

North in News

E-mail: ninnorthinnews@gmail.com
 editor.northinnews@gmail.com

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Lieutenant Governor Joined Drug-Free J&K Campaign Padyatra in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today joined the Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir campaign in Baramulla, engaging with citizens and participating in a Padyatra. The Lieutenant Governor also announced the launch of two innovative pillars under the campaign for the next 69 days - the Community Immunization Program against drugs and the Family Fortress Initiative. Speaking on the occasion the Lieutenant Governor said that just as we have taught communities to vaccinate against bacteria or viruses, we will

Lieutenant Governor announced the launch of two innovative pillars under the campaign for the next 69 days- Community Immunization Program against drugs and the Family Fortress Initiative



partner with religious leaders and social groups to create Community Immunization initiative against drugs in 5-10 high-risk hotspot areas per district.

"I urge schools, mosques, temples, gurdwaras, and NGOs to dedicate one hour weekly to strengthen this initiative through awareness, will deliver real results, acting like an early warning system, monitoring hotspots while building them into fully drug-free zones. The second pillar is the Family Fortress Initiative, which will rely on the strong family and community bonds for the ultimate shield against drug addiction. Over the next 69 days, every school, college, and place of worship in Jammu Kashmir should host a

(Contd on Pg 2)

Himanta Takes Oath As Assam CM For Second Successive Term, 4 MLAs Sworn In As Ministers



GUWAHATI, MAY 12: Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in as the chief minister of Assam for the second consecutive term on Tuesday. Four MLAs - the BJP's Rameswar Teli and

Ajanta Neog, AGP's Atul Bora, Charan Boro of BPP-also took oath as ministers. Governor Lakhman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office to Sarma and the four legisla-

tors at a grand ceremony held at the Veterinary Ground in Kharanpara area in Guwahati. The 57-year-old is the first non-Congress leader in the state

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Nursing Personnel Exemplify Highest Standards Of Service: President Murmu



NEW DELHI, MAY 12: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards for 2026 on 15

nursing professionals in recognition of their exemplary service and contribution to strengthening public healthcare delivery. "Nursing personnel exem-

plify the highest standards of service and play a crucial role in delivering quality healthcare, often in the most challenging circumstances. I commend all the awardees for their inspiring devotion to duty and their tireless efforts in upholding the highest standards of patient care," the president said on the occasion. A total of 15 nurses from diverse regions and healthcare settings were honoured for their unwavering dedication to strengthening public health

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Amid Cyber Fraud Concerns, Census 2027 Adds QR Code Verification For Door-To-Door Visits

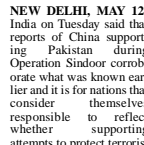


NEW DELHI, MAY 12: Amid a rise in cyber fraud cases involving impersonation and fake government officials, authorities have implemented a QR code-based verification mechanism for enumerators and supervisors visiting households for Census 2027 in

the capital. This move aims to make the door-to-door enumeration in Municipal Corporation of Delhi areas, beginning May 16, more secure and effective. Officials of the Office of the Registrar General and Census told agency that all

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It's For Responsible Nations To Reflect: India On China Supporting Pak During Operation Sindoor



NEW DELHI, MAY 12: India on Tuesday said that reports of China supporting Pakistan during Operation Sindoor corroborate what was known earlier and it is for nations that consider themselves responsible to reflect whether supporting attempts to protect terrorist infrastructure affects their

reputation and standing," he said. Last week, China, for the first time, confirmed that it provided on-site technical support to Pakistan during the four-day conflict with India, according to Chinese official media reports. China's state broadcaster CCTV on Thursday aired an interview with Zhang

out by India in May 2025 to avenge the Pahalgam terror attacks. "We have seen these reports that corroborate what was known earlier. Operation Sindoor was a precise, targeted and calibrated response to the terrorist attacks in Pahalgam, aimed at destroying state-sponsored

terrorist infrastructure operating out of Pakistan and at its best," Jaiswal said at the press briefing. "It is for nations who consider themselves responsible to reflect whether supporting attempts to protect terrorist infrastructure affects their reputation and standing," he said. Last week, China, for the first time, confirmed that it provided on-site technical support to Pakistan during the four-day conflict with India, according to Chinese official media reports. China's state broadcaster CCTV on Thursday aired an interview with Zhang

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BRIEF NEWS

Srinagar Police Attaches Drug Peddler's Property Worth Rs.1.2 Crore

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: In a major crackdown under the ongoing Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, Srinagar Police on Monday attached a residential house and land worth nearly ₹1.2 crore belonging to an alleged drug peddler in the Gasoo Hazratbal area of Srinagar. Officials said the attached property includes a double-storied residential house along with land owned by Maqsood Hussain Khan, son of Abdul Majeed Khan, a resident of Bandy Lane Hazratbal and presently residing at Gasoo

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Chinar Corps Honours Naib Subedar Who Died In Line Of Duty

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: The Army on Tuesday honoured the supreme sacrifice of Naib Subedar Hira Bahadur Pandey, who died while on operational duty in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district. While the Army Srinagar-based Chinar Corps did not specify the exact circumstances behind the incident, sources said the jawan died after an accidental fall during a night patrol in the Rafiabad area of the district. In a post on X, the Chinar Corps said his courage and dedication will forever inspire them. "Chinar Corps honours the supreme sacrifice of Braveheart Naib Subedar Hira

(Contd on Pg 2)

Army Foils Infiltration Bid Along LoC In Poonch, Intruder Killed

POONCH/JAMMU, MAY 12: Indian Army on Tuesday foiled an infiltration bid by terrorists along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and eliminated an intruder, officials said. The incident took place along the LoC in the Krishna Ghati forward area when alert troops detected a group of infiltrating terrorists from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) inside Indian territory and challenged them, triggering a gun battle, they said.

"Acting on persistent surveillance, a suspicious movement was detected approximately 300 metres inside own territory in the general area of Krishna Ghati Sector, Poonch, along the LoC at around 4 pm today," the White Knight Corps said on X. White Knight Corps troops swiftly responded and foiled the infiltration bid, ensuring no breach of the LoC, the Army said, adding that one intruder has been neutralised. The

(Contd on Pg 2)

CS reviews implementation of PM-JAY SEHAT in J&K

Emphasizes on efficient healthcare delivery and long-term financial sustainability of the scheme

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired the Governing Council Meeting of the State Health Agency (SHA), during which a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and AB PM-JAY SEHAT scheme across Jammu and Kashmir was undertaken. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner, Secretary, Health and Medical Education



Department, Commissioner, Secretary, Planning, Information Technology; Director, SKIMS; Principal, Government Medical College, Srinagar/Jammu besides other

(Contd on Pg 2)

HC Slams 'Forum Shopping', Rejects Bail to Shopian Man in Hizb Terror Conspiracy Case

JAMMU, MAY 12 (JNF): In a significant ruling in a terror conspiracy case, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu has dismissed the bail appeal of Syed Irfan Ahmad of Nazneenpora, Keegam, Shopian, who is facing trial in a Hizb-ul-Mujahideen-linked case involving allegations of waging war against India, terror funding, arms and ammunition procurement and facilitating movement of militants. A Division Bench comprising Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice

Court says UAPA bail rule is severely restrictive; accused alleged to be conduit in HM-linked conspiracy involving funds, arms and safe passage of militants

Shahzad Azeem upheld the order of the Special Judge NIA Cases, Jammu, dated April 22, 2025, by which the appellant's bail plea had been rejected. The appellant, arrested as A-6, is facing trial along with 10 co-accused in a Hizb-ul-

(Contd on Pg 2)

India Stocked With Two Months Of Fuel Supply, But OMC Losses Could Hit Rs 1 Lakh Cr: Puri



NEW DELHI, MAY 12: With two months of fuel supplies, India faces no supply concerns despite disruptions to global energy flows, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said, while warning that state-run fuel retailers face losses of as much as Rs 1 lakh crore in a single quarter if elevated crude prices persist and retail fuel prices remain unchanged. He said that at some stage an assessment needs to be made on how long retailers can sustain losses from selling petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG below cost, but refused to speculate if rates would be raised anytime soon. "We have no supply-side problems," the minister said at CII's Annual Business Summit here,

adding that India began the crisis with "more than enough" crude oil and LPG inventories and had since ramped up domestic LPG production to 54,000 tonnes per day from about 36,000 tonnes previously. At the same time, the minister acknowledged growing fiscal stress from keeping retail fuel prices unchanged. "My oil companies are losing Rs 1,000 crore a day," he said, adding that cumulative under-recoveries had climbed to nearly Rs 1.98 lakh crore and that a single quarter of losses of Rs 1 lakh crore could wipe out the sector's annual profits. Since the war broke out in West Asia 10 weeks ago, state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) have ensured uninterrupted supplies of petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG at rates that are way below the cost, unlike many global energy systems that imposed rationing or passed through steep price increases. This has resulted in the three OMCs - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) - running

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14 Lakh Kanals Of State Land Encroached In Jammu, 3 Lakh In Kashmir: Official Data

JAMMU, MAY 12: More than 17 lakh kanals of state land have been encroached by the land mafia across Jammu and Kashmir, with Jammu division accounting for over 14 lakh kanals, more than three times the figure recorded in Kashmir division, while Rajouri district topped the list among all 20 districts, official data said. According to the official figures, a total of around 17,27,247 kanals of encroached state land entries were expunged from revenue records across Jammu and Kashmir. Of the total, Jammu division accounted for 14,00,051 kanals and five marlas of encroached state land, whose entries

(Contd on Pg 2)

Union Mines Ministry Launches 2nd Tranche Of E-Auction For 12 Limestone Blocks In J&K

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: The Union Ministry of Mines on Tuesday launched the second tranche of e-auction for 12 limestone blocks in Jammu and Kashmir, marking another major milestone towards transparent, sustainable and investor-friendly mineral development in the Union Territory. Ministry of Mines Secretary Piyush Goyal officially launched the tranche at a function here. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the transformative reforms and amendments undertaken by the ministry to simplify processes, strengthen transparency and improve ease of doing business in the mining sector. He emphasised that J-K possesses immense mineral potential and the auction and operationalisation of



these blocks will significantly contribute towards the vision of Viksit Bharat, Viksit Jammu and Kashmir, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat through economic growth, employment generation and industrial development. "A total of 12 limestone blocks, spread across the districts of Anantnag, Rajouri and Poonch have been put up for auction under Tranche II. These

include both newly identified blocks and blocks being re-auctioned under a second attempt, in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (as amended)," the PIB said in a handout. It said the blocks are categorised under G3 and G4 stages of the United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) and are expected to attract

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FROM PAGE ONE

Lieutenant...

weekly family dialogue on drugs... these dialogues should be open, honest paired with local campaign audits to spot and fix gaps...

Himanta Takes...

to assume charge as the Chief Minister... The four legislators who will take oath along with Sarma are BJP's Ajanta Neog and Rameshwar Tei...

Nursing...

delivered... the awarding ceremony to the welfare of the community... The award carries a Certificate of Merit, a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a medal...

Amid Cyber...

enumerators and supervisors (ES&S) deployed for the exercise will carry an appointment letter and an identity card issued by the charge officer... Officials said recent 'digital arrest' scams and fake census-related messages circulated online have heightened concerns over impersonation-based fraud...

expected to make the census process smoother and more reliable, while helping households navigate the exercise with greater confidence when concerns over digital fraud remain high...

It's For...

Hong, an engineer from the Aviation Industry Corporation of China's (AVIC) Chengdu Aircraft Design and Research Institute, a key developer of China's advanced fighter aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicle design...

Army...

troops continue to dominate the area and maintain a high state of operational readiness across the sector, they said. Sources said the intruder, suspected to be linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, was trying to infiltrate into this side of the border near Bicho Post in Mankote...

CS reviews...

concerned officers. During the meeting, Chief Executive Officer, State Health Agency, Ananth Divivedi, delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the achievements registered under the scheme, its financial performance during the current policy period and the proposed modalities for ensuring its continued and sustainable implementation across the Union Territory in the months to come...

The presentation revealed that during the current Policy Period spanning from April 17, 2025 to April 16, 2026, more than 4.08 lakh pre-authorizations were approved under the scheme involving a financial outgo of nearly Rs 775 Cr. It was informed that over 3.86 lakh claims were submitted under the programme, reflecting the extensive utilization of healthcare services by beneficiaries across Jammu and Kashmir...

The Governing Council was also apprised that public sector hospitals continue to play a dominant role in implementation of the scheme... The presentation further outlined comparative projections between Insurance Mode and Trust Mode for implementation of the scheme...

The meeting concluded with detailed deliberations on future strategies aimed at preserving the gains achieved under PM-JAY SEHAT while making the scheme financially sustainable, more efficient and increasingly responsive to the healthcare needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir...

HC Slams...

Mujahideen terror conspiracy case. He has been charge-sheeted for offences under Sections 120-B, 121, 121-A and 122 IPC, besides Sections 17, 18, 19, 38, 39 and 40 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. As per the prosecution case, the accused persons were allegedly part of a larger conspiracy to wage war against India by procuring arms and ammunition, raising and transferring funds, and extending support to the banned terror outfit Hizbul-Mujahideen...

Appearing for the appellant, Mr. Molvi Aijaz Ahmad, Advocate, argued that there was no direct or indirect incriminating evidence against his client and that several witnesses examined so far had not supported the prosecution case against him. It was also submitted that the appellant had a clean past record, was a Government servant and a PhD scholar...

stage, the Court is not required to conduct a mini-trial or deeply evaluate the evidence. The Court further held that the appellant's plea of delayed trial cannot automatically lead to bail in a case involving grave terror allegations. Referring to Supreme Court precedents including Gurwinder Singh v. State of Punjab, NIA v. Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, and Union of India v. Barkatullah, the Bench reiterated that in UAPA matters, the conventional principle of 'bail is the rule, jail is the exception' does not apply with the same force...

Dismissing the appeal, the High Court concluded that the material on record prima facie showed the appellant's alleged role as an intermediary in terrorist activities and that the allegations could be examined by piecing together multiple links such as phone records, money trail, meetings, co-conspirator material and witnesses yet to be examined.

India Stocked...

record-high under-recovery (the difference between benchmark international cost and retail selling price). Puri said the combined increase in petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG is about Rs 1.98 lakh crore for the current quarter, while the actual loss is about Rs 1 lakh crore. The losses in one quarter, he said, are enough to wipe out profits that oil companies earn in the entire year...

Despite a 50 per cent surge in input crude oil prices, petrol and diesel continue to be priced at a two-year-old rate of Rs 94.77 a litre and Rs 87.67 per litre, respectively. Domestic cooking gas LPG prices were raised in March by Rs 60 per cylinder, but they are still way lower than the actual cost. The oil companies are currently losing Rs 14 per litre on petrol, Rs 42 a litre on diesel and Rs 674 a litre on cooking gas LPG...

The oil companies are currently losing Rs 14 per litre on petrol, Rs 42 a litre on diesel and Rs 674 a litre on cooking gas LPG. The experience since February 2025 means you have to rethink everything," he pointed out. Modi had on Sunday urged for fuel conservation and lower imports as surging global energy prices pressure India's foreign exchange reserves, while also calling for restraint in going rapidly expanding gas pipeline infrastructure and LNG availability...

"We have no shortage of pipe gas," he said. "It is cleaner, cheaper and helps us scale up the energy transition." The government is also reassessing strategic energy storage policies after the current crisis exposed vulnerabilities in global supply chains, the minister said, adding that India would need to build larger reserves over time. The experience since February 2025 means you have to rethink everything," he pointed out. Modi had on Sunday urged for fuel conservation and lower imports as surging global energy prices pressure India's foreign exchange reserves, while also calling for restraint in going rapidly expanding gas pipeline infrastructure and LNG availability...

The minister said India has done well in managing the situation, considering the large magnitude of dependence on Gulf supplies that it had in the pre-war era. These had been quickly replaced with sourcing from alternate places without any disruption or droughts...

"We have done very well, and I have no reason to believe that we will not do well in the future. But, we should (curtail) certain activities" that can help reduce consumption, he said. Puri said India had turned the crisis "into an opportunity", ensuring uninterrupted fuel supplies even as geopolitical tensions raised concerns over the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 20 per cent of global energy supplies transit. India, the world's third-largest oil consumer, is also the third-largest refiner and fourth-largest exporter of refined products, he said, pushing back against what he described as "false narratives" around shortages, import disruptions and possible fuel rationing...

The minister said around 60 per cent of India's LPG imports had previously moved through the Strait of Hormuz, while 88 per cent of the country's crude oil requirement is imported. He said the government and state-owned oil companies had been conducting continuous "war-room" reviews of supply and refining operations, with officials monitoring the situation "hour by hour". India currently holds around 60 days of crude oil supplies, 60 days of LNG inventories and 45 days of LPG reserves, he said, adding that there was "absolutely no cause for anxiety".

Fuel demand has remained resilient during the crisis, with petrol consumption rising around 6 per cent, while LPG demand has moderated to about 75,000 tonnes per day from nearly 90,000 tonnes earlier, partly because of seasonal factors. The minister said refiners had increased LPG output while supplementing supplies through kerosene and biofuels, helping India reduce dependence on imported cooking gas. "We are no longer import-dependent on our refineries, and that is where our strength has come from," he said...

14 Lakh...

were expunged from revenue records, while Kashmir division recorded 3,27,199 kanals, it said. The data revealed stark regional differences, with seven districts of Jammu division recording more than one lakh kanals of encroached state land each, while two districts — Rajouri and Reasi — crossed the two lakh kanal mark. In contrast, none of the 10 districts of the Kashmir division recorded encroachments exceeding one lakh kanals...

Jammu district accounted for 1,45,487 kanals and six marlas of encroached land, while Srinagar recorded 13,86,295 kanals, indicating that Jammu district alone had over ten times more encroached state land than Srinagar. Rajouri district has emerged as the worst-affected district in Jammu and Kashmir in terms of encroachment on state land, with 2.73 lakh kanals found under illegal occupation by land grabbers, according to official data. Rajouri topped the list with 2,73,848 kanals and 12 marlas of encroached state land, followed by Reasi with 2,26,857 kanals and six marlas, and Ramban with 1,73,832 kanals...

Jammu district recorded 1,45,487 kanals and six marlas of encroached land, while Kathua accounted for 1,30,403 kanals and 1.5 marlas. Udhampur and Poonch also crossed the one lakh kanal mark with 1,19,822 kanals and eight marlas, and 1,11,133 kanals and 16 marlas, respectively, the data said. Doda recorded 91,957 kanals and five marlas of encroached land, followed by Samba district, which accounted for 74,196 kanals and three marlas of encroached land, while Kishtwar recorded 52,513 kanals and 7.5 marlas respectively. In the Kashmir division, Baramulla recorded the highest expunged encroached land at 81,327.65 kanals, followed by Samba in Jammu division with 74,196 kanals and three marlas, Kupwara with 52,698.1 kanals, and Kishtwar with 52,513 kanals and 7.5 marlas, the data revealed...

The data further showed that Shopian recorded 19,034.85 kanals, Ganderbal 19,005.2 kanals, Kulgam 18,853.75 kanals and Srinagar 13,86,295 kanals of expunged encroachment entries. The figures were disclosed in response to a query seeking details of state and central governments, and JDA lands presently under encroachment and steps being taken to retrieve and regularise such land...

The authorities have expunged illegal records of land grabbers of state government land under encroachment in Rajouri, Reasi, Ramban, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Poonch, Doda, Baramulla, Samba, Kupwara, Kishtwar, Pulwama, Anantnag, Budgam, Bandipora, Shopian, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Srinagar districts.

Union...

strategic industry interest, particularly from the cement and infrastructure sectors. During the event, Joint Secretary and Designated Officer, Farida M Naik, urged the bidders to explore the region's mining potential, highlighting its role in boosting economic growth, employment and socio-economic development. The sale of tender documents will commence on May 18 and the pre-bid conference is scheduled for June 5 this year. The auction is conducted under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015. Building upon the momentum of the first tranche, this initiative reflects a calibrated approach to ensure optimal utilization of mineral resources, while enhancing investor participation and confidence...

Srinagar...

Hazarbal Police said the action was carried out by Police Station Nigeen under Section 68(F)(1) of the NDPS Act, 1985 in connection with FIR No. 42/2023 registered under Sections 8/20, 21, 20 NDPS Act of Police Station Nigeen and FIR No. 20/2025 under Section 8/21 NDPS Act at Police Station 20/2025. During investigation, the property was found to be illegally acquired through proceeds generated from drug trafficking activities, officials said. Police added that the attachment order restrains the owner from selling, leasing, transferring, altering, or creating any third-party interest in the said property. Srinagar Police reiterated its commitment to eliminating the drug menace from society and said strict action will continue against individuals involved in narcotics trafficking. Police also appealed to the public to cooperate and share information related to drug peddling to help make society drug-free.

Chinar...

Bahadur Pandey, while on operational duty in Baramulla district. His courage and dedication will forever inspire us. Chinar Warriors salute the valour and sacrifice of the Braveheart. We stand in solidarity with the bereaved family and are committed to their well-being," the post said.

Yuva Rajput Sabha-J&K Organises Massive Drug Awareness Rally on the Eve of its 14th Foundation Day

JAMMU, MAY 12: On the eve of the 14th Foundation Day of Yuva Rajput Sabha-J&K, a grand and impactful Drug Awareness Rally was organised in Jammu with the objective of awakening society, especially the youth, against the growing menace of drug abuse in Jammu & Kashmir and across the nation. The rally commenced from the historic Maharaja Hari Singh Palace and culminated at the iconic Maharaja Hari Singh Statue, where hundreds of energetic and socially conscious youth participated with immense enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. Participants marched through the route carrying banners, placards, and raising powerful slogans including: "Nashe Ko Bhagwan Hai, Deed Ko Bachana Hai", "Band Karo Band Karo, Nashe Ka Dhandha Band Karo", "Youth Against Drugs", and "Save Future, Say No to Drugs". The rally witnessed active participation from members of Yuva Rajput Sabha-J&K, social activists, students, youth volunteers, and prominent citizens who collectively pledged to strengthen the fight against drug addiction



and drug trafficking. Addressing the media on the occasion, President of Yuva Rajput Sabha-J&K, Mandep Singh Rimpy said that drug abuse has emerged as one of the biggest threats to the younger generation and requires collective social resistance. He stated that the organisation has always stood for social reform, youth empowerment, and preservation of moral values, and this awareness rally was a step towards mobilising society against the dangerous network of narcotics. He emphasized that merely administrative action is not enough unless

society itself rises united against this evil. He appealed to parents, teachers, religious organisations, and social bodies to actively participate in guiding the youth towards education, sports, employment, and nationalism. Core Committee Member and Ex-President, Vikram Singh Vicky said that the youth of Jammu & Kashmir possess immense potential and energy, but drugs are being used as a weapon to weaken society from within. He stated that every responsible citizen must act as a watchdog within his locality and help authorities in identifying and eliminating the drug network. He further added that sports, cultural activities, and social engagement must be encouraged among youth to divert them from harmful addictions. Chief Spokesman of the Sabha, Vishal Singh stated that the rally was not merely an event but a social movement aimed at awakening the conscience of society. He said that the organisation firmly believes that awareness, strict law enforcement, and active public participation together can eradicate the drug menace.

the need of the hour and appreciated the youth who participated in large numbers. He further said that Yuva Rajput Sabha-J&K will continue to raise its voice strongly against drug peddlers and all anti-social elements harming society. Core Committee Member and Ex-President, Vikram Singh Vicky said that the youth of Jammu & Kashmir possess immense potential and energy, but drugs are being used as a weapon to weaken society from within. He stated that every responsible citizen must act as a watchdog within his locality and help authorities in identifying and eliminating the drug network. He further added that sports, cultural activities, and social engagement must be encouraged among youth to divert them from harmful addictions. Chief Spokesman of the Sabha, Vishal Singh stated that the rally was not merely an event but a social movement aimed at awakening the conscience of society. He said that the organisation firmly believes that awareness, strict law enforcement, and active public participation together can eradicate the drug menace.

NC Govt stands Guarantee for development, welfare and social justice of ST, SC and depressed classes : Rattan Lal Gupta

JAMMU MAY 12 : Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference said that the Government led by Omar Abdullah is fully committed to ensuring an inclusive and balanced development process across Jammu & Kashmir with special emphasis on the welfare, upliftment and empowerment of Scheduled Tribes (STs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and other weaker and depressed sections of society. Addressing the ST functionaries of Block Mathwar in Nambra Assembly Constituency at Sher-e Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu today, Chartered by Mrs Shamim Begum former DDC Member Dansal. Mr Rattan Lal Gupta emphasized the National Conference Government firmly believes that real progress can only be achieved when the fruits of



development reach the poorest, marginalized and socially neglected sections. Social justice, equal opportunities and economic empowerment remain the core pillars of the present Government's policy and governance framework. The Omar-led Government is making sincere efforts to strengthen education, healthcare, employment opportunities, housing facilities, road connectivity, drinking water supply and social welfare schemes in far-flung tribal and backward areas. Special attention is being paid to Gujjar, Bakerwal, SC and

other underprivileged communities who have suffered due to decades of neglect and discrimination. The Government is also committed to ensuring proper implementation of reservation laws, scholarship schemes, skill development programmes and financial assistance initiatives for youth, students, women and economically weaker families belonging to ST, SC and backward classes. Efforts are being intensified to improve representation of these communities in administration, education and employment sectors.

FADA Chairperson Sanjay Aggarwal Urges Citizens to Support Narendra Modi's Call for Reduced Petrol & Diesel Consumption

JAMMU, MAY 12: Mr Aggarwal said that the statement gains significance in light of the recent appeal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging citizens to minimize petrol and diesel consumption and adopt sustainable mobility solutions including electric vehicles and public transport. The Prime Minister emphasized the need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels in the interest of environmental protection, energy security, and economic sustainability. Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairperson of Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) has strongly urged the authorities of Jammu and Kashmir Limited to prioritize the establishment of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir under the Smart City Mission and the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). While appreciating the remarkable transformation brought about under the Smart City initiative in J&K, the Mr Aggarwal stated that the absence of adequate EV

charging stations remains a major gap in the city's sustainable urban mobility framework. With electric vehicles witnessing increasing acceptance across India, Jammu must also develop the necessary infrastructure to support the transition toward clean and green transportation. Mr Aggarwal said that, it is pertinent to note that the Government has already introduced several incentives to encourage EV adoption, including exemption from registration charges and other policy benefits for electric vehicles.

These measures clearly reflect the Government's intent to promote clean mobility and reduce vehicular emissions. However, the absence of adequate EV charging infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir contradicts the spirit and effectiveness of these progressive policies. Without accessible charging stations, citizens remain hesitant to shift toward electric vehicles despite the incentives being offered.

NMC urged Issuance of DA installment order

JAMMU MAY 12: President of the National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) Subash Shastri on Tuesday appealed to Chief Minister to issue formal order for release of 2 percent DA due from January last. Which was approved in the cabinet meeting was held on the last day of closing Darbaar Move at Jammu added that the appeal will draw attention of the JKUT administration in Issuance the order at the earliest, so that employees and pensioners would get sigh of relief to counter the inflation and price rise. Addressing a NMC workers meet here, shastri strongly urged the chief Minister to enhance the monthly medical allowance to Rs.300-to Rs 1000/-and decision in this regard would be taken in the upcoming cabinet meeting. Shastri said that this genuine demand is based on the steep rise in the cost of medicine's and medical expenses over the last two



decades. Shastri has further cited that UT of Ladakh has already implemented a Rs 1000/- per month medical allowance to its pensioners, w.e.f April 1st 2020. Shastri pointed out that all the union territories expect JKUT have providing one thousand medical allowance to their pensioners, but in JKUT are providing only three

hundred per month, hoping that this genuine demand of the pensioners will be sort out at the earliest. Additionally, Shastri is also demanding the release of 18 months of pending DA arrears from January 2020 to June 2021. Shastri also appealed the Prime Minister and union Finance Minister to release the outstanding

3 DA installments arrears blocked while releasing the same to its employees and pensioners since long. Shastri further hoped that the Central Government will consider the burning demand of both India Central/States/UTs employees and pensioners in releasing the 3 DA installments blocked arrears. The Govt. must regularize the services of all daily rated workers in the tomorrow budget and fulfilled it's commitment made by the Ruling alliance from time to time to these daily waggers, Shastri added. Among others who were also present on the occasion included Rajan Babu Khajuria, B.S. Janwal, Surrender Kumar, Ram Singh, Ramesh Sharma, Girdhari Lal Bhagat, Dalip Bhagat, Sawarn Bhagat, Shailesh Singh, Darshan Baba, Ch. Shafeek, Subash Sharma, Baldev Raj, Ghara Ram, Vinod Kumar, Jog Raj and others.

JKTF delegation meets Divisional authorities over census duty issues

JAMMU, MAY 12: A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) today called on Naresh Kumar (JKAS), Additional Commissioner in the office of the Divisional Commissioner Jammu, and raised several issues concerning the large-scale deputation of teaching staff for Census 2027 duties across Jammu Division. The delegation was headed by JKTF Chief Patron Ganesh Khajuria and JKTF President Bharat Bhushan. Other members of the delegation included Ashwani Sharma, Surinder Kumar, Rashpal Dass and Bachan Lal. During the meeting, the delegation submitted a detailed memorandum highlighting the practical difficulties being faced by teachers due to repeated engagement in non-academic assignments and urged the administration to take corrective measures in the interest of both teachers and students. The delegation particularly

JKTF appeals for humanitarian approach in census deployment, says academic activities in rural schools are suffering badly

stressed upon the difficulties faced by female teaching staff in performing door-to-door census survey duties. The representatives informed the Additional Commissioner that women employees across Jammu Division are already balancing professional responsibilities with family obligations and are finding it extremely difficult to undertake extensive field work in far-flung and remote areas. They said that safety concerns, long-distance travel, lack of transport facilities and household responsibilities make such assignments highly stressful for female staff members.

The JKTF leaders pointed out that many women teachers are mothers of young children and are also responsible for elderly family

members at home. In such circumstances, assigning them physically demanding survey duties during harsh weather conditions creates avoidable hardship. The delegation appealed to the administration to adopt a humanitarian and practical approach while framing deployment policies for female employees. The delegation also expressed serious concern over the large-scale deputation of teachers from schools for Census 2027 work. They informed the authorities that in several cases five to six staff members are being deputed from a single institution, severely affecting the normal functioning of schools. Government schools, particularly those located in rural and remote areas, are already facing acute staff shortages, and the

diversion of teaching staff towards administrative exercises is adversely impacting classroom teaching and student learning. The forum members stated that a large number of teachers are already working as Block Level Officers (BLOs) and are handling election-related responsibilities in addition to their educational duties. Further deputation for census work, they said, would place unbearable pressure on the limited teaching workforce available in schools. The delegation maintained that the studies of economically weaker and rural students suffer the most whenever teachers are repeatedly assigned non-teaching duties. They observed that government schools are striving to improve academic standards and enrolment, but constant diversion of staff for surveys and administrative tasks hampers educational progress and affects the quality of teaching-learning activities.

108 SEVAK felicitates meritorious underprivileged students

JAMMU, MAY 12: In a vibrant felicitation ceremony at Sanjeevni Sharda Kendra Bohri, Jammu today, Social Organisation 108 SEVAK honoured meritorious and underprivileged students from Government Higher Secondary School (HSS) Camp Bohri and other institutions with notebooks, stationery, trophies, and gift hampers. The event ignited with a stirring rendition of Vande Mataram, enveloping the gathering in a wave of patriotism that electrified the atmosphere and stirred ecstatic pride in every heart. 108 SEVAK President Ashok Khazanchi outlined the organization's mission,



urging students to strive for success and contribute to society. Key members including S.K. Kandoo, J.L. Koul, Inder Khushoo, Khemender Kak, Amrita Kotha, Nancy Ji and Ashwani Bangroo were present on the occasion. SMDC representatives Dr.

T.K. Moza, Chand Ji, and Kanwal Lal also attended the function. Organized seamlessly by faculty leads Meenakshi Koul, Archana Koul, Satish Bhat, and Bharat Raina, the program featured masterful anchoring by Archana Koul.

"Congress Will Be Strengthened From Booth to Block Level Through SSA Phase-2": Bhalla/Sawhney

"Only a Strong Grassroots Organisation Can Effectively Raise Public Issues": Congress

JAMMU, MAY 12 : District Congress Committee Jammu Urban today held an important meeting regarding the ongoing "Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan (SSA) - Phase 2" at Congress office, Shaheed Chowk Jammu. The meeting was held under the leadership of Ex-Minister & President DCC Jammu Urban Yogesh Sawhney and was presided over by Working President Raman Bhalla, and attended by senior Congress leaders including Ex-Ministers Mula Ram, Gurbachan Kumari Rana, Abdul Majid Wani, Ex-MLC Ved Mahajan along

with several senior office bearers and party workers. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding strengthening the organisation at booth, ward, mandal and block levels under Phase-2 of the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan. Following the meeting, DCC Jammu Urban held a press conference regarding the same program, addressed by DCC Jammu Urban President and former Minister J&K Yogesh Sawhney along with senior Congress leaders, office bearers and party workers. The meeting and press conference were attended by

Working President Raman Bhalla, PCC Coordinator Mula Ram, Ex Minister & DCC President Jammu Urban Yogesh Sawhney, Gurbachan Kumari Rana, Abdul Majid Wani, Jatinder Bisht, Pawan Dev Singh, Assembly Incharges Amrit Bali, Sohit Sharma, Rajesh Sharma, Satish Kumar, Block Presidents Narayan, Ajay Kumar, Pardeep Bhalla, Rakesh Sharma, Sanjeev Katal, Janak Raj, H.S. Baggi, R.S. Randhawa, Gurmeet Singh, Sandeep Dogra, Satpal Sapolia, Pawan Bhagat, Parveen Singh



Vijay Malhotra, Rajindra Singh Janwal, Balwinder Singh Rinku and Rishu Kumar Mehra, along with senior party leaders and workers, were also present during the programme. Addressing the media, Working President JKPC Raman Bhalla said that

campaign were reviewed and leaders stressed upon strengthening coordination, unity and active participation of workers at every level to make the campaign successful across Jammu and Kashmir. He further stated that booth and ward-level workers are the backbone of the organisation and therefore the party leadership is committed to empowering active workers at every level. He said that Congress has always stood with the people and raised issues concerning common citizens, and a stronger organisational structure will further enhance the party's ability

to effectively highlight public concerns and remain connected with the masses. He also said that strengthening the organisation requires continuous public outreach, regular interaction with people and strong coordination among party workers at all levels. He further said that the people of Jammu & Kashmir are facing several important issues including unemployment, inflation, rising public grievances and inadequate civic facilities, and therefore there is a strong need for an active and responsive opposition that remains connected with the masses, adding that

Congress workers must continue to work among the people and raise issues concerning youth, traders, women and common citizens in a strong and democratic manner. He discussed in detail the roadmap of the campaign and reviewed various organisational activities being carried out under the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan. PCC Coordinator and senior Congress leader Mula Ram said that the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan is an important initiative aimed at energising the cadre and strengthening coordination between party workers and leadership

Kathua Campus (JU) organizes an Expert Lecture on "The Future of Human-AI Communication"

Kathua, May 12: Kathua Campus, University of Jammu organized an expert lecture on the theme "The Future of Human-AI Communication". The expert lecture was delivered by Dr. Shubhnanand Singh Jamwal, Professor, Department of Computer Science & IT, University of Jammu. In his lecture, Dr. Jamwal highlighted the evolution of Artificial Intelligence and its growing role in human communication. He discussed the beginning of AI as a field in 1956, the development of early expert systems such as DEN-DRAL and MYCIN, and explained how Generative AI enables machines to create text, images, music, code and videos using tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, DALL-E, Midjourney and GitHub Copilot. Dr. Jamwal also elaborated on important applications of AI and Natural Language Processing, including sentiment analysis, chatbots, machine translation, speech recognition, question answering, emotion detection and deepfake



detection. He explained key concepts such as cognitive computing, Word2Vec, BERT and FastText, while emphasizing the importance of context in human-AI communication. He further sensitized the participants about ethical concerns related to AI, including bias, privacy violation, misinformation, plagiarism, copyright issues and cultural and linguistic inequality. Prof. Arvind Jasrotia, Rector, Kathua Campus, University of Jammu appreciated the initiative and said that such expert lectures are highly relevant in the present era, where Artificial Intelligence is

transforming communication, education, research and professional practices. He emphasized that students and faculty must develop a deeper understanding of emerging technologies so that they can use AI responsibly, ethically and effectively for academic and societal benefit. Further, Prof. Jasrotia appreciated the efforts of Dr. Sourabh Shastri, Convener, UG Admissions 2026-27 and other faculty members for successfully initiating the UG admissions process for BCA (Data Science), BBA and B.A. English at such short notice. Earlier, Dr. Sourabh Shastri, U

Head, Computer Science Department, Kathua Campus welcomed the resource person and said that the lecture would provide valuable exposure to students regarding the changing dimensions of human-machine interaction. He stated that Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing have become important areas of study and research, and such academic interactions help students understand both the opportunities and challenges associated with AI-based communication systems. Dr. Sunny Sharma coordinated the whole programme, whereas Dr. Pranav Ratta delivered formal vote of thanks. Lt. Amit Sharma, Dr. Rajani Kumari Sarangal, Er. Akhil Kumar, Dr. Seema Jamwal, Dr. Mahesh Koul, Dr. Nisha Choudhary, Dr. Reemani Verma, Dr. Veerta Rani, Er. Sandeep Raj, Er. Sushant Gagal, Er. Pallavi Verma, Er. Vishveet Singh, Dr. Rakshit Khajuria, Er. Akansha Bati, Er. Meetu Sharma, Er. Ritika Gupta, Er. Karan Kumar, Er. Arjun Kapoor.

Rohi Chaudan hails PM Modi's vision, calls for national unity amid West Asia crisis

Jammu, May 12, 2026: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Jammu South Media Secretary Rohi Chaudan today strongly advocated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his steadfast leadership and visionary guidance during the ongoing West Asia crisis. Chaudan urged every Indian citizen to rise above partisan lines and actively partner in strengthening the nation, emphasizing that collective resolve and unity are essential "for the sake of the nation." Issuing a press note, Rohi Chaudan said, "PM Narendra Modi has always placed the interest of the nation first. In these challenging times when the West Asia region is witnessing turmoil that has far-reaching implications on global energy security, economic stability, and regional peace, Modi's



mature and decisive approach has provided a strong sense of direction to the entire country. His clarion call for self-reliance, strategic preparedness, and national unity resonates deeply with every patriotic Indian." Chaudan highlighted the Prime Minister's efforts in safeguarding India's strategic interests while maintaining diplomatic balance. "Under Modi's leadership, India has not only protected its economic interests but has also emerged as a responsible

global player advocating for peace and stability. The Prime Minister's emphasis on Atmanirbhar Bharat is more relevant today than ever before. We must reduce our dependencies and build robust indigenous capabilities in energy, defense, and critical technologies," he asserted. He called upon the countrymen to become active partners in this national mission. "For the sake of the nation, every citizen must contribute in whatever capacity they can. Whether it is by adopting energy conservation practices, supporting indigenous products, promoting social harmony, or staying vigilant against misinformation and divisive forces—each small step counts towards building a stronger, self-reliant, and resilient India," Chaudan said.

Dr Shazad Demands Transparency in Bunkers Construction

Jammu, 12 May : The Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK-BADC), a registered organisation working for the welfare of border residents of J&K, has raised serious concern over the lack of information available to the public regarding bunker construction in border districts. Dr. Shazad Poonch, Dr. Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman JK-BADC and former Vice Chancellor, said that as per statements of union ministers and information available in the media, the Government of India has sanctioned and released millions of rupees to the J & K government for bunker construction in border areas. The Centre's



intention and commitment toward border residents is clear. However he expressed concern that the Jammu and Kashmir Government and local administration have been slow in moving things forward and have shared very little with the people about where the project actually stands today. He said people living in these areas have a right to know how

many bunkers are fully complete, how many are still under construction and how many are yet to begin. This is not information that residents should have to chase or ask for repeatedly. The district administration must issue a monthly status report on bunker construction so that there is accountability and people feel assured that work is genuinely moving forward. Dr. Shazad reminded that border residents, especially those of Poonch, have not forgotten May 2025. When cross border shelling was at its peak, bunkers were the only place families could run to for safety. Men, women, children and the elderly all took shelter there.

Vedic wisdom is eternal truth; human beliefs can't replace divine knowledge: Swami Ram Swaroop

Kathua : On the 31st day of the ongoing 78-day Vedic Yajna dedicated to the study of all four Vedas at Veda Mandir, Yol (Himachal Pradesh), Yogacharya Swami Ram Swaroop addressed devotees and delivered a detailed discourse on the eternal relevance of Vedic knowledge in understanding creation, governance, and human life. He explained that in the present era, different countries possess their own distinct histories, constitutions, and cultural identities. However, he emphasised that according to Vedic philosophy, after the dissolution (pralaya) period, when the Supreme Being recreates the universe through primordial nature as described in Rigveda Mandala 10, Sukta 129, there exists only one universal ruler of the entire Earth. Therefore,



he said, the true understanding of creation, ancient culture, and universal governance can only be derived from the knowledge contained in the Vedas. Swami Ram Swaroop further stated that the Vedas, originating from the infinite knowledge of God as

reference in Rigveda Mantra 10/181/1-2, are the only authentic source of wisdom capable of explaining cosmic creation and universal laws. He asserted that no human being, other than the Supreme Being, possesses the capacity to provide such profound

knowledge of the universe. He added that this is why the study of all four Vedas remains essential for understanding the true nature of existence. Expressing concern over contemporary spiritual practices, he said that in the present age, people have largely moved away from the ancient Guru-Shishya tradition established since the time of Brahma for Vedic learning. Instead, individuals have created their own independent paths of worship, leading to fragmentation of spiritual understanding. Citing Goswami Tulsiidas from Ramcharitmanas (Uttarakand, Doha 100), he remarked that people, under the influence of illusion, abandon the true Vedic path and instead create multiple belief systems.

JMC Launches "Clean Jammu, Green Jammu" Campaign, Massive Plantation and Pond Conservation Drive Announced

Jammu, May 12: The Jammu Municipal Corporation is set to launch a special city-wide campaign aimed at transforming Jammu into a clean, green, and environmentally sustainable city. In this regard, Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav convened a comprehensive meeting with senior officers and officials of the Corporation to deliberate on strategies for strengthening sanitation measures, enhancing greenery, and ensuring maximum public participation in the initiative. During the meeting, Commissioner Dr. Yadav announced that, under this special campaign, cleaning and restoration works are presently underway at more than 20 ponds/water bodies across Jammu city and will continue in the coming weeks. To ensure the long-term maintenance and protection of these water bodies, local committees comprising residents living near the ponds will be



constituted. These committees will "adopt" the ponds and actively participate in their upkeep and cleanliness. Moreover JMC appeals the citizens to voluntarily participate in the water body conservation around the city by filling a form through an online link. Highlighting the Corporation's commitment towards environmental conservation ahead of the forthcoming monsoon season, Dr. Yadav informed that over forty

thousand trees and saplings will be planted across different parts of Jammu city under the "Clean Jammu, Green Jammu" initiative. In order to encourage greater public involvement, the JMC has also introduced a volunteer participation mechanism through which citizens can register themselves for plantation drives and adopt a tree through swachh.jk.gov.in/clean-jammu-cert/. Each adopted tree will be linked to the concerned cit-

izen through a dedicated QR code, ensuring accountability and fostering a sense of ownership towards environmental protection. The Commissioner further stated that flowering plants and ornamental saplings will also be planted in vacant spaces throughout the city to enhance the aesthetic appeal and green cover of Jammu. Meanwhile, the Housing and Urban Development Department has introduced significant amendments to the Building Bye-Laws, enabling citizens to self-certify and directly upload building maps online, thereby simplifying the approval process. Additionally, the installation of rainwater harvesting systems has now been made mandatory for all new building permissions. This step is expected to help recharge the groundwater table during the monsoon season and prevent the depletion of vital water sources such as tube wells and open wells.

Reducing fuel dependence, gold imports vital for India's economic security: Dr. Pardeep

Jammu, 12 May: J&K BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to citizens to reduce petrol and diesel consumption and refrain from non-essential gold purchases for one year as a visionary and farsighted intervention aimed at safeguarding India's economic stability during a highly sensitive global phase. Dr. Pardeep Mahotra said that the timing of the Prime Minister's appeal carries immense strategic and political importance as the world is witnessing geopolitical instability, rising crude oil prices, supply-chain disruptions, inflationary pressures, and growing uncertainty due to conflicts in West Asia and



other regions. He stated that responsible leadership is measured by its ability to anticipate challenges before they become crises, and PM Modi has once again demonstrated far-sighted statesmanship by preparing the nation in advance. Dr. Pardeep stated that India imports a significant portion of its crude oil and gold requirements, which directly impacts the country's foreign exchange

reserves. At a time when global oil prices are volatile and international trade routes remain vulnerable, the Prime Minister's call to reduce fuel dependency is not only economically wise but strategically crucial for maintaining India's financial strength and policy independence. Dr. Pardeep Mahotra said the Prime Minister's appeal reflects a broader political vision of building a self-reliant and economically secure India under the mission of "Viksit Bharat 2047". He added that economic strength today defines geopolitical strength tomorrow, and PM Modi understands that public participation in economic discipline is essential for protecting national interests.

SBI SEWA foundation Day celebration



Jammu, May 12: State Bank of India SC/ST Employees Welfare Association (SBI SEWA), Jammu Module, celebrated its 47th Foundation Day with great enthusiasm at Jammu in the presence of Shri Javaid Choudhary, Deputy General Secretary (HQ), Chandigarh Circle. Speaking on the occasion,

Shri Rajesh Kumar, DGS Jammu Module, highlighted the establishment and journey of SBI SEWA and discussed the various challenges faced by the organization over the years. He appealed to all members to remain united and work collectively for strengthening SBI SEWA and safeguarding the wel-

fare and upliftment of its members. A large number of SEWA members participated in the programme. Shri Ravinder Singh, Regional Manager, Regional Business Office Jammu, also graced the occasion and congratulated all members on the successful celebration of the 47th Foundation Day of SBI SEWA.

Govt. Must Immediately Withdraw Ban Imposed on Rapido Services : Hindustan Shiv Sena

Transport Minister Satish Sharma Should Intervene in the Matter : Vikrant Kapoor

Jammu, May 12 : Vikrant Kapoor State President of the Hindustan Shiv Sena has demanded that the government immediately withdraw the recently imposed ban on Rapido services in Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that this move has created significant challenges for the youth, drivers, and daily commuters who rely on this service. The J&K Transport Department declared the service illegal on the grounds that Rapido does not possess a valid aggregator license under the J&K Motor Vehicle Aggregator Rules, 2023. Vikrant Kapoor has also urged Transport Minister Satish Sharma to intervene in this matter and ensure the



immediate lifting of this ban. Vikrant Kapoor made these remarks while interacting with journalists during a press conference held in Jammu. He stated that since these services had been operational for the past 5-6 months, why did the government suddenly find it necessary to impose a ban

on them overnight? He added that the government ought to allow some time for this matter. He noted that the ban has given rise to numerous difficulties for those associated with the service. He further added that many young individuals—including students and unemployed graduates—regard

Rapido as their primary source of income. The abrupt suspension of the service has deprived thousands of people of their daily earnings. He further pointed out that some riders had specifically purchased two-wheeled on EMI (Equate Monthly Installments) for the sole purpose of working as bike-taxi partners. Due to the loss of income generated through the app, they now face the looming threat of defaulting on loan repayments and having their vehicles seized. Moreover, in a region grappling with a high unemployment rate, the 'gig economy' (temporary employment) had offered people an accessible avenue to engage in work.

DC Anantnag reviews preparations for Holy Adhikmas Kumbh 2026

Directs seamless, smooth facilities for convenience of devotees

ANANTNAG, MAY 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Anantnag Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat today chaired a comprehensive meeting at DC Office, to review and finalise the arrangements for smooth observance of upcoming Holy Adhikmas Kumbh, scheduled at Mattan from May 17 to June 16, 2026.

The meeting was attended by SE Hydraulics, ADC, CPO, ACR, DySP HQ, Tehsildar Mattan, AD FCS&CA, Exen PDD, CEO MCA, President SMTT besides officials from Tourism, MVD, Traffic Police and other concerned departments.

At the outset, President SMTT briefed the chair about the religious and cultural significance of the event which is expected to draw huge participation from different places of the country. He informed that the devotees will participate in the month long Kumbh both at Temple and the nearby river as per their faith and



devotion. Reviewing the preparations and arrangements, the DC noted that the district administration is committed to providing a hassle-free experience for all the pilgrims who are expected to participate in large numbers. This is not only a religious congregation where the devotees from different places of the country will come and perform the rituals but presents an apt opportunity for the district to showcase its hospitality so the pilgrims leave with pleasant and lasting memories, he remarked.

Addressing the meeting, the DC said it is essential the devotees are duly facilitated so they have an enriching experience during their stay. He issued directions to officers of PDD and PHE to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply at the venues, stressing the

ease and convenience of the devotees.

To extend necessary medical facilities to the pilgrims, the Health Department was directed to set up dedicated medical camps with adequate staff and emergency medicines, while the Fire and Emergency Services Department was asked to deploy adequate number of fire tenders in close vicinity of the venue and to maintain a high state of readiness.

Addressing the logistical needs of the month-long event, Dr. Bhat directed the Police and Traffic departments to implement a robust and streamlined security and traffic management plan to prevent congestion and ensure the safety of commuters. He also tasked the ULB authorities to maintain proper sanitation standards near and around the Temple by installing adequate number of mobile toilets, conducting routine sanitation operations and augmenting pilgrim facilities as per the requirement.

DC visits accident-prone Manigam Crossing on NH-44; Reviews Road Safety Measures

KULGAM, MAY 12: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today visited the accident-prone Manigam Crossing on National Highway-44 to assess the prevailing situation and review the remedial measures required under road safety initiatives.

During the visit, the DC took a comprehensive stock of the existing infrastructure and safety arrangements at the site. While interacting with the residents, the DC patiently listened to their concerns regarding the frequent road accidents at the location. The residents demanded the construction of a separate service road from Manigam Crossing to Nipora Crossing to streamline traffic movement and improve commuter safety. The Deputy Commissioner



acknowledged the seriousness of the issue and directed the concerned engineering wings to conduct a detailed feasibility study and submit a comprehensive proposal for the development of a service road along the stretch. He also stressed the need for immediate interim safety measures, including installation of proper signage, road markings, speed regulation mechanisms, and improved visibility arrangements to prevent further mishaps.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the public that all necessary steps would be taken on priority to minimize accident risks and ensure safer movement for commuters along the high-way stretch.

KVK organizes awareness program hundreds participate in anti-drug awareness rally



ANANTNAG, MAY 12: As part of the 100 Day Nasha Mukta J&K Campaign, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)-Anantnag, SKUAST-K on Monday organized an extensive awareness programme on drug abuse at its Doon campus.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior officers, from civil administration and police, government

officials, students, civil society members, religious figures, farmers, academicians, and youth representatives who collectively pledged to contribute towards building a drug-free society.

Addressing the gathering, SDM Dooru Parvaiz Rahim, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, emphasized the need for sustained community participation, grass-root awareness, and youth engagement to effectively combat the menace of drug addiction. He called for collective societal action involving all stakeholders to eradicate substance abuse and safeguard the future generations.

Delivering a motivating lecture, the Senior Scientist KVK, Dr. Ishiyaq Ahmad Khan addressed the students and youth to follow the path of discipline and determination to save themselves from drugs and to develop into responsible citizens. He briefed about the evolution of the centre as a scientific and agricultural extension institution, adding the organization is addressing key societal concerns affecting rural communities and youth.

District Admin Bandipora continues Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan Awareness Activities across Schools, Panchayats

BANDIPORA, MAY 12: District Administration Bandipora on Tuesday continued activities under the 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan across the district with awareness programmes, essay competitions, pledge ceremonies, IEC campaigns and Gram Sabhas organised in educational institutions and Panchayat Halqas.

Awareness and IEC pamphlet distribution programmes were conducted at HS Panar, HS Achora, HS Katsen, Government High School Trigam, Government High School Ahambhanief, PM SHRI HSS Shadpora, HSS Nowgam, HSS Quilmuqam, HSS Chuntimulla and HSS Gadakhud to educate students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a drug-free lifestyle.

Essay writing competitions on the theme "What Does Drug Addiction Mean to You" were organised at Government High School Garaora,



HSS Gadakhud and HSS PTL Gurez Bandipora, while Government High School Nadihal conducted pledge-taking and essay writing activities. PM SHRI Girls High School Sumbal organised an awareness programme and a short race to spread the message of a

healthy and drug-free society. Special Gram Sabhas and awareness activities under the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan were also held at Panchayat Onagam-A, Panchayat C.A. Khan, Panchayat Halqa Sadanara-A in Block Hajin, Panchayat Ganastan-B, SK Bala Panchayat-B, Guzarbal Bonakoot and Baripora Bonakoot-C to raise awareness about substance abuse and promote a drug-free society.

The Excise Range North Kashmir organised an Anti-Drug Abuse Awareness Programme under the 100 Day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan in collaboration with Baba Gani Public High School Shadpora, Sumbal. The programme included pledge-taking, sports activities and an anti-drug rally to spread awareness against substance abuse. Teachers and officials sensitised students about the harmful effects of drugs and the importance of a drug-free life.

DC Bandipora chairs Stakeholder Meeting on Draft GIS-Based Master Plan 2026-2046

BANDIPORA, MAY 12: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a stakeholder meeting to discuss the Draft GIS-Based Master Plan Bandipora 2026-2046 prepared by the Town Planning Organisation, Kashmir. During the meeting, officials from the Town Planning Organisation presented the methodology for formulation of the GIS-based Master Plan and highlighted the objectives and importance of the Master Plan in addressing unplanned urban growth, infrastructure deficit, environmental concerns, population pressure and economic diversification in the district. The meeting discussed various components of the draft plan including Local Planning Area (LPA), delineation, social and demographic profile, population projections for 2046,



traffic and transportation, physical infrastructure with focus on water supply, sewerage and solid waste management, and social infrastructure including education and health sectors. A detailed SWOT analysis covering strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the district was also deliberated upon. The Vision 2046 framework and spatial strategy based on a poly-centric and three-tier development

model were discussed in detail along with proposed land use and residential strategy for 2046. The meeting also deliberated upon strategic road network development, identification of economic pillars including proposed IT/AI Park, agro-processing and medical sectors, and promotion of sustainable tourism in the district. During the discussion, stakeholders emphasized sustainable development, balanced urban expansion and improved public infrastructure. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for inclusive and participatory planning and directed that the draft plan be kept open for public feedback and suggestions. She reiterated that inputs received from stakeholders and the public would be incorporated in the revised draft of the Master Plan.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Bandipora, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Divisional Forest Officer, Chief Town Planner Kashmir, SE PWD (R&B) and KPDCI, ADC, ACP, Executive Engineers of various departments, Officers of Municipal Committees, representatives of trade bodies and civil society members.

Central Kashmir Excise Range destroys illegal poppy cultivation at multiple locations

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: Central Kashmir Excise Range intensified its crackdown against the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan 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 Khandah, Tehsil Bok Pora in Budgam district.

Officials informed that FIRs were lodged under the relevant provision of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at the concerned Police Stations. All legal formalities, seizure, sampling and on-spot destruction of the illicit crop, were completed as per procedure.

DC Budgam reviews progress under Mission YUVA in District

Calls for Strengthened Support to Aspiring Entrepreneurs

BUDGAM, MAY 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a review meeting at the DC Office Budgam to assess the implementation and progress of Mission YUVA in the district. During the meeting, a detailed review of various components of the Mission yuva was conducted, including enterprise development, capacity building, credit facilitation, awareness generation, training initiatives and market linkage support for aspiring entrepreneurs. The DC emphasised the importance of Mission YUVA as a transformative initiative aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, self-employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities among the youth. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholder



departments, financial institutions and implementing agencies to ensure effective implementation of the programme at the grassroots level. The DC directed officers to intensify awareness and outreach activities so that maximum eligible

youth, women and self-help groups are motivated to avail the benefits under the Mission. He further instructed concerned functionaries to ensure timely verification. The DC called for strengthened training programmes and facilitating continuous guidance for beneficiaries to help them establish sustainable enterprises. He stressed the need for improving coordination with banking institutions for smooth credit facilitation and timely disposal of cases. The DC further instructed the concerned agencies to focus on market linkage opportunities and encourage entrepreneurs to explore digital platforms and innovative business models for wider outreach and business growth. The meeting was attended by ADDC Budgam, Vivek Agarwal, ADEK Budgam, CPO Budgam, All SDMs, ACR, ACD, AD Employment, LDM, officers of line departments, representatives of banks and officials associated with Mission YUVA implementation in the district.

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division, JPDCI, Udhampur

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Sl. No. 593/P/26 dated 11-05-2026

For and on behalf of Managing Director, JPDCI, Jammu. e-Tenders (e-Two Cover System) are hereby invited from firms having valid registration certificate issued by M&S, State Central Govt. of appropriate class and meeting eligibility criteria as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document.

S. No.	Name of Work	Est. of Tender Document (INR)	Last Date of submission of bid
1	Strengthening/Stabilization of 33kV Ramban-Sangaldan line and Rewamping of 33/11kV Receiving Station Sangaldan.	5000/-	12-05-2026

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-bid against this SDO shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedure, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

2. The tender documents is available at website <http://www.jkpsc.org>, in hard and electronic form, download therefrom, with identification and submit them to E-Procurement Cell, J&K, at the date and time mentioned in the table below.

S. No.	Tender Document Sub-Download Start Date	End Date
A	Tender Document Sub-Download Start Date	25-05-2026; 2:00 PM
B	e-Bid submission start date & time	11-06-2026; 1:00 PM
C	e-Bid submission end date & time	25-06-2026; 1:00 PM
D	Submission of Hard Copy of Tender File & EMD	26-06-2026; 12 PM
E	Technical Bid opening date & time	26-06-2026; 1:00 PM
F	Online financial bid opening date & time (Date, at the technical, qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders.
G	Terms of opening of non-commercial bids	Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division, JPDCI, Udhampur

S. No.	Tender Value	Rs.
1	Tender Value	Rs. 264 lacs
2	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 5000.00 (Five thousand)
3	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 5.25 lacs only

1. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of PAN CARD, COPY of REGISTRATION CARD, COPY of GST CERTIFICATE and the tender sheet within the same after opening of bids.

2. Any Bid when of Tender File, EMD shall be returned requested.

3. Note: EMD shall be issued to E-bidder after availability of funds.

Executive Engineer
Sub Transmission Division
JPDCI, Udhampur

DIP/J-593-P/26

North in News

EDITORIAL

Prime Minister's call for economic restraint should be taken seriously

The decision by the United Arab Emirates to step away from OPEC marks more than a routine policy shift; it reflects a deeper fracture in the logic that has governed global oil politics for decades. For much of its history, OPEC represented a rare example of sustained cooperation among resource-rich states, enabling them to collectively influence prices and project geopolitical power. The UAE's departure signals that this model – once seen as indispensable – is increasingly being questioned by its own members, not just for economic reasons but for strategic and political ones as well.

At its core, the move is about control. The UAE has spent years investing heavily in expanding its oil production capacity, positioning itself as a technologically advanced and efficient producer. Yet, under OPEC's quota system, it has been required to hold back output to support global prices. This arrangement may have made sense when collective discipline ensured stable and predictable revenues, but in today's environment it is beginning to look like a constraint.

For a country trying to maximize returns from its existing oil wealth while simultaneously preparing for a post-oil future, limiting production is no longer an attractive bargain. There is an inherent irony here. The UAE's long-term strategy is to diversify away from hydrocarbons, investing in sectors such as finance, tourism, and technology. However, achieving that transition requires significant capital, much of which still comes from oil revenues.

In that sense, producing more oil now is not a contradiction but a necessity. OPEC's restrictions, therefore, clash directly with the country's broader economic ambitions. What once functioned as a stabilizing mechanism is now perceived as an obstacle to national development. But economics alone does not explain the timing or the tone of this decision. The geopolitical context is equally important. The Gulf region has been under strain, particularly with tensions involving Iran and disruptions around critical maritime routes like the Strait of Hormuz. For the UAE, these developments have underscored the risks of relying on a consensus-driven organization where responses to crises are often slow and diluted by competing interests.

In a volatile environment, agility matters more than coordination, and OPEC's structure is not designed for speed. Frustrations have also been building within the Gulf Cooperation Council. The UAE has increasingly sought a more assertive regional stance, particularly in relation to Iran, and has been dissatisfied with what it sees as a lack of unified action. This divergence in strategic outlook has contributed to a sense that traditional alliances are no longer delivering the desired outcomes. In such a scenario, breaking away from a Saudi Arabia-dominated framework like OPEC becomes not just an economic choice, but a political signal.

For Saudi Arabia, the implications are significant. As OPEC's de facto leader, its influence has always depended on both its own production capacity and the willingness of others to align with its policies. The UAE's exit weakens that alignment. It removes a key partner with substantial spare capacity,

making it harder for the group to manage supply effectively. More importantly, it exposes underlying dissatisfaction with Saudi leadership, raising questions about how cohesive the organization really is. This comes at a particularly challenging time for Saudi Arabia.

Its ambitious economic transformation plans require sustained high oil revenues, which in turn depend on carefully managed supply levels. If fewer countries are willing to participate in coordinated cuts, the burden falls disproportionately on Saudi Arabia itself. Cutting production to support prices becomes more costly and less effective when others are free to increase output. The result is a strategic dilemma: maintain discipline and sacrifice market share, or abandon restraint and risk price declines. The UAE's departure also highlights a broader issue that has long plagued OPEC – uneven compliance. Several members have frequently exceeded their production quotas, undermining the credibility of the system. For countries that adhere to the rules, this creates resentment and erodes trust. The perception that the system is neither fair nor enforceable weakens the incentive to remain within it.

In that sense, the UAE's exit is not an isolated event but part of a larger pattern of dissatisfaction. Looking ahead, the question is whether this move will trigger a wider unravelling. Other producers with growing capacity or shifting economic priorities may begin to reassess the value of membership. If more countries choose autonomy over coordination, OPEC's ability to function as a cohesive bloc will diminish. Its influence on global oil markets – once formidable – could gradually erode, replaced by a more fragmented and competitive landscape. In the short term, the impact on oil prices may be limited. Geopolitical disruptions and existing supply constraints continue to shape market dynamics, and a single country's policy shift is unlikely to cause immediate upheaval.

Over the longer term, however, the implications are more profound. If the UAE increases production significantly outside the constraints of OPEC, it could contribute to downward pressure on prices. At the same time, the loss of a strong coordinating mechanism increases the likelihood of volatility. Prices may swing more sharply in response to geopolitical events, demand fluctuations, or shifts in production strategies. For oil-importing countries, this presents a mixed picture. On one hand, increased supply and potential price declines offer clear benefits, easing inflationary pressures and improving trade balances. On the other hand, greater volatility complicates economic planning and energy security.

The absence of a stabilizing force like a cohesive OPEC makes the market less predictable, introducing new risks even as it creates new opportunities. What is perhaps most striking about the UAE's decision is what it reveals about the changing nature of global energy politics. The traditional model of cartel-based cooperation is being challenged by a combination of technological change, shifting demand patterns, and evolving geopolitical realities. Countries are increasingly prioritizing flexibility and national interest over collective discipline. Energy is no longer just an economic commodity; it is a strategic tool.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

UAE and OPEC

BY ANAND KUMAR

tion but a necessity. OPEC's restrictions, therefore, clash directly with the country's broader economic ambitions. What once functioned as a stabilizing mechanism is now perceived as an obstacle to national development. But economics alone does not explain the timing or the tone of this decision. The geopolitical context is equally important. The Gulf region has been under strain, particularly with tensions involving Iran and disruptions around critical maritime routes like the Strait of Hormuz. For the UAE, these developments have underscored the risks of relying on a consensus-driven organization where responses to crises are often slow and diluted by competing interests.

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Technology must boost clean energy

O. PRASADA RAO

Every year on May 11, India celebrates National Technology Day to commemorate the nation's technological strides. The date was chosen to honour the Pokhran-II nuclear tests of 1998, which demonstrated India's scientific and technical capabilities. In addition, the successful test flight of Hansa-3, India's first indigenous aircraft, and the test firing of the Trishul missile showcased innovative capabilities across the defence and civil aviation sectors.

Declared by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1999, the day has since evolved into a platform to highlight India's achievements in science, engineering, and innovation. The 2026 theme, "Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth", emphasises that technology must not only advance but also uplift society equitably. Within this framework, clean energy emerges as a cornerstone – linking sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity. This Day is more than a commemoration – it is a call for action. Its importance lies in recognizing scientists and innovators for their achievements in critical sectors like space, biotechnology, and digital infrastructure.

It encourages youth to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers, thereby strengthening India's innovation stream. It showcases the coun-

try's policy priorities, such as self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India etc.). It positions India globally as a leader in clean energy, semiconductor manufacturing, and artificial intelligence. By linking technology to inclusive growth, the day emphasises that innovation must serve social equity, environmental sustainability, and national resilience. Inclusive growth refers to economic progress that is broad-based, equitable, and sustainable.

It ensures that the benefits of development reach all sections of society, especially marginalised groups. Key benefits include reducing disparities in income, gender, minorities, and regional development; ensuring affordable access to education, healthcare, and technology; ensuring affordable access to education, healthcare, and technology; empowering communities to contribute to and benefit from growth, and aligning economic progress with environmental protection. Clean energy refers to energy derived from sources that produce little to no greenhouse gas emissions and minimise environmental harm.

It includes solar power (photovoltaic and thermal), wind energy (onshore and offshore), hydropower (large dams and micro-hydro), geothermal energy, biomass and biofuels, and green hydrogen (produced via renewable-powered electrolysis of water). Clean energy differs fundamentally from fossil fuels,

which emit carbon dioxide, methane, and other pollutants. It is central to combating climate change and achieving sustainable development. Clean Energy reduces greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating climate change: cuts air pollution, lowering respiratory and cardiovascular diseases; diversifies sources, reduces dependence on imported oil and coal, facilitates "Energy Security" efforts, and creates jobs in manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of renewable systems.

Decentralized systems (like rooftop solar) provide power during disasters. Globally renewables accounted for nearly 30 per cent of electricity generation in 2025, with solar and wind contributing in a major way.

China dominates solar manufacturing and deployment, while Europe leads in offshore wind. The United States is investing heavily in green hydrogen and battery storage. India has set an ambitious target of 500 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2070. Africa is emerging as a solar frontier, exploiting abundant sunlight for decentralised electrification. Despite progress, fossil fuels still supply over 60 per cent of global energy, highlighting the scale of transition required. The future of clean energy needs to be shaped by innovation and policy. Green Hydrogen is seen as the "fuel of the future." Initiatives like the

International Solar Alliance (led by India) are required to foster global collaboration in transition to clean energy.

Policies must ensure workers in fossil fuel industries are retrained and communities supported as we increase use of renewable energy. Solar and wind depend on weather so power generation from them is intermittent, requiring robust battery storage. Transmission lines, smart grids, and charging networks should not lag behind demand.

Shifts in government priorities can stall projects. Mining for lithium, cobalt, and rare earths for batteries raises environmental and ethical concerns. Developing nations face financing hurdles affecting the clean energy transition. Land acquisition, ecological concerns, and local opposition can delay projects. Fresh water for production of hydrogen is scarce, so seawater electrolysis needs to be adopted. National Technology Day 2026, with its theme "Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth – Clean Energy", reminds us that technology must be both transformational and sustainable. Clean energy embodies this dual mandate: it reduces emissions, fosters innovation, and creates jobs, but must be deployed inclusively to avoid deepening inequalities. India's journey – from Pokhran-II to solar parks and hydrogen missions – illustrates how technology can redefine national destiny.



SSP Jammu Reviews Security Preparedness; Applauds District Special Branch for Anti-Drug Success



JAMMU, MAY 12: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu chaired a high-level review meeting today with the District Special Branch

to further strengthen their grassroots connectivity to preemptively tackle emerging security challenges. A significant portion of the meeting focused on the district's ongoing war against drugs. The SSP lauded the District Special Branch for its commendable role in identifying narcotics syndicates and facilitating recent breakthroughs. He noted that their proactive intelligence has been instrumental in curbing the drug menace and maintaining overall communal harmony and peace in Jammu. Reiterating the department's commitment to a "Zero Tolerance" policy against anti-social elements, the SSP concluded the meeting by encouraging the team to maintain their momentum in ensuring a safe and drug-free environment for the citizens.

Shopian witnesses large-scale sports, awareness events under NMJKA



SHOPIAN, MAY 12: In a significant push towards youth engagement & awareness and community wellness, a series of high-impact events were organized in Shopian today under the banner of Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan (NMJKA).

The initiatives spanned across sports, painting, seminars, pledges poster distribution, and physical well-being-drawing massive participation from the local youth. Some prominent events held today include Inter-School Sports Tournament at GHSS Kaprin which included Volley ball and Kabaddi tournament for under-14 girls. The event saw young athletes showcasing exceptional skill and sportsmanship. These competitions aimed to channelize the energy of the youth into constructive and healthy lifestyle choices. A seminar at Polytechnic College Shopian was held to sensitize youth on menace of alarming drug abuse. The event was attended by Shahr Ahmad Kullay, MLA Shopian, who attended as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, MLA emphasized the importance of community vigilance and the role of educational institutions in building a drug-free society. Under 100 Day campaign, series of awareness, sports activities and Yoga sessions were held across various locations in the Shopian district. These activities are designed to promote mental health and physical fitness, reinforcing the message of a healthy, resilient and drug-free Jammu & Kashmir.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Fair Price Shop Licence issued in favour of Late Ghulam Nabi S/o Habib Bhat R/o Village Ghari Tehsil Ramban District Ramban formerly District Doda under Order No. FSI/STS/96-97 dated 08/03/1997 is proposed to be transferred in favour of his son Azad Ahmed. If any person has any objection regarding the said transfer of licence then he/she may submit his/her objection along with relevant documentary proof before the concerned department/authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Misbha Jan, D/o Mushtaq Ahmed, R/o Bhandhar Damote, Tehsil & District Ramban, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby inform the general public that in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. XXXX XXXX 8401, my name has been wrongly mentioned as "Misbha Jaan D/o Late Mushtaq Ahmed Khandoy" instead of my correct name "Misbha Jan D/o Mushtaq Ahmed." Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized by my correct name Misbha Jan and father's name Mushtaq Ahmed for all official and legal purposes. Any person having any objection to this correction may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I MOHD ABRAR MUGHAL S/O MOHD MUSHTAQ MUGHAL R/O MAITRA GOVINDPURA TEHSIL & DISTT. RAMBAN. Have applied for the registration of DEE 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 07 days.

Major Breakthrough for Jammu Police: Wanted Criminal Avneet Singh @ Nagi Arrested

JAMMU, MAY 12: Jammu Police has achieved a major success in its ongoing drive against drug trafficking and illegal weapons by apprehending one accused and recovering commercial quantity of heroin-like substance along with an illegal pistol and live ammunition from his possession. He had 17 pending FIRs against him. A police team of Police Station Bahu Fort, while conducting naka checking near Railway Pul Narwal on the Narwal-Panama Chowk road on 12.05.2026 at about 0030 hrs, intercepted one suspicious person

who attempted to avoid the naka after noticing the police party. During checking and personal search, one Glock pistol loaded with three live rounds and approximately 266.35 grams of heroin-like substance ("Chitta"), including poly-thene packets, were recovered from his conscious possession. The accused was identified as Avneet Singh @ Nagi S/o Vikram Singh R/o Sundarpur, R.S. Pura, Jammu. He failed to produce any valid licence or satisfactory explanation regarding possession of the recovered contraband and illegal firearm.

Accordingly, FIR No. 111/2026 under Sections 8/21/22/27-A NDPS Act and 3/25 Arms Act has been registered at Police Station Bahu Fort and investigation has been taken up. Pertinently, the accused is involved in 17 criminal cases related to NDPS Act, Arms Act and other heinous offences registered at RS Pura, Gharota, Miran Sahib, Satwari, Ramgarh and Dinanagar Pathankot. At the Special Naka in Miran Sahib earlier, his associate Jaan had been injured while trying to flee.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION BHADERWAH

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
E-NITNo.: -25of 2026-27 Dated: -11-05-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir, tenders through e-tendering mode are invited from OEM/OEM's Authorized Dealer/Electrical or Mechanical Firms (Regd.) for the works mentioned below on **PERCENTAGE BASIS** per the scope, technical specifications and terms and conditions as envisaged in the standard bidding document.

Sr No	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (in Lacs)	Earliest Money %	Est of document (in Rs.)	Time of completion in (in days)	Class of Contractor
1	ELV (Extra Low Voltage) system for proposed construction of 08 Classroom building at Govt. Degree College Bhaderwah	2.636	5272/-	600	300 Days	OEM/OEM's Authorized Dealers/ Electrical or Mechanical Firms (Regd.)

Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of Technical Sanction = Accorded
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the department website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11-05-2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidding documents	From 11-05-2026 to 01-06-2026(1600 Hrs)
3	Pre-Bid meeting	On 18-05-2026 from 1200 Hrs.to 1400 Hrs.
4	Bid Submission Start Date	11-05-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date	01-06-2026up to 1600 Hrs.
6	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids (Online)	02-06-2026 on or after 1400 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bhaderwah
7	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- The bidders are requested to visit the site of work and carefully read the e-NIT document completely before submission of final bid.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through J&K Govt Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and indicating the e-NIT No duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Bhaderwah and uploading a copy of treasury challan/Receipt on eTendering portal during Bid submission.

Or
On-line transfer through IMPS/NEFT to Account No: 0030010200000544 and IFSC Code JAKA0BHADAR of JK Bank Bhaderwah of Executive Engineer PWD Bhaderwah. Copy of on-line transfer confirmation/receipt should be up-loaded on the e-tendering portal during bid submission.

- Failing to upload copy of challan/confirmation/receipt of on-line transfer on e-Tendering portal while submission of bid shall result in rejection of the bid.**
- EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan / Bid Security Affidavits must be between date of start of bid submission and bid submission date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Bhaderwah as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
 - The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/ withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
 - The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Bhaderwah. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
 - The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 300 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
 - The bidder shall be disqualified from bidding for any contract with this office for a period of 05 Years from the date of notification, if:
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.

No.: - EE/PWD/R&B/BHD/2026-27/841-852
Dated: - 11-05-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Bhaderwah
DIP/J-1942/26

'I don't think about India comeback': Bhuvneshwar Kumar opens up as return calls intensify

New Delhi, May 12: As calls for Bhuvneshwar Kumar's return to the Indian team continue to grow following his impressive IPL 2026 season with Royal Challengers Bengaluru, the veteran pacer has made it clear that an international comeback is no longer something he actively thinks about. The 36-year-old swing bowler, who has been one of RCB's standout performers this season with 21 wickets, said he stopped setting long-term goals years ago after repeated disappointments. "I don't think about India's comeback. It's been many years that I've stopped setting long-term goals. Because whenever I've done that, it never worked for me," Bhuvneshwar said in a video released by RCB



on X. With several former cricketers and experts backing him for a national recall after his consistent IPL performances, Bhuvneshwar said he is satisfied with what he has achieved in his career. "I'm happy that there are 200 matches, there are so many wickets, there's power-play, I think these are all I think it's all reward for what I've done over the

point of time. I think it's very normal for me." Reflecting on his cricketing journey, Bhuvneshwar credited his natural ability to swing the ball as the biggest reason behind his longevity and success. "I think it was a natural swing. It was God-gifted. The basics are still the same, ball swing, smooth action, express pace, bounce. T20 cricket may have changed demands, but the art of fast bowling remains unchanged." Never known as an express bowler, Bhuvneshwar admitted that his moderate pace actually helped extend his career. "I've never been an express bowler, so I never got tired. I wasn't in a hurry because I didn't bowl fast. Not being express was a blessing in disguise for me."

The veteran also explained his tactical approach across different phases of a T20 innings. "In the power-play, I'm a swing bowler, and if the ball is moving, I go for wickets. Middle overs are completely different because the batters have a different mindset. At death, it is about confidence and execution. But no matter what phase it is, I keep things simple. That's always been my mantra." Bhuvneshwar further revealed that stepping away from international cricket has also helped him manage his workload better. "Ever since I've stopped playing for the country, the best thing is that I get a lot of breaks after IPL. I play enough cricket to stay in touch, and I also get enough time to do other things."

Axar Patel fined by BCCI as DC captain joins list of slow over-rate offenders after win over PBKS

New Delhi, May 12: DC captain Axar Patel has joined the list of slow over-rate offenders after being fined ₹12 lakh in the win over PBKS in Match 55 of IPL 2026 at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamshala. The offence was DC's first of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL Code of Conduct, which relates to minimum over-rate violations. "Delhi Capitals (DC) captain Axar Patel has been fined after his team maintained a slow over rate during Match No. 55 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 against Punjab Kings (PBKS) at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamshala. "As this was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of



Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Axar Patel was fined INR 12 lakhs," the IPL said in a statement. PBKS post 210. DC respond in style Batting first, Punjab Kings continued their aggressive approach to post a strong 210/5, powered by key contributions from Priyansh Arya, Shreyas Iyer and Suryansh Shedge. In response, Delhi Capitals endured early trouble, slipping to 33/3 inside five overs.

However, Axar Patel and David Miller revived the chase with a counterattacking partnership. IPL said in a statement. Axar led from the front with a blistering 56 off 30 balls, while Miller's 51 kept DC firmly in contention despite regular breakthroughs from PBKS bowlers Ben Dwarshuis and Marcus Stoinis. With the game hanging in the balance, Manish Tewari (18 off 8) and Ashutosh Sharma (24 off 10) provided a late surge, guiding Delhi to 216/7 in 19 overs.

Central University of Jammu Organized Basketball Tournament

Jammu, 12 May 2026: A basketball tournament was organized at Brigadier Rajinder Singh Boys Hostel of Central University of Jammu. The tournament was conducted under the patronage of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, who has been encouraging the organization of various activities to promote enthusiasm for sports among hostel students and research scholars. The competition was held in the presence of Hostel Warden Prof. Bhushan, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of hostel students. The tournament was played in several rounds, and ultimately, the team from the third floor of the hostel emerged victorious. The winning team included Aman Rana (Captain), Harmanpreet Singh, Gaurav Kumar Singh, Rachit, Shubh, Pratyush Sharma, Vasu Aditya, Naved Ull Hasan, Mantavya, Sahil Singh, Baljeet Singh, and Saqib Khokhar. The runner-up team comprised students



from the first floor of the hostel. The winning team was awarded medals by Hostel Warden Prof. Bharat Bhushan. The successful organization of the tournament was made possible with the special contribution of Joint Hostel Wardens Dr. Shashikant Mishra, Dr. Jaswinder, Dr. Parvesh Pal, as well as caretakers Pawan, Rakesh, and Updesh.

No FIFA World Cup broadcaster in India even with 30 days left? Delhi HC issues notice to center

New Delhi, May 12: With just a month left before the start of the FIFA World Cup 2026, the absence of an official broadcast partner in India has now reached the courts, sparking fresh concern among millions of football fans across the country. The Delhi High Court has issued notices to the Centre and Prasar Bharati on a petition seeking directions to ensure the FIFA World Cup 2026 is broadcast in India, particularly through free-to-air public channels such as DD Sports and Doordarshan. Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav issued the notice while hearing a writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution by advocate Avdesh Bairwa. The plea highlights that despite the FIFA



World Cup 2026 being scheduled from June 11 to July 19, no broadcaster in India has acquired the media rights for the tournament so far, a situation that could potentially leave one of the world's biggest football audiences without access to the event. According to the petition, FIFA initially valued the India media rights package for the 2026 and 2030 World Cups

at nearly USD 100 million. However, due to a lack of interest from broadcasters, the valuation was reportedly reduced to around USD 35 million, yet no agreement has been finalised. The plea further states that the FIFA World Cup has already been notified as a "sporting event of national importance" under the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing

with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007. It argues that the government and Prasar Bharati are therefore obligated to make the tournament accessible to the public. The petition also points to India's massive football viewership, citing FIFA data that ranked India among the top global engagement markets during the 2022 FIFA World Cup. It additionally notes that Prasar Bharati already possesses the infrastructure required to telecast the tournament through DD Sports, DD Free Dish and its WAVES OTT platform. The petitioner has argued that failure to broadcast the World Cup would violate citizens' rights under Articles 14, 19(1)(a) and 21 of the Constitution, including the right to receive information through television and public broadcasting platforms.

SSN Emerges Runners-up at IPSC Basketball Championship 2026

Nagrota, May, 12: Sainik School Nagrota once again brought laurels to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir by delivering an outstanding performance at the prestigious IPSC Basketball Championship 2026 (U-17 Boys) held from 08 May to 10 May 2026 at Pestle Weed School, Dehradun. The championship witnessed participation from 21 reputed schools from across the country, making the tournament highly competitive and challenging. Displaying exceptional teamwork, discipline, determination and sportsmanship, the cadets of Sainik School Nagrota secured the Overall Second Position and clinched the coveted Runners-up Trophy. The team showcased remarkable consistency throughout the tournament with convincing victories against some of the top participat-



ing schools, Sainik School Nagrota defeated Sainik School Kunjpara

by 30-15, Welham Boys School by 29-11 and Birla Public School by 43-19. In one of the most thrilling matches of the championship, the team edged past MNSS Rai with a nail-biting score of 47-44. The cadets also put up commendable performances against strong teams including Mann School and the host institution, Pestle Weed School, earning appreciation for their fighting spirit and professional conduct on the court. The achievement reflects the high standards of sports training and holistic development being imparted at Sainik School Nagrota. The Principal, staff and cadets congratulated the basketball team for their exceptional accomplishment and for bringing pride and honour to the institution and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

SMVDU Students Participate in All India Inter University Wushu Championship

Srinagar, May 12: A team of four Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University students namely, Pranav Singh, Ayam Sharma, Tinsh Choudhary and Dheeraj Sharma participated in All India Inter University Wushu championship organized by University of Kashmir. One of the students Pranav Singh reached to the semi-finals of the event in his weight category. The other members of the team also delivered good performances. The team was accompanied by Mr. Sumit Sharma from Sports wing of the university. The successful participation was made possible through the continuous



efforts and encouragement of Dr. Parvez Singh Slathia, Incharge Sports and the entire sports staff of the university. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor congratulated the participants and appreciated the

'WFI never stops athletes without reason': Brij Bhushan on Vinesh Phogat-WFI row

New Delhi, May 12: As tensions continue between Vinesh Phogat and the Wrestling Federation of India, former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has distanced himself from the ongoing controversy, saying the matter is now entirely under the current administration. He clarified that decisions regarding trials, participation, and eligibility rest with the present federation setup, not him. "Where the wrestling will be held or where they will not be held is not my subject,"

also have been communicated." The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has issued a 15-page show-cause notice declaring Vinesh "ineligible" to participate in sanctioned competitions until June 26, 2026. The decision bars her from the Senior Open Ranking Tournament in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh, despite her attending the event and meeting WFI president Sanjeev Singh. The federation cited ongoing disciplinary proceedings under WADA Rule 5.6.1 related to her return to competition after retirement. Vinesh, however, has strongly defended her position, stating she has never violated anti-doping rules and only missed one whereabouts filing. "If I had broken any rule, NADA India would have given me a show-cause notice or banned me."

Heartbreak but history for India's Young Tigresses as FIFA U17 Women's World Cup dream ends

New Delhi, May 12: Tears rolled down faces, players collapsed to the turf and silence filled the Indian dugout at the Suzhou Sports Centre Stadium after the final whistle confirmed the end of a historic journey for India's Young Tigresses. India's dream of qualifying for the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup ended with a 0-3 defeat against hosts China PR in the quarter-finals of the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup 2026 on Monday, leaving the squad just one win away from creating history. "It is hard for me to speak because we did not expect this result," India defender Abhishta Basnet said after the match. "We came into the match with a different mentality, but football is like that some-



times. Still, I am happy and proud of the way we performed throughout the tournament and the unity we showed as a team." Despite the heartbreak, the campaign marked India's best-ever performance at the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup, with the Young Tigresses becoming the first Indian side to reach the quarter-finals at the tournament. Head coach Pamela Conti admitted China were the better

side but expressed disappointment over the timing of the goals India conceded. "It was a match where China were superior to us. They had more strength and deserve to win. But what really frustrates me is that we conceded in the 45th minute and again at the 90th minute." China opened the scoring in the 38th minute before doubling the lead through a stoppage-time penalty just

before halftime. India continued to fight after the break but conceded once more in the final minute of regulation time. Conti, however, insisted the tournament would remain a landmark moment for Indian women's football, especially given the quality of opposition India faced throughout the campaign, including semi-finalists Australia, Japan and China. "I think we have to be proud of these players. Personally, I am very proud of the tournament we had. We played against three of the four semi-finalists, including China, at their home." India had returned to the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup after a gap of 21 years and scripted history by defeating Lebanon 4-0 in the group stage to seal a quarter-

final spot. That victory had brought the team within touching distance of becoming the first Indian women's side to qualify for a FIFA World Cup on merit. For 15-year-old Abhishta, the pain of the defeat also reflected how much the squad had achieved together over the past year. We worked together for a long time, and our bond became like a family. Now we are looking forward to our next journey and to performing even better." Conti also highlighted the importance of exposure at the continental level, especially with India fielding one of the youngest squads in the tournament. Fourteen players from the current squad will still be eligible for the next AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup.

Tamil Nadu CM Vijay invokes British parliamentary system quotes former US Prez Abraham Lincoln in Assembly

New Delhi, May12: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Tuesday invoked the history of the British parliamentary system and quoted Abraham Lincoln in the Assembly as he pitched for protecting democratic traditions, legislative dignity, and equal representation during the election of the new Speaker. Addressing the House after TVK MLA JCD Prabhakar was elected unopposed as Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Vijay referred to the evolution of the British parliamentary system and the risks once faced by Speakers while conveying Parliament's decisions to monarchs. "The Speaker had the responsibility of informing the King whenever Parliament rejected his proposals. In those days, kings even had the power to order executions, and Speakers sometimes faced severe punishment for conveying Parliament's stand," Vijay said in



the Assembly. The Chief Minister also highlighted the long-standing parliamentary tradition in which newly elected Speakers symbolically hesitate to occupy the chair and are escorted to their seats by

leaders from both the treasury and opposition benches. "That tradition continues even today as a symbol of democratic values," he remarked. Quoting Abraham Lincoln's famous definition of

democracy as a government "of the people, by the people and for the people," Vijay said legislative institutions must remain rooted in democratic principles and public welfare.

He assured full cooperation from all Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) legislators to the Speaker and emphasised that even parties with a single member should be given equal importance in the functioning of the House. "Every member in the Assembly is equal. Legislative traditions and democratic values must be protected," Vijay said, adding that governance should focus on extending welfare measures and benefits to the maximum number of people.

Earlier in the day, TVK MLA JCD Prabhakar was elected Speaker of the Assembly without a contest, while party legislator M. Ravi Shankar was elected unopposed as Deputy Speaker.

Assam CM Oath Ceremony: Man nabbed with bullets from the venue



Guwahati, May12: A person was taken into custody from the venue of the swearing-in ceremony of the new Assam government allegedly with a few rounds of live bullets. Notably, Himanta Biswa Sarma took oath as the Assam Chief Minister for a second consecutive term after the BJP-led NDA formed the government in the state for the third straight time. Governor

Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Sarma at Veterinary College Field in Khanapara in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah as well as several top BJP and NDA leaders. According to police officials, the live bullets were recovered from the man during security screening

at the entrance of the venue. "He was taken into custody for questioning. He is being taken to Basistha police station," PTI quoted an official as saying. However, no arms were recovered from the individual. As of now, investigation is underway to determine the circumstances surrounding the recovery and whether any security threat was involved.

Amritsar imposes fresh curbs on liquor, tobacco in holy zone



New Delhi, May12: In a move aimed at preserving the religious character of the holy city, the Amritsar district administration has reimposed restrictions on the sale and use of liquor, meat, tobacco products, and other intoxicants within the walled city area. The fresh

orders have been issued by Amritsar District Magistrate Dalwinderjit Singh under provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023. Officials said the restrictions are intended to maintain the spiritual atmosphere and traditional sanctity associated with

key Sikh religious centres in Punjab.

Under the directives, commercial sale, storage, and public consumption of alcohol, meat products, cigarettes, bidis, pan masala, tobacco items, and similar intoxicants will not be permitted inside the historic walled city limits of Amritsar. The administration has warned that anyone found violating the orders will face legal proceedings. Authorities said the decision was taken in line with the Punjab government's policy regarding designated holy cities, including Sri Harmandir Sahib, Sri Anandpur Sahib, and Takht Sri Damdama Sahib, where maintaining religious decorum is considered a priority.

Punjab unveils Farm Stay Policy to boost rural tourism

Chandigarh, May12:

The Punjab government has introduced its Farm Stay Policy-2026, aiming to create new income opportunities for farmers by promoting rural tourism and allowing agricultural landowners to develop regulated farm-based accommodation facilities for visitors.

Under the new policy, farmers will be permitted to set up small-scale homestay units on their farmland where tourists can experience village life, local culture and agricultural activities. The government believes the initiative will strengthen the rural economy, generate jobs for youth and women, and provide farmers with an additional source of income beyond traditional agriculture. Officials said the policy is designed to encourage sustainable tourism while preserving Punjab's cultural identity. Tourists visiting such farm stays will be offered activities



linked to rural life, including tractor rides, bullock cart journeys, horse riding, visits to dairy farms, fish ponds and participation in farming-related work. According to the guidelines, a farmer must own at least one acre of land to establish a farm stay. Construction will be permitted on only 10 per cent of the total land area, while the remaining portion must remain open and connected to agricultural

use. The policy allows a minimum of two rooms and a maximum of nine rooms, with a cap of 18 guests at a time. Buildings cannot exceed two storeys or a height of nine metres, and the owner or family members must reside on the property. The government has also simplified the registration process. Tourism Department Secretary Kumar Amit said registrations will be completed online through the

FastTrack Punjab portal. Farm stays will initially receive registration for five years, followed by renewal in blocks of three years. Authorities said certificates will be issued within 21 days if documents are found complete.

Officials stated that applicants will not require separate No Objection Certificates (NOCs) or Change of Land Use (CLU) permission to start operations. Electricity connections will be provided at domestic tariff rates, while existing borewells and water sources on farms may be used for guests. To improve hospitality standards, the government plans to provide training through hotel management institutes. Farm stay owners and at least three employees will receive professional guidance in hospitality management, while organic farming projects may receive additional support.

NEET-UG 2026 exam cancelled, NTA announces retest; CBI to probe paper leak

New Delhi, May12: The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Tuesday, May 12, announced that NEET-UG 2026 examination conducted on May 3 has been cancelled, while the exam will now be re-conducted on dates to be notified separately. In an official statement shared on X, the agency said that the decision came after examining inputs received from central agencies as well as law enforcement authorities regarding alleged irregularities in the examination process. "In continuation of its press release dated 10 May 2026, the National Testing Agency wishes to inform candidates, parents, and members of the public of the following decisions taken in respect of NEET



(UG) 2026. NTA had, on 8 May 2026, referred the matters then under consideration to the central agencies for independent verification and necessary action, consistent with its standing commitment to the fair, secure, and credible conduct of the national examinations entrusted to it," the NTA said. It added, "On the basis of the inputs

subsequently examined by NTA in coordination with the central agencies, and the investigative findings shared by the law enforcement agencies and in order to ensure that there is transparency in the system, the National Testing Agency, with the approval of the Government of India, has decided to cancel the NEET (UG) 2026 examination conducted on 3 May 2026, and to re-conduct the examination on dates that will be notified separately." Moreover, it stated that the central government has decided to hand over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). "The Government of India further decided to refer the matter to the Central Bureau of Investigation for a comprehensive inquiry into the allegations therein. NTA will extend full cooperation to the Bureau and will provide all materials, records, and assistance the inquiry requires," it said. The statement further noted that the inputs received by NTA, taken together with the findings shared by the law enforcement agencies, "established that the present

examination process could not be allowed to stand." The re-conducted examination dates, along with the re-issued admit-card schedule, will be communicated through the official channels of the Agency in the coming days," it added. Acknowledging the inconvenience caused to students and parents, the NTA maintained that the decision was necessary to protect the integrity of the system. "This decision has been taken in the interest of students and in recognition of the trust on which the national examination system rests. The Agency is conscious that the re-conduct will cause real and significant inconvenience to candidates and their families.

'Sanathanam, which separated people, should be eradicated': Udhayanidhi Stalin in TN Assembly

Chennai, May12: Udhayanidhi Stalin, Leader of Opposition and DMK leader, on Tuesday, May 12, sparked major outrage in the Tamil Nadu Assembly as he revived his anti-Sanatan pitch. "Sanathanam, which separated people, should be eradicated," he said. Stalin further stated that newly-elected Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay received wishes from MK Stalin yesterday, adding that this "political civility should continue in this House". "Even if we sit in different rows as ruling government and opposition, we all should work together for development of Tamil Nadu... The Opposition parties have expressed concerns after the Tamil Nadu state song was played after Vande



Mataram. But at the West Bengal CM oath-taking ceremony, Vande Mataram was not played. But here it was played. You all know who is the Governor there. The government should not allow this to happen again. Our Tamil Nadu state song should never be played to the second spot," Udhayanidhi Stalin said. He further recalled that he and Vijay used to study at the same college.

"We would like to share our experience and knowledge. The CM should also accept our suggestions," he said. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister invoked the history of the British parliamentary system, stressing the importance of democratic traditions as he addressed the Assembly after TVK MLA JCD Prabhakar got elected unopposed as the Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

Cyber crime crackdown: 173 Indians among foreigners arrested in Sri Lanka



New Delhi, May12: Nearly 200 foreigners, including 173 from India, have been arrested in Sri Lanka as part of the ongoing crackdown on cyber-crime operations, according to local police. The arrest were made from the southern resort areas of Galle, Hikkadawa and Midigama late on Monday, May 11, PTI reported. Among those arrested are 198 foreign nationals, including 173 Indians and

25 from Nepal. All of them are said to be between the 25 and 35 age group. According to Sri Lankan police officials, those arrested will be charged with abusing tourist visas by overstaying and finding employment. Further, they possessed duty-free imported cigarettes and got engaged in activities covered under cybercrime laws. This comes after 250 Chinese nationals were taken into custody last week for the same offence. Until May 5, as many as 628 foreigners had been arrested in the island nation since the beginning of the year for cybercrime operations while temporarily located in the country. Among those arrested include people from China, India, Vietnam, Myanmar, Philippines and Cambodia. Officials have said that such groups are often seen to be part of wider international syndicates that target victims abroad using digital platforms and communication systems. Law enforcement agencies have suggested that the country's connectivity and visa access likely contributed to making it vulnerable to such activities, with several suspects accused of entering the country on short-term permits.

Congress caught in Kerala power tug-of-war as CM announcement remains elusive after poll sweep

New Delhi, May12: More than a week after the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) swept the Kerala Assembly polls with a commanding majority, the alliance is still waiting for clarity on who will lead the next government. What was expected to be a smooth transition after the UDF's emphatic return to power has now turned into a prolonged political wait, with the Congress high command continuing consultations in Delhi while competing camps within the party push their preferred candidates for the top post.

The uncertainty has also triggered debate within Kerala Congress circles, where supporters of Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan believe his aggressive campaign against the second Pinarayi Vijayan government over the past five years has earned him the strongest claim to the chief minister's chair. At the same time, AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal is understood to enjoy significant



backing within the party leadership and among a large section of newly elected MLAs. Senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala also remains in contention, with party insiders pointing to his organisational and administrative experience. Another round of discussions is expected on Tuesday after former Kerala Congress president Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan was

summoned by the high command for consultations. Before leaving for Delhi, Radhakrishnan indicated that a decision could be near. "Things are coming to a close on the selection of the next CM," he said. Senior Congress leader MM Hassan also urged the leadership to end the uncertainty quickly. "We all expect the name to be announced without further delay, as by now itself the time has

elapsed," Hassan said. Why Congress is struggling to finalise Kerala CM face The delay has increasingly become a talking point beyond Congress circles, especially with questions being raised over whether a sitting Member of Parliament should be chosen to lead the Kerala government. However, party leaders privately insist that such concerns are unlikely to influence the final decision. Congress insiders have pointed to instances such as Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who was serving as an MP before taking charge of the state, along with earlier examples of senior Union leaders moving to state politics. Even as the high command weighs its options, supporters of Satheesan argue that he carries stronger grassroots support among ordinary Congress workers in Kerala, while Venugopal is widely viewed as the preferred choice of the central leadership and someone who enjoys the confidence of Rahul Gandhi.

One dead, three hospitalised: Indian tourists collapse one by one at Phuket café in mysterious incident

Washington, May 12: A 26-year-old Indian tourist has died while three others remain under medical care after members of a group suddenly lost consciousness at a cafe in Thailand's Phuket province, authorities said on Tuesday. The Indian Embassy in Thailand said it is in touch with Thai authorities and is closely monitoring the case, which took place on May 9 in the Kata Beach area of Kathu district. The incident has triggered an investigation by local police as officials attempt to determine what caused four members of the group to collapse one after another inside the cafe late on Friday night. While one of the tourists later died in hospital, the remaining three are reported to be in stable condition. In a statement posted on X, the Indian Embassy said, "The Embassy has been in



touch with the Thai authorities and closely monitoring the incident in which four Indian tourists fell unconscious in Phuket on 9 May 2026 and were subsequently hospitalised for treatment." "Our deepest condolences for the death of one young Indian tourist among them. The Embassy officials are in contact with the family of the deceased to extend all support in this hour of

grief. We remain in contact with the relevant Thai authorities who are looking into the incident, and also following the health situation of the others," it added. What happened at the Phuket cafe? According to local officials, emergency teams were called to a cafe near Kamala Beach after several Indian tourists reportedly collapsed on the premises.

Security personnel at the cafe told investigators that five Indian men had arrived together around 11 pm on Friday. The group was identified as Aman Agarwal, Rahul Agrawal, another man also named Rahul Agrawal, Kushagra Agarwal, and Aryan Verma. Officials said four members of the group began losing consciousness one by one without any immediate

visible reason, following which cafe staff alerted emergency services. Three tourists were taken to Patong Hospital, while another was shifted to Thalang Hospital, the Bangkok Post reported. Police launch investigation after tourist's death. Hospital authorities later informed police that two of the patients had slipped into a coma and were transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital for advanced treatment. They were identified as Kushagra Agarwal and one of the two men named Rahul Agrawal. Police said Kushagra Agarwal later died during treatment on Saturday. The condition of the other three tourists has since stabilised. Thai authorities are continuing their investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Pakistan: Suicide blast in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa leaves 8 dead, 35 injured



Khyber, May 12: At least eight people, including two security officials, were killed and 35 others got injured in a major blast in northwest Pakistan on Tuesday, local police said. The incident happened when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive-laden vehicle in the Lakki Marwat district of the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to agency. A District Police official informed that the bomber had detonated his explosive-laden three-wheeler auto rickshaw at the Phattak Chowk in Naurang Bazar. Among the eight people killed were two traffic police personnel and a woman. As many as 35 others got injured in the

blast and were taken to Teshil Headquarters Hospital in Sarai Naurang for treatment. Among them, those who were said to be in critical condition were referred to hospitals in Bannu and Peshawar, while an emergency was declared at the hospital and all staff members were called. Rescue 1122 spokesperson Shahbaz Khan said ambulances and rescue teams have been dispatched to the site for relief work. Taking note of the blast, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Muhammad Suhail Afridi has asked Inspector General of Police to submit a detailed report in the matter.

'Pakistan-based bot networks trying to break US-Israeli alliance,' claims Israeli PM Netanyahu



Jerusalem, May 12: Launching a sharp attack amid escalating tensions in West Asia, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Pakistan and several other countries of attempting to weaken the United States-Israel alliance through coordinated online propaganda campaigns, while geopolitical tensions surge surrounding the Israel-Iran conflict. In an interview with CBS, Netanyahu alleged that several countries were operating organ-

ised social media influence campaigns aimed at turning American public opinion against Israel at a time when Washington remains one of Tel Aviv's strongest strategic allies during the ongoing regional confrontation involving Iran and its proxies. "We have several countries that basically manipulated social media with the bot fams with fake addresses, to break the American sympathy to Israel, to break the American-Israeli alliance, because they think it's in

their interest," Netanyahu said during the interview. The Israeli Prime Minister further claimed that such campaigns were being carried out in a "clever way" using fake online identities to create the impression of shifting public sentiment inside the United States. "You hear a text message, 'I'm a red-blooded Texan. I always supported Israel. But I can't stand what they're doing. I'm turning against Israel.' And then you trace the address to some basement in Pakistan," Netanyahu said. His remarks come while Pakistan positions itself as a mediator to ease heightened tensions in the region following the prolonged US-Israel-Iran war, with repeated military escalations. Pakistan has, in recent months, shown itself to have intensified diplomatic outreach on the West Asia crisis.

UAE secretly struck Iran during West Asia war despite public neutrality: Report

Washington, May 12: The United Arab Emirates, which had publicly denied taking part in the recent West Asia conflict, allegedly carried out covert strikes inside Iran during the war, according to a report by The Wall Street Journal citing people familiar with the matter. The report has added a new dimension to the regional conflict that had already drawn in multiple Gulf nations, raising fresh questions over the UAE's behind-the-scenes military role even as it maintained an official stance of non-involvement throughout the five-week confrontation. According to the WSJ report, one of the strikes targeted a refinery on Iran's Lavan Island in the Persian Gulf in early April, around the same time President Donald Trump announced a ceasefire after weeks of military escalation involving the Islamic Republic. The attack reportedly triggered a major blaze at the refinery and severely affected operations at the facility for months. At the time, Iran had described the



incident as an enemy attack. Tehran later responded with missile and drone strikes aimed at the UAE and Kuwait, escalating tensions across the Gulf region. While Abu Dhabi has not publicly admitted carrying out the attacks, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs referred to earlier statements asserting the country's right to respond militarily to hostile acts. At the beginning of the conflict, the Pentagon declined to comment on the allegations. The White House

also avoided directly addressing questions linked to the UAE's reported involvement. However, according to WSJ, the administration said President Trump retained "every option at his disposal" and that Washington continued to maintain "maximum leverage" over Iran. Why the Gulf states changed their stance during the conflict. At the beginning of the conflict, Gulf countries had stated that they would not permit their airspace or

military facilities to be used for operations against Iran. But the situation shifted after Iran launched waves of missile and drone attacks targeting airports, population centres and energy infrastructure across the Gulf, reportedly in an attempt to increase the economic cost of the war for regional governments. The UAE was among the worst-hit countries during the conflict, with more than 300 missiles and drones allegedly directed towards the country, the report said. According to WSJ, the attacks disrupted key sectors of the Emirati economy, including aviation, tourism and real estate, while also leading to layoffs and furloughs. Open-source imagery allegedly showed UAE aircraft inside Iran. The report also cited open-source researchers who claimed imagery showed French-made Mirage fighter jets and Chinese Wing Loong drones operating inside Iranian territory. Both aircraft systems are used by the UAE military.

Playing both sides: Pakistan's Iran aircraft admission puts Washington on edge

Washington, May 12: Pakistan's attempt to deny reports of assisting Iran during the recent US-Iran conflict appears to have backfired after its own Foreign Ministry acknowledged that Iranian aircraft are currently stationed inside the country. The development has intensified scrutiny over Islamabad's role in the Iran-US negotiations. While Pakistan has projected itself as a neutral facilitator in the talks, the latest admission has triggered questions in Washington over whether it quietly sided with Tehran during the conflict. In a statement issued on Tuesday, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) sought to dismiss reports claiming that



Iranian military aircraft had been allowed to use Pakistani airbases. However, while rejecting the allegations, the ministry confirmed that Iranian aircraft were indeed parked in Pakistan during the ceasefire period. "The Iranian aircraft currently parked in Pakistan arrived during the ceasefire period and bears no linkage whatsoever to any military con-

tingency or preservation arrangement," the statement said. The clarification came after a report by CBS News claimed that Pakistan had quietly permitted Iranian military aircraft to use its airfields during the conflict, potentially shielding them from possible American strikes. According to CBS News, which cited two US officials, Pakistan supported

Iran during the conflict while simultaneously trying to maintain favourable ties with the United States. The report further stated that several Iranian aircraft were flown to Pakistan's Nur Khan Air Base days after US President Donald Trump announced a ceasefire with Tehran in early April. Among the aircraft allegedly moved to Pakistan was an Iranian Air Force RC-130 reconnaissance aircraft, a surveillance and intelligence-gathering variant of the Lockheed C-130 Hercules. Why Pakistan's Iran aircraft admission has raised eyebrows. Foreign Ministry's attempt to describe the aircraft movement as part of diplomatic and logistical coordination

linked to the talks process. "A number of aircraft from Iran and the United States arrived in Pakistan to facilitate the movement of diplomatic, personnel, security teams, and administrative staff associated with the talks process. Some aircraft and support personnel remained temporarily in Pakistan in anticipation of subsequent rounds of engagement," the ministry said. However, the statement stopped short of explaining why military reconnaissance aircraft would remain stationed at a highly secured military installation if the arrangement was only administrative. The episode has complicated Islamabad's balancing act between Tehran and Washington.

Google search engine hit by global outage, '500 Internal Server Error' disrupts users worldwide

Washington, May 12:

US-based tech giant Alphabet Inc's Google Search suffered a widespread global outage on Tuesday morning, leaving users across India, the United States and several other countries unable to access the platform or perform searches for some time. The disruption triggered a flood of complaints online as users encountered repeated error messages while trying to use the world's most popular search engine. Several users attempting to access Google Search were shown a message stating, "We are sorry, but it appears that there has been an internal server error while processing your request. Our engineers have been notified and are working to resolve the issue. Please try again later." The issue was identified as a "500 Internal Server Error", a server-side failure that generally points to technical problems within a company's backend infrastructure rather than faults related to users' internet connections or devices. The error typically occurs when communication between a browser and the company's servers is disrupted due to internal system issues. The outage led to a sharp spike in complaints on online outage-tracking plat-



forms and social media, with hundreds of reports emerging from users in India within a short time. Many users said Google Search was either completely inaccessible or functioning intermittently, with search results failing to load. The disruption once again highlighted the growing dependence on major technology platforms for everyday communication and information access. In recent months, several global digital services have faced similar large-scale outages. In March, Chinese AI platform DeepSeek experienced one of the biggest disruptions in its history, reportedly remaining offline for more than seven hours.

Five killed, two injured in residential building fire in China's Hunan



Hunan, May 12: A fire at a residential building in central China's Hunan Province has left five people dead and two others injured, according to the local emergency management bureau. The blaze occurred around 3 a.m. Tuesday in Yanfeng District of Hengyang City. The injured are receiving medical treatment. The cause of the fire is under investiga-

tion. Earlier on May 5, Chinese President Xi Jinping had ordered an investigation after an explosion ripped through a fireworks factory in central China and the surrounding area, killing at least 26 people and injuring 61. Xi's order came a day after the explosion at the Huasheng fireworks plant in Luyang, a city of 1.5 million people in central Hunan province. Xi stated that "those responsible must be held accountable" and urged "all-out efforts to search for people who were still unaccounted for," according to the Xinhua news agency. The local government dispatched 482 emergency personnel to the site and evacuated nearby areas due to the risk of further explosions at the factory's warehouses, state media reported. On May 2, a fire broke out at a foot massage.

Frustration grows in Trump camp as Iran talks stall, strike option back on table: Report

Washington, May 12: US President Donald Trump has sharply escalated his rhetoric against Iran, calling Tehran's latest proposal "a piece of garbage" as discussions within his administration increasingly shift towards the possibility of renewed military action against the Islamic Republic. The latest remarks come at a time when ceasefire efforts in West Asia appear fragile and diplomatic negotiations between Washington and Tehran remain stuck. According to sources familiar with the matter



quoted by CNN, frustration in the Trump administration has deepened over Iran's handling of the nuclear issue and what officials see as Tehran's unwillingness to seriously engage in negotiations.

"After reading that piece of garbage they sent us, I didn't even finish reading it. They (Iran) are on life support. The ceasefire is on massive life support," Trump said. According to CNN, the US President has grown increasingly impatient not only with the stalled talks but also with Iran's continued control over the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Sources cited by the network said Trump believes divisions within Iran's leadership have slowed down meaningful diplomatic progress.

Why tensions between the US and Iran are rising again. CNN reported that several officials in Washington are now questioning whether Tehran genuinely intends to negotiate. The uncertainty has also triggered disagreements within the Trump administration over how the US should respond moving forward. Some officials, particularly within the Pentagon, are said to be pushing for a more aggressive strategy involving targeted military strikes aimed at weakening Iran's position further.

DC Poonch reviews Mission YUVA (Udyam Jagriti 4.0) Awareness and Coverage activities

POONCH, MAY 12: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, JKAS today chaired a detailed review meeting regarding the coverage and awareness activities under the Culture Component of Mission YUVA. The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik, Deputy Director Employment Poonch, Abdul Majid, Principals and representatives of various Degree Colleges, ITIs, and GPC Satra, along with the District Nodal Officer NRLM and all Block Programme



Managers (BPMs) of the District. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of ensuring maximum outreach and participation under Mission YUVA. He directed all BPMs to prepare a comprehensive awareness and coverage

schedule for Self Help Group (SHG) members and ensure their active participation and registration on the Mission YUVA portal. All ITIs were instructed to conduct intensive awareness campaigns and achieve maximum coverage of trainees within the

next four to five days. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that awareness activities should be carried out in a mission mode to ensure that every eligible trainee is informed and registered under the scheme. The Principals of colleges were also directed to ensure extensive awareness among students and achieve 100 per cent coverage of students under Mission YUVA immediately after the completion of the admission process. The District Nodal Officer NRLM was further directed to substantially increase the number of applications

from SHG members under Mission YUVA. The officer was instructed to share the awareness schedule with the Mission YUVA team and simultaneously conduct awareness drives across the district to enhance registrations and application submissions of SHG members on the Mission YUVA portal. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration commitment towards strengthening youth empowerment and livelihood opportunities through effective implementation and widespread awareness of Mission YUVA in the district.

Nasha Mukh Campaign

DIPR organises Symposium-cum-Cultural programme at School for Sightsless Girls Roopnagar

JAMMU, MAY 12: Continuing its outreach under the "Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir - 100 Days Campaign", the Cultural Unit Jammu of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) today organised a Symposium-cum-Theme Based Cultural Programme here at School for Sightsless Girls Roopnagar.



The programme was aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and motivating them to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle. Students actively participated in the symposium and shared insightful views on the issue, reflect-

ing awareness and concern towards building a drug-free society.

The Chief Guest, Principal Navedita Shukla appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to act as responsible citizens by spreading awareness against drug abuse.

The artists of the Cultural Unit Jammu also

presented theme-based songs in Hindi and Punjabi, which inspired the audience and reinforced the campaign's message through engaging performances. The programme witnessed active participation from students, staff members and faculty, making it a meaningful awareness initiative.

Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust organised an awareness and assistance camp

Jammu, May 12: Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust organised an awareness and assistance camp in the Gangyal area of Jammu city for the welfare of workers associated with the unorganised sector. The objective of the programme was to spread awareness about various welfare schemes launched by the Central Government and to encourage workers towards self-reliance. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria attended the event as the chief guest. A large number of unskilled workers and youth participated in the programme. On the occasion, Baldev Singh Billawaria distributed tool kits among trained youth and workers who had com-



pleted technical skill training. Addressing the gathering, he said that the primary aim of the government welfare schemes is to ensure that the benefits reach the last person in society and empower economically weaker sections to become self-reliant. He appreciated the initiative taken by Dogra Sewa Sambhal Trust and said that

such efforts not only create better employment opportunities for workers but also motivate them to establish self-employment ventures based on their skills. Billawaria stated that in today's era, technical skills and self-reliance are the keys to success. He said that tool kits are not merely equipment but a strong foundation

for a brighter future for the youth. Through these tools, trained individuals can start their own work and strengthen the financial condition of their families. He further said that the objective of the Trust is not only to provide assistance but also to empower youth to live with dignity and stand on their own feet. During his address, he also highlighted on the Central Government's ambitious "Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana" meant for workers in the unorganised sector. He informed that workers between the age group of 18 to 40 years can apply for the scheme, under which beneficiaries receive a monthly pension of Rs. 3000 after attaining the age of 60 years.

DC reviews progress under Mission YUVA scheme in Udhampur



UDHAMPUR, MAY 12: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee under the Mission YUVA scheme to assess the ground impact of the scheme in respect of promoting entrepreneurship among youth. The meeting was attended

by Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore; GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan; Assistant Director Employment Priyanka Gupta, officers from various line departments and representatives from the banking sector, besides Sub-Divisional

Magistrates. At the outset, the Assistant Director Employment delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the status of applications, pendency of cases and progress achieved in providing handholding to youth through the Banks. While reviewing the implementation progress, the DC emphasized the need to expedite the process of approval, sanction and disbursement of loan cases to ensure timely benefits reach the aspiring youth. Stressing the importance of awareness generation, the DC called upon the departments to motivate and educate the public about the benefits and opportunities available under the Mission YUVA scheme. The LDM was directed to ensure prompt processing and timely disbursement of sanctioned loan cases.

Udhampur admin hosts awareness-cum-training programme on census 2027 self-enumeration

UDHAMPUR, MAY 12: District Administration Udhampur today organised an awareness-cum-training programme for District and Sectoral Officers regarding Census 2027 and the upcoming Self-Enumeration process here at Conference Hall DC Office Complex, Udhampur. The programme, held under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa, was attended by District Census Officer and Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; PO Poshan Subash Dogra, Additional SP Sandeep Bhat, GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch, DFO Udhampur, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, DSEO Darshan Kumar and other district officers. At the



outset, the DIONIC delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation on Census 2027 and briefed the participants about the online self-enumeration process. He informed that the self-

enumeration phase will be conducted from May 17 to May 31, 2026, during which citizens will be able to submit their household details online through the official Census Self-Enumeration portal.

He stated that the initiative has been introduced to make the Census process more convenient, transparent and citizen-friendly. While addressing the gathering, the ADC explained that the online

self-enumeration facility would enable residents to independently and securely provide household information from their homes. He emphasized that self-declaration by citizens forms the backbone of authentic Census records and urged residents to furnish all required information truthfully and carefully in the prescribed 33 questions of Phase-I Household and Housing Census, covering household composition, socio-economic details and other notified Census parameters. The ADC further said that the successful conduct of Census 2027 depends on collective awareness and active public participation, and urged all residents to make full use of the online self-enumeration facility.

DC Rajouri chairs meeting to finalize District Capex Budget 2026-27

RAJOURI, MAY 12: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to discuss and finalize the District Capex Budget for the financial year 2026-27. The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments and executing agencies to prepare plans strictly in accordance with the needs and priorities of the people. He stressed the importance of identifying projects with visible and meaningful impact on the ground, particularly in sectors such as healthcare, infrastructure and public service delivery. Emphasizing timely submission of plan proposals and estimates, the Deputy Commissioner stressed expediting the process for



seeking administrative approvals to facilitate timely execution of developmental projects in view of the limited working season in the district. Reviewing the status of preparation of estimates for proposed works, the Deputy Commissioner called for better coordination among line departments, optimum utilization of resources and proactive

planning to facilitate smooth and efficient implementation of developmental projects across the district. The meeting was attended by ADC Malikzaad Sheraz Ul Haq; ADC Ravi Kumar Shih; ADC Auqil Navaid and CPO Maqsood Ahmed; while ADC Nowsheera Pritam Lal Thapa; ADC Kalakote Mohammad Tavir.

DC Kishtwar reviews Census-2027 preparedness Stresses spreading mass awareness for 100% Self-Enumeration

KISHTWAR, MAY 12: Deputy Commissioner/Principal Census Officer Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Census Coordination Committee to review the preparedness and progress regarding Census-2027 activities, particularly self-enumeration, House listing and Housing Census, training programmes and House Listing Block demarcation work in the district. At the outset, Additional District Census Officer (DSEO) informed the meeting that one batch of District Field Trainers has completed training, while 7 batches of Enumerators and Supervisors are being imparted training at different venues.



It was further informed that of 539 HLBs, geo-tagging work has been completed at 419 and demarcation work in 418, registering around 77 percent progress. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Charge

Officers to ensure completion of the remaining work within the stipulated timeline. All Charge Census Officers were asked to work in close coordination with Field Trainers, Panchayats, Urban Local

Bodies and departmental nodal officers for effective public mobilization and the smooth conduct of self-enumeration activities in their respective jurisdictions. Emphasizing the importance of exercise, the

Deputy Commissioner stated that Census data forms the backbone of developmental planning and appealed to the general public to actively participate in self-enumeration and cooperate with census functionaries for the successful conduct of the exercise in District Kishtwar. The meeting was attended by ADC (DCO) Pawan Kotwal; PO ICDS Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma; CPO Akhil Thakur; ACD Manoj Kumar; DSWG Tariq Parveez Qazi; CEO Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; Tehsildar HQA to DC Mohd. Rafiq Naik; Tehsildar Nirbhay Sharma; DSEO (ADCO) Suresh Kumar; CEO Sanjay Dogra; besides other officers and concerned staff.

DC reviews implementation of Power Sector Schemes in Ramban District



RAMBAN, MAY 12: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today reviewed the implementation of various power sector schemes in a meeting attended by CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, Executive Engineer, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) Sunil Sharma, along with representatives of executing

agencies and vendors engaged in the implementation of flagship power sector initiatives. Chairing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of works undertaken under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), installation of Smart Meters, and coverage of Rooftop Solar projects across the district.

The DC resolved the bottleneck highlighted by the executing agencies by passing directions to the concerned officers. Assuring full administrative support, he stressed the timely completion of all projects to strengthen the power distribution infrastructure, enhance operational efficiency, and improve overall consumer satisfaction in Ramban district. While reviewing the status of Smart Meter installation, the Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agencies to expedite the process and ensure completion within the prescribed timelines. He emphasized that Smart Meters must be mandatorily installed and made fully operational.

**Lieutenant Governor Visits Vibrant Village Uran Bowa in Baramulla
People of our border villages, especially farmers, youth and women
shoulder an extraordinary responsibility in serving the nation: LG Sinha**

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today visited Vibrant Village, Uran Bowa in Baramulla, reviewed ongoing schemes and addressed a public gathering. The Lieutenant Governor said, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, border villages' distance from Delhi has reduced. They are connected to the mainstream of development and it is commitment of the Government of India to ensure that border villages become symbol of inclusive development. "The people of our border villages, especially farmers, youth and women shoulder an extraordinary responsibility in serving the nation. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, border villages' distance from Delhi has reduced. They are connected to the mainstream of development and it is commitment of the GOI to ensure that border villages become symbol of inclusive development," the Lieutenant Governor said. It is pertinent to



mention that under the Vibrant Villages Programme, the Government of India has rolled out a structured initiative for inclusive development in all border villages selected under the programme. At its core are four key areas that will lay the foundation for a new era in border regions. The first is ensuring all-weather road connectivity, household electrification, telecom connectivity and television connectivity. "I truly believe that roads unlock new possibilities. All 18 villages covered under the Vibrant Villages Programme are now linked by all-weather roads. The process to connect all 83 border villages of Baramulla has been expedited and very soon every border village of Jammu Kashmir will be integrated into the economic mainstream and linked to other key cities of the country. Before 2019, telecom and digital coverage in those 18 strategically vital Villages was under 40%. Under the Honble Prime Minister's leadership, we have ensured 100% 4G and 5G connectivity in these critical spots," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor assured the residents of border villages that the digital revolution

won't stop at city limits and the administration is committed to strengthening digital infrastructure and delivering reliable mobile and internet services to every frontier hamlet. He also said that youth and women are being empowered and entrepreneurship is being promoted in border areas for a prosperous society.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the Administration is working on three key parameters—improving literacy rate, ensuring economic growth and providing Livelihood generation opportunities for the youth of villages like Uran Bowa. "Youth and women in border areas now have self-employment opportunities, increased education infrastructure provides vocational training for the next generation, and border tourism, new revolution in agriculture and allied sectors have ignited prosperity across all 18 vital villages," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Div Com Jammu reviews implementation of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna

JAMMU, MAY 12: Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna in the Jammu province.



The meeting was attended by MD Jammu Power Development Corporation Ltd (JPDCL), Deputy Commissioners from all districts of Jammu division, Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, CEO JKEDA, Superintendent Engineers, Executive Engineers and concerned officers. The Divisional Commissioner sought the details of the total number of applications received in each district for installation of Solar panels under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna and the to-date progress

achieved. Stress was laid on identifying the bottlenecks for effective implementation and mobilizing of maximum number of people to avail the subsidized scheme which aims at reducing the power bill and promoting green energy usage. The Divisional Commissioner asked the JPDCL to intensify the awareness and publicity campaign to highlight the benefits of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna. He asked them to ease the process so that maximum number of people can avail benefit of the scheme. He further directed the Deputy Commissioners to conduct periodical review for smooth and expeditious implementation of the Yojana. The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the progress of smart metering under RDSS. He directed the concerned officers for meticulous distribution of the teams for increasing the coverage of the scheme.

MC Kishtwar gets sanitation equipment under CSR Initiative

KISHTWAR, MAY 12: Municipal Council Kishtwar has been provided sanitation items by Kwar Hydro Electric Power Project (HEP) as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. The sanitation items and equipment handed over to the sanitation workers included masks, hand gloves, long safety shoes, phenyl, radium vests, brooms and other essential materials for improving sanitation operations and ensuring the safety of frontline sanitation workers. The Deputy Commissioner Pankaj



Kumar Sharma appreciated the CSR initiative of Kwar HEP and emphasized the importance of providing adequate safety gear and sanitation resources to workers engaged in maintaining cleanliness and

public hygiene in the Town and its peripheral areas. The initiative is expected to significantly enhance sanitation services and strengthen the working conditions of sanitation workers in the town.

Director School Education held meeting with designated members of private schools associations

Members highlighted their grievance regarding irresponsible attitude of the ministerial staff

JAMMU MAY 12: Director School Education Jammu Dr. Naseem Javid Chowdhary, (JKAS) convene a meeting with designated members of private schools associations (both JKBOSE and CBSE) to deliberate upon the final draft which School Education Department is going to finalize to ease the private schools of JKUT from different bottlenecks which they face while obtaining recognition/affiliation. He said to the members that to ensure transparency, efficiency

and timely disposal of all files, school education department has already notified Inspection Checklist on February, 27, 2027 for the services related to the operating of Play School, grant of NOCs to CBSE/ ICSE schools and for the renewal of Private Schools (JKBOSE) vide notification No: Edu/14/2026-13 (E-772381). All the stakeholders will adhere to the final draft which government will publicize in accordance to the observations made by the high

level committee on the basis of high meeting which was held on February 02, 2026 with the stakeholders and the representative of the government. The Director School Education also emphasized for the adoption of uniform academic calendar which has been devised and circulated for all schools (government / private / CBSE/ ICSE) / Jammu Division vide notification no. DSEI/2026/22538-68 dated April 22, 2026 to ensure



uniformity, consistency and coherence in academic process and in class room teachings. Members present also highlighted their grievance with regard to the irresponsible attitude of the ministerial staff for their irresponsible and high headed attitude. They demanded an enquiry counter so that schools which have been established in the far flung areas can enquire the status of their files telephonically or through mail despite of frequent / regular visit to the department. Members those who attended the meeting included Gurdev Kumar (JKAS), Manisha (JKAS), Ajeet Sharma (CEO Jammu), Ajay Gupta, Aditya Gupta, Sukhinder Singh, Sanjeev Luthra, Gaurav Charak, Abhishek Etc.

**Sakeena Itoo distributes appointment orders among CPWs at Srinagar
Reiterates Govts. commitment to merit based opportunities**

SRINAGAR, MAY 12: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today said that Omar Abdullah led Government is committed to ensuring fair opportunities based on merit and transparency to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as merit-based promotions to employees for institutional growth and effective public service delivery. The Minister stated this while distributing the



appointment orders among Paid Workers (CPWs) of Twenty-five Contingent School Education depart-

ment (SED) regularized as Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS), as well as promotion orders among fourteen Laboratory Assistants promoted as Teachers, at SCERT Auditorium Bemina here today.

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Chairman JKBOSE, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh; Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani; Joint Director School Education Central Kashmir, Syed Shabir Ahmad; senior officers of

school education department and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring fair opportunities based on merit and experience. She stated that nearly 3,000 CPWs have been regularized over the past one half years, reflecting sustained efforts to provide employment security and career advancement.

DC Jammu flags off anti-drug rally under Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan

JAMMU, MAY 12: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr. Rakesh Minhas today flagged off a massive anti-Drug awareness rally here from the DC office organised as part of the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan. The rally, aimed at sensitising the youth to the perils of drug menace, saw enthusiastic participation from students of the government and private educational institutions. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner urged the students to remain vigilant and wary



of any attempts at coercion or luring into drug consumption. He emphasised the importance of communication, advising students to immediately report any instances of drug promotion or usage to their elders

or school administrations. "A healthy mind resides in a healthy body. Students must channelise their energy towards sports and creative pursuits for holistic development," Dr. Minhas added.

Sexual Harassment Probe Committee, High Court of J&K, Ladakh, SPARSH organise awareness session on "Implementation of POSH Act, 2013 and UGC Regulations, 2015 in Colleges and Universities"

JAMMU, MAY 12: An awareness lecture session on "Implementation of POSH Act, 2013 and UGC Regulations, 2015 in Colleges and Universities" was today organized at GGM Science College, Jammu by the Sexual Harassment Probe Committee, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Jammu Wing, in collaboration with the Apex Body of SPARSH (Sensitization, Prevention and Redressal of Sexual



Harassment), Cluster University of Jammu. The program was organized under the visionary leadership of Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson of the Sexual Harassment Probe Committee, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Jammu Wing and patronage of Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, with

the objective of creating awareness regarding the statutory framework governing prevention, prohibition and redressal of sexual harassment at workplaces and educational institutions. The event witnessed par-

ticipation from faculty members, administrative officers, members of Internal Committees, research scholars, students and representatives from various constituent colleges of the University. Registrar, Cluster University of Jammu, Ankur Mahajan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

In her address, the Registrar CUJ highlighted the significance of establishing a safe, secure and

gender-sensitive academic environment in educational institutions. She emphasized that implementation of the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, commonly known as the POSH Act, along with strict adherence to UGC Regulations, 2015, is imperative to ensure dignity, equality and protection of women at workplaces and educational campuses.

She further stated that educational institutions must remain proactive in spreading awareness and strengthening institutional mechanisms for prevention and redressal of complaints relating to sexual harassment. The programme was presided over and coordinated by Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Chairperson, Apex Body of SPARSH, Cluster University of Jammu, who welcomed the dignitaries.

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