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## CM Omar...

need for continued coordination between the Centre and the Jammu & Kashmir Government on issues of public importance. The discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere and covered various aspects aimed at strengthening governance, improving public service delivery and ensuring long-term peace and prosperity in the region.

## Somnath...

dedication. Somnath is devotion. Somnath is eternal prayer. Somnath is the thirst for truth. Somnath is the radiant light of luminous saints. Somnath is our pride. Somnath is our strength," he said. The Lieutenant Governor said that no other temple of sacred site looted and destroyed 17 times, only to rise again each time in full splendor. "The Somnath temple stands alone as the foremost example. Invaders and rulers from Mahmud Ghaznavi to Alauddin Khilji and Zafar Khan, plundered and razed it time and again. Yet, despite repeated destruction, Somnath endured in our collective soul and later rebuilt by countless great kings. On this occasion, I bow to those great souls who, in various ways, not only preserved Somnath's eternal sanctity but stood firm to defend the temple from invaders. I pay homage to Bhim Dev, Jayapal, Anandpal, and Maharaja Dharsen. I also offer tribute to the Iron Man, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who after India's independence, directed the temple's reconstruction on November 12, 1947 and on May 11, 1951, then President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad performed the consecration ceremony," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor said that Somnath Temple's immortality teaches us to channel the nation's entire strength into creation, drawing inspiration from the past to make it the bedrock of life, and build India's golden future.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the rebuilding of Somnath Temple is a symbol of inner victory for every person, a lamp of faith and resolve burning for millennia. "Somnath Temple is a beacon of the nation. Without Somnath, our society would be lifeless," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services & Sports; Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabhakar, DGP; Shri Shaheen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary; Jai Shakti Department; Shri Chandrakar Bharti, Principal Secretary Home Department; Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture Department, Administrative Secretary; senior officials, and prominent citizens from different walks of life also attended the Somnath Swabhiman Park event.

## No Govt...

The BJP leader deflected the action, saying strong measures were required to create fear among those involved in the narcotics trade. "It is necessary and if it is not done, how will it stop? They won't even be afraid and they will end our future," he said.

## NIA Court...

a period of 30 days. The Court, after perusing the latest entries in the case diary and considering the submissions of the CIO, observed that the accused persons were prima facie involved in a case registered for offences punishable under Sections 7/27 Arms Act, Section 23 of the UAPA (UAPA) Act and Section 4 of the Explosive Substances Act. Earlier, after the NIA took over the case linked to an alleged interstate Lashkar-e-Taiba terror module, the accused had been produced before the Special NIA Court for custodial proceedings. The case had surfaced after security agencies arrested five persons, including two Pakistani nationals, in connection with alleged terror activities and suspected logistics support network. The accused were earlier sent to NIA custody for interrogation, during which the agency examined their alleged role, cross-border links and suspected involvement in the module.

On Monday, the CIO submitted that the investigation was still in progress but police custody of the accused was no longer required. Accordingly, the Court remanded accused Nos. 1 to 4 to judicial custody till June 4, 2026, with directions that they be lodged in District Jail, Amphalla, Jammu. Accused No. 5 was separately remanded to judicial custody till the same date and directed to be lodged in Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. Since accused Nos. 4 and 5 are Pakistani nationals, the Court apprised them of their right to be defended by legal practitioners of their choice. The Court recorded that they did not complain against anything and directed LADC Anil Sharma to provide legal assistance to them.

The Court further directed the concerned Jail Superintendents to produce the accused before the competent court on expiry of the remand period. The CIO was also directed to follow the guidelines laid down in D.K. Basu case, while the accused persons were ordered to be subjected to medical examination after every 48 hours as per rules. (JNF)

## PM Modi's...

the economy. Rising global crude oil prices linked to instability in West Asia threaten to widen India's import bill and pressure the rupee, while household consumption — a key driver of economic growth — has shown signs of uneven recovery despite strong headline GDP numbers. Economists note that India remains heavily dependent on imported crude oil, edible oil and gold, all of which place stress on the current account during periods of global turbulence. Several market analysts said the Prime Minister's language stood out because Indian governments typically avoid directly asking citizens to curb consumption unless policymakers anticipate sustained external pressure. "When a country starts asking citizens to cut luxury spending and save fuel, it usually means the government is preparing carefully for global economic pressure ahead...," a noted economist said. Other experts said: "When a prime minister publicly asks citizens to reduce fuel usage, postpone gold purchases and avoid unnecessary travel, it suggests concern about foreign exchange reserves, imported inflation and pressure on macroeconomic stability. It indicates the government is preparing the public psychologically for a difficult economic phase."

"Opposition parties, however, seized on the Prime Minister's comments to launch a coordinated attack on the BJP-led government's economic record. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleged that the Centre was shifting the burden of economic mismanagement on ordinary citizens instead of addressing structural weaknesses. "These are not suggestions — they are proof of failure," Gandhi said in a post on X, accusing the government of repeatedly demanding "sacrifice" from the public while evading accountability. Gandhi argued that after more than a decade in power, the BJP government had reached a stage where citizens were being instructed "what to buy and what not to buy, where to go and where not to go". He further alleged that the government's inability to manage inflation, unemployment and rising living costs had forced it into public appeals for austerity. Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and samajwadi party President Akhilesh Yadav also mounted a sharp attack, claiming the BJP had "completely lost control" of the economy. Linking the Prime Minister's remarks to weakening investor confidence and currency pressures, Yadav questioned how India could realistically achieve its long-promised five trillion-dollar economy target if citizens were simultaneously being urged to cut spending and consumption. "The dollar is soaring to the skies while the Indian rupee is sinking to the depths," Yadav said, alleging that the government's statements would create "fear, panic, anxiety and despair" in markets and business circles. The political criticism taps into broader public anxieties over persistently high food prices, rising household expenses and concerns over employment generation. While official inflation has moderated compared with the peaks seen after the pandemic, retail prices of essentials, transport costs and housing-related expenditure continue to strain middle-class and lower-income households. Youth unemployment and underemployment also remain politically sensitive issues, particularly after recent elections. Financial markets reacted cautiously following the Prime Minister's remarks. Analysts said the comments reinforced investor concerns about the inflationary impact of rising crude oil prices and the possibility of slower consumer spending if households become more conservative in their expenditure patterns. Benchmark indices witnessed volatility as investors assessed the implications of prolonged geopolitical tensions and potential stress on India's import bill. Market participants also tracked the rupee closely amid fears that higher oil prices could widen the current account deficit. "Markets generally dislike signals that hint at economic caution from the highest political level," said a market strategist. "The concern is not merely the appeal itself but what policymakers may be seeing ahead — especially regarding crude oil prices, inflation and consumption demand."

Another economist said the Prime Minister's comments highlighted the difficult balancing act facing policymakers. "India's macroeconomic fundamentals are still stronger than many emerging economies, but rising imported inflation can quickly affect household budgets. Advisories on conservation are economically rational, but politically they create the perception that stress is building." The debate also reflects a deeper ideological divide over economic management. Supporters of the government argue that Modi's appeal demonstrates responsible leadership aimed at preparing the country for external shocks amid global uncertainty. Critics, however, contend that asking citizens to tighten spending effectively acknowledges that the economic burden of geopolitical instability will ultimately fall on ordinary households. The Congress accused the Prime Minister of being "chueless" on ensuring India's energy security despite the Iran-US conflict continuing for months. Opposition parties have also questioned why calls for austerity emerged immediately after elections, alleging a disconnect between political messaging during campaigns and the government's current economic concerns. For now, economists believe the immediate trajectory of oil prices and developments in West Asia will determine whether Modi's appeal is remembered as prudent caution or as an early public acknowledgement of deeper economic strain. If geopolitical tensions ease, the measures may appear preventive. But if inflation accelerates, the rupee weakens further and consumption slows, the Prime Minister's remarks could increasingly be viewed as a signal that policymakers anticipate a more difficult economic period ahead.

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## Family...

lightning and rainfall. "The noise was so loud that initially we could not understand what had happened. I immediately told the children to remain inside and not come out," he said. Dass said that after the rain subsided slightly, the family came outside and discovered that the tower had fallen on their house. "Two of our rooms have been damaged, though the side sheds remained safe. Thankfully, nobody was inside the rooms at the time, otherwise it could have turned into a major tragedy," he added.

Dass said the storm and lightning were unlike anything witnessed in the area before and added that electricity remained disrupted for nearly 11 hours after the incident. He appealed to the administration for assistance in rebuilding the damaged house. According to the family, the tower belonged to BSNL and had been installed in 2012. BSNL officials also visited the site after the incident.

Despite the heavy damage to the house and the telecom infrastructure, no casualties or injuries were reported, he said. The family said they were fortunate that the tower did not fall on the side of the house where family members were sleeping, which could have resulted in a major tragedy.

## CJI Surya...

confident that these initiatives will prove beneficial for all stakeholders," the CJI added.

## Court Refuses...

Sections 121, 122, 123 and 124 IPC and Sections 13, 17, 18, 18-B, 38, 39 and 40 of the UAPA. The applicants sought bail mainly on the ground that they had remained in custody for more than three years and that the case was based on alleged contact with handlers operating from across the border through social media applications. It was argued that no specific terrorist act, operational recovery or overt act had been established against them.

The prosecution opposed the plea, submitting that the accused were allegedly working as associates of Mohd Qasim alias Salman with the intention to further the activities of the LeT outfit. It was alleged that an amount of Rs 1.80 lakh was received on instructions of the handler, part of which was distributed among the co-accused, while three letters and Google Maps were recovered on their identification.

After hearing both sides, the Court observed that charges had already been framed against the applicants under Sections 13, 17 and 17 of the UAPA read with Section 120-B IPC. The Court further noted that out of 23 prosecution witnesses, 16 had already been examined, of whom 13 supported the prosecution case, while only three had turned hostile.

The Court held that in UAPA matters, no elaborate discussion or detailed appreciation of evidence is permissible at the stage of bail and only a preliminary enquiry is required. It further observed that the case falls under Chapters IV and VI of the UAPA, attracting the rigour of Section 43-D(5).

Rejecting the plea of prolonged custody, the Court held that mere delay in trial in serious UAPA offences cannot by itself be treated as a ground for grant of bail by the Special Court. It referred to legal principles laid down in UAPA bail matters, including that constitutional courts may consider Article 21 grounds, but the Special Court remains bound by the statutory restriction under Section

43-D(5).

The Court concluded that from the charge-sheet, charges and witness statements recorded so far, it could not form an opinion that the accusations were prima facie untrue. On the contrary, it held that there were reasonable grounds for believing that the accusations against the applicants were prima facie true. Holding the bail application to be premature and without merit at this stage, the Court rejected the plea and denied bail to all three accused.

## LG Saxena...

creation of the new districts is aimed at decentralising governance and ensuring that administrative services reach the doorsteps of the people, particularly those living in remote and far-flung areas. It is, therefore, crucial that the operationalisation of these districts must be carried out in a structured, transparent and time-bound manner, so that the benefits of the new administrative framework reach the masses effectively and efficiently. The UT Administration is committed to building a responsive, efficient and people-centric governance system in Ladakh," said Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena. Lieutenant Governor Saxena has also directed the Committee to recommend the distribution and re-deployment of staff, records, assets, infrastructure and other resources between the existing and newly created districts. In addition, the Committee will assess the requirement for creation, re-deployment and upgradation of posts for the effective functioning of the new districts, including revenue, development and other essential administrative cadres.

The UT-Level Committee will be headed by the Divisional Commissioner/Secretary, Revenue Department as Chairperson. The Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department, will serve as Member-Convenor, while the Secretary, General Administration Department, and the Deputy Commissioners of Leh and Kargil will serve as members of the Committee.

This development will significantly improve administrative outreach, strengthen service delivery mechanisms, facilitate faster grievance redressal and ensure more focused developmental planning in remote and under-served areas of Ladakh.

## Police...

verification, documentation, or reporting norms concerning foreign nationals staying in hotels, guest houses, or hostmays.

In a separate action, Rajah Police also registered FIR No. 21/2026 under the same legal provision against a local from Gogijab Srinagar who is the owner of Khyabab Homestay located in Gogijab area.

Officials, however, did not immediately disclose specific details regarding the alleged violations or whether any foreign nationals were found staying at the establishments during inspection.

Police sourced said investigations in both cases have been initiated and further legal proceedings are underway. Authorities in Kashmir periodically conduct inspections of hotels, guest houses, and hostmays to ensure compliance with mandatory guest verification and foreigner reporting regulations, particularly in view of security and immigration monitoring protocols.

## 1 Kanal...

identified as Fayaz Ahmad Bhat of Chowgam, is stated to be involved in a case registered under the NDPS Act at Police Station Qazigund. Authorities said the retrieval operation forms part of the intensified campaign launched to dismantle the financial and logistical networks linked with narcotics trafficking in the district.

A notice issued by the authorities declared the retrieved property as State land and cautioned the public against any attempt to re-occupy, transfer or use the land illegally, warning that violators would face legal consequences. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam, Sh Anwar Ali Choudhary (IPS), said the police is pursuing a zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking and all illegal activities associated with it. He said apart from registering cases and arresting drug peddlers, police are also identifying properties and assets generated or occupied through unlawful means.

He further said such measures are aimed at breaking the backbone of narcotics networks and protecting the younger generation from the growing threat of drug abuse. The SSP also appealed to the people to extend cooperation to law enforcement agencies by sharing information related to drug peddling and other anti-social activities.

# CS calls for NABH accreditation, universal NQAS certification across health institutions

SRINAGAR, MAY 11: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the National Health Mission (NHM) and allied healthcare programmes in Jammu and Kashmir and took stock of the achievements, challenges and future roadmap of the Health & Medical Education Department for strengthening healthcare delivery across the Union Territory. The meeting, besides Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education, was attended by MD, NHM; Director, SKIMS; Principals of Government Medical Colleges; Director, Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir, besides other concerned officers. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for further strengthening healthcare sys-

tems and directed that premier healthcare institutions in Jammu and Srinagar should immediately initiate the process for securing NABH accreditation. He instructed each Medical College in these cities to designate a nodal officer for ensuring institutional preparedness and observed that other Medical Colleges and District Hospitals should subsequently follow the same model to improve quality standards and patient care services across the UT to get accredited under NABH framework. Emphasizing the need for equitable healthcare access, the Chief Secretary directed the department to ensure posting of at least one Medical Officer in every Primary Health Centre and reiterated that no health institution across Jammu and



Kashmir should remain without a doctor. He also called for expediting the tendering process for establishment of Tele-ICU, Tele-Radiology and BEMMP facilities, stating that these initiatives would significantly strengthen tertiary care delivery and enable patients to avail advanced healthcare services closer to their homes. Reviewing quality assurance

measures, the Chief Secretary directed the Directors of Health Services to ensure certification of all health facilities under the NQAS framework within the current year. He stressed that these initiatives would significantly strengthen tertiary care delivery and public confidence in government healthcare institutions. The Chief Secretary

also reviewed the ongoing screening of the population for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and emphasized intensifying efforts for screening people above 40 years of age. Describing NCDs as silent killers, he warned that these ailments could assume alarming proportions if neglected and underscored the importance of promoting lifestyle modifica-

tions and preventive healthcare measures among the general public. He further called for strengthening Drugs & Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMMS) to improve availability of drugs under the Essential Drug List across healthcare institutions. The Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education, M. Raju, during the meeting elaborated upon the steps taken by the department for implementation of the directions issued previously and also gave a detailed overview of the progress achieved under various programmes being implemented under NHM. He maintained that Jammu and Kashmir has registered remarkable improvement in major healthcare indicators and has already achieved the Sustainable Development Goal targets for Neonatal Mortality Rate and Under-Five Mortality Rate besides meeting several National Health Policy targets ahead of schedule. Mission Director, NHM, Akriti Sagar apprised the meeting that significant improvement has been recorded in Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) and Sick Newborn Care Units (SNCUs), where the successful discharge rate of neonates increased from 76 percent during 2024-25 to 83 percent in 2025-26, while neonatal deaths and referrals to higher institutions have shown a decline. Reviewing the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karayakam (RBSK), she informed the meeting that more than 18,84,44 children had been screened under the programme.

## BJP strongest force due to nationalism, good governance under PM Modi: Sat Sharma

Sat Sharma chairs BJP organizational meeting at Jammu

Jammu, May 11: J&K BJP President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma addressed an organizational meeting of senior party leaders and office bearers at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to review party activities and strengthen public outreach across the Union Territory. The meeting was attended by J&K BJP Vice-Presidents Rakesh Mahajan, Rekha Mahajan, and Dr. Shehnaaz Ganai, General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, Secretary Arun Sharma, Social Media Incharge Dr. Makson Tickoo, IT Incharge Gourav Bagotra, Mahila Morcha President Neha Pathanjan, along with other senior leaders and activists. Sat Sharma, while addressing the meeting, stressed that the Bharatiya Janata Party has emerged as the strongest political force in the country because of its commitment to nationalism, good governance, and welfare-driven



policies under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He asserted that BJP workers must reach every household and expose the misleading narratives being spread by opposition parties that have historically failed to deliver justice, development, and transparency to the people. Sat Sharma said that while previous governments thrived on appeasement, corruption, and dynastic politics, the Modi government has transformed the political

culture of the nation by ensuring accountable governance, rapid development, and equal opportunities for every citizen. He emphasized that landmark schemes and historic reforms initiated by the Modi government have directly benefited the poor, farmers, women, youth, senior citizens, and marginalized sections without any discrimination. Sharma further stated that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed unprecedented development, improved infrastruc-

ture, strengthened democratic institutions, enhanced connectivity, and better public welfare mechanisms under the BJP-led government at the Centre. He called upon party activists to actively take the achievements, ideology, and policies of the BJP to the grassroots level and strengthen the party's connection with the people. He asserted that continuous public interaction and organizational activities would further strengthen the BJP across Jammu and Kashmir and help in expanding the party base among all sections of society. Baldev Singh Billawaria emphasized that BJP activists should intensify organizational outreach programmes at the grassroots level and actively engage with the public to strengthen the bond between the party and the people. He said that every activist has a vital role in communicating the party's policies, ideology, and objectives to the masses.

## JU Organises Nukkad Natak Under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan



JAMMU, MAY 11: The Centre for Women's Studies, University of Jammu, in collaboration with Jammu Sanskriti School, Sehora, today organised an impactful Nukkad Natak (Street Play) under the "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan - 100-Day Campaign" at two prominent venues of the University — Padma Sachdev Sursamwaad Rangsthal, University of Jammu, where students and faculty members gathered in large numbers to witness the programme. During the performance, the students effectively portrayed how drug addiction often begins through the easy availability of drugs and peer influence, gradually turning into a dangerous habit. Through impactful scenes and compelling dialogues, the performers highlighted the detrimental effects of substance abuse on physical and mental health, demonstrated the disruptive impact on family relationships, and emphasised its adverse consequences.

er of Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, with the objective of creating awareness among students, scholars, faculty members, and the general public about the harmful effects of substance abuse. The event also highlighted important social issues concerning women, gender sensitivity, education, and social responsibility through the powerful medium of street theatre. Students of Jammu Sanskriti School, Sehora, presented thought-provoking performances carrying

strong social messages, which received appreciation from the audience for their impactful presentation and meaningful content. The first performance was staged at Padma Sachdev Sursamwaad Rangsthal, University of Jammu, where students and faculty members gathered in large numbers to witness the programme. During the performance, the students effectively portrayed how drug addiction often begins through the easy availability of drugs and peer influence, gradually turning into a dangerous habit. Through impactful scenes and compelling dialogues, the performers highlighted the detrimental effects of substance abuse on physical and mental health, demonstrated the disruptive impact on family relationships, and emphasised its adverse consequences.

## INDIAN ARMY ORGANISED A DRAWING COMPETITION UNDER NASHA MUKHT ABHIYAN AT SINDRAH, POONCH

Poonch: 11 May 2026 In a commendable initiative to spread awareness against drug abuse, the Indian Army organized a Drawing Competition at Govt High Secondary School, Sindrah of Poonch under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan. This initiative reflects the Army's continued commitment not only to national security but also to social responsibility and community development. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who used art as a medium to express their thoughts and concern about the growing menace of substance abuse. Through a creative illustration the participants highlighted themes such as the destruction caused by addiction, the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the need for collective efforts to build a drug free society. The event also served as an

educational platform where Army personnel and local authorities interacted with students encouraging them to stay away from drugs and become ambassadors of positive change within their communities. By engaging young minds in such constructive activities the Indian Army aims to instill values of discipline, awareness and responsibility. The initiative under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan at Sindrah not only fostered creativity but also strengthened the bond between the Armed Forces and civilians. It emphasized that the fight against drug abuse requires active participation from all sections of society, especially the youth who are the future of the nation. Overall, the drawing competition was a meaningful step toward spreading awareness and inspiring a collective commitment to a healthier drug free India.

## Shraman Sanskriti Manch marks Mother's Day with inspiring celebration

Jammu, May 11: Shraman Sanskriti Manch, a distinguished women's wing of the Jain community, celebrated Mother's Day with great enthusiasm and reverence. The event was organised to honour the invaluable contribution of mothers in nurturing strong family values and shaping a compassionate society. Mrs. Divya Jain, District General Secretary, BJP Jammu South, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, she appreciated the dedicated efforts of the organization in conducting programmes that promote social awareness, cultural values, and women empowerment. She encouraged the members of the Manch to continue



serving society with commitment and to inspire future generations through meaningful community initiatives. Highlighting the significance of motherhood, Mrs. Jain stated that mothers are the foundation of a value-

based society and play a pivotal role in imparting culture and moral ethics to the children. She further emphasized the importance of preserving strong family bonds and fostering an environment where elders are cared for with dignity,

respect, and affection. The programme was presided over by the Founder and Chairperson of the organization, Smt. Vena (Vipri) Jain. On the occasion, the President of Shraman Sanskriti Manch, Smt. Bindu Jain, formally

welcomed the Chief Guest and briefed the audience about the organization's various social welfare activities and its ongoing efforts towards community development and women empowerment. The celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of the Jain community and concluded with a message of love, gratitude, and respect for mothers and family values. The programme was jointly anchored by Smt. Saloni, Cultural Incharge, and General Secretary Smt. Mukta Jain, who also presented the vote of thanks. Sweets, tea, and snacks were served to mark the occasion and share the joy of this special day dedicated to mothers.

## Bharat Priye voices concern over public issues in J&K

Calls for urgent action on power, water and unemployment issues

Jammu, May 11: Bharat Priye on Sunday launched a sharp attack on the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration, alleging that people across the region are suffering due to poor governance, administrative apathy and failure to ensure even the most basic civic amenities. Addressing media persons, Bharat Priye said the ongoing unscheduled and prolonged power cuts in both urban and rural areas have pushed the common public into immense hardship, especially during the prevailing hot weather conditions. He stated that students preparing for examinations, patients, elderly citizens, shopkeepers, small traders and farmers are among the worst affected sections due to the erratic electricity supply. He said that despite repeated assurances by the administration regarding improvement in power



infrastructure, the ground situation remains grim, with residents facing frequent outages lasting several hours without prior notice. According to him, the power crisis has disrupted business activities, affected irrigation facilities in agricultural areas and created severe inconvenience for households dependent on electricity for daily needs. Bharat Priye alleged that the administration has failed to

evolve a proper mechanism for power management and public communication, resulting in widespread frustration among the people. He remarked that while government advertisements project a picture of rapid development, ordinary citizens continue to struggle for basic necessities such as electricity, drinking water and proper road connectivity. The JKPCSS Kissan Congress Chairman further expressed concern over the deteriorating condition of public services in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir. He pointed out that several rural areas continue to face acute shortage of drinking water, damaged roads and inadequate healthcare facilities, while unemployment among educated youth is steadily increasing. He said the lack of employment opportunities has created uncertainty among young people, forcing many to remain dependent on

their families despite possessing professional qualifications. Highlighting the plight of the farming community, Bharat Priye said farmers are battling multiple challenges including rising prices of fertilizers, seeds, diesel and pesticides, coupled with erratic weather conditions and inadequate government support. He maintained that agriculture remains the backbone of the rural economy, yet farmers are not receiving timely compensation, irrigation facilities or proper market support for their produce. He also criticized the administration for what he termed as "insensitive governance," alleging that public grievances are either ignored or delayed unnecessarily. He said people are repeatedly forced to visit government offices for resolution of minor issues, reflecting the absence of accountability and efficient public service delivery.

JAMMU, May 11: Senior Congress leader and former DDC Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony today launched a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP government over rising inflation, fuel prices and what he termed as the "politics of hypocrisy in the name of patriotism." Reacting sharply to the Prime Minister's recent remarks on fuel conservation, Tony said that before elections the BJP leadership never spoke about reducing petrol, diesel or gas consumption because the entire BJP machinery was busy "using every possible resource to win elections and defeat opposition leaders, including a woman Chief Minister in West



Bengal." "Till elections, Modi ji pretends to carry the burden of the people, but once elections are over, the common citizen is abandoned to suffer under skyrocketing inflation, unbearable fuel prices and rising cost of living," Tony said. He accused the BJP government of imposing economic hardship on ordinary citizens while the

ruling establishment continues to spend lavishly on political rallies, publicity campaigns, chartered flights and foreign tours. "Today the common man is being lectured in the name of patriotism — use less petrol, consume less diesel, reduce LPG usage, don't buy gold, cut down household expenses — while those in power continue to enjoy luxury and extravagance at the public's expense," he remarked. Tony further said that inflation has broken the backbone of middle-class families, farmers, labourers and small traders, but instead of providing relief, the government is shifting responsibility onto the people.

## GCW Udhampur Organizes Chemistry Seminar for B.Sc. Semester VIII Students

UDHAMPUR, MAY 11, 2026: The Department of Chemistry, Government College for Women public (GCW) Udhampur, in collaboration with IQAC, organized a Seminar in Chemistry here on today for the students of B.Sc. Semester VIII. The programme was conducted under the able guidance of the Principal, Dr. Nalini Pathania. The seminar commenced with a formal welcome address by Dr. Monika Gupta, Head of the Department of Chemistry, who highlighted the importance of Chemistry in academic advancement, scientific innovation, and career development. She encouraged students to actively participate in academic



activities for broadening their knowledge and skills. The programme was also graced by the presence of Dr. Madhvi Bhardwaj, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry. The seminar was coordinated by Dr. Ajay Kumar, who motivated the students to participate enthusiastically and deliver presentations on various fundamen-

## University of Jammu Organises Certificate Distribution Ceremony for Counselling Internship Programme

JAMMU, MAY 11: The Department of Home Science, University of Jammu, organised a Certificate Distribution Ceremony to mark the successful completion of a 120-hour Internship Programme in Guidance and Counselling conducted in collaboration with CARE North for the students of M.Sc. Home Science (Human Development) Semester IV. The internship aimed to provide students with practical exposure and professional training in the field of counselling. Dr. Chand Trehan was the special guest on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Chand Trehan highlighted the importance of internships in bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical application. She appreciated the students for



successfully completing the programme and encouraged them to continue strengthening their professional and interpersonal skills through practical exposure and active engagement. Prof. Sarika Manhas, HoD, Dept of Home Sci congratulated the students on successfully completing the internship and appreciated their

dedication and active participation throughout the programme. She described the internship as an important milestone in the students' academic and professional journey and emphasised that such experiential learning opportunities significantly contribute to skill development, confidence building and future career prospects.

Earlier, Prof. Samridhi Arora delivered the welcome address and outlined the major components of the internship, including expert lectures, interactive sessions, counselling activities and field visits to rehabilitation centres, clinics and schools. She informed that the programme enabled students to gain practical insights into counselling techniques, communication skills, case studies, psychological tests and institutional functioning. An orientation to Art Therapy was also included as part of the internship programme. The students shared positive feedback regarding the internship and described the field visits and counselling sessions as enriching learning experiences that helped them connect theory with practice while enhancing their confidence.

## Kathua Campus, University of Jammu Launches UG Admissions for Academic Session 2026-27

Kathua, May 11: University of Jammu has commenced the online registration process for admission to Undergraduate Programmes at Kathua Campus, University of Jammu for the Academic Session 2026-27 under the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) framework envisaged under the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020.

Admissions are being offered to Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA) in Data Science, Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), and B.A. English (Honours) programmes. The online registration process will remain open from May 11 to May 23, 2026 through the official website of Kathua Campus, Kathua. Admissions to B.Tech programmes in Computer Science & Engineering, Civil Engineering, and Electronics & Communication Engineering offered through the University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET), Kathua Campus, have also commenced from May 11, 2026.



Kathua Campus has been functioning since 2006 with the objective of providing quality higher education opportunities to students from rural and far-flung areas of the region. The Campus has consistently focused on academic excellence, holistic education, and student-centric learning. The B.A. English (Honours) programme has been running successfully at Kathua Campus since 2022, while the BBA and BCA (Data Science) programmes are being introduced from the Academic Session 2026-27 to provide contemporary and career-oriented educational opportunities to students of the region.

The newly introduced programmes are expected to create promising opportunities in the fields of management, entrepreneurship, information technology, artificial intelligence, and data science, with emphasis on experiential learning and industry-oriented education. Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus, stated that the introduction of the BCA (Data Science) and BBA programmes marks an important step towards expanding multidisciplinary and career-oriented educational opportunities for students of the region. He emphasized that Kathua Campus remains committed to academic excellence and skill-

based education in accordance with the vision of NEP-2020. He also encouraged students from Kathua and adjoining areas to avail themselves of the newly introduced programmes and the facilities available at the Campus. Dr. Sourabh Shastri, Convener Admissions 2026-27 and Incharge Head, MCA, informed that the newly introduced BCA (Data Science) programme has been designed in accordance with emerging technologies and industry requirements. He stated that the programme would provide students with exposure to data science, artificial intelligence, and computing technologies for enhanced career prospects. Dr. Rajani Kumari Sarangal, Incharge Head, MBA, stated that the BBA programme has been introduced with the objective of developing managerial, entrepreneurial, and leadership skills among students. She added that the programme would provide exposure to business administration, communication skills, and industry-oriented learning.

## DC Doda reviews road safety measures at 1st DRSC meeting

Seeks strict action against roadside dumping, violation of safety norms

DODA, MAY 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Krishan Lal, who is also the Chairman of the District Road Safety Committee, today chaired its 1st meeting in the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review road safety measures, traffic management and status of ongoing works on National Highways and other roads in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC, ADC Bhaderwah, ACR, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Dy.SP Traffic, Naseeb Nagar National Transport Officer (ARTO) and other officers and concerned departments and virtual online.

Threadbare discussions were held regarding restoration and maintenance of roads, installation of crash barriers, road markings, signages, traffic

regulation measures and removal of encroachments and construction material from roadsides to ensure smooth and safe movement of traffic across the district. The Deputy Commissioner directed all executing agencies to take effective measures for reducing steep gradients on roads falling under their jurisdiction and emphasized timely restoration of damaged road stretches. BRO was directed to intensify efforts for repair and restoration of washed away stretches at Seri Chakrana, Dardoo and Senai Bhalak and ensure early restoration of the strategically important Chattergala road.

The Chair also directed NHIDCL to remove hanging boulders at Khadotee and Nagesh Nagar National Highway stretch and keep necessary machinery available for handling emergen-

cies. SDM Thathri was instructed to provide a fire tender vehicle for removal of leftover boulders through water pressure wherever required. The issue of traffic disruption at Raggi Nallah during rains also came up for discussion. The NHIDCL informed the meeting that the existing culvert at the site shall be replaced with a 10-meter span minor bridge.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the agency to commence work at the earliest for permanent resolution of encroachments. Expressing concern over roadside dumping of muck and construction material, the Deputy Commissioner directed all road-owning agencies to immediately remove reflected society's deep respect and admiration for Maharana Pratap.

## GDCW Promotes Safe Campus Environment Through SHE Box Awareness Drive



Kathua, May 11: The CASH Committee of Government Degree College for Women Kathua organized an awareness lecture on the SHE Box initiative under the guidance of Principal Dr. Jaipal Singh. The programme aimed to educate female students about their rights and the mechanism available for reporting grievances related to harassment or misconduct.

Dr. Rachna, Convener of

the CASH Committee, delivered an informative lecture highlighting the importance, need, and procedure for operating the SHE Box. She explained that the SHE Box is an online complaint platform where female students can securely register their grievances in a confidential manner. During the session, students were informed that the initiative plays a significant role in ensuring a

safe, secure, and respectful environment for women within educational institutions. Dr. Rachna encouraged students to raise their voices against any form of injustice and assured them that all complaints would be handled sensitively and confidentially.

She also explained the step-by-step process for filing complaints through the online portal and informed students about the complaint box installed within the college premises, which can also be used to submit grievances anonymously if required. The lecture helped students understand their rights and emphasized the importance of maintaining.

## Huge gathering marks Maharana Pratap Jayanti celebrations in Jammu

Jammu, May 11: Maharana Pratap Jayanti was celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion in Jammu on Saturday, as a massive gathering of people, including children, women, youth and senior citizens, participated in a grand public function organised at the Bharatiya Yag Sanshan near Railway Complex, Gol Gujral.

The programme, organised jointly by Shri Amar Khatana Rajput Sabha and Dharm Jagran Samanvay, witnessed huge celebrations filled with patriotic fervour, cultural pride and tributes to the legendary warrior Maharana Pratap. The venue remained packed throughout the event as over 1000 people from different sections of society assembled to honour the icon of bravery, sacrifice and nationalism.

The celebrations commence with floral tributes and traditional rituals in honour of Maharana Pratap, followed by speeches highlighting



his courage, self-respect and unwavering commitment towards protecting the nation and culture. Raja Sabha MP and BJP Jammu & Kashmir President Sat Sharma attended the event as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, he said Maharana Pratap's life continues to inspire generations with the message of patriotism, sacrifice and resistance against injustice. Keynote speaker Arun Kant,

Pracharak, Akhil Bharatiya Seh Parmukh Dharam Jagran Samanvay said Maharana Pratap symbolised social harmony and national unity and his ideals remain relevant even today. He urged society to connect the younger generation with the lives and teachings of national heroes. "Maharana Pratap taught us to live with dignity and never compromise on self-respect and national

pride. His courage and determination continue to guide the youth of the country," Arun said. He further stressed the importance of preserving cultural heritage and strengthening national unity.

The programme was presided over by Shri Narayan Singh, Chairman Shri Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha J&K, who thanked the people for their overwhelming participation and support. He said the huge turnout reflected society's deep respect and admiration for Maharana Pratap. He further said that organising such programmes helps connect the younger generation with the country's glorious history and cultural roots. Appreciating the enthusiastic participation of women, children and youth, he added that the event had become a true celebration of social harmony and collective respect for one of India's greatest heroes.

## Bali Bhagat calls for ideologically strong cadre at BJP's Prashikshan Shivir

KATRA, MAY 11: A two-day Prashikshan Shivir of BJP was organised at Hotel Breeze Blow and Resorts, Domsail Katra under the guidance of senior party leadership to strengthen the organisational structure and enhance the working efficiency of party cadre. The training camp was attended by senior BJP leader and former Health Minister Bali Bhagat, Jammu North District President Nand Kishore Sharma, State Observer for Prashikshan Shivir Aseem Gupta, along with senior BJP leaders, district office bearers and Mandal teams from Nagrota, Jammu North and Marh Assembly constituencies. Addressing the gathering, Bali Bhagat said that organisational training is



the backbone of the Bharatiya Janata Party and plays a crucial role in building disciplined, committed and ideologically strong workers. He said the BJP is the only political party which regularly conducts structured training programmes at every level to strengthen its cadre and improve public outreach. Bhagat stated that

Prashikshan Shivirs are aimed at equipping party workers with a deeper understanding of the BJP's ideology, governance model, organisational discipline and public responsibilities. "Strong organisations are built through disciplined and dedicated workers. Such training programmes help karyakartas effectively communicate

the party's vision, policies and development agenda among the masses," Bali Bhagat said. He further stressed that BJP workers must remain connected with the public at the grassroots level and work with dedication for nation-building and public welfare. "The BJP's strength lies in its committed cadre and booth-level structure.

Through these training programmes, workers are prepared to face future political and organisational challenges with confidence and clarity," he added. Bhagat also emphasised the need for dedicated teamwork and ideological clarity among party workers to further strengthen the BJP at the grassroots level. The two-day workshop included sessions on organisational structure, public outreach, party ideology, social media communication, booth management and effective interaction with the public. Senior party leaders guided workers on strengthening the BJP's presence at the grassroots level and ensuring effective implementation of party programmes among the masses.

## DHJ inspects Horticulture Farm orchard projects in Ramban

JAMMU, MAY 11: Director Horticulture Jammu (DHJ) Gul Syed today visited the Horticulture Farm in Ramban. He was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer Rajinder Kumar, Assistant Director Sunil Gupta, Farm Manager Pardeep Dingra, ACHD and other officers and officials of the Horticulture Department. During the visit, the Director instructed the officers and officials to ensure the availability of quality planting material. He emphasized the propagation of strawberry and blueberry crops and discussed measures for farm enrichment. Later, the Director visited Chenab Valley Farm at Chambalwas in the presence of Zahir Sohal. An awareness camp was orga-



nized wherein 80 farmers participated. The Director explained the benefits of departmental schemes and highlighted the importance of timely season plantations. He identified additional areas for Ultra High-Density Plantation and stressed focusing on promoting Chandler walnut varieties. He also deliberated on HADP, ATMA, CSS and other Horticulture schemes along with pro-

cessing and value addition for the benefit of beneficiaries. The session included awareness on modern horticulture practices. Thereafter, the team visited the Government Fruit Plant Nursery at Nogam, Banihal, where the Director reviewed all plants and issued necessary instructions to develop mother blocks with special emphasis on the Kiwi mother block.

## Rs.12.10 Lakh compensation disbursed to Accident Victims' Families in Ramban

RAMBAN, MAY 11: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today disbursed ₹12.10 lakh as compensation to the legal heirs of deceased road accident victims and a minor injured in a road mishap. The compensation has been provided under the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund based on the cases submitted by the ARTO. An amount of ₹1 lakh each was disbursed to the legal heirs of 12 deceased victims, while ₹10,000 was provided to a minor injured in a road accident as immediate financial assistance. The Deputy Commissioner

said that the initiative reflects the government's commitment to extending timely support to families affected by tragic road mishaps and ensuring that relief reaches deserving beneficiaries without delay. The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure that all such cases are processed promptly upon being reported so that affected families receive immediate assistance under the welfare measures meant for public support and relief. The Deputy Commissioner also instructed the ARTO Ramban to intensify road

safety awareness campaigns across the district and ensure strict implementation of road safety measures to minimize accidents. He emphasized the need to sensitize drivers, transport operators and the general public about safe driving practices, adherence to traffic rules, use of seat belts and helmets and the importance of responsible road behaviour. He further stressed upon the Motor Vehicles Department to strengthen enforcement and continue public outreach programmes to promote road safety and prevent loss of precious lives.

## ADM Ansuya Jamwal reviews preparedness for Eid ul Azha in Jammu

JAMMU, MAY 11: With a view to ensuring smooth and peaceful celebrations of the upcoming festival of Eid ul Azha, tentatively scheduled on May 27-28, a meeting was today held under the chairmanship of Additional District Magistrate Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal to review civic, security and logistical arrangements in the district. The meeting was attended by senior officers from all concerned line departments and representatives of religious bodies.

The ADM emphasised that maintaining cleanliness is a primary responsibility of Jammu Municipal Corporation and directed its officers to ensure sanitation standards across the city, with particular attention to Eidgahs, prayer grounds and surrounding areas. Strict directions were issued on food safety including proper dis-



play of rate lists, curbing overpricing and ensuring hygienic handling of food materials. The Legal Metrology Department was directed to intensify market inspections. CAPD was directed to ensure adequate provisioning and timely availability of essential food stock.

Water tankers are to be deployed on priority around prayer sites and residential areas facing supply challenges. Regarding power supply, the ADM directed that cuts be kept to an absolute minimum, with unscheduled outages strictly prohibited. Repair of non-functional

street lights was flagged as an immediate priority for JMC. Police deployment, security and traffic management arrangements around Eidgahs were also comprehensively reviewed.

Feedback and requests from religious bodies' representatives were duly noted and appropriate directions issued. The ADM made a special appeal urging religious leaders to use the occasion to spread awareness against the drug menace and cooperate fully with the district administration in the mission of Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan.

The meeting was also attended by SP North, District Health Officer, Health Officer JMC, ACG besides senior officers of all concerned departments.

# Awareness Activities, Padyatras continue across Pulwama under NMBA

**PULWAMA, MAY 11:** As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukti Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, awareness and outreach activities continued across District Pulwama today with various departments and stakeholders organising programmes aimed at sensitising the public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promoting a healthy and drug-free society. An awareness camp was organised at Panchayat Gadpora of Block Aripal, during which awareness sessions were conducted highlighting the importance of collective efforts in curbing substance abuse. On the occasion, participants also took part in the Nasha Mukti Pledge and a padyatra was also organised as part of the programme to spread awareness among the general public regarding the harmful consequences of drug addiction and the need for active community participation in prevention efforts.



Similar awareness programmes were also organised at Nambalal Pampore and Ashminder Pampore, where participants were sensitised about the objectives of the Nasha Mukti Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan and encouraged to actively support the anti-drug campaign. Meanwhile, the Social Welfare Department organised a series of awareness and outreach

activities at various locations and educational institutions across the district under the campaign. The activities featured awareness rallies, pledge ceremonies, signature campaigns, pamphlet distribution drives, poster campaigns, debates and discussion sessions focusing on prevention of substance abuse and promotion of healthy lifestyles among youth and students. Short

film and video screenings highlighting the ill effects of drug abuse were also conducted during the programmes. Furthermore, the Education Department organised discussions and interactive sessions across various educational institutions on the theme of "Myths vs Facts regarding Drug Menace" to create awareness among students and to promote informed and responsible behaviour. Besides, the Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Pulwama continued a variety of sports and awareness activities across different zones of the district under the campaign. The activities included football, badminton, basketball, table tennis, tug of war, chess and cricket competitions along with awareness programmes, seminars and chart exhibitions aimed at promoting a healthy and drug-free lifestyle among youth.

# Parliamentary panel inspects riverfront, Lal Chowk smart city Projects in Srinagar

**SRINAGAR, MAY 11:** A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs on Sunday reviewed the progress of Smart City and urban development projects during a study visit to Srinagar. The visit was part of the Committee's programme for 2025-26 aimed at assessing the implementation of key urban development initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir. During the visit, members of the Committee were briefed about projects related to urban infrastructure, housing, sanitation and municipal services. Discussions focused on improving urban governance, strengthening civic facilities and ensuring effective implementation of flagship programmes of



the Government of India. The Committee also carried out field visits to several major public infrastructure sites in the city, including the Jhelum Riverfront, Lal Chowk Public Square and Baidan Stambh, where members reviewed development and beautification works completed under the Smart City project. Chief Executive Officer of Srinagar Smart City Limited, Faz Lal Haseeb, briefed the Committee about various Smart City initiatives being implemented across Srinagar. He informed the members about projects aimed at improving public spaces, promoting pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, enhancing urban mobility and strengthening civic amenities.

# Central Kashmir Excise Range destroys illegal poppy cultivation at multiple locations

**SRINAGAR, MAY 11:** Central Kashmir Excise Range intensified its crackdown against the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops under the Nasha Mukti Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan and destroyed illegal poppy cultivation at multiple locations across the Srinagar-Budgam-Ganderbal Excise Range in collaboration with Police, Revenue and Agriculture Departments. During the enforcement drive, illegal poppy cultivation spread over different patches of land was identified and destroyed at various locations, including Aulpora Chadoora in Budgam district. In this connection, Case FIR No. 58/2026 under Section 8/18 of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Chadoora



and investigation has been taken up. All legal formalities, including seizure, sampling and on-spot destruction of the illicit crop, were completed as per procedure. The Excise Department reiterated its commitment towards curb-

# DIG Traffic Kashmir, SSP Traffic City stress urgent need for safer school transport system in Kashmir

**Srinagar, 11 May, 2026:** In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening awareness regarding children's safety during daily commuting, International Delhi Public School Zakura, Srinagar organised a programme on School Transport Safety under the theme of "Safe Transport, Secure Tomorrow." The event witnessed the participation of senior traffic officials, educationists, business leaders, media and students, all united in emphasizing the urgent need for safer and more disciplined school transportation systems across Kashmir. The programme was attended by DIG Traffic Kashmir Haseeb-Rehman as the Chief Guest, while SSP Traffic City Srinagar Aijaz Ahmad Bhat attended as Guest of Honour. Among other prominent dignitaries present on the occasion were CCIK President Tariq Ghani, Chairman Chowdhury Group Showkat Chowdhury, JKHARA President Babar Chowdhary, noted



journalist Emaad Makhdoomi and several distinguished guests. On the occasion, DIG Traffic Kashmir formally inaugurated the school transport facility established within the school campus, marking an important step towards ensuring regulated, monitored and secure transportation arrangements for students. Delivering a detailed and insightful address, DIG Traffic Kashmir Haseeb-ur-Rehman spoke extensively about the evolving challenges of traffic management,

road safety and the need for self-discipline within society. He shared his long association with the institution and appreciated the remarkable progress and infrastructure development achieved by the school over the years. Reflecting on his earlier tenure as SSP Traffic from 2011 to 2015, he recalled the immense challenges faced during large-scale infrastructure development and flyover construction projects in Srinagar. The DIG said traffic management is

often a "thankless job" where authorities continue to face criticism despite extensive efforts. However, he expressed satisfaction that recent positive changes in traffic management are now being acknowledged by the public and media. He credited SSP Traffic Srinagar Aijaz Ahmad Bhat for introducing effective reforms and bringing a visible positive transformation in traffic regulation and enforcement across the city. Highlighting future plans, the DIG revealed that the government is actively working on comprehensive traffic reforms through a high-level multidisciplinary committee headed by the Chief Secretary. He said the committee is focusing on intelligent traffic management systems, intelligent traffic lights, correction of engineering defects, road infrastructure improvement and modern traffic solutions for both urban and rural areas.

# Drugs are as dangerous as the guns for the society: Dr Darakhshan

**Dr Andrabhi addresses ASLUK AALAV, social transformation event series at Sopore**

**Sopore, May 11:** Asluka Aalav (The call for the Truth) public discourse series reaches apple town Sopore today. Today's event was organised by Jammu & Kashmir Development Foundation. Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabhi participated as the Chief Guest. The eminent personalities who participated in the event included BJP General Secretary Organization Ashok Koul, Bilal Parray, Molvi Waseem Ahmad, Maulana Agha Abbas Rizvi, Advocate Tabassum Rehman, mediapersonality Sahil Muzaffar, Dr Nazrul Islam, Dr Farida, Raja Waqar and others. Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabhi addressed the gathering and said that this holy land of spirituality has been attacked first by the gun which



killed innocents for decades and then by the drugs which is silently killing our youth. "Drugs are as dangerous as the guns for the society. We supported the government in curbing the terrorism, now we have to support the government in

eliminating drug menace from J&K", said Dr Andrabhi. She thanked the Asluka Aalav organisers for continuously organising events throughout the valley for social transformation covering discourses about environmental

awareness, swadeshi promotion and reintroducing moral values among the youth in the society. Dr Andrabhi thanked the think-tank especially Ashok Koul Ji for inspiring this program series. "Responsible people of the society from all walks of life have to significantly and actively contribute for the social change so that our youth get a conducive positive environment required for their growth and development. Moral impurities injected into this society as a play against us by our enemies are like diseases which we have to cure on priority", said Andrabhi. She hailed the mega initiative of Drug Free Jammu & Kashmir by the Lieutenant Governor and said that the huge public support to this campaign has build a very positive environmental in whole of the Union Territory.

# DC Shopian chairs meeting to finalize arrangements for VVIP visit

**SHOPIAN, MAY 11:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a meeting here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian to review and finalize arrangements for the upcoming VVIP visit to Shopian, scheduled on May 14. All arrangements including security, transport, participation, parking facilities, water and power supplies, PAS, sanitation, health-care, and other essential arrangements were minutely discussed and directions given to all to ensure the arrangements well on time. During the meeting, the DC issued strict instructions to all heads of departments to execute their assigned tasks seamlessly



with the highest degree of synergy and coordination to ensure smooth and successful conduct of the event. He directed departments to execute departmental action plans perfectly while keeping in view the hassle free public movement towards the venue for participation and mobilisation strategy so that the event is organised in the best possible manner. He emphasized the need for making the event inclusive and vibrant through broad-based participation from all sections of society. The event marks a major milestone in the government's push towards engaging youth in sports activities as some of the ambitious and vital sports infrastructure projects are being dedicated for the public.

# Somnath Swabhiman Parv celebrations held at Tirath Raj Kapal Mochan Temple Shopian

**SHOPIAN, MAY 11:** District-level celebrations under the nationwide campaign "Somnath Swabhiman Parv - 75 Years of reconstruction and inauguration of Somnath Temple" was today celebrated at the historic Tirath Raj Kapal Mochan Temple



at Deegam, Naghal, Shopian. The event witnessed enthusiastic public participation and devotees and was organised in line with the directions of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, to commemorate the rich spiritual and cultural

# 100 Day Nasha Mukti J&K Abhiyaan: Hundreds of awareness, outreach events held across Shopian

**SHOPIAN, MAY 11:** Diverse range of awareness and outreach events numbering in hundreds were today conducted across district Shopian under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukti Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, witnessing proactive participation of students, youth, teachers, cooperative societies members, government departments and civil society members. The day-long campaign featured pledge ceremonies, group discussions, sports activities, yoga sessions, poster display campaigns, painting and counselling sessions, seminars & debates and public interaction and awareness 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, laborers and other frontline workers also participated in engagement and outreach activities in public spaces especially in business units, market places, medical shops, petrol pumps, playgrounds etc. Special awareness drives and outreach programmes were also carried out by various government departments including RDD, Revenue, Poshan Projects, Ayush, Co-operative, Agri allied departments, and other departments as part of the awareness campaign.

North in News

EDITORIAL

Focus rural population to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047

Rural population should be the focus to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047 because India cannot become a developed nation by 2047 if 64 percent of its people, who still live in villages, are left behind in income, health, education, and opportunity. The arithmetic of development makes it clear that urban growth alone cannot carry the weight of 1.5 billion people, and with nearly 833 million citizens residing in rural areas the sheer scale means that even small improvements in rural productivity, consumption, and human capital will move national indicators far more than incremental gains in already saturated metros. Viksit Bharat is not defined only by GDP size but by quality of life, equity, and resilience, and those outcomes are decided in panchayats, farms, and small towns rather than in glass towers. Agriculture still employs 45 percent of the workforce and yet contributes only 18 percent of GDP, and that productivity gap is the biggest structural drag on the economy, and if farming, dairy, fisheries, and allied activities are modernized with irrigation, mechanization, high value crops, cold chains and direct market access, rural incomes can double and create demand for tractors, two wheelers, FMCG, housing, education, and healthcare. Therefore rural prosperity is the largest domestic stimulus India can unlock, and the demographic dividend is also rural because the median age in villages is younger than in cities and the next wave of workers, entrepreneurs, and consumers will come from blocks and tehsils rather than from urban pockets and if these youth are skilled, healthy, and digitally connected, they become the engine of manufacturing, logistics, construction, and the gig economy. But if they are undernourished, undereducated, and underemployed, the dividend becomes a disaster of migration, urban slums, and social stress, and hence schools, skill centers, and primary health centers in rural areas are not welfare but growth infrastructure. NRLM data already shows that over 10 crore women in SHGs have accessed bank loans and started micro enterprises, and scaling that model can add points to GDP while improving nutrition and schooling for the next generation, and rural infrastructure is the foundation of climate resilience because floods, droughts, and heatwaves hit villages first and hardest. Watershed development, agroforestry, solar pumps, and climate smart seeds protect not only farmers but also urban food prices and inflation. The goal of Viksit Bharat 2047 moves from aspiration to plan, and the country will get there not in spite of its villages but because of them, and that is why rural population should be the focus.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR



BY HARDEEP SINGH PURI

Howrah was once called the Sheffield of Asia. The jute mills along the Hooghly were the largest concentration of organised industry on the subcontinent. Kolkata was India's commercial capital, head office to the Birlas and the Tatas, ITC, Britannia, Coal India, Hindustan Motors, Garden Reach Shipbuilders, ISCO at Burnpur dates to 1918, Durgapur Steel Plant to the Second Plan. In 1950-51, Bengal produced roughly 27 per cent of the country's manufacturing output. I knew that Calcutta. Before I joined the Foreign Service, one of my first jobs was at Hindustan Lever in the city, and Calcutta was still a place where a young man arriving with his trunks could be sure he had come to where the country's commerce was conducted. The lights stayed on. The trains ran. The companies hired.

What had taken a century to build was dismantled by something more deliberate than economic mismanagement. The Left Front took office in 1977 and held it for thirty-four years. Beneath the rhetoric of the working class, an organised shadow state took root. Permission to build, to run a shop, to set up a kiln, to register a transport route, to hold a panchayat meeting, came with a cut. The cadre collected. The party banked. The unionism that drove out capital was the visible part. The extortion that drove out the citizen was the part the cameras did not film. By the 2000s, when the Left Front itself attempted to reverse course and bring Tata Motors to Singur, the Trinamool Congress in opposition staged a hunger strike that drove the project to Gujarat in 2008. The mafia changed colours; it did not dissolve.

The Trinamool Congress took power in 2011 on the promise of porpoise. What followed was the same machinery in a new uniform. The cut became cut-money. The cadre

became syndicate. Bengal's 27 per cent share of national manufacturing has fallen below 5 per cent. Per capita income, one 127 per cent of the national average, has slipped to 84. More than six thousand registered companies have moved their head offices out of Kolkata. The children of Bengal who would once have worked in Howrah or Salt Lake now live in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune. The voter who watched her jobs and her money walk out of the state had a score to settle, and a ballot in her hand to settle it with.

At the centre of the score was a record on women that no incumbent in independent India has had to defend. A woman Chief Minister presided over the torture and killing of the women of her state. The rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College in August 2024. The night-long vandalism at the crime scene by a mob the Kolkata Police chose not to disperse. The Calcutta High Court's order transferring the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation, on the finding that the Kolkata Police's enquiry did not inspire confidence. The forty-two-day strike by junior doctors, many of them women. Sandeshkhali, January 2024. The women of an island in the Sundarbans came out into the streets against a Trinamool district council member who remained a fugitive for enforcement while the State filed nothing. A Chief Minister whose own movement once spoke of porpoise has presided over a regime in which the women of her state had to seek refuge in courts, in central agencies, and on the streets, against her own cadre. It is reprehensible. It is unconscionable.

What the women of Bengal had to endure was matched only by what the state's young people had to give up. Twenty-one crore rupees in cash, recovered from a single locked flat in Salt Lake on the night of the first Enforcement Directorate raid. Further recoveries on associated properties pushed the total past fifty crore. The arrest of the sitting cabinet minister Partha Chatterjee, who as appointments minister had presided over the West Bengal School Service Commission. The Calcutta High Court cancelling in April 2024, the appointments of twenty-five thousand and several hundred fifty-three teachers, Group-C and Group-D staff under a recruitment found illegal at the gate. A ruling carried to the Supreme Court and upheld in 2025.

An entire school recruitment cycle meant to give Bengal's young people a foothold in life turned into a counter at which posts were sold and the legitimate candidate could not see the queue. Layered above that scam was the ration scam that pulled in another sitting cabinet minister, Jyotipriya Mallick. Layered above that was the scam, the cut-money culture, the syndicate raj. The voter understood the connecting tissue. The first to suffer in a state run by a mafia is the citizen who refuses to pay the bribe.

Against this record stood a record of another kind. Four crore twenty-one lakh houses completed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana over the past decade. Fifteen crore tap-water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission, against a base of three crore in 2019. Ayushman Bharat covering approximately fifty-five crore beneficiaries with a five lakh rupee annual cover. Direct Benefit Transfer rendering obsolete the leakage that once defined every welfare programme in Bengal. None of these are abstracts. They were the floor on which every Bharatiya Janata Party karyakarta in Bengal stood when she asked for the vote.

Behind that floor stood a network. The party's booth-level cadre, the panna pramukhs, the karyakartas who endured intimidation, threats, and physical violence across electoral cycles, did the unglamorous work of registering voters, of setting up polling conditions other parties had abandoned. The threats against the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, the declarations of what would follow once the government was formed in earlier rounds of post-poll violence, were not rhetoric the karyakarta had to be reminded of. She had lived through it. The Honourable Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, walked Bengal himself, district by district, sometimes returning to the same town within weeks, knowing what his cadre was carrying. What they were attempting was not an electoral upset. It was the breaking of a citadel.

The faces of this breakthrough tell their own story. Smt Ratna Debnath, the mother of the Kar victims, fielded by the Bharatiya Janata Party in Panihati and leading by margins that demolished a fifteen-year Trinamool stronghold. Smt Rekha Patra who stood on her own soil in Sandeshkhali to demand what the state had refused her, and who carried that demand to a contest in Hingalganj. Voters of districts that

had been left for thirty years and Trinamool for fifteen, turning to the lotus for the first time. On Sunday, 4 May 2026, Bengal settled the score. The Bharatiya Janata Party won 206 of 293 declared seats. Forty-nine years of mafia rule, in two successive uniforms, have ended. This was not only an electoral verdict. It was a moral one.

The breakthrough is already being contested. The Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls, which removed ninety lakh ineligible names from a state where ineligibility had been allowed to accumulate for 15 years, is being characterised by the losing side as voter suppression. The data settles the question. Of the twenty-two constituencies that saw the highest deletions during adjudication, the Trinamool Congress won thirteen. Samsarganj, Lalgaia, Bhagabangur, Baghunathganj and Metlaburuz, the five with the most deletions, all returned a Trinamool MLA in both 2021 and 2026. Of the forty-nine constituencies in which the winning margin was lower than the number of electors removed during the revision, twenty-six were won by the Bharatiya Janata Party, twenty-one by the Trinamool Congress, and two by the Congress. A targeted exclusion does not produce a near-even split between the winning party and the losing one. The 92.93 per cent voter turnout, the highest in the state's history, settled the question of whether the rolls were credible. By disputing the verdict the voter has already delivered, the losing party only confirms the dagadgi the voter seizes as a sign of the wisdom of the choice she made.

Bengal has voted, and Bengal has chosen. What the voter has asked for is not difficult to read. Peace, and freedom from the violence that has shadowed her streets. Prosperity, and the return of work to the city she lives in. Stability, and an administration that does not collect a cut for letting her live. A cultural and economic renaissance in the state that gave the country its first industrial belt, its commercial capital, and the early architects of national administration. The Calcutta legacy is recoverable. Bengal is ready to resume its contribution to a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Behind every welfare delivery and infrastructure decision on the state's agenda has been a Prime Minister who treats the citizen as the unit of account. The reward for keeping faith with that citizen has now been recorded.

# Somnath: The Eternal Rhythm of Faith, Resilience and Renewal

## 1,000 YEARS OF SOMNATH



BY GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT

The essence carried by this shloka from SrimadBhagavad Gita and from the civilisational wisdom enclosed in the Indian scriptures and traditions, is reflected in the essence of Somnath Temple, located at Somnath-Patan on the southern shore of Kathiawad (historic region in southwestern region of present-day state of Gujarat). Regarded as the first among the twelve Jyotirlingas, many a times its walls have borne the brunt of battle at the hands of barbarian invaders only to rise again and resume the drums and bells of worship.

Across more than a thousand years of Indian history, SanaTana Dharma - understood as a diverse, decentralised constellation of religious practices, philosophies, rituals, and institutions - has experienced repeated moments of disruption arising from political conquest, regime change, and shifting structures of power. These disruptions included the destruction or repurposing of temples, monasteries, and centres of learning, as well as the displacement of patronage networks that had sustained religious institutions. Yet, despite these ruptures, the broader religious tradition endured, adapted, and reasserted itself across time. The historical significance of this endurance lies not in claims of uninterrupted dominance, but in the capacity of religious life to survive institutional loss and political vulnerability.

From the early medieval period, temples functioned not only as places of worship but also as economic, cultural, and political centres. Their close association with ruling elites made them vulnerable during periods of military conflict. The raid on the Somnath Temple by Mahmud of Ghazni among the most discussed examples. Persian chronicles celebrated the event as a victory, while later Indian traditions emphasised loss, resistance, and eventual restoration. What is historically verifiable is that the temple did not disappear from religious life: it was rebuilt under regional rulers such as the Chalukyas and continued to attract devotion. Similar patterns are visible elsewhere.

Credit: Somnath and Other Medieval Temples in Kathiawad, 1931. Archaeological Survey of India, Vol. XLV, Imperial Series. Calcutta: Government of India.

The history of Somnath must never be reduced to a single episode. From ancient times, PrabhassPatan has been a sacred geography. Patan, known by different names in different sources including Prabhass-Patan, Shiva-Patan and Prabhass-Tirtha, is an ancient town on the east of which three beautiful rivers merge at a Triveni - held sacred marking the cremation of the body of Lord Krishna. In the neighbourhood lies the Vairagya Kshetra and Gopi Tulow (from where people procure the Gopi Chandan). Sacred pilgrimage to this region is considered the complete visit overlooking this sacred land. One can find details of the ruins found in this region in the Report on the Antiquities of Kathiawad and Kachh, and The Antiquities of the town of Dabhol in Gujarat.

Somnath represents a rare confluence of Shiva and Vaishnava traditions, repeatedly reminding us that Indian heritage has always been plural and inclusive.

The modern chapter in the history of Somnath in independent India began on Kartak Sud 1, Divali 12 November 1947, barely months amid the unfortunate Partition that our

first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister visited this sacred land of Somnath. Accompanied by senior leaders and great personalities, Sardar Patel took a decisive pledge of free India undertaking the reconstruction of this historic temple. What resulted next was the institutional framework that cradled national consciousness. Somnath was reconstructed, conceived as more than rebuilding of a shrine, as a cultural and intellectual centre.

The consecration ceremony performed early morning on 11 May 1951 in the august presence of Hon'ble President of India Shri Rajendra Prasad reaffirmed the shared cultural memory of the nation.

As India advances towards India@2047, these civilisational values assume renewed relevance. In an era marked by technological acceleration and geopolitical uncertainty, India's gift to humanity lies in demonstrating that progress need not abandon compassion, and power need not forsake restraint. The endurance of Somnath reminds us that true leadership - national and global - is sustained not only by strength, but by wisdom, memory, and an unwavering commitment to shared human dignity.

Somnath SwabhimaniParv 2026-27 is envisaged as a year-long national commemoration anchored in the civilisational legacy, spiritual resilience, and cultural continuity of the temple of Shri Somnath Jyotirlinga at PrabhassPatan, Gujarat. Somnath occupies a unique place in India's civilisational history. Despite repeated destruction across centuries, the temple rebuilt time and again through the collective resolve of the people, emerging as a living testament to cultural continuity, spiritual resilience, and national self-belief.

Somnath SwabhimaniParv (that began from 8-11 January 2026) marks two significant milestones in India's civilizational journey: one thousand years since the first recorded attack on the Somnath Temple in

1026, and seventy-five years since the reopening of the reconstructed temple in 1951 following independence.

Positioning Somnath as a unifying national symbol of endurance, collective memory, and cultural self-respect. The commemoration shall culminate in a major national event on 11 May 2026, supported by a structured sequence of yatras, cultural productions, dialogues, educational initiatives, and coordinated programmes across Jyotirlingas, districts, and shivalayas nationwide.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, who also serves as Chairperson of the Shri Somnath Trust, Somnath has entered a renewed phase of holistic revival. Governance reforms, infrastructure enhancement, heritage conservation, and cultural initiatives have strengthened the temple's role as a living spiritual centre. Sustainability measures and women-led service initiatives further reflect how civilizational values are being expressed through contemporary responsibility and inclusion.

The Somnath SwabhimaniParv creates a connection between modern society and the deeper essence of its culture through cultural, spiritual, and educational activities. It is a reminder to every generation that the temple of Somnath is not just about its physical existence. Its true essence lies in the values and the responsibility that are consciously transferred from one generation to another. In this journey, Somnath stands today not only as a restored shrine, but as a living tritha.

As Bharat continues its journey in the twenty-first century, the spirit of Somnath offers a guiding principle: that a civilisation remains strong when it is rooted, remains relevant when it is adaptable, and remains unified when it is inclusive.

May the legacy of Somnath continue to inspire us - to build with purpose, to act with balance, and to move forward with a deep awareness of who we are.



### Three Houses of Major Drug Peddlers Worth Crores Demolished In Kathua Under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

Kathua, May 11: In a major crackdown under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, the District & Police Administration in Kathua jointly demolished three houses belonging to 3 major drug peddlers in Korepunnu area of Rajbagh, Kathua. The demolished structures were illegally constructed on state land. The action was carried out against properties belonging to 1. Liaqat Ali alias "Liaqatu" 2. Gaggu Din 3. Sham Din all sons of Sharief



Mohammad and residents of Korepunnu, Tehsil Marbeen, District Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir. The accused are involved in SIXTEEN (16) FIRs related to drug peddling and other criminal activities. The estimated value of the demolished properties is over 1 crore. The administration said the operation reflects the government's continued commitment to eliminate drug menace and to take strict action against those who are involved in narcotics related crimes.

### DC Poonch reviews progress of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme

Stresses effective Implementation of Farmer Welfare Schemes

POONCH, MAY 11: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district. The meeting was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer Jograj Salathia; Chief Horticulture Officer Uttam Lal; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Ashraf; District Sheep Husbandry Officer Basharat; Assistant Grading & Marketing

Officer Mufti Shabir; Assistant Director Fisheries; Doctor, Mohd. Saleem and other concerned officers. The Deputy Commissioner sought a detailed progress report regarding the schemes and projects being executed by stakeholder departments including Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture and allied sectors. The meeting also reviewed the requirement of funds for effective implementa-

tion of projects under HADP. Detailed discussions were held on the progress achieved under different schemes, including targets, achievements and existing gaps. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the implementation of JKPCP and other ongoing projects in the district. Emphasizing public outreach and awareness, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the officers to organize awareness camps under the Vibrant Village Programme to educate people living in remote and border areas about different government schemes and the benefits which can be provided to them so that farmers can avail maximum benefits under these welfare initiatives. The Deputy Commissioner urged the concerned departments to work in close coordination to ensure effective and time-bound implementation of the programme across the district for the overall development and welfare of the farming community.

### JKPDP LEADERS ORGANISE ANTI-DRUG AWARENESS RALLY, BLOOD DONATION CAMP IN RAJOURI

RAJOURI, MAY 11: Senior leaders of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP), including senior PDP leader Tazeem Dar and Youth PDP District President Rajouri Imran Chowdhary, on Sunday organised a Drug De-addiction Awareness Rally along with a Blood Donation Camp at the Blood Bank of Government Medical College (GMC) Associated Hospital Rajouri. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from youth, social activists and party workers, who joined hands to spread awareness about the growing threat of drug addiction and the importance of promoting a healthy and disciplined lifestyle among the younger generation. The rally was aimed at sensitising the public, particularly the youth, about the harmful effects of substance abuse and encouraging col-



lective social responsibility and families are vital to protect the youth from falling prey to addiction. He said that the vision of a "Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir" can only be achieved through united and sustained efforts from every section of society. He urged the youth to stay away from drugs and contribute positively towards nation-building and social development. Youth PDP District President Imran Chowdhary, while speaking on the occasion, described blood donation as a noble humanitarian act and emphasised the need to encourage such initiatives at every level. He said awareness drives and active public participation are essential to effectively combat the growing drug menace in society. District Secretary Asif Bhat termed drug abuse a serious social challenge and called upon all sections of society to play an active role in fighting the menace collectively. He highlighted the importance of grassroots-level awareness, counselling and the involvement of parents and teachers in safeguarding the younger generation from addiction. The organisers also expressed gratitude to the doctors, medical staff and volunteers for their cooperation in making the awareness rally and blood donation camp successful.

### 3-Day Training Programme begins for Field Trainers at Baderwah

BHADERWAH, MAY 11: A three-day training programme to train Field Trainers regarding Census 2027 operations took off today here at the Community Hall. The Field Trainers shall further impart training to enumerators and supervisors for the House Listing and Housing Census. The trainers, drawn from across the subdivision, would be equipped with the required knowledge and practical understanding to ensure smooth and effective conduct of the upcoming Census operations. The first phase of the training was organized under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal, who is also the Principal Census Officer for the district. The programme was conducted under the supervision of Naib Tehsildar Param Preet Singh along with other officials associated with the Census programme. The District Master Trainers, including Dr. Anwar Hussain, Assistant Professor, Dr. Yunus Rasheed and Dr. Bharat Singh are going to impart detailed training and guidance to the batch of trainees regarding enumeration procedures, data collection methods and responsibilities of field staff during the Census process.

### Doda readies for Census 2027 Exercise DC stressed close coordination mass awareness generation

DODA, MAY 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a meeting to review preparedness and arrangements for the upcoming Census-2027 exercise in the district. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur; Assistant Commissioner Revenue; Accounts Officer DC Office; Nodal Officer Census/CEO; Tehsildars; Executive Officers of Municipal Council Doda, Municipal Committee Baderwah and other officials and other concerned officers who joined through virtual mode.

### Free Medical Camp held at Vibrant Village Dheri Dabsi-Poonch

POONCH, MAY 11: A free medical camp was successfully organized today at Vibrant Village II, Dheri Dabsi, under the instructions of District Development Commissioner Ashok Sharma and the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan. The camp, which witnessed active participation from local residents, aimed at extending quality healthcare services to the people living in remote and rural areas. Beneficiaries received free consultation, on-the-spot screening and free medicines. During the campaign, the services provided included NCD (Non-Communicable Diseases) Screening, NTEP (TB) Screening, Mother and Child Healthcare Services, ABPMIAV Sehat Card Registration, Vay Vandana Card Registration. The initiative received wide appreciation from the villagers, who lauded the administration for its proactive approach in addressing the healthcare needs of the rural population.

**NOTICE**  
I Dayal Singh C/o Joogander singh seri R/o Ramban, have applied for the registration of De Class Contractor Card in the office of Superintending Engineer Pwd R&B, Udhampur-Ramban Circle HQ Udhampur. Objection if any may be conveyed to the above said office within seven days from the publication of this notice.

**NOTICE**  
I Romesh Singh S/o Thopi ram Bagna District Ramban Vc seri Po Ramban, have applied for the registration of De Class Contractor Card in the office of Superintending Engineer Pwd R&B, Udhampur-Ramban Circle HQ Udhampur. Objection if any may be conveyed to the above said office within seven days from the publication of this notice.

**NOTICE**  
I Sudhansu Sharma S/O Sh. Bansil Lal R/O Najot Tehsil lohari mahar Distt kathua J&k that in my Driving Licence bearing JK-0820220001192 which is issued by RTO kathua. That in my DL, my Father name is wrongly recorded as Bansil Lal Sharma. Now I am applying for correction of my father name as Bansil Lal. Instead of Bansil Lal Sharma in RTO office kathua. objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority with in 7 days, from the date of publication of this notice

**NOTICE**  
I Shaktunala Devi W/o Jeevan Singh R/o 11 Mandlar Gam District Ramban, have applied for the registration of De Class Contractor Card in the office of Superintending Engineer Pwd R&B, Udhampur-Ramban Circle HQ Udhampur. Objection if any may be conveyed to the above said office within seven days from the publication of this notice.

**CORRECTION IN NAME AND DOB**  
I, Kassin S/O Kaka R/O Kalyanpur Jammu, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that the name of my daughter is wrongly written as Shabu D/O of Mohd. Aneef and mother's name Janif Bibi R/O Rajpura whereas the real name is Shabu Begum D/O Kassin, mother's name is Shamoo Bibi R/O Kalyanpur, Jammu. Also the date of birth of my daughter is written wrongly as 10/06/2011 instead of 10/03/2014 in the School record. The deponent (Kassin S/O Kaka R/O Kalyanpur Jammu) solicits this information through affidavit in the concerned school for correction of name and date of birth of his daughter. Objections if any please may be submitted to the concerned authorities within seven days of publication of this notice.

**NOTICE**  
I, Pinky Devi W/o Babloo Kumar, R/o Sencha, Tehsil & District Ramban, hereby inform that my Aadhaar Card contains incorrect particulars regarding my name, husband name, address and date of birth. The incorrect details mentioned are "Gudi Devi W/o Gulab Chand R/o Kewah, Tehsil & District Kishitwar" with DOB 06-04-1988, whereas my correct particulars are "Pinky Devi W/o Babloo Kumar R/o Sencha, Tehsil & District Ramban" with DOB 16-04-1997. I have applied for correction/ updation of the same. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION MAHORE**  
**FRESH NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR EEP/PMGSY/M/05/01/2026-**  
**27 DATED 11.05.2026**

Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Mahore for and on behalf of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders for below mentioned work (s) on (Stage Above/Excess (+) OR Stage Below/ Less (-) basis (i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways, or equivalent and other State Govts. As per the prescribed format shown hereunder :-

S/N	Name of Work	Name of the Bidder	Advertised amount (in Lacs)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Ratio of Bond/advance of OR/CCR (in Lacs)	Time allowed for completion	Call office no.	Class of contractor
1	Permanent restoration of road from L036-Hamusan to Dandkote	Mahore	143.99	2600	2.88	75-days	2 <sup>nd</sup>	A
2	Permanent restoration of road from L847-Kachi to Baddar	Mahore	107.98	2600	2.16	75-days	2 <sup>nd</sup>	A

2. The important dates and times are under:-

1. Date of issue of tender notice	11.05.2026
2. Period for downloading of bidding documents	11.05.2026 (4:00 PM) to 18.05.2026 (06:00 PM)
3. Date, time and place of pre-bid meeting	12.05.2026 (11:00 AM) in the office of the Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division, Mahore
4. Bid submission start date	12.05.2026 (12:00)
5. Bid submission end date	18.05.2026 (05:00 PM)
6. Date & time of opening of technical bids (Online)	19-05-2026 (2:00 PM)
7. Date & time of opening of financial bids (Online)	To be notified after Technical Bid/evaluations completed

3. Position of Funds

Position of Funds	Approved
Position of AA	Accorded
Position of TS	Accorded

4. Cost of Bid Form accepted only in form of e-challan/treasury challan receipt.

5. Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and bids should be submitted online on website <https://www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in>. The bidders are required to register on the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). \*Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website <https://www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CA can use the same in the tender.

6. Bids must be uploaded along with the scanned copy of cost of tender Document as mentioned in column 5 in shape of e-challan/treasury challan/receipt favoring Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Mahore by crediting the requisite charges to MH 0059-PWD (Revenue).

7. The original documents, when submitted by L1 for the cost of tender document should be same as uploaded online (scanned copies) otherwise the allotment will not be issued. The tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further/future tendering process in PMGSY for a period of one year.

8. (a) The bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <https://www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in> from 04.00 PM on 11.05.2026 to 18.05.2026 (06:00 PM).  
(b) The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <https://www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in> from 12.00 Noon on 12.05.2026 to 18.05.2026 (06:00 PM).  
(c) A Pre bid meeting will be held on 12.05.2026 at 11:00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY Mahore to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage.  
1. Thesis for the work is available.

9. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website <https://www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in>. The technical qualification part of the bids will be open online after receiving AA & TS from the competent authorities.  
The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site <https://www.pmgstyendersjk.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids shall be opened accordingly on the same website at the Office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Mahore. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

No-EEP/PMGSY/M/2026-27/541-46  
Dated-11.05.2026

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
PMGSY Division  
Mahore

DIP/J-1850/26

## Sunil Gavaskar gives his verdict on 2 teams to play IPL 2026 final after MI elimination

New Delhi, May 11: As the race for the IPL 2026 playoffs intensifies, every game is beginning to feel like a knockout clash. With teams battling to stay alive in the competition, cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar has already predicted the two sides he believes will reach the final – and it could turn out to be a repeat of last season. India great Sunil Gavaskar has backed Punjab Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru to play the IPL 2026 final after Mumbai Indians and Lucknow Super Giants were officially eliminated from the playoff race. RCB scripted one of the most dramatic wins in IPL history on Sunday night, edging past Mumbai Indians by two wickets in a last-ball thriller. The defeat marked Mumbai's eighth



loss in 11 games, ending their hopes of reaching the playoffs. Meanwhile, RCB climbed to the top of the points table with their seventh win of the season. Punjab Kings, meanwhile, have endured a slight dip in form after a blazing start to their campaign. Following three straight defeats, PBKS now find themselves searching for momentum again. However, with 13 points already secured, they remain firmly in contention and currently occupy fourth place in the standings. "I would still back Punjab Kings. Sometimes, a couple of losses can actually help a team reset and avoid complacency. Delhi Capitals, on the other hand, have lost games they should have won, and that has to be a recurring issue for them this season," Gavaskar said on JioStar. "Punjab will know how important this stage of the tournament is, and they won't want self-doubt creeping in with another defeat. I still see Punjab Kings

and RCB as my finalists for this season," he added. With Mumbai Indians now out of the playoff race, Gavaskar also suggested that the franchise should use the remainder of the season to test younger players under pressure situations. "In T20 cricket, ups and downs are bound to happen. Once the season ends, that's the right time to properly assess what went wrong. But at this stage, my view is that the senior players have given everything they had," Gavaskar said. Now, it may be the right opportunity to give younger players a chance in the remaining matches. That will help the franchise understand how these youngsters handle pressure and whether they can justify the faith shown in them," he added.

New Delhi, May 11:

## RCB coach Andy Flower fined after heated umpire exchange during thriller win over MI



Winning a last-ball thriller against Mumbai Indians may have pushed Royal Challengers Bengaluru to the top of the IPL 2026 points table, but the dramatic clash also landed head coach Andy Flower in trouble. Flower has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee for breaching Level 1 of the IPL Code of Conduct during RCB's tense two-wicket victory over Mumbai Indians. The IPL confirmed in an official statement that Flower violated Article 2.3 of the Code of Conduct, which relates to the "use of an audible obscenity during a match". The incident took place during the 17.2 over of RCB's chase when Flower reacted angrily towards the fourth umpire following a controversial boundary decision involving Krunal

Pandya. Facing AM Ghazanfar, Krunal lofted the ball towards wide long-on where Naman Dhir completed a juggling effort before parrying the ball to Tilak Varma near the boundary ropes. Tilak appeared to signal a six, seemingly believing "Dhir had touched the boundary cushions during the attempt. However, television replays later confirmed that Dhir had managed to avoid contact with the cushions, resulting in the delivery

being ruled a dot ball. Krunal, who appeared to be struggling with cramps, did not attempt a run. According to the IPL Code of Conduct, Article 2.3 covers "words commonly understood to be offensive, obscene and/or profane" that can be heard by spectators or viewers through stump microphones or other means. Flower admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction imposed by match referee Amit Sharma.

## Vinesh Phogat breaks silence on WFI notice, says federation 'misinterpreted' comeback timeline

New Delhi, May 11: Olympian Vinesh Phogat has finally broken her silence on the Wrestling Federation of India's show-cause notice, strongly rejecting allegations of rule violations and claiming the federation has "misinterpreted" the timeline of her sabbatical and return to competition. The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) had issued a show-cause notice to the star wrestler over alleged "grave acts of indiscipline" and multiple rule violations, while also declaring her ineligible to participate in sanctioned events until June



26, 2026. However, in a strongly worded statement released on social media on Monday, Phogat asserted that she had already been cleared by the International Testing Agency (ITA) to return to official training and competitions from January 1, 2026. "I acknowledge receipt of the show cause notice dated 09.05.2026 issued by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to me. I will be providing detailed responses to each claim made in the notice, after consultation with my

legal team and my advisors," Phogat said. The WFI notice alleged that Phogat violated Article 5.7 of the UWW Anti-Doping Rules, which requires retired athletes to provide six months' written notice before returning to competition and remain available for testing during that period. Responding to the allegation, the three-time Olympian claimed the federation had incorrectly interpreted the timeline of her sabbatical. "However, I would like to clear up a few matters pertaining to the notice to the public. The WFI

has misinterpreted the timelines of my sabbatical from sport and subsequent return to training and competitions," she stated. Phogat further revealed that she had official confirmation from the ITA, the agency appointed by United World Wrestling (UWW) for anti-doping control. "I have official confirmation from the International Testing Agency (ITA), the agency hired by the international federation UWW, the relevant international federation governing doping control for wrestling, pertaining to the same," she added.

## Ex-CSK Star S Badrinath's Comment On Krunal Pandya Upsets Fans

New Delhi, May 11: Former Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and India batter Subramaniam Badrinath became one of the top trends on social media over a piece of commentary he made during the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) vs Mumbai Indians (MI) match in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 on Sunday. As RCB all-rounder Krunal Pandya was batting in the middle, he suffered from cramps and went to the ground holding his leg. While MI wicket-keeper Ryan Rickleton rushed to help him, Badrinath jokingly said that he



would've thought about 'letting him die' in the context of the game. After Mumbai dismantled the RCB top-order, it was Krunal who rose to the occasion and kept the team in the chase with a brilliant 46-ball

73. As the innings progressed, however, Krunal started to experience cramps in his leg. "Seeing him fall down because of the cramps there, he already had a cramp.

## Cricket Australia Reacts To 5 Players Rejecting Central Contract: "Tension"

New Delhi, May 11: Australia's chair of selectors, George Bailey, denied the concerns over a group of senior players rejecting Cricket Australia's initial contract offers. Bailey pointed out that such negotiations are quite common at this time of the year and said that there is nothing to worry about, despite growing chatter over players getting torn between national team commitments and the huge amount of money on offer in franchise leagues around the world. During the announcement of Australia's white-ball squads for the tours of Pakistan and Bangladesh, Bailey said that the landscape is changing in global cricket but did not raise any alarm over five senior cricketers reportedly expressing their displeasure over the initial con-



tracts offered by Cricket Australia. "I actually think that's pretty normal for this time of year," Bailey said. "One of the important things to understand is that we offer our national contracts at the end of April largely to unlock the state contracting process and allow states to plan their lists with certainty." "The actual contracts don't kick in until the end of June or early July. Agents are naturally trying to get the best possible deals for their clients, and I don't

## 'Mahi bhai cleared my doubts': Urvil Patel reveals MS Dhoni's advice behind historic fifty

New Delhi, May 11: Creating one of the most unforgettable moments of IPL 2026, Chennai Super Kings youngster Urvil Patel revealed that a crucial conversation with MS Dhoni helped shape his stunning record-equaling knock against Lucknow Super Giants on Sunday. The explosive right-hander lit up the MA Chidambaram Stadium with a breathtaking 65 off just 23 deliveries, smashing eight sixes and equalling the fastest fifty in IPL history with a 13-ball half-century. Urvil also became the first batter in IPL history to smash six sixes within the first eight balls of an innings as CSK stormed through the powerplay during their chase. After struggling to convert promising starts earlier in the season, Urvil



revealed that advice from former CSK skipper MS Dhoni, sidelined this season with a calf injury, helped clear his mind before the innings. "When I spoke to Mahi bhai when I got out early in a couple of matches, we were sitting together in the dressing room and I asked him, 'I'm getting out early, what should I do to convert the good start?'" Urvil said in a

video shared by IPL. "He said just one thing. 'I don't have any doubt in your skill, whatever is there it is in your mind so just stay clear and try to hit the right ball at the right place.'" The youngster admitted Dhoni's words removed self-doubt and allowed him to trust his natural game. "First and foremost, I will thank him

for the wisdom he shared. I felt good and it was a good performance and I think he will be very happy," he added. For Urvil, the innings carried deep emotional value as it marked his maiden IPL half-century, achieved in historic fashion. "I was waiting for my first 50 in the IPL. And I was emotional because I scored 50 off just 13 balls. I was very emotional, especially for my father. I dedicated the 50 to him," he said. The Mehsana-born batter revealed that his father constantly encouraged him to continue batting fearlessly despite missing out after good starts in previous matches. "When I was playing for 2-3 matches, I was giving a good start and getting out. Only my father was like, 'Son, I like the way you are playing.

Just keep playing like this. Whether you make runs or not, it doesn't matter to me. Just play like this.'" "I have always played for my father. He was telling me to play without any worries. He said, 'We don't want anything from you, we're happy,' he added. Urvil's emotional celebration after reaching the landmark also grabbed attention as he pulled out a handwritten note from his pocket that read: "This is for you Papa... It all happened because of the blessings of Jogani Chehar Maa and him to continue batting fearlessly. Explaining the meaning behind the note, Urvil said: "The note firstly read 'Dad this is for you' and then my god. I wrote a Thank You to my god that I am doing this because of your blessings. That was it."

## We just weren't good enough: Jayawardene on MI's disappointing IPL 2026 campaign

New Delhi, May 11: Mumbai Indians' IPL 2026 campaign officially came to an end after a heartbreaking last-ball defeat to defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru, leaving head coach Mahela Jayawardene to admit that the five-time champions were simply "not good enough" this season. The dramatic two-wicket loss to RCB on Sunday confirmed MI's exit from the playoff race and extended their disappointing run in the league, marking the sixth consecutive season in which they have failed



to lift the IPL trophy. Jayawardene said after the match. "We had our chances during the season, but we just weren't good enough. We lacked consistency with both bat and ball, and in a competition like this, those small margins make a huge difference."

## ICC ODI Rankings: India remain No. 1 as New Zealand close gap in annual update

New Delhi, May 11: India have retained their position as the No. 1 ODI team in the world in the latest ICC Men's ODI Team Rankings update released on Monday, though their lead at the top has slightly narrowed. The Rohit Sharma-led side dropped one rating point from 119 to 118, while New Zealand gained two points to rise to 115, reducing the gap between the top two teams from eight points to five. Despite the slight dip, India continue to dominate white-ball cricket globally after also holding on to the No. 1 spot in the ICC Men's T20I rankings announced last week. Australia, the reigning ODI world champions, remained third in the standings with an



unchanged rating of 109. The biggest movement inside the top five came from South Africa, who overtook Pakistan to climb to fourth place. South

place a two-point drop, sitting on 96 points, while Afghanistan remained seventh with 93 points. England stayed eighth after gaining one rating point, while Bangladesh continued in ninth place with 84 points. The gap between Bangladesh and West Indies widened significantly after the Caribbean side lost three rating points to fall to 74 in 10th position. Outside the top 10, Ireland climbed above Zimbabwe into 11th place after gaining two rating points. Zimbabwe slipped to 12th following a one-point decline. The United States also made progress in the rankings, overtaking Scotland to move into 13th place with a rating of 46. Scotland dropped one spot after losing a point.



## TRE-4 protest row: Bihar education minister's viral videos trigger political storm

Patna, May 11: Political tensions have intensified in Bihar following the police lathi-charge on candidates protesting over the delayed TRE-4 (4th Teacher Recruitment Examination), to be conducted by the BPSC. The incident, which occurred soon after the formation of the new government, has raised several questions over the administration's handling of the protest. Thousands of candidates gathered in Patna demanding the release of the TRE-4 teacher recruitment notification. Police later resorted to a lathi-charge to disperse the protesters. Female candidates also allegedly faced police action, with some protesters claiming that police



personnel trampled them with their feet. Demonstrators further questioned the absence of women police personnel during the crackdown. Amid the uproar, Bihar Education Minister Mithlesh Tiwari has

been in controversy over his remarks on the protest. Two videos featuring the minister have gone viral on social media, drawing sharp criticism from the Congress and other opposition parties. In one of the videos, Tiwari is heard

speaking about female protesters. In the clip, he says, "What is the need for agitation? The daughters of our homes are our strength. They are the foundation of our prosperity... why should those daughters need to come out onto the

streets when Modi ji is standing for women's empowerment..." When someone responds, "For their rights," Tiwari replies, "You will get your rights anyway..." The video triggered widespread criticism online. Congress leader Srinivas BV, while sharing the clip on X, wrote, "Meet Bihar's new Education Minister... don't forget to spit..." Responding to the controversy, Tiwari said that the Indian Youth Congress had distorted his statement. He clarified that he never said girls do not need education. According to the minister, his point was that since the government was already in talks with student leaders, there was no need for agitation.

## Vandalism at two Punjab BJP offices in Mohali and Tarn Taran

New Delhi, May 11: In a dual-pronged attack on Monday, unidentified individuals targeted two offices of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Punjab, leading to significant property damage and widespread panic. Incidents of vandalism and stone-pelting were reported from the party's establishments in Zirakpur (Mohali) and Tarn Taran, causing tension to escalate across the regions. In Tarn Taran, a mob comprising approximately 15 to 20 armed individuals stormed the BJP district headquarters during the afternoon. According to BJP district president Harjeet Singh Sandhu, the attackers, carrying sticks and batons, damaged furniture and pelted stones while raising slogans against the party.



Witnesses stated that the assailants also tore down posters featuring "Punjab Ekta Zindabad" and anti-BJP messages. Although party workers managed to briefly detain one of the attackers, his associates forcibly freed him before fleeing the scene. Tarn Taran SSP Surendra Lamba confirmed that a thorough investigation is underway, and police are currently questioning residents and examining all

angles to identify the perpetrators. Simultaneously, in Zirakpur, five masked youths entered the local BJP office and defaced the premises by throwing ink on the walls and posters. The miscreants reportedly targeted a photograph of senior BJP leader Gurdarshan Saini. Eyewitnesses noted that the group caused a disturbance for several minutes before escaping.

## 4 maternal deaths after caesarean deliveries at Kota hospital; high-level inquiry ordered



New Delhi, May 11: Two more maternal deaths were reported late Sunday night at the Kota Medical College Super Speciality Hospital, taking the total number of casualties linked to post-caesarean delivery complications to

four. The deceased, Pinky Mahawar, had given birth to her child through a caesarean delivery at JK Lone Hospital on May 9. However, she was soon shifted to the Medical College Super Speciality Hospital after developing

symptoms of renal failure. She succumbed to her illness around midnight on Sunday. Prior to this, another woman, Priya Mahawar, had died at JK Lone Hospital late on Saturday night. The Hospital Superintendent stated that there was no medical negligence in the treatment and maintained that the patients were already in a critical condition. Medical College Principal Neellesh Jain, however, said that the exact cause of death was still under investigation. Payal and Jyoti were the other two patients who had earlier died due to renal failure-related complications following caesarean deliveries at the hospital.

## PM Modi's leadership reviving India's Sanatan heritage: Chhattisgarh CM

New Delhi, May 11: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Monday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has given renewed recognition to India's Sanatan traditions and spiritual heritage. He said that major religious and cultural centres across the country are witnessing rapid development and restoration. Sai was speaking at the "Somnath Swabhimani Party" programme held at the Harkeshwar Mahadev Temple complex at Mahadev Ghat in Raipur. During the event, the Chief Minister, along with devotees and public representatives, virtually joined Prime Minister Modi's address and the prayers offered at the Somnath Temple in Gujarat. Notably, in his address, the Prime Minister spoke about the history of the Somnath Temple, the



repeated invasions on the shrine, reconstruction after Independence, and the ongoing efforts to preserve important centres of faith across the country. Referring to the occasion, Chief Minister Sai said the country was

marking 75 years of the reconstruction of the Somnath Temple. He said that despite repeated attacks by invaders over centuries, the faith and traditions associated with the temple could never be destroyed.

Sai recalled that during the first attack on the temple, priests and devotees chose not to abandon the shrine and sacrificed their lives. He said their sacrifice continues to hold an important place in history. The Chief Minister also referred to the role played by India's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in rebuilding the Somnath Temple after Independence. He noted that India's first President, Dr Rajendra Prasad, had attended the inauguration ceremony of the reconstructed temple despite opposition at the time. Praising Prime Minister Modi, Sai said several major pilgrimage centres, including Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, Mahakaleswar Jyotirlinga in Ujjain, and the Somnath Temple in Gujarat, have undergone extensive development in recent years.

## Stop shedding crocodile tears for people of Chandigarh: BJP leader Sanjay Tandon to Congress MP Manish Tewari

New Delhi, May 11: Senior BJP leader Sanjay Tandon on Monday advised Chandigarh Congress MP and former Union Minister Manish Tewari to stop shedding crocodile tears for the people of Chandigarh UT by raising a hollow and insincere demand for 300 units of free electricity and free water for economically weaker families in the city. Reacting to Tewari's appeal to Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria for targeted welfare measures for the urban poor and lower middle class, Tandon said the Congress leader has no moral right to speak about free electricity and water when his own party's government in Himachal Pradesh has shamelessly



gone back on its promises in this regard. Tandon, who is also the co-in-charge of

BJP for Himachal Pradesh, said that when the BJP was in power in Himachal

Pradesh, people were getting 125 units of electricity for free. "In the election, the Congress promised to give 300 units free power but after coming to power, what to talk of giving 300 units free the Congress discontinued giving even 125 units free power to the needy. Therefore, it does not lie in the mouth of Tewari to demand free power and water for Chandigarh's poor now." Tandon asked if it is not hypocritical on the part of Tewari that on the one hand he is demanding free power and water for people in Chandigarh and on the other, his party in nearby Himachal has been unable to ensure regular water supply to people even in cities like Solan. In Solan,

for the past two years, people have been forced to live with water supply only once in a week, Tandon said. Tandon alleged that the Himachal Congress government had lured voters with promises of free electricity during elections, but later withdrew subsidies and increased tariffs, causing immense hardship to common citizens. He said electricity rates had been increased from Rs 4.17 per unit to Rs 5.89 per unit, directly impacting households. Tandon asserted that the BJP remained committed to transparent governance and genuine public welfare, unlike Congress, which he accused of using "populist rhetoric" only during elections.

## Congress intensifies Kerala CM consultations; former KPCC chiefs summoned to Delhi

New Delhi, May 11: As uncertainty continues over the selection of Kerala's next Chief Minister, the Congress high command has summoned all former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) presidents to New Delhi for consultations. Former KPCC presidents VM Sudheeran, Mullappally Ramachandran, K Suthakaram, K Muraleedharan, and MM Hasan have been called to the national capital to participate in discussions regarding the leadership issue. General Secretary KC Venugopal is reportedly enjoying the support of a majority of the 63 Congress MLAs, while Leader of the Opposition in the ongoing Assembly VD Satheesan has strong



backing from public sentiment as well as key UDF allies, including the Indian Union Muslim League. Former state Home Minister Ramesh Chemuthala's camp is also staking claim to the top post, citing his seniority and administrative experience. Reports suggest that the AICC leadership decided to hold extensive discussions with former KPCC presidents follow-

ing the advice of senior Congress leader AK Antony. The high command is also preparing to hold consultations amid growing indications that KC Venugopal's name is gaining momentum for the Chief Minister's post. The Congress leadership reportedly believes it has the responsibility to convince constituent parties and state leaders if it decides to appoint K.

## JJM Scam: Rajasthan's former PHED Minister Mahesh Joshi sent to jail; close aide Sanjay Badaya arrested at Delhi airport



New Delhi, May 11: Another key accused in the multi-crore Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scam, Sanjay Badaya, was arrested at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi in the early hours of Monday. Authorities had issued a lookout notice against Badaya, who is believed to be a close confidant of former PHED Minister Mahesh Joshi. Badaya had reportedly gone abroad to

attend a wedding. He was arrested by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials around 2:00 am after arriving at the Delhi airport from Thailand. Badaya was later brought to Jaipur by the ACB and produced before the Special ACB Court along with former minister Mahesh Joshi, who was arrested by the ACB on May 7. The ACB sought police remand for Badaya following his arrest, while

Joshi was produced before the court for an extension of his police remand by three more days. The court remanded Badaya to three days of ACB custody. However, it rejected the prosecution's plea seeking further police remand for Joshi. The magistrate subsequently sent the former minister to jail under judicial custody. Speaking briefly to the media while being escorted to jail, Joshi said, "I have committed no wrongdoing. I merely approved files presented before me through the due process." On being questioned about the interrogation, he added, "I have nothing to say and nothing to hide." Both Joshi and Badaya have now been arrested for the second time in connection with the over Rs 960-crore scam, this time on corruption charges.

## Speaker Om Birla highlights India-Sri Lanka ties, women-led development during meeting with Lankan delegation

New Delhi, May 11: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday underscored the centuries-old civilisational, cultural, and spiritual ties between India and Sri Lanka, stating that the shared Buddhist heritage of the two nations continues to strengthen bilateral relations and deepen people-to-people engagement. Birla made the remarks during an interaction with a delegation of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus of Sri Lanka at Parliament House in New Delhi. The delegation was led by Saroja Savitri Paulraj. "According to a statement issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the Speaker said regular parliamentary exchanges between India and Sri Lanka had infused "fresh momentum" into ties between the legislatures of the two countries and enhanced mutual understanding. "Referring to his recent meeting with a Sri Lankan parliamentary delegation headed by S. M. Marikkar, Birla expressed satisfac-



tion with the increasing engagement between lawmakers of both nations. "India and Sri Lanka are bound by deep civilisational, cultural, and spiritual ties that have evolved over centuries," Birla said, adding that the common Buddhist heritage remains the bedrock of the friendly relationship shared by the two neighbours. Emphasising the growing role of women in India's democratic and

governance framework, Birla said the country had moved from the idea of "women's development" to "women-led development". "Women are now active participants in every sphere of governance and nation-building — from the electoral process to policy-making and leadership roles," he said, citing the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that development driven by women

creates a more inclusive and sustainable society. The Lok Sabha Speaker also highlighted the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which provides 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, calling it a historic milestone in India's democratic evolution. He further noted that several Indian states had implemented 50 per cent reservation for women in local self-government institutions, leading to the emergence of more than 1.4 million elected women representatives in Panchayats and urban local bodies across the country. Birla also stressed the importance of Self-Help Groups in advancing women's economic empowerment, particularly in rural India, and said initiatives such as the Lakhpati Didi scheme were helping women become financially self-reliant while encouraging entrepreneurship.

# One American tested positive for Hantavirus

Washington, May 11: An American passenger from a hantavirus-hit Dutch cruise ship has tested positive for the virus, and another has mild symptoms, the US Department of Health and Human Services have announced. All 17 American citizens from the MV Hondius cruise ship are currently en route via an airlift to the United States, with the two remaining in the plane's biocontainment units out of an abundance of caution, the department wrote in a post on the social platform X. The airlift will first take passengers to the Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) at the University of Nebraska Medical Center/Nebraska Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska, before transferring the passenger with mild symptoms to a second

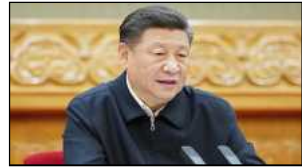


RESPTC at their final destination, it said. "Upon arrival at each facility, each individual will undergo clinical assessment and receive appropriate care and support based on their condition," the department said in the post. As of Saturday, there were eight suspected cases associated with the outbreak and three deaths, it said. The incubation period for hantavirus, from first exposure to symptoms, is estimated at one to eight weeks, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reports Xinhua news agency. The disease is usually spread by rodents but can, in rare cases, move from person to person, and kills more than a third of people infected. Meanwhile, in the United Kingdom, 20 nationals evacuated from the hantavirus-affected cruise ship MV Hondius were isolated

in a northwest England hospital upon their return on Sunday, as authorities stepped up outbreak containment and monitoring. The passengers landed in Manchester earlier in the day before being transferred by bus to Arrow Park Hospital on the Wirral, Merseyside, where they will remain under medical observation for 72 hours. In a joint statement, local National Health Service (NHS) authorities said the group would stay in a "managed setting for clinical assessment and testing." If they remain symptom-free, they will later be allowed to return home and continue self-isolation for a further 42 days. The British government said all passengers and crew members returning from the MV Hondius would undergo a total of 45 days of isolation and monitoring. Follow-up work is also underway for individuals who may have been in contact with confirmed or suspected cases. The emergency measures follow a hantavirus outbreak linked to the MV Hondius, which has resulted in at least eight confirmed or suspected cases and three reported deaths. As part of the broader response to the outbreak, the British government also deployed a specialist military and medical team to Tristan da Cunha, a remote British Overseas Territory in the South Atlantic, after a British national on the island tested positive for hantavirus. According to the British Ministry of Defence, six paratroopers and two military clinicians from 16 Air Assault Brigade parachuted onto the island, while oxygen supplies and medical equipment were air-dropped simultaneously.

# Iran says ready to support Chinese President Xi Jinping's 4-point proposal on ending war with US

Seoul, May 11: Iran is ready to support Chinese President Xi Jinping's four-point proposal on ending the US-Iran war, Abdoireza Rahmani Fazli, Iran's ambassador to China, said on Monday. In a social media post on X, Fazli said that the Islamic Republic's support for the Chinese President's Middle East peace proposal is "aimed at establishing lasting security and shared development in the Persian Gulf region, an issue that was also emphasized during the meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries." The development comes hours after President Xi proposed a four-point plan on ending the conflict in the Middle East, calling Tehran's position "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE" as tensions continued around the Strait of Hormuz. "I have just read the response from Iran's so-called 'Representatives.' I



don't like it — TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE! Thank you for your attention to this matter," Trump said in a post on Truth Social. The proposal has been sent via Pakistan, a mediator between Washington and Tehran as they negotiate a deal on ending the war. In its response, Iran had reportedly insisted that the talks should focus on efforts to end the war and the issue of Tehran's nuclear program should be discussed at later stages of the talks.

# Punjab's daughter Harneek Kaur wins Mayfield ward seat in 2026 London elections



Washington, May 11: Originally hailing from the village of Laroa in the Jalandhar district of Punjab, Harneek Kaur has won the Mayfield ward seat in the 2026 London local elections, emerging as an inspiring face of the Punjabi diaspora in British politics. Harneek's journey to the political corridors of London is being celebrated as a landmark achievement for young Asian and Sikh women.

pledged to reduce crime and strengthen the security of residents, with a particular focus on the safety of women. In addition to safety, Harneek prioritised cleanliness and the environment by raising critical issues regarding the improvement of sanitation systems, the prevention of illegal fly-tipping, and initiatives to make the ward greener and more sustainable. For six months before the polls, she engaged in door-to-door campaigning, listening to the grievances of local families and assuring them of effective solutions while promising to remain accessible after the elections. She also vowed to provide strong youth representation by bringing the voice of the next generation to the Council and creating better opportunities for them.

# Trump rejects Iran's response to new US proposal

Washington, May 11: US President Donald Trump sharply rejected Iran's response to a new US proposal aimed at ending the conflict in the Gulf region, calling Tehran's position "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE" as tensions continued around the Strait of Hormuz. "I have just read the response from Iran's so-called 'Representatives.' I don't like it — TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE! Thank you for your attention to this matter," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.



The remarks come hours after Iran, through Pakistani mediators, sent its response to a US-backed peace framework intended to stabilise the region after weeks of military confrontation and maritime disruptions. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif confirmed that Tehran had conveyed a response but declined to discuss details. "I can't go into more details," he said. Iranian state media said Tehran's reply focused "exclusively on the cessation of hostilities around the region." Other Iranian outlets reported that Tehran demanded an

official end to the war, reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, withdrawal of naval vessels enforcing a US blockade, lifting of sanctions, and an additional 30 days of negotiations. Iran also reportedly proposed that discussions on its nuclear programme be handled separately in future negotiations. Trump later accused Iran of "games with the United States" and warned that "they will be laughing no longer." The Iranian response came after

the Trump administration sent a 14-point proposal last week through mediators. The framework reportedly included demands tied to Tehran's nuclear activities and regional security commitments, media reports said. The diplomatic exchanges unfolded as military tensions continued in and around the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy According to reports, Iran attacked three US naval destroyers on Thursday after accusing them of entering waters over which Tehran claims control. Iran said it used ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and drones and claimed the attacks caused "serious damage." The United States denied the claim. US officials said the destroyers sailed away unharmed. The confrontation followed US strikes on two Iranian-flagged tankers that American officials said were attempting to breach a naval blockade near the Gulf of Oman. The US military later struck targets on Qeshm Island and near Bandar Abbas along Iran's southern coast. Regional tensions also spread beyond Iran's shores. Qatar's defence ministry said Sunday that a commercial cargo vessel travelling from Abu Dhabi was hit by a drone off the coast of Doha, causing a small fire. On Saturday, Rubio and White House Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff met Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani to discuss efforts to end the conflict.

# Myanmar: India Begins UN Peacekeeping Training For 30 Officers In Naypyidaw

New Delhi, May 11: New Delhi-based Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) has commenced a two-week course on United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Operations for 30 Myanmar officers in capital Naypyitaw, the Indian Embassy in Myanmar stated on Monday. This is the 9th United Nations peacekeeping operation course between India and Myanmar and a three-member training team from CUNPK is conducting the course. During the commencement, Ambassador



Abhay Thakur covered India's role in humanitarian missions contributing to global stability. Last July, the 8th training capsule was conducted, building upon the seven successful courses conducted between 2016 and 2019. "Myanmar

Myanmar stands at the confluence of three of India's most important foreign policy priorities - Neighbourhood First, Act East and Indo-Pacific. "This relationship is not merely strategic; it is a testament to our shared destiny and common future," he highlighted. He also mentioned a meticulously designed curriculum which will focus on strengthening Myanmar officers' readiness and understanding in critical areas. According to the Ambassador, the curriculum includes graduated escalation and conflict management, which will equip the peacekeepers with the nuanced skills to de-escalate tensions and manage conflicts effectively in volatile environments. It also teaches roles of engagement and protection of civilians, which reinforces the paramount importance of adhering to international humanitarian law and ensuring the safety and well-being of civilian populations, which is the very essence of peacekeeping. Operational planning within complex peacekeeping environments is also included in the curriculum, which provides practical insights.

# Costa Rica: MoS Margherita Holds Discussions With Key Ministers, Interacts With Indian Community

Washington, May 11: Minister of State for External Affairs, Pratima Margherita held a meeting with Costa Rica's Minister of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications Paula Bogantes Zamora on Monday, India time, with both sides exploring ways to deepen bilateral ties. Following their meeting, Margherita wrote on X: "Met the Minister of Science, Innovation, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica H.E. Paula Bogantes Zamora. There was discussion to explore the many ways India and Costa Rica can deepen their ties. From supporting Indian businesses in Costa Rica, to capacity building and Quick Impact Projects, the conversations reflected a shared commitment to a stronger, more meaningful bilateral relationship." MoS Margherita also met members of the Indian community in the country. "A truly



heartwarming evening with our vibrant Indian family in Costa Rica! Met members of the diplomatic corps, business community, media and proud ITEC alumni.

# UK PM Keir Starmer Rules Out Quitting, Promises Renewed Focus On Reforms

Washington, May 11: Prime Minister Keir Starmer promised to be bolder to turn around Britain's fortunes, making an impassioned plea to both his Labour Party and voters on Monday to stick with him and avoid a leadership contest he said would only bring chaos. Speaking at a community centre in London, Starmer all but admitted he had been too timid in tackling the myriad of problems besetting Britain since he won a large majority in 2024, and said he took responsibility for one of the worst defeats for Labour in last week's elections. Describing the global backdrop of conflicts in Ukraine and Iran as one of the most dangerous "than

at any time in my life", Starmer said he would now offer a "complete break" with the decision-making of the past that led to the "status quo". Instead, he promised to govern with the "hope and urgency" required to improve living standards and produce a "stronger, fairer" Britain to try to crush the challenge posed by the populist Reform UK party on the right, and the Greens from the left before the next national election due in 2029. "I WILL PROVE THEM WRONG" "Our response this time must be different, a complete break. We must make this country stronger and take control of our economic security," he said. "I know that people are frustrated by the state of Britain. Frustrated by politics, and some people are frustrated with me," he said. "I know I have my doubters and I know I need to prove them wrong. And I will." Starmer told an audience of party faithful, who offered him several standing ovations. The applause was a long way from the messaging groups of Labour lawmakers, where talk about removing Starmer has stepped up a gear after the party lost hundreds of seats in elections to councils in England and the parliaments in Scotland and Wales. Catherine West, a little-known former junior minister, broke cover at the weekend to threaten to seek a leadership contest if



Starmer failed to offer radical change, a move which could force a wider leadership race if she can get the backers. She changed tack on Monday, asking Labour lawmakers to buck the idea of setting out a timetable for him to stand down rather than immediately standing her. Starmer has long said he would not leave his job

voluntarily, and his team said the speech was a way of showing the often quietly spoken former lawyer was resolute in delivering not only for his party, but the wider country. "I'm not going to walk away," Starmer said. "I think what we witnessed with the last government was the chaos of constantly changing leaders and it cost this country a huge amount," he said, referring to Conservative governments which saw five different leaders in just over six years. **THREE PLEDGES SO FAR** While acknowledging he had made mistakes, Starmer, 63, defended some of his decisions, saying he was right to make sure Britain was not dragged into the conflict in Iran and had started to make progress in bringing down waiting lists for the public health service and reducing immigration levels. He said he would now go further to put Britain at the heart of Europe, although his one policy on securing closer ties with the European Union was the offer to younger people of a youth mobility scheme to the bloc's member states. Other than that, he said he would try to take British Steel under national ownership and make sure every child would be able to realise their talents by investing in apprenticeships, technical colleges and on special needs education. He promised there would be more policies to come in a King's Speech on Wednesday to open the next session of parliament, but the policy offering on Monday was light and night not yet convince those doubting he has what it takes to carry on. His plea was simple - give me a chance. "I'm not going to shy away from the fact that I've got some doubters, including in my own party, and I'm not going to shy away from the fact that I have to prove them wrong, and I will," he said to cheers. "I also feel a deep sense of personal responsibility to deliver on the mandate we won back in the 2024 general election... That is what I will deliver."

**Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan**

**Awareness Event held at DDAC Rajouri under 100-Day campaign**

RAJOURI, MAY 11: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, a mega awareness event was organised today here at District Deaddiction Centre (DDAC) as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) 100-Day Campaign. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from recovered individuals, officials, inmates and members of the Civil Society, besides officials from the stakeholder departments. A series of awareness, motivational and recreational activities were organised at the event to educate and encourage participants towards leading a drug-free life. The event commenced with a pledge ceremony wherein



all participants took a solemn pledge and reaffirmed their commitment towards building a drug-free society. A guided yoga session was also conducted to promote physical fitness, mental calmness and overall well-being among the participants. HoD Psychiatrist GMC & AH, DASP Headquarters, and SHO delivered insightful

lectures on measures to prevent drug menace. The speakers highlighted the psychological impact of substance abuse, social and legal consequences, preventive measures and rehabilitation support mechanisms being implemented under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. The participants also shared their feedback regarding the

positive impact of counselling sessions, awareness activities and rehabilitation support on their behaviour and lifestyle. Recovered individuals also delivered motivational addresses, inspiring the participants with their stories of transformation, resilience and hope for a better future. To encourage emotional expression and positive engagement, a musical programme was organised featuring playing of different musical instruments. A special 'Wall of Hope' display was also inaugurated by the parents of patients, marking an emotional and encouraging moment at the programme. The display featured messages of hope, recovery and positivity along with DIY items prepared by inmates, showing

their creativity, efforts and rehabilitation journey. The event also featured several fun and recreational activities including Book Balance, Tug of War and Spoon Balancing competitions aimed at improving focus, coordination, teamwork and active participation among the participants. An awareness session on self-employment schemes and livelihood opportunities was conducted by the Deputy Director, District Employment & Counselling Centre, who informed the participants about various skill development programmes, government-sponsored schemes and loan facilities aimed at promoting rehabilitation through economic independence.

UDHAMPUR, MAY 11: Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting with officers and representatives of the transport unions to review and strengthen the traffic management system in Udhampur town. Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore; Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh and other officers besides representatives from transport unions participated in the meeting. Detailed discussions were held on key traffic-related issues, including overloading of vehicles, establishment of temporary parking spaces, maintenance of

internal roads in and around Udhampur town and improvement of traffic management practices. The DC asked the Motor Vehicles Authority and Transport Department to take stern action against violators and emphasized increasing penalties for offences such as overloading, riding without helmets and overspeeding. The ARTO was directed to identify designated stopping points for vehicles, while the Executive Engineer, PHE was instructed to repair leaking water pipes in Udhampur town. The concerned departments were also directed to repair potholes on all roads falling within Municipal Council limits.

**DC reviews Mobile Connectivity Expansion to remote areas**

KISHTWAR, MAY 11: Deputy Commissioner Kishwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat, New DC Office to review and discuss the expansion of mobile connectivity (BSNL) to remote and underserved areas of the district. Chief General Manager (CGM), BSNL J&K Circle Kash Kumar and officials of other departments attended the meeting. The meeting focused on bridging the communication gap in geographically challenging areas of the district with special



emphasis on strengthening mobile network infrastructure in far-flung regions and important pilgrimage routes. The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the urgent requirement for reliable mobile connectivity in the high-priority areas, including the pilgrimage routes of Machail Mata Road and

Mindal Mata Road as well as remote sub-divisions such as Marwah and Chhatroo. Responding to the issues raised by the district administration, CGM BSNL J&K, Kash Kumar said that BSNL is in process of expanding and strengthening its network footprint in Kishwar district.

**Udhampur: Mahila Nigrani Samities imparted training under NMBA**

UDHAMPUR, MAY 11: A One-day training cum awareness Programme under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was organised today for members of the Mahila Nigrani Samities here by the Social Welfare Department in coordination with the District Administration and NRLM Udhampur. Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa attended the programme as the chief guest while District Social Welfare Officer Kanika Gupta presided over the event. The programme aimed to sensitise the members about their vital role in preventing drug abuse and strengthening community



vigilance at the grassroots level. Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised that the Samiti members are the eyes and ears of society. He urged them to remain vigilant and promptly share valuable inputs with the authorities regarding any incidents or

demand reduction is being addressed through sustained awareness campaigns and active community participation, while supply reduction is being ensured through close coordination with the Police Department and timely reporting of suspicious activities by the public. Officers from the Social Welfare and Health Departments sensitised the participants to the early signs and symptoms of drug abuse including sudden behavioural changes, isolation, mood swings, decline in academic or work performance and unexplained financial needs.

The participants were also educated about counselling services, motivation for detoxification, rehabilitation facilities and the importance of early intervention to help affected individuals recover and reintegrate into society. Representatives from the Social Welfare Department, Police Department and NRLM also shared valuable insights regarding the support mechanisms available for drug-affected individuals, including counselling, skill development, livelihood assistance and rehabilitation support for their effective reintegration into mainstream society.

**BJP holds public meeting in Christian Colony, residents raise civic issues**

JAMMU, MAY 11: A public meeting was organised in Ward No. 7, Christian Colony of the Jammu East Constituency by senior Christian BJP leader and Shakti Kendra 61, 62 and 71 Pramukh Amit George Sotra to discuss various developmental and civic issues concerning the locality. The meeting witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of local residents, who gathered to highlight the problems being faced in the area. The programme was attended by Yudhvir Sethi as the chief guest, who interacted with the residents and patiently listened to their grievances. During the meeting, people raised several important civic issues, including poor road conditions,



sanitation problems, irregular drinking water supply, inadequate street lighting, drainage concerns and other essential public amenities affecting daily life in the locality.

Addressing the gathering, Yudhvir Sethi assured the residents that all the issues highlighted during the interaction would be taken up with the concerned departments on priority for early redressal. He said

the Bharatiya Janata Party remains committed to public welfare and the overall development of every ward and locality. He also emphasized that the government is continuously working to strengthen infrastructure and improve civic facilities for the people. Speaking on the occasion, Amit George Sotra said such public meetings play an important role in understanding ground-level problems and ensuring that people's voices reach the concerned authorities. He reiterated his commitment towards the welfare, development and upliftment of Ward No. 7 and its residents. The residents appreciated the initiative and expressed hope that the long-pending issues of the ward would soon be resolved.

**MVD Ramban conducts Safety Audit of School Transport, Enforcement Drive in Banihal**

RAMBAN, MAY 11: Acting on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alys Khan, the Enforcement Squad of the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Ramban today conducted a safety audit and inspection of school transport vehicles in various schools of Banihal to ensure the highest standards of student safety. The drive was carried out in compliance with the guidelines issued by the Transport Department, Jammu & Kashmir under the directions of the Secretary Transport and Transport Commissioner. The enforcement team,



under the supervision of ARTO Varun Bhasin, physically examined 14 school vehicles to verify the installation and functionality of mandatory safety equipment, including CCTV cameras, Vehicle Location Tracking Devices (VLLD), Speed

Limiting Devices (SLD), and emergency panic buttons, as mandated under the Supreme Court Committee guidelines. The enforcement team also conducted a detailed scrutiny of vehicle documents and drivers' licences.

**Udyam Jagriti Camps held across educational institutions in Ramban**

Youth sensitised to entrepreneurship support under Mission YUVA



RAMBAN, MAY 11: As part of the ongoing efforts to promote Mission YUVA among youth, the District Administration Ramban today organized a series of Udyam Jagriti Camps across the educational institutions of the district. The awareness camps were conducted by the teams of the Business Help Desk (BHD) and Skill and

Business Development Unit (SBDU), who interacted with students to sensitise them to entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities offered by the government under Mission YUVA. The institutions covered during the campaign included Government Polytechnic College Chanderkote; Government

Degree College Gool; ITI Ramban and Government Higher Secondary School, Ramban. During the sessions, the students were encouraged to develop an entrepreneurial mindset to become job creators instead of job seekers by leveraging the self-employment and skill development schemes being implemented by the government. The resource persons provided detailed information regarding the components of Mission YUVA, including certified e-courses, foreign language training programmes, Skill Learning Hub, capacity building initiatives, ONDC marketplace integration, scholarship schemes, government-sponsored entrepreneurship programmes, business helpline services.

**Somnath Amrut Mahotsav celebrated with religious fervour across Ramban Kalash Yatra, Satsang, Rudrabhishek & Live Screening of PM's Address Mark Day-Long Spiritual Events**

RAMBAN, MAY 11: The District Ramban today witnessed an atmosphere of devotion, spirituality and cultural vibrancy as the Somnath Amrut Mahotsav was celebrated with great religious fervour across various temples, drawing enthusiastic participation from devotees, students, women and members of the local community. District Administration Ramban led by Deputy Commissioner coordinated all the necessary arrangements for devotees to celebrate Somnath Amrut Mahotsav in the district. The celebrations commenced with a Kalash Yatra from the sacred banks of the Chenab River. Devotees, carrying beautifully decorated traditional earthen pots, proceeded in



a spiritually charged procession towards Shiv Mandir Maitra amidst the chanting of bhajans, Vedic hymns and religious slogans. Simultaneously, Raghubath Mandir Ramban emerged as the focal point of devotional activities where a soulful Satsang and Puja Archana

were organised. Devotees from different parts of the district gathered to offer prayers and seek divine blessings. Religious scholars and local spiritual leaders addressed the gathering and highlighted the historical, cultural and religious significance of the Somnath Temple, one of India's most revered Jyotirlingas and a symbol of the nation's rich spiritual heritage. A major attraction of the celebrations was the live screening of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address from the historic Somnath Temple in Gujarat. The programme was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban Varunjeet Singh Charak, Tehsildar

Headquarters Reejuta Mahajan, besides other officers and prominent citizens. Students from local educational institutions also participated actively, adding youthful enthusiasm to the event. The celebrations continued with Rudrabhishek and several other spiritual and cultural programmes at Shiv Mandir Suikhad Govindpura and other temples across the district. Locals termed the event a meaningful initiative to preserve spiritual traditions and strengthen cultural values among the younger generation. The day-long celebrations concluded with the distribution of Prasad and collective prayers for peace, prosperity and harmony in the region.



## Lieutenant Governor Inaugurates National Youth Festival- Aarohan 2026 in Srinagar

**SRINAGAR, MAY 11:** The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today inaugurated National Youth Festival- Aarohan 2026 in Srinagar. The Lieutenant Governor said this event declares a new vision of 'Rise, Shine, and Conquer' to our youth which encapsulates a complete philosophy that lights the path to the future, a promise, and a bold challenge to build a developed India @2047. "National Youth Festival is also a proclamation that the time for youth has arrived. Through Youth Festival's 'Young Leaders Dialogue,' we are laying the very foundation and the framework on which the next chapter of India's glorious heritage will stand tall," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor observed that history was never made by those who waited for permission to be extraordinary. He urged the youth participating in 'Viksit J&K Young Leaders Dialogue', 'Hackathon' and 'Cultural Event' to rise up and commit to building a developed India that future generations will take pride in. He said governance can't thrive without the voice of its youth and inclusive



governance means ensuring young people have a real stake in the work happening across every key sector. "Every young boy and girl has incredible talent. They just need opportunities and faith in themselves. I want India's youth to create their own paths instead of treating well-worn trails, because innovation and invention spring from uncharted routes. What India needs is youth brave enough to shatter pre-made molds," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor also stated that culture is our identity and it is the vibrant proof of our existence, revealing who we are and what dreams and aspirations drive us.

He said when young people express themselves through music, art, literature, dance, theater, sports, and crafts, they are channeling the soul of India itself. The Lieutenant Governor said that the youth must embrace their uniqueness instead of copying others and realise their full potential. "The world doesn't need another copy of someone who already exists. It craves no duplicate. It needs unique youth like you, individuals with one-of-a-kind personalities who don't just shine for themselves, but light the way for those who come after," the Lieutenant Governor said. He said victory isn't about dominating others but

about conquering apathy, overcoming inequality, and defeating despair. "Our youth must remember that humanity's greatest triumphs weren't won on battlefields. The biggest victories emerged from classrooms and labs, achieved by young trailblazers who refused to accept the world as they found it and transformed it through their resolve and grit. We must triumph over darkness. We must conquer the fear of bold new experiments. And we must resolve to build a strong, empathetic, and developed India," the Lieutenant Governor said. Shri Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services and Sports; Shri Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Youth Services and Sports; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Dr GV Sundeep Chakravarty, SSP Srinagar; Amuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services and Sports; Young leaders from various parts of the country, senior officials and youth in large number were present.

## Prompt redress of public grievances receiving govt's prime focus: Javid Dar

**SRINAGAR, MAY 11:** The prime focus of present dispensation is to ensure prompt redress of public grievances through a responsive and people-centric governance. Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, stated this during his exclusive interaction with scores of public delegations who called on him today from various parts of Kashmir Division at the Civil Secretariat here. He took stock their grievances and developmental concerns. The delegations apprised the Minister of several issues pertaining to repair and upgradation of roads and streets, transfer-related matters, adequate irrigation water supply and other developmental requirements concerning their respective areas. During the interaction, the Minister assured the delegations that all their genuine issues would be



addressed in a time-bound and through close coordination with the concerned departments. Javid Dar reiterated that public grievance redress remains a prime focus of the government. He emphasized that sustained public outreach and direct interaction are essential for ensuring transparent, accountable and efficient governance. He stated that the Omar Abdullah government is working with dedication to strengthen the basic infrastructure, enhance service delivery mechanisms and ensure equitable development across Jammu and Kashmir. The Minister directed the concerned officers to take immediate cognizance of the issues raised and initiate necessary measures for their early resolution.

## DC Srinagar reviews progress of Revenue record digitisation



**SRINAGAR, MAY 11:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a review meeting senior Revenue Officers at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess tehsil-wise progress on key revenue matters, with specific focus on the digitisation of revenue records in the district. The meeting was attended by Additional

Deputy Commissioner, Mir Intiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, SDM West Irfan Bahadur, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gultzar, all Tehsildars and other concerned. At the outset, the DC undertook a detailed assessment of the ongoing digitisation process across all Tehsils and directed

Officers to expedite the remaining digitisation activities to ensure 100 percent completion of the process by end of this month. While reviewing the progress of digitisation of Revenue records in the district, the DC was informed that over 75 percent of Revenue records have been digitised so far across Srinagar district, while the work on the remaining records is progressing at a fast pace. The DC stressed that digitisation of Revenue records is a vital governance reform aimed at ensuring transparency, efficiency and citizen-centric service delivery, besides facilitating easy access to land-related information.

He instructed the officers to maintain close coordination and ensure accuracy in the digitised records to avoid discrepancies and inconvenience to the public.

## Deputy Chief Minister conducts extensive tour of Nowshera constituency

Stresses on quality, timely completion of ongoing development projects

**RAJOURI, MAY 11:** Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today conducted an extensive tour of the Nowshera constituency in Rajouri district to assess the progress of various ongoing developmental projects and review public service delivery across key sectors. The Deputy Chief Minister visited the Sub-District Hospital Sunderbani, where he inspected the healthcare facilities, patient care services and overall functioning of the hospital. He directed the concerned officers to ensure efficient healthcare delivery, adequate medical facilities and prompt public service for the people. He also inspected the ongoing works at the PWD (R&B) Guest House Kangri and emphasized the need for timely completion of the project while maintaining high quality standards. At Siot Mohr, the Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the progress on the Siot-Kalakote PMGSY Road project. Stressing the



importance of improved road connectivity, he directed the executing agencies to expedite the work for the convenience of the local population. The Deputy Chief Minister, later, visited the under-construction MCH Hospital at Lamberi and assessed the pace of work on the project. Reviewing the ongoing developmental works on Dhera Road, he reiterated the importance of quality execution and timely completion to enhance connectivity and public convenience. During his

visit to Bagnoti Nallah Bridge, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction works. He directed the officers to expedite the project while ensuring durability and adherence to safety standards. He also visited the I&FC Guest House Rajal and inspected the developmental works being carried out there. He stressed for efficient execution and improvement of infrastructure facilities for greater public benefit. At the PWD (R&B) Guest House Nowshera, the

Deputy Chief Minister reviewed several ongoing developmental initiatives in the constituency. Interacting with the officers, he reiterated the government's commitment towards timely implementation of public welfare and infrastructure projects. The Deputy Chief Minister further visited the Sports Stadium Nowshera and inspected the ongoing developmental works at the stadium. "The government is focused on creation of sports infrastructure and develop better facilities to

promote youth engagement and nurture sporting talent in all areas," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister also inspected the facilities and functioning at Sub-District Hospital Nowshera. He directed the authorities to ensure improved patient care, adequate medical infrastructure and better healthcare services for the public. Later, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the bridge project at Masiti Mhalla Norial and reviewed the ongoing construction works. He stressed the need for timely completion of the bridge to improve connectivity and facilitate smooth movement for local residents. Senior officers accompanying the Deputy Chief Minister during the tour included the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers of various engineering wings, Block Medical Officers (BMOs) and other concerned officials.

## CS reviews Census-2027 preparedness, emphasizes public participation in Self-Enumeration from May 17

**SRINAGAR, MAY 11:** Chief Secretary, Gul Dullao today chaired the 3rd meeting of the UT Level Census Coordination Committee here to review the preparedness for the initial phase of Self-Enumeration and House Listing activities for Census 2027 across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Secretary took this occasion to emphasize on the need for conducting vigorous and comprehensive training programmes for both Enumerators and Supervisors to ensure the highest standards of accuracy and reliability in data capturing during the Census process. He underscored that well-trained

field functionaries would be key to maintaining the integrity and credibility of the entire enumeration exercise.

He further directed that the formation and demarcation of House Listing Blocks (HLBs) be completed well before the commencement of enumeration so that the process remains seamless, exhaustive and free from any lacunae. He stressed upon close monitoring of the progress at district and charge levels to avoid delays and ensure proper ground preparedness.

The Chief Secretary also called for launching effective and coordinated promotional campaigns involving different departments and stakeholders on



designated thematic days to encourage citizens to voluntarily participate in the Self-Enumeration process. He observed that active public participation and awareness would play a crucial role in making the Census exercise successful and inclusive.

The Chief Secretary reviewed district-wise preparedness and stressed upon all Deputy Commissioners and con-

cerned officers to ensure seamless coordination, timely completion of preparatory activities and extensive public outreach for achieving maximum participation in Self-Enumeration. He emphasized the importance of regular monitoring at district and charge levels to ensure smooth conduct of the House Listing phase. During the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary,

to ensure complete coverage. During the meeting, Director, Census Operations J&K and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, gave a detailed presentation outlining the progress achieved in training of field functionaries, formation of House Listing Blocks (HLBs), appointment of enumerators and supervisors, publicity plans, administrative preparations and fund utilization for the upcoming Census operations. The meeting was informed that a total of 29 batches for training of Field Trainers had been created across all districts and the training process had substantially been completed by May 10, 2026. Training batches

for Enumerators and Supervisors have also been constituted in 17 districts, while training programmes have already commenced in 12 districts. The Director further informed that all districts and Municipal Corporations have identified the required field staff and the process of appointment and registration on the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) portal is underway. It was further informed that the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India (ORGI) has approved deployment of 27,784 field functionaries for the UT, including 23,774 Enumerators and 4,014 Supervisors, excluding

reserve staff. Moreover QR-coded appointment letters and identity cards for registered field staff will be generated through the CMMS portal and distributed along with kit items after completion of trainings here. Regarding House Listing Block formation, the meeting was apprised that more than 24,000 HLBs have been created across Jammu and Kashmir. Out of these, more than half have already been geo-tagged and demarcated. The meeting was apprised that certain districts have sought updation and correction in administrative units, following which related issues have been taken up with ORGI for early resolution.

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**E-Mail: editor.northinnews@gmail.com**

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