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LG Sinha Joins Padyatra at Anantnag as Part of Drug-Free J&K Campaign



SRINAGAR, MAY 9: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, today joined Padyatra at Anantnag as part of "Drug-Free J&K Campaign". Addressing a

public gathering, the Lieutenant Governor appealed to the people to break the silence to win this war against drugs and all sections of society must

speak in one voice about the dangers of drug addiction. "The challenge of drug addiction can be eradicated only through a Whole of Society Approach. From now on, every corner of Union Territory, whether schools, colleges, families, sports grounds, wards, villages, or theater stages, should give a voice to the cause with firm resolve," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor said that in this war against drugs, administration and society must understand the link between drugs and

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Suwendu sworn in as Bengal's first BJP CM as Brigade turns saffron in historic power shift

KOLKATA, MAY 9 : Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday took oath as West Bengal's first BJP chief minister, ushering in the state's maiden saffron party government since Independence and marking a tectonic political shift in a region long regarded as the party's toughest ideological frontier. The swearing-in at the iconic Brigade Parade Grounds - once the citadel of the Left and later a theatre of TMC dominance - symbolically sealed the BJP's stunning ascent in Bengal politics, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah,



chief ministers of NDA-ruled states and the party's top leadership sharing the stage before a sea of saffron flags and chants of "Jai Shri Ram". Governor RN Ravi administered the oath of office and secrecy

to Adhikari amid drumbeats, loud cheers and fluttering saffron flags across the sprawling ground in the heart of Kolkata. As Modi walked onto the stage, he bent low, touched his forehead to the dais with folded

hands and acknowledged the crowd, triggering thunderous applause from lakhs of BJP supporters packed into Brigade. Dressed in a saffron kurta, white dhoti with a thin red border and a prominent tilak on his forehead, Adhikari took the oath first before greeting the gathering with folded hands. The BJP leader won both Nandigram and Bhabanipur and spearheaded the party's aggressive campaign against the TMC. Senior BJP leader and former state president Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kiritania, Kshudiram Tudu and Nisith Pramanik were also

sworn in as ministers in the six-member cabinet that reflected a social-and-regional balance. While Adhikari is a Brahmin from north Bengal and the politically crucial Matua belt, Tudu the tribal Junglemahal region and Pramanik the Rajbanshi population of north Bengal. Two ministers are from north Bengal and three from the south, underlining the BJP's effort to consolidate its support across regions and communities. Notably, there was no representative from Kolkata in the first list

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Abrogation of Article 370 ended decades of injustice to Valmiki in J&K: Governor Kavinder

Addresses 19th National Convention of Akhil Bhartiya Valmiki Mahasabha at Palampur
Says Valmiki community suffered for 70 years: Abrogation of Art. 370 a historic step towards justice



PALAMPUR, MAY 9: The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Kavinder Gupta, today asserted that the abrogation of Article 370 was a landmark and historic step

towards justice for the long-suffering Valmiki community of Jammu & Kashmir. He said that the community had endured 70 years of injustice, denial of rights, and

exclusion under the shadow of the special provision. He stated that with the scrapping of Article 370, the Valmiki Samaj of J&K would finally receive their



rightful place, dignity, and equal opportunities as citizens of India. The Governor was addressing the inaugural session of the two-day 19th National Convention of

the Akhil Bhartiya Valmiki Mahasabha at the auditorium of Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University,

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Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani appointed as India next Chief of Defence Staff

NEW DELHI, MAY 9: Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani has been appointed as India's next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), with the government assigning him the key responsibility of implementing the ambitious military theatreisation plan and strengthening tri-services synergy. A retired Army officer will succeed General Anil Chauhan, who completes his tenure as the country's senior-most military commander on May 30. Currently serving as the Military Adviser at the National Security Council



Secretary (NSCS), Lt Gen Subramani is widely regarded as an expert on Pakistan and China-related strategic affairs. The Ministry of Defence announced that he will also

function as Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs alongside his role as CDS. One of his primary mandates will be to advance the military theatreisation model through the creation of integrated military commands aimed at improving coordination among the Army, Navy and Air Force. Lt Gen Subramani retired as the Vice Chief of Army Staff on July 31 last year after serving in the post from July 2024. During his over four-decade-long military career, he held several

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BRIEF NEWS

Kashmiri Pandits protest; seek rehabilitation policy, fresh job package

JAMMU, MAY 9: Displaced Kashmiri Pandits on Saturday staged a protest demonstration in Jammu, demanding the formulation and implementation of a comprehensive rehabilitation policy for the community in Kashmir Valley and the announcement of a fresh employment package for 15,000 educated displaced youth under the prime minister's special package. Carrying placards and raising slogans in support of their demands, including return and rehabilitation, employment opportunities and proper political representation, the protesters assembled outside the Press Club here under the banner of Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj

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2 juveniles among 4 nabbed in Katra assault case from Chandigarh

JAMMU, MAY 9 : Police have arrested four accused and apprehended two children in conflict with law (CCL) from Haryana in connection with an armed assault case reported in Katra town of Reasi district, officials said. The accused were allegedly involved in a violent attack at the R K Palace hotel in Katra on May 2, in which a man identified as Jaswinder Singh alias Sundri sustained serious injuries, they said. A group of persons armed with sharp-edged weapons forcibly entered the hotel and allegedly assaulted the victim before fleeing from the spot. The injured was shifted to the Community Health Centre

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NIA Court Rejects Relief to Accused in HM-LeT Arms Smuggling Conspiracy

JAMMU, MAY 9 (JNF): In a stern order under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Special Judge NIA Cases, Jammu, Prem Sagar, rejected the bail application of accused Shaheen Ahmed Lone, son of Nazir Ahmed Lone, on the basis of the ordinary principle of "bail is rule and jail is exception" has no application. The bail application was filed by Shaheen Ahmed Lone, son of Nazir Ahmed Lone, resident of village Kanispora, district

Baramulla, through his wife Mst. Nasreena Akhter, in NIA case RC-01/2020/NIA/JMU registered under Sections 120-B IPC, 17, 18, 38, 39 and 40 of the UA(P) Act, Section 25(1)(a)(IAA) of the Arms Act and Section 6 of the Explosive Substances Act. The applicant was represented by Advocate Mr. I H Bhat, while Special Public Prosecutor Mr. K S Pathania appeared for the National Investigation Agency. As per the case record, the matter traces

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Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan registers major impact across whole UT

2,16,123 awareness events involving more than 1 crore participants held across J&K
614 FIRs registered, 646 persons arrested, 435 drug peddlers apprehended, 160 drug hotspots identified
3.8 kg heroin, 32.92 kg charas, 222.31 kg ganja seized till date

SRINAGAR, MAY 09: The Jammu and Kashmir Administration has achieved significant progress under the ongoing 100 Days "Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan", reflecting a comprehensive whole-of-government approach to combat drug abuse, strengthening rehabilitation mechanisms and intensifying enforcement against narcotics networks across Jammu and Kashmir. The campaign has also witnessed unprecedented success from the start till today, with

significant public participation and institutional coordination involving departments of Health, Social Welfare, Information, Police, Education, and other allied agencies. Under the campaign, Massive Public Outreach and Awareness programmes are being organised with a total of 2,16,123 awareness events conducted across Jammu and Kashmir, involving more than one crore participants. The extensive awareness drive included series of mega Padyatras, school and college programmes, village-level campaigns, youth engagement activities, seminars, rallies, sports and cultural events, community interactions aimed at sensitizing the public regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse. The Counselling and Mental Health support

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Habitual Drug Accused Deserve 'Zero Leniency': HC

JAMMU, MAY 9 (JNF): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed the bail plea of an accused in a 400-gram heroin recovery case, holding that habitual offenders in commercial quantity NDPS matters deserve "zero leniency" as drug trafficking poses a grave threat to society and youth. Justice Rajesh Sekhri rejected the bail application of Raj Wali, also known as Sher Ali alias Shadoo, resident of Makar Khad Jagtipur, Kathua, after observing that the

accused failed to satisfy the strict twin conditions laid down under Section 37 of the NDPS Act. As per the prosecution, on April 14, 2023, a police party during routine patrolling near Tarnah Bridge intercepted a car bearing registration No. DLGCP-0821 on its way from Kathua to Jammu. On seeing the police party, three persons allegedly abandoned the vehicle and tried to flee. One person jumped from Tarnah Bridge and was found

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EAM Jaishankar holds talks with Trinidad PM, explore new ideas to boost bilateral cooperation

NEW DELHI MAY 9: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held comprehensive discussions with Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, exploring new ideas and initiatives to develop bilateral cooperation between India and the dual-island nation. Jaishankar arrived in Port of Spain from Paramaribo on Friday, marking the final leg of his three-nation official tour in the Caribbean, following his engagement in Jamaica and Suriname. "Sat down this evening with PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar and her Cabinet colleagues for a comprehensive review of our bilateral ties," Jaishankar said in an 'X' post on Friday. "While delivering on the commitments made by PM Narendra Modi last year, we explored new ideas and initiatives in our bilateral cooperation," he said. Earlier in the day, Jaishankar joined Persad-Bissessar at an event for the distribution of Made-in-India laptops to schoolchildren, describing it as the fulfilment of a commitment made by Prime Minister Modi last year. He concluded agree-



ments on tourism, solarisation of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM (Caribbean Community and Common Market) Affairs building, Quick Impact Projects and the establishment of an Ayurveda Chair. Jaishankar said in another post that he was pleased to be back in the country. He was welcomed by the Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Sean Sobers.

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No Criminal Trial Under PFA Where FSSA Provides Penalty: HC

JAMMU, MAY 9 (JNF): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has quashed two long-pending food adulteration complaints against Tapan Milk Products and others, holding that criminal prosecution under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 cannot continue where the alleged violations are covered by the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Justice Rajesh Oswal passed the judgment while allowing petition filed by Suresh Chand Garg, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Tapan Milk Products, along with the company and its marketing concern. The petitions challenged complaints

(Contd on Pg 2)

Suspense over Tamil Nadu govt formation ends; TVK Chief Vijay to take oath as CM on Sunday

After days of drama and suspense over Tamil Nadu government formation, Tamilaga Chief Vijay is all set to take oath as new chief minister of the south Indian state at 10.00 PM on Sunday, according to a press release from the Lok Bhavan. Vijay, who was struggling to firm up support after his party fell short of 10 seats in the recently held Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, met Governor Rajendra Arlekar today, marking his fourth visit to Lok Bhavan since May 4 results. According to Lok Bhavan release, the TVK chief handed Governor Arlekar, letters of support from Congress, CPI(M), VCK and IUML. "Thiru C. Joseph Vijay, called on the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil



Nadu today (9.5.2026) at Lok Bhavan and submitted a letter informing about his election as the leader of the Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam Legislative party. He has also submitted the letters received from the Indian National Congress, Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi and Indian Union Muslim

League, extending their support to form the Government under his leadership," the release stated. The Governor has appointed C. Joseph Vijay as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and invited him to form the Ministry. "The swearing-in ceremony will be held at Nehru Stadium, Chennai on 10th May 2026 at 10 A.M.," the

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BJP committed to women-led development, Congress betrayed women by opposing reservation: Sat Sharma

Jammu, May 9
J&K BJP Mahila Morcha, led by its President Advocate Neha Mahajan, held a comprehensive review and strategy meeting at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma chiefly addressed the meeting. BJP Mahila Morcha Prabhari Venu Khanna, Seh-Prabhari Shailja Gupta, General Secretaries Urvasi Gupta, Geeta Bhagat, and Poonam Gupta, along with district office bearers and members of the Mahila Morcha state team from across Jammu & Kashmir, were present.

The meeting focused on BJP's women-led development approach and the role of Mahila Morcha in strengthening women empowerment initiatives across Jammu & Kashmir. Detailed discussions were held on increasing women's participation in political, social, and economic spheres, while ensuring greater leadership opportunities for women at every organi-



zational level. Sat Sharma, while addressing the meeting, appreciated the efforts of Mahila Morcha activists in taking the policies and programmes of the BJP government to the grassroots level. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP has changed the national narrative from "women development" to "women-led development" by empowering women politically, socially, and economically. Sat Sharma highlighted the Modi government's efforts to bring the

women reservation bill, which provides 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. He said that the legislation could prove a landmark step towards ensuring meaningful participation of women in democratic institutions and strengthening their role in policy-making and governance. He said that while the BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi worked for the women's reservation and thus empowerment, opposition parties led by the Congress betrayed the women empowerment

by opposing the women reservation bill, despite women constituting nearly 50 percent of the country's population. Sat Sharma further said that the BJP believes in real empowerment through leadership opportunities, financial inclusion, education, skill development, and self-reliance initiatives for women. He also urged Mahila Morcha activists to actively participate in the upcoming Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Prashikshan Varg to strengthen organizational skills and public outreach. Adv. Neha Mahajan said that BJP Mahila Morcha remains committed to furthering the mission of women empowerment envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She called upon all office bearers and activists to work with greater coordination and dedication to strengthen the booth-level structure and ensure the successful implementation of women-centric outreach programmes across Jammu & Kashmir.

Sham Lal Sharma Urges Youth to Lead Social Change in Society



Jammu, May 9
Activity Public Hr. Sec. School celebrated the remarkable academic success of its students today during a grand Felicitation Ceremony held within the school premises. The event, dedicated to the Class 10th and 12th high achievers of the 2025-2026 session, brought together educators, parents, and distinguished guests to applaud those who secured marks above 89%. The ceremony was graced by Sh. Sham Lal Sharma Ji, Hon'ble MLA, Jammu North, as the Chief Guest,

and Smt. Sunita Gupta, Ex-Corporator of Ward Number 37, as the Guest of Honor. The proceedings opened with a thoughtful welcome by the school's Managing Director, Mr. Manohar Gupta, who highlighted the inspiring life journey of the Chief Guest, followed by a festive series of cultural performances including traditional Dugri, Punjabi, and Rajasthani dances. Adding a touch of emotion to the occasion, students performed a heart-touching song as a special tribute to their mothers in honor of

Mother's Day. Addressing the gathering with a powerful and motivating speech, Sh. Sham Lal Sharma Ji emphasized the vital role of the youth in shaping the future of the nation. He spoke extensively on the economic landscape of the region, identifying the Chenab River as a cornerstone of Jammu's prosperity and a critical resource for sustainable wealth and energy generation. Sh. Sharma urged the students to look beyond academic success and recognize their responsibility as the torchbearers of regional progress, encouraging them to harness local resources and innovation to drive the community forward. Continuing his address, the Hon'ble MLA issued a stern and heartfelt call to the student community to remain vigilant against social evils.

CUJ launches ITEP B.A.B.Ed. and B.Sc.B.Ed. programmes

Jammu, May 9
The Central University of Jammu in the Board of Studies (BoS), meeting of the Department of Educational Studies, got approval by NCTE to run two Integrated Teacher Education Programs (ITEP) with B.Sc., B.Ed. & B.A., B.Ed., for the secondary level for the upcoming academic session 2026-27. Keeping in view of the ITEP & its nature, rigorous discussion sessions have been organized by the department, under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, by including all the Heads of the Departments of allied disciplines such as Science, Humanities and Social Sciences. Prof. Jain conveyed his message about the significant meeting, and emphasized that the ITEP is a flag-ship initiative of Government of India, launched under the National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE) in alignment with NEP-2020. It is a dual-major bachelor's degree program, with one major in Education and the other

in a disciplinary/interdisciplinary branch of knowledge. He further pointed out that this program is more apt for preparing competent teachers and also to inculcate required capacities such as problem solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, communication skills, ethical and moral reasoning, etc. Prof. Jain stressed that the higher education of India goes with multi-disciplinary programs with the collaboration of inter-departmental involvement by generating more skill-based and employability courses. He appreciated the Department for the new initiative by designating the classrooms as Samvad Kakshas and the Guru-Shishya Parampara. Now the classrooms will be known as Samavad Kakshas and prominent ancient Rishis and their shishyas. Prof. Asit Mantry, Head, briefed the agendas of BoS and achievements of the department with experts and invited delegates, and also took their consent and constructive suggestions in tuning

Adv. Neha Mahajan Inaugurates "Numaish" Exhibition at Jammu

Jammu, May 9:
Adv. Neha Mahajan, President of BJP Mahila Morcha Jammu & Kashmir, today inaugurated the much-awaited "Numaish" Exhibition at Zone by The Park, Jammu, amid great enthusiasm and participation from women entrepreneurs, Mahila Morcha members, social activists, and distinguished guests.



The exhibition, organized by Shikha Suri Chopra, aims to promote women entrepreneurship, creativity, fashion, lifestyle products, and local talent by providing a vibrant platform for women to showcase their work and connect with the community. The inauguration ceremony

witnessed the presence of BJP Mahila Morcha state office bearers, district representatives, party workers, and many prominent women from different sections of society who joined the occasion and extended their support to the initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, Adv. Neha Mahajan appreciated the efforts of organizer Shikha Suri Chopra for conceptualizing and successfully organizing such a beautiful and meaningful exhibition. She said that initiatives like "Numaish" play an impor-

tant role in encouraging women towards self-reliance, confidence, and economic empowerment. She further stated that women today are excelling in every sphere of life and platforms like these provide an opportunity to highlight their talent, cre-

ativity, and entrepreneurial spirit. Organizer Shikha Suri Chopra expressed her gratitude to Adv. Neha Mahajan for gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest and encouraging women-led initiatives. She said that the vision behind "Numaish" is to create a strong platform where women entrepreneurs and creative individuals can grow, network, and showcase their unique talent. The event was marked by excitement and appreciation from visitors who admired the beautifully curated stalls featuring fashion, handmade products, accessories, lifestyle items, and creative displays.

Yudhvir Sethi celebrates BJP's historic victory in Bengal, distributes Halwa, praises PM Modi's leadership

Jammu, May 9
MLA Jammu East and senior BJP leader Yudhvir Sethi on Saturday organised a grand celebration at Lala Bhatnagar Market in Jammu East to mark the Bharatiya Janata Party's magnificent victory in West Bengal and the swearing-in of Suvendu Adhikari as the state's first BJP Chief Minister. The event was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit by party workers, local residents, and supporters. On the occasion of the Bharatiya Janata Party's magnificent victory in West Bengal and the swearing-in of Shri Suvendu Adhikari as the state's first BJP Chief Minister, a halwa distribution programme was organised. On the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi distributed Halwa and sweets among party workers, traders, and members of the public to share the joy of the party's victory. The entire



market area witnessed a festive atmosphere with BJP supporters raising slogans in praise of the party leadership and celebrating what they described as a major victory of nationalism and development-oriented politics. Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi paid rich tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, founder of the

Bharatiya Jana Sangh, renowned educationist, and a strong nationalist leader who made the supreme sacrifice for the unity and integrity of Jammu and Kashmir. He said it was a matter of pride that the land associated with Dr. Mukherjee had witnessed a historic rise of the BJP and the growing acceptance of nationalist ideology among the

people. Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Yudhvir Sethi said the massive public support received by the BJP reflects the people's unwavering faith in the leadership, vision, and developmental policies of Prime Minister Modi. He stated that under Modi's leadership, the BJP has emerged as a symbol of nationalism, good governance, transparency, and inclusive development across the country. "This overwhelming public support is a symbol of nationalism, development, and the people's unshakable trust in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership," Sethi said. He also expressed gratitude to BJP workers, supporters, and the people of Jammu East for their active participation and enthusiasm, stating that their dedication made the celebration memorable and successful.

Grand Mother's Day Celebration Organised at Shiksha Niketan High School

Jammu, May 9
A grand and emotionally enriching Mother's Day Celebration was organised with immense enthusiasm and splendour at Shiksha Niketan High School, Gandhi Nagar. The programme was conducted in a vibrant and joyful atmosphere to honour the unconditional love, sacrifices, dedication, and invaluable contribution of mothers in shaping the lives of children and society. The entire school campus was beautifully decorated for the special occasion, creating an atmosphere filled with warmth, happiness, and celebration. The event witnessed the gracious presence of dignitaries, special guests, media representatives, mothers, parents, teachers, and stu-



dents, making it a memorable and prestigious occasion for everyone present. The programme commenced at 9:00 AM with a warm welcome greeting presented by the students. The ceremonial lamp-lighting ceremony marked the auspicious beginning of the celebration, symbolising wisdom, positivity, and enlightenment. This was followed by bouquet presentations to honour the respected dignitaries and distinguished guests. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of the Principal Sir, Trustee Ma'am, Director Sir Gandhi Nagar, Ms. Meenakshi (Special Guest), Ms. Aarti Thakur, SHO Women Cell Gandhinagar, Sudarshan Sir from JN Media, Seva Ram Sir from DevDisha News Channel Jeevan Nagar, along with representatives from JN, RM Public School, and PushpVaika. Their presence added grace, prestige.

Apart from the winners, several other climbers also delivered impressive performances and are likely to be invited for the final selection trials after the conclusion of the competition series. The performances of all participants were closely monitored by the team of Tawi Trekkers J&K led by its President Sunil Khajuria, international judge Shawetika Khajuria and General Secretary Sonam Sidharth. The Patron of the club Rahul Sharma and Senior Vice President Atri Sharma also witnessed the competition and encouraged the young climbers to give their best and earn a place in the Jammu and Kashmir UT team.

One-Day Workshop on 'Vidya Pravesh' Held at DIET Office for Government Schools of Jammu Zone

Jammu, May 9
A one-day workshop on Vidya Pravesh - the NCERT's three-month play-based school preparation module for Grade-I children - was successfully organized at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Jammu. The event aimed to equip teachers and nodal officers from government schools across the Jammu zone with effective strategies for smooth school transition and foundational learning under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The workshop focused on key domains of the Vidya Pravesh programme, including Health &



Wellbeing, Effective Communication, and Involved Learning through joyful, play-based activities. Participants explored the structure of the 12-week module, practical classroom implementation techniques, activity planning, assessment methods, and ways to foster school readiness among young learners entering formal education. Janab Jamel Ahmed HOD DIET Jammu and HOD Mr. Keval Kam Sagar emphasized the importance of Vidya Pravesh and focussed on child-centred strategies. This workshop will help our teachers create engaging learning environments that align with the goals of NIPUN Bharat and NEP 2020.

Nearly 390 Young Climbers Participate in Tawi Trekkers' Mass Sport Climbing Competition

JAMMU, May 9
The second competition in the ongoing series of mass sport climbing events aimed at identifying grassroots talent was organised by Tawi Trekkers J&K at the Tenzing Norgay Sport Climbing Wall located in the campus of Sprawling Buds ICSE School. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 390 boys and girls, including several children as young as 10 years old, exclusively from Shiksha Niketan Senior Secondary School. The competition forms part of the club's continued efforts to identify and nurture young climbing talent and prepare the Jammu and Kashmir team for this year's Asian Kids Sport Climbing Competition. Young climbers displayed remarkable enthusiasm, determination



and competitive spirit throughout the event, making the competition highly engaging and inspiring. In the Kids Girls category, Palak Januja secured the first position, while Avni Verma and Mankirat Kaur finished second and third respectively. In the Kids Boys category, Saksham Singh clinched the

top spot, followed by Gulfan in second place and Anmol in third. Among the Junior Girls, Harneet Kour emerged victorious, while Dipanshi secured second place and Sonali Sabu finished third. In the Junior Boys category, Tanish Sharma claimed first position, Taranjeet Singh secured second

place and Raghav Saini finished third. Apart from the winners, several other climbers also delivered impressive performances and are likely to be invited for the final selection trials after the conclusion of the competition series. The performances of all participants were closely monitored by the team of Tawi Trekkers J&K led by its President Sunil Khajuria, international judge Shawetika Khajuria and General Secretary Sonam Sidharth. The Patron of the club Rahul Sharma and Senior Vice President Atri Sharma also witnessed the competition and encouraged the young climbers to give their best and earn a place in the Jammu and Kashmir UT team.

Investiture Ceremony is a declaration to the institution, to the community, and to themselves: Deepak Dubey

Jammu, May 9
A.S.N.Hr.Sec.School, Channi Himmat, Jammu today hold Investiture Ceremony of Elected Student Council Members for the Session 2026-27 and Felicitation Ceremony of Merit Holders in 12th Class Board Examinations inside the school auditorium. Mr. Deepak Dubey JKAS, Joint Director Information, Jammu was the Chief Guest while Dr Jagmeet Kaur Bali, Chairperson All J&K Sikh Minority Employees Association was the Special Invitee where Mr. Jai Lal Sharma, Mr. H C Vaid, Mr Ashok Khajuria and Prof. Anil Kumar Raina graced as Guests of Honour. The function started with National Anthem followed by bouquet presentation and lighting of ceremonial lamp. Various cultural items were also presented by the cultural group of the School. Mr. Ritesh Kapoor, Director of the School presented the Welcome address and informed in detail about the student council elections. He said A.S.N. school acknowledges the budding young leaders and repose



the trust in them. It takes practice, it takes commitment and it takes great determination. He added that A.S.N. school aims at awakening the consciousness of the pupils about dignity and right of every person. We all together as guardians, teachers and students promote the development of knowledge and skills to be resourceful for oneself and the society. The Student Council Members were felicitated by the Guests with Sachets and Certificates followed by the Oath taken by the Council Members. The elected team is Raqib Talib of 12th Class as Head Boy, Parimidi Singh of 10th Class as Head Girl, Radesh Singh Chib of 9th Class as Dy Head Boy, Lavanya Kapoor

of 9th Class as Dy. Head Girl, Tarun Kumar of 12th Class as Boys Sports Captain, Azmat Chowdhary of 10th Class as Girls Sports Captain, Arvind Kumar of 9th Class as Captain Air House, Kriti Thakur of 6th Class as Vice-Captain Air House, Shaahroz Bano of 10th Class as Captain Fire House, Safoora Anjam of 7th Class as Vice-Captain Fire House, Zoya Khan of 8th Class as Captain Earth House, Gandivay Singh Charak of 6th Class as Vice-Captain Earth House, Ayaan Ashiq of 8th Class as Captain Water House and Vaishnavi Pandey of 6th Class as Vice-Captain Water House. The students felicitated for being into the merit list in 12th Class board examinations are Pratibha Charak

with 93% marks, Wani Jan Adhar Fayaz with 89.6% marks, Mohini with 85.6% marks, Akashdeep Singh with 83.2% marks, Manrajpal Singh with 82.6% marks, Jeevanjit Singh with 79% marks, Aakarshit Sahi with 77.8% marks, Niharika with 77% marks, Kridhama Bhalwal with 75% marks, Niharika Sharma with 75% marks, Sarika with 81% marks and Arfana Kouser with 78.2% marks. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Deepak Dubey congratulated the newly elected student council of the school and the merit holders of board examinations. He said investiture ceremony is an occasion where all the young students are prepared to do the mantle leadership and discharge the responsibilities entrusted upon them by the school. An Investiture Ceremony is a declaration - to the institution, to the community, and to themselves - that these young leaders are ready to serve. They are ready to lead by example and uphold the values of this institution, and to make a difference.

Chashoti tragedy victims' families meet Sat Sharma over pending death certificates

Jammu, May 9
Deputation of Chashoti Cloudburst victims' families led by Rajesh Mehta called on J&K BJP President and Member Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Former MLA Ashwani Sharma, BJP General Secretary Sanjita Dogra, and Training Department convenor Dr. Parneesh Mahajan were also present on the occasion. The deputation submitted a memorandum highlighting the hardships being faced due to the non-issuance of death certificates of the 33 persons who went missing during the devastating cloudburst and flash floods in Chashoti in 2025. The family members informed the BJP leadership that despite the passage of considerable time since the tragedy, the legal formalities related to the missing



persons remain unresolved, causing immense emotional and financial distress to the affected families. The deputation members stated that the absence of death certificates has prevented them from completing various legal procedures, including settlement of insurance claims and other essential documentation. They emphasized that with such a long period having elapsed since the incident, there remains no hope of survival of the missing persons, and urged the administration to take compassionate and immediate action in the matter. Sat Sharma, while taking serious note of the issue, immediately spoke with the Divisional Commissioner and the concerned Deputy Commissioner and asked them to initiate prompt action to provide relief to the aggrieved families. He stressed that the administration should address the matter on priority and ensure that the affected families do not face further hardship.

People of West Bengal chose development over fear and misgovernance: Ashok Koul



Jammu, May 9
J&K BJP led by its General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul celebrated the oath-taking ceremony of the newly formed BJP Government in West Bengal at Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, terming it a historic mandate for develop-

ment, peace, security, and good governance in the eastern state. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from party leaders and workers who distributed sweets, and congratulated the BJP leadership, expressing confidence that

the new government would usher in a new era of progress and stability in West Bengal. J&K BJP Secretary Arif Raja, party Spokespersons Altaf Thakur, Er. Sahil Bashir, Danish Bhat, and other senior leaders were also present on the occasion. Ashok Koul, while addressing the party leaders, said that the formation of the BJP Government in West Bengal marks the victory of democracy, nationalism, and the aspirations of the common people who had long suffered due to corruption, political violence, appeasement, and misgovernance.

Service, discipline and dedication are core of BJP, not seasonal politics: Rekha Mahajan

Samba, May 9
J&K BJP Vice President and District Samba Prabhari Rekha Mahajan chaired an extensive series of organisational meetings across various Mandals of District Samba during a three-day tour, reaffirming the party's commitment towards grassroots strengthening and public service. The meetings were attended by District President Asha Bari General Secretaries Rakesh Samyal, Amit Dubey, Sangathan Mantri Nirdhej Sharma. Meetings were organised in Ghagwal, Bari Brahmana, Banglad, Ramgarh, Swankha, Samba, Nud, Vijaypur and Purmandal Mandals under the leadership of Mandal presidents Nishant Sharma, Sushil Charak,



Narinder Singh Monu, Rajveer Singh Nancy, Naveen Sharma, Vikrant Sharma, Surinder Singh and Dheeraj Sharma. Mandal teams, Morcha Presidents and Shakti Kendra Pramukhs were also present.

Addressing the meetings, Rekha Mahajan said BJP is the only political organisation whose workers remain continuously active among the masses throughout the year, unlike parties that suddenly wake up only when elections approach.

"BJP workers do not work for headlines or political convenience. Service, discipline and dedication are deeply rooted in the culture of our organisation. Our karyakartas remain connected with the public in every village, ward and booth round the clock," she said. She stated that BJP workers have consistently played a frontline role during every crisis faced by the nation and society. Referring to the COVID-19 pandemic, she said BJP karyakartas risked their own safety to help people by distributing ration, medicines, masks and essential supplies, arranging hospital assistance and standing beside affected families when many others remained confined to political statements.

Young Artists Pay Musical Tribute to Sursamrat Vijay Malla Ji

Reasi, May 9: In a deeply emotional and culturally vibrant event dedicated to the memory of legendary Kashmiri singer Sursamrat Vijay Malla, young Kashmiri artists came together to celebrate his timeless musical legacy through a grand tribute programme organised by Athore Cultural Foundation under the leadership of RK Pandita and Abhimanyu Peshin at Asha Bhavan, Roopnagar Jammu. Held with the blessings of Panun Kashmir and supported by People's Hut Foundation, the programme emerged as an evening where memory, music, and cultural continuity intertwined with extraordinary warmth and emotion. The programme was attended by several prominent personalities including Swami Kumar Ji, Dr. Agnishekhar, Tito Ganju, eminent singer and composer Naina Sappoo Trisal, Kiran Pandita, Prof. Virender Rawal, Sanjay Raina, Adarsh Ajit, Dr. Ramesh Nirash Prof Virender Rawal and Ramesh Marhatta. Among the performers,



Vanshika Kaw, a Class 6 student and the youngest participant of the evening, drew admiration for her confident and deeply emotional rendition of "Humse Mat Puchihiye Hum Kidr Jayenge." Her performance symbolised the transmission of Kashmiri musical heritage to an entirely new generation born in exile yet emotionally connected to its cultural roots. Daksh Bhat's rendition of "Meaji Chhe Aakhir Meaji Aasaan" deeply moved the audience, while Lavanya Koul

mesmerised listeners with "Mye Mashok Havina Pan." Shruti Raina delivered "Na Draav Naehmi Hawas Kahn" with grace and intensity, and Gandharv Kalo's stirring rendition of "Beyi Lanji Gohyov Baaar" received prolonged applause. Pranav emotionally rendered "Kavo Chhukhi Mye Travith Tehlan Fathi Yaaro." The highlight of the evening, however, was the captivating performance by Aakash Koul, whose renditions of "Bey Aaroo Teer mo

laji" and "Darshan Dokh Tehali" electrified the gathering and drew thunderous appreciation from the audience. His powerful voice, emotional depth, and effortless connection with listeners transformed the atmosphere into one of collective nostalgia and celebration. A particularly moving segment of the programme came through a duet tribute by Gandharv Kalo and Pranav, who presented "Zinda Rozan Bapat Che Maraan Luk," creating an atmosphere filled with remembrance and emotional intensity. Addressing the gathering, Naina Sappoo Trisal blessed the artists and expressed satisfaction that the musical and cultural legacy of Kashmir will continue through the younger generation. She observed that seeing young voices carry forward these songs was itself a reassurance that the heritage of Kashmir would remain alive despite exile and displacement.

MP Jugal accuses NC of obstructing developmental progress in Kalakote-Sunderbani

Rajouri, May 9
Member of Parliament Jammu Reasi Jugal Kishore Sharma, accompanied by MLA Kalakote Sunderbani Thakur Randhir Singh, Ex MLA Ravinder Kana conducted an extensive tour of the Kalakote-Sunderbani constituency today visiting Sunderbani, Siot, Khui Dheri, Lamberi and Patrada. During a series of public meetings, Jugal Kishore Sharma took a sharp note National Conference (NC), blaming it for systematically delaying vital developmental works. He asserted that the NC's regressive policies have long acted as a bottleneck, hindering infrastructure and public welfare projects. He listened to the problems of people and they informed that their



many projects which are till not started after completing the tendering process. He also visited Lamberi to seek the blessings of Swami Vishwama Nand Saraswati Ji Maharaj, the leaders' commitment to the spiritual and social fabric of the region. In a significant move for local healthcare, the MP and MLA inaugurated the Ayushman Arogya Mandir at Mawa Patrada, a project successfully completed through the MPLADS fund. "The NC has consistently playing political tactics and befocusing people," Sharma stated. "While they focus on obstruction, we are focused on execution. The inauguration of the Arogya Mandir today proves our dedication to Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas."

Indian Army organises Art and Cultural workshop

Kishtwar, May 9
The Indian Army organised an Art and Cultural Workshop at the Tourism Reception Centre, Chattroo and Bhandarkoot near Kuriya Bridge, in the Kishtwar region from 04 to 08 May 2026. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the Master Sansar Chand Baru Cultural Trust and witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 200 students. Six national-level artists from the fields of painting, handicrafts and rock-face art also took part in the event, guiding and motivating the students through interactive sessions. The



workshop provided a platform for young participants to explore their creativity, understand local art forms and learn from experienced artists. The event also featured soulful Sufi performances and Kalaripayattu self-defence sessions for women, adding cultural and practical value to the

programme. The initiative aimed to promote art, culture, creativity and women's empowerment among the youth of the region. The participants appreciated the efforts of the Indian Army in encouraging talent, preserving cultural heritage and strengthening community engagement.

Jasrotia inaugurates 45 development works worth Rs. 98 lacs in Kishanpur Kandi, Chann Arorian Panchayats

Kathua, May 9
BJP MLA from Jasrota Constituency, Rajiv Jasrotia today inaugurated 45 developmental works worth nearly 98 lakh in Panchayats Kishanpur Kandi and Chann Arorian, aimed at improving basic infrastructure and strengthening civic amenities in rural areas of the constituency. The inauguration programmes were attended by local residents, Panchayat representatives, senior BJP leaders and officials from concerned departments. The works include construction and upgradation of lanes and drains, improvement of roads, development of public utility infrastructure, enhancement of water supply facilities and other projects intended to



improve the quality of life for people living in the rural belt. Addressing the gatherings at various locations, Rajiv Jasrotia said that development should remain above political considerations and every elected representative has

the responsibility to work sincerely for the welfare of the people. He emphasized that rural and border areas require focused attention in terms of infrastructure, connectivity and civic facilities so that people living in these regions do not face

hardships in their daily lives. The BJP MLA said that people expect visible development and timely completion of projects, particularly in villages where basic infrastructure has remained inadequate for years. He maintained that continuous public interaction and on-ground assessment of problems are necessary for ensuring that developmental works are implemented effectively and transparently. Jasrotia further said that better roads, proper drainage systems, improved sanitation and enhanced public facilities are essential for improving living standards in rural areas. He assured the people that he would continue to raise public issues and work for the development of Jasrota constituency with

Ahsan Mukhtar, Shaheena Shahbaz win GCOE Annual Road Races in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, MAY 09: Government College of Education (GCOE), M.A. Road Srinagar on Saturday organised its Annual College Road Race 2026 for men and women students, witnessing enthusiastic participation of more than 90 students. The women's 5-kilometre race was flagged off at 6:30 a.m. by College Principal Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz from SKICC, while the men's 6-kilometre race commenced at 6:15 a.m. from Gupkar Link Road. Both races concluded at Foreshore Road near Nisbat Garden after passing through Gupkar Road and the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden stretch. In the women's category, Shaheena Shahbaz of B.Ed. 1st Semester



secured the first position by clocking 35.5 minutes. Sabha Assad, also from B.Ed. 1st Semester, finished second with a timing of 40.15 minutes, while Uzma Shaif of the ECCE Department secured the third position in 45 minutes. Tabinda, Haleema Bano, Kusum, Rutba, Shaheen Kounsar, Sonika and Minakashi secured fourth to tenth positions respectively. In the men's category, Ahsan Mukhtar Dar of UG 6th Semester emerged winner with a timing of 25.5 minutes. Showkat of UG 4th Semester secured the second position in 27.4 minutes, while Hyder, also from UG 4th Semester, finished third in 28.5 minutes. Zakir Hussain, Abdul Rehman, Zakir Hussain Lone, M. Junaid, Imtiyaz

Ahmad, Muhammad Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf Bimla finished fourth to tenth respectively. The prize distribution ceremony was held at Nisbat, where trophies were awarded to the top three finishers and medals to the first ten position holders by the Principal and senior faculty members. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz highlighted the importance of sports and physical fitness in shaping the overall personality of students. She encouraged students to actively participate in sports activities throughout the year and said such events promote discipline, teamwork and a healthy competitive spirit among youth. She also emphasised the importance of women's participation in

sports, stating that sports empower women, build confidence and encourage leadership qualities among young girls. She further said that active involvement in sports and extracurricular activities plays a vital role in keeping students away from drug abuse and contributes towards building a healthy and drug-free society. Convener College Sports Board, Dr. Mohd Yasin Pir also spoke on the occasion and stressed the importance of sports in student life while encouraging wider participation in future events organised by the college sports board. Among others, Dr. Bilquees Aslam, Dr. Dajket Kour and other faculty members were present on the occasion.

Nasha Mukht J&K gains momentum across Shopian

Hundreds of awareness, outreach events held

SHOPIAN, MAY 09: Diverse range of awareness and outreach events numbering in hundreds were today conducted across district Shopian under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, witnessing proactive participation from students, youth, teachers, religious leaders, cooperative societies members, government departments and civil society members. The day-long campaign featured pledge ceremonies, awareness rallies, sports activities, yoga sessions, poster display campaigns, painting & counselling sessions, seminars & debates and public interaction programmes aimed at spreading awareness about the harmful effects



of drug abuse and promoting a drug-free society. Educational institutions across the district actively participated by organizing anti-drug awareness talks, sports activities and assembly sessions to encourage students towards positive and healthy lifestyles. Similarly, members of cooperative societies, labourers and other frontline workers also participated in engagement and outreach activities in public spaces especially in business units, market places, shops, petrol pumps, playgrounds etc.

Vice Chairman LCMA reviews functioning of STPs at Brari Numbal, Nallah Amir Khan

SRINAGAR, MAY 09: Vice Chairman, J&K Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah today visited the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) at Brari Numbal and Nallah Amir Khan to assess their operational efficiency and functioning. During the visit, the Vice Chairman inspected the 16.1 MLD STP at Brari Numbal and the 5.4 MLD STP at Nallah Amir Khan, both commissioned by JKLCMA. Officials informed the Vice Chairman that both the plants are based on MBR Technology aimed at ensuring effective sewage treatment and improved environmental management. While reviewing the



functioning of the plants, Khurshid Ahmad Shah stressed the need for sustained efforts towards environmental conservation and efficient sewage treatment and management to protect water bodies and maintain ecological balance in the region. He also directed the concerned officials to ensure smooth operation and regular monitoring of the plants for achieving optimum performance and adherence to environmental standards.

Samagra Shiksha, other initiatives transforming school education in Shopian through digital upgrades, student inclusion interventions

SHOPIAN, MAY 09: School Education Department Shopian has emerged as a leading example of educational transformation during the financial year 2025-26 by undertaking wide-ranging initiatives focused on quality education, digital learning, inclusive development and student welfare. Through sustained efforts under various flagship programmes and schemes, the department has significantly strengthened educational infrastructure, improved literacy outcomes and enhanced access to learning opportunities for all sections of society. The district has witnessed remarkable progress in infrastructure upgradation, smart learning initiatives and welfare support for Children With Special Needs (CWSN). Reflecting the Government's commitment towards equitable and modernised education. As part of digital transformation initiatives, 42 schools were



strengthened under Smart School interventions. Further enhancing digital education, 25 schools were covered under the Smart Class Project at an estimated cost of Rs 45 lakh. The project included installation of smart boards, computers, IT infrastructure and modern teaching-learning equipment aimed at making classrooms more interactive, technology-enabled and student-friendly. Besides, 74 smart stands were installed across schools to facilitate smart learning practices. Under the Kindergarten initiative, 130 schools were covered with an estimated expenditure of nearly Rs 2 crore for development of child friendly learning spaces and activity-based foundational education infrastructure.

Special focus was also laid on tribal education through establishment of 4 Smart Tribal Schools including UPS Amshpora, Naghal Tullihalal, Mizpora and Shalidoora. These schools were provided with smart classroom facilities, uniforms and other educational support to improve learning outcomes and educational accessibility in tribal areas. The department also recorded notable achievements under Samagra Shiksha. During the Talash initiative under ULLAS, a total of 23,137 learners appeared in FLNAT-III examination, enabling the district to achieve 100 percent literacy milestone. In the field of inclusive education, extensive efforts were made for the welfare of Children With Special Needs (CWSN). Assessment-cum-measurement camps were conducted across the district for identification of support of specially-abled students.

DC Budgam reviews arrangements for holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram

Directs concerned departments, officers to ensure timely arrangements

BUDGAM, MAY 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan along with SSP Budgam, Hariprasad KK today convened a stakeholders meeting involving community organisations, Shia Anjums, officials of various departments and other stakeholders to review and finalise the arrangements being put in place for ensuring smooth conduct of the Muharram. At the outset, there was a detailed discussion on the key priorities and arrangements that are required to be put in place for the smooth conduct of the Muharram. The representatives from different Shia Anjums,



community representatives and other stakeholders demanded scheduled power and water supply, repairing and surface leveling of key roads and links, timely distribution of ration, LPG, and firewood, arrangements for sanitation, installation/restoration of street lights, adequate health care facilities, transport and other related facilities.

The DC directed power and Jal Shakti departments to ensure smooth scheduled supply of power and water supply. Forest Department to firewood, FCS&CA was directed to ensure advance distribution of ration, Cooperatives department was directed to make rice, sugar and other supplies available through temporary outlets within the district. Lkewise, R&B Department and ULBs were directed to get the road and drainage works and repairs done in advance, ARTO was directed to make transportation plan available for and from the key centres. Directions were issued for repair of toilets and also immediate

GCW Nawakadal organizes workshop on 'Early Warning Signs of Drugs'

SRINAGAR, MAY 09: College Wellbeing and Anti Substance Cell (CWASC) of Govt. College for Women (GCW), Nawakadal, organized a vital workshop titled "Parents and Civil Society Workshop on Early Warning Signs of Drugs" under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan initiative on Saturday. The program was inaugurated by the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Huda Galzai, who detailed the workshop's objectives and emphasized the pivotal role of the family in protecting students through early intervention and strong

emotional support. Staff Secretary, Prof. Hafeez Ullah Sheikh discussed the pervasive nuisance of drugs. Coordinator, CWASC, Dr. Nuzhat Qazi provided a technical report on the physical and behavioral symptoms of addiction and advocated for a 500-meter drug-free zone around the campus. Prof. G. M. Wani (HOD Physics) insisted on the adoption of Sunnah in daily life and spoke extensively on the collective responsibility of the society, noting that a vigilant community acts as the ultimate shield for the youth. He urged civil

society to stay connected and proactive in identifying local threats to ensure a safe, drug-free environment for the next generation. Civil society members also spoke on the occasion and committed to grassroots action, with pledging to deliver dedicated awareness talks in the mosque to further strengthen the social fabric against this menace. The event concluded with active participation from all faculty, parents, and civil society members, all united under the motto: "Choose Life, Reject Drugs, and Embrace the Future."

Forest Department pays homage to Naveen Shah at Condolence Meet



SRINAGAR, MAY 09: Condolence meeting was held today at the headquarters of the J&K Forest Department, to pay rich tributes to Naveen Shah, who passed away today. The meeting was attended by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), J&K, along with

senior officers, field staff, and members of the forest fraternity. A two-minute silence was observed by the gathering as a mark of respect to the departed soul, praying for eternal peace to the officer and strength to the bereaved family. Addressing the gathering, the PCCF highlighted the distinguished career and immense contributions of Naveen Shah, who served the State Forest Department in the capacities of Divisional Forest Officer and Conservator of Forests. He remembered the officer as a dedicated, upright, and compassionate professional who served the J&K Forest Department with excellence in various capacities over the last two decades. The officers present shared their reminiscences, describing Naveen Shah as a mentor to his juniors and a valued colleague known for his administrative acumen and gentle nature.

Awareness activities organised across Budgam under 100 day intensive NMBA

BUDGAM, MAY 09: Various awareness and outreach programmes were organised across Budgam district today under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) with an aim to educate people, especially youth and rural communities, about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of environmental and social responsibility. Excise Team Sub Range Budgam carried out a major awareness programme through Friday Sermon at Batpora Chadoora. During the sermon delivered at Jamia Masjid, the Imam highlighted the ill effects of



drug abuse on society and human health and urged people to remain vigilant against the growing menace of narcotics. Farmers were particularly sensitized and advised to refrain from cultivation of illicit narcotic crops such as poppy and cannabis in their farms and orchards. The programme emphasized the collective responsibility of society in creating a drug-free environment through awareness and education. Meanwhile, Raithan

Secondary School Budgam under NMBA. Students actively participated and expressed their thoughts creatively through slogans highlighting the dangers of drug abuse and the need for environmental conservation and responsible citizenship. The programmes witnessed active participation from students, teachers, officials and members of the local community. The organisers reiterated their commitment towards making society drug-free through sustained awareness campaigns, community participation and educational initiatives.

North in News
EDITORIAL

Only sports can keep youth away from drugs, because it is a system that replaces emptiness

Only sports can keep youth away from drugs because sport addresses the root causes that push young people toward substance abuse, and it does so in a way that lectures, policing, or occasional awareness campaigns cannot, because addiction among youth is rarely about the chemical alone and is usually about boredom, lack of purpose, peer pressure, identity crisis, stress, and absence of a community that values them, and a playground provides an immediate and powerful answer to each of those gaps, and when a teenager picks up a football, a cricket bat, a badminton racket, or laces up for a 5 km run, the body releases endorphins and dopamine, which are the same neurochemicals that drugs artificially stimulate, and therefore sport creates a natural high that is sustainable, legal, and healthy, and over time the athlete's brain rewires to seek that reward from effort, teamwork, and improvement rather than from a pill or a powder, and sport also structures time, which is the biggest enemy of addiction. The measurable goals of sport, like running a faster 100 meters, hitting more boundaries, or learning a new skill in kabaddi, give youth a sense of progress that drugs promise but never deliver, and every small win in sport builds self esteem, which is the psychological vaccine against the feeling of worthlessness that often precedes addiction, and sport teaches coping skills because a lost match, a dropped catch, or a missed penalty forces a young person to handle failure without escape, to analyze what went wrong, to train harder, and to try again, and that resilience transfers to academics, family conflict, and relationship stress, which are common triggers for first time drug use. Sport breaks the cycle where unemployment leads to drugs and drugs lead to crime, and the inclusivity of sport is critical because it cuts across caste, religion, and gender, and when a Dalit boy and an upper caste boy defend a goal together, or when a girl from a conservative family wins a medal and is celebrated in the mohalla, the social capital they earn protects them from the stigma and isolation that traffickers exploit, and sport engages families because a father who watches his daughter play volleyball becomes invested in her health and safety, and a mother who packs tiffin for the team becomes a stakeholder in keeping the group clean. Only sports can keep youth away from drugs, not because it is a slogan but because it is a system that replaces emptiness with effort, loneliness with team, and despair with discipline, and any society serious about saving its young must therefore be serious about building its playgrounds before it builds more prisons or hospitals.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

Historic mandate for change in Bengal

BY ASEERVATHAM ACHARY

The mandate reflects growing aspirations for development, governance reforms, cultural confidence and institutional accountability, while also marking the rise of the BJP as the principal political force in Bengal.

The victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in West Bengal marks one of the most defining moments in contemporary Indian politics. More than merely an electoral triumph, it signifies a major political and social transformation in a state that has historically been shaped by ideological loyalty, regional dominance, and deeply entrenched political traditions. The verdict reflects a decisive shift in public consciousness, driven by aspirations for development, accountability, security, and governance aligned with broader national priorities. For millions of voters across Bengal, the election became not simply a battle between two political parties but a referendum on the future direction of the state.

The scale of the BJP's victory itself underlines its historic significance. In the 294-member Assembly, the party secured 207 seats, comfortably crossing the majority mark and establishing a commanding two-thirds majority. The All India Trinamool Congress (AITC), which had once dominated the state with 215 seats, was reduced to just 80. This dramatic reversal reflects not only growing dissatisfaction with the incumbent regime but also a powerful endorsement of an alternative political vision centred on governance, stability, and development.

What makes the mandate even more remarkable is the sheer scale of the BJP's expansion. The party retained all 77 seats it had won in the 2021



Assembly elections and succeeded in flipping an extraordinary 129 constituencies from the Trinamool Congress. Such a massive electoral swing is rare in Indian politics and points toward a broad realignment of voter sentiment cutting across regions, communities, and social categories.

A large share of these gains came from South Bengal, traditionally considered a Trinamool Congress stronghold. Of the 129 flipped seats, 77 were concentrated in districts such as North 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Paschim Medinipur, South 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, Howrah, Kolkata, and Jhargram. North 24 Parganas alone accounted for 18 flipped seats, followed by Purba Bardhaman with 14 and Hooghly with 12. Districts that had previously delivered near-total victories to the AITC witnessed a dramatic political turnaround, indicating that the change was structural rather than temporary.

The BJP's rise in West Bengal was neither sudden nor accidental. It was built over years of organizational expansion, ideological persistence, and sustained grassroots mobilization. Thousands of karyakartas worked under difficult circumstances, often facing intimidat-

ion, political hostility, and violence. Many party workers lost their lives while defending democratic participation and political pluralism. For the BJP and its supporters, therefore, the victory is not merely electoral but deeply emotional, symbolising years of sacrifice, resilience, and unwavering commitment.

The ideological roots of this transformation are also linked to the legacy of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, one of Bengal's most prominent nationalist leaders and the founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. His vision of national unity, cultural confidence, and political integrity continues to resonate strongly within the BJP's political narrative in Bengal. The party successfully connected this historical legacy with present-day aspirations for economic development, governance reforms, and institutional accountability.

The election took place against a backdrop of growing dissatisfaction with the Mamata Banerjee-led government. Allegations of corruption, political violence, intimidation, and administrative bias increasingly dominated public discourse. Reports of post-poll violence, booth capturing, and suppression of opposition workers

raised concerns about the health of democratic institutions in the state. At the same time, issues such as illegal infiltration and demographic imbalance became politically significant, particularly in border districts. For many voters, the election became an opportunity to express frustration over governance failures and demand greater stability, security, and fairness in administration.

Another major dimension of the election was the perception among sections of society that cultural and religious expressions were being selectively restricted. Controversies relating to Durga Puja processions, Ram Navami celebrations, and administrative permissions created resentment among many voters, especially within the Hindu community. These concerns were viewed not merely as religious matters but as issues connected to cultural rights and civil liberties. The BJP effectively channelled this sentiment by presenting itself as a defender of Bengal's cultural identity, traditions, and civilisational heritage.

At the centre of the BJP's campaign stood Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose leadership played a decisive role in shaping the electoral narrative. Modi's emphasis on development, welfare delivery, national security, and inclusive governance resonated across social groups, particularly among women, youth, and first-time voters. Throughout the campaign, he consistently projected the vision of a "double-engine government," arguing that alignment between the Centre and the state would ensure faster development, smoother implementation of welfare schemes, and more effective governance. Modi's political instincts became evident during the campaign itself.

The detritus of democracy

BY BHASKAR NATH BISWAL

The democratic exercise in India is often described as a festival, a vibrant spectacle of participation that defines the nation's spirit. Yet, as the curtains fall on the recent Assembly elections in West Bengal, the visual reality on the ground tells a much darker story. The fervor of the campaign trail has left behind a staggering environmental hangover: streets choked with torn PVC banners, parks littered with synthetic party flags and drainage systems gasping under the weight of single-use plastics.

What should be a moment of civic pride has once again devolved into an ecological disaster, exposing a systemic failure to reconcile our political processes with the urgent demands of environmental sustainability. The sheer volume of waste generated during these polls is difficult to ignore. In the weeks leading up to the final vote, the landscape of West Bengal was transformed by a deluge of campaign material. Every electric pole, flyover, and village square became a canvas for political messaging.

The visibility was unprecedented, so also the footprint. From massive cutouts to the disposable plates used at rallies, the 'use-and-abandon' culture of Indian campaigning has reached a breaking point. These materials, predominantly made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and non-biodegradable synthetics, do not simply disappear when the results are announced. They

linger in the soil, clog the arteries of our cities, and release toxic leachates that poison the very land the candidates seek to represent. Research from the International Society of Waste Management, Air and Water (ISWMAW) provides a sobering quantification of this crisis. In a state like West Bengal, with 294 Assembly constituencies, the estimates are astronomical. Each constituency is thought to generate approximately 10 tonnes of banner waste and several tonnes of synthetic flags.

When combined with the nearly 2,352 tonnes of single-use plastics and catering waste generated during political gatherings, the total statewide burden nears 7,000 tonnes. This is not merely a localized nuisance; it is a massive, concentrated injection of non-recyclable waste into an already strained municipal system. Despite the implementation of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules of 2026, which mandate stricter handling by bulk generators, the chaotic transition from campaigning to governing often leaves these regulations in the dust. The public health implications of this negligence are severe.

As the monsoon season approaches, the discarded plastic and flex boards become primary culprits in urban flooding, a recurring nightmare for the residents of Kolkata and its surrounding districts. When drainage outlets are blocked by synthetic debris, the resulting waterlogging becomes a breeding ground for vector-borne dis-

eases. Furthermore, the desperation to clear these 'mountainous' piles often leads to the worst possible outcome: open burning. When PVC and treated fabrics are incinerated, they release dioxins and furans, highly carcinogenic pollutants into the atmosphere, exacerbating the respiratory crisis in an already polluted region.

The Hooghly River, the lifeblood of the state, eventually receives the runoff, carrying microplastics downstream and devastating aquatic ecosystems that thousands of people depend on for their livelihoods. This crisis is a reflection of a deeper malaise within the world's largest democracy: the normalization of environmental destruction as a cost of doing business. While elections are the cornerstone of the republic, they cannot continue to function as an exemption from ecological responsibility. The current model of aggressive outdoor advertising is an unsustainable relic of the past, particularly in an era defined by climate volatility and resource scarcity.

The financial burden of this cleanup falls squarely on the shoulders of local bodies, diverting precious tax revenue and manpower from essential civic services like healthcare and education to deal with the avoidable mess left behind by wealthy political machineries. Addressing this requires a fundamental shift in how we perceive the 'greenness' of our democratic institutions. The Election Commission of India (ECI) must evolve from a body

that merely monitors speeches and spending to one that audits the environmental footprint of the electoral process. Just as there are limits on campaign expenditure, there must be a 'waste budget' or a mandatory shift toward biodegradable alternatives. The ECI has the authority to mandate that all banners be made of cotton or compostable materials and that single-use plastic be banned from political rallies.

Penalties for non-compliance should be significant enough to deter even the most well-funded parties. Political parties themselves must internalize this responsibility. In an age of digital transformation, the reliance on physical, non-biodegradable clutter is increasingly redundant. A transition to digital campaigning, reusable signage and centralized waste-collection units would demonstrate a genuine commitment to the 'Swachh Bharat' ideals that many of these parties champion in their manifestos. True leadership involves not just winning an election but ensuring that the victory does not come at the expense of the constituency's future health.

Simultaneously, urban local bodies need to be empowered with the infrastructure to handle the waste that is inevitable. We must move toward an integrated strategy where election materials are viewed as a resource rather than a liability. Successful waste-to-energy models seen in cities like Visakhapatnam provide a roadmap.

Review meeting assess implementation of Mission Yuva initiatives in Reasi district

REASI, MAY 09: Joint Director Employment Jammu Paramjeet Singh today visited District Employment & Counselling Centre (DECC) Reasi and presided over a hybrid review meeting regarding the functioning and progress of SBDU and BHD under Mission YUVA.



The meeting was attended by Assistant Director Employment Sanjay Kumar Bhat; Cluster Manager JK Bank, District Manager NRLM, SBDU/ BHD staff and other officials of the District Employment and Counselling Centre.

The meeting took a detailed review of sanctioned and disbursed cases and discussed the key performance indicators related to the district.

The Joint Director inter-

acted with the staff members of BHD and SBDU and emphasized timely disposal of cases, better coordination with banks, conducting of Udyam Jagriti, Weekly Meetings of SBDU/ BHDs besides empanelment of motivators at war footing level under the rules.

Later, certificates were distributed among the candidates who successfully completed the Office Automation Course conducted at ITI Reasi under Mission YUVA.

The Joint Director Employment also inspected the SBDU set up established at DECC Reasi and issued directions for gear up the recruitment of SBDU/ BHDs besides empanelment of motivators at war footing level under the rules.

The Assistant Director Employment Reasi informed during the meeting that the recruitment of SBDU/BHDs/ Motivators is at final stage and shall be completed within a couple of days.

Secretary RDD reviews development projects, Vibrant Village Programme-II in Poonch

Stresses timely completion of works, effective utilization of funds, submission of gap-analysis based development plans



POONCH, MAY 9: Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting regarding implementation of various schemes under the Rural Development Department (RDD), Panchayati Raj (PR) Department, Vibrant Village Programme-II and other developmental initiatives at Poonch.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, presented a detailed PowerPoint Presentation highlighting the status of all schemes being implemented in the district under the Vibrant Village Programme-II. The

works under BRGF, including Common Facility Centres and Panchayat Ghars sanctioned during the previous financial year. Physical progress, expenditure details and completion timelines of various projects were reviewed thoroughly.

All the concerned officers briefed the Administrative Secretary about the status of works under their respective departments and sectors in detail.

While reviewing the progress, the Administrative Secretary directed the officers to ensure timely completion of works, achieve the set expenditure targets and maintain effective implementation of all schemes. He further instructed the officers to submit the Vibrant Village Programme plans along with a detailed gap analysis to ensure focused and need-based development in the border villages.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the district administration and officials of the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department.

Javid Dar, Satish Sharma tour North Kashmir, review sports infrastructure, development works

SOPORE, MAY 9: Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development Department, Javid Ahmad Dar and Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science, Satish Sharma, today toured various areas of North Kashmir, including Sopore, Baramulla and Rafiaband, where they reviewed the sports infrastructure, assessed the developmental works and interacted with the local residents and youth.



As part of the visit, the Ministers inspected the Sports Stadium at Hadipora Sopore to review the ongoing sports activities and assess the available infrastructure for the local youth and athletes. During the visit, the Ministers interacted with the players, coaches and sports officials and reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening the sports infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that the development of modern sporting facilities is vital for nurturing talent at the grassroots level and channelising the energy of youth towards constructive and positive activities.

Highlighting the importance of sports in youth empowerment and social development, Satish Sharma said the government is focused on creating better opportunities for the aspiring athletes by improving infrastructure, providing quality training facilities and ensuring wider participation of youth in sports activities across urban as well as rural areas. The Ministers also reviewed the condition of the stadium, play fields and other allied facilities and

directed the concerned officials to ensure timely upgradation, proper maintenance and effective utilisation of the sports infrastructure. They assured that all possible support would be extended for the promotion and development of sports in the area.

Local sports persons and residents apprised them of various issues and demands related to the stadium and sports facilities. The Ministers assured them that all their genuine concerns would be

addressed on priority to further strengthen the sporting ecosystem in the region.

During the tour, Satish Sharma also paid obeisance at Shalkoot Tipanya Sahib Gurdwara, where he directed the concerned authorities to undertake solarisation of the Gurdwara complex as part of the government's push towards sustainable and green energy initiatives.

The Ministers further visited several areas including Zalora, Gund Brath, Machipora, Hadipora and Shalkoot, including Tipanya Sahib Gurdwara, where they interacted with the local residents and reviewed various developmental issues and public concerns. They also toured different areas of the Rafiaband constituency and took stock of ongoing developmental works and civic issues raised by the people.

Reaffirming the government's commitment towards inclusive development, Ministers said sustained efforts are being made to strengthen infrastructure, improve public services and ensure holistic growth across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

MLA Gurez reviews developmental Works, stresses timely completion of Projects

BANDIPORA, MAY 09: Member of Legislative Assembly (Member of Gurez Constituency, Nazir Ahmad Khan today chaired a review meeting with district and sectoral officers at Dak Bungalow Dawar Gurez to assess the progress of ongoing developmental works and implementation of various government schemes in Sub-Division Gurez.

The meeting was attended by Programme Officer ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan; Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Bandipora; Chief Planning Officer Bandipora; senior officers from PHE, Irrigation & Flood Control, KPDCI, MED, Revenue, Rural Development, Forest, NHPC, IWMP, Education, Health, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture, Agriculture, Social Welfare, Youth Services & Sports, Geology & Mining, Food Safety, Fisheries, Labour & Employment, Fire & Emergency Services, Soil Conservation, PMGSY, Mechanical Engineering, ITI, NRLM, KVK, Tribal Affairs, KVIB, Lead Bank and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the MLA reviewed progress under UT Capex and JGP Capex. He stressed the need for timely execution of all approved works. He directed officers to ensure speedy tendering and completion of pro-



jects within the stipulated timeframe. Emphasizing efficient utilisation of resources, the MLA said that not a single rupee should lapse during the current financial year. He stated that due to the limited working season in Gurez, all departments must prioritize the sub-division and complete works within the shortest possible time. He also directed departments to submit DPRs and project plans in a timely manner.

The meeting reviewed several important developmental projects including construction of the Administrative Complex at Tulai, road connectivity projects, bridge works and upgradation of public

infrastructure in different areas of Gurez and Tulai.

The MLA directed that no employee should leave the station without prior approval from the concerned authorities and stressed better coordination among departments for smooth execution of works. During the review of Agriculture and allied sectors, officers informed the meeting about distribution of seeds, promotion of natural farming and implementation of various farmer welfare schemes.

The MLA directed departments to provide continuous support and handholding to interested farmers and stressed the need for awareness programmes at the grassroots level. The meeting also discussed

employment generation initiatives for youth, particularly in tourism and skill development sectors. The MLA highlighted the potential of tourism-related activities in Gurez and stressed promotion of local guides, hospitality services and other livelihood opportunities.

Reviewing the power sector, the MLA directed KPDCI to expedite on-grid electrification and related infrastructure works on priority. Progress of ongoing grid and sub-transmission projects was also reviewed. The Education Department briefed the meeting regarding development of educational infrastructure and implementation of PM SHRI initiatives, while ITI Gurez highlighted progress in vocational training programmes. The Rural Development Department presented updates regarding sanitation and waste management initiatives, while the Health Department briefed the meeting about healthcare services and facilities being provided in the sub-division. The MLA also reviewed functioning of ICDS, Fire and Emergency Services, Mechanical Engineering, Food Safety, Legal Metrology, Tourism, and other departments, and reviewed LPG Supply and directed officers to ensure better public service delivery and timely completion of developmental works across Gurez Sub-Division.

Aijaz Asad visits Vibrant Villages Shahpur, Nangali in Poonch

Hears public grievances; reviews developmental needs in border areas

POONCH, MAY 09: Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today visited the Vibrant Village Shahpur and Nangali Block NSSB in Poonch district, where he assessed the issues and concerns of the local residents and public representatives.



During the field visit, the locals projected several developmental issues and demands concerning the border villages. The residents highlighted issues related to roads, completion of ongoing road projects, health facilities, Jal Shakti services, construction of bunkers, installation of solar lights and various other developmental works required in the area.

The Secretary also visited Nangali village and interacted with the locals, where the locals raised various issues including roads, water lift schemes, ATM facilities, opening of a bank branch and other pub-

lic welfare concerns. Aijaz Asad patiently listened to the grievances and noted the issues raised by the people. He assured the locals that all their genuine demands projected during the visit be addressed on priority.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely submission of genuine plans and execution of works under the Vibrant Village Programme, conduct a gap analysis and accelerate development in border villages by providing better basic facilities to residents. He further emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among different departments to ensure effective implementation of developmental schemes in the Vibrant Villages. Among others, ACP, ACD, Executive Engineers, PMGSY, JPDCI and REW, BDOs, officials from other departments were present during the visit.

D&SJ Budgam inaugurates 2nd National Lok Adalat 2026; Over Rs 91.44 lakh releases as compensation

BUDGAM, MAY 09: Under the aegis of NALSA and the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam successfully organized the 2nd National Lok Adalat of the year 2026 at the District Court Complex Budgam, as well as in the Taluka Courts across the district. O.P. Baghat, Principal District & Sessions Judge (PD&SJ), Chairman District Legal Services Authority Budgam, inaugurated the 2nd National Lok Adalat along with the Judicial Officers posted at district headquarter. The 2nd National Lok Adalat was held under the overall supervision of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Budgam.

For smooth disposal, cases were pre-identified by the respective courts and placed before eight dedicated benches constituted by DLSA Budgam for settlement. The first Bench comprised of O.P. Baghat, Principal District and Sessions Judge Budgam and Lateef Ahmed Khan, Chief LADC Budgam. The 2nd Bench comprised of Yahya Firdous, Additional District Judge Budgam and Shabbir Ayaz, Principal Magistrate Juvenile Justice Board Budgam. The 3rd Bench comprised of Abdul Bar, Chief Judicial Magistrate Budgam and Tasneem Kavoosa, Munsiff/JMIC Budgam. The 4th Bench comprised of Shafeeq Ahmad Malik, Sub-Judge Chadoora and A.R. Hanjura, Senior Advocate, Advocate Lyasaq Hussain, Panel Lawyer. Likewise, the 7th Bench comprised of Aiman Amin, Munsiff JMJC Char-e-sharif and N.A. Mashooq, Bar President Char-e-sharif. The 8th Bench comprised of Tawfeeq Ahmad Mir, Additional Mobile Magistrate Beerwah.

2nd National Lok Adalat held at Bandipora

BANDIPORA, MAY 09: 2nd National Lok Adalat for the year 2026 was organized today at New Court Complex Kaloosa, Bandipora, marking a significant milestone in the pursuit of accessible and efficient justice for all citizens. The nationwide initiative, organized under the aegis of the J&K Legal Services Authority, brought together legal professionals, Judges and community members to resolve pending cases through an expedited and amicable process. The said Lok Adalat was held under the supervision of Jeema Bashir, Chairperson District Legal Services Authority (Principal District Judge) Bandipora, and the able guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary District Legal Services Authority, Bandipora. 10 Benches were constituted for the 2nd National Lok Adalat comprising Presiding Officers and Members for amicable settlement/compromise of the referred

cases. The First Bench was presided over by Jeema Bashir, Chairman DLSA, Principal District & Sessions Judge Bandipora, while Adv. Malik Mushtaq acted as member of the said Bench. The Second Bench was presided over by Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, Chief Judicial Magistrate/Sub-Judge, Bandipora and Adv. Iqbal Rubban acted as member. The Third Bench was presided over by Amandeep Singh, Chairman TLSC, Munsiff/JMIC Bandipora, and Adv. Javid Iqbal Lone acted as member. Bench fourth consisted of Mehak Mehboob, Additional Magistrate Bandipora/JMIC Gurez and Adv. Toiba Tabassum, Deputy LADC Bandipora, acted as member. The fifth Bench consisted of Rahila Rashid, Munsiff/JMIC Sumbal and Adv. Nazia Parveen, Assistant LADC Bandipora, acted as Bench member. The 6th Bench consisted of Additional Deputy Commissioner

Bandipora, while Shabir Ahmad Wani, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora acted as Bench member. Bench 7th consisted of Assistant Labour Commissioner Bandipora. The 8th Bench consisted of Assistant Regional Transport Officer Bandipora, while Inspector Tariq Ahmad acted as Bench member. The 9th Bench consisted of Tehsil Dar/Executive Magistrate, 1st Class, Bandipora, and Naib Tehsil Dar Bandipora acted as Bench member. Bench 10th consisted of Executive Officer, M.C. Bandipora as Presiding Officer, while Secretary, M.C. Bandipora acted as Bench member.

The Lok Adalat took Bank Recovery Cases, Criminal Compoundable Cases, Labour Disputes, Revenue Cases, Moneys Suits, NI Act cases under Section 138, MACT cases, Matrimonial Cases, Traffic Challans, BSNL Cases and other Civil Cases.



ED raids multiple locations linked to Punjab Minister Sanjeev Arora over alleged Rs 100 crore GST scam

New Delhi, May 9: The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday conducted raids at multiple locations linked to Punjab minister and MLA Sanjeev Arora as part of an alleged Rs 100 crore money laundering investigation tied to suspected fake GST transactions. The searches were carried out under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, at five premises across Delhi, Gurugram and Chandigarh. Officials said four of the locations are allegedly connected to Arora and his business entities, while another premises belonged to Hampton Sky Realty Limited. According to ED officials, the probe centres on an alleged network of



fraudulent GST transactions involving fake purchase bills for mobile phones worth more than Rs 100 crore. Investigators suspect that these bills were allegedly generated through non-existent firms

operating from Delhi. The agency alleges that the fake transactions were used to claim wrongful input tax credit (ITC), export refunds and duty drawbacks, leading to substantial losses to the govern-

ment exchequer. Officials claimed that the proceeds were allegedly routed through export channels before being sent back to India from Dubai in an attempt to legitimise the

funds through round-tripping operations.

Searches were underway at properties linked to Arora and his associates in Chandigarh and the Delhi-NCR region, including a ministerial residence allotted to him. Reacting to the ED action, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann accused the BJP-led Centre of missing central agencies to target opposition leaders. He asserted that Punjab would not bow to political pressure or intimidation.

Mann also said Punjab, the land of the Gurus and freedom fighter Bhagat Singh, has always resisted injustice and would continue to stand firm against such actions.

People of West Bengal have rejected Mamata Banerjee, TMC: BJP

New Delhi, May 9: With Suwendu Adhikari being sworn-in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday, May 9, slammed the TMC and said that the Mamata Banerjee-led should "accept" that "people of West Bengal have rejected" them. Amit Malviya, the head of the Bharatiya Janata Party's national IT cell, took to X to take on the TMC for making major allegations after the BJP's historic victory in the state.

Malviya stated that the TMC made two key allegations – one regarding the deletion of voters via SIR as well as wrongful addition of voters from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. "But a single set of data demolishes every lie," he said. Providing facts from



the results announced by the Election Commission of India, Malviya said, "The top five seats with the maximum deletion of ineligible electors during SIR were ALL won by the TMC." "In contrast, seats with the least deletions were won by the BJP," he added. On the TMC's claims about the BJP adding "fake voters" from UP and Bihar, Malviya highlighted that the data from the poll body shows

that the "top five seats with the maximum addition of voters were all won by the NDI Alliance, 4 by TMC and 1 by Congress." "Again, the seats with the least vote additions were won by the BJP," he wrote. He added, "And here is the final nail in the coffin: Even if all 27 lakh adjudication cases are added back across constituencies, and one assumes every single vote goes to the TMC, seat-wise analysis.

As BJP forms first govt in Bengal, memorial for slain party workers set up at Brigade Parade Ground



New Delhi, May 9: As the BJP is set to form its first-ever government in West Bengal on Saturday, the saffron party has erected a memorial at the Brigade Parade Ground, where the swearing-in ceremony is being held, to honour the party workers



the first BJP Chief Minister of West Bengal today. The BJP defeated Mamata Banerjee-led TMC in the recently concluded West Bengal Assembly elections, winning 207 of the 293 seats as fresh elections have been ordered in one constituency. While the elections this year remain largely peaceful, incidents of post-poll violence have been reported across the state. Three BJP workers have reportedly been killed in the state since May 4, when the results were declared. The latest was Chandranath Ray, the personal assistant of the CM-elect Suwendu Adhikari, who was gunned down in North 24 Parganas district's Madhyamgram on Thursday night.

killed in political violence in the state. Names of deceased BJP workers have been written on a temporary wall decorated with white and yellow flowers. BJP's West Bengal Legislative Party Leader Suwendu Adhikari, a TMC turncoat, will take oath as

CBI raids 17 locations in Mumbai in alleged Rs 27,337 crore fraud cases linked to Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group

New Delhi, May 9: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has intensified its probe into the Anil Ambani-led Reliance ADA Group, carrying out fresh searches at 17 locations across Mumbai in connection with alleged bank fraud cases involving over Rs 27,000 crore. The agency said the raids targeted premises linked to Reliance Group companies and intermediary firms suspected of diverting public money through complex financial transactions. In a statement issued on Saturday, the CBI said searches were conducted in connection with three cases registered against Reliance Telecom Ltd, Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd, Reliance Home Finance Ltd, and their directors. The action was carried out at residential premises of company directors as well as



offices of intermediary entities allegedly used to route and divert bank funds. According to the

agency, the searches were conducted on the basis of warrants issued on May 8 by a Special CBI Court in Mumbai. Investigators have reportedly seized several incriminating documents during the operation. The probe agency further claimed that multiple intermediary firms under scrutiny were found operating from the same address, raising suspicion over the financial network allegedly used in the transactions. Officials said the investigation is continuing and more evidence is being examined. The latest raids come amid a wider crackdown on the Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group. Over the past few months, the CBI has registered seven cases based on complaints filed by various public sector banks and the Life Insurance Corporation of

India (LIC). The complaints relate to alleged financial irregularities and fraud involving loans amounting to Rs 27,337 crore. Earlier, the agency had conducted searches at 14 locations soon after registering the cases. In a major development last month, the CBI arrested two senior Reliance Communications executives, D. Vishwanath, Joint President and overall in-charge of the group's banking operations, and Anil Kalya, Vice President. The agency alleged that both officials played a key role in managing banking operations and utilisation of funds linked to the accused companies. The CBI said both accused are currently in judicial custody. The agency also confirmed that the ongoing investigation into the Reliance Group cases is being monitored by the Supreme Court.

UDF victory, but no clarity yet: Is Congress losing control over its own CM choice in Kerala?

New Delhi, May 9: Saturday has turned into the most important day for the Congress party as it moves closer to deciding who will become the next Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala. After the United Democratic Front (UDF) registered a strong victory in the state election, the focus has now shifted to Delhi, where the decision-making process is underway. The Congress leadership is holding its last round of discussions before announcing the name. Senior leaders in Kerala are expected to meet top decision-makers in the party, including Mallikarjun Kharge, the Congress president, and Rahul Gandhi. From Kerala, key leaders such as VD Saheeshaan, Ramesh Chennithala, and KPCC president Sunny Joseph are part of the discussions. Power struggle between two strong camps inside Congress The race for the top post has mainly turned into a contest between



two strong camps within the party. On one side is AICC general secretary KC Venugopal, who has emerged with strong backing from legislators. On the other side is VD Saheeshaan, who played a key role in leading the Congress campaign against the Left government led by Pinarayi Vijayan. According to party sources, Venugopal has the support of around 47 out of 63 Congress

MLAs in Kerala. These legislators have told party observers that his organisational control at the national level and his influence within the Kerala party structure make him a suitable choice for the CM post. However, Saheeshaan's camp points to a different form of support: public backing. His supporters argue that he led the election fight from the front and should therefore be given the top position.

They have been active across Kerala, organising protests, torch-light marches, and slogan campaigns, all demanding that the leader of the campaign should now lead the government. Party discomfort over public pressure and alliance signals hide Saheeshaan's support base has grown on the ground, the Congress leadership is reportedly uneasy about the nature of the public campaigns. The high command feels that the protests in favour of VD Saheeshaan are crossing internal discipline limits. Senior leaders are expected to raise this issue during Saturday's meeting in Delhi. There is also concern that such visible demonstrations could be seen as a challenge to the authority of the central leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. This has made the decision-making process more sensitive. At the same time, the Indian Union Muslim League, an important ally within the UDF.

Vijay short of majority, AMMK alleges horse-trading Tamil Nadu's power crisis turns ugly

New Delhi, May 9: Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief C. Joseph Vijay's bid to take oath as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister ran into fresh trouble on Friday, with Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arjekar declining to invite him to form the government in the absence of a clear majority on paper. The standoff has pushed Tamil Nadu into a deeper post-poll crisis, four days after a fractured Assembly verdict left TVK as the single-largest party but short of the 118-seat majority mark in the 234-member House. Last-min Vijay met the Governor at the Lok Bhavan in Chennai and formally staked a claim to form the next government. He submitted letters of support from the Congress, CPI and CPI(M). However,



key potential allies, including the Viduthalaai Chiruthaigal Katchi and the Indian Union Muslim League, had not submitted written support to the Governor. Raj Bhavan sources told reporters that Vijay had not been able to demonstrate majority support. "Joseph Vijay has not been able to show that he has majority support," Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam currently has the backing

of 116 MLAs. There was no formal letter of support from Viduthalaai Chiruthaigal Katchi, Indian Union Muslim League or any other party. Hence, he has not been invited to take oath on Saturday or Sunday," sources said, according to IANS. Governor wants for clear numbers as TVK pledges claim TVK won 108 seats in the April 23 Assembly elections.

Akhilesh Yadav takes a swipe at BJP over rumoured UP cabinet expansion



New Delhi, May 9: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh over speculation surrounding an impending cabinet expansion, alleging that the exercise was more about curtailing the powers of the Chief Minister than strengthening governance. In a message posted on his WhatsApp channel, the SP President took a dig at the ruling establishment, ask-



ing, "Has the slip from Delhi arrived yet?" an apparent reference to the BJP's Central leadership and its role in decisions concerning the state government. "I heard that a cabinet expansion is happening in Uttar Pradesh – or rather, one could say that the Chief Minister's powers are being trimmed and curtailed. Someone should at least ask the person whose cabinet it is," Yadav said, in remarks seen as targeting both the

state leadership and the BJP high command. "The SP chief also sought to pitch the issue as one of representation, demanding reservation for women in any proposed reshuffle or expansion of the Uttar Pradesh Council of Ministers. "Our demand is that women should be given reservation in the UP cabinet expansion," he said. "In a further jibe laden with political innuendo, Yadav referred to an "Agal-Bagal" duo, saying, "Another question is also bubbling up: will the 'Agal-Bagal' duo gain anything from this, or will they just keep peeking around at others and continue making reeds." "Though he did not name anyone directly, the remark is being interpreted in political circles as a veiled attack on BJP leaders and the growing culture of social media-centric politics within sections of the ruling party.

Bengal's BJP Surge Reshapes India-Bangladesh Equation

Kolkata, May 9: The Bharatiya Janata Party's breakthrough in West Bengal has altered more than the domestic political map of India. It has also changed the strategic calculus along India's eastern frontier, particularly in relation to Bangladesh, a country whose post-2024 political transition has increasingly tested New Delhi's patience. For several years, the politics of river water sharing between India and Bangladesh had been constrained not merely by diplomacy but by the realities of federal politics within India itself. Any agreement on the Teesta River, in particular, required the concurrence of the government in West Bengal, whose leadership under Mamata Banerjee consistently resisted arrangements it believed would hurt northern North Bengal's irrigation and agriculture interests. Top officials warn that the incoming BJP government, too, may be reluctant to do a deal on Teesta on the same grounds. North Bengal has now turned into a Saffron bastion, which has elected BJP MLAs in large numbers for the second time running. And the Teesta



waters are important for the primarily agricultural region's economy. "Bangladesh's rhetoric and choice of timing to talk to China on a Teesta-based storage project very near India's border, as well as the assertion made earlier this week that it cannot wait for India's response on Teesta water sharing, will certainly not help," pointed out Pinak R Chakravarty, former Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh. The statement by Bangladesh's foreign minister Khalidur Rahman, on roping in China for a sensitive project right next door to India's Siliguri corridor, which links mainland India

with the northeast, comes on top of news that Bangladesh has earlier this year signed a deal with China to build military drones locally. Bangladesh Navy already operates Chinese submarines, naval vessels, radars and aircraft. It is also believed to be finalising a mega deal to buy a score of Chinese-made J-10C fighter jets. Analysts believe these drones will be deployed on the Indian border and could be used to gather military intelligence. "Pakistan's ISI has bolstered its cell in Bangladesh, and one cannot rule out intelligence cooperation between Bangladesh, China, Pakistan and

even Turkey, which too has bolstered its presence in Dhaka," pointed out Shantanu Mukherji, former National Security Advisor to Mauritius and a South Asia expert. However, the bad blood between the two neighbours during the Mohammad Yunus-led interim government's 18-month stint, when orchestrated protests tauntingly chanted "Dhaka na Delhi" (Dhaka or Delhi) has subsided, despite the many pin-pricks which remain. And a "double engine" BJP government at the centre and state is expected to help smoothe the process of bringing the two neighbours closer. India was the first country to welcome the Bangladesh's new Prime Minister, Tarique Rahman and expects the new BNP government to take a number of steps which would help both nations resume trade ties and pending connectivity projects. Among the first things Dhaka has on its wish-list for Delhi is that India renews the Ganges water treaty, which shares water coming up to the Farakka headwaters between the Hooghly and Padma on a 50:50 basis or on even better terms.

Gold Surges 1.83 Pc This Week Amid Persistent Tensions In Strait Of Hormuz

New Delhi, May 9:

Gold prices rose 1.83 per cent during the week over persistent geopolitical uncertainty and volatile crude prices. On Friday, MCX gold June futures gained 0.04 per cent while MCX silver May futures surged 1.34 per cent. Currently gold futures stand at Rs 1,52,589, while silver futures at Rs 2,61,999 per kg. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,51,078 on Friday up from Rs 1,48,357 seen on Monday market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). Precious metals continued to rise for four consecutive sessions as optimism over a potential US-Israel peace agreement and a softer US dollar outweighed a stronger-than-expected US jobs report. US jobs data showed that employment rose more than forecast in April while the unemployment rate held at 4.3 per cent, underscoring resilience in the labour market and reinforcing



expectations that the Federal Reserve may keep interest rates higher for longer. Central banks maintaining interest rates higher for longer, could pressure non-yielding assets like gold. In international markets, Comex gold climbed about \$50 to a session high of \$4,760 per troy ounce, posting a weekly gain near 1.5 per cent. Market participants

said the prospect of easing regional tensions and a weaker dollar supported demand for non-yielding bullion. Gold and silver have fallen nearly 10 per cent since the US-Iran conflict began on February 28. The broader safe-haven structure remains intact, though the pace of the rally has moderated as the dollar steadies and broader risk sentiment shows

tentative signs of improvement, market participants said. Despite commodities fuel disruption in the Strait of Hormuz dominating the macro narrative, markets are also entering a phase of technical consolidation following the sharp swings witnessed in recent weeks, analysts said.

Precious metals are witnessing mixed price action, with gold and silver attempting to stabilise after recent corrective pressure. West Asian tensions were rekindled on Thursday after US and Iranian forces exchanged attacks near the strait, though US officials said the ceasefire remained in place. Immediate resistance for MCX Gold is placed at Rs 1,54,000-Rs 1,55,500, and immediate support is seen near Rs 1,50,000-Rs 1,48,000, analysts said. For MCX Silver, the Rs 2,65,000 zone acts as immediate resistance, and the Rs 2,60,000-Rs 2,58,000 zone now serves as immediate support, they added.

India's ornamental fisheries exports reach Rs 41 crore

New Delhi, May 9:

India's ornamental fisheries exports are estimated at around Rs 41 crore, reflecting the sector's growing contribution to the economy, an official statement said on Saturday. India hosts about 700 indigenous freshwater and over 300 marine species available domestically, reflecting vast resource potential.



dedicated ornamental fish and aquarium markets have been supported under the PMMSY. Additionally, five Freshwater Ornamental Fish Brood Banks and 199 Integrated Ornamental Fish Units have been established, significantly strengthening the ornamental fisheries value chain and enhancing production, marketing and livelihood opportunities across the country. Notably, the Department of Fisheries has notified 34 fisheries production and processing clusters across key areas across India, including Ornamental fisheries Cluster in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. Dr. Abhilash Likhi, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, visited Ornamental Fisheries Brood Bank at Mangrul Village in Raigad, Maharashtra, established by Yashodhara Sanjay Khandagale under PMMSY. The Secretary also interacted with beneficiaries of PMMSY to understand the gaps and challenges faced on ground.

Mission Shakti Jammu organises Drug Awareness Programme at Amphalla Jail

JAMMU, MAY 09: In a continued effort to spread awareness against substance abuse and promote social rehabilitation, Mission Shakti District Hub for Empowerment of Women Jammu organized a Drug Awareness Programme at Amphalla Jail under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. The programme aimed to educate inmates about the harmful effects of drug addiction and the importance of mental, emotional and social well-being. The awareness session witnessed enthusiastic participation from jail officials, staff members and inmates. Conducted in collaboration with the jail administration, the programme focused on preventive

awareness, legal sensitization, rehabilitation and the importance of positive lifestyle choices. District Mission Coordinator Shagun Manchanda addressed the participants and spoke about the devastating impact of drug abuse on individuals, families and society. She emphasized the importance of awareness, self-discipline, counselling and community support in helping individuals overcome addiction and lead dignified lives. Resource Person Advocate Kiran Thakur delivered an informative and impactful lecture on the legal implications, punishments, psychological and social consequences of substance abuse. She highlighted the

need for strong willpower, awareness, and positive engagement to prevent addiction and encouraged inmates to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle. Superintendent District Jail Dharmender Katoch appreciated the continuous efforts of Mission Shakti in organizing meaningful awareness initiatives aimed at rehabilitation and social upliftment. Among others present during the session were Khushboo Kapte, Gender Specialist, Mission Shakti; Kavita Mahajan, Senior Pharmacist, District Jail Jammu; Babu Hussain, I/C Assistant Superintendent, along with other officials and staff members of the District Jail.

Financial Inclusion: 3 Jan Suraksha Schemes Reach 94.5 Crore In Cumulative Enrolments

New Delhi, May 9:

Three Jan Suraksha Schemes, which completed 11 years of providing social security cover, have reached 94.5 crore in cumulative enrolments, the government said on Saturday. Launched on May 9, 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the schemes - Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) - were envisioned to extend affordable financial protection to all, particularly the underserved and vulnerable sections of society. The cumulative enrolments under PMJJBY have been more than 27.43 crore; under PMSBY, more than 58.09 crore people have enrolled and more than 9.04 crore individuals have enrolled in the



APY scheme (till April 30), 27.43 crore, 58.09 crore and 9.04 crore enrolments have been done under PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY, respectively. On the PMJJBY scheme, Finance Minister said the scheme has settled claims worth more than Rs 21,500 crore for over 10.7 lakh families. Notably, the PMSBY scheme has settled claims

worth nearly than Rs 3,660 crore for over 1.84 lakh families. "As we mark the 11th anniversary of the Jan Suraksha schemes, heartfelt appreciation for all the stakeholders, including field functionaries of banks and insurance companies, whose dedicated efforts have made these schemes a huge success", Sitharaman noted. Union Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Chaudhary said that the objective of these schemes is to provide insurance coverage and pension support to the poorest of the poor. "A key focus of the schemes has been digitisation and simplification of enrolment and claims. The launch of the online Jan Suraksha Portal has made it possible for citizens to enrol conveniently without visiting bank branches or post offices."

L&T bags Rs 2,500-crore coal-to-ammonium nitrate plant order in Odisha

Mumbai, May 9:

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Ltd has officially announced the stock exchange through a regulatory filing that its energy hydrocarbon onshore business has secured an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) order from Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Ltd (BCGCL) for a coal-to-ammonium nitrate fertiliser project in Odisha. BCGCL is a joint venture between Coal India Ltd and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL). L&T has classified the order from BCGCL as 'significant', which refers to projects valued between Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 2,500 crore. According to L&T's regulatory filing, the Lump Sum Turnkey (LSTK) Package-4 order strengthens its position in clean syngas-based ammonia synthesis, which is



a key component in the coal-to-chemicals value chain. Commenting on bagging the BCGCL order, L&T's Deputy Managing Director and President Subramanian Sarma said, "The development of indigenous ammonia capacity through coal-based routes strengthens supply

resilience and supports downstream industrial ecosystems." The scope of the order includes process licence, basic design, detailed engineering, procurement and construction, along with mechanical completion, pre-commissioning, commissioning, sustained load and performance guarantee test runs,

project management, and the final handover of the ammonia synthesis unit as well as associated facilities on a lump-sum turnkey basis with single-point responsibility. The ammonia plant will support downstream production of nitric acid and ammonium nitrate while improving operational efficiency, process reliability and plant integration. The order will be executed on a Lump Sum Turnkey basis (LSTK Package-4) with single-point responsibility. Once operational, the facility will enable the conversion of coal into ammonium nitrate with a planned production capacity of 2,000 tonnes per day (tpa), supporting the growing requirements of India's mining, infrastructure and industrial sectors.

2nd National Lok Adalat held at Jammu; settles 576 cases

JAMMU, MAY 09:

The 2nd National Lok Adalat for the year 2026 was conducted today in District Court Complex, Jammu, under the guidance of Chairman DLSA/Principal District & Sessions Judge R. N. Watal and overall supervision of Sub-Judge/ Secretary DLSA Maleeka Sharma. Chairman R. N. Watal inaugurated the National Lok Adalat. He highlighted the importance of Lok Adalat in resolving long-pending disputes through mutually acceptable settlements. He emphasized the benefits of Lok Adalat, including speedy justice, reduced litigation costs and preservation of relationships, making it an attractive option for litigants seeking efficient dispute resolution.

A large number of litigants turned up to participate in the Lok Adalat, availing the opportunity to settle their disputes amicably. A wide range of cases, including civil disputes, bank recovery, compoundable criminal cases, MACT claims, matrimonial issues, revenue cases and others, were

taken up for consideration and settlement. A total of 26 benches, comprising Judicial Officers and Panel Lawyers/LADCs of DLSA were constituted to hear the cases. Secretary DLSA Maleeka Sharma played an important role in coordinating arrangements, ensuring the smooth conduct of proceedings across all designated venues.

National Lok Adalat witnessed the successful resolution of numerous disputes, underscoring its effectiveness in promoting speedy justice and alleviating the burden on the judicial system. Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Jammu also settled several cases. An amount of Rs. 85,00,000/- was awarded in favour of Mohammad Jamil (claimant) after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by Ifico Tokio Gen Insurance Co. An amount of Rs. 25,00,000/- was awarded in favour of Geeta Devi (claimant) after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by HDFC Ergo.

Govt. committed to develop unexplored, emerging tourist destinations across J&K: Sakeena Itoo

KULGAM, MAY 09: In a significant step towards promoting tourism and strengthening public infrastructure in the scenic area of Panchanpatri (Hompathri) of Kulgam district, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today inaugurated several tourism-related facilities in the area to enhance visitors experience. The Minister, on the occasion, inaugurated a newly constructed passenger shed at Panchanpatri tourist resort developed by the Rural Development

Department (RDD) for the convenience of visitors and tourists. She also dedicated a newly established viewpoint at Panchanpatri (Humpathri) to the public, aimed at enhancing the overall tourism experience and showcasing the natural beauty of the area. ACD Kulgam, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, other senior officers of district administration and large number of locals were also present on the occasion. Addressing a large gathering, the Minister said that the Government is committed towards developing

unexplored and emerging tourist destinations across Jammu and Kashmir and ensuring that modern facilities are created for both tourists and local residents. She added that Panchanpatri (Humpathri) and adjoining areas possess tremendous tourism potential due to their scenic landscapes, serene environment and rich natural heritage and our Government is determined to tap this potential to create livelihood opportunities for local communities. "Omar Abdullah-led Government is working with a focused vision to



transform tourism into a major driver of economic growth and employment generation in Jammu and Kashmir. The development of basic infrastructure and public amenities at tourist destinations is essential for attracting more visitors and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities," Sakeena Itoo stated. She further said that the Government is making concerted efforts to improve road connectivity, tourism infrastructure and civic amenities in remote and rural areas so that these

regions are brought into the tourism map of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our aim is not only to promote tourism but also to ensure inclusive development and socio-economic upliftment of the people living in these areas," she added. During her visit, Sakeena Itoo also interacted with local residents who apprised the Minister about their developmental issues and demands related to infrastructure, tourism facilities and public services in the area. The locals sought augmentation of tourism-related infrastruc-

ture, better road connectivity and other public utility services for Panchanpatri and surrounding villages. Giving a patient hearing to the grievances and demands raised by the people, the Minister assured them that all genuine issues would be examined on priority and necessary measures would be taken for their early redressal. She reiterated that the Government remains committed towards equitable and holistic development of all regions of Jammu and Kashmir with special emphasis on strengthening rural infrastructure,

improving public services and creating employment avenues for youth.

The Minister also emphasized the need for preserving the ecological and environmental significance of tourist destinations while undertaking developmental activities. She called for coordinated efforts between the concerned departments and local stakeholders to promote sustainable tourism in the region. Earlier, the Minister also visited Kharibotpora area of the district and met the families affected by recent fire incident.

Udhampur readies for Census 2027

DC urges people to join self-enumeration drive

UDHAMPUR, MAY 09: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur and Principal Census Officer Minga Sherpa today held a media briefing on the district's preparations for upcoming Census 2027 exercise, emphasizing the crucial role of public participation for accurate and efficient data collection through the self-enumeration process. Addressing the media, the DC informed that the self-enumeration phase shall be conducted from May 17 to May 31, 2026, during which citizens can submit their household details online through the official Census Self-Enumeration web portal, <https://se.census.gov.in>. He said the initiative has been introduced to make the Census process more convenient, transparent and citizen-friendly.



"The online self-enumeration facility will allow residents to independently and securely provide household information from their homes. Upon successful submission, a unique Self Enumeration ID (SE ID) will be generated, which citizens must preserve carefully and share with

Census team during verification visits," he explained. Highlighting the importance of accurate data submission, the DC said that self-declaration by citizens forms the backbone of authentic Census records. He urged residents to furnish all required information truthfully and carefully

in the prescribed 33 questions of Phase-I Householding and Housing Census) covering household composition, socio-economic details and other notified Census parameters. The DC further informed that Census teams shall conduct household verification and house-listing

visits from June 1 to June 30, 2026. He appealed the public to actively participate in the self-enumeration phase to facilitate quicker and smoother field verification. Clarifying the verification process, he said "All Census personnel visiting households will carry official identity cards for authentication." He also cautioned citizens against fraudulent activities, stressing that no Census official shall ever ask for an OTP during the exercise. Among others present at the Press Conference were District Census Officer (ADC) Prem Singh, Addl. District Census Officer (DSCO) Darshan Kumar and other concerned officials.

JMC Commissioner assesses civic issues in Greater Kailash Colony, assures speedy redressal

JAMMU, MAY 09: Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav today visited Greater Kailash Colony and held an interaction with the local Welfare Society (G.K.W.S.) regarding various civic issues being faced by the residents of the area. During the visit, members of the Welfare Society submitted a detailed representation, highlighting several long-pending concerns related to sanitation, drainage, road infrastructure, garbage collection, stray dog menace, maintenance of parks and fountains, repair of mast lights and water logging along the main road near Kaluchak. The Society particularly emphasized the urgent need for reconstruction and up-gradation of the exist-



ing drainage system, repair of damaged internal lanes, regular cleaning of by-lanes and installation of an entry barrier near the Volkswagen showroom to restrict the movement of heavy vehicles causing damage to roads and public infrastructure. The issue of vacant plots being used for garbage dumping and unauthorised occupation was also raised.

Members further demanded immediate maintenance of parks, proper lane numbering and improved waste management through public awareness initiatives. Dr. Yadav gave a patient hearing and assured the members of the society that all the works and issues highlighted in the representation would be taken in a phased and systematic manner.

Paramedical Institute Ghat hosts anti-drug Awareness Programme

DODA, MAY 09: As part of the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukti Jammu & Kashmir Campaign, an awareness programme on substance abuse prevention was organized today at Taran Paramedical Institute Ghat. The programme was organized under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Tanveer Ahmed and under the supervision of local BMO Dr. Abdul Gafoor. BMO Dr. Abdul Gafoor delivered a detailed awareness lecture and sensitized the students about the harmful effects of substance abuse on health,



education, family and society. He urged the youth to stay away from intoxicants and actively participate in spreading awareness in their communities. Meanwhile, a symposium on substance abuse prevention was also organized, featuring thought provok-

ing presentations by Fiza Anjum, Kajol Devi and Aqib Hussain- all students. At the end, prizes were distributed among the participants, followed by a pledge ceremony wherein all attendees pledged to work collectively towards building a drug free society.

DAJ conducts surprise inspection of Sectoral Offices, SDAO Marh

JAMMU, MAY 09: Director Agriculture Jammu (DAJ) Anil Gupta today conducted a surprise inspection of various sectoral offices and the office of Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) Marh to review the functioning of field establishments and assess ongoing developmental activities. During his visit to SDAO Marh, the Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) briefed the Director about the ongoing agricultural activities and programmes being implemented in the subdivision. The Director also inspected the Development and



Establishment Sections of the office and interacted directly with the employees to review their functioning and overall performance. He sought detailed information regarding seed availability, recovery position and implementation of the Seed Village Programme in the Sub Division. He stressed the need for proper testing of seed samples and directed the officers to ensure timely redressal of farmers' grievances and issues. He further instructed that a circular be issued to all Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) of Jammu

Division for conducting fortnightly meetings regularly in their respective districts to ensure better coordination and monitoring of departmental activities. Emphasis was laid on cleanliness and maintenance of government establishments. He also conducted a thorough inspection of the entire office premises. Later, the Director Agriculture visited the Divisional Soil Survey Office, Jammu and reviewed the activities and functioning of the office. The Director held one-on-one interactions with the staff members and reviewed their perfor-

mance and field outreach activities. He also inspected the laboratory and examined the process of testing soil samples being carried out there. The Divisional Soil Survey Officer (DSSO) Rakesh Kumar Sharma gave a detailed briefing on working of the office. Subsequently, Director Anil Gupta inspected the Vegetable Improvement Scheme at Krishi Bhawan Jammu. The Floriculture Development Assistant briefed the Director about the number of vegetable seedlings distributed among farmers and the progress achieved under the scheme so far.

Addiction Treatment Facility up graded at GMC Kathua DC reviews functioning, motivates patients undergoing treatment, stresses compassionate rehabilitation, recovery

KATHUA, MAY 09: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today visited the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) Centre at Government Medical College Kathua. He reviewed its functioning and assessed the treatment and rehabilitation services being provided to individuals battling substance abuse. The ATF Centre, being run in collaboration with All India Institute of Medical Sciences, plays a significant role in supporting the district administration's efforts under the ongoing 'Nasha Mukti Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan' aimed at curbing drug abuse and promoting a healthy, addiction-free society. The Deputy Commissioner inspected various sections of the facility and reviewed the infra-



structure, patient care arrangements, counselling services and rehabilitation support available at the centre. He was informed by Dy CMO Neeraj Nagpal that the facility has recently been upgraded from a 10-bedded centre to a 22-

bedded centre with round-the-clock availability of specialist doctors and support staff to ensure comprehensive care for patients. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the medical team in strengthening the treat-

ment and recovery support system. He emphasized the need for a compassionate and patient-centric approach in helping individuals overcome addiction and reintegrate into society with dignity. The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with two patients undergoing treatment at the facility. He encouraged them to remain strong and determined in their recovery journey, motivating them to leave behind the path of substance abuse and embrace a healthier and more fulfilling life. He assured them of full support from the administration and urged them to become ambassadors of awareness for others facing similar challenges. Additional Deputy Commissioner Vishavjeet Singh were also present during the visit.

DC Samba reviews progress under Mission YUVA

SAMBA, MAY 09: The implementation of Mission YUVA in District Samba was today reviewed at a meeting convened under the chairpersonship of District Development Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan. The meeting was attended by ACR Ajay Bhatti, GM DIC Gurpreet Singh, Assistant Director Employment, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Vijaypur, District Programme Manager, representatives from J&K Bank and J&K Gramam Bank, besides officers and officials associated with Mission YUVA including SBDUs and BHD. The District Development



Commissioner conducted a detailed review of the implementation of Mission YUVA, including the number of applications received, sanctioned and disbursed cases, Hybrid Trainings and Enterprise Mentorship Programmes hosted, besides assessment of output tracking mechanisms. The DDC directed the

General Manager DIC to identify and onboard more industries for enhance the number of training batches. The Assistant Director Employment was instructed to put in extra efforts to increase Hybrid Trainings and Enterprise Mentorship Programmes and to consider DLCI-approved applications for expanding training batches.

5- Day Workshop on Early Warning Signs of Substance Abuse concludes at GDC Marh

JAMMU, MAY 9: A five-day workshop themed "Early Warning Signs of Substance Abuse" concluded successfully at Government Degree College Marh, today. The workshop featured a series of sessions and activities including awareness drives, essay writing competition, pledge ceremony and interactive discussions, organised to educate students about the behavioural and psychological indicators of substance abuse and its adverse effects. The programme encouraged students to stay away from drugs and actively contribute towards building a drug-free society. The programme concluded with a Parent-Teacher Meet on the early warning signs of drug addiction, which witnessed the participation of more than 20 parents along with faculty members. The



session highlighted the importance of parental guidance, early identification of behavioural changes and collective responsibility in preventing substance abuse among students. The valedictory session featured insightful awareness talks delivered by Dr. Imtiaz Shahid and Malti Rajput. They highlighted the importance of early identification of substance abuse and collective efforts in its prevention. At the end, all participants took a drug-free pledge, committing to avoid substance abuse and promote a healthy, addiction-free society. The programme was organised by the College Wellbeing and Anti-Substance Abuse Cell in collaboration with the Department of Education and the Students' Wellness Committee.

2nd Lok Adalat settles 2435 in Reasi District

REASI, MAY 09: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Reasi, under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority, organised the 2nd National Lok Adalat of the year 2026 here in the district. The proceedings were inaugurated by Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Khalil Choudhary in presence of Secretary Pooja Gupta. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Chief Judicial Magistrate Geeta Kumari; Secretary DLSA Pooja Gupta; Munsiff Shivali Sharma; President Bar Association Reasi Pawan Dev Singh along with other executives of bar and bar members, Chief LADC Rashi Baru and team of LADCs, staff members of District Court,



PLVs and litigants were also present. A total of 15 benches were constituted. The Bench no.1 was presided over by Principal District & Sessions Judge Khalil Choudhary along with Munsiff Shivali Sharma. Bench no.2 was presided over by Chief Judicial Magistrate Geeta Kumari and Chief LADC Rashi Baru as bench member. Bench no. 3 was presided over by Sub Judge Katrina

Sidhant Vaid along with Adv. Pawan Khajuria as bench member. Bench no. 4 was presided over by Himanshu Attri along with Advocate Intran Akram as bench member. Bench no. 5 was presided over by ADC along with ACR as bench member. Bench, no.6 was presided over by Principal District & Sessions Judge Khalil Choudhary along with BDO as bench member. Bench no. 7 was presided over by Assistant Director

Food & Supply along with TSO as bench member. Bench no. 8 was presided over by Assistant Labour Commissioner along with Assistant LADC as bench member. Bench no. 9 was presided over by Tehsildar along with Naib Tehsildar as bench member. Bench no. 10 was presided over by District Social Welfare Officer along with Tehsil Social Welfare Officer as bench member. Bench no. 11 was presided over by

E.O Municipality Council along with Assistant LADC as bench member 12 was presided over by Secretary Zilla Sainik Welfare Board, Reasi along with Ranjeet Singh, Assistant LADC, DLSA Reasi as bench member. Bench no. 13 was presided over by DFO along with Forest Range Officer as bench member. Bench no. 14 was presided over by Assistant Director Fisheries along with Inspector Fisheries as bench member and Bench no. 15 was presided over by ARTO along with Motor Vehicle Inspector as bench member. All the 2435 cases were disposed of amicably resulting in a settlement of Rs. 2,83,58,393/-.



Train, skill students for future-ready jobs: Deputy Chief Minister

Visits Polytechnic Colleges, ITI in Srinagar; reviews academic, infrastructural facilities

SRINAGAR, MAY 09: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today stressed the need for skilling and training the students for future-ready jobs to ensure better livelihood opportunities and sustainable growth for the youth.

He made these remarks during his visit to various Government Polytechnic Colleges and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in Srinagar conducted to take first-hand appraisal of academic activities, infrastructure resources and facilities being provided to the students enrolled under different skill development programmes. During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the Government Polytechnic College, Gogji Bagh; Government Polytechnic College for Women, Bemina and ITI Bemina. He reviewed the functioning of the institutions, ongoing training programmes, laboratory facilities and infrastructural requirements. The Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to equip the laboratories and work-



shops with modern gadgets and machinery to ensure seamless practical training for the students. He underlined the need for introducing market-oriented courses and aligning skill development programmes with the present and future industry demands.

Underlining the importance of industry exposure, he called for establishing linkages between the educational institutions and reputed industries to facilitate training, internships and placement opportunities for the students. "The need

is to provide market access and suitable platforms to our talented students for showcasing products and skilled work they produce," asserted the Deputy CM.

During interaction with the students, the Deputy Chief Minister urged them to avail benefits available under Mission YUVA and become self-reliant entrepreneurs. "Under Mission YUVA, youth can avail loans up to Rs 10 lakh without mortgage or guarantor requirements. Work hard, utilize these opportunities and become successful entrepreneurs," he said.

At Government Polytechnic College, Gogji Bagh, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed the institution's academic environment and emphasized the need for strengthening technical education and improving the learning facilities for the students. He also inspected the Food Processing Technology Unit and underscored the need to promote products prepared by the students through proper branding and marketing support to enhance their reach and visibility.

The Deputy Chief Minister interacted with the faculty members and students and took stock of the developmental requirements of the institution.

DC Ramban inspects progress of work on NH-44

Reviews Yatra & Monsoon preparedness

RAMBAN, MAY 09: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammed Alyas Khan today conducted an extensive inspection of ongoing construction works on the four-laning of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44). He assessed the progress of critical infrastructure projects and reviewed preparedness for the smooth conduct of the forthcoming Shri Amamath Ji Yatra scheduled to begin on July 3, 2026. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta; SSP Traffic National Highway Raja Adil Hameed; Project Director National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), PIU Ramban, Shubham Yadav; SDM Ramsos Sayed



Mazahir Hussain Shah; representatives from project executing agencies and other officers. The Deputy Commissioner inspected various construction sites and reviewed the pace of work on strategically important tunnels and viaducts being constructed along the highway stretch in Ramban district. The executing agencies informed two major viaducts are progressing as per schedule and are expected to be made operational ahead of the Shri Amamath Ji Yatra, 2026. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed progress on a critical tunnel project nearing completion and directed the concerned agencies to strictly adhere to the timeline for completion of the remaining works.

DIPR Reasi Centre organises symposium on Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan

REASI, MAY 09: As part of the special 100-day Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan, Department of Information and Public Relation Reasi Centre, in collaboration with the Excise Department, on Saturday organised a symposium here at Government Higher Secondary School (Boys) to spread awareness among students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society. Showcasing their deep understanding, students explained in detail the dangerous consequences of drug addiction on individuals, their families and on the society as a whole. They encouraged everyone to lead a healthy and disciplined life free from addiction. The school staff and Officials also shared their views and encouraged students to spread awareness among their peers and family members regarding the ill effects of narcotic substances. District Information



Officer Mukesh Kumar Sharma as the Chief Guest, while Excise Inspector Aadrash Thakur attended the programme as guest of honour. Speaking on the occasion, the DIO highlighted the growing threat of substance abuse among youth and stressed the importance of collective efforts to eradicate the menace from society. The Excise Inspector sensitised the students to the legal, social and health-

related consequences of drug abuse. He emphasised the need for awareness, counselling and community participation to effectively combat the issue. The programme concluded with a pledge by the participants to support the vision of a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir and contribute towards building a healthy and aware society. Principal Deepak Sharma, members of the teaching staff and students were also present on the occasion.

Second National Lok Adalat of 2026 held across UT of J&K Justice Sanjeev Kumar inaugurated 2nd National Lok Adalat at District Court Complex Srinagar

SRINAGAR, MAY 09: Continuing its endeavour to fulfil the constitutional commitment of providing swift, cost-effective, and efficient dispute resolution to the masses in general and the litigant public in particular, the J&K Legal Services Authority under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority), the dynamic leadership of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority and the able guidance of Justice Sanjay Dhar, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee organized Second National Lok Adalat of the year 2026 across the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, to promote amicable settlements in a wide range of cases, including MACT claims, matrimonial disputes, cheque bounce cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, money recovery, commercial disputes, and compoundable criminal offences. With a view to facilitating meaningful settlements, pre-Lok Adalat sittings and counselling sessions were held well in advance by the Legal Services Institutions across the Union Territory. Awareness programmes, coordination meetings and sensitization sessions were also conducted at

different levels to encourage litigants and stakeholders to avail the benefits of Lok Adalat as an effective mode of Alternative Dispute Resolution. Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority inaugurated the National Lok Adalat at District Court Complex, Srinagar. Upon his arrival, the Justice Sanjeev Kumar was received by Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairperson, DLSA) Srinagar, Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Tasleem Arief, Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Srinagar, Tabasum Qadir Parry, Secretary, DLSA Srinagar along with other Judicial Officers of the District Judiciary. During his visit, the Executive Chairman inspected various benches constituted for the Lok Adalat and interacted with the Presiding Officers, members of the benches, Advocates and litigants, appreciating the arrangements made for the smooth and effective conduct of the Lok Adalat. Several disputes were amicably settled on the spot with the active intervention of the benches. MACT compensation cheques were also distributed among eligible beneficiaries, providing timely relief to the claimants.



STOP...!

MOSQUITO BREEDING

PREVENT MALARIA, DENGUE & CHIKUNGUNYA

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not allow water to stagnate in and around your surroundings. • Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids. • Get your Blood tested from Govt. Hospital/Health Worker in case of fever with chills, rigors and headache. • Empty water coolers once in a week. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discard/destroy Junk items like old tyres etc. • Empty air coolers, drums, flower pots and birds bath weekly. • Use mosquito repellent creams and Bed nets while sleeping. • Use netted screens on doors and windows. • Wear full body clothes to prevent mosquito bites. • Improve basic sanitation. |
|--|--|

Symptoms

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

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



Directorate of Health Services
JAMMU



NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
एनएचएम



J&K Legal Services Authority
एनएचएम

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

