for expediting the renovation and upgradation works of PWD Guest Houses, ensuring completion within the set timelines. He also stressed the timely execution of blacktopping



works across J&K. Highlighting the need for faster implementation of major infrastructure projects, he directed for taking up the big road projects under SASCI for smooth and prompt initiation. The Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the progress under various sectors, including R&B, PMGSY, Cities & Towns, CRIF, RIDF, Pothole and other infrastructure components. He instructed the senior officers, including Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers, to conduct regular site visits to ensure quality and pace of work. During the comprehensive review, he underscored strict

of work on key projects, including Ramban Bridge, Majalta Bridge, PWD Guest House Udhampur, New Assembly Complex Jammu, Pragwal-Indrapati Bridge, PWD Guest House Hyderpora, Boulevard Road and other major road and bridge projects across J&K.

He further directed for removal of bottlenecks hindering the road widening projects. He stressed that all procedural requirements, including technical sanctions, tendering and allotments, be completed in the shortest possible time to ensure timely execution.

He directed the concerned officials to submit a detailed report on the Ramban accident and instructed immediate replacement of poorly constructed parapets at identified locations to enhance public safety.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineers, Director Finance, Planning Officers, Superintending Engineers, and Executive Engineers from all engineering wings of Jammu and Kashmir.

Hilal Malik wins inaugural forestry wildlife photography competition

JAMMU, MAY 05: Hilal Malik has emerged as the winner of the inaugural Forestry and Wildlife Photography Competition organised by the Planning and Publicity Division of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department, with his evocative captures of the region's rich biodiversity and scenic landscapes earning wide appreciation from the jury. Malik was awarded for his documentation of wildlife, people and forest-life across the region. Minister for Forests, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, congratulated Hilal Malik on his remarkable achievement and lauded his contribution towards promoting envi-

ronmental awareness through the art of photography.

The Minister underscored the importance of such initiatives in inspiring the youth to forge a deeper connect with nature and take an active role in conservation efforts. In recognition of his accomplishment, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), J&K, felicitated Hilal Malik at a function held at the Forest Complex, Srinagar. Senior officers and officials of the department were present on the occasion and commended the participant for showcasing the natural splendour and wildlife of Jammu and Kashmir through their lenses.

Satish Sharma assures prioritizing solarization over conventional electricity in J&K; pitches for green energy

SRINAGAR, MAY 5: Minister for Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, today reaffirmed government's strong commitment towards accelerating the solar energy adoption across Jammu and Kashmir, while directing the officials to ensure time-bound resolution of all issues related to ongoing and proposed solar initiatives. A delegation from the Jammu and Kashmir Solar Association called on the Minister here today to



discuss key concerns regarding promotion of renewable energy in the

region. The Minister assured the delegation of full support from the government, particularly in facilitating installation of the rooftop solar systems in far-flung and underserved areas. Emphasizing the strategic importance of solar energy, Satish Sharma said that expanding clean energy infrastructure is central to the government's vision of building a sustainable, energy-efficient and environmentally responsible Jammu and Kashmir. He said that increased adoption of solar power would not only help

meet rising energy demands but also reduce the dependence on conventional energy sources. Demonstrating a proactive approach, the Minister directed the officers to resolve all pending issues of the Association in a time-bound manner. He stressed that delays in approvals, clearances or implementation must be addressed urgently to ensure seamless execution of solar projects across the Union Territory.

Sakeena Ito inaugurates Digital X-Ray unit Thyroid Analyser at PHC Parigam Pulwama

PULWAMA, MAY 05: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito today undertook an extensive visit of the Pamore constituency of Pulwama district and took stock of works on various public utility projects as well as reviewed healthcare facilities. MLA Pamore, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi; Director School Education Kashmir, Nasser Ahmad Wani; Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Jehangir Bhakshi; CEO/CMO Kulgam senior officers of district administration and other sectoral

Also inspects works on under-construction 50-bedded hospital at Kakapora, site for 50-bedded Integrated AYUSH Hospital, Yoga Training Centre at Ratnipora



officers also accompanied the Minister. During her visit, the Minister inaugurated state-of-art Digital X-Ray unit and a Thyroid

Analyser at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Parigam. Addressing a gathering on the occasion, the Minister highlighted that the Government led by Omar Abdullah is committed to strengthen the medical infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, with special focus on rural and underserved areas. She underlined that the introduction of these advanced diagnostic facilities will greatly enhance early detection and timely treatment of diseases, reducing the need for patients to travel to tertiary care hospitals. She emphasized the

government's commitment to equipping rural healthcare institutions with modern technology to ensure accessible and affordable healthcare for all. The Minister also took round of the PHC Parigam and took stock of medical facilities available. She also interacted with medical staff and local residents. The Minister outlined the government's commitment to equipping peripheral health institutions with modern technology and adequate manpower. Later, the Minister also inspected the under-construction 50-bedded hospital at Kakapora.

DC Srinagar reviews progress in installation of roof top solar systems under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

SRINAGAR, MAY 05: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a comprehensive meeting of KPDCI Engineers, Banks and scheme vendors here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess progress of target achievements under the PM Surya Muft Bijli Yojana for the financial year 2025-26 in the district. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Executive Engineers of KPDCI, Zonal Head J&K Bank, Lead District Manager (Banks), empanelled vendors of the scheme and other officials of KPDCI. At the outset,



the Deputy Commissioner, who is also the Chairman Monitoring and Management Committee of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana conducted a detailed review

of performance across all four Electric Divisions of Srinagar District focused on targets achieved, applications received and installations completed under the scheme during year 2025-26.

Stringent Enforcement, Faster Prosecution & Robust Rehabilitation Key to Curb Drug Menace: CS

SRINAGAR, MAY 5: The 17th Union Territory-level meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was today chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, who undertook a comprehensive review of the Union Territory's performance in stringent enforcement of drug laws, prosecution of offenders, and treatment and rehabilitation of victims affected by substance abuse. The meeting was attended by the Director General, Police; Director General, Prosecution; Principal Secretary, Home; Administrative Secretaries;

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; and other senior civil and police officers, while Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police from all districts participated through video conferencing. During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary laid emphasis on strengthening the legal framework and plugging procedural gaps in handling NDPS cases. He directed the Law Department to explore the feasibility of recording statements of in-service witnesses through video conferencing, particularly

Chairs 17th UT-Level NCORD meeting to review the measures



in cases where officials are transferred outside their districts, to ensure continuity and avoid delays in trials. Stressing accountability, he called for a thorough analysis of acquittals in

NDPS cases and fixing responsibility wherever investigative or procedural lacunae are identified. Highlighting the need for a more impactful enforcement strategy, the Chief

Secretary underscored the importance of investigating both backward and forward linkages in drug trafficking cases and actively challenging bail orders to enhance deterrence. He

called for a well-defined strategy to dismantle drug peddling networks, with strict action against identified offenders by law enforcement agencies. Advocating a broader approach, he stressed the use of non-kinetic measures against violators, including cancellation of driving licences, passports, and vehicle registrations, besides scrutiny of financial transactions through banks accounts to choke illicit proceeds. He also emphasized capacity building in the

rehabilitation ecosystem, directing for the training of a large pool of counselors to be made available across schools, colleges, Primary Health Centres, and at the block level through trained Self-Help Group members. The Chief Secretary further directed the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) to create a pool of master trainers, ensuring at least three to four trained resource persons per district, supplemented with periodic refresher courses to continuously upgrade their skills. The Chief Secretary also enjoined upon Deputy Commissioners to ensure the functionality of inpatient (IPD) facilities in drug de-addiction centres in all district hospitals and asked the Health Department to strictly adhere to protocols for the availability of essential medicines at all health institutions. Additionally, he called for strict action in cases involving seizure of vehicles under Section 52A of the NDPS Act to ensure effective enforcement of legal provisions.

Editor, Publisher, Printer & Owner: Rajni Sharma, Published at: Sec-2, Channi Himmat, Jammu
Early Times Printing Press Samadhian Road, Jammu
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