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LG Visits Vibrant Border Village Regal in Samba; lays foundation stone for various developmental projects

JAMMU, MAY 6: "Our border villages are the inheritors of a rich tradition of courage and resilience. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have shifted the narrative. These are no longer the 'last villages' of India; they are our 'First Villages,'" the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday. The Lieutenant Governor was addressing a public rally during his visit to the border village of Regal in the Samba district today, where he initiated and laid the foundation stone for



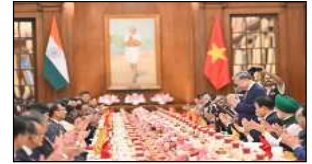
several development projects. These include establishment of Digital Library at Government Primary School, Regal, construction of Community Hall cum Recreation Centre at Regal, development of Amrit Sarovar at Regal alongwith Drainage Channel, Installation of 03

Open Gyms and Installation of Solar Street Lights. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed that the Administration is resolute to elevate the border settlements from the periphery of neglect to the forefront of national progress. "Border villages like Regal are the backbone of India. Our glorious history was forged in the arduous paths of these border villages. We are committed to safeguarding the dignity of every border village family, ensuring that those who

(Contd on Pg 2)

President Murmu hosts Vietnam President to Lam at Rashtrapati Bhavan

NEW DELHI, MAY 6: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday hosted To Lam at Rashtrapati Bhavan during his first State Visit to India, underlining the growing strategic partnership between the two countries. President Murmu also hosted a banquet in honour of the Vietnamese leader and said India and Vietnam share deep historical, civilisational and cultural ties that continue to strengthen bilateral relations. Welcoming President To Lam, Murmu said Vietnam occupies an important place in India's 'Act East' policy and Indo-Pacific vision within the framework of India's



Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN. She appreciated Vietnam's participation in the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and reaffirmed India's commitment to working closely with Vietnam to promote regional peace, stability and cooperation. The President noted that India-Vietnam ties have expanded significantly in recent years through high-level exchanges, defence and security cooperation, development partnership, and collaboration in sectors such as trade, health-care, science and

(Contd on Pg 2)

Are people of J&K being punished for not electing a BJP CM? Omar Abdullah on statehood delay

SRINAGAR, MAY 6: It is deeply unfair to the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the promise of statehood is not being kept, says Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah while going on to ask if they are being punished for not electing a BJP chief minister. "If that is the case, the BJP should have stood up in Parliament or told the Supreme Court that till a BJP chief minister sits in Jammu and Kashmir, you will not get statehood... Then I would have believed that these people



are telling the truth," Abdullah, who was elected to power nearly 20 months ago, told agency. Expressing acute disappointment over the Centre's delay in restoring statehood, the National Conference leader said it amounted to deceit and a

breach of promise "Of course it is disappointing. We are well past the point of early. Early would have been soon after the elections. We are, as you said, 20 months into the government. It's no longer early. It has been needlessly delayed. And the sad fact is nobody is able to explain why. You hear every time that Jammu and Kashmir statehood will be restored at the appropriate time. But nobody tells us when the appropriate time is." Though he continues to meet with Prime Minister

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All showing discrimination inherent bias towards poor: CJ

NEW DELHI, MAY 6: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday said despite its growing influence, artificial intelligence is showing inherent bias against the poor, and stressed that social justice remains the cornerstone of a humane and equitable society. Speaking at the 8th Dinkar Memorial Lecture on "Rashmiration: The Epic of Social Justice" organised by NGO Respect India, CJ Kant said the ideals of equality and human dignity were powerfully echoed in the works of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, long before they were



incorporated into the Constitution of India. "Speaking about AI, the CJ said that reports have started coming that the technology also discriminates and is sometimes biased. Recalling his childhood days, the CJ said that his family

(Contd on Pg 2)

Become torch bearers of self-reliant Viksit Bharat: Kavinder

Governor presides over 2nd Convocation of Sardar Patel University Mandi

MANDI, MAY 6: The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday addressed the Second Convocation of Sardar Patel University (SPU), Mandi, exhorting the graduating class to transcend individual careers and dedicate their knowledge, innovation, and moral sensibility to the collective mission of building a strong, self-reliant



India. Presiding over the Convocation ceremony held in the historic town widely known as 'Choti Kashi', the Governor described the event as far more than a mere degree-giving exercise - calling it a celebration of the confluence of knowledge, culture, and responsibility." The Governor conferred 41 Gold Medals and 304

(Contd on Pg 2)

BRIEF NEWS

Crimes dipped by 6% across country: NCRB

NEW DELHI, MAY 6: India recorded 58.85 lakh crimes in 2024, a six per cent dip from 2023 when 62.41 lakh crimes were reported, according to the latest figures released by the National Crime Records Bureau on Wednesday.

Crime rate, which is a measure of cases registered per lakh population, also dipped from 448.5 in 2023 to 418.9 in 2024, it revealed.

Cases registered under the 'Hurt' category registered under Indian Penal Code sections 325, 326 and 329-335 saw a major decline, 30.58 per cent, from over 6.36 lakh cases in 2023 to over 4.41 lakh cases in 2024, the data showed.

The report, however, clarified that the dip in cases of 'Hurt or Grievous Hurt' may be attributed to the changes in

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SIA Kashmir tightens noose on Narco-Terror Network, attaches property of PoK-Based LeT Militant

SRINAGAR, MAY 6: In a significant action against narco-terror operations, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir on Wednesday attached immovable property belonging to a Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoK)-based operative of the banned outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Kupwara district. According to an official statement, the action was carried out in connection with FIR No. 03/2023 of Police Station ANTF, a case initially registered by the Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) and later handed over to SIA Kashmir after investigation revealed

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NIA Gets 7-Day Custody of Shabir Shah in 1996 Naaz Crossing Violence Case; Court Seeks Fast Probe Into Larger Conspiracy

JAMMU, MAY 6 (JNF): In a significant development in a decades-old terror-linked case, the Special NIA Court has remanded Shabir Ahmed Shah to further police custody in connection with NIA case RC-01/2026/NIA/JMU, arising out of the alleged Naaz Crossing mob violence incident of July 17, 1996.

The order was passed by Special Judge NIA Prem Sagor after the accused, Shabir Ahmed Shah, son of Ghulam Mohd Shah, resident of Anantnag and presently residing at Sanat Nagar, Srinagar, was produced

before the Court by CIO NIA/DSP Aankit Kothilla. The NIA had sought further custody of the accused for ten days, submitting that the investigation was still in progress and that important leads were required to be pursued. After examining the latest entries in the case diary and hearing the submissions of the prosecution, the Court observed that the accused was prima facie involved in offences punishable under Sections 147, 148, 336, 341, 307, 332 and 427 RPC, besides Section 13 of the Unlawful

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Red lines redrawn; need for stronger air, cyber warfare capabilities: experts on Op Sindoor lessons

NEW DELHI, MAY 6: Operation Sindoor has not only redrawn red lines when it comes to India's response to acts of terrorism, but also offered some key military lessons, including joint and cohesive use of air power, bolstering of drone technology and building a robust communication system, say experts. Recalling the decisive military action launched exactly a year ago on the intervening night of May 6-7, several defence and strategic affairs experts concurred that the military operation would play out not only in airspace, but also in cyberspace and information and cognitive domains. And, indeed, the Indian military wasn't just battling against a barrage of hostile drones that came from across the western border,

from Leh to Sir Creek, in multiple waves during the nearly four-day conflict, but also countering an intense misinformation campaign that sought to damage the morale of the forces and the masses. Air Commodore Gaurav M Tripathi (retired), who also played a role during the operation while acknowledging the criticality of air power in deciding the outcome of a conflict, underlined that in any future scenario, "combined air power" of the three services should be leveraged so that it can work cohesively against a "capable adversary." "During (Operation) Sindoor, we saw a mass of drones used by Pakistan. Most of them were harmless, just to engage Indian weapons and munitions so that attack

(Contd on Pg 2)

Rajnath Singh holds defence talks with Vietnam counterpart in New Delhi



NEW DELHI, MAY 6: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held bilateral talks with Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Phan Van Giang in New Delhi on Wednesday, with both sides reviewing ongoing defence cooperation and agreeing to further deepen strategic ties. The meeting reflected the growing strategic trust between India and Vietnam under their Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. In a post on X, Rajnath Singh said he had an excellent meeting with General Phan Van Giang and noted that India values its long-standing ties with Vietnam. He said the discussions focused on adding greater momentum to defence cooperation and expressed

confidence that recent developments reflected positive progress in bilateral engagement. During the discussions, the two leaders reviewed progress in bilateral defence engagements, including high-level exchanges, training programmes and capacity-building initiatives. They also acknowledged increasing convergence in strategic interests, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. The talks focused on strengthening defence cooperation through enhanced maritime engagement, expansion of defence industry collaboration and promotion of joint research, co-development and co-production initiatives. Both sides also stressed the importance of regular interactions between the armed forces of the two countries, including port calls, joint exercises and institutional dialogue mechanisms. Rajnath Singh reiterated India's commitment to cooperate with Vietnam in line with India's vision of Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth for All in the Region (MAHASAGAR). The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and global security developments and underlined the importance of maintaining peace, stability and a rules-based

(Contd on Pg 2)

HC Refuses to Quash FIR Against Ex-Executive Engineer in DOB Tampering Case

JAMMU, MAY 6 (JNF): Justice Shahzad Azeem of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has dismissed a petition filed by Aijaz Hussain Sahaf, former Executive Engineer, seeking quashing of FIR No. 09/2015 registered by Crime Branch, Kashmir, in an alleged service-book tampering and date-of-birth manipulation case. The judgment was reserved on April 24, 2026 and pronounced on May 6, 2026. The petitioner had approached the High Court under Section 561-A CrPC seeking quashing of the FIR registered at Police Station Crime Branch, Kashmir, for offences under Sections 420, 467, 468 and 471 IPC. The case pertains to allegations

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BJP opposes Anti-Encroachment drive seeks regularisation of Illegal structures

JAMMU, MAY 6: The BJP has opposed the ongoing anti-encroachment drive carried out by the Jammu Development Authority (JDA), demanding a halt to the operation, regularising existing constructions and action against "erring" officials. On May 4, the JDA demolished more than 15 structures built without permissions on the Ring Road, along the Jamm-Samba belt, to curb illegal constructions and enforce planning norms. Tensions escalated when BJP MLA Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, along with locals, intervened in the front of bulldozers in the Bisnah area to stop the demolition of a three-storey structure. Several party leaders joined the



protest. Later, a delegation of BJP leaders, comprising Rajeev Kumar Bhagat, Garu Ram Bhagat, Sunder Bhagat and former MLA Chander Prakash Ganga, met JDA Vice Chairman Rupesh Kumar on May 5 and sought suspension of demolition drives and called for regularisation and regularisation of existing structures. Addressing reporters, Rajeev Kumar

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FROM PAGE ONE

LG Visits...

have faced the greatest neglect are now accorded the highest priority in the new era of Jammu Kashmir's progress," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the Government of India is implementing a comprehensive strategy under the Vibrant Villages Programme, which aims to integrate border populations into the national mainstream with focus on Livelihood Generation, Infrastructure and Connectivity. He said that the programme also aims to saturate all villages in 4 thematic areas—all-weather road connectivity, telecom connectivity, television connectivity and electrification through convergence under existing scheme norms.

"Every effort is being made to ensure that the aspirations of every single citizen are fulfilled, that the development demands of border residents are met."

Furthermore, by adopting a "Whole-of-Government Approach," we aim to ensure that every target set under the Vibrant Villages Programme is achieved," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials to ensure that every household in the border villages has access to electricity, mobile connectivity, and economic independence.

"We must ensure that by 2030, not a single family in the border villages of Samba remains below the poverty line," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Responding to the demands raised by Member of Legislative Assembly Ramgah, the Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the administration is committed to providing land ownership rights to displaced persons from PJK and WPKs.

He also stated that the completion of the Shapur Kandi Dam would provide a massive boost to the region's agricultural productivity. The Lieutenant Governor lauded Regal for becoming a TB-free village and urged continued vigilance regarding clean drinking water and the collective fight against drug abuse.

The Lieutenant Governor also handed over appointment orders to SPOs and sanction letters to various youth of the village and beneficiaries under HADP Mission Vya and other schemes.

During his visit to the Regal Border Out Post (BOP), the Lieutenant Governor interacted with the Jawans and lauded their unwavering determination in guarding the nation's frontiers and commended their exemplary role in Operation Sindoor.

Dr. Devidhar Kumar Manral, Member of Legislative Assembly from Ramgah, Shalben Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jt. Shakti Department; Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Anil Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department; Bhim Sen Tuti; IGP Jammu; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture; Ms R. Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Planning and Information; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Ms Ayushi Sudan Deputy Commissioner Samba; Anuj Kumar, SSP Samba, senior officers of army, police and civil administration and people in large number were present.

President...

technology, and tourism. She also welcomed the agreements and announcements made during the visit in areas including rare earth minerals, digital and financial technology, culture and education. Mammu expressed satisfaction over the decision by both countries to further strengthen ties through a "Joint Statement on Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership."

Highlighting the steady growth in bilateral trade over the past decade, the President said India is keen to further expand economic engagement in a balanced and mutually beneficial manner.

She described defence and security cooperation as important pillars of India-Vietnam relations and said both countries remain committed to addressing shared regional challenges together.

The two leaders agreed to deepen cooperation between India and Vietnam would bring substantial benefits to the people of both nations.

Are people...

Narendra Modi and Home Minister Anil Shah, there is no clear indication of what Jammu and Kashmir must do to satisfy the Centre's "appropriate" criteria, leaving the issue of statehood restoration in limbo, Abdullah said.

"What is the yardstick to measure appropriate time? At least if we knew what the appropriate time would be, how to measure it, we would work towards it... So we are chipping away. We keep the demand alive. We keep talking about it. But I think it's deeply unfair to the people of J&K that this promise is not being kept," the chief minister said.

He said the Centre had repeatedly outlined a three-step roadmap for Jammu and Kashmir — delimitation, elections and statehood. The first two steps are done and his government will complete two years in office this October, Abdullah pointed out.

"The timeline, he stressed, has moved significantly beyond the 'early' restoration promised in Parliament and to the Supreme Court. "Is it because the BJP was not allowed to form a government here? Is that why the people of J&K are being punished?" Abdullah asked. "They should have stood up and said that till the BJP's chief minister does not sit in Jammu and Kashmir, you will not get statehood. Then the people of J&K at least know what to expect. Then they can decide whether they want a BJP chief minister or not. This is still decide," he said.

He referred to statements by Leader of Opposition in Jammu and Kashmir Sunil Sharma's statements to buttress his point. Sharma had recently asked why statehood should be restored to Omar Abdullah and his government. In August 2019, the Centre abrogated Article 370 giving Jammu and Kashmir special status and bifurcated the then state into the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The National Conference, he asserted, remains committed to its core ideology and he refuses to lie to the public about what is achievable with the current dispensation in New Delhi.

"Talking to the current government of India about Article 370 is a waste of time; it is tantamount to befuddling people," Abdullah said. "Those who are not ready to give you statehood, will be ready to give you Article 370?" In 2023, the Supreme Court said statehood should be restored "at the earliest".

"That's the problem with it at the earliest. It's so vague," Abdullah said. Asked whether the state government would approach the Supreme Court for clarity, he was cautious. "Let's see. Such things are also fraught with risk. I don't want to say too much because it then gets misinterpreted. Let's just say that all our options are on the table." Addressing critics, including a few within his own party, who claim his government has abandoned the push for Article 370, Abdullah said, "Look, critics are a dime a dozen and they are a natural part of democracy. Every one is entitled to an opinion and everybody has an opinion about almost everything. So I have no problem with that. The fact is that we have not abandoned our core principles."

In a dig at the Mehbooba Multi-lead PDP and detractors within his party, Abdullah said, "Now I can understand some of these critics are masters at befuddling people. It's all they have ever done." In the case of some of them, their entire political career is founded on lies. I am not going to join them. I am not going to be the one to befuddle people that I am going to Delhi to get Article 370 for you."

AI showing...

encouraged him to study Dinkar and other great writers such as Manohir Prasad, Suryakant Tripathi Nirala, Harivansh Rai Bachchan and Mahadevi Varma.

He said the poetry of these great writers not only gave a healing touch during the freedom struggle but also aroused a sense of revolution among the masses. Similarly, the war should also provide solace to the people, he said.

The CJ, who addressed the gathering in Hindi, said he believes Dinkar's poetry focuses on social justice like the law which also highlights social equality and harmony in society.

He said that Dinkar was given the title of 'Rashtrakavi' by Mahatma Gandhi because his writings reflected the soul of the nation, its aspirations, pain and struggle.

Recalling lessons from Dinkar's epic Rashmirasi, the CJ emphasised that justice, self-respect and human dignity must remain at the centre of society.

"In a democracy, equality, dignity and social harmony are essential. Merely passing laws is not enough unless every individual is treated with dignity and respect," he said.

Justice Kant expressed concern that even seven decades after it was written, inequalities continue to persist, and underlined that the ideals and practices of social justice form the foundation of a just social order.

The CJ said that writers have always inspired society and in law, people talk about poetic justice, which also came from these great poets.

Speaking about AI, the CJ said that reports have started coming in that technology also discriminates and is sometimes biased. The programme was organised by NGO Respect India and was attended by Supreme Court Bar Association president Vikas Singh and Lok Sabha MP Manoj Tiwari, who was conferred with Dinkar Sanskrit Samman.

Singh said, "Dinkar's writings reflect the foundational principles of justice noted in our civilisational ethos. This platform connects literary thought with contemporary legal and societal discourse."

Manish Kumar Chaudhary, founder and general secretary of NGO Respect India, said, "This memorial lecture is a tribute to Dinkar's legacy and his ideas that continue to inspire generations. We want this platform to bring together culture, ideas and social responsibility."

Former Delhi University professor Rameshwar Rai said on the occasion, "Dinkar's work remains relevant even today, offering insights into social justice, human values and the way society evolves."

Supreme Court justice P B Varale was also present on the occasion, among several senior lawyers and students of colleges and universities.

Become...

Degrees to the graduates on the occasion. Invoking the legacy of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel - the university's namesake and guiding inspiration, the Governor reminded students that the founding ideal of national unity and integrity remains as urgent today as it was at Independence. He lauded the university's decision for installing a statue of Patel on campus, expressing the concept of 'Bhutan Vallabhi' as a "symbol of renewed ideological reverence" that reflects the institution's national vision.

"We must remain committed to realising Sardar Patel's dream of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat," the Governor urged, linking the university's founding ethos to the contemporary imperatives of national cohesion and pride.

Governor Gupta praised SPU Mandi for making remarkable strides in a short span. He specifically commended the university's phased implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), the establishment of a Bharatya Gyan Paripannam (Indian Knowledge Tradition) cell, the holding of its First Convocation in traditional Indian attire, and the constitution of various academic committees - calling these "praiseworthy steps in the direction of defined goals."

He also applauded the multidimensional academic and cultural initiatives undertaken to commemorate India's 500-year historical journey, describing them as a "powerful expression of deep historical consciousness and cultural responsibility."

Situating the graduates within India's larger developmental arc, the Governor underscored the defining importance of this historical moment. He pointed to Atmanirbhar Bharat, Digital India, and Viksit Bharat 2047 as collective challenges demanding active youth participation, not merely professional achievement.

"In today's world, along with knowledge, innovation, ethics, and human sensitivity are absolutely essential. Technical competence alone is not enough - your thinking and perspective as a responsible citizen are equally important," he said.

He called on students to use their knowledge for the upliftment of weaker and deprived sections of society, integrate drug-free living and environmental conservation into their lifestyles, and contribute actively to preserving India's rich cultural heritage.

In a philosophically resonant observation, the Governor reminded graduates of the Sanskrit distinction between Dik-shant (commencement of a new journey) and Shikshaant (end of education) - noting that true learning is a lifelong continuum guiding intellectual, moral, and practical growth.

The Governor extended warm congratulations to all gold medalists, degree recipients, their parents, and the faculty, crediting the collective dedication of mentors and families as the bedrock of every student's success. He expressed confidence that SPU Mandi would emerge as a centre of knowledge not only for Himachal Pradesh but for the entire nation.

On the occasion, MLA Dhanrajpur Sh. Chandar Shekhar (EC Member SPU), Vice Chancellor Prof. Lalit Kumar Awasthi, DC Mandi Sh. Apoorv Devgan, SP Mandi Sh. Vinod Kumar IPS and Registrar Sh. Shashi Pal Negi were present on the occasion.

NIA Gets...

Activities (Prevention) Act and Sections 7/27 of the Arms Act. According to the prosecution, the NIA has recorded the statement of a second protected witness. The agency submitted that, during investigation, the accused allegedly admitted that he was leading the mob on July 17, 1996, along with other Hurrayal leaders. However, the prosecution further stated that the accused had not disclosed the identity of the terrorists who were allegedly part of the mob and had started firing upon police officials.

The NIA also informed the Court that responses from CID, Jammu and Kashmir, and Doodarshan Srinagar are still awaited. The agency has sought archival material and other relevant records connected with the 1996 incident in order to confront the accused with the findings and to unearth the larger conspiracy, if any, behind the incident.

Taking note of the submissions and the stage of investigation, the Court observed that the application filed by the NIA met the condition. Accordingly, the accused was remanded to police custody for seven days till May 12, 2026, with a direction to the Chief Investigating Officer to expedite the investigation.

The Court further directed the CIO to strictly comply with all provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) relating to custody of the accused. It also directed that the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in Anesh Kumar, Sainider Kumar and D.K. Bora be followed in letter and spirit.

The Court also directed that the accused be medically examined after every 48 hours as per rules.

The case has once again brought focus on the 1996 Naaz Crossing incident with the NIA now probing whether the mob violence was part of a larger conspiracy involving terror elements and separatist-linked movements. The agency is expected to confront the accused with further material after receiving responses from CID J&K and Doodarshan Srinagar. (NF)

difficult to jam... have better navigation at the end, might not need GPS, (and) they might have electro-optical homing devices. And, they they probably collaborate as a swarm," Air Commodore Tripathi told PTI.

The former IAF officer, who took an early retirement last August, has flown multiple kinds of fighter jets and commanded a Hawk Mk 132 squadron, and also served as a chief operations officer of a fighter base.

In the IAF, there has already been some investment in anti-drone capabilities, "but anti-drone capabilities will really have to be proliferated, and cover all 'important points,'" he said, on the military lessons learned from the operation.

The former air officer praised the S-400 and Akash weapon systems, BrahMos and other missiles, in securing the Indian skies and dealing a potent blow to the adversary, which also allowed Indian fighter jets to "play their role."

"We used them (S-400 system) very offensively; we moved them around very frequently. We camouflaged them as well and used their decoy forms to deceive the adversary. This technique in military parlance is called camouflage, concealment and deception or CCD," he said.

Sharing his own experience of being part of the operation last year, the former IAF officer underlined that what was "probably pioneered in this operation, and I think it will become part of IAF's concept of operations, is offensive utilisation of long-range surface-to-air-missiles."

Military experts said another lesson from the operation is to "expedite and complete the networking of aerial assets", which the Indian Air Force would draw from it.

Former Air officer Lt Gen Dushyant Singh (ret'd) said Operation Sindoor has demonstrated that "red lines have been pushed further" when it comes to counter-terrorist stance of India, and New Delhi is ready to "call the nuclear bluff of the adversary."

"One of the major military lessons from Op Sindoor is that we moved from strategic restraint to strategic proactiveness. We have to be prepared to respond in a very, very quick time, in case something like that happens next time," he told PTI.

The retired army officer, also the director general of Delhi-based think-tank Centre For Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), underscored that "speed, depth and level of response, all those red lines have increased" and that requires military preparedness.

In that context, certain structural lessons and military policies have emerged from it. And certain logistic lessons can also be derived from the conflict, he said.

Operation Sindoor was launched to avenge the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, with Indian forces conducting precision strikes on multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK).

After launching the decisive military operation, the Indian Army in a post on X at 1:51 am on May 7 had said, "#PahalgamTerrorAttack Justice is Served. Jai Hind!"

Pakistan later also launched offensives against India, and all subsequent counter-offensives by India were also carried out under Operation Sindoor.

The military conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, lasting nearly 88 hours, halted after they reached an understanding on the evening of May 10.

On the first anniversary of the Pahalgam attack, the Army in a post on X said, for acts against India, "the response is assured", and carried a digital poster bearing an image portraying three armed soldiers in uniform standing next to each other against a backdrop that depicted a large red circle, with a caption "OPERATION SINDOOR CONTINUES..."

On the other hand, in the word 'SINDOOR' was depicted by a bowl carrying a dish of 'sindoor' (vermillion), and a red line at the bottom printed in crimson hue.

Lt Gen Singh (ret'd) underlined that future operations are going to be multi-domain, "from space to undersea", with a "web of communication" functioning simultaneously and not just as a "chain communication".

Therefore, military communications will have to be robust and resilient to electronic warfare, cyber warfare and disruptions from space, he said, pitching for speeding up the indigenisation process.

Dinkar Peri, Fellow, security studies programme at Carnegie India, argued that "Op Sindoor was a watershed moment for India and the subcontinent in the way it established a military threshold, and the aspiration to free India and Pakistan."

That said, he also holds several lessons for India to maintain that superiority in the next conflict, Pakistan, and by extension China, knows what the Indian military is capable of and, more importantly, what the limitations are. The next conflict or Op Sindoor 2.0 will not be like the last one," he said.

Days after the operation, the defence ministry approved several emergency procurements, including precision munitions, replenishing S-400 missile stocks, several drones, counter-drone systems, laser warning munitions and Javelin anti-tank guided missiles, which were under induction now as per the provisions, Peri said, underlining how India is implementing some of the key lessons.

"These will plug immediate gaps while several major capital procurement programmes approved recently, like the 114 Rafales under the medium multi-role aircraft deal, additional S-400 systems, new air defence guns, (and) aircraft, among others, take shape over the next few years," he said.

Op Sindoor...

survive," he added. Asked about the recent assembly election results, the NC president said he sees the results like everyone else. "How will I see, I see it like you are seeing. The results have come, Mamata (Banerjee) is not accepting the results, she says there was huge rigging. This is the situation in Bengal, Tamil Nadu is getting a new government, Congress won in Kerala, the BJP won in Assam. What else is there?" he said.

When asked if he sees any impact of special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the elections, Abdullah said, "There was an impact of everything." He also said the opposition INDIA bloc is already strong and there is nothing lacking in it.

In response to a question about blasts in Punjab, the former Union minister said blasts have been happening in India, and there was nothing new. "You should not panic," he told reporters.

The operation targeting the NC government in J-K, Abdullah said is going to be the opposition is doing its job.

"If they die, how will they survive? Let them say what they want. Our party is working the way it has to, and we will continue to do so," he added.

Rajnath...

international offer. The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment of India and Vietnam to further strengthen their defence partnership and explore new avenues of cooperation in the years ahead.

HC Refuses...

that the petitioner manipulated the first page of his service book by changing his date of birth from August 28, 1955 to August 28, 1958.

simultaneously referred to the department for a departmental inquiry. The departmental inquiry later concluded that the petitioner had tampered with his service records and changed his date of birth, after which the matter was referred back to Crime Branch for action under law.

The petitioner argued that the FIR was motivated, lodged only to harass him, and that the Under Secretary had no locus to lodge the complaint. He also contended that since an earlier inquiry had given him a clean chit, a second FIR on the same facts was not legally sustainable.

Rejecting these submissions, the Court held that closure of a preliminary verification does not amount to a judicial closure report and cannot prevent registration of an FIR when subsequent material discloses commission of cognizable offences.

The Court observed that the investigation had collected important material, including the petitioner's matriculation certificate, school records, service book, statements of witnesses and a communication from the J&K Board of School Education confirming the petitioner's date of birth as August 28, 1955.

The Court further noted that the most crucial evidence was the FSL report dated July 18, 2014, which opined that the original date of birth of the petitioner was August 28, 1955 and not August 28, 1958, thereby confirming tampering in the service record.

Justice Shaluz Azeem held that where information discloses commission of a cognizable offence, registration of FIR under Section 154 CrPc becomes mandatory. The Court also relied upon the Supreme Court judgment in Vinod Kumar Pandey v. Suresh Ram Saini, observing that if information or a preliminary report discloses a cognizable offence, police are duty-bound to register an FIR without delay.

The High Court further held that exoneration or relief in disciplinary proceedings does not automatically entitle an accused to quash of criminal proceedings, as departmental proceedings are decided on preponderance of probabilities while criminal cases require proof beyond reasonable doubt.

The Court made it clear that while exercising inherent jurisdiction, it cannot conduct a mini trial or re-weigh the evidence collected during investigation, as such matters fall within the domain of the trial court.

Dismissing the petition as devoid of merit, the Court vacated all interim directions and granted liberty to the Investigating Officer to proceed in accordance with law. (NF)

BJP opposes...

height limits," he said.

He questioned the timing of the drive, saying, "What kind of emergency is it that officials arrived at 4 am to carry out demolition?" Bhagat also cited the case of a farmer whose land was partly acquired for the Ring Road, leaving him with limited land on which he had begun construction.

The MLA demanded strict action against JDA officials, including suspension of enforcement staff, alleging that illegal constructions had flourished due to administrative lapses.

He also sought a probe by the Anti-Corruption Bureau into alleged irregularities by them.

Gan Ram Bhagat said the meeting with JDA authorities was held in "a positive atmosphere" and claimed that assurances were given that already constructed structures would not be demolished immediately.

He said that people would be allowed to apply online for No Objection Certificates and resume construction after approvals.

BJP MLA Sunder Bhagat said they had intervened to prevent demolition and protect people's interests while maintaining that their support for the government. "We will not support any legal activity, but harassment of poor people in the name of law will not be accepted," he said.

The legislators also flagged a lack of coordination between departments, particularly between JDA and Revenue authorities, claiming conflicting land-use classifications were causing confusion for residents.

The said a joint meeting with the district administration would be convened to streamline land records, clarify jurisdiction and ensure transparency in permissions.

JDA officials maintained that the demolition drive was carried out after due notice and was aimed at enforcing building regulations and ensuring planned urban development.

Crimes...

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita introduced in 2023, which replaced the Indian Penal Code, where these sections had been merged and simple 'Hurt' being made a non-cognisable offence.

During the year, a total of 27,049 cases of murder were registered, showing a marginal decline of 2.4 per cent over the previous year, with 'disputes' being the leading motive behind the crimes, followed by 'personal vendetta or enmity' and 'gain,' it said.

Crimes against women showed a dip of 1.5 per cent over the previous year, with 4,411 cases lodged in 2024 as compared to 4,481 cases the previous year.

"Crucially by husband or relatives" was the leading cause of such crimes, followed by kidnapping, crime against minors, assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty, the data said.

"The crime rate registered per lakh women population was 6.46 in 2024 in comparison with 6.62 in 2023," the report said.

The report revealed that a total of 55,698 cases were registered for crimes against Scheduled Castes (SCs), showing a decrease of 3.6 per cent over 2023, when 57,789 cases were registered.

Crimes against Scheduled Tribes also showed a sharp decline of 23.1 per cent, with a total of 9,966 cases in 2024, as compared to 12,960 cases in 2023.

SIA Kashmir...

larger terror-financing and cross-border narco-terror links. The statement said investigations established that accused Zamier Ahmad Lone, son of Ahmad Gul Lone, a resident of Mandiyar Kenan in Kupwara and presently operating from PJK, was actively involved in narco-smuggling and terror-related activities aimed at disturbing peace and security in Jammu and Kashmir. Authorities said the accused had already been declared a proclaimed offender by a competent court for evading arrest and continuing anti-national activities from across the border.

Following a detailed application moved by SIA Kashmir, the competent court ordered attachment of the accused's property after examining the evidence placed on record.

Acting on the court directions, SIA Kashmir attached immovable property measuring one kanal and 14.37 marlas under Khalsa No. 113 at Mandiyar Kenan, Kupwara. The attachment process was conducted by a specialised SIA team in the presence of the Executive Magistrate and local revenue officials as per legal procedures. The statement further said that SIA Kashmir had earlier filed a detailed charge sheet before the competent court after uncovering substantial evidence related to narco-infiltrating, terror funding and cross-border militant connections.

Officials said the latest action reflects the agency's continued efforts to dismantle the entire ecosystem supporting terrorists, particularly networks involved in terror financing and narcotics smuggling from across the border.

SIA Kashmir reiterated its commitment to identifying and taking strict legal action against individuals and groups engaged in activities prejudicial to the sovereignty and security of the nation.

The agency also stated that efforts under the 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan' are being intensified across Jammu and Kashmir to combat drug abuse and break the nexus between narcotics trade and terrorism.

Regular training camps form the core strength of BJP organization: Sat Sharma

JAMMU, MAY 6: BJP Jammu & Kashmir President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma CA, accompanied by General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, Lok Sabha MP Jagal Kishore Sharma, former Dy CM Dr. Nirmal Singh, Rajya Sabha MP Ghulam Ali Khatana, and former J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, addressed a series of organizational meetings at the BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

BJP Vice-Presidents Rajiv Charak, Rakesh Mahajan, Rekha Mahajan, and Rashpal Verma, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Baldev Singh Billaawaria, former Mayor Rajinder Sharma, Secretaries Reema Padma, and Pawan Sharma, Training Department Incharge Dr. Parnesh Mahajan, along with other senior party leaders and functionaries, were present in the meeting.

The meeting focused on strengthening the organizational structure at every level, reviewing ongoing party programmes, and finalizing



preparations for the district-level training camps to be organized under the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan 2026.

Sat Sharma, while addressing the meetings, emphasized that the BJP's strength lies in its disciplined cadre-based organizational framework and dedicated workers. He said that regular training camps form the core strength of the BJP organization as they help in nurturing ideological clarity, leadership qualities, and organizational discipline among party workers. He stated that the party leadership and workers must continue working

with commitment and coordination to further expand the organization at the booth and district levels. He stressed that the upcoming district training camps under the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan will play a crucial role in ideologically empowering party workers and equipping them to effectively take the policies and achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government to every section of society. He called for active participation of all party functionaries in the training programmes and ongoing public outreach initiatives.

Ashok Koul, in his address, laid emphasis on organizational discipline and effective implementation of party programmes at the grassroots level. He said that the training camps are an essential part of the BJP's organizational culture and are aimed at enhancing the efficiency, ideological clarity, and working methodology of party activists. He also asked party workers to remain actively engaged with the public and continue working with dedication to strengthen the party further.

Jugal Kishore Sharma highlighted the importance of strengthening coordination among party workers and public representatives to ensure better public outreach and effective communication of government welfare schemes among the masses. Dr. Nirmal Singh stated that the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan provides an important platform for workers to understand the party's vision, principles, and commitment towards nation-building and public service.

DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range, visited GMS, Buttan in District Reasi



JAMMU, MAY 6: Continuing his outreach initiatives aimed at engaging with students in rural and remote areas, Shiv Kumar Sharma, IPS, DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range, visited Government Middle School, Buttan in District Reasi on Tuesday.

The visit was marked by meaningful interaction with students, teachers, and members of the local community, highlighting the importance of education, discipline, and holistic development.

During his visit, the DIG spent considerable time

interacting with students in an informal and encouraging manner. He took a keen interest in understanding the academic environment of the school, the facilities available, and the challenges faced by both students and staff. He motivated the students to pursue their dreams with dedication, hard work, and a clear sense of purpose. Sharing insights from his own journey, he encouraged them to remain focused and resilient in the face of challenges. Emphasizing the importance of a healthy lifestyle, the DIG also addressed the teaching staff and stressed their crucial role in shaping the future of young minds. He urged teachers to go beyond textbooks and instill strong moral values, integrity, and a sense of responsibility among students. He emphasized that education should focus on building character and preparing students to become responsible citizens and contributors to society and the nation.

CVPPL organises awareness program on "TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan"

JAMMU, MAY 6: Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPL), a joint venture of NHPC Limited, a Government of India Navratna enterprise, and JKSPDC, a Government of Jammu & Kashmir undertaking, organized a Tuberculosis (TB) Awareness Program on May 5 in collaboration with the State TB Cell, Directorate of Health Services, Jammu. The initiative was held under the nationwide TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, aimed at eliminating tuberculosis from the country. The program was inaugurated by the Managing Director of CVPPL, Ramesh Mukhya, in the presence of employees and contract workers. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the importance of collective efforts in supporting the national mission to eradicate TB. He highlighted that awareness, early detection, and timely treatment are key pillars in controlling the spread of the disease and ensuring a healthier society. During the session, State TB Officer Dr. Jyoti Jolly, along with District TB Officer Dr. Anu Saloch, pro-

vided comprehensive insights into the nature, causes, symptoms, prevention, and treatment of tuberculosis. They elaborated on the Government of India's commitment to eliminating TB by 2030 and stressed the need for community participation and awareness to achieve this goal. The experts also addressed common myths and misconceptions associated with TB, encouraging people to seek timely medical help without stigma. As part of its corporate social responsibility, CVPPL contributed 100 nutrition food baskets to the State TB Cell, Jammu, for distribution among TB patients. This initiative aims to support patients in maintaining proper nutrition, which plays a crucial role in recovery and treatment effectiveness. Additionally, TB screening tests were conducted for CVPPL employees during the program to promote early detection and prevention. The initiative witnessed active participation and was appreciated by all attendees for its informative and community-focused approach.

NC on ventilator, Cabinet expansion delay exposes Rift: Purnima Sharma targets Omar Govt

JAMMU, MAY 6: BJP Spokesperson J&K and former Deputy Mayor Advocate Purnima Sharma launched a scathing attack on the government led by Omar Abdullah, accusing it of administrative failure, excessive centralisation of power, and lack of accountability even after nearly two years in office. Taking a sharp political dig, she alleged that the real reason behind the delay in cabinet expansion is internal discord within Jammu and Kashmir National Conference.

"The National Conference is on ventilator. The leadership knows that the day cabinet is expanded, internal contradictions will surface and the party will scatter like a house of cards," she remarked. She further claimed that there is growing resentment among party leaders over denial of ministerial



berths and alleged prevalence of "transfer industry" and favouritism. "Leaders within the party are feeling sidelined due to parivarvaad and selective decision-making. This internal rift has the potential to divide the party into factions," she added.

Purnima Sharma also alleged that the Omar Abdullah-led govern-

ment has reduced governance to a "one-man show," with key portfolios being retained by the Chief Minister instead of being distributed among ministers. She claimed that crucial departments such as Finance, Revenue, General Administration, and several unlocated portfolios continue to remain concentrated at the top, severely impacting governance and delaying decision-making.

She further stated that as per the existing administrative structure, all unlocated departments remain directly under the Chief Minister, increasing the burden on a single office and weakening accountability. According to her, even important sectors like tourism, housing, and urban development are being handled in a centralised manner, reflecting lack of delegation.

Purnima Sharma criticised the delay in cabinet expansion, stating that even after a prolonged period in office, the government has failed to induct adequate ministers. "Jammu & Kashmir cannot be run through over-centralisation and control from a single office. This is not governance, this is administrative bottleneck and mismanagement," she said.

JKTF & NPSEUF urge relief for teachers ahead of Census 2027 duties

JAMMU, MAY 6: A joint delegation of the Jammu & Kashmir Teachers' Forum (JKTF) and JK NPS Employees' Union Front (NPSEUF) today called on the Director School Education, Jammu (DSEJ), raising key concerns regarding the proposed deployment of teaching staff for Census 2027 duties. The delegation, led by Chief Patron Ganesh Khajuria, highlighted operational and humanitarian challenges faced by teachers, particularly women, during extensive door-to-door census surveys. Khajuria urged the department to seek exemptions for female teachers, citing safety concerns, family responsibilities, and logistical difficulties that arise during prolonged field assignments. The representatives also expressed serious concern over the practice of deputing multiple teachers—often three to four—from a single govern-



ment school for census work. They warned that such large-scale diversion of teaching staff disrupts the academic calendar, affects classroom continuity, and ultimately hampers students' learning outcomes, especially in already understaffed schools. Members of the delegation present during the meeting included Kuldeep Bhandal, P.D. Singh, Gautam Singh, Ashwani

Sharma, Pawan Kumar, Rashpal Doss, Bachan Lal, Gunmeet Singh, Ravi Kaith, Sanjay Kumar, Surinder Kumar, Kuldeep Singh, among others. They collectively emphasized the need for a balanced approach that safeguards both national responsibilities and the integrity of school education. Placing a concrete proposal before the Director, Khajuria requested that

clear instructions be issued to the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, ensuring that not more than one teacher is deputed from any school for Census 2027 duties. This, he said, would help maintain the continuity of teaching-learning processes while still contributing effectively to census operations. The Director School Education, Jammu, gave a patient and attentive hearing to the delegation. Assuring them of due consideration, the Director stated that the matter would be taken up with the concerned authorities to explore feasible solutions that address both administrative requirements and academic concerns. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with the delegation expressing hope that their demands would be acted upon in the larger interest of students, teachers, and the education system as a whole.

Devotional song "Jogiya Aa Vehre" released at Jammu Press Club

JAMMU, MAY 6: A soulful devotional song titled "Jogiya Aa Vehre" was officially released during a special ceremony held at the Press Club of Jammu today. The event, organized by Keshav Chopra, Chairman of Samvedna Society, was graced by Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu Anusya Jamwal (JKAS) and Deputy Director Tourism Publicity Jammu Savita Chauhan (JKAS), who jointly unveiled the track along with Keshav Chopra and noted singer Deepak Kumar of Jammu and Kashmir. The devotional song has been rendered by singer Ritika Kakkra, with lyrics penned by Yuvi and music composed by Kumar Gaurav.



The visual presentation has been directed by Simar Mattu, and the project has been released on Ritika Kakkra's official YouTube channel. The production team also acknowledged the support of Mahant Bitta, Mata Kawalji Kaur, Baba Tarlochan Singh, and Sukvinder Foji in bringing the project to completion. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner Anusya Jamwal appreciated the creative effort, stating that such initiatives enrich the cultural fabric of the region. She emphasized the need to support local artists who bring spiritual and cultural themes to wider audiences through modern platforms. She also urged the youth to stay away from drug abuse and focus on constructive activities. Deputy Director Tourism Publicity Savita Chauhan lauded the quality of the production and the talent involved, adding that the growth of tourism and culture is closely linked with the promotion.

IIT Jammu conducts SEED programme for school students to promote Engineering innovation

JAMMU, MAY 6: The Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development Centre (I2EDC), IIT Jammu, successfully organized a one-day SEED Programme-Student Enrichment through Engineering and Design-for 32 students from MHAC, Nagbani, Jammu. The students were accompanied by their teachers, Mrs. Poonam Manhas and Mrs. Shweta Thakur Jamwal. The programme aimed to provide early exposure to engineering concepts while fostering creativity, innovation, and problem-solving skills among school students through experiential learning. During the session, students were introduced to the fundamentals of RC car engineering. Key components such as wheels, chassis, Arduino Uno, motor driver, battery, Bluetooth module, jumper wires, and other electronics were explained in a student-friendly and engaging manner by Mr. Mohammad Israil, Officer-In-Charge, I2EDC, IIT Jammu. A major highlight of the programme was the hands-on activity, where students closely observed an RC car, followed by disassembling and reassembling it independently. This exercise enabled them to understand the working

mechanical and electronic components in a practical setting. The session also provided insights into the evolution of transportation, tracing the journey of wheels from early applications such as pottery-making and chariots to modern-day cycles, automobiles, trains, and high-speed transportation systems. The interactive format of the programme significantly enhanced students' analytical thinking and curiosity. The training programme was supported by Prof. Navneet Kumar, Professor-In-Charge, I2EDC, along with Mr. Namrit Bhardwaj, Mr. Sahil Sharma, and Mrs. Priyanka Manhas. The programme concluded with a certificate and badge distribution ceremony, recognizing the enthusiastic participation of the students and marking their first step into the world of engineering design and innovation. Six outstanding students were awarded Level 02 badges (Young Thinker) for their excellent performance. IIT Jammu continues to actively engage in outreach initiatives aimed at nurturing young minds and inspiring the next generation of innovators and engineers.

Hindustan Pencils workers stage protest over factory closure, seek Govt intervention

JAMMU, MAY 6: Workers of Hindustan Pencils Pvt. Ltd. (Natraj Pencils) unit at Pura staged a day-long protest dharna in front of the Deputy Labour Commissioner's office in Jammu, intensifying their agitation over the alleged illegal closure of the factory and non-payment of dues. The protesting workers stated that they have been continuously holding a dharna for the past 22 days outside the factory gate, but no serious intervention has been made by the Labour Department to initiate dialogue with the management. They alleged



that despite repeated appeals, the authorities have failed to facilitate negotiation between the workers and the company. It was highlighted that the factory was allegedly shut down without complying with labour laws. The workers, many of whom have been employed for

the past 20-25 years under contractor arrangements, claimed that they have not been paid their pending dues. They were reportedly asked to resume duties at Bari Brahmana, while more than 20 permanent employees are still shown to be in employment even as the management main-

tains that the factory has been closed. The workers' union accused the management of deliberately orchestrating the closure to replace long-serving employees with contractual labour. They further alleged that the move was also aimed at claiming insurance benefits, asserting that the fire incident at the factory was misrepresented as a short circuit. According to the union, the fire actually broke out due to welding and drilling work during operational hours. The protesters demanded a thorough and impartial inquiry into the fire inci-



Mahila Congress Convention flags women's empowerment gaps in J&K

JAMMU, MAY 6: A one-day Convention of the Mahila Congress was organised by J&K UT Mahila Congress President Shamima Raina, bringing into sharp focus the pressing issues confronting women across Jammu and Kashmir. The event, attended by Senior Congress leaders including JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla and former Minister & District Jammu Urban President Yogesh Sawhney, witnessed detailed deliberations on women's welfare, empowerment, and political representation. Prominent women leaders including Inderjeet Kour, Parveen, Ashya Chaudhary, Santosh Manjotra, Chandra Prabha Sharma, Sunam Wazir, Pushpa Kumari, Kamlesh Manhas, and Veena Manhas also participated. J&K UT Mahila Congress President Shamima Raina, along with senior women leaders of the party, today carried out a symbolic protest-cum-awareness initiative by visiting the Head Post Office in Jammu, where they collectively sent postcards



addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, pressing for immediate implementation of 33% reservation for women in legislatures. Mahila Congress leaders asserted that women's political empowerment has remained a repeatedly announced but long-delayed commitment, with little tangible progress on the ground. They said that while the Women's Reservation Bill has been discussed for years, its effective and timely implementation is still awaited, leaving women underrepresented in decision-making bodies

at both the national and state levels. The Mahila Congress leaders strongly argued that this continued delay reflects a disconnect between promises made and action delivered, and called it unfair to the aspirations of millions of women who seek equal participation in governance. They maintained that symbolic assurances are not enough, and that constitutional provisions for reservation must be implemented without further procedural or political delay. They further stated that women across the country have consistently con-

tributed to social, economic, and political development, yet continue to face structural barriers in political representation. The leaders urged the Centre to take immediate corrective steps, ensuring that the 33% reservation is implemented in letter and spirit so that women can play a decisive role in shaping policy and governance. Concluding their appeal, the Mahila Congress leaders emphasized that the issue is not just political but also a matter of democratic fairness and gender justice. They urged the government to avoid what they termed as "delay tactics" and to respect the long-standing aspirations of women by translating commitments into concrete legislative action at the earliest. Shamima Raina, while addressing the convention, strongly underlined that women in Jammu and Kashmir continue to face systemic challenges despite multiple welfare announcements. She pointed out that widow pensions, old-age support schemes, and financial assistance programmes,

Shahpur Kandi Dam to transform J&K agriculture: Raman Suri



JAMMU, MAY 6: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Raman Suri today said that the visionary policies of the union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including the strategic decision to stop water flow to Pakistan and the successful completion of the Shahpur Kandi Dam, are set to revolutionise agriculture in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the Kandi belt of Samba and Kathua districts. In a statement issued here, Suri said that water from the Ravi River is now being channelled through the Ravi Canal into the Ujj system, ultimately reaching the long-neglected Kandi areas of Samba district. He noted that for the first time in nearly 40 years, water has been released directly from the Shahpur Kandi Dam into the Ravi Canal, replacing

the earlier dependence on lift irrigation schemes at Basantpur and Lakhampur, which were frequently disrupted due to power outages and technical constraints. Suri further highlighted that the Ravi Canal, which had deteriorated over time and was operating far below its capacity of 1,150 cusecs, has now been fully repaired and restored. At present, around 200 cusecs of water has been released into the canal, with plans underway to increase the flow by an additional 500 cusecs with-

in the next month. Suri said that the improved irrigation system will directly benefit vast agricultural areas including Rajbagh, Chadwal, Marheen, Hiranagar, Ghagwal, Rajpura, Samba, Vijaypur, and Ramgarh, enabling farmers to cultivate crops more efficiently and increasing agricultural productivity in the region. The BJP leader also underscored the strategic significance of the Modi government's decision, taken after Operation Sindoor, to stop the flow of water to Pakistan. He said that despite incomplete work on the dam earlier, Pakistan had continued to benefit from water resources originating in India, but with the project now complete, India has ensured that its rightful share of water is utilised for the benefit of its own farmers.

Chib calls for aggressive push on J&K Statehood, criticizes Govt's approach

DODA, MAY 6: National President of the Indian Youth Congress, Adaya Bhanu Chib, launched a strong attack on the Jammu & Kashmir government, accusing it of political submission and failure to assertively pursue the restoration of statehood. Addressing a one-day convention at the Doda district, Chib said that the demand for statehood cannot be achieved through "appeals or flattery" towards the BJP-led central government. He stressed that it requires a sustained, assertive political movement capable of exerting real pressure. "The demand for statehood

will not be fulfilled with political submission. It must be backed by an aggressive push," he asserted. Linking the larger constitutional issue with grassroots concerns, Chib highlighted several public demands, including local employment in mega projects, establishment of a Doda Development Authority to boost tourism, construction of the Doda-Kapran road, provision of an air ambulance for the erstwhile Doda district, establishment of a women's college, and granting of Pahari status. He said these demands reflect the everyday aspirations of the people.

The convention, organised on the initiative of Swarnveer Singh Jaraal and Mudassar H. Bandyaj, also focused on mobilising youth participation in political processes. Chib described the restoration of statehood as an issue of constitutional dignity, democratic rights, and regional identity, adding that prolonged delays have deepened public frustration. Criticising certain political leaders, particularly from the National Conference, Chib alleged that their "habit of political submission" and alignment with BJP leadership weakens the larger cause of statehood.

MSCBMC Trust's 'Jashan-e-Bahar' workshop gains momentum; call for more initiatives in remote areas

KISHTWAR, MAY 6: The 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 Chattroo, continued to witness vibrant participation and creative enthusiasm as it entered its third day today. Students from Government High School Dedpad, Government Middle School Bandakoot, and Government Middle School Mughal Maidan actively participated in the workshop, showcasing their artistic talent through a variety of creative activities. The open-air setting once again provided a unique platform for young minds to express themselves, tuning the surroundings into a lively canvas reflecting themes of nature, culture, and harmony. Renowned



artists from across the country, including Shalender Singh (Delhi), Aditya Shankar Prasad (Noida), P. Devaraj (Tamil Nadu), Sharmila Sharma (Delhi), Govind Vishwas (Gujarat), and Apurba Karati (West Bengal), continued to mentor and guide the students, encouraging them to explore new techniques

and creative perspectives. The role of the Army, particularly 11 Rashtriya Rifles, was widely appreciated for their active participation, encouragement, and consistent support in organising such initiatives in remote areas. Their involvement not only boosted the morale of the students but also

strengthened the bond between the armed forces and the local community. President of MSCBMC Trust, Anuradha Rishi, lauded the enthusiasm of the participating students and acknowledged the crucial support of the Army in making the workshop a success. She emphasized that such initiatives are instrumental in nurturing hidden talent among children and providing them with meaningful platforms for creative expression. She further stressed that more organisations and institutions should come forward to organise similar programmes in remote and far-flung areas like Chattroo, so that the immense talent of local children can be identified, encouraged, and brought to the forefront

ABVP Law students share emotional moments with elderly at Ambphalla Old Age Home

JAMMU, MAY 6: A deeply moving and heartfelt programme was organised at the Home for the Aged & Infirm (Vidhi Ashram), Ambphalla, where a vibrant group of students from the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Law School, University of Jammu spent a memorable day with the elderly residents. The visiting delegation of around 45 law students was led by Geetansh Thakur, President, ABVP Law School, along with Ansh Ranyal, Secretary; Harmanant Kour, Office Secretary; and Anirudha, Student for Seva. They were joined by Amit Sadotra, President, ABVP University of Jammu; Jayvardhani Singh Parihar, Secretary, JU; Sahil Thakur, Mahanagav, Organising Secretary; and Sunil Singh, Secretary, ABVP Jammu University. From the Vidhi Ashram side, the programme was attended by Dr.



Dinesh Gupta, Secretary; Vijay Gupta, Joint Secretary; Satpal Sharma and Sr. Rajinder Singh, members of the Managing Committee; and Raghav Gupta, volunteer. The programme began with a warm welcome, as students greeted each resident with roses, symbolising love, respect, and gratitude. The event soon transformed into an emotional exchange as students presented soulful old songs

that resonated deeply with the inmates, evoking cherished memories from their past. The atmosphere turned poignant as several songs reflecting themes of love, separation, and life's journey moved both the residents and students. Many participants were visibly emotional, highlighting the deep human connection forged during the interaction. In a touching segment, inmates including Romesh Kumar and

Bharat Priye urges Govt to ensure robust monsoon preparedness, cites last year's heavy losses

JAMMU, MAY 6: JKPCCC Kisan Congress Chairman Bharat Priye on Tuesday urged the Jammu & Kashmir Government to draw lessons from last year's untimely rains and monsoon-related devastation, which caused extensive damage to property, crops, and essential infrastructure across both urban and rural areas of the Union Territory. In a strongly worded statement, Bharat Priye expressed concern over the recurring pattern of inadequate preparedness, stating that heavy rainfall last year exposed serious gaps in drainage systems, flood management, and disaster response mechanisms. He pointed out that waterlogging in cities and flooding in rural belts led to significant losses for farmers, traders, and common residents alike. Highlighting

the plight of farmers, Bharat Priye said that standing crops were badly affected due to sudden rains and poor drainage, resulting in heavy financial setbacks to the agricultural community. He emphasized that agriculture being the backbone of the region's economy, requires special protection measures, including proper water management systems, timely advisories, and compensation mechanisms. He further stressed that urban areas witnessed severe disruption due to choked drains, unplanned construction, and lack of timely desilting operations. Many residential localities remained submerged for hours, causing inconvenience, health hazards, and damage to household property. He said such situations can be avoided if authorities take preventive

measures well in advance. Bharat Priye urged the government to gear up preparations ahead of the upcoming monsoon season by ensuring that all drainage systems are cleaned, upgraded, and made fully functional. He called for identification of flood-prone areas, strengthening of embankments, and deployment of emergency response teams to handle any crisis situation effectively. He also emphasized the need for coordination among various departments, including irrigation, municipal bodies, and disaster management authorities, to ensure a unified and timely response. According to him, proactive planning and execution can significantly reduce the impact of heavy rainfall and safeguard both lives and livelihoods.

DDC Poonch convenes public outreach camp at village Balnoi

POONCH, MAY 06: To ensure prompt redressal of grievances, the District Development Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today convened a Public outreach camp at village Balnoi in Block Mankote. The programme witnessed significant participation from residents of the border areas, who availed the opportunity to project their grievances and developmental demands before the district administration. The demands primarily pertained to road connectivity, electricity supply, drinking water, healthcare services, public distribution system, education and other matters concerning the border population. The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for immediate redressal. A number of issues were resolved instantly, while instructions were passed for time-bound redressal of the remaining issues. Officers from the line departments were present on

the occasion and extended necessary support by addressing public concerns within their respective domains, besides disseminating information regarding ongoing government schemes and welfare programmes. Emphasizing the importance of responsive governance, the DDC reiterated that the district administration remains committed to addressing the concerns of the people at their doorstep, with special focus on the needs of residents living in far-flung and border areas. The participants expressed satisfaction over the initiative and appreciated the proactive and people-centric approach of the district administration in resolving public grievances in an efficient and transparent manner. At the end, the Deputy Commissioner addressed the youth of the border villages and cautioned them against the growing threat of drug abuse and its adverse impact on the future of the region. "The youth are the backbone of our nation.

Sacred month-long Ramayan recitation concludes at Shiv Temple with community feast

JAMMU MAY 6: The spiritually enriching month-long Ramayan recitation at the Shiv Temple in Sector 7, Trikuta Nagar, concluded today with a solemn concluding ritual followed by a grand community feast. The religious event, which had been ongoing for the past month, drew an overwhelming response from devotees, culminating in a vibrant and deeply devotional atmosphere at the temple premises. The final day witnessed a large congregation of devotees who assembled to participate in concluding prayers, offer their respects, and seek divine blessings. The temple resonated with devotional chants and hymns, reflecting the spiritual fervour and unity among the participants. The event



not only strengthened religious faith but also served as a platform for social bonding within the community. Following the conclusion of the recitation, a well-organized community feast was held, where devotees from all sections of soci-

ety were served meals as part of the traditional offering. The ceremony was managed efficiently, ensuring smooth arrangements and a welcoming environment for all attendees. Prominent personalities present on the occasion included

Vijay Vaid, Rajni Kohli, Rama Gupta, Anita Sharma, Girja, Head Priest Pankaj Sharma, and Priest Mohinder, who actively participated in the rituals and interacted with devotees. Their presence added significance to the occasion. The entire programme was meticulously organized under the leadership of temple president S.K. Jolly, whose dedication and coordination were widely appreciated. Volunteers and members of the temple committee also played a crucial role in ensuring the success of the event. Speaking on the occasion, Head Priest Pankaj Sharma expressed heartfelt gratitude to the devotees for their continuous participation and support throughout the month.

DC Ganderbal reviews preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026

Stresses timely completion of works, coordinated efforts for smooth and safe pilgrimage

GANDERBAL, MAY 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a meeting to review arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 along the Baltal axis. At the outset, a detailed review of security arrangements was conducted with the Police Department. Directions were given to finalize deployment locations, checkpoints and frisking points, with provisions for installation of security scanners at key entry points in the base camp. The Border Roads Organisation informed that snow clearance operations are progressing well and the route is expected to be opened well within the stipulated timeframe.



Reviewing infrastructure works, the Roads and Buildings Department apprised that most of the identified works have been tendered and allotted, with execution already underway at several locations. The Labour Department informed that registration of pony and pithu operators has commenced and the process will be accelerated in the coming days. To facilitate pilgrims, instructions were issued for increasing the number of RFID and e-KYC counters, including installation of additional counters at the on-spot registration counter. The DC emphasised sanitation as a priority area and directed concerned departments to ensure adequate installation of toilets and proper waste management along the Yatra route. The Health Department informed that

arrangements. The communication providers assured seamless connectivity along the route, with measures underway to address network gaps. The DC stressed close coordination among all departments to ensure a safe, smooth and well-organised Yatra, and directed that all works be completed in a time-bound manner. The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Sudhanshu Dhama; ADC Ganderbal, Chief Executive Officer, Sonmarg Development Authority, Superintending Engineer P W R&B Ganderbal, Superintending Engineer PHE Hydraulic; Superintending Engineer KPDCI;

DC Kulgam chairs Mega Block Diwas at Pahloo

Listens to Public Grievances & demands

KULGAM, MAY 06: Taking governance to the doorsteps of the people, a Mega Block Diwas was today held at Pahloo under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam. The programme was attended by ADC, Vigar Ahmed Giri; ACR, Riyaz Ahmad Shah; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; JDP, Malik Suhail; Executive Engineers, CEO, Tehsildar Pahloo, BDO, and other district and sectoral officers. During the event, the DC interacted with a large gathering of residents from Pahloo and adjoining areas, who apprised the administration of various issues and demands related to basic amenities and developmental needs. Key issues highlighted by



the public included completion and operationalisation of filtration plants, strengthening of solid waste management systems, development of playfields, and establishment of a public library and children's park. Residents of Lamad village raised concerns regarding augmentation of staff and machinery at the local health centre, construction of a veterinary hospital building, availability of a

dedicated doctor at the animal care centre, and development of playfields at Lamad Grad and Brinal Lamad. They also demanded construction of cowsheds. Several road connectivity issues were projected, including development and widening of Halan road, construction of Lamad-Akhal road, Gasren-Pombay road, and Pahloo-Lankar-Pombay and other roads.

Power Shutdown by KPDCL

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL has informed that the Shutdown of 132 KV Mattan will be observed due to which power supply to Achabal, Gopalpora and Pahalgam will be affected from 09:30 AM to 01:30 PM on 11 May 2026. Similarly, shutdown of 132 KV Wapnoh 1st will be observed from 2:30 PM to 04 PM and shutdown of 132 KV Wapnoh 2nd will be observed from 04 PM to 05 PM, due to which power supply to Anantnag, Malaknag, Qaimoh, Qazigund, Ashajipora, SICOP, Shopian, Landoor, Reshipora, Buldtech, Moman, IGC Lassipora, Keegam, Gulshanabad, Mitrigam, Chararipora, Pulwama, Tengar and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:30 PM on 16 May 2026. Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV HMT line will be observed due to which power supply to Rose Avenue, Umarabad, Malpora, Hajibagh, Palpora, ICC, Zainakote, Industrial, HMT, Shaleng, Mujigund, Bakshipora, Industrial Area SIDCO and adjoining areas will be affected from 11 AM to 03:30 PM on 07 May 2026.

GSS Qazigund of Northern Railways will be affected from 02:30 PM to 04 PM on 14 May 2026. Similarly, shutdown of 475 MVA GSS Mirbazar and 220 KV New Wapnoh-1st & 2nd will be observed due to which power supply to Kulgam, Ashmaji, Kilam, Devsar, Chambugund, Nilow, Rambhama, D.H Pora, Nagam, Chawalgam, Yaripora, Behibagh, Achabal, Gopalpora, Pahalgam, Hiller, Kokemag, Dooru, Anantnag, Malaknag, Qaimoh, Qazigund, Ashajipora, SICOP, Shopian, Landoor, Reshipora, Buldtech, Moman, IGC Lassipora, Keegam, Gulshanabad, Mitrigam, Chararipora, Pulwama, Tengar and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:30 PM on 16 May 2026. Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV HMT line will be observed due to which power supply to Rose Avenue, Umarabad, Malpora, Hajibagh, Palpora, ICC, Zainakote, Industrial, HMT, Shaleng, Mujigund, Bakshipora, Industrial Area SIDCO and adjoining areas will be affected from 11 AM to 03:30 PM on 07 May 2026.

DJMC IUST marks Press Freedom Week with street theatre

PULWAMA, MAY 06: Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), marked World Press Freedom Week by organising street theatre on Wednesday. The street play "News or Noise?" was performed by IUST's media students and directed by Dr. Haifa Mohammad, Assistant Professor, DJMC.



Welcoming the guests, Dr. Rabia Noor, Head, DJMC, said that the event aimed at generating awareness among people about the difference between professional journalism and sensational content. "The street play is likely to leave the audience with a simple takeaway that everything that appears on their mobile screens is not news," she said, adding that news is something which is based on proper verification, journalistic ethics and facts. Through compelling storytelling, the students highlighted the growing challenges posed by mis-

information, sensationalism and the rapid spread of unverified content on digital platforms. The play drew an engaged audience comprising of Controller of Examinations, Finance Officer, Dean Outreach, Dean of Students, Deans of Schools, Heads of Departments, faculty members, officials, research scholars and students, who responded with appreciation to the thought-provoking performance.

"This street play has highlighted why training is essential for media professionals," she said. Dean of Students, Dr. Monisa Qadri, said, there are many misconceptions about journalism at present, and it is the time that "we take the change of the narrative and lead it towards a positive change." Controller of Examination, Prof. Ruman Bashir said such events are especially important in today's social media landscape to help people distinguish between news and noise. Prof. Mahmood Ahmad Khan, Head, Department of Education, said the street theatre is a part of experiential learning under National Education Policy, 2020, and a great learning experience for the students. Finance Officer, Samir Wazir, said, at a time when misinformation spreads rapidly, such creative efforts help audiences understand the value of credible news and encourage more responsible media consumption.

DC Shopian listens to public development issues at Block Diwas Wachi

Assures immediate action, seeks support in fight against Drugs

SHOPIAN, MAY 06: In a continued effort to strengthen grassroots governance, Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, today presided over Block Diwas at Wachi and listened to public issues raised by residents of various villages of Zainapora Sub-Division. The public from Wachi, Safanagri, Darbugh, Cheermarg, Melhura and adjoining villages flagged key developmental concerns including improvement of road networks, irrigation facilities, canal maintenance, assured and quality water supply, uninterrupted power supply, upgradation of healthcare and transport services, strengthening of horticulture and agriculture support, completion of animal & sheep husbandry works, and strict enforcement of pesticide checking. Public representatives emphasized the criticality of electricity and irrigation for the agriculture and horticulture sector, and called for equitable distribution of Rural Development resources. While highlighting public welfare issues, locals also appreciated Jal Shakti for significantly improving



water supplies in the area. Residents of Safanagri expressed gratitude to the district administration for establishing a pump shed for irrigation, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the village. Responding to the issues, DC

Shopian assured prompt action. He issued on-spot directions to ACD Shopian for immediate desiltation of canals in the area to enhance irrigation facilities and directed that canal maintenance works be taken up during the current season. Underscoring the importance of a well-maintained irrigation network for the economic health of the farming community, the DC stressed prompt response on works. To promote sports engagement, the DC instructed RPD to take up construction of a Volleyball Court in Wachi. R&B (PWD) was directed to furnish estimates for village roads in the area. Other demands, he said, will be taken up by concerned departments and works will be incorporated in priority and implemented in other services shall be made to the satisfaction of the public.

Dr Darakhshan inaugurates Reconstruction & Beautification Project of the shrine

Srinagar, May 6: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi today visited the Ziyarat of Sakhi Zainuddin Wali (RA) at Aishanagum and paid obeisance here. She inspected the whole complex and took stock of the management and facilities. Waqf Board Executive Magistrate Ishityaq Mohiuddin # Executive Engineer of the Board Qazi Mushtaq and other officers accompanied Dr Andrabi. Waqf Chairperson laid the foundation for the construction of the retaining wall in the shrine. Later Dr Deyd Darakhshan Andrabi inaugurated multiple developmental works including the reconstruction and beautification project of the shrine of Sakhi



Zainshah Wali at Sarbal shrine. Dr Andrabi also unveiled the developmental plaque at the shrine complex. Waqf Chairperson spoke to media after these events and assured that Waqf Board will continue its journey for excellence through transparent developmental projects throughout Jammu & Kashmir. "Sakhi Zainuddin Wali (RA) is the beacon of our spiritual Rishi tradition. The Board has done massive developmental works at both these shrines and also improved the facilities for the devotees visiting the shrines. The developmental journey continues," said Andrabi. She thanked her critics for mobilizing for more vigorous and selfless service and also convincing her that great work is the real answer to the criticism around.

DC Srinagar holds Block Diwas, Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Panzinaru

Presides over Registration camp for senior citizens under Vay Vandana Scheme

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of Panzinaru area in the outskirts of the District and holds a Mega Public Grievance Redressal Camp to bring administration at the door steps of the people to listen their issues and developmental needs as a part of Block Diwas Programme. The DC also presided over an Awareness-cum-Registration Camp on Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme as a part of District Administration's outreach efforts to ensure maximum coverage of eligible senior citizens aged 70 years and above under the scheme providing additional health support of Rs 5 Lakh over and above the existing cover aimed to strengthen senior citizen health security. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner,



Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tariq Ahmad Reshi, Block Development Officer, Qanarwari.

Mohammad Younis Malik assumes Charge as Director JKEDI

Warm farewell accorded to Khalid Jahangir

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Mohammad Younis Malik on Wednesday assumed charge as the Director of the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI). The charge was handed over in a brief yet dignified ceremony held at the institute's Sempora campus, marking the transition of leadership at the premier entrepreneurship promotion organization of the Union Territory. On the occasion, a warm and heartfelt farewell was accorded to the outgoing Director, Khalid Jahangir who had been holding the additional charge of Director JKEDI alongside his responsibilities as Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department. Senior officers and officials of JKEDI, along with staff members, were present during the ceremony



and acknowledged the contributions made by Khalid Jahangir during his tenure. Speaking on the

occasion, Mohammad Younis Malik expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to lead JKEDI and reiterated his commitment to further advancing the institute's mission. He emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship, capacity building, and effective implementation of government policies to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for the youth of the Union Territory. "The employees of the institute are its permanent stakeholders, and our collective strength lies in working together with unity and purpose. We must function as a cohesive team, moving in tandem to achieve our objectives and take JKEDI to newer heights," he said. Highlighting the challenges ahead, he added, "Unemployment remains one of the biggest challenges before us today.

It is imperative that the goals and initiatives of the JKEDI are closely aligned to address this concern and contribute meaningfully to the betterment of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir." He further called for a results-oriented approach, stating, "We must all strive to work harder and to the fullest of our capabilities to meet the expectations of our youth and create impactful opportunities through entrepreneurship and innovation." He also underscored the significance of the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, noting that JKEDI will continue to play a pivotal role in nurturing startups, facilitating access to finance, and building a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in alignment with the policy objectives.

North in News

EDITORIAL

IT sector can improve India's economy in future

The IT sector can improve India's economy because it has already moved from being a support function to becoming a core growth engine that touches every part of the country's development story, and with more than five million people directly employed and another 15 million supported indirectly, the industry contributes close to eight percent of GDP and accounts for over 50 percent of India's services exports, and that scale makes it a stabilizing force for foreign exchange, for urbanization, and for the middle class, and the sector's ability to generate high value jobs for graduates from tier two and tier three cities means it decentralizes opportunity beyond metros and reduces pressure on agriculture, and companies in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai, Noida, and now in emerging hubs like Indore, Jaipur, Coimbatore, and Bhubaneswar are proof that talent exists across the country and can be monetized if digital infrastructure and skilling are provided, and the IT sector's multiplier effect is visible because every job in software or business process management creates demand for transport, housing, food services, education, and healthcare, and that ecosystem supports lakhs of micro entrepreneurs who never write a line of code but benefit from the salaries IT workers spend, and the sector also strengthens India's global positioning because Indian firms are now not just service providers but product creators, with SaaS companies, fintech platforms, and AI startups building for the world from India and earning dollar revenues that cushion the current account, and the rise of Global Capability Centers means that more than 1,700 multinational firms have chosen India for core research, engineering, and design work, and those GCCs employ over 1.9 million professionals and bring in best practices, high wages, and technology transfer that spills over to domestic firms, and the IT sector is central to India's digital public infrastructure success because engineers who built Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, and ONDC came from the same talent pool that the industry nurtured, and those platforms have lowered the cost of transactions for small vendors, farmers, and students, and enabled direct benefit transfers that save the government lakhs of crores in leakages, and that fiscal saving can be redirected to health, education, and capital expenditure, and the sector is also the backbone of Digital India because it lays fiber, builds data centers, secures networks, and trains manpower, and without that backbone the move to online education, telemedicine, e-commerce, and smart governance would not be possible at India's scale, and IT enables formalization of the economy because GST platforms, e-invoicing, and accounting software push millions of MSMEs to digitize records, pay taxes, and access credit, and that formalization widens the tax base and reduces the cost of compliance, and the sector drives innovation because it forces constant upskilling in cloud, cybersecurity, data science, and artificial intelligence.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

The Saffron Surge in West Bengal

BY OMKAR DATTATRAY

Wow! There is saffron surge from Gangotri to Ganga Sagar and we meet and see saffron revolution everywhere and now exactly in West Bengal. Late Shri A.B. Vajpayee had once said aptly that one day there will be saffron surge from Arab Sagar to Hind Maha Sagar and it seems that time has arrived for this prophecy to come true. Now with BJP victory in Bengal, BJP has 22 states in its kitty and thus there is saffron surge everywhere. The 2026 West Bengal Assembly election resulted in a historic "Saffron Surge" with the BJP projected to secure over 200 seats and end Mamata Banerjee's 15-year TMC rule. Driven by strong anti-incumbency, high-profile campaigns, and consolidation of votes, this shift represents a massive political restructuring in the state. In a historic 2026 election result, the BJP has swept West Bengal ending 15 years of TMC rule with over 208 seats out of 294, crossing the 148-majority mark. The "saffron surge" saw vote share exceeding 45%, driven by strong anti-incumbency, consolidation of Hindu votes and high-profile campaigning against Mamata Banerjee's government, shifting the political landscape. For the first time in the political history of West Bengal, the voting results showed saffron surge everywhere from north to south and east to west and one can

say that the state was coloured in Bhagwa that is yellow/saffron. It is also the first time that Hindus in Bengal have consolidated, rallied behind BJP and have voted almost en-masse for the saffron/right wing Hindu party. The ordinary people of West Bengal have voted for the first time in favour of the BJP and thus made this Hindutva party to win emphatically the electoral battle of the crucial state. This assembly election was a do or die battle for the saffron party. There was, intense, cut-throat and neck-to-neck contests between the TMC and BJP as the initial results revealed but as the counting of the votes advanced the BJP made sizable gains and won the seats far more than predicted by the exit polls and talked by the political pundits and pollsters. The outcome of the polls showed saffron surge everywhere and one can opine that it is Bhagwa this time in the crucial state and at the end of the day, it was BJP which stole the show and came victorious as predicted by the exit polls. BJP did not only cross the magic figure for running the government, but assumed the absolute and in fact the two-thirds majority. This assembly election, people of this state reposed their trust and confidence in BJP for the first time and the saffron party made a history as it got unprecedented number of assembly seats. It can be said that the common people

of West Bengal voted in favour of Hindutva and cultural nationalism or what can be said in chaste Hindi as Sanskritik Rashtrवाद. Modi, Amit Shah, Natin Nabin, Suwendu Adhkari showed the TMC and its chief minister Mamata Banerjee the outer path as she along with her party was defeated and thus the 15 year rule of the TMC came to an end and there was saffron wave everywhere. It is no ordinary thing that BJP got lead on 208 seats and thus made a historic win and bullied all the claims of the ruling TMC and its undisputable and dictator leader Mamta Banerjee. The Saffron wave swept the TMC and BJP became victorious astonishing all and the BJP's win is the win for developmental, positive politics as well as for good governance, transparency and above all the people voted for change, security especially for women, weaker sections and for employment promise. Based on election results, the BJP achieved a historic "saffron surge" in West Bengal leading in 208 of 294 seats and ending Mamta Banerjee's 15-year rule rather misrule. Driven by anti-incumbency, Hindutva consolidation, and promise of development, the party significantly increased its footprint, with leaders like Suwendu Adhkari spearheading the campaign against the Trinamool Congress [TMC], which fell below 100 seats. BJP is all set to unseat

Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress [TMC] in West Bengal with the saffron party crossing 200 seats while TMC has been reduced to below 80 seats in the 294-member legislative assembly. The BJP which had won 77 seats in 2021, is now set to rule West Bengal after getting the people's mandate. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the party's massive victory in West Bengal. "The louts blooms in West Bengal! The 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections will be remembered forever. People's power has prevailed and BJP's politics of good governance has triumphed. I bow to each and every person of West Bengal. The people have given a spectacular mandate to BJP and I assure them that our party will do everything possible to fulfil the dreams and aspirations of the people of West Bengal. We will provide a government that ensures opportunity and dignity to all sections of society," PM Modi wrote on X. Celebrations have already begun in BJP offices and among party activists after it became apparent that it was winning the state. Counting of votes is being held in 293 out of total 294 seats with EC ordering re-polling in Falta Constituency on May 21. The magic number required to form the government in West Bengal is 148. In a dramatic turn in the West Bengal Assembly Polls 2026, the BJP won the elections and defeated the TMC.

Civic Pride

BY ABHIK ROY

We Indians are often mocked on social media as belonging to "the dirtiest country" or being "the dirtiest people." The words sting because they are unfair - yet they are fueled by civic habits we have ignored for too long, both within the country and when we travel abroad. Before we examine how these habits affect our global image, we must confront the uncomfortable truth: our civic crisis begins at home. We do not transform into different people when we land in another country.

We simply carry with us the behaviours we have tolerated and normalized in our own surroundings. Walk through any major Indian city - Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru - and the evidence is unmistakable. Public spitting is so common that red paan stains have become a near-permanent feature of our urban landscape, splashed across walls, staircases, post offices, hospitals, and even government buildings. No other large society tolerates this level of disregard for public spaces.

Yet we treat it as ordinary, barely pausing to reflect on how such actions erode the dignity of our shared environment. Then there is public urination, which remains distressingly widespread despite years of government effort. Walk under any flyover or behind any bus stand, and the stench reaches you long before the sight does. This behaviour has been normalized to such an extent that many no longer perceive it as offensive or shameful. For women, however, this is not merely unpleasant - it is degrading. They are often forced to walk past men reliev-

ing themselves openly, without the ability to avert their eyes or change their route.

It is an everyday assault on modesty, privacy, and basic dignity. Compounding this humiliation is the chronic shortage of safe, clean public toilets for women, who frequently have no facilities available to them at all. In a country where women cannot even find a hygienic restroom outside their home, public urination becomes not only a civic failure but a glaring gender injustice. Our disregard for shared hygiene is equally evident in trains and airplanes.

Anyone who has travelled on long-distance Indian trains knows how quickly washrooms become unusable - not only because of heavy use, but because many passengers refuse to flush, leave faucets running, or treat the space as if no one else will ever need it. Even on airplanes, where facilities are regularly cleaned, the same habits often surface: wet floors, unflushed toilets, discarded tissues in corners. These spaces are used by hundreds, yet the prevailing mindset remains individualistic: I have used it, and now it is someone else's problem. It is a small but revealing glimpse into a deeper cultural malaise - our failure to see cleanliness as a collective responsibility. Open defecation, though significantly reduced, has not vanished.

In many semi-urban and rural regions, people continue to relieve themselves outdoors, sometimes out of habit rather than necessity. These practices have consequences that go far beyond aesthetics: they affect health, sanitation, and the dignity of communities. Littering, perhaps the most pervasive failure of all, cuts across class,

region, and education. We throw garbage out of car windows, dump plastic bags in drains, and leave parks and beaches strewn with waste. The belief that public spaces belong to no one - and therefore can be treated carelessly - has become deeply embedded in our civic psyche. We maintain spotless homes but discard waste freely the moment we step outside. Noise, too, is an overlooked aspect of civic discipline.

Loudspeakers blare at midnight during festivals, weddings claim entire streets, firecrackers erupt without warning, and honking has become a substitute for patience. This lack of sound discipline is not merely inconvenient; it reflects how casually we disregard one another's peace. What ties these behaviours together is a simple truth: we have never cultivated a culture of civic pride. We do not teach civic sense in schools with the seriousness it deserves. We do not enforce rules consistently. And somewhere along the way, we stopped believing that public cleanliness and order are expressions of national self-respect. But the crisis does not end at our borders.

These habits travel with us when we go abroad. I have seen it myself - at airports, hotels, tourist sites, and public transport across Europe and Asia. We cut queues without embarrassment. We speak loudly in quiet public spaces. We hoard food at buffet breakfasts, sometimes even slipping extra items into handbags despite clear instructions not to. We litter on beaches and trails that locals treat with reverence. Some refuse to follow tipping norms, claiming cultural difference as an excuse for basic discour-

tesy. These behaviours may seem small to us, but to those who encounter them, they reinforce negative stereotypes.

A few careless individuals can shape the perception of an entire nation. When locals abroad witness such actions, they generalize - not because they wish to, but because human beings form impressions from what they repeatedly observe. If we want respect abroad, we must earn it through our behaviour - not demand it as a right. Yet the situation is not hopeless. Nations do not change overnight, but they change when their people do. A blueprint for civic renewal is entirely within our reach. The first step is civic education, introduced early and reinforced throughout childhood. Children must learn that cleanliness, queuing, noise discipline, and respect for shared spaces are fundamental aspects of citizenship. Countries celebrated for their civic sense began by teaching these values early. There is no reason India cannot do the same. Japan offers one of the most compelling models for how civic sense can be taught effectively. In Japanese schools, children clean their own classrooms, corridors, and even toilets. This daily practice is not merely about hygiene; it cultivates humility, ownership, and respect for communal spaces. By adulthood, the idea of spitting, littering, or defacing public property becomes unthinkable - not because of strict laws, but because the culture has shaped their character. India, too, could adopt elements of this approach, allowing children to internalize civic responsibility as a natural part of daily life.

DC Rajouri holds Block Diwas at Darhal

RAJOURI, MAY 06: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a Public Outreach Camp at Block Darhal, reaffirming the administration's commitment towards strengthening grassroots governance and ensuring prompt redressal of public grievances.

During the outreach camp, locals projected a wide range of issues pertaining to basic amenities and developmental needs. Key concerns raised included scarcity of drinking water, expediting the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes, shortage of staff at PHC Nadian and SDH Darhal, incomplete irrigation scheme at Ujhan, blacktopping of Sarotha Chowki road and the dilapidated condition of the Darhal-Sagrawat road. The public also demanded construction of a Panchayat Ghar at Sagrawat, reopening of the Animal and Sheep Husbandry Centre at

Addresses public grievances on spot



Simbi, speedy completion of Government Degree College (GDC) building, identification of suitable land for a sports stadium, blacktopping of the approach road to Malhut Rakibhan bridge and sanctioning of additional hand-pumps in underserved areas. Officers present on the occasion responded to the

issues pertaining to their respective departments and assured necessary action within a stipulated time frame. The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the grievances and assured that all genuine issues would be addressed in a time-bound and transparent manner. Taking serious note of

safety concerns regarding government buildings in the area, he directed the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) to conduct site inspections and submit a comprehensive safety audit report at the earliest. He further instructed officers to remain accessible, responsive and proactive in addressing public concerns, while emphasiz-

ing the need for improved service delivery at the grassroots level.

The Rural Development Department was directed to undertake need-based and efficient planning during the formulation of development plans.

A pledge was also administered to make the district drug-free under the ongoing 100-day 'Nasha Mukh' campaign. Officers and members of the public reaffirmed their commitment to eradicate drug abuse from society.

The outreach camp witnessed the participation of AADC Malikizada Sheraz Ul Haq; CPO Maqsood Ahmed; ACR Mohammad Jahangir Khan; ACD Auqaf Nuaid; ACP Mohd Rafeeq; DDE Mohd Nawaz Choudhary; DSWO Khalid Raheem; CMO Dr Manohar Lal Ranat; AD Fisheries; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Rajouri and other concerned district and sectoral officers.

CM Omar hosts dinner in honour of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance in Gulmarg



GULMARG, MAY 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today hosted a dinner in honour of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance at Gulmarg. The Committee headed by its chairperson, Member of Parliament, Bharruhari Mahtab, is currently on a study visit to Srinagar and Gulmarg from May 4 to May 7 as part of its ongoing engagements to review and deliberate on key financial and economic matters. The dinner provided an opportunity for informal interaction between the Chief Minister and members of the Committee in the serene surroundings of Gulmarg. The Chief Minister extended a warm welcome to the visiting members and expressed hope that their visit would

offer valuable insights into the region's developmental landscape and tourism potential. The visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance is part of its study programme for the year, aimed at gaining first-hand understanding of various sectors and initiatives. On the occasion, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmed Shah, MLA Zaidhal Tanvir Sadiq, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh, Deputy Commissioner Baranulla SF Hamid, DG Budget Mohammad Sultan Malik and other concerned were present.

NMBA continues across Pulwama with wide-ranging outreach Programmes

PULWAMA, MAY 06: As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of awareness, outreach and sports activities were conducted across Pulwama district by multiple departments to promote a drug-free society and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Pulwama organised a wide range of activities and competitions across various educational institutions, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students and youth. The programmes included expert guest lectures, pledge-taking ceremonies and sports competitions aimed at spreading awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse.

In Zone Pulwama, softball competitions were held at BHSS Pulwama, Kabaddi at HSS Hawl, while expert guest lectures were organised at HSS Karimbahad, HSS Hawl, GMS Pulwama

and UPS Chewakalan. In Zone Tahab, volleyball and chess competitions were conducted at GMS Bapora and UPS Karewa, and guest lectures at HS Naina and UPS Ladernar. In Zone Pampore, zonal-level badminton and chess tournaments were held at GHSS Pampore, while BHSS Ladhooh organised skits and awareness lectures as part of the campaign. In Zone Tral, zonal-level U-17 boys' volleyball competition was conducted at Sports Stadium Bajwani and badminton competition at Indoor Stadium Bajwani, along with awareness programmes across the zone. Additionally, chess and carrom competitions were organised at HSS Rajpora, while zonal-level Kho-Kho competition was conducted at GMS Lurgam.

Participants across all activities also took part in pledge-taking ceremonies committing to work towards building a healthy,

prosperous and drug-free society. Meanwhile, the Drug Control Department Pulwama carried out inspections of medical shops at Wanpora, Parigam, Newa and main town Pulwama to ensure compliance with drug regulations. Besides, a multi-sectoral awareness programme was organised at Panchayat Ghar Ladhooh, Pampore, witnessing active participation from the public. The event was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora, Tehsilard Pampore, Block Development Officer Pampore and officers from the Police and Civil Administration. The programme featured awareness sessions on drug abuse prevention, along with cultural performances including nakkad natak and cultural songs, aimed at sensitising the community and reinforcing the message of a drug-free society.

District administration Ramban condole demise of Executive Engineer

RAMBAN, MAY 06: The District Administration Ramban today expressed deep grief over the untimely demise of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department Er. Harish Chander Sharma. Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Aliyaz Khan, along with ADC Varunjee Singh Chakr, ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo, Executive Engineer PWD Ranjeet Singh, besides officers and officials of line departments, observed a two-minute silence in honour of the departed soul and prayed for his eternal peace. The administration also expressed solidarity with the bereaved family in this difficult hour.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

For DETERMINED tender for and on behalf of the President of India invite E-Tenders on <https://www.nwr.gov.in> against the following section and work:-
 Section: 28-05-2026 at 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revoked bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against the tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be opened. Contractors are allowed to make payments against the tender search tender documents and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IRPFIS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Demand receipt, FDR etc. are not allowed. NOT IN ORDER.

Contract Type	Works
S&T works in one (01) construction of two no. RCD box bridges of size 10.00m x 20m each on Km 55.000 to Km 56.000 section and one (01) S&T work in one (01) AS&PTK section by Municipal Corporation, Anwar (existing method for crossing of water pipe) in the junction of ACH&W AS&R (01) RCD box bridge wall (up per km 56.000 to 57.000) and other works in one construction of RDB at KM 43.000 between RCP halt & Rajpura Lathi Railway station on J&K-226 section of project the Railway authority.	

Tender Closing Date & Time: 28.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs.
 Date & Time of Opening Tender: 08.06.2026 at 10:00 hrs.
 Advertised Value(s): ₹ 59,38,493.72 / Earnest Money(%) : 1.5-2.00-2000
 Bidding Start Date as per IRPFIS: 15.05.2026
 Period of Completion: 08 Months.

Note: Tenderer should keep himself updated about the tender amendments, corrigendum, etc. by monitoring in south regularly with the website.
 Tender Notice No.: 433-Sig-749-24-27 Date: 06.05.2026
 Tender Notice No.: 433-Sig-749-24-27 Date: 06.05.2026

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCD(PHQ) J&K JAMMU SRINAGAR INVITING SHORTER-TENDER NOTICE

n-NIT No:EE-PCD(PHQ)110026-27 Date: 05-05-2026

Executive Engineer PCD (PHQ) J&K JAMMU SRINAGAR on behalf of the President of India invites tenders by tendering on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. (PND) (Revenue) for the following works:

S. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Cost of Advance (Rs. in Lakhs)	Earliest Date of Opening of Tender	Time Allowed for completion	Date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Reinforcement inside the 54 stores	PHQ (PHQ) J&K, Jammu	48.7800	2000	09/05/26	90 working days	16-05-2026	'A' & 'B'
2	Construction of secondary brick masonry work in the 54 stores	PHQ (PHQ) J&K, Jammu	77.8800	4000	13/05/26	120 working days	16-05-2026	'A'
3	Construction of secondary brick masonry work in the 54 stores	PHQ (PHQ) J&K, Jammu	46.7700	2000	09/05/26	90 working days	16-05-2026	'A' & 'B'
4	Construction of secondary brick masonry work in the 54 stores	PHQ (PHQ) J&K, Jammu	44.5400	2000	09/05/26	90 working days	16-05-2026	'A' & 'B'

1. Date of Publishing 05-05-2026 at 14:00 hrs.
 2. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the website: <http://tenders.gov.in/> 14:00 hours on 06-05-2026.
 3. The bids shall be deposited in electronic form on the website: www.nwr.gov.in/ 07-05-2026 to 15-05-2026 at 09:00 hrs. The bids received will be opened at 11:00 hours on 16-05-2026/2026.
 4. The complete bidding process will be online.
 5. Technical bids of bidders shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer PCD J&K Jammu Srinagar on 16-05-2026 at 11:00 hrs.
 6. The lowest bidder (i.e. L1) shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR, FDR and have copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within the days from opening of financial bids.
 7. In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department, Govt. Srinagar No. A/2429/1-051 dated-07-06-2018, the bidder must submit the copy of earnest money on account of cost of tender documents furnished in the treasury concerned for the bids. Bidders must make an application to be addressed to treasury officer (revenue) requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. 0055/ Revenue (others).
 8. Treasury challan/ receipt indicating the name of work and e-NIT No. & date favouring Executive Engineer PCD (PHQ) J&K Jammu Srinagar issued after the issuance of advertisement e-NIT No. & stand alone valid.
 9. Earnest Money: The earnest money deposit (EMD @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR (posted) to Executive Engineer PCD (PHQ) J&K Jammu Srinagar of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released only after defect liability period. The DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work to the satisfaction report of Engineer-in-charge.
 10. The date of Treasury challan/ EMD should be between the date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date.
 11. Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website: <http://tenders.gov.in/> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.
 12. The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.
 13. Financial bids will be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD (PHQ) J&K Jammu Srinagar. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
 14. The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ contractor withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.
 15. No Engineer-in-Charge/ rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the Government is allowed to work as a Contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.
 16. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PCD Construction Division PHQ, J&K, Jmu, Sgr.

No. n-NIT/EE-PCD(PHQ)2024-27/339-68
 Date: 05-05-2026
 DIP/J-1648/26

MVD organises Road Safety Awareness Programme at Banihal

RAMBAN, MAY 06: Motor Vehicles Department today organised a Road Safety Awareness Programme at a private school in Banihal, under the ongoing Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan. ARTO Varun Bhasin sensitized students and staff to traffic rules and regulations, emphasizing the importance of wearing seatbelt and helmet while driving. He also highlighted the dangers of rash driving and driving under the influence of intoxicants, urging students to spread awareness in society about responsible road behaviour and strict adherence to traffic norms. The participants were encouraged to act as ambassadors of both road safety and anti-drug awareness by educating their families and communities about avoiding traffic violations and substance abuse. Later, the Motor Vehicles Department team conducted a safety audit of school buses operating at the institution to assess compliance with prescribed safety standards. The school authorities were directed to ensure strict adherence to all transport safety guidelines in letter and spirit for the safety of students. The initiative reflects the district administration's continued commitment towards promoting road safety and strengthening the objectives of the Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan across Ramban district.

DYSSO Poonch hosts Inter-School Zonal Competitions in Mandi, Balakote

POONCH, MAY 06: The Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS), Poonch, continues its efforts to promote sports, youth engagement and social awareness, by organizing Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions across the district. On the third day of competitions at Mandi Zone, held at the BSF Ground Rajpora, a vibrant and energetic sporting atmosphere was witnessed. The event, organized as part of the department's annual activity calendar, aims to nurture young talent and strengthen grassroots-level sports development. Students participated enthusiastically in Volleyball, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Badminton, Chess, Yoga and Athletics. In

addition, intramural activities were held across different zones with participation from boys and girls, reflecting inclusivity and widespread involvement in sports activities throughout the district. At the Balakote Zone, the first day of Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions for Under-14 boys and girls witnessed an impressive participation of students. A major highlight of the day was the mass awareness rally held under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan. The rally aimed to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among youth and the general public.

Old Rusted Shell Safely Destroyed in SP Headquarters Zone Arnia Sector Jammu

JAMMU, MAY 06: A suspicious, rusted mortar shell was spotted by village Treva, Arnia. As per a communiqué received from L/C BPP Treva, Police Station Arnia, regarding the discovery of an old rusted shell in open fields near BOP Vikrant, immediate action was taken. On receipt of the information, Inspector Chandan Singh, along with the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) team of PCR Jammu, promptly reached the spot. After assessing the situation, the team safely destroyed the unexploded ordnance (UXO) in situ. The disposal was carried out strictly in accordance with established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and after taking all necessary precautionary measures. The operation was conducted in the presence of BSF officers/officials and the Incharge BPP Treva, ensuring complete safety of the surrounding area. The timely response



and coordinated effort of the police and allied agencies averted any potential danger to the public.

NOTICE

I, Shabhinna Bano D/o Noor Hussain R/o Lancha (Budhan), Tehsil Thuroo, Distt. Reasi J&K (UT). That my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card as Shabhinna Kouser. That my correct and actual name is Shabhinna Bano. That my date of birth is 01-01-2016 which is correctly mentioned in my official records such as birth certificate. That due to the matching date of birth and other identity details, both names i.e. Shabhinna Kouser and Shabhinna bano belong to one and the same person i.e. myself. Now I am applying for correction. Objection if any may convey to concern authority within 07 seven days from the publication of this notice. Affidavit No. IN- JK23984950638199Y dated 06-05-2026



DC head coach Badani backs Kuldeep despite lean run in IPL 2026

New Delhi, May 6: Following an eight-wicket loss to Chennai Super Kings in IPL 2026, Delhi Capitals head coach Hemang Badani backed struggling wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav, saying the team will continue to support him as he looks to regain form. At the Arun Jaitley Stadium, DC's spin attack could not match the control shown by CSK spinners, while Kuldeep had another tough outing, conceding 34 runs in three overs without picking up a wicket. "We would ideally want Kuldeep to be better than this. But we will rally around him. He's been somebody who's been a part of this side for many, many years and has done well. I think he can turn this around," said Badani in the post-match press conference. Kuldeep, once a key figure in the middle overs for DC, has struggled this season. In IPL 2026, he has taken just seven wickets in 30 overs at an econ-



omy rate of 10.36, while also conceding the most sixes among spinners in the competition. Badani said it was more about form than anything technical and expressed confidence that the spinner would bounce back soon. "I think it's more the case of just about somebody's striking form. He hasn't struck peak form yet. He hasn't bowled at the speeds that he would normally bow. I think it's a question of time. I mean, we have the faith in him. More than anything else, it's crunch time for us. It's quite simple for us. It's more like a knockout tournament for us right now. We have to win 4 in 4 games and we still have a chance to qualify," he added. Badani also spoke about captain Axar Patel, whose batting form has dipped this season, though he has contributed with the ball. "With Axar, I think it's again a question of somebody who's (trying to find form). There are people who have played cricket at the

highest level - like he's a double World Cup winner. You work with them and you give them faith. They have faith in themselves in the sense that they have played the game. "They have figured out the ways and means of going through the grind, struggles and how you come back. They've done it all and I have the faith that he'll come good. He's had a wonderful time with the ball and those figures. I would take it on any given day," added Badani. Despite a brief fight-back in the innings, DC were unable to defend their total, as Sanju Samson anchored the chase with a composed knock. "It's more the case that if we had put on about 20 more odd runs, Sanju would not have been able to pace the innings the way he did. He literally knew what he had to do. He just said, let me see off the best bowlers. The best bowlers were probably Ngidi and Axar on a surface like this and that's

DC Kulgam inaugurates Girls Cricket Tournament at Chawalgam under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan



KULGAM, MAY 06: To promote sports and raise awareness against substance abuse, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, inaugurated a Girls Cricket Tournament today at Sports Stadium Chawalgam under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan. Addressing the occasion, the DC said that the tournament aims to provide a platform for young girls to showcase and hone their sporting talent while engaging youth in constructive activities. He added that the initiative also serves as a medium to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to encourage a healthy lifestyle. Highlighting the importance of sports, he said such activities help channelise the energy of youth in a positive direction. On the occasion, ADC, Vigar Ahmed Giri emphasised that such events not only nurture talent but also play a vital role in building discipline, teamwork, and resilience among young participants. Participants were urged to stay away from substance abuse and actively engage in sports and other constructive pursuits.

Sports Day Celebrated with Great Zeal at PM SHRI HS Gangota

Doda: A vibrant Sports Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit at PM SHRI High School Gangota. The event was organized under the overall supervision of Mohd Ayoub Sheikh along with the Head of Institution Mohd Sadeeq. The programme began with a warm welcome to the guests and participants, setting an energetic tone for the day. Students and staff gathered in large numbers, showcasing excitement and readiness to participate in various activities. A wide range of sports events were conducted, including races, kabaddi,



volleyball, and other track and field competitions. Students from different classes participated actively and demonstrated remarkable discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The day was filled with cheers as participants gave their best performances.

India sticks to no bilateral sports policy with Pakistan, eases norms for global events

New Delhi, May 6: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on Wednesday reiterated that India will continue its ban on bilateral sporting engagements with Pakistan, while allowing Pakistani athletes and teams to compete in multilateral events hosted in the country. In an official circular issued to the Indian Olympic Association, Sports Authority of India and National Sports Federations, with copies to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs, the ministry clarified its stance. "Insofar as bilateral sports events in each other's country are concerned, Indian teams will not participate in competitions in Pakistan, nor will Pakistani teams be permitted to play in India," the circular stat-



ed. However, the government underlined that international commitments and athlete interests would take precedence in global competitions. "With regard to international and multilateral events, in India or abroad, we are guided by the practices of international sports bodies and the interests of our sportspersons," the ministry said, adding that India's growing stature as a reliable host for global sporting events is also a key consideration. The clarification comes at a time when India is actively positioning itself as a major hub for international sport. The country is set to host the Commonwealth

Games 2030 and has submitted a bid for the Olympic Games 2036. It is also scheduled to stage the ICC Champions Trophy 2029 and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2031. In addition, India has expressed interest in hosting the Asian Games 2038, with discussions already taking place at the executive board meeting of the Olympic Council of Asia. To further strengthen its position as a global sporting destination, the ministry also announced measures to ease visa norms. "To position India as a preferred destination for hosting international sporting events, the visa process for sportspersons, team officials, and technical personnel will be simplified," it said.

RCB look to regain rhythm against struggling LSG

New Delhi, May 6: Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru will be eager to bounce back and regain their batting rhythm after a rare collapse in their previous match as they take on bottom-placed Lucknow SuperGiants in the reverse leg clash at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow on Thursday. Currently second on the table, RCB are level on 12 points with four other teams, making this a crucial phase in their play-off push. The side will be keen to quickly move past their four-wicket defeat to Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad. That loss exposed an unusual fragility in RCB's batting, as they tumbled from 79 to 296 for 6 in just three overs, eventually getting bowled

out for 155. Despite that setback, the team's batting approach this season has largely been built on aggressive intent. Virat Kohli has led from the front with 379 runs, while Devdutt Padikkal and captain Rajat Patidar have chipped in with valuable contributions. With Phil Salt sidelined due to a finger injury, the onus now falls on Jacob Bethell, partner Kohli at the top and provide quick starts. Bethell has already shown glimpses of his potential and the team will hope he can convert that into a big performance soon. Having had a week's break, RCB will head into the match feeling refreshed and better prepared. In contrast, Lucknow Super Giants have struggled for momentum and are currently at the bottom of



the table, having lost five of their last six games. Their only win in that stretch came in a Super Over against Kolkata Knight Riders, but they failed to build on it and were comfortably beaten by Mumbai Indians in their previous outing. LSG's campaign has been hampered by inconsistency, frequent changes in strategy, and an inability to close out matches. Their key batters - Mitchell Marsh, Rishabh Pant, Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran - have not been able to deliver consistently, and the constant reshuffling of the batting order has only added to their problems. Pant, in particular, has come under pressure for his white-ball form. RCB, meanwhile, will take confidence from their bowling

unit, which has been one of their strengths this season. The experienced pair of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood have worked effectively together, including a standout performance when they bowled Delhi Capitals out for 75 on April 27. Bhuvneshwar has been especially effective with the new ball, while Hazlewood has provided control and breakthroughs. Krunal Pandya has also been a key contributor with five wickets, using his variations smartly, while Suyash Sharma and Romario Shepherd showed promise in the previous game despite the overall result. For LSG, Prince Yadav and Mohsin Khan have been the most reliable bowlers, picking up 13 and 10 wickets respec-

tively. Mohammed Shami began the season well but has struggled in recent matches, conceding runs at crucial stages. A major concern for LSG has been their inability to contain runs at the death, often allowing opponents to accelerate, which could be a challenge against an attacking RCB batting line-up. RCB had won the first meeting between the two sides by five wickets and will take confidence from that result as they look to strengthen their position in the standings. Squads: Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Rajat Patidar (c), Tim David, Virat Kohli, Devdutt Padikkal, Philip Salt, Jitesh Sharma, Jacob Bethell, Krunal Pandya, Romario Shepherd, Abhinandan

Singh, Josh Hazlewood, Rishabh Salam, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Suyash Sharma, Swapnil Singh, Nuwan Thushara, Venkatesh Iyer, Jacob Duffy, Mangesh Yadav, Jordan Cox, Vicky Ostwal, Vihanan Malhotra, Kanishk Chouhan, Satvik Deswal, Lucknow SuperGiants: Rishabh Pant (c&wk), Abdul Samad, Akshat Rajgavanshi, Avish Badoni, Mukul Choudhary, Himmat Singh, Josh Inglis (wk), Aiden Markram, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Arshin Kulkarni, George Linde, Mitchell Marsh, Shabbaz Ahmed, Akash Singh, Avesh Khan, Mohammed Shami, Mohsin Khan, Anrich Nortje, Prince Yadav, Divyesh Rathi, Manjiv Kumar, Arjun Tendulkar.

AFC slaps long bans on Mongolian official, player over match-fixing attempt



New Delhi, May 6: The Asian Football Confederation has imposed lengthy bans on a Mongolian match official and a player for attempting to manipulate the outcome of a match in the AFC Women's Champions League 2025/26 preliminary stage. The decision was taken by the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, which on Wednesday confirmed

strict action against the individuals involved. "Following an extensive investigation, the AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee has taken firm action against attempted match manipulation by banning Mongolian football official Ms. Munkhtsetseg Batkhuu and player Ms. Namuuna Narmandakh from all football-related activities for ten and five years, respectively," the

I just stuck to the process: Samson after match-winning knock

New Delhi, May 6: Wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson continued his strong run for Chennai Super Kings, scoring an unbeaten 87 to guide his side to an eight-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in IPL 2026. After the win, Samson said his success this season has come from staying calm and sticking to the basics. "They're calling me Chetta, but I like Sanju more. You try to see what works well, stick to the basics, and trust your hands to do the rest. I just stuck to the process, and it's working out well. I've been doing it for the last 3-5 years, it's a tactical bit as well. I move around a bit according to the bowlers.



I'm always like this. The biggest change is you're seeing more of me, but I'm always calm," Samson said after being named Player of the Match. Samson's knock ensured CSK were always in control as they chased down 156 with 15 balls remaining. He also put together an unbeaten 114-run partnership with youngster

Kartik Sharma. Samson said he read the pitch early and trusted his ability in the middle overs. "Looking at what we were chasing and how the wicket was behaving, even if we were 30 or 35 for 1 in the batting partnership, looking at the shots I can play in the middle overs and against the spinners. I was confident about scoring runs. On missing out on a century, Samson, who had earlier scored an unbeaten hundred against DC this season at Chepauk, said, "Hundreds are always special. There was a desire, but I had to be a bit too selfish to get it. My partner was playing well and winning the game gave me more confidence and happiness. A few more matches to come, let's see if it comes around." Kartik, who remained not out on 41, said Samson's guidance helped him adjust to a tricky surface. "Yes, it was fun. We had a good partnership for a long time. It was helping the spinners - the ball was stopping and turning a lot. I knew it was not a big score, and we could take our time, which we did (Sanju) bhaya said that it was a slow wicket and told me to do what comes to me, which I did. There was no such special. There was a good range and hit the ball. Play the ball, that's all," he said. Hussey credits Sanju's calmness and maturity CSK batting coach Michael Hussey believes that Samson's calmness and match awareness played a key role in helping younger Kartik settle during the chase, as the pair stitched together a match-winning partnership at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here. Praising the spinners - the ball was stopping and turning a lot. "I knew it was not also highlighted.



India, Vietnam elevate ties To Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership; Set USD 25 Bn Trade Target

NEW DELHI, MAY 6: India and Vietnam on Wednesday elevated their ties to an enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership and set a USD 25 billion annual trade target by 2030 as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vietnamese President To Lam held talks focusing on expanding bilateral ties in areas of trade, defence, and critical minerals in the face of increasing geopolitical upheavals. Following the Modi-Lam meeting, the two sides signed as many as 13 agreements which will provide for deeper two ways engagements in a range of areas including digital payments, rare earth minerals, pharmaceuticals, education, banking and culture. Modi and Lam also deliberated on the situation in the Indo-Pacific amid China's increasing assertiveness in the region, and agreed to continue to contribute to the rule-of-law, peace, stability, and prosperity. It is



understood that China's growing military muscle-flexing in the South China Sea also figured in the delegation-level talks between the two sides. Elected as president earlier this month, Lam began his first state visit to India on Tuesday, leading a high-level delegation for a three-day trip. "A decade ago, Vietnam became India's first comprehensive strategic partner in

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations). Since then, our relations have made rapid and comprehensive progress," Modi said in his media statement. "Building on this strong foundation, today we are elevating our relations to the level of Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. We will now advance our partnership to even higher

goals," he said. "Our cooperation will reach new levels in every area — culture, connectivity, and capacity building, as well as security, sustainability, and supply chain resilience," Modi added. He noted that the bilateral trade between India and Vietnam has doubled in the last decade to reach USD 16 billion and that the target now is to increase it to USD 25 billion by 2030. Modi also cited a plethora of agreements signed between the two countries to emphasize that the economic engagement is expected to witness a significant upswing going forward. "The MoU between our drug authorities will now increase access to Indian medicines in Vietnam. Exports of Indian agricultural, fisheries, and animal products to Vietnam are also set to become easier. Very soon, Vietnam will taste India's grapes and pomegranates," he said.

It's TMC vs TMC in West Bengal as BJP prepares to crown new CM

New Delhi, May 6: Amid reports of post-poll violence in West Bengal following the BJP's landslide victory, state BJP president Samik Bhattacharya on Wednesday claimed that TMC leaders are attacking TMC leaders. Speaking to a news agency, Bhattacharya claimed that Barasat TMC candidate Sabyasachi Dutta reached out to him and another one to Dilip Ghosh and informed him that he is being attacked by someone from the TMC. "The Barasat candidate came to me... What is even more interesting is that our former president, former MP Dilip Ghosh, against whom the TMC candidate was contesting elections... Two hours later, at night, he called Dilip Ghosh. He



said, do something. What can I do? He said, my office is being attacked. They are locking the doors. We will die." He (Dilip Ghosh) asked, who is attacking? A name was taken. He said, he is from TMC. He was with you. He said, yes, he is from TMC... So TMC is attacking TMC..." the BJP leader claimed. Hours after the election results, at least four persons were killed in

alleged post-poll clashes across West Bengal, with both the BJP and the TMC accusing each other of orchestrating the attacks. The BJP alleged that two of its workers were killed in New Town in North 24 Parganas and Udaynarayanpur in Howrah. The TMC also said that two of its workers were killed in Belegata in Kolkata and Nanour in Birbhum.

KLA issues death threats to DIG Sandeep Goyal and four other officers; vows to 'turn everything red'



Chandigarh, May 6: The Khalistan Liberation Army (KLA) has issued direct death threats to five high-ranking Punjab Police officers, including Amritsar Border Range DIG Sandeep Goyal, following a late-night IED blast near the BSF Frontier Headquarters in Jalandhar. In a chilling social media post, the group placed red 'X' marks over the photographs of five officers, signaling them as primary targets in a campaign they have titled "Operation Nawa Savaar". The extremist group explicitly warned

DIG Sandeep Goyal that he, his family, and his close relatives are now on their hit list. The message stated that the "blood of martyr Ranjit Singh" would be avenged by shedding the blood of the officer's "near and dear ones," adding the ominous claim that they would "shed so much blood that everything will look red". This vendetta is reportedly linked to a March 2026 encounter led by DIG Goyal, which resulted in the death of Ranjit Singh, an accused in the killing of two police personnel at a Gurdaspur check-post. The threat follows the May 5 IED attack in Jalandhar, for which the KLA has claimed responsibility, alleging that two BSF soldiers were killed and three others injured. While police investigations initially suggested a vehicle fire, the subsequent KLA manifesto has forced security agencies to treat the incident as a major terror conspiracy. Intelligence agencies believe these threats are a deliberate attempt to demoralize the police force, specifically targeting officers who have been instrumental.

Government names ex-Prasar Bharati chief Shashi Shekhar Vempati as CBFC head, succeeding Praseon Joshi

New Delhi, May 6: The Government of India has appointed Shashi Shekhar Vempati as the new Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. According to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, he will serve a term of three years starting from the day he officially joins the office. The announcement was made through an official notification issued by the ministry on the same day. The government confirmed that Vempati's role will involve overseeing the CBFC's functioning and guiding its certification process for films across India. This new appointment comes after Praseon Joshi, who previously headed the CBFC, stepped down from the position.



Joshi has now been elevated to serve as the Chairman of Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster. Shashi Shekhar Vempati's Career Background in Media and Technology: Shashi Shekhar Vempati is widely known for his leadership roles in India's public broadcasting and digital media space. He previously

served as the Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati, where he played a key role in modernising national broadcasters such as Doordarshan and All India Radio. He was also involved in managing Rajya Sabha TV during his tenure. Beyond broadcasting, Vempati has worked in digital governance and technology initiatives. He is the co-founder of AI4India Org, an organisation focused on expanding access to Artificial Intelligence in India. He is also associated with BharatGen as a board member. His experiences also include leadership roles such as CEO of Rajya Sabha TV and Niti Digital. In 2023, he served as the Chairperson of the Science and Technology Communication Apex Advisory Committee, contributing to science communication strategies in the country. Apart from his administrative and technical contributions, Vempati is also an author. He has written the book "Collective Spirit: Concrete Action - Mann Ki Baat and its Influence on India", which explores the impact of the Prime Minister's radio programme on public communication.

Congress announces support to Vijay's TVK to form govt in Tamil Nadu, but with a condition of 'no communal allies'

New Delhi, May 6: After a transformative mandate in Tamil Nadu, the Congress today announced to extend support to actor-turned-politician C. Vijay's Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), bringing him closer to power while drawing a clear red line on the nature of the alliance. The stunning electoral debut by TVK disrupted the decades-long dominance of the DMK and AIADMK but fell short of a majority. The 234-member Assembly delivered a historic verdict, with TVK securing 108 seats, only 10 short of the halfway mark of 118. Despite missing a clear majority, the scale of its victory has positioned Vijay as the central figure in government formation. Eclipsing established players like the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, in an official communication, the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) confirmed



its decision to back TVK in forming the government. However, the support comes with a non-negotiable clause. "Our support shall be conditional upon the TVK keeping out from this alliance any communal forces that do not believe in the Constitution of India," the party stated. The Congress framed its decision as a constitutional obligation to uphold a mandate rooted in secular and welfare-driven govern-

ance. It emphasised that the alliance would be anchored in shared ideological commitments rather than mere arithmetic. Congress leaders called the verdict a "clear, strong and overwhelming" endorsement of a secular and progressive alternative, particularly resonating with the youth. Alliance Rooted in Ideological Legacy: The Congress underscored that the partnership aims to revive

governance inspired by leaders like Perunthalaivar Kamaraj, Thanthai Periyar, and BR Ambedkar. The statement highlighted a long-term vision extending beyond government formation to future elections, including local bodies, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The letter, signed by Tamil Nadu Congress in-charge Girish Chodankar, reiterated that the alliance would be built on "mutual respect, appropriate share, and shared responsibility." It further read, "We, Vijay and Shri Rahul Gandhi jointly pledge to respect this historic verdict of the people of Tamil Nadu for a secular and progressive government, and to fulfil the dreams and promises of the people — especially the youth of Tamil Nadu. Governor initiates process Amid the fast-moving developments, Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Aiyar confirmed receiving a formal claim from TVK.

Pakistan's ISI trying to cause disruption in Punjab: DGP Gaurav Yadav on Amritsar and Jalandhar blasts

New Delhi, May 6: Punjab's top police officer today flagged cross-border involvement in the recent low-intensity blasts in Amritsar and Jalandhar, with Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav on Wednesday indicating that the incidents bear the imprint of Pakistan's intelligence-backed destabilisation efforts. The assessment comes amid heightened vigilance ahead of a sensitive anniversary period of Operation Sindoor, with security agencies on alert across the state. After inspecting the blast site near the Khassa cantonment in Amritsar, the DGP said preliminary findings point towards a deliberate attempt to create unrest.



"This appears to be part of Pakistan's ISI design to cause disruption in Punjab," Yadav said. Blast near army area triggers high alert. The explosion occurred late Tuesday night near the boundary wall of an Army installation in the Khassa area of Amritsar. Though the blast was low in intensity and caused no casualties, it prompted an immediate security response. Teams from the Punjab

Police, Bomb Disposal Squad and forensic experts sealed and sanitised the area. Evidence has been collected and sent for scientific analysis to determine the exact nature of the explosive material used. Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law, and a coordinated investigation is now in motion involving multiple agencies, including the Army, NIA steps in for investigation.

Too tall for job: Telangana RTC moves 6.5-Foot bus conductor to alternate work after height causes neck and back pain



New Delhi, May 6: Aman Ahmed Ansari, bus conductor working with Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC), found himself facing very unusual problem at work. He stands at 198 cm, which is around 6.5 feet tall. His workplace, however, was not designed for someone of his height. Ansari was posted at the Mehdiapatnam

depot in Hyderabad. The buses he worked on have a maximum internal height of about 6.4 feet, which is slightly lower than his own height. This small difference made daily work very difficult for him. Inside the bus, he constantly had to bend his head and body to move around and issue tickets to passengers. This caused him neck and back pain. His 10-hour shifts

which included at least five bus trips a day became physically exhausting. The cramped space started affecting his health and movement. Because of these difficulties, he officially requested the transport authorities to change his job role within the organisation. Government steps in after medical strain and official appeal Ansari's situation came to the attention of Transport Minister Ponnampalabharathi, who raised the issue with Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. After reviewing the case, suggestions were made to find him a suitable alternative duty within TGSRTC. The transport corporation decided to support him and allowed him to work in an "out of designation" role for one year. This temporary arrangement began after his condition was reviewed.

West Bengal: Why the sudden buzz around Agnimitra Paul, Roopa Ganguly

New Delhi, May 6: Amid the raging political controversy in West Bengal with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee refusing to step down even as the Assembly term ends today, the BJP is preparing to form the next government. While expected frontrunners such as Suwendu Adhikari, Samik Bhattacharya, and Dilip Ghosh remain in the spotlight, the buzz has also grown around two other names—Agnimitra Paul and Roopa Ganguly—the past 24 hours. State BJP vice-president Agnimitra Paul won the Asansol Dakshin seat by more than 40,000 votes, defeating TMC's Tapas Banerjee. Some state leaders are now calling her as a top choice for chief minister if the BJP wants to counter Mamata Banerjee



with a woman leader. It is in this context that the name of Roopa Ganguly—who won from Sonarpur Dakshin, defeating Trinamool Congress candidate Arundhati Maitra by over 35,000 votes—is also doing the rounds. What is further giving strength to this argument is the fact that Rekha Gupta, the Chief Minister of Delhi, is the party's only woman chief minister, despite the BJP being in power in around 21 states,

covering around 72% of India's population. The BJP's victory in West Bengal marked the end of the All India Trinamool Congress's 15-year rule. The scale of the win was underscored by Mamata Banerjee's defeat in Bhabanipur to Suwendu Adhikari, positioning him as a leading contender for the chief minister's post. "While Suwendu Adhikari remains a top contender, Agnimitra Paul can emerge as a counter as a woman

face. And like in Delhi, where Parvesh Verma, who defeated Kejriwal, is the Deputy CM, the same formula can be applied in Bengal, with two or more deputy CMs," a BJP leader said. After defeating Mamata Banerjee, the BJP may seek to project a strong woman leader to maintain appeal among female voters, who recorded a high turnout in the 2026 polls. Besides, it may also have a point to prove after the fall of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill—aimed at enabling delimitation based on the 2011 Census and fast-tracking the Women's Reservation Bill. Meanwhile, analysts also point to the party's recent trend of selecting relatively fresh or lesser-known faces for top roles. Agnimitra Paul's profile fits this "modern leadership" mould, and her decisive victory in Asansol Dakshin strengthens her position. Her name being discussed alongside leaders like Samik Bhattacharya, said, Dilip Ghosh is significant. So far the BJP, which has a track record of springing up surprises in states such as Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha, only indicated that the swearing-in ceremony could be held on May 9—the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Party leaders say the official announcement on the CM will be after Home Minister Amit Shah—the party's central observer for the election of its legislative party leader in West Bengal—holds the official meeting of the newly elected legislators in Kolkata.

India's GCC Revenue To Hit USD 98.4 Billion By FY26E: Report

New Delhi, May 6: The Global Capability Centre (GCC) ecosystem in India is projected to reach a market revenue of USD 98.4 billion by the end of fiscal year 2026 (FY26E). This expansion reflects a significant structural shift as these centers move from being traditional delivery engines to becoming the central nerve centers for global enterprises. According to the Nasscom-Zinnov report titled "GCC Value Orbit: From Delivery Engine to Enterprise Nerve Centre," the country now hosts 2117 GCCs operating across 3,728 units. This network supports approximately 2.36 million professionals, marking a 32 per cent growth in the number of centers since fiscal year 2021. The report noted that roughly 506 of the Forbes Global 2000 companies currently maintain operations in India. A primary driver of this growth is the deep integration of artificial intelligence across products and infrastructure. Nearly half of the GCCs estab-



lished since 2021 focused on AI from their inception. Currently, more than 1,200 centers in India embed AI and machine learning capabilities, supported by a specialized talent base of 250,000 professionals and 250 dedicated Centres of Excellence. Rajesh Nambiar, President, Nasscom, said, "India's GCC ecosystem is undergoing a fundamental reset. The shift from scale to value is now well underway, with AI acting as the catalyst. GCCs are increasingly taking ownership of global products, platforms, and business outcomes, positioning India as a strategic nerve center for enterprises worldwide. The next phase of growth will be defined by how effectively these centres can drive enterprise-wide transformation and deliver measurable impact." The maturity of these centers is also evolving. The report stated that nearly 50 per cent of GCCs now operate at a high maturity stage. This transition is happening faster than in previous years, with 96 per cent of centers established

after 2021 launching with specific product or portfolio mandates. Leadership models mirrored this change, as 64 per cent of site leaders now hold dual mandates that combine global functional ownership with responsibilities in cybersecurity and AI governance. "The India advantage today is unmistakable — one of the largest and fastest-growing pools of AI and digital talent in the world. That advantage is now translating into something far more structural. GCCs are increasingly moving beyond execution to take ownership of products, platforms, and AI-led transformation, and three quarters will operate at high maturity by 2030. The opportunity is to build on this by investing in frontier capabilities and deepening the ties between talent, academia, and industry. The centers that get this right will not simply benefit from India's rise. They will be the reason for it," said Pari Natarajan, CEO, Zinnov.

Services Boom Drives India's Exports To Record USD 863 Billion In 2025-26

New Delhi, May 6:

India's total exports scaled an all-time high of USD 863.11 billion in the financial year 2025-26, up from USD 825.26 billion in the previous year, registering a growth of 4.59 per cent, according to data released by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) and the Reserve Bank of India. The milestone is significant not just for its record value, but because each of the four quarters of 2025-26 individually recorded their highest-ever export performance. On the merchandise front, exports grew modestly from USD 437.70 billion to USD 441.78 billion, a growth of 0.93 per cent. While global uncertainties in goods trade weighed on the pace of expansion, India's merchandise exports maintained their upward trajectory, provid-



ing a stable base to the overall trade basket. However, the record exports came alongside rising imports. Total imports (merchandise and services) climbed to USD 979.65 billion in 2025-26, up from USD 919.92 billion, growing at 6.49 per cent, outpacing export growth and widening the overall trade deficit. Merchandise imports alone jumped 7.46 per cent to USD 774.98 billion, while services imports rose 3 per cent to USD 204.67 billion.

Arunachal Govt Announces 2 Per Cent Additional DA, DR For Employees, Pensioners

New Delhi, May 6:

The Arunachal Pradesh government on Wednesday announced a two per cent hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) for 1,09,725 government employees and pensioners in the state, officials said. An official of the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that state government under Chief Minister Pema Khandu, in its continued commitment to the welfare of government employees on Wednesday announced enhancement of DA and DR for serving employees and DR for pensioners and family pensioners by two per cent, raising the existing rate from 58 per cent to 60 per cent of basic pay and pension with effect from



January 1, 2026. This revision follows the decision of the Government of India issued through office memorandum dated April 22, 2026 and April 24, 2026, regarding enhancement of DA and DR for Central government employees and pensioners, he said. The enhanced DA will be applicable to All India Service Officers serving in the Arunachal Pradesh government,

Central government employees on deputation to the state government and all regular state government employees. Similarly, the enhanced DR will be applicable to all pensioners and family pensioners, the CMO official pointed out. He said that the benefit will cover approximately 69,248 regular employees and 40,477 pensioners across the state.

Indian companies plan to invest over \$20.5 billion in US: Sergio Gor

New Delhi, May 6:

Indian companies have lined up investments worth over \$20.5 billion across sectors such as technology, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals in the United States, US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, said on Wednesday, describing the momentum as a direct outcome of President Donald Trump's economic leadership. In a post on social media platform X, the envoy said that 12 Indian companies announced fresh investments worth \$1.1 billion in a single day, adding to a growing pipeline of commitments that he said were creating 'real American jobs' and strengthening supply chains between the two countries. "These partnerships are creating real American jobs and building stronger supply chains," Gor wrote.



He further added that the investment flow was 'proof that when the world's largest democracies do business together, everyone wins.' The ambassador's remarks come at a time when India and the United States are deepening economic ties

across multiple fronts, with bilateral trade, defence cooperation and technology partnerships all gaining pace under the current administrations in both countries. Gor, however, did not disclose the names of the 12 Indian companies that

announced investments in the US. Earlier in March, the US trade deficit widened as imports outpaced exports, even as the American goods gap with India narrowed compared to the same period last year. The US Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis said the overall goods and services deficit rose to \$60.3 billion in the month, up \$2.5 billion from a revised \$57.8 billion in February. Moreover, US exports in March stood at \$32.9 billion, an increase of \$6.2 billion from February, while imports climbed by \$8.7 billion to \$381.2 billion. The detailed country data showed US exports to India rose to about \$4.3 billion in March, while imports from India totalled around \$8.4 billion.

Strong reserves, stable policy make India standout in emerging markets: Moody's

New Delhi, May 6:

India has earned an endorsement from one of the world's top credit rating agencies, with Moody's Ratings placing the nation among the most resilient large emerging market economies over the past five years, which is a recognition that comes at a time when global financial markets remain on edge over trade tensions and geopolitical uncertainty. In a recently released report, Moody's said India 'better placed' than most of its emerging market peers to absorb future global shocks, pointing to three pillars that set it apart — strong foreign exchange reserves, a stable and predictable policy framework, and deep domestic capital markets — which reduce its dependence on volatile external funding. Since 2020, emerging markets have been stress-tested repeatedly, it said.



It highlighted the COVID-19 pandemic first, then by the sharpest global inflation surge in decades, followed by aggressive US Federal Reserve rate hikes in 2022, regional banking turmoil in 2023 and renewed tariff pressures in 2025. Across each of these episodes, Moody's found that India absorbed

the turbulence without a sharp rise in funding costs or a loss of access to capital markets, an outcome that eluded several of its peers. Moreover, the ratings agency noted that India's monetary policy framework has remained clear and consistent, inflation expectations are well anchored and the

exchange rate has been allowed to adjust when needed, which is a combination that preserves investor confidence even when external conditions deteriorate. The report also outlined that India would enter any future period of global shift with buffers that are not just strong, but accessible, a distinction that matters when markets move fast and policy response time is short. In its own words, deep local markets and sizeable reserves help balance India's reliance on domestic funding, but fiscal space remains a constraint. The study benchmarked India against a broad peer group, including Indonesia, Mexico, Malaysia, Thailand, Brazil, South Africa, Nigeria, and Turkey — economies that have each faced their own version of post-pandemic stress with varying degrees of success.

Air India bets on 'everyday spending' to lock in flyers as Maharaja Club crosses 100-brand mark

New Delhi, May 6:

Air India on Wednesday widened its loyalty play-book beyond flying, pushing its frequent flyer programme into daily consumer spending as it crosses a network of over 100 partner brands, signalling a shift in how the airline is seeking to retain and monetise its customer base. The airline's Maharaja Club has added more than 100 brands between FY23 and FY26, clocking over 4.2 million member transactions across its partner ecosystem in the last financial year alone. The scale-up reflects a deliberate pivot: turning a traditional airline loyalty programme into a lifestyle-linked rewards engine, where points are earned as much



on shopping and services as on flights. The move comes amid intensifying competition in India's aviation market, where carriers are increasingly relying on ancillary revenues and customer stickiness rather than just ticket sales. By embedding itself into everyday spending habits, Air India is trying to ensure repeat engagement even when

customers are not flying. The airline said member engagement and partner activity rates have both doubled over the past three years, indicating a sharper shift towards non-flight transactions. This widening of the ecosystem is being positioned as a way to accelerate reward accumulation, allowing members to unlock upgrades and free tickets faster.

Indian companies to invest \$20 billion in US, says Ambassador Gor

New Delhi, May 6:

Highlighting a surge in bilateral economic engagement, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor on Wednesday said Indian companies are set to invest more than \$20.5 billion in the United States across key sectors, including technology, manufacturing, and pharmaceuticals. Describing the trend as a reflection of renewed investor confidence, Gor credited the economic policies under President Donald Trump for attracting record levels of foreign investment back into the US. In a significant development, the ambassador



noted that 12 Indian companies alone announced fresh investments worth \$1.1 billion in a single day, underscoring the pace at which cross-border partnerships are expanding. "These investments are not only deepening economic ties but are also expected to generate substantial

employment opportunities in the United States while strengthening critical supply chains," Gor said. He said the growing collaboration between India and the US demonstrates the mutual benefits of closer economic cooperation between the world's largest democracies.

Sensex, Nifty jump about 1 pc in early deals over easing West Asia tensions

New Delhi, May 6:

Indian equity markets traded higher on Wednesday in early deals, with benchmarks jumping almost 1 per cent each on global cues, amid hopes of de-escalation in the West Asia conflict. Sensex rose 0.85 per cent or 657 points to hit an intraday high of 77,675 in morning trade, while Nifty was trading at 24,250, up 0.90 per cent or 217 points from the previous close. Among sectoral indices, Nifty PSU Bank, Nifty Private Bank, Nifty Auto, Nifty Metal, and Nifty IT advanced up to nearly 2 per cent, with all sectors trading in positive territory. Meanwhile, Larsen & Toubro, Hindustan Unilever, ONGC, Power Grid, and ITC were the top laggards in the



Nifty pack. Analysts struck a cautiously optimistic note. "Technically, the market sentiment is cautiously bullish, but a sustained daily close above 24,250 is needed to extend the rally towards 24,350-24,450. If 23,900 is not held, the index could test the

23,800-23,700 zone," an expert said. On the broader technical setup, another analyst noted that while the opening was positive, trade was likely to remain range-bound and volatile. "The broader trend remains constructive, but the short-term structure suggests con-

solidation, with key levels acting as triggers." Optimism was driven by oil prices falling for a second consecutive session on hopes that bottled-up West Asia supply could resume flowing. Moreover, US President Donald Trump indicated a possible peace deal with Iran, briefly pausing an escort operation through the Strait of Hormuz, citing progress toward a comprehensive agreement. Tehran has not responded to Trump's comments. The US Navy, however, continues its blockade of Iranian ports. In commodities, global oil benchmark Brent crude dropped more than 2 per cent to \$107.56 per barrel, while the US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) fell 3 per cent to \$99.12 per barrel.

DDC Doda chairs Block Diwas at Dradhu

Reviews public grievances; Leads Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan Pledge

DODA, MAY 06: District Administration Doda today organized a Public Outreach Programme (Block Diwas) at Panchayat Ghar Dradhu, Block Bhaderwah. The programme was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Krishan Lal. The event commenced with a rally and a joint pledge ceremony under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, administered by the DDC. A large number of public representatives, including ex-Sarpanchs and former PRI members, participated and projected various issues, demands and grievances before the District Development Commissioner. Senior officers present on the occasion included ADC



Sunil Kumar Bhutyal; CPO Manesh Kumar; ACD Din Mohd Afagi; PO ICDS Akhtar Hussain Qazi; DFO Davender Kumar; Joint Director Education Ashfaq Khanji; CMO Dr. Tanveer Ahmed; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Irfan Ali Wani; Tehsildar Kamal Preet Singh; besides other district and sectoral officers. During the interaction, public representatives and residents raised a wide range of issues, including the unavailability of a Principal and shortage of

lecturers at GHSS Dradhu, requirement of electricity poles and wires in various panchayats, staff shortage under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). They demanded bridge connectivity between Dradhu and Dranga. The public also demanded construction of a steel bridge over Dradhu Nallah, passenger sheds and opening of a J&K Bank branch along with an ATM facility in the area. Other major demands included establishment of Animal and Sheep Husbandry Centre at Gutasa, adequate staff in primary schools and Anganwadi Centres, upgrading of the Gutasa road with filling of potholes and installation of crash barriers and construction of a road from Paska to Gutasa. Residents also sought upgradation of UPS Middle School, establishment of an Anganwadi Centre in Gutasa, installation of transformers and electricity infrastructure, water filtration plant, sanitation of water tanks and improved road connectivity in Niyta Panchayat. Other demands included establishment of a health centre, setting up of a Pipe Damage and Repair Store in the subdivision, construction of a bridge over local nallah at Niyta village and provision of road and irrigation facilities in Lambote hamlet. An additional Anganwadi Centre was also demanded for Tipri village.

Chief Justice inaugurates Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre at District Court Jammu

JAMMU, MAY 06: In a significant step towards ensuring child-friendly and victim-sensitive justice delivery, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Arun Palli, today inaugurated Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre at District Court Complex, Jammu. Present on the occasion were Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajesh Oswal, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Justice Shahzad Azeem Judges of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Yash Paul Bournay Member, J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu, Registrar General Mohinder Kumar Sharma of High Court of Jammu



and Kashmir and Ladakh, Ravinder Nath Watal Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu, Registrar Vigilance Rajiv Gupta, Officers of the registry, Nirmal Kishore Kotwal Bar President Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Judicial officers of District Court Complex, Jammu, Monika Kohli Additional Advocate General and Anil Sharma, Chief LADC Jammu. The facility aims to prevent the secondary victimization and ensure fair, sensitive recording of evidence. This marks a significant step towards victim-centric justice delivery in the Union Territory. The Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre has been established to provide a safe, non-intimidating and conducive environment for vulnerable witnesses, including children, victims of sexual offences and persons with disabilities, to depose before the court.

Awareness programs held in Reasi to mobilize public participation in Lok Adalat

REASI, MAY 06: Under the visionary leadership of Chairman District Legal Services Authority Reasi (Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Khalil Choudhary and the guidance of Secretary Pooja Gupta, an awareness programme on the National Lok Adalat scheduled on May 9, 2026 was organized today here at the District Court Complex and at Legal Aid Clinic- GDC Bagga. The participants were sensitized to the significance of National Lok Adalat as an effective mechanism for amicable settlement of disputes. Emphasis was laid on the benefits of resolving cases through Lok Adalat, including expeditious disposal, cost effectiveness and the finality of awards. The attendees were encouraged to take maximum benefit of this opportunity by getting their disputes settled in the forthcoming Lok Adalat. The programme witnessed active participation and interaction, reflecting growing awareness among the public regarding alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The initiative

witnessed active participation and was well-received by the local residents, who appreciated the efforts of DLSA Reasi in spreading legal awareness at the grassroots level. Meanwhile, awareness programmes on Road Safety Rules were organized at Police Station Dewal by TLSC Mahore and the DLSA Reasi at LAC Goswan. The awareness initiative was carried out under the aegis of Legal Aid Clinic (LAC) Dewal B with the objective of educating the general public about the importance of adhering to road safety norms. The PLVs highlighted key aspects of road safety including the use of helmets and seat belts, dangers of over-speeding, drunken driving, use of mobile phones while driving and the importance of following traffic rules and signals. They also sensitized the participants about legal consequences of traffic violations and emphasized the role of citizens in ensuring safer roads.

DDC reviews implementation of Aspirational Block Programme in Mankote

POONCH, MAY 06: District Development Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired an extensive and detailed review meeting to assess the progress of developmental activities in the Aspirational Block Mankote. The meeting was held at the Community Hall Mankote and attended by the concerned officers. At the outset, Ajaz Ahmed, Aspirational Block Programme Fellow (ABPF) delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the progress achieved under various Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The review covered critical sectors including Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Allied Activities, Financial Inclusion, Social Welfare and Basic Infrastructure. The DDC conducted a rigorous



and sector-wise review, assessing both physical and financial progress across departments. He emphasized the need for intensified efforts to achieve saturation of all indicators under the Aspirational Block Programme and stressed timely and efficient

implementation of all government schemes at the grassroots level. In the Health & Nutrition sector, the DDC directed the Health Department and ICDS to scale up NCD screening, ensure early registration of pregnant women, strengthen maternal and child healthcare services and conduct regular health camps to improve outreach, especially in remote areas. Reviewing the Education sector, the DDC stressed improving learning outcomes, ensuring regular attendances, minimizing dropout rates and strengthening digital education initiatives. He directed the concerned officers to closely monitor academic performance and ensure effective utilization of available infrastructure and resources.

Kathua admin holds Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Dilwan

KATHUA, MAY 06: In a continued effort to strengthen public outreach and ensure prompt redressal of public grievances at the grassroots level, the District Administration Kathua today organised a Grievance Redressal Camp at Panchayat Ghar Dilwan, Block Kathua. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, former PRI representatives and members of the public. Officers from various departments were present on the occasion to listen to public issues and provide on-the-spot responses. The locals projected several demands and concerns related to flash flood damages, drinking water sup-



ply, damaged road connectivity, restoration of school infrastructure and other civic amenities. Addressing the gathering, the MLA Kathua Dr Bharat Bhusan appreciated the prompt efforts made by the

stands firmly committed to the reconstruction and restoration of the affected localities. He further informed that proposals for permanent restoration of roads and water supply schemes have already been submitted to higher authorities and work on the same would be initiated soon. The MLA also distributed cheques under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) among beneficiaries who had totally or partially lost their houses due to the flash floods. While interacting with the public, the Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma reaffirmed the administration's commitment towards responsive, transparent and citizen-

Nasha Mukht Campaign: 33 Panchayats across Ramban organizes Anti-Drug Padyatra

RAMBAN, MAY 06: Adding to the momentum of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the district administration Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Mohamad Alyas Khan, organized a series of Padyatras and awareness activities across 33 Panchayats in 11 blocks of the district, including Banihal, Ukhar, Khari, Ramsoo, Ramban, Rajgarh, Batote, Gandhri, Sangaldan, Gundadhar and Gool. The initiative aimed at generating mass awareness against drug abuse and promoting a healthy, addiction-free society. The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from people from all walks of life, including students, youth, religious leaders and prominent citizens. Participants raised slogans against drug abuse, spread awareness about its harmful effects and took a collective pledge to contribute towards building a drug-free society. Similar Padyatras were held in other Panchayats across the district with active involvement of Tehsildars, BDOs and

CDPOs, who led the campaign at the grassroots level. Students from various schools, officials from different departments and community members participated in large numbers, turning the campaign into a mass movement. Awareness messages were widely disseminated, with participants reiterating their commitment to eradicate the menace of drug abuse. As part of the 100-day Nasha Mukht campaign, Parent-Teacher Meetings were also organized in schools across the district. During these sessions, parents were sensitized about the serious consequences of drug abuse and encouraged to play an active role in guiding youth towards a positive and healthy lifestyle. The overwhelming community participation reflects the strong collective resolve of the people of Ramban to support the administration's mission of a drug-free society. The district administration remains committed to intensifying such awareness drives to ensure a safer and healthier future for all.

DC Kishtwar chairs Weekly block Diwas programme at Thakrie

Focuses on grievances redressal, promotes Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan Campaign, Government Welfare Schemes



KISHTWAR, MAY 06: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today convened the weekly Public Outreach Programme

effective Grievances redressal. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner administered the Nasha Mukht pledge to participants as part of the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan, launched by the Lieutenant Governor on April 11, 2026. Highlighting the objectives of the campaign, the Deputy Commissioner urged local residents to actively spread awareness within their communities and contribute collectively towards building a drug-free society. SSP Naresh Singh also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of community participation in combating drug abuse.

Anil Kumar chairs review of Anti-Drug Campaign in Kathua

Emphasizes border vigilance, de-addiction facilities, youth participation to curb substance abuse

KATHUA, MAY 06: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Public Works (R&B) Department, Anil Kumar Singh, who is the designated District Mentor for Kathua under the 'Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan', today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to oversee and strengthen the implementation of anti-drug campaign in the district. The District Mentor reviewed the progress achieved under the ongoing 100-day intensive campaign. He emphasized the need for a coordinated, result-oriented and sustained approach to make Kathua a drug-free district. He said the objective of the Abhiyan is not only enforcement against drug trafficking but also creating widespread awareness, rehabilitation support and strong community partici-



patron to eradicate the menace from the society. Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, at the outset, presented the district profile and gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation on the headway achieved under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan. It was informed that a multi-department action plan has been launched in the district focusing on

CCTV surveillance has been put in place to strengthen the monitoring and check illegal activities related to narcotics. While reviewing the enforcement measures, the ACS laid special focus on maintaining strict vigilance in high-risk border areas, particularly Lakhapur and Hiranagar. He stressed the importance of intensified surveillance and stronger inter-departmental coordination in these sensitive zones to prevent drug trafficking and related unlawful activities. He also directed the Regional Transport Office (RTO), Kathua, to enforce strict checks during night hours. He asked for tightening the noose around the defaulting drivers and vehicle owners involved in unscrupulous activities or found driving under the influence of alcohol and

other narcotic substances. Reviewing the healthcare and rehabilitation facilities for drug addicts, the meeting was informed by the Principal, Government Medical College Kathua that a 22-bedded Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) with IPD and OPD-services is fully functional in the district. It was informed that a dedicated team of four psychiatrists, along with other doctors and paramedical staff, is providing treatment and counselling to addicted patients. Anil Kumar called for taking local NGOs on board to further strengthen the healthcare support and rehabilitation services for affected patients. He also stressed for exploring the scope for establishing a state-of-the-art health facility dedicated to treatment and recovery of drug addicts in the district.



Lieutenant Governor inaugurates Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul at Ghagwal

JAMMU, MAY 6: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul at the ancient Shri Narsingh Dev Temple in Ghagwal. He also dedicated a Nakshatra Park and Yoga Dhiyan Kendra to the public and laid foundation stone for Shri Narsingh Dev Public Library and Open Air Amphitheatre. Addressing a gathering of scholars, students and prominent citizens, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the establishment of Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul is a meaningful reconnection with India's civilizational roots. "It is a significant step towards cultural renaissance and the strengthening of the ancient Indian knowledge tradition," he said. The Lieutenant Governor stated that the land of Ghagwal has historically been a vibrant centre of learning where Vedic teachings flourished and the Guru-Shishya tradition thrived, providing students with guidance in the art of living, critical thinking, and the courage to seek the truth. The Lieutenant Governor

LG dedicates Nakshatra Park & Yoga Kendra to public; lays foundation stone for Shri Narsingh Dev Library and Open Air Amphitheatre



highlighted India's rapid advancement in science, innovation and technology. He further emphasised that the nation's true strength lies in its cultural consciousness, with Sanskrit playing a vital role in providing an alternative perspective rooted in ethics and duty. The Lieutenant Governor said that Sanskrit has been a source of essential values and knowledge systems for humanity for centuries. He also recalled the monumental contributions of ancient scholars such as Kautilya, Charaka, Sushruta, Bhaskaracharya, Brahmagupta, Aryabhata, and Varahamihira, in shaping the global traditions in mathematics, medicine and philosophy. He stressed the urgent need to make this vast repository of knowledge accessible in simple, modern perspective to ensure its relevance for the contemporary world. The Lieutenant Governor urged the Gurukul management to maintain the highest standards of education by integrating the depth of tradition with the breadth of modernity. He emphasized that the institution must go beyond providing degrees to nurture sensitive, ethical and courageous personalities who can lead the society. "I believe Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul will evolve into a centre of excellence by integrating traditional values with modern education," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the efforts of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan, Shri Narsingh Dev Temple Management Committee, district administration Samba and congratulated them for their vision, dedication and commitment in establishing the Gurukul. Shri Surjit Singh Slathia, Member of Legislative Assembly from Samba; Shri Shakti Pathak, Director ACB and President of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shri Shridhar Patil, DIG JSK Range; Ms Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner Samba; and other senior officials, and Vedic scholars attended the inaugural ceremony.



Swee Kachroo working as Transportation Inspector (G) under Sr DOM Jammu Division NR was presented Safety Award by worthy GM Northern Railways at New Delhi on 5th May 2026 for his illustrious service and dedication towards his duties during his entire career in Northern Railways..His countless efforts for caring for smooth and safe train movement in addition to his courteous behavior towards his fellow colleagues was highly appreciated..

Enforcement drive conducted at Channi Himmat

JPDCL issues strict warning against power theft

JAMMU, MAY 06: Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) today carried out an extensive inspection and enforcement drive at Sector-02, Channi Himmat, Jammu, under the jurisdiction of Sub Division Green Belt, Gadhni Nagar of Electric Division-II, JPDCL. The inspection was conducted by a special Enforcement Team constituted by the Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle Jammu. The team, led by Assistant Engineer Vishal Kumar Langhe, inspected 20 electricity consumers, including 02 domestic and 15 commercial installations. During the inspection, 3

establishments were found indulging in illegal use of electricity and disconnected the supply on the spot. Notably, all three defaulters were prominent commercial establishments located along the main road of Sector-02, Channi Himmat. The violations reflect a serious attempt to evade payment of legitimate electricity dues and cause deliberate loss to Government revenue. Further inspection revealed that 10 commercial consumers were using electricity beyond their sanctioned load, resulting in substantial revenue loss. Penal action was immediately imposed and their sanctioned loads

were revised in accordance with actual consumption. The enforcement team also detected 02 cases of damaged meters and 01 case of meter bypassing, indicating deliberate tampering. Necessary penal proceedings under applicable rules and regulations have been initiated against the violators. The JPDCL reiterated its zero-tolerance policy against power theft, unauthorized usage and meter tampering. The Corporation has intensified enforcement drives across Jammu division and such inspections shall continue on a sustained basis.

Satish Sharma attends school annual day; urges youth to lead with discipline, purpose

JAMMU, MAY 06: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today called upon the youth to become torchbearers of discipline, integrity and national pride at the annual day celebration of BSF Senior Secondary School, Jammu.

Addressing a gathering of students, teachers, parents and BSF personnel, the Minister described the occasion as a moment of pride and inspiration. He highlighted the unique legacy of the institution, noting that it nurtures the young minds in an environment shaped by the



courage, sacrifice and service of the Border Security Force. Emphasizing the vital role of youth in nation-building, Satish Sharma said that the strength of the country lies in the character of its young generation. He encouraged the students

to draw inspiration from the dedication of BSF personnel who safeguard the nation under the most challenging conditions. Appealing for a united front against the growing menace of drug abuse, the Minister termed it one of the gravest threats facing society today. He underscored the Government's firm commitment towards combating narcotics through strict enforcement, robust rehabilitation measures and widespread awareness. He called upon the students to stand firm against peer pressure and reject any path that compromises their future. He stressed that a mind affected by addiction cannot contribute meaningfully to the nation. Highlighting the true essence of nationalism, Satish Sharma remarked that it goes

beyond slogans and is reflected in everyday actions, through hard work, respect for others, environmental responsibility, and unwavering honesty. He encouraged the students to strive for excellence in their studies and contribute positively to society. Referring to the theme of global unity, he spoke about the importance of embracing both national pride and global citizenship. He said that being a proud Indian and a responsible global citizen are complementary ideals that strengthen one's outlook and contribution. The Minister also reiterated the Government's focus on youth engagement, sports development and technological advancement.

Sakeena Ito reviews recruitment process of various departments, SKIMS

Directs for prompt filling of vacant posts, timely deployment of selected candidates

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Minister for Jammu, Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the recruitment process undertaken by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) in various departments like Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, Education department and Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura.



The meeting was attended by Chairman, JKSSB, Vikas Kundra; Secretary JKSSB, Khurshid Ahmad Sanat; Additional Director SKIMS, Zahoor Ahmad Mir; Controller of Examinations JKSSB, Director Finance, Health and Medical Education department, representatives of various departments and other officers. During the meeting, the Minister conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the progress made in filling vacancies in different categories in various departments. The review meeting also focused on expediting transparent, merit-based recruitment to address critical manpower requirements across healthcare institutions and allied departments.

GDC Basohli, Police Department

organise awareness rally under NMBA

BSOHLI, MAY 06: In continuation to the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, Government Degree College Basohli, in collaboration with the Police Department, today organised Unity March to generate awareness about the ill effects of drugs, particularly among the youth. The event was organised under the patronage of the Principal Prof. Raj Kiran Sharma. The event started with the

Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan pledge. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to stay away from drugs and to promote a healthy lifestyle. Later, the College Principal flagged off the rally from the college premises. Drawing significant public attention, the rally passed through the main Plahi area to Diara, culminating back on the college campus. SDPO Om Parkash Lalhal,

along with his team members also joined the students. Carrying banners and raising slogans "Say No to Drugs & Yes to Life," "Nasha Chodo, Jeevan se Nata Jodo," "Nashe ko Bhagana hai, Desh ko Bachana Hai", the participants actively engaged with the local community across the Plahi area, encouraging collective responsibility in combating substance abuse.

Rana reviews development works in Shopian, Pulwama districts

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Minister for Jammu, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today conducted an extensive tour of Shopian and Pulwama districts to assess the progress of key developmental initiatives being executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Tribal Affairs Department and Forest sector. During his visit to Shopian, the Minister carried out on-site inspections of several vital projects, particularly those

aimed at strengthening the rural drinking water infrastructure under JJM. He was accompanied by MLA Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, M.L.A. Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Director Tribal Affairs, Mohd Mumtaz Ali, Chief Engineer, PHE&FC, Showkat Choudhary and other district officers. At Awneera, Rana inspected the Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Awneera Kracheck, being implemented by the PHE Division Shopian. The project, completed at a cost of ₹671.38 lakh, provides 100 percent Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to 555 households across Awneera and Kracheck villages. The officials informed the Minister that the scheme draws water from Sonmann Nallah and includes a 2.00 lakh gallon Pre-Settling Tank, a 0.15 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant, a 0.35 lakh gallon Ground Service

Inspects JJM, tribal infrastructure, forest projects



Reservoir and an extensive 28-kilometre distribution network. Reviewing the project, the Minister noted its significant impact on improving the access to safe drinking water, particularly for women. He directed the officials to ensure regular monitoring, proper maintenance, uninterrupted supply and strict adherence to quality standards, along with prompt grievance redressal and sustainable water management practices. The Minister also visited the Government Girls Tribal Hostel at Zainapora, where a 100-bed facility is under construction under the Samagra scheme. He instructed the executing

agencies to accelerate the pace of work while maintaining quality benchmarks. Interacting with the members of tribal community, he reiterated the government's commitment to their socio-economic upliftment and educational empowerment. He assured that essential facilities, including tents, solar lighting and other amenities, would be provided to support their welfare. At Padpawan in Shopian, the Minister reviewed the ongoing works under the

Nagar Van Scheme. The park, sanctioned for 2024-25 over 14 hectares at an estimated cost of ₹56 lakh, has already seen significant financial progress, with ₹55.98 lakh expended so far. Emphasising the importance of eco-tourism and green spaces, the Minister highlighted that such projects play a crucial role in environmental conservation, tourism promotion and public well-being. Commending the Forest Department and executing agencies.

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All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City

