

# North in News

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## India ready to extend all possible support for restoration of peace and stability in West Asia: PM

**ABU DHABI, MAY 15** : India is ready to extend all possible support for the earliest restoration of peace and stability in West Asia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, as he condemned the attacks on the UAE while praising the Gulf country's leadership for its handling of the situation with restraint. During his meeting with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed in Abu Dhabi, Modi also assured him that India stands shoulder to shoulder with the UAE in every situation and will continue to do so in the future.

### India, UAE sign landmark energy, defence pacts; Abu Dhabi pledges USD 5 bn investment



Underlining the impact of the volatile situation in West Asia is being felt across the globe, Modi said India has always given pri-

ority to dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the issues. "India is ready to extend all possible support for the restoration of peace and stability at the earliest," the Prime Minister said. Prime Minister Modi also conveyed India's clear position in favour of ensuring safe transit passage and unimpeded navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, which is vital for enduring regional peace and stability, as well as energy and food security. He said that keeping the Strait of Hormuz free, open and safe is our highest priority and added that adherence to international laws

is essential. Iran shut down the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, following the launch of the US-Israeli attacks on February 28. The UAE, which hosts a US military base, has been at the receiving end of Iranian strikes during the ongoing US-Israeli war on Iran. Modi and Mohamed bin Zayed held a series of detailed discussions, during which the Prime Minister reaffirmed India's strong condemnation of the attacks on the UAE, as well as its solidarity with the

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Unemployed 'youngsters like cockroaches' become Media, activists; Attack System: CJJ

**NEW DELHI, MAY 15** : Likening some unemployed youngsters to cockroaches, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Friday said they go on to "become" media, social media and RTI activists and start attacking the system. The comments came while a bench of CJI Kant and Justice Jyotsna Banerjee was pulling up a lawyer for "pursuing" a senior advocate designation. It said there were already "parasites" in society who attack the system and asked the petitioner whether he wanted to join hands with them. "The entire world may be eligible to become senior



(advocate), but at least you are not entitled," the bench told the petitioner lawyer. A visibly anguished CJI observed that if the Delhi High Court would confer senior advocate designation upon the petitioner, the apex court would set that aside seeing his professional conduct. The CJI

also referred to the kind of language used by the petitioner on Facebook. "There are already parasites of society who attack the system and you want to join hands with them?" he said. "There are youngsters like cockroaches, who don't get any employment or have

(Contd on Pg 2)

## CM Omar Abdullah approves Rs 93 crore power infrastructure projects



**SRINAGAR, MAY 15** : The Jammu and Kashmir cabinet headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has approved Rs 93 crore power infrastructure projects for the summer capital here, a spokesperson

said on Friday. The projects aim to enhance transmission capacity and reduce power interruptions in the city. The chief minister-headed Council of Ministers approved the augmentation of the Grid Sub Station at Zainakote from 450 MVA to 780 MVA at a cost of Rs 67.66 crore, the spokesperson said. He said the cabinet also approved the upgrade of the 132 KV Pampore-Rawalpora and Rawalpora-Bemina transmission lines of Rs 25.47 crore. The approval was accorded during the sixth meeting of the Council of Ministers, he said. The projects aim to significantly strengthen the power infrastructure in Srinagar and adjoining areas by enhancing transmission capacity,

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## L-G VK Saxena operationalises Igoo-Phey Irrigation Canal in Leh, releases water to boost irrigation and water security

Reiterates commitment towards water security, agricultural growth and prosperity in Ladakh

**LEH, MAY 15**: The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Vinai Kumar Saxena, today formally released water in the historic Igoo-Phey Irrigation Canal at Marselang in Leh, marking the commencement of the irrigation season for 2026. The canal, which was heavily silted and in a dilapidated state, has been restored, de-silted and cleaned in a record time of just 20 days since the Lieutenant Governor visited the canal on April 25. The Lieutenant Governor had then directed the officials to repair and clean the canal by May 15 so that



it could be made operational. Construction of the canal was initiated in 1979 and completed in 2005. It had been lying in sham-

bles since then, thereby defeating the purpose of the project. Operationalisation of the 43-km canal also reaffirms the UT Administration's commitment towards strengthening irrigation infrastructure, ensuring water security and enhancing agricultural productivity in Ladakh. In the next 60 hours, when the water reaches the other end of the Canal, it will irrigate 4334 hectares of land in villages en route. Calling it a "good beginning," Lieutenant Governor Shri Saxena stated that the release of water in the canal

(Contd on Pg 2)

## BRIEF NEWS

### Property of PO linked to Hizbul Mujahideen attached in Baramulla

**SRINAGAR, MAY 15** : Immovable property of a proclaimed offender of terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) operating from across the Line of Control (LoC) was on Friday attached in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said. As part of the sustained crackdown on the terror ecosystem and anti-national elements, Sopore Police attached immovable property of a proclaimed offender involved in a case registered at Panzalla Police Station under the E&IMCO Act, a police spokesperson said. The proclaimed offender was identified as Ghulam Mohammad Bhat alias Hyder, a resident of

### HC Refuses to Quash J&K Bank Insurance Deal FIR, Orders Deeper Probe Into Alleged Quid Pro Quo

**JAMMU MAY 15 (JNF)**: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has refused to quash an FIR registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau in connection with the alleged J&K Bank-IFCO Tokio insurance deal, observing that the matter requires a deeper investigation into the role of bank officials and the alleged quid pro quo. Justice Sanjay Dhar dismissed the petition filed by Pushap Kumar Tickoo and others, who had challenged FIR No.14/2019 registered for offences under Section 5(1)(d) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 120-B RPC. The petitioners were represented by senior advocate Z.A. Shah with advocate Roshan Khayal, while the UT was represented by Senior AAG Mohsin Qadri with assisting counsel Maha Maajeed and Adnan Zahoor. The FIR alleged that J&K Bank entered into an insurance arrangement with IFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Ltd. in violation of norms, resulting in undue benefit to Asif

(Contd on Pg 2)

### NEET-UG re-exam on June 21 computer-based test from next year

**NEW DELHI, MAY 15** : Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday announced that the NEET-UG re-exam will be held on June 21, and said the medical entrance exam will be computer-based test from next year onwards as part of reforms in view of allegations of irregularities linked to it. Addressing a press conference, Pradhan said students' future remains the government's top-most priority, adding that there will be "zero tolerance" for any irregularities found in the conduct of the NEET-UG. Strict action is being taken, he said. National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) held on May 3 was cancelled following allegations of irregularities in the examination process. Informing that the duration of the re-test has been extended by 15 minutes, Pradhan said the candidates will also get to choose their preferred test cities again and that they will get their admit cards by June 14, he said. The central government will also coordinate transport arrangements for the students with the state governments, he said. "Our topmost priority is the future of the students. I want to appeal to society, especially to all students, to appear for the examination without fear. The government stands with you. We will not let malpractice happen this time," he said. "We did not want any mafia conspiracy or money power to snatch away your seat. We did not want that to happen. That is why we had to take a tough decision. As guardians, as officials entrusted with responsibility, and as a minister, we are all deeply

(Contd on Pg 2)

### BJP holds protest demanding liquor ban, police detain leaders briefly



**SRINAGAR, MAY 15** : Police on Friday stopped a protest march of the BJP demanding a complete ban on liquor in Jammu and Kashmir, and detained some party leaders temporarily, officials said. Scores of BJP leaders and workers assembled near

the Ram Munshi Bagh Park here and tried to take out a protest march towards the residence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Gupkar, they said. They shouted slogans demanding a complete ban on liquor in the Union

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Petrol, diesel prices hiked by Rs 3, CNG by Rs 2 after elections



**NEW DELHI, MAY 15** : Petrol and diesel prices were raised by Rs 3 per litre on Friday for the first time in more than four years, as surging global crude prices following the Iran war forced state-run fuel retailers to pass on part of their mounting losses after months of holding rates steady through key state elections. The increase pushed petrol prices in New Delhi to Rs 97.77 per litre from Rs 94.77,

while diesel rose to Rs 90.67 from Rs 87.67, according to industry sources. Rates vary across states due to differences in value-added tax. Compressed natural gas (CNG) prices were also raised by Rs 2 per kg in cities including Delhi and Mumbai. CNG in Delhi now costs Rs 79.09 per kg, and in Mumbai it costs Rs 84. However, prices of both natural gas piped into household kitchens for cook-

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Amit Shah to chair 26th Central Zonal Council meeting in Chhattisgarh's Bastar on May 19

**RAIPUR, MAY 15** : Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair the 26th meeting of the Central Zonal Council in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on May 19, officials said on Friday. The chief ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh will take part in the Central Zonal Council meeting, they added. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai chaired a high-level review meeting at Mantralaya Mahamandi Bhawan in New Raipur Aal Nagar during the day to assess preparations for the event, an official release said. "In the meeting, senior officials presented various issues to be proposed by the state government for discussion during the council meeting.



Sai instructed the administration to ensure all arrangements for the event are made in a coordinated and efficient manner without any shortcomings," it added. The role of states under the Central Zonal Council is crucial in achieving the vision of a developed India, the release quoted Sai as saying. "The Central Zonal Council is unique as there are no disputes among its member states, which reflects a strong spirit of cooperation and coordination. Zonal councils have emerged as an effective platform for strengthening dialogue, cooperation and coordination among states and between the Centre and states on various issues," he said. Strong states build a strong nation, the CM said while asserting that zonal councils have been providing new direction to

(Contd on Pg 2)

## FROM PAGE ONE

## India...

leadership and the people of the Gulf country.

"We strongly condemn the attack that took place in the UAE. The way the UAE was targeted is unacceptable in any form," Modi said, without naming any country. Last week, three Indian nationals were injured after a fire broke out on the Fujairah Petroleum Industries Zone (FOIZ) in the UAE following a drone strike. The UAE's Ministry of Defence blamed Iran for the attack.

"In these difficult circumstances, the restraint, courage and wisdom demonstrated by you are highly commendable," Modi told the UAE president.

Modi also thanked him for taking care of the Indian community like members of his own family in such challenging times.

The ongoing conflict in West Asia has heightened concerns in India over potential disruptions to crude oil and gas supplies, particularly through the Strait of Hormuz.

The conflict has severely destabilised global energy markets, primarily due to Tehran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, through which approximately 20 per cent of the world's total petroleum supply flows.

India and the UAE on Friday inked a series of landmark pacts spanning strategic petroleum reserves, long-term LPG supply, defence and shipping, with Abu Dhabi pledging investments totalling USD 5 billion in India, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged in high-level talks with President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan amid the escalating West Asia conflict.

One of the six pacts was a strategic collaboration agreement signed between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company to strengthen India's energy security, including cooperation in petroleum reserves and possible collaboration on liquid natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) storage facilities.

It will enhance the UAE's participation in India's strategic petroleum reserves to 30 million barrels and set up strategic gas reserves in India, according to an official statement.

A separate pact between Indian Oil Limited Company and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company will facilitate new opportunities in the sale and purchase of LPG, including long term supply of the fuel and entry into a long-term sale-and-purchase agreement between the two companies. India and the UAE also signed a framework for a strategic defence partnership which focuses on defence industrial collaboration, technology sharing, innovation and regional security cooperation, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

Under the framework, the two countries are set to explore joint development of military hardware besides boosting cooperation in a number of other crucial areas.

The two sides also signed a separate strategic collaboration pact on LPG, which is supposed to ensure long-term supply of the cooking fuel widely used in India.

The agreements came amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, which has heightened concerns in India over disruptions to crude oil and gas supplies through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping route for the country's energy imports.

The prime minister described the agreements inked between the two sides as "pivotal" in vital sectors such as energy, defence, infrastructure, shipping and advanced technologies. He said they will provide a "fresh boost" to India-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership.

Modi said his visit to the UAE was "brief, yet extraordinarily fruitful" and he was confident that the outcomes will "further solidify the bonds of friendship between us, and contribute to achieving growth and prosperity."

The UAE announced investments worth USD 5 billion in India - which, Modi said, will "further deepen economic ties."

The MEA said that the USD 5 billion investment commitment included plans by Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and India's National Infrastructure and Investment Fund to explore investments of up to USD 1 billion in India's infrastructure sector.

According to the ministry, Emirates NBD will invest USD 3 billion in RBL Bank, while UAE-based International Holding Company will invest USD 1 billion in Samman Capital of India.

It said the investment commitment is aimed at creating stronger markets and generating jobs, describing it as a reflection of the UAE's "sustained commitment to India's development and growth story".

"In the field of investment, the UAE has traditionally been a significant investor in India. It is cumulatively the seventh-largest investor in India over the course of the last 25 years," India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said. Misri further said: "This visit is a reflection of the exceptional trust and confidence that marks this very, very important relationship between India and the United Arab Emirates," said Misri, highlighting the energy sector which he said "has always been a very important part" of India-UAE relationship.

The talks between Modi and Al Nahyan took place during the prime minister's stopover in Abu Dhabi in the first leg of his five-nation tour that will also take him to the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy.

"The two sides have agreed on deepening defence industrial collaboration and cooperation on innovation and advanced technology, training, exercises, maritime security, cyber defence, secure communications and information exchange," the official statement said.

Other agreements included setting up a ship repair centre at Vadinar in Gujarat, cooperation on ports and coastal infrastructure, and an arrangement on skill development in ship repair. An agreement was also signed between Cochin Shipyard Limited and Drydocks World of Dubai. The two sides also signed a term sheet for setting up a super-computing cluster, aimed at strengthening India's artificial intelligence and high-performance computing capabilities. "This will add to India's AI mission and the infrastructure involved with that," said Misri.

The MEA said the two leaders also welcomed the operationalisation of a virtual trade corridor linking customs and port authorities of both countries to streamline cargo movement, reduce logistics costs and cut transit time.

The operationalisation of the digital trade corridor is expected to further deepen commercial integration between the two countries by improving customs coordination and cargo efficiency. It is also expected to help the two countries in "building supply chain resilience in a world that is seeing increasing disruption in supply chains", said Misri.

The two sides also exchanged views on the West Asia crisis.

"We condemn the attacks on the UAE," Modi said in his opening remarks, adding that "the way UAE has been targeted is not acceptable".

The UAE, which hosts a major US military base, has also faced Iranian strikes since the conflict began on February 28.

Praising the Emirati leadership for handling the situation "with restraint", Modi said India was ready to extend "all possible support" to bring peace in West Asia.

Earlier in the day, Al Nahyan personally received Modi at the airport in Abu Dhabi, where the Indian prime minister was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour. In a special gesture, Modi's aircraft was escorted by UAE military jets.

This was Modi's eighth visit to the Gulf country in 12 years, the MEA said.

"Concluding a short but highly productive visit to the UAE," Modi said before leaving. "Held extensive discussions with my brother, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, on ways to further deepen the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership."

Modi later departed for the Netherlands following his brief visit to Abu Dhabi.

The visit came amid widening differences among Gulf powers over oil production policies, the Strait of Hormuz blockade and regional alignments involving Israel and Iran - developments that have added complexity to India's strategic calculations in West Asia.

## Unemployed...

any place in profession. Some of them become media, some of them become social media, RTI activists and other activists and they start attacking everyone," he said. The bench also asked the petitioner whether he did not have any other litigation.

"Is this the conduct of a person who seeks to be designated as a senior advocate?" the bench asked. It said senior advocate designation is something that is conferred on a person and is not to be pursued.

"You are pursuing it. Does it look proper?" the top court said, asking whether a senior advocate designation was a status symbol to be kept ornamental.

It also observed that it wanted to ask the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to verify the degrees of many of those who were wearing black robes as there were serious doubts over the genuineness of their degrees.

It said the Bar Council of India would never do anything on this issue as they "need their votes".

The petitioner apologised to the bench and sought permission to withdraw the petition. The bench allowed the withdrawal of the petition.

## CM Omar...

reducing power interruptions and ensuring a more reliable and efficient electricity supply to consumers, the spokesperson said.

The augmentation of the Zainakote Grid Sub Station, along with the transmission line upgrades, is expected to improve overall grid stability and help meet the growing electricity demand in the region, particularly during peak load periods, he said.

## L-G VK...

would benefit farmers and villages dependent on irrigation and contribute significantly towards agricultural prosperity in the region.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor lauded the officials of the PHE/I&FC Department for successfully restoring the canal and making it operational within the deadline set by him during his earlier visit to the site on April 25. The Lieutenant Governor had directed the officials to complete the necessary works in time so that water could be released by May 15.

Shri Saxena also directed for constructing additional distributary channels to ensure wider outreach and equitable distribution of water to more villages and agricultural lands. He said agriculture scientists will be invited to work with local farmers in the region and help them experiment with crop varieties that are suited to Ladakh's climate to increase farmers' income through diversified agricultural practices.

The Lieutenant Governor also announced that the defunct Stakna Canal would soon be revived and informed that directions had already been passed to the concerned department to initiate work at the earliest.

## HC Refuses...

Manzoor Beigh, a close relative of former J&K Bank Chairman Parvez Ahmad Nengro. The ACB alleged that Beigh was appointed in IFFCO Tokio soon after the agreement and was offered a substantially higher salary package.

The petitioners contended that their role was limited to evaluating bids and making recommendations, and that they had no connection with Beigh's appointment. They further argued that the alleged loss calculated by the investigating agency was imaginary and not based on the actual working of insurance business.

The Court noted that there were strong circumstances showing a close nexus between the appointment of Beigh and the award of the insurance contract to IFFCO Tokio. It observed that prima facie, criminal mis-

conduct was disclosed against former Chairman Parvez Ahmad Nengro for allegedly misusing his official position to benefit his close relative.

However, regarding the petitioners, the Court said their role as members of the evaluation committee required a deeper probe, particularly whether the presence of the accused Chairman during the PowerPoint presentation evaluation influenced the committee's decision. The Court found that the case diary did not suggest that these aspects had been meticulously investigated.

Holding that scuttling the investigation at this stage would amount to quashing a genuine prosecution, the Court dismissed the petition, leaving it open to the petitioners to approach the Court again after the final report is filed or seek discharge before the competent court if a charge sheet is presented. (JNF)

## NEET-UG...

saddened and concerned by what has happened," the minister said.

The minister said after irregularities surfaced last time, the Radhakrishnan Committee was constituted, and its recommendations were implemented.

"Despite that, this incident occurred. Therefore, our first step was to cancel the examination," he said.

"To those creating fear and disturbances, I want to say through you: stay away from the upcoming examination process. Otherwise, they will have to face punishment," Pradhan added.

The education minister explained that the issue came to light after objections were received through the NTA grievance system regarding alleged overlaps with "guess papers", following which a preliminary inquiry was initiated.

"The examination was conducted on May 3. By May 7, objections were received through the NTA's grievance redressal system stating that certain questions appearing in the alleged 'guess papers' had also appeared in this year's question set.

"Immediately, discussions were held, and both the NTA and the government, along with the Higher Education Department, initiated a preliminary inquiry," he said. Pradhan said then the matter was then handed over to the concerned agencies of the Government of India.

"The process effectively began on the night of May 7 and continued from May 8 onward. Within three to four days... on the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th... when we received clarity and became certain that questions had indeed been leaked under the guise of 'guess papers', we took action on May 12 in the interest of students.

"We did not want any deserving student to be deprived of their rights because of the conspiracy of education mafias or because an undeserving candidate benefited through unfair means," the minister said.

He said the government has handed over the case to the CBI and expressed confidence in the probe. "CBI has rightly said... no one will be spared. Whether someone is within the NTA or outside it, no one will be spared," he said.

"CBT mode of exam is comparatively better than OMR. It is a bit protected. Cybercrime has become a big world in itself. There are challenges, however, we will have to trust the system of our country," Pradhan said.

The minister said students will also be given the option to select the cities they want to appear for the re-test. "The NTA has decided to give students one week to choose their preferred examination city for re-test," he said, adding NTA has decided to extend the examination duration by 15 minutes.

"The exam, which was scheduled from 2 pm to 5 pm, will now continue till 5.15 pm," he said.

He said the admit cards for this examination will be issued to all candidates by June 14. The minister said the Centre will coordinate with states for transport arrangements and he will personally speak to the chief ministers.

"The Government of India will speak to the states regarding the arrangement of transport facilities," he said, adding that NTA is also considering weather-related contingency arrangements for June 21.

The press conference by Pradhan comes after a high-level meeting was held late on Thursday evening at the minister's residence to review preparations for conducting the exam afresh.

## BJP holds...

territory. However, police stopped the protestors and took some of them into custody outside the CM's residence, the officials said. The police later dispersed the BJP workers peacefully, they added.

## Petrol...

Gandhi attacked the government over the hike, saying the public was being forced to pay for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led administration's mistakes.

"Chalti Modi sarkar ki, keemat janta chukayegi (The public will pay the price for the Modi government's mistake)," Gandhi said in a post on X. "The Rs 3 shock has already arrived, the rest of the 'vasooli' (recovery) will be done in instalments."

BJP, however, defended the decision, saying the government had shielded consumers from the global oil shock for more than two months and implemented only a "limited and calibrated" increase of 3.2-3.4 per cent.

Prices have remained on freeze since April 2022, but for a one-off reduction by Rs 2 a litre each on petrol and diesel in March 2024, just before Lok Sabha elections. Rates were last hiked in April 2022.

Petrol in Mumbai now costs Rs 106.68 a litre and diesel comes for Rs 93.14 per litre. In Kolkata, petrol now costs Rs 108.74 per litre and diesel Rs 95.13, while in Chennai, prices increased to Rs 103.67 for petrol and Rs 95.25 for diesel.

Industry sources said the price hike is modest relative to the rise in crude prices and still leaves retailers absorbing significant losses.

Radhika Rao, Senior Economist at DBS Bank, said the

higher pump prices were likely to moderate fuel demand, while adding 15-25 basis points to headline inflation, excluding second-round effects.

Prashant Vasishth of Ica said the "modest" increase was insufficient to restore profitability for OMCs if crude prices remain elevated.

Ica estimates that at crude prices of USD 105-110 per barrel, OMCs continue to incur losses of around Rs 500 crore daily on sales of auto fuels and domestic LPG even after the fuel price increase, he added.

Crisil's Sebul Bhatt described the increase as a "meaningful, if partial, step" toward reversing one of the longest under-recovery cycles in recent years.

"At their peak, oil marketing companies were absorbing losses of Rs 23-30 per litre on petrol and diesel, translating to a combined daily loss of Rs 1,300-1,400 crore," Bhatt said.

According to Crisil estimates, the government's excise duty relief and the latest price increase have narrowed under-recoveries to about Rs 10 per litre on petrol and Rs 13 on diesel, though cumulative losses since the start of the conflict are expected to exceed Rs 1 lakh crore by the end of May.

Friday's move follows excise duty cuts announced in March and comes as the government rolls out measures to curb fuel consumption and contain the country's oil import bill. Prime Minister Narendra Modi this week urged fuel conservation, work-from-home practices and reduced travel as higher energy prices strain India's foreign exchange reserves and threaten to widen the current account deficit for a third straight year.

Some state governments have already instructed departments to limit travel, avoid physical meetings and operate with reduced office staffing.

Private fuel retailers had already increased pump prices. Nayara Energy, the country's largest private fuel retailer, in March, raised petrol prices by Rs 5 per litre and diesel by Rs 3, while Shell increased petrol prices by Rs 7.41 and diesel by Rs 25 per litre from April 1. In Bengaluru, Shell sells petrol at Rs 119.85 per litre and diesel at Rs 123.52.

Domestic cooking gas LPG prices were raised in March by Rs 60 per cylinder, but they are still way lower than the actual cost. Oil companies are losing Rs 674 per 14.2-kg cylinder of LPG.

Industry sources said the price hike appears calibrated - enough to partially ease margin pressure on oil companies without creating a major inflationary shock.

"The increase, however, will have some impact on inflation, they said.

India's retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose to 3.48 per cent in April 2026 from 3.40 per cent in March, while wholesale price inflation (WPI) surged to 8.3 per cent, a 42-month high, driven by a sharp rise in fuel and energy prices amid elevated global crude oil rates.

Petrol and diesel do not have a standalone category in the CPI basket, but are captured under the broader 'transport and communication' component and fuel and power' category. Petrol and diesel carry relatively smaller but still significant weights through transport-related items, and economists say fuel price hikes have a wider indirect impact because they raise freight, logistics and input costs across sectors.

## Amit Shah...

development, administrative coordination and national unity.

Calling the hosting of the meeting in Bastar a matter of pride for Chhattisgarh, Sai said organising a national-level event of such significance in the region reflects the state government's commitment towards development and new opportunities in Bastar.

"Peace has been restored in the Bastar region under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the region has now been moving on the path of development. The meeting of the Central Zonal Council will give fresh momentum to Bastar's development," Sai said.

Chhattisgarh, particularly its Bastar region, which had grappled with Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) for over four decades, was declared free of armed Maoists on March 31.

## Property of...

Rohama Rafiabad area of the north Kashmir district, he said.

Investigations have revealed that the accused had illegally crossed over to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir for obtaining illegal arms and ammunition training and is linked with the banned terrorist organisation Hizbul Mujahideen, the spokesperson said.

He said Bhat is presently operating in coordination with the HM terror network from Pakistan.

The attachment proceedings were carried out in collaboration with the Revenue Department in respect of land measuring six marlas at Deangrut Rohama and 10 marlas at Reshinar Rohama, valued in lakhs of Rupees, he added. The accused had been evading legal proceedings for a prolonged period despite sustained efforts and was accordingly declared a "Proclaimed Offender" by a court under Section 88 CrPc, he said.

Subsequently, in compliance with the orders of the court, attachment proceedings were executed after due verification through revenue records and local enquiry, the spokesperson said.

## India...

constructive role by India," he said.

On negotiations with the US, he said these are "suffering from trust". "Iran has every reason not to trust US while Americans have every reason to trust us," he said. According to Araghchi, mediation by Pakistan has not failed yet. He also asserted Iran has never wanted nuclear weapons.

## DC reviews PM-SYM Scheme implementation Directs officers to intensify registration drive

DODA, MAY 15: Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a meeting in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the implementation and progress of the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Scheme. The meeting focused on enhancing registration under the scheme and ensuring wider outreach among eligible beneficiaries across the district. The DC reviewed the registration progress, awareness activities, departmental coordination, monitoring mechanisms and data collection related to the scheme. He directed the concerned officers to intensify awareness campaigns at the Panchayat, Block and Tehsil levels to enroll maximum eligible beneficiaries including labourers, street vendors, drivers, artisans,



agricultural workers, construction workers and other unorganised sector employees under the scheme. He further instructed the Labour Department to ensure proper collection and verification of domestic labour data as well as

construction workers' records, while directing the Agriculture Department to provide detailed data of agricultural labourers for effective registration under the scheme. The Deputy Commissioner further

directed Executive Officer MC and other departments to facilitate enrollment of civic workers and eligible temporary employees to register under the PM-SYM Scheme. He emphasized close coordination with Common Service Centres (CSCs), field functionaries and departmental officers to facilitate smooth implementation of the scheme. The DC instructed officers to organise special awareness and registration camps in rural and far-flung areas to facilitate enrollment. He further stressed the need for regular monitoring, targeted implementation, timely submission of progress reports and maintaining accurate beneficiary data. Detailed discussions were also held regarding departmental targets and registration parameters. The meeting was attended by ACR

## Poshan Project Assar organises awareness rally to promote NMBA-100 Day campaign

DODA, MAY 15: To strengthen the fight against drug abuse, Poshan Project Assar today organized a massive awareness rally under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in Assar town. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, volunteers, students, members of market associations and local residents. District Programme Officer Mission Poshan Akther Hussain Qazi flagged off the rally. The procession commenced from the main market area and passed through several prominent locations of Assar town. Participants carried banners and placards with messages such as



"Say No to Drugs", "Youth Against Addiction" and "Drug-Free Society for a Better Future" to create awareness among the public regarding the social, economic and health-related consequences of drug

addiction. Speaking on the occasion, Akther Hussain Qazi emphasized that drug abuse has emerged as a serious social challenge and collective efforts are essential to eliminate this menace from society.

## ADC reviews enforcement of NGT guidelines in Baderwah

BHADERWAH, MAY 15: To safeguard environmentally sensitive areas, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Baderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal has ordered strict enforcement of National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines across the subdivision. During a high-level review meeting held today, the ADC emphasized strict implementation of environmental norms including scientific waste management and ecological protection. Key directions issued included daily monitoring of waste collection systems and the mandatory sharing of geo-tagged photographs on a daily basis to ensure transparency and accountability.



The ADC further directed the concerned departments to achieve 100 per cent door-to-door waste collection in rural areas. Special stress was laid on improving sanitation in market-places, with instructions to deploy separate vehicles for the collection of waste from fruit and vegetable markets as well as chicken shops. Additionally, chain-link fencing was proposed

to prevent waste dumping in vulnerable areas. The ADC further directed the Executive Officer Municipal Committee, BDO and Division Officer Pollution Control Committee to launch an awareness programme regarding daily monitoring of the waste collection system and sanitation drives in schools, college and main markets in the town.

## Science Club- Utsaah hosts Seminar on "Advancing Technologies for Viksit Bharat" at JU

JAMMU, MAY 15: A one-day seminar program on "Advancing Technologies for Viksit Bharat" was successfully organized by Science Clubs, Utsaah in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Department of Science and Technology, UT of J&K today at the University of Jammu. The event shared the latest information mainly in the field of sciences with a special focus on Agritechology and Agriotechnology to students, scholars, faculty and staff with essential knowledge on emerging technologies driving India's development vision for Viksit Bharat and channelizing



the energy of youth away from drugs and addiction and making knowledge base economy for a better tomorrow. Expert speakers including renowned AI specialists from IIAUST, a grassroots innovator and facilitator and a biotechnologist from the University of

Jammu, spoke on various advanced technologies and their practical applications in nation-building. Participants engaged in an interactive discussion on the challenges and opportunities of implementing cutting-edge technology for Viksit Bharat@2047. The Chief Guest of the

event, Prof and Head, Department of Botany Dr. Sushel Kumar shared real-life examples from global tech advancements in the field and set an inspiring tone for the event. Assistant Director JKSTIC, Shri Khanna was the special guest on the occasion. The Guest of Honour, Chief Scientist and Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Arazi-Samba (SKUAST) Prof. Sanjay Khajuria expressed enthusiasm for fostering grassroots level innovations in J&K and shared his expert knowledge on basic biotechnology and ensured engagement of students and scholars in understanding and awareness of genetic diseases and how new technologies are shaping healthcare.

support for the event. Key speakers included Dr. Akash Sharma, distinguished Professor in the Division of Fruit Science, Faculty of Horticulture & Forestry at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu. He delivered a seminar on "Artificial Intelligence Applications in Agriculture and Horticulture Systems." Dr. Ankit Mahajan, Assistant Professor, School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu shared his knowledge on basic biotechnology and ensured engagement of students and scholars in understanding and awareness of genetic diseases and how new technologies are shaping healthcare.

## DC inaugurates 3-day Historical Annual Shiv Parvati Mela at Sar Dabbar- Moungrai

UDHAMPUR, MAY 15: The three-day historical Annual Shiv Parvati Mela commenced today at Sar Dabbar in Block Moungrai of Udhampur district with traditional religious fervour and enthusiasm. The mela was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa in the presence of Senior Superintendent of Police Amrit Pal Singh; local Tehsildar Arushi Sabharwal, District Officers and a large gathering of local residents and devotees. A large number of pilgrims and visitors thronged Sar Dabbar on the first day of the mela. Devotees visited the revered Shiv-Parvati Cave Shrine to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva and Maa Parvati. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner congratulated the mela committee for orga-



nizing the grand annual event. He observed that such traditional Mela play a significant role in promoting communal harmony and strengthening the spirit of unity by bringing together people

from different religions, communities and regions on a common platform. The DC also appreciated the enthusiastic participation of local students in cultural and sports

activities and extended his best wishes for their future endeavours. He further sensitized the participants about the upcoming Census exercise and appealed to the public to actively support the ongoing 100 Days Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan campaign aimed at eradicating drug abuse from society. The devotees and visitors from Bhomag, Panchari, Udhampur, Chenani and Ramnagar areas of Udhampur district, besides Reasi, Ramban and Jammu districts, converge at the shrine every year to celebrate the mela and pay obeisance at the naturally formed Shiv-Parvati Cave Shrine. Numerous temporary sweet stalls, toy shops and eateries set up by local traders and outside vendors remained a major attraction for the visitors at the mela site.

## Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan Anti-Drug awareness programme held

BHADERWAH, MAY 15: Social Welfare Department in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority, today organized an awareness programme under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukta Abhiyan at Baderwah. A large number of people including students, local residents and officials attended the awareness programme. Speakers highlighted the serious social, legal and health consequences of substance abuse and emphasized the need for collective efforts to eliminate the menace from society. The participants were encouraged to remain vigilant and actively support the mission of building a



safe, healthy and drug-free society. The participants appreciated the initiative and pledged to spread awareness against drug addiction in their respective areas. The organizers

reiterated their commitment to continue such awareness programmes and outreach activities across the region under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

## DLSA Udhampur discusses modalities for smooth conduct of Special Lok Adalat

UDHAMPUR, MAY 15: In compliance with the directions of the Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Sub-Judge/Special Mobile Magistrate Rekha Kapoor Nischal; Sub-Judge/Special Mobile Magistrate Pooja Raina; Mansiff JMJC Nienna Thakur; Additional State Magistrate Akash Deep and Rishabh Koushal The meeting held detailed deliberations regarding the effective and smooth conduct of the Special Lok Adalat. The meeting was



attended by Chief Judicial Magistrate Rekha Kapoor Nischal; Sub-Judge/Special Mobile Magistrate Pooja Raina; Mansiff JMJC Nienna Thakur; Additional State Magistrate Akash Deep and Rishabh Koushal The meeting held detailed deliberations regarding the effective and smooth conduct of the Special Lok Adalat. The meeting was

on identifying and facilitating the amicable settlement of pending cheque bounce cases to ensure speedy and efficient justice delivery. The judicial officers discussed necessary arrangements, coordination mechanisms and strategies to maximize disposal of eligible cases through consensus and mutual settlement. The meeting also highlighted the importance of encouraging litigants to take advantage of the Lok Adalat mechanism for expeditious and cost-effective resolution of disputes. The Secretary DLSA reiterated the commitment of the Legal Services Authority towards strengthening alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and ensuring access to justice for all.

## Commissioner Secretary Planning visits Bobiya, reviews Vibrant Village Programme-II in border villages

KATHUA, MAY 15: Commissioner Secretary, Information, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, R. Alice Vaz, who has been assigned the twin border villages of Bobiya and Gajnal under Vibrant Village Programme-II (VVP-II), today visited Bobiya village and convened a public outreach programme to interact with the stakeholders and get a first-hand appraisal of the developmental needs and aspirations of these border villages. Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary said that the objective of the Vibrant Villages Programme is to ensure holistic and sustainable development of border villages. She said the pro-



gramme aims to bridge the development gaps by strengthening the infrastructure and identifying critical gaps in sectors such as connectivity, health, education, livelihoods and digital access. Commissioner Secretary emphasized that convergence and saturation of ongoing Centrally

focus on saturation of individual beneficiary schemes and called for ensuring effective convergence of Centrally Sponsored and State Sponsored Schemes with special emphasis on HADP and Mission YUVA for maximizing benefits to the people. Earlier, former PRI members of village Bobiya appreciated the district administration for conducting an inclusive and participatory planning exercise while formulating the development plan for the villages. On the occasion, Nodal Officer for Vibrant Village Bobiya and BDO Marheen, Javed Iqbal and Nodal Officer for Vibrant Village Gajnal and Tehsildar Marheen, Lekh Raj, read out the proposed develop-

ment plans in public, for Bobiya and Gajnal villages. Later, the Commissioner Secretary convened a meeting with the concerned district and sectoral officers to review the proposed works. She also enquired about the status of existing schemes being implemented by JPDC, JAKEDA, RDD, Social Welfare, Agriculture, JIM and PMGSY to identify gaps and ensure saturation in these villages. Commissioner Secretary also highlighted the need to organize awareness camps for welfare schemes and skill development opportunities so that maximum beneficiaries reach the eligible beneficiaries in these remote border areas.



## Rattan Lal Gupta Welcomes Calls for Resumption of Peace Talks With Pakistan

Says RSS's Remarks on dialogue Echo Dr. Farooq Abdullah's Vision LoC and IB Residents Stand to Gain Most From Peace Dividends

NIN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, May 15: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta, has welcomed the recent remarks of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale advocating dialogue with Pakistan, asserting that people living along the LoC and IB across Jammu and Kashmir would be the biggest beneficiaries of peace. While interacting with a public delegation from Udhampur, headed by Anyatullah District President Udhampur Rural OBC Cell, Gupta said that the National Conference has always been a strong



voluntary of peace and sustained dialogue between India and Pakistan. He maintained that the dividends of friendship between the two neighbouring countries are most meaningfully reaped by the people residing along the LoC and IB in Jammu and

Kashmir. He said continued hostilities along the borders disrupt peace and tranquility in border areas, forcing residents to migrate temporarily and suffer losses to their crops and livestock. Gupta observed that the call for peace and continued engagement

from RSS quarters vindicates the vision of Farooq Abdullah, who has consistently advocated for reducing hostilities and maintaining sustained dialogue between the two nations. Referring to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he said,

"Neighbours cannot be changed, but friendship can be fostered." He expressed hope that the Union Government would take note of the advice emerging from RSS leadership and work towards reopening channels of dialogue with Pakistan. Gupta, however, added that it is equally incumbent upon Pakistan to reciprocate such peace overtures with sincerity and address India's concerns regarding terrorism. Others who were present in the meeting included: Bushan Lal Bhat former MLC, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, and other party functionaries of Udhampur District OBC Cell were also present.

## JKAP Kissan Wing condemns fuel price hike ahead of Paddy Season

NIN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, May 15: Badrinath Sharma, President of the J&K Apni Party (JKAP) Kissan Wing, on Friday strongly criticized the Narendra Modi-led Central Government over the recent hike in petrol and diesel prices, alleging that the increase was intentionally delayed until the completion of assembly elections. He termed the move "anti-farmer and anti-people," saying it has come at a crucial time when farmers are preparing for paddy cultivation across Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing media persons, Badrinath Sharma said that the rise in diesel prices would directly affect the farming community, particularly small and marginal farmers who depend heavily on diesel-powered tractors, tillers, irrigation pumps and transport vehicles during the paddy sowing season. He said the sudden increase in fuel prices would substantially raise cultivation expenses and add to the financial burden already faced by farmers due to expensive seeds, fertilizers and labour charges. He further said that paddy cultivation requires extensive irrigation and field preparation, and the increased diesel cost would make agricultural operations more expensive at every stage. Sharma warned that higher transportation charges for fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural pro-



duce would also indirectly impact consumers through rising food prices. He alleged that the government has failed to understand the ground realities of rural and farming communities. Badrinath Sharma urged the Central Government to immediately roll back the fuel price hike and provide relief to farmers during the ongoing agricultural season. He said the farming sector is already facing multiple challenges, and any further economic pressure could adversely affect agricultural productivity and the livelihood of thousands of farming families in Jammu and Kashmir.

## BJP Minority Morcha Holds Monthly Meeting at Nowshera

NIN NEWS SERVICE

Nowshera, May 15: BJP Minority Morcha J&K, led by its president S. Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, conducted a monthly organizational meeting in Nowshera district. The meeting was attended by District President Nowshera Pritam, Mohinder Singh Vice President, General Secretary Adv. Jasmeet Kour Pandey, Secretary Joginder Singh Raju (parbhar) along with Prithpal Singh secretary and Harvinder Singh Vicky. The meeting was organized by District President Morcha Jagmohan Kour During the meeting, S.



Ranjodh Singh Nalwa highlighted the significant initiatives taken by the government led by Narendra Modi for the Sikh community. He referred to landmark steps such as the observance of Veer Bal Diwas, the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor, and compensation provided to the vic-

tims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, among several other welfare measures. He also congratulated the people on the BJP's encouraging performance in the recent elections in Tamil Nadu, pondicherry, west bengal stating that the results reflect the growing faith of the people in Bharatiya Janata Party.

## University of Jammu, NIELIT Organizes Awareness Workshop on "Say No to Drugs: Building Legal Awareness and Safe Choices"

NIN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, May 15: The Centre for Women's Studies (CWS), University of Jammu, in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), organized an awareness programme titled "Say No to Drugs: Building Legal Awareness and Safe Choices" under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA). The programme aimed to educate students about the harmful effects of drug abuse, its legal implications, and the importance of making informed and responsible life choices. Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, graced the occasion as the keynote speaker. In her insightful address,



she highlighted the growing concern of drug abuse among youth, its underlying causes, and its adverse impact on individuals and society. She emphasized the urgent need for legal awareness, social responsibility, and community support in combating the menace of substance abuse. Prof. Nayyar stated that laws relating to drug dependence have

undergone significant changes in recent years, recognizing drug dependents as victims requiring care, counselling, and rehabilitation rather than as criminals. She highlighted the importance of free legal aid services available for individuals and families affected by substance abuse, enabling them to access justice and necessary support systems. She also shared

important helpline numbers related to narcotics control, rehabilitation and counselling services, legal aid assistance, and organizations such as DAWN (Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation), which work towards awareness and recovery. In addition, she informed students about various government portals that provide counselling support, rehabilitation resources, legal assistance, and information related to drug abuse prevention and recovery. Encouraging students to remain vigilant and informed, Prof. Nayyar urged them to make safe, ethical, and responsible choices in life. She further stressed the importance of strong family values, mental well-being, and institutional support systems in helping young individuals stay away from substance abuse.

## BJP's organizational strength rooted in ideology discipline, and public service: Sat Sharma

BJP holds district training workshops in Jammu Border, and Samba

NIN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, 15 May 2026: J&K BJP President and MP (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has evolved from a cadre-based ideological movement into the world's largest democratic political organization because of its unwavering commitment to nationalism, organizational discipline, and service to society. He was addressing the district-level training workshops organized under the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan 2026 by the BJP Jammu Border and Samba district units. At the Jammu Border district workshop, Sat Sharma was joined by MLAs Garu Ram Bhagat and Rajiv Bhagat, District Prabhari Rajinder Singh Chib, and District President Rinku Choudhary. Similarly, at the Samba district workshop, Sat Sharma was accom-



panied by MLAs Chandar Prakash Gang, Surjit Singh Slathia, and Dr. Bvinder Kumar Manyal, BJP Jammu & Kashmir Vice President and District Prabhari Rekha Mahajan, and District President Asha Rani. Addressing the party activists and office bearers, Sat Sharma said that the BJP's organizational journey has been built upon the ideological foundations laid by great leaders like Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, Dr. Shyama

Prasad Mookherjee, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He said that from the days of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh to the present era under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the party has consistently expanded by staying connected with the aspirations of common people and by prioritizing nationalism above political opportunism. Sat Sharma said that the training workshops are not merely organizational exercises but an

important mission to ideologically strengthen party workers and prepare them for effective public outreach. He said BJP workers must remain disciplined, informed, and socially connected while carrying the message of the Modi government's achievements to every household. Speakers addressing various sessions, emphasized that organizational training is essential to maintain ideological clarity, strengthen booth-level structure, and improve coordination between party workers and the public. They said BJP's strength lies in its dedicated cadre and collective functioning, which differentiates it from dynamic and personality-driven political parties. District Presidents stressed that the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan 2026 will further energize party workers at the grassroots level and help build a stronger and more effective v-

## Women are foundation of strong families: Sanjita Dogra

NIN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, May 15: BJP General Secretary and Headquarters Incharge Sanjita Dogra said that women are the foundation of strong families and a progressive society while releasing a poem titled "Matrashakti", composed by Balbir Ram Rattan. BJP women leaders Neeru Rajput, Pooja Grover and Lovisha Gupta also accompanied Dogra during event. The poem "Matrashakti" highlights the strength, sacrifice, compassion and dedication of women towards their families and society. Through meaningful and emotional verses, the composition pays tribute to the spirit of motherhood and the invaluable role played by women in nurturing val-



ues, culture and humanity. Sanjita Dogra, on this occasion, said that literature and poetry are effective mediums to inspire society and spread positive social messages. She said that women have always played a vital role in building strong families and shaping responsible generations. Sanjita said that a society that respects women progresses on the path of development, harmony and prosperity. She further said that Indian culture has always regarded women with the highest

respect and dignity. She added that empowering women socially, economically and politically remains essential for a strong nation. She also said that creative works like "Matrashakti" help in creating awareness among the younger generation about the importance of respecting and honouring women. Balbir Ram Rattan said that the poem is a humble tribute to mothers and women whose silent sacrifices and endless affection strengthen families and society.

## Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan of JKUT administration brings hope: Dr. Shishu

NIN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, 15 May 2026: BJP State Spokesperson Dr. Hari Dutt Shishu extended heartfelt appreciation to Jammu and Kashmir UT Administration for its intensive 100 days Nasha Mukh campaign against drug abuse and alcoholism in the UT which has given a ray of hope in many affected families, whose kith and kin are involved in this menaced. Dr. Hari Dutt Shishu said that under the guidance of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, the coordinated efforts of the Police, Health Department, and Education Department, and



Social Welfare Department have delivered a decisive blow to the drug trade in Jammu & Kashmir. Dr. Shishu further stated that Drugs do not destroy just an individual, they ruin an entire family and society. In this intensive campaign, the administration has seized thousands of kilograms of narcotics, dismantled major drug traf-

ficking networks, and successfully rehabilitated hundreds of youth through de-addiction centres. The holistic approach of awareness drives in schools and colleges and individual yatra by LG sh. Manoj Sinha has brought tangible impact on the ground. Dr. Shishu in a press statement, he further added that the campaign launched by LG administration has achieved remarkable results in the first 30 days of jammu and kashmir's 100 days Nasha Mukh Abhiyaan. Detention of 866 people in 724 NDPS cases, seizure of 667 kg of narcotics and more than 90000 psychotropic.

## Signature Campaign Conducted at Girls' Higher Secondary School, Sarore

NIN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, May 15: Continuing the "Drug-Free Jammu & Kashmir" campaign, a signature drive was organized on Friday at the Girls' Higher Secondary School in Sarore. A large number of students—both boys and girls—along with the school staff participated in the event. Senior journalist Govind Chauhan spearheaded this initiative, during which the students were also sensitized about the issue. Principal Rabia Batool along with the entire school staff was present on the occasion. During the program, the students presented a play against drug abuse. Speaking on the occasion, Govind Chauhan mentioned that he is conducting this signature campaign across all schools in the



region. The program commenced with the administration of a pledge. Subsequently, Chauhan highlighted that the "Drug-Free Jammu & Kashmir" campaign is currently underway in the Union Territory, wherein the Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha him-

self, is visiting various districts to conduct "padyatras" (foot marches). This initiative is sending a strong message across the Union Territory. Furthermore, it was emphasized that drug abuse is dragging society backward; therefore, there is an urgent need for

awareness so that the region can be made completely drug-free. Govind Chauhan also detailed the actions being taken by the Police Department to combat drug abuse. He remarked that students represent the future; therefore, it is their responsibility as well to raise awareness within society—encouraging people to choose life over drugs. A significant number of students signed the pledge during the event.

During the program, School Principal Rabia Batool stated that the school regularly organizes awareness programs against drug abuse. It is noteworthy that ever since the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, launched this campaign, journalist Govind Chauhan has been conducting a signature drive on a daily basis.

## Director Agriculture Jammu Reviews Field Activities, Chairs FNT at Dansal

NIN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 15: Shri Anil Gupta, Director Agriculture Jammu, today conducted an extensive tour and inspection of Sub Division Dansal to review the implementation of various agricultural and developmental programmes being carried out in the area. During the visit, the Director inspected the office of the Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO), Dansal and reviewed the functioning and ongoing activities of the subdivision. He also participated in and chaired the Fortnight Training Programme (FNT) being conducted at the SDAO Office, Dansal in accordance with the directions issued by the Directorate for regular conduct of FNTs across all districts and subdivisions. Interacting with the field officers and staff members during the meeting, Shri Anil Gupta emphasized that field functionaries are the backbone of the Agriculture



Department and play a crucial role in implementation of schemes at the grassroots level. He said that field staff are instrumental in disseminating awareness among farmers regarding various departmental and centrally sponsored schemes and ensuring effective outreach of government initiatives. During the programme, Director Agriculture also launched a book titled "Meri Pechan Meri Panchayat", containing detailed information regarding various projects, schemes, and developmental activities being implemented by the Agriculture Department in 40 Panchayats of Sub Division Dansal. The publication also includes basic Agriculture data of all Panchayats falling under the subdivision. Director Agriculture also participated in a plantation drive organised in the office

premises as part of the departmental beautification and cleanliness campaign. The meeting was attended by SDAO Dansal Shri Ashwani Gupta, SMS DL, Shri Sham Sharma, SMS SLDs Shri Pankaj Bhawani and Shri Pranav Chadha, besides AEOs, JAEOS, AEs and staff members of Sub Division Dansal. During the visit, Director Shri Anil Gupta also conducted a field inspection in the subdivision and interacted with local farmers to assess the ground-level impact of various agricultural schemes and programmes. The Director obtained feedback from the farmers regarding the benefits being availed under different departmental initiatives and centrally sponsored schemes. He encouraged the farmers to actively adopt modern agricultural practices and make maximum use of the schemes being implemented by the Agriculture Department for enhancement of productivity and income generation.

## AICC assigns key responsibility to Karan Bhagat in Punjab

Expresses gratitude to Congress High Command, vows full commitment to strengthen party organization

NIN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu: The All India Congress Committee (AICC) SC Department has assigned an important organisational responsibility to senior Congress leader from Jammu & Kashmir UT, Karan Bhagat, by appointing him as Co-Incharge for Punjab in the party's Scheduled Caste Department. According to an official order issued by the AICC SC Department under the chairmanship of Rajendra Pal Gautam, Karan Bhagat has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating organisational activities in Punjab along with senior party leader Sudhir Chaudhary. The work allocation order, issued from the AICC headquarters in New Delhi, outlines the responsibilities assigned to various National Coordinators appointed earlier by the party leadership to strengthen the organisation across different states. Expressing heartfelt gratitude to the Congress high command for reposing faith in him, Karan Bhagat thanked the party leadership, including senior AICC functionaries and the SC Department leadership, for giving him the opportunity to



serve the organisation in a significant role. Bhagat stated that he would work with complete dedication, sincerity, and commitment to fulfill the responsibility entrusted to him. He said the assignment reflects the party's confidence in grassroots leadership from Jammu & Kashmir and would motivate party workers across the Union Territory. "I am deeply grateful to the Congress leadership for entrusting me with this responsibility. I assure the party high command that I will give my 100 percent to strengthen the organisation and work tirelessly for the welfare and empowerment of Scheduled Castes and weaker sections," Bhagat said.

## BSP Demands Immediate Compensation and Pending Rent for Satwari Land Owners Whose Land Was Taken by Army in 1953-54

NIN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, May 15, 2026. Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) President & Kashmir UT Jammu Mr. Darshan Rana today met a delegation from the villages of Chatha, Haqal and Rattu Chack in Satwari area, who raised the long-pending issue of land taken by the Army during 1953-54 without proper compensation and payment of rent. The delegation informed the BSP President that their ancestral agricultural land was taken by the Army more than seven decades ago, but till date no affected land owners have neither received full compensation nor any regular rent for the use of their land. The families have been



running from one office to another for decades but justice has still not been delivered. Mr. Darshan Rana termed the matter extremely serious and unfortunate, stating that poor and ordinary land owners have been denied their lawful rights for over 70 years. He said this prolonged delay reflects complete administrative negligence and insensitivity towards the affected families. The BSP President

demanded that the Deputy Commissioner Jammu and the Divisional Commissioner Jammu immediately intervene and direct the concerned departments to release the pending compensation and rent to the affected land owners without further delay. He further demanded that till the final settlement of the matter, the government, must calculate and release the pending rent from 1953 onwards to the rightful owners. Mr. Darshan Rana also urged the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir and the Chief Minister to personally take cognizance of this decades-old injustice and ensure that the affected families are provided.

## Strong Organisation at Booth Level is BJP's greatest strength: Bali Bhagat at Prashikshan Shivir

NIN NEWS SERVICE

ARNIA: Senior BJP leader and former Health Minister Bali Bhagat today addressed the Border District "Prashikshan Shivir" organised at Changia Panchayat under Arnia Mandal, covering the Suchetgarh and Bishnah Assembly constituencies. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of party functionaries, booth-level workers, and senior organisational leaders from border areas. The Prashikshan Shivir was organised with the objective of strengthening the party structure at the grassroots level, enhancing organisational



coordination, and equipping party workers with the skills required for effective public outreach and implementation of party programmes. Various sessions during the camp focused on booth management, public communication, ideological orientation, welfare schemes, and strengthening the BJP's presence in border constituencies. Addressing the gathering, Bali Bhagat said that disciplined and committed party workers are the real strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party and credited the BJP's organisational culture for its continued connect with the people across the country. He said that training camps play a crucial role in preparing karyakartas to effectively address public issues and take government

schemes to every household. He emphasised that border areas have always remained a priority for the BJP and the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has worked extensively for the welfare, security, and development of residents living along border belts. He said infrastructure development, improved connectivity, social welfare initiatives, and strengthening of border villages reflect the government's commitment towards these regions. Bali Bhagat urged party workers from Suchetgarh and Bishnah constituencies to remain actively connected.

## Fuel price hike will break backbone of farmers ahead of paddy season: Bharat Priye

Says rising diesel prices will badly affect cultivation, irrigation and transportation costs across J&K

NIN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, May 15: Bharat Priye on Friday voiced serious concern over the recent increase in petrol and diesel prices, saying the hike would "break the backbone of the farming community" at a time when farmers are gearing up for the crucial paddy cultivation season across Jammu and Kashmir. He termed the decision "anti-farmer" and said it would further deepen the economic crisis already confronting the agricultural sector. In a statement issued here, Bharat Priye said that diesel is the most essential component of modern farming and any increase in its price directly impacts agricultural operations. He pointed out that farmers heavily depend on diesel-run tractors, tillers, harvesters and



irrigation pumps during paddy cultivation for ploughing fields, preparing nurseries, transplanting and maintaining irrigation. "The increase in diesel prices has come at the worst possible time when farmers are preparing their fields for sowing and transplantation of paddy," he said. He said the farming community in Jammu and

Kashmir is already struggling with multiple challenges including rising prices of fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, electricity tariffs, and labour charges. According to him, the fresh fuel price hike will sharply raise input costs and make cultivation economically unviable for small and marginal farmers. He added that many farmers are already under debt and are finding it difficult to sustain agricultural activities due to shrinking profits and uncertain market returns. Bharat Priye further said that the diesel hike would not only impact farming operations but would also increase transportation expenses for agricultural produce, vegetables and essential commodities. This, he warned, would eventually trigger inflation in the market and adversely affect common con-

sumers as well. "Whenever fuel prices rise, the burden ultimately falls on both farmers and ordinary citizens. The rural economy suffers the most because agriculture remains dependent on fuel-driven machinery and transport," he remarked. He also expressed concern over the increasing financial distress among farmers due to unpredictable weather conditions, inadequate irrigation facilities and lack of proper government support. He said instead of providing subsidies and relief to strengthen the agricultural sector, the government has imposed additional burdens on farmers through repeated hikes in fuel prices. He alleged that such decisions expose the anti-farmer policies of the Centre and show complete insensitivity towards rural India.

## Swami Ram Swaroop highlights importance of Vedic worship and respect for scriptures

Yogacharya delivers discourse on Rigveda

NIN NEWS SERVICE

Kathua, May 15: On the 34th day of the ongoing 78-day Yajna Anushthan of all four Vedas at Ved Mandir, renowned scholar and Yogacharya Swami Ram Swaroop delivered a spiritual discourse based on Rigveda Mantra 10/22/3, explaining the significance of sincere devotion and Vedic worship. Addressing devotees and seekers, Swami Ji said that a true worshipper who performs steadfast devotion to Almighty God receives affection and protection from the Supreme Being just as a loving father cares for his beloved son. Referring to the second



mantra, he explained that God blesses sincere devotees with fame, prosperity, wealth, and food, thereby sustaining and nurturing all living beings. He emphasised that since God nourishes the entire universe, He is rightly regarded as the father of all creation. During the discourse, Swami Ram Swaroop also stressed the importance of respecting the four Vedas, which he described as divine knowledge originating from God. Citing Manusmriti Shloka 2/11, he stated that those who criticize or disrespect the Vedas are referred to as "Nastik" (atheists). He further referred.

## BJP brazenly crushed common man under weight of inflation : Bhalla

Poor facing immense pressure due to skyrocketing prices : Sawhney

NIN NEWS SERVICE

Jammu, May 15: The District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Urban on Friday organised a massive protest demonstration against the BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre, for its failing on every front and burdening the common people with soaring inflation, rising fuel prices, unemployment and what the party described as anti-people economic policies. The protest was held under the leadership of DCC Jammu Urban President and former Minister Yogesh Sawhney and witnessed enthusiastic participation

by senior Congress leaders, office-bearers, Mahila Wing members, youth activists, and hundreds of party workers. The demonstration was marked by the raising of slogans against the Central Government and the carrying of placards highlighting issues such as the increasing prices of petrol and diesel, the spiraling cost of essential commodities, shrinking employment opportunities and growing financial distress among ordinary households. Congress leaders said that while the government continues to claim economic progress, the reality on the ground is that families across the country

are struggling to manage their daily expenses. Addressing the gathering, Working President of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) and former Minister Raman Bhalla launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led NDA Government, alleging that it has failed to fulfill its promises and has instead adopted policies that benefit a handful of influential corporate houses at the cost of the common citizen. Bhalla said that the latest increase in the prices of petroleum products, particularly petrol and diesel, would have a cascading effect on the entire econ-



omy and would directly hit poor and middle-class families. He pointed out that transport costs are closely linked to the prices of all consumer goods, and any increase in fuel prices inevitably leads to a rise in

the prices of vegetables, food grains, milk, medicines, construction material, and other essential items. He said inflation has become the most pressing issue confronting the country today, with families

finding it increasingly difficult to meet their monthly expenses. "The common man is being crushed under the weight of inflation. Household budgets have been shattered, savings are shrinking, and the purchas-

ing power of ordinary citizens has declined sharply," he said. Bhalla regretted that instead of protecting the interests of farmers, labourers, traders, salaried employees and small entrepreneurs, the BJP-led government was focusing exclusively on safeguarding the interests of large business houses. He alleged that the economic policies of the present dispensation have widened the gap between the rich and the poor and concentrated wealth in the hands of a few. The senior Congress leader said the country's youth are facing unprecedented challenges due to rising unemploy-

ment and a lack of meaningful job opportunities. He noted that educated young people are forced to wait for years for recruitment processes to be completed, while many vacancies remain unfilled. According to him, the government has failed to present a credible roadmap for employment generation. Bhalla further said that small traders and shopkeepers are among the worst affected by inflation and declining consumer spending. As household budgets tighten, discretionary purchases decline, hurting local markets and reducing business activity.

## North in News

## EDITORIAL

## America-Iran conflict Longer and costlier tragedy that India and the world cannot afford

America-Iran conflict, if not resolved soon, people will have to face to more price hike. Fuel price hike is just a beginning because the Strait of Hormuz, which lies between Iran and Oman, carries nearly 20 percent of global oil and one-third of seaborne LNG every day. Any sustained tension or blockade in that chokepoint immediately injects a risk premium into crude benchmarks, and markets have shown repeatedly that even the threat of disruption moves Brent from 75 dollars to 104 dollars within days. Crude and natural gas are not just fuels for cars but the base raw material for fertilizers, plastics, aviation turbine fuel, petrochemicals, freight, and electricity in many countries, and India imports 85 percent of its crude and 50 percent of its gas, so even a 10 dollar rise in Brent widens the current account deficit by 12 to 15 billion dollars annually. This also weakens the rupee by 2 to 3 percent, and forces oil marketing companies to either absorb losses or pass through hikes that directly lift CPI by 40 to 60 basis points, and diesel is the lifeblood of trucks, tractors, and rail, so every rupee increase in diesel cascades into food prices through higher mandi-to-market transport costs, and urea and DAP, which are gas-intensive, become costlier just when kharif sowing needs them, squeezing farm margins or forcing higher food subsidy bills that bloat the fiscal deficit. Thus the first round of fuel price hike becomes a second round of core inflation as companies reprice everything from soaps to cement to defend margins, and central banks that were beginning to cut rates will have to pause or reverse, choking the fragile recovery in housing and consumption that was underway in 2025-2026, and the US Federal Reserve, ECB, and RBI will all face the same dilemma of fighting energy-led inflation while growth slows, risking stagflation that is politically and socially explosive, and beyond oil the conflict threatens the North-South Transport Corridor and Chabahar Port that India invested in to bypass Pakistan and reach Central Asia, and if Iranian airspace or waters become a war zone, insurance premiums for ships jump, rerouting via Cape of Good Hope adds 10 to 14 days and 30 percent to freight, and container rates that had normalized post-Covid will spike again, making imports of electronics, solar modules, and capital goods costlier and exports of rice, engineering goods, and textiles uncompetitive. America-Iran conflict, if not resolved soon, will make inflation and fuel price hike look like the mild opening act of a much longer and costlier tragedy that India and the world cannot afford.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

## Saffron Surge from Gangotri to Ganga Sagar

Omkar Dattatray

[Ganga Sagar]

It is neither exaggeration nor overstatement nor hearsay but truth and only truth that there is saffron revolution and saffron surge right from Gangotri to Ganga Sagar and the credit for this revolution goes to the reawakening of the cultural pride and its necessity. It is in fact the cultural reawakening which catapulted the lotus bloom in this belt and presently there is BJP government in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar now in West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry. It was following the May 2026 Bengal assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared a "saffron surge" from Gangotri to Ganga Sagar, symbolizing the BJP/NDA's complete political dominance and control along the entire Ganga river-belt. This signifies the party's control over governments in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and now invincible West Bengal. More than anything else it really is the cultural reawakening which helped a saffron surge and revolution now in West Bengal. Thus, it can be opined that now for the first time there is a national government in place in West Bengal and the saffron surge in the whole Ganga belt is no ordinary thing but really an extraordinary matter for which the people of these states are worthy of commendation that they all have chosen a saffron government which cares for the people. The "Saffron Surge from Gangotri to Ganga Sagar" refers to symbolic political narrative highlighted by PM Modi following the 2026 West Bengal elections, signifying BJP's expanded influence along the river Ganga belt. It represents a continuous stretch of BJP-led governments from Uttarakhand [Gangotri] through Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, culminating in West Bengal

[Ganga Sagar] Aspects of the "Gangotri to Ganga Sagar" Saffron Shift.

1)-Symbolism--The phrase "Gangotri to Ganga Sagar" represents the geographical, spiritual, and now political alignment from the source of the Ganga [Uttarakhand] to its delta [West Bengal] under BJP or NDA.

2)-- Political Consolidation--PM Modi described this as a "historical breakthrough" in Bengal, signifying a shift from regional dominance to a unified political alignment across the Gangetic plain.

3)-Symbolic Triumph--The phrase symbolizes the "lotus blooming" [BJP expansion] from the Himalayas in the north to the Bay of Bengal in the east.

4)-Ideological Transformation--Supporters view this as a victory of ideology and organisational strength in a previously challenging region.

5)-Geographic Reach--The stretch encompasses key Ganga-adjacent regions-Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar and Jharkhand -now including West Bengal.

6)-Development Narrative--BJP leadership has framed this in terms of nationalism, and development politics ["Rashtravard Ki Ganga, Vikas Ki Ganga"]

7)-Impact on Regional Politics--The 2026 win in West Bengal was described by leaders like CM Dhama as a semi-final for future elections in other states. BJP leaders emphasized that this result transforms West Bengal into a central part of the national political narrative and consolidates the party's strength.

8)-Political Context--Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the 2026 West Bengal election outcome as a "historic breakthrough" for the BJP.

9)-Leaders Reactions--Uttarakhand

CM Dhama and other leaders celebrated this political shift/victory in Bengal stating that the political tide has changed, with the "lotus" now blooming across this vast geographical span.

10)-Significance--Supporters interpret this as a complete ideological sweep, claiming that political tide now aligns with BJP-led governments across Uttarakhand, UP, Bihar and West Bengal.

The narrative highlights the culmination of BJP's long-term efforts to become a major force in West Bengal, which was historically challenging for the party. The phrase represents a major and larger shift in people's mood, political aspirations, and socio-economic expectations. It has now become obvious that even invincible, tough and challenging political regions can be turned into saffron turfs by the organisational acumen, national awakening, cultural reawakening, corresponding nationalism with development and this is the view of the BJP leadership and even the public also subscribe to this view and it has amply been proved by the Bengal elections which state was traditionally of Communist and TMC ideology and their stronghold and the BJP leadership and robust campaigning had busted the myth that such regions cannot have a saffron governments. The political metaphor highlights the party's increased presence and influence along the major river region following the 2026 election cycle. In fact it can be said that Bengal has now become the epicentre of political shift, transformation and ushering of the saffron revolution in several regions from Uttarakhand to Assam and Puducherry and this saffron revolution and surge is no ordinary thing and the electoral outcome of West Bengal has astonished even political Pundits, Poll analysts and

even general public. The implications and ramifications of the West Bengal poll results will be seen in the Assembly elections of other states like Punjab, UP and other states where poll is due in 2027. Deep rooted ideological structure and cadre, the dominance of the regional parties and satraps as well as the personality cult of the leadership of its diehard leader gave oxygen to the conception that the BJP will not be able to make inroads in West Bengal but the BJP's poll strategists and campaigners made impossible possible and astonished one and all about the saffron revolution in West Bengal and in fact from Gangotri to Ganga Sagar. It is not out of place to mention here that at the centre of the political transformation is the leadership and acumen of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi more than the BJP's poll strategy because Modi symbolizes good governance, development and above all nationalism and country first approach.

All this along with the BJP's poll strategy has translated into saffron in the insurmountable state of West Bengal and this result will have long-term impact on the assembly elections of the states going to polls in 2026. BJP leadership should not be complacent with the Bengal victory but work hard with redoubled vigour and spirit and expand the foothold of the BJP in the southern states of the country. When this feat will be achieved, it will be the great day for the saffron party. Nothing is impossible in the dictionary of Modi and we say Modi hai to Mumkin hai and so BJP is also working on the principle that nothing is impossible for the saffron party. One day the lotus will bloom in south Indian states and it can then be said that Saffron Surge is from Jammu & Kashmir to Kaniyakumari.

## Social support not at cost of operational efficiency

BY DEBARSHI CHAKRABORTY

As the dust settles over West Bengal's electoral mandate, one reality stands reinforced - welfare-driven governance continues to enjoy public legitimacy. Schemes involving direct financial support have provided relief to households navigating inflation and uncertain employment. In a state with longstanding social and economic disparities, welfare is not simply political messaging; it is often an instrument of stability. Yet the larger question concerns its long-term economic design. This is not abstract. Bengal's 2025-26 Budget projected a gross state domestic product (GSDP) of approximately Rs. 20.31 lakh crore alongside a fiscal deficit of 3.5 per cent of GSDP. At the same time, recurring welfare commitments continued expanding steadily, with the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme alone estimated to account for over Rs. 26,000 crore in expenditure.

While the constitutionality of "freebies" as electoral promises, is presently under consideration before the Supreme Court of India, much of the discourse pertains to electoral ethics and fiscal discipline at most. But the deeper economic effect of persistent welfare-heavy governance often escapes the attention it deserves - the gradual increase in the hidden costs of economic participation itself. British economist Ronald Coase explained this idea remarkably. Coase argued that economies thrive when the friction surrounding transactions remains low. Businesses invest more confidently when approvals and licenses are predictable, contracts are enforceable and reliable. Growth, in other words, depends not only on incentives,



but on ease.

This is where Bengal's challenge becomes more subtle. The concern arises when recurring expenditure begins outpacing institutional capacity and investment. Over time, this imbalance begins revealing itself indirectly. The state budget reflects this rigidity. Committed expenditure is projected at nearly 56 per cent of the state's revenue receipts, naturally reducing flexibility for infrastructure, administration, and capital-intensive growth measures. Bengal's share in national industrial and private investment conversations today stands markedly diminished. While several social indicators have improved, the state's ability to attract large-scale manufacturing and long-term private capital has remained comparatively restrained.

The contrast becomes particularly visible when compared with states that spent the last decade prioritising industrial infrastructure, logistics integration and administrative responsiveness alongside welfare. A manufacturer attempting expansion, say, near Howrah may not complain about welfare schemes at all. Instead, he encounters fragmented land holdings, prolonged clearances,

logistical inefficiencies and uncertain timelines. A start-up may struggle less with taxation and more with procedural opacity. An infrastructure project may stall not because capital is unavailable, but because coordination across agencies becomes painfully slow. These are not dramatic crises. They are cumulative frictions. And cumulative frictions quietly alter investor behaviour.

States such as Karnataka and Telangana did not emerge as investment destinations merely through subsidies or headline announcements. Their larger success lay in gradually building perception - fair or otherwise - that decisions would move faster, infrastructure would improve steadily and governments would remain relatively responsive to industrial needs. Investors more often than not value predictability as much, if not more, as incentives. This is where welfare-heavy models require calibration. When a growing share of public expenditure becomes locked into recurring commitments, governments naturally find themselves with less room for long-term productive investment.

The irony is that this ultimately places pressure on the

very social compact welfare intends to preserve. Sustainable redistribution depends upon a continuously expanding economic base. Employment generation, industrial growth and private investment are not separate from welfare; they are what make welfare durable. This is perhaps the lesson Bengal ought to confront with candour. Economic stagnation did not arrive there dramatically. There was no single collapse. It emerged gradually - through normalised delay, hesitant infrastructure growth, informal gatekeeping around enterprise, suspicion towards technological advancement, and eventually, a broader perception that business in Bengal must first negotiate exhaustion before pursuing opportunity.

Over time, what began as administrative friction hardened into economic reputation - and reputations, once formed, travel far faster than official assurances. Recalibration does not require abandoning welfare altogether. Nor does it require adopting a harsh market fundamentalism. The real deal lies in ensuring that social support does not crowd out institutional efficiency, investment and economic self-sufficiency.

Better targeting of subsidies, providing adequate state-support for quicker dispute resolution, digitised governance and policy stability are not anti-welfare measures; they are what allow welfare systems to remain sustainable. The state's economic prosperity therefore depends on a simple balance: enterprise and trust ought to grow faster than friction. The easier it becomes to invest, build and conduct business with confidence, the stronger and more durable economic growth becomes.

## IGP Jammu Chairs Comprehensive Crime Review Meeting at DPL Jammu



JAMMU, MAY 15: Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IPS, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Zone, chaired a high-level crime review meeting today at the District Police Lines (DPL) Jammu. The session

was attended by all jurisdictional Superintendents of Police (SPs), Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs), and Station House Officers (SHOs) of the district. During the meeting, IGP Jammu con-

ducted a meticulous evaluation of the prevailing security scenario and the status of pending investigations. He emphasized the necessity of professional diligence in field policing and directed officers to

adopt a result-oriented approach to law enforcement. The IGP stressed the importance of quality investigation and robust evidence collection to ensure higher conviction rates in the courts. A zero-tolerance policy against narcotics was reiterated, with orders to dismantle drug syndicates and seize properties of habitual offenders. Officers were instructed to increase patrolling and strengthen the intelligence network to preempt criminal activities. IGP Jammu concluded by urging the officers to serve with integrity and maintain a citizen-centric approach while dealing with public grievances.

## RARI Jammu Continues Community Health Outreach under Poshan Pakhwada with Nutrition and TB Awareness Initiative

JAMMU, MAY 15: In continuation of the nationwide Poshan Pakhwada campaign, the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu, organised an awareness and community outreach programme at the Anganwadi Centre, Chinore, Jammu, under the guidance of the Institute's In-Charge, Dr. Harbans Singh. The programme focused on maternal and child health, nutritional awareness, preventive healthcare, and community participation.



Addressing the gathering, Dr. Poonam Mohod highlighted the importance of balanced nutrition during pregnancy, lactation, and early childhood. She emphasised healthy dietary habits, anaemia prevention, personal hygiene, and Ayurvedic lifestyle practices for ensuring holistic well-being among mothers and children. An additional

awareness session was conducted under the ongoing 100-Day TB Mukti Bharat Abhiyan to sensitise the community regarding tuberculosis (TB). The lectures focused on early identification of symptoms, preventive measures, tim-

ely treatment, and public participation in achieving the vision of a TB-free India. To enhance community engagement, a KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practices) study was conducted under among beneficiaries, Anganwadi workers, and health seekers to assess awareness regarding nutrition, communicable diseases, and healthy lifestyle practices. IEC materials related to nutrition, maternal and child healthcare, and TB prevention were also distributed among the participants. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from beneficiaries, Anganwadi staff, and local residents. The event was actively supported by Dr. Sanjana Sharma, Dr. Mohd Moein, Dr. Shreya Saraf, and Dr. Shubham Singh Pathania. The initiative reflects the continued commitment of the Poshan Pakhwada campaign.

## Power shutdown

JAMMU, MAY 15: Chief Engineer, (Distribution) JPDC, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Upper Bamai, Lower Muthi, Paloura, JK Colony, Chandan Vihar, Muthi Metador Stand, PHE Roop Nagar, MES Rajouri Lines, Patoli, BSF, Paloura, Talab Tillo, Hazuri Bagh, Anand Vihar, Udheywala and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 16 from 11 am to 2 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Dogra Hall, Rehari, Resham Gar, Bus Stand, Jewel, Hari Market, Raghunath Bazar, Kaleeth Mohalla, Kanak Mandi, Manda, New Plot, Sarwal, Part of Karan Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 16 from 8 am to 4 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Pouni, Shiv Khori, Dadua, Barkh, Ransoo, Talawa and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 16 from 8 am to 3 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Bantalab, Nardani, Bhalwal, Thathar, Swarn Vihar, Radio Station, CRPF, Pooja Colony, Bhalwal, Kangan More, Kot Bhalwal and adjoining areas will remain affected

on May 16 from 7 am to 12 noon. Likewise, the power supply to Bipur Complex, Sainik Colony, Greater Kailash, Kaluchak, Jallo Chak, Apna Vihar, Chowdhri and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 16 from 7 am to 2 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Sainik Colony, Chowdhri, Bipur, Data Talab, Ratmochak, MES Kaluchak and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 16 from 7 am to 11 am. Likewise, the power supply to Chakroi, Pindi, Flora, BOP, Kirpind and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 16 from 8 am to 1 pm. Meanwhile, Superintendent Engineer (Distribution) JPDC O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Rajpura, Lala Chack, BSF-2nd and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 16 and 18 from 7 am to 12 noon. Similarly, the power supply to Rahya and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 16 from 7 am to 12 noon. Likewise, the power supply to Industry and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 19 from 7 am to 12 noon.

## KTA seeks uniform enforcement of E-way bill for timber transit

### Rana assures delegations of priority redress of grievances

SRINAGAR, APRIL 15: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, today received several delegations representing various public interests, who called on him to seek his intervention on a range of issues pertaining to their respective areas. A delegation of Kashmir Timber Association (KTA) submitted a memorandum seeking

his intervention in uniform implementation of the E-Way Bill system for transit of timber across Jammu and Kashmir. The delegation, apprised the Minister that while the traditional docket system for timber transit has officially been replaced by the E-Way Bill in accordance with the prevailing rules, certain authorities continue to insist upon docket-like documents during transit. The

Association stated that this inconsistency has created confusion among the traders and transporters, causing unnecessary delays and significant operational hardships for the industry. They urged the Minister to issue clear directions to the concerned authorities to ensure uniform acceptance of the E-Way Bill in place of the docket system so as to facilitate smooth functioning.

### GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCDD(PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

#### INVITING SHORTERME-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/13/2026-27 Dated: - 15-05-2026

Executive Engineer PCD PHQ/J&K JAMMU/SRINAGAR on behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD / Railways and other States / Central Governments for the following works:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Remodelling/ Up-gradation of office of the Director Prosecution at PHQ Complex Srinagar under Account Head Minor Civil and Electrical works in Demand 51 Police	PCD (PHQ) J&K Jmu/ Sgr	2.56lacs	200/-	51200/-	30 working days	23-05-2026	"A", "B", "C" & "D"
2	Remodelling/ Up-gradation of office of waiting Hall of Special D. G. Constabulary at PHQ Complex Srinagar under Account Head Minor Civil and Electrical works in Demand 51 Police	PCD (PHQ) J&K Jmu/ Sgr	2.21lacs	200/-	44200/-	30 working days	23-05-2026	"A", "B", "C" & "D"

- Date of Publishing 15-05-2026 at 1600 hours.
- The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 1630 hours on 15-05-2026.
- The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 16-05-2026 to 22-05-2026 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 23-05-2026 online.
- The complete bidding process will be online.
- Technical bids of bidders shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Srinagar on 23-05-2026 at 0900 Hrs.
- The lowest bidder i.e. L1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within five days from opening of financial bids. In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A24(2017)-651 dated:- 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challen / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. 0055/ Revenue (others).
- Treasury challan/ receipt indicating the name of work and e-NIT No. & date favouring Executive Engineer PCD PHQ by crediting to M.H. 0055/Revenue issued after the issuance of advertisement e-NIT No. & date and upload the same.
- Earnest Money:- The earnest money deposit (EMD @ 2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar of the successful bidder (L1) shall be released, only after defect liability period, the DLP shall be calculated from the date of successful completion of the work to the satisfaction report of Engineer incharge. (The date of Treasury challan/ EMD should be between the date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date).
- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.
- The site for the work is available. The intending bidders are strongly advised to inspect the site of work before bidding.
- Financial Bids will be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/Srinagar, if the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The bid for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- No Engineer of Gazetted rank or other Gazetted Officer employed in Engineering or Administrative duties in an Engineering Department of the Government is allowed to work as a Contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from Government service, without permission of the Government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained the permission of the Government as aforesaid before submission of the tender or engagement in the Contractor's Service.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

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

No.:- e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2026-27/3600-3609

Dated: 15-05-2026.

DIP/J-2109/26

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Northern Railway, Jammu invites a tender under Single Packet system for and on behalf of the President of India for the under specified work:

Tender Notice No. 17-E-C-TRO-TS-SVDR-2026

Name of work: Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV Grid work in connection with setting up of additional Trip Street at Srin Mata Vaidya Devi Kanya (SVDR) station.

Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 1,26,75,276.04

Completion period: 12 (Twelve) months

Bid Security to be deposited: Rs. 2,63,000/-

Availability of Tender Document on Railway Website: Tender documents will be available on RERS website i.e. [www.rers.gov.in](http://www.rers.gov.in) from 16.05.2026 to 06.06.2026 upto 14:00 hrs. The bidders who desire to participate against a tender are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to obtain class II- digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2008. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in tender document. Only e-tenders will be accepted and tenders submitted in any other form will be summarily rejected. The detailed notice also can be seen on Notice Board at the above office.

No. 17-E-C-TRO-TS-SVDR-2026 Dated: 15.05.2026 1533/25

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

### Sakeena Itoo visits JVC Hospital Bemina, reviews patient care services, other facilities

SRINAGAR, MAY 15: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today visited JVC Hospital Bemina to inspect the functioning of various healthcare facilities and review patient care services being provided at the hospital. During the visit, the Minister undertook a comprehensive tour of several departments of the hospital and assessed the availability of medical services, infrastructure, healthcare delivery systems and overall patient management. The Minister also interacted with patients, attendants, doctors, paramedical staff and hospital administration to obtain first-hand feedback regarding the quality of treatment and functioning of the institution.

**NOTICE**  
I Hans Raj Gupta S/o late Sh. Gour Chand R/o Ward No. 7Dingi Simbli Tehsil Billawar Distt Kathua has applied for license of retail Seed Sale Shop at M/S Hans Raj Gupta And son's retail seeds shop at Ward No-07 main dingi simbli (Billawar). Objection if any may be conveyed to Chief Agriculture office Kathua within seven days from this publication.

**NOTICE**  
I, Santosh Devi w/o Chanchal Singh r/o Aghar Jitto Teh-Katra, Dist-Reasi have applied for the correction of my name which has been wrongly written as Santoshi Devi instead of correct name Santosh Devi in my daughter's (Name- Kratika Devi) School leaving certificate passed 3rd class from Bright Career Public School Akhli Butan. Objection if any may be conveyed to the Principal Bright Career Public School Akhli Butan, Teh-Katra Dist-Reasi within in seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

## Kohli Sets ODI World Cup Participation 'Condition' In Message For BCCI: "If I Have To Prove..."

New Delhi, May 15:

The record of scoring the most number of hundreds in the ODI format apparently isn't enough, Virat Kohli, widely categorised as the finest white-ball player in the game has ever seen, has had to address speculations around his career in the 50-over format, the only form of the game he is active in, when it comes to international cricket. From being made to play the Vijay Hazare Trophy to batting for his career in the India shirt, the last year or so has seen Kohli go through a lot on the field. In a video shared by the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), his Indian Premier League franchise, the batting stalwart opened up on the push that he has felt to prove himself, even at this stage of his career. The 37-year-old, who no longer plays T20 cricket on the international circuit, is placed third in the Orange Cap list with 484 runs in 12 innings, including a century and three fifties. With ODI being the least played format in the cricketing calendar, there has been



a constant chatter about the his and Rohit Sharma's place in the 2027 World Cup set-up, given the lack of international cricket time the duo gets. Speaking on his World Cup plans for next year, in a video shared by RCB, Kohli said if he feels valued and feels he himself can add value in an environment, he is willing to play. If these 'conditions' aren't met, "he is not in that space". "My perspective is very clear. If I can add value to the environment that I am a part of, and the environment feels like I can add value, I will be seen. If I am made

to feel like I need to prove my worth and my value, I'm not in that space. Because I am being honest to myself about the game. I put my head down. I work hard. I am very thankful to God for giving me everything that I have been given in my cricketing career. And I feel very blessed and grateful for the opportunity. And when I arrive to play, I put my head down. "I work as hard, if not harder than anyone else. And I play the game in the right way. You want me to

run boundary to boundary for 40 runs in an ODI game? I will do that without a complaint. Because I prepare accordingly. I prepare for the fact that I will feel 50 overs, every ball like it's the last ball I'm going to play in my career. And I will bat that way. And I will run between the wickets that way. And I will do everything possible for the team. After operating like this, if I have to be in a place where I have to prove my worth and value, that place is not meant to be for me," he continued. He even featured in the 2025-26 Vijay Hazare Trophy for Delhi after two decades, which saw him score 208 runs in two appearances, including a fifty century and a fifty. There were speculations about him giving the tournament a miss despite BCCI's mandate but he ended up making a return to the domestic 50-over format. He said that he approached the tournament with a thought process that he had nothing to prove to anyone, and he was playing it purely for the love of the game.

## Arshdeep Singh In Racism Row Over 'Andhere' Remark On Mumbai Indians' Tilak Varma

New Delhi, May 15:

A video of Arshdeep Singh and Tilak Varma has gone viral, with the Punjab Kings (PBKS) pacer coming under intense criticism from a section of social media users. In the viral video, Arshdeep can be heard calling Tilak with the phrase "Oi, andhere" (roughly translates to "Hey, darkness"). The incident took place before PBKS' IPL 2026 match against Mumbai Indians (MI) on Thursday. Several users on the internet called out Arshdeep's language, pointing out the racial connotations attached to the slang. Arshdeep, who is often seen sharing vlogs, reels, and other content on his social media accounts, wasn't spared by fans on the internet. While it has to be noted that Tilak and Arshdeep share a camaraderie that goes beyond the cricket field, fans



weren't impressed. PBKS vs MI, IPL 2026: As it happened. A blistering half-century by Tilak Varma and an attacking knock from Ryan Rickelton powered the Mumbai Indians (MI) to a six-wicket win over the Punjab Kings (PBKS) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) clash in Dharamsala on Thursday. The defeat marked Punjab Kings' fifth straight loss, leaving them stranded on 13 points, with Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan

Royals closing in on them in the playoff race. Varma anchored the chase with composure, forging a crucial stand with Will Jacks. He struck a scintillating 75 off 33 balls, while Jacks provided explosive support with 25 off just 10 deliveries. Chasing 201, Rohit Sharma and Ryan Rickelton opened the innings for the Mumbai Indians, while Arshdeep Singh set the tone with a disciplined opening over, conceding just two runs.

## Punjab Crack Under The Pressure To Leave IPL Playoffs Hopes In The Balance

New Delhi, May 15:

Punjab Kings set the early pace in the Indian Premier League by going seven matches unbeaten, but a run of five straight defeats has left their playoffs hopes in the balance and assistant coach Brad Haddin concedes they have failed to deal with the pressure. Tilak Varma's match-winning knock powered Mumbai Indians to a six-wicket win on Thursday and left Punjab likely needing wins over Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Lucknow Super Giants in their final two games to stay in contention for a playoffs spot. "We just haven't been able to handle the pressure in the last few defeats,"



Haddin told reporters on Thursday. "We haven't played our best cricket when we need to, which has been disappointing. We are as disappointed as you guys are with the way we started the tournament and where we are now. "The one thing that does

come out of it is we've got to find a way to get out of it. There's no hiding that we've got to play better." Punjab's slump has raised questions about consistency and squad fitness but Haddin said the players had to focus on winning and block everything else out.

## Tomiyasu Makes Japan Return As Moriyasu Names FIFA World Cup Squad

New Delhi, May 15:

Former Arsenal defender Takehiro Tomiyasu has been included in Japan's World Cup squad by head coach Hajime Moriyasu despite not playing for the 'Samurai Blue' for almost two years due to a series of injuries. The central defender, who currently plays for Ajax after his contract was annulled by mutual consent with Arsenal last year, was included in the 26-man squad announced by the coach in Tokyo on Friday. Tomiyasu last played for Japan in a World Cup qualifier against Syria on June 11, 2024. He had been included in the squad for the March international window before withdrawing. Also selected were Liverpool midfielder Wataru Endo, who has endured an injury-hit season, and 39-year-old fullback Yuto



Nagatomo. Brighton & Hove Albion midfielder Kaoru Mitoma did not make the cut due to a hamstring injury sustained against Wolverhampton Wanderers earlier

this month. The Japanese will kick off their eighth appearance at the World Cup finals against the Netherlands in Dallas on June 14 before taking on Tunisia on June 20 and Sweden on June 25 in their

remaining Group F fixtures. Japan reached the round of 16 at the last two World Cups, losing to Belgium in 2018 and to Croatia, on penalties, in Qatar four years later. Moriyasu will be leading the team into his second World Cup as coach. Japan squad Goalkeepers: Zion Suzuki, Tomoki Hayakawa, Keisuke Osako Defenders: Yuto Nagatomo, Shogo Taniguchi, Ko Itakura, Tsuyoshi Watanabe, Takehiro Tomiyasu, Hiroki Ito, Ayumu Seko, Yukiinari Sugawara, Junya Ito, Daichi Kamada, Wataru Endo, Junya Ito, Daichi Kamada, Koki Ogawa, Daizen Maeda, Ritsu Doan, Ayase Ueda, Ao Tanaka, Keito Nakamura, Kaishu Sanno, Takefusa Kubo, Yuito Suzuki, Kento Shogai, Keisuke Goto

## Mumbai Indians Asked To Release Hardik Pandya If 'Dressing Room Rumours' Are True

New Delhi, May 15:

Mumbai Indians returned to winning ways, registering their fourth victory of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 campaign after a thrilling win over the Punjab Kings on Thursday. The victory came under the captaincy of Jasprit Bumrah after both Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav missed the fixture. While MI have suggested that Hardik's absence is due to a back spasm, rumours suggest there is more to the story than meets the eye. Former India opener Virender Sehwag feels Hardik should be released by the franchise if these rumours are true. As Hardik remains absent from the Mumbai Indians squad, reports of dressing-room discord between him and certain players have emerged. Though Sehwag does not believe



all these rumours are true, he feels the franchise should let Hardik go if that is indeed the case. "If you just talk about cricket, then retain him. But then you have all these rumours, which I'm not sure are true, about some dressing-room tension or off-field issues. If that is true, release him. If false, based on cricket, he must be

retained because he is a top-quality player," he said during a discussion on Cricbuzz. He also mentioned that, personally, he would like to retain Hardik. "Irrespective of the rumours, I will retain him. You can always put an end to that. Those dressing-room differences, if true, can be settled. Because you have to play as a team. And Hardik

is more valuable as a player. Mumbai Indians need him," he said. At present, the most expensive player in the IPL is Rishabh Pant, having been bought for Rs 27 crore in the IPL 2025 mega auction. Sehwag feels Hardik is a player whose actual value is the figure Pant received, and not his current salary of Rs 16 crore. "Remember, he used to play well even when he was not the captain of Mumbai Indians. There were rumours even then. But I would still retain him. In fact, Rs 16.35 crore is very little. He is a Rs 27 crore player," he added. Mumbai Indians have two more matches to go before their IPL 2026 season concludes. It will be interesting to see if Hardik makes a comeback to feature in either of the remaining matches.

## Mbappe Boed On Return As Real Madrid Beat Oviedo 2-0

New Delhi, May 15:

Kylian Mbappe was greeted with a chorus of boos and whistles from Real Madrid's own fans as he returned from a hamstring injury during his side's 2-0 LaLiga home win over Real Oviedo on Thursday. The French forward missed Sunday's 2-0 El Clasico defeat by Barcelona that saw their bitter rivals wrap up the league title with three games to spare, and his introduction in the 69th minute as a substitute for goal-scorer Gonzalo Garcia prompted widespread jeers from the Madrid fans. Gonzalo had given the home side the lead in the 44th minute with a well-taken goal after bottom side Oviedo, whose



are already relegated to the second tier, coughed the ball up cheaply on their right flank. Mbappe, who earlier on Thursday was named in the France squad for next month's World Cup, seemed underfired by the boos, firing off a number of shots towards goal during his cameo appearance.

However, it was fellow substitute Jude Bellingham who netted Madrid's second in the 80th minute to leave Madrid second in the table on 80 points, 11 behind Barcelona and 11 ahead of third-placed Villarreal with two games left to play.

## Saudi Arabia To Launch First Professional T20 League In October; Yuvraj Singh Named Ambassador

New Delhi, May 15:

Saudi Arabia will stage its first professional Twenty20 cricket league in October, marking a significant milestone in the Kingdom's sporting development, organisers said on Thursday. The six-team league will begin in the second week of October, featuring "legends of the international game" alongside emerging talent. The initiative is aimed at expanding cricket's footprint across the Gulf region while providing a global-standard sporting and entertainment platform. South Asian Network Limited was awarded the rights by the Saudi Arabian



Cricket Federation in 2025 to establish and operate the Kingdom's first professional T20 competition. The league aims to develop cricket in the region by creating opportunities for local players and building a world-class sports ecosystem. Former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh will serve as the league ambassador. Details regarding venues, team franchisees, broadcast partners and commercial tie-ups will be announced at a later stage.

## IPL Viewership Grows In Digital Space; Set To Hit 500 Million On TV: Official Broadcaster

New Delhi, May 15:

As teams in TATA IPL 2026 head into a thrilling race for the playoffs, JioStar continues to witness sustained growth in reach and engagement across linear TV and digital platforms. With playoff spots still wide open, season 19 has maintained a level of unpredictability that has translated into TATA IPL 2026 recording its highest-ever reach, with a combined reach of 1.1 billion. While reach on linear TV has kept in step with its strong footing and well on course towards the 500-million mark, digital reach grew by 15% and watch-time is up by 7%. CTV has seen a 25% growth in reach with watch-time up by 20%. The regional language watch-time has



seen a staggering uptick of 42%. The data reflects the steady increase in TATA IPL viewers across platforms, devices, and formats. Anup Govindan, Head of Sales, JioStar - Sports, said, "What stands out in this TATA IPL season is the consistency of fan engagement right through the league stage

across JioStar platforms. The competitive intensity has driven a week-on-week climb in reach which shows how strongly the tournament is resonating with fans across screens. As the race to playoffs intensifies, JioStar continues to be the unmatched platform for bringing together scale, emotion

and relevance for all our stakeholders." JioStar's presentation of the TATA IPL 2026 has been driven by 125 new advertisers compared to last season, spanning a diverse canvas of names. 22 sponsors have partnered with JioStar on digital while 16 have come on board linear TV, comprising a mix of heritage Indian brands and new-age, technology-led platforms that reflect the national scale and growing relevance of TATA IPL for brands. This has been bolstered by innovations such as JioStar's "Champions Walk Feed", featuring legends, former champions, and leading voices of the game, such as Ravichandran Ashwin, Suresh Raina, Harbhajan Singh, Virender Sehwag, and Irfan Pathan.



## 'No fuel shortage ahead': Indian Oil assures refineries running beyond 100% capacity; pushes for cleaner energy alternatives

New Delhi, May 15: As petrol and diesel prices rose across India amid mounting global energy pressures, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) on Friday assured citizens that there would be no fuel shortage, with all its refineries operating at more than 100 per cent capacity to maintain uninterrupted supplies at retail outlets nationwide. Speaking after the Centre increased petrol and diesel prices by Rs 3 per litre each, IOCL Director (Refineries) Arvind Kumar termed the revision a "very small rise" despite the pressure created by the ongoing Gulf crisis and volatility in global crude markets. Kumar said Indian Oil's refinery network was functioning round the clock to prevent any disruption in fuel availability. "It's a very small rise, and a lot of pressure is there. Indian Oil Group companies' 10 refineries are working round the clock at more than



100 per cent capacity so that there will be no crisis and no dry-out at any retail outlet," he said. He also urged citizens to conserve fuel during this "critical time" for global energy markets.

Petrol, diesel prices rise across major cities  
Following the latest revision, petrol prices in Delhi climbed from Rs 94.77 to Rs 97.77 per litre,

while diesel rates increased from Rs 87.67 to Rs 90.67 per litre. Similar hikes were recorded across other metro cities. In Kolkata, petrol prices touched Rs 108.74 per litre, while diesel rose to Rs 95.13. Chennai saw petrol prices climb to Rs 103.67 and diesel to Rs 95.25 per litre. In Mumbai, petrol reached Rs 106.68 per litre and diesel Rs 93.14.

The increase comes amid heightened geopolitical instability in the Gulf region, a major source of India's crude oil imports. Green hydrogen to power Delhi's new buses  
Even as the company ramps up conventional fuel production, IOCL is simultaneously accelerating its transition towards cleaner energy alternatives. Kumar highlighted the deployment of hydrogen-powered buses in the national capital as part of Indian Oil's broader strategy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and promote sustainable mobility.

The company has supplied two hydrogen fuel-cell buses to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for operations between Central Secretariat and Seva Teeth Metro stations, covering key government establishments in the Central Vista region.

## Four of family killed as house roof collapses after heavy rain in K'taka's Vijayapura

New Delhi, May 15:

Four members of a family were killed after the roof of a house collapsed during heavy rain accompanied by strong winds in Montagi village of Alame taluk in Karnataka's Vijayapura district, officials stated on Friday. The deceased have been identified as Gurnath Badiger (35), Jyoti Badiger (28), Kalamma Badiger (13), and Keerthi Badiger (9). The family was reportedly living in a rented old house while repair work was underway at their own residence.



According to officials, the old house collapsed after heavy rain and gusty winds lashed the region overnight. The victims were trapped under the debris and buried alive. Police from Sindagi station visited the spot and

witnessed at the spot. Fire and emergency services personnel also rushed to the scene and began rescue and recovery operations to retrieve the bodies trapped under the mud and collapsed roofing material. Officials said the rescue work was challenging as the house had a mud roof and large quantities of soil had accumulated over the victims after the collapse. The incident has created panic in the village, while scenes of grief and wailing from family members were

launched an inspection. Rescued personnel and police continued the operation to clear debris and recover the bodies. It can be recalled that an eight-year-old girl was killed after a house wall collapsed following heavy rains in Yadgir district of Karnataka.

The incident occurred at Tumakuru village in Nadagera taluk, where the kitchen wall of a house belonging to Siddappa collapsed after heavy rainfall on Monday.

## Assam Cong leader Banashree Gogoi resigns from party posts, primary membership



New Delhi, May 15: Assam Senior Congress leader and All India Mahila Congress National Secretary Banashree Gogoi has resigned from all posts and the primary membership of the Indian National Congress, dealing a setback to the party in the state. In her resignation letter addressed to Congress President Mallikarjun

Kharge on Friday, Gogoi said she was stepping down from all responsibilities with immediate effect. "I hereby tender my resignation from all posts, responsibilities, and the Primary Membership of the Indian National Congress with immediate effect," she wrote in the letter. Gogoi, who served as National Secretary of

the All India Mahila Congress, expressed gratitude to the party leadership for the opportunities she received during her association with the Congress. "I am grateful for the opportunities and experiences I received during my association with the Party. I will continue to work for the people of Assam and the nation in my personal capacity," the letter stated. She also requested the party leadership to accept her resignation and relieve her from all organisational duties at the earliest. Copies of the resignation letter were also marked to All India Mahila Congress President Alka Lamba and Assam Pradesh Congress Committee president Gaurav Gogoi.

## Remembering the Legend: Armed Forces pay tribute to Field Marshal KM Cariappa on his death anniversary

New Delhi, May 15: The Indian Armed Forces on Friday paid rich tributes to Field Marshal Kodandera M. Cariappa on his death anniversary, remembering his exemplary leadership, discipline, and foundational role in shaping a modern Indian Army.



The Indian Army posted on X, "Remembering the Legend, Field Marshal KM Cariappa, OBE, the 1st Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, one of India's most distinguished military leaders." Union Minister Nitin Gadkari also paid tribute, posting on X, "Remembering first Indian commander-in-chief of

Indian Army Field Marshal Gen. K. M. Cariappa ji on his death anniversary." The Indian Air Force also honoured the former Army chief, stating on X: "Remembering Field Marshal KM Cariappa, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army. On his Death Anniversary, the Indian Air

Force pays tribute to one of India's finest military leaders whose vision, leadership and devotion to the nation continue to inspire the Armed Forces." Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Mishra also paid homage, writing, "On the death anniversary of Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa Ji,

the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army and an embodiment of courage, valor, and heroism, we pay humble tribute to him. Through his disciplined leadership and visionary thinking, he gave the Indian Army a new direction and a strong identity."

Field Marshal Cariappa remains one of the most respected figures in India's military history. He was the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Army after independence, taking charge in January 1949, succeeding British General Sir Roy Boucher, and played a key role in transforming the colonial-era force into a national institution. Born

on January 28, 1899, in Shanivarsante in Kodagu district of present-day Karnataka, Cariappa rose through the ranks to become one of India's most distinguished military leaders. Following independence, he was appointed the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1949. During his tenure, he was instrumental in modernising the force and building its institutional identity. He established key formations such as the Brigade of the Guards in 1949 and the Parachute Regiment in 1952, both notable for their initial recruitment across castes and classes.

## 'Will not let malpractice happen again': Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on NEET paper-leak, announces CBT-based NEET from next year

New Delhi, May 15: In an extensive overhaul of the medical entrance examination system following the NEET paper-leak controversy, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday announced that the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) will shift to Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode from next year to strengthen transparency and eliminate irregularities. Addressing a press conference, Pradhan assured students that the government would not allow any repeat of malpractice and said protecting the future of students remained the Centre's "topmost priority."



"We will not let malpractice happen again. The government is with you. We had to make a difficult decision in the interest of the nation," Pradhan said. Pradhan said the move to transition the examination into CBT mode from next year is aimed at plugging

loopholes and ensuring stricter monitoring of the examination process. The announcement comes after the government cancelled the earlier NEET-UG examination amid allegations of a paper leak linked to organised education mafias. NEET-UG re-exam to be held on June 21  
The Education Minister confirmed that the NEET-UG re-examination will now be conducted on June 21 by the National Testing Agency

(NTA). He admitted that examination questions had circulated under the guise of "guess papers," triggering concerns over the integrity of the test.

"Questions have gone out under the guise of guess papers," he said. Government cancelled exam after leak was confirmed  
The Education Minister revealed that the verification process began on May 8 and continued for four days before authorities decided to

cancel the examination in the interest of students. "The process began on the morning of May 8 and continued through May 8, 9, 10 and 11. When we got clarity and were confirmed that questions had gone out on the basis of the leaked paper, we made a decision on May 12," he said.  
The Minister said the government acted to ensure deserving candidates were not deprived because of a conspiracy by "education mafias." "We did not want any deserving candidate to lose their rights because of the conspiracy of education mafias," he added. "Zero tolerance" policy on exam irregularities  
The Union Minister said the government continues to follow a "zero-tolerance" policy towards examination irregularities and had already implemented the recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Committee after controversies surrounding previous examinations.

## K'taka BJP attacks CM Siddaramaiah over 'bias' against Hindu symbols, traditions

New Delhi, May 15:

Responding to the decision of the government not to allow saffron shawls and headgear in schools and colleges, the Karnataka unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, accusing him of showing intolerance towards Hindu beliefs, traditions, and religious symbols while allegedly displaying favouritism towards minority communities. In a strongly worded statement, the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, R. Ashoka, and other BJP leaders alleged that the Chief Minister reacts negatively to Hindu symbols and practices. "You tremble at the sight of tilak, feel uneasy at the sight of saffron, become restless when you see the Hanuman flag, and are irritated even by the mention of the Ram temple," the Ashoka slammed. Ashoka further accused Siddaramaiah of enthusiastically participating in celebrations of other religious communities. "During minority community events, you wear perfume, don a cap, and appear decorated like a



newlywed groom," he remarked. Questioning the Chief Minister's approach towards Hindu traditions, Ashoka asked why he allegedly displays "so much intolerance and hatred" towards Hindu beliefs, customs, and religious symbols. Ashoka also reminded Siddaramaiah that he is the Chief Minister of the entire state.

## Zubeen Garg death case: Assam court to hear today bail plea of key accused Shyamkanu Mahanta



New Delhi, May 15: One of the key accused in the death case of Assam's iconic musician Zubeen Garg, the festival organiser Shyamkanu Mahanta's bail plea will come up for hearing before the Gauhati High Court on Friday. The matter will be heard in the court of Justice Mrinal Kumar Kalita. Earlier, the hearing was scheduled for May 13, but it was deferred and rescheduled for Thursday. Mahanta had approached the Gauhati High Court

after his bail application was rejected by the lower court. His counsel is expected to argue for bail, citing legal grounds during the hearing. A fast-track court recently rejected Mahanta's bail plea. During the hearing, counsel representing Mahanta sought bail on various grounds, while the prosecution opposed the plea. After hearing arguments from both sides, the court declined to grant relief at this stage. The case pertains to the death of

Zubeen Garg, who died on September 19 last year while swimming near Lazarus Island in Singapore. The incident occurred just a day before the singer was scheduled to perform at an event organised under the NEF banner. Following the incident, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Assam Police's CID conducted an extensive probe and filed a chargesheet in December. The chargesheet named seven accused individuals, including Mahanta. Of them, four have been booked on charges of murder, intensifying the gravity of the case. Earlier, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had termed the case a "plain and simple murder" during a discussion in the state Assembly, underlining the government's stance on the matter.

## 'This is secular Kerala': Satheesan's sharp message after massive UDF win

New Delhi, May 15: Kerala Chief Minister-designate VD Satheesan on Friday said the Assembly election verdict was a clear endorsement of secular politics and accused the BJP of attempting to spread division in the state, days after the Congress-led UDF returned to power with a massive mandate. Addressing reporters in Thiruvananthapuram, Satheesan said Kerala had sent a message to the rest of the country through its electoral verdict. His remarks come as the Congress prepares to form a government, ending the Left Democratic Front's decade-long rule in the state with a decisive victory in the 2026 Assembly polls. "Some people are trying to start the hate campaign in Kerala. This is secular Kerala. The result of this election is a declaration of Kerala people to the entire country that our state is secular. We will keep it that way," Satheesan said. The incoming Chief Minister also sharpened the



ideological attack on the BJP, saying the Congress and the saffron party stood on opposite sides when it came to protecting Kerala's secular identity. "They are always trying to make hate campaigns. That is their job. Our job is to keep the secular credentials. That is the ideological fight between the BJP and the Congress," he said. What VD Satheesan said on NEET and fuel price rise the controversy surrounding the NEET examination,

Satheesan said the state government would place its concerns before the Centre, while noting that the examination was conducted at the national level. "We will give proposals. We are not conducting NEET exams. It is conducted at an all-India level. We will check it and we will give proposals to the concerned authorities," he said. Responding to a question on fuel price rise, the CM-designate said the new gov-

ernment would first assess the impact on people and the economy before deciding on corrective steps. "We will check the impact on society on the economy. We will check the liability of the people also. Then we will implement corrective measures within our limit," he said. Satheesan also dismissed speculation of discontent within the Congress camp after senior leader Ramesh Chennithala skipped the first meeting of newly elected legislators. When asked whether Chennithala was upset, Satheesan replied with a brief "No". Chennithala factor emerges as Satheesan's first political challenge ven before taking the oath, Satheesan appears to be facing his first major internal test: managing senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala, one of Kerala Congress's most experienced faces. Though the party high command eventually backed Satheesan for the top post after days of consultations in Delhi.

# US now 'hottest nation in the world': Trump flips Xi's 'declining nation' remark into Biden attack

Washington, May 15: US President Donald Trump on Friday pushed back against suggestions that Chinese President Xi Jinping sees America as a declining power, claiming the Chinese leader was referring instead to the years under former President Joe Biden.



In a lengthy post on Truth Social during his ongoing China visit, Trump said Xi's assessment was "100 per cent correct" only in the context of what he described as the "damage" caused by the Biden administration. The remarks come at a politically sensitive moment as Trump and Xi attempt to stabilise ties between the world's two largest economies amid tensions over trade, Taiwan, Iran and global supply chains. Beijing has repeatedly framed the US as a power in long-term

decline, pointing to political divisions, economic uncertainty and social unrest in America. "When President Xi very elegantly referred to the United States as perhaps being a declining nation, he was referring to the tremendous damage we suffered during the four years of Sleepy Joe Biden and the Biden Administration," Trump wrote. "Our Country suffered immeasurably with open

regained global momentum. The US President also claimed Xi had congratulated him on his administration's achievements during their meetings in Beijing. "Two years ago, we were, in fact, a Nation in decline. On that, I fully agree with President Xi!" Trump said. "But now, the United States is the hottest Nation anywhere in the world." Xi's "West declining" line resurfaces during Beijing summit. Xi has for years promoted the idea that "the East is rising and the West is declining", a phrase widely interpreted by Chinese officials and state media as a reference to the United States. While it remains unclear whether Xi used similar wording during this week's closed-door talks with Trump in Beijing, the issue

resurfaced after reports around the summit highlighted China's long-standing belief that America's global influence is weakening. At a state banquet earlier this week, Xi struck a notably warmer tone towards Trump, saying China's "great rejuvenation" and America's "Make America Great Again" vision could coexist. He also described US-China ties as the world's most important bilateral relationship and warned both countries against confrontation. Trump, for his part, repeatedly praised Xi during the visit, calling him a "great leader" and saying it was an "honour" to be his friend. Trump signals optimism on future US-China ties. Despite sharp rhetoric against Biden, Trump ended his post with a conciliatory message.

# CIA Chief Visits Cuba As Trump Urges Sweeping Changes

Cuba, May 15: CIA director John Ratcliffe on Thursday delivered a message from President Donald Trump to top Cuban officials in Havana that the U.S. would "seriously engage" with the island's government on economic and security issues "only if it makes fundamental changes," a CIA official told Reuters. Ratcliffe's trip appeared to be only the second visit by a CIA director to Cuba since former leader Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, underscoring a rare moment of high-level contact between the two countries. The CIA official, speaking on condition of anonymity, did not elaborate on the specific changes that Trump was demanding. The U.S. has for decades demanded Cuba open its state-run economy, pay reparations for properties expropriated by the Castro



government and hold "free and fair" elections. Ratcliffe arrived amid spiraling tensions between Washington and Havana. Trump has increased pressure on Cuba, effectively imposing a fuel blockade on the island by threatening tariffs on countries supplying it with fuel, igniting seemingly endless power outages and delivering new blows to the island's already ailing economy. Widespread protests broke out across Havana on Wednesday evening as rolling blackouts in parts of the city stretched to 24 hours or more, threatening food supplies and making sleep difficult for many residents. Cuba's energy and mines minister said the country had run out of diesel and fuel oil, and that its power grid had entered a "critical" state. The White House referred questions about Ratcliffe's trip to the CIA. Cuba first disclosed Ratcliffe's visit in a statement saying he held talks with his Cuban counterpart at the Interior Ministry in Havana. It did not identify the officials he met.

# US Casts Israel-Lebanon Talks On Thursday As 'Positive And Productive'



Washington, May 15: The United States cast Israel-Lebanon talks held in Washington on Thursday as "productive and positive" and a State Department official said more discussions aimed at ending their conflict will continue on Friday. A senior Lebanese official said earlier that Lebanon will demand that U.S. ally Israel cease fire in the face-to-face talks, as Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah

The U.S. official said there was a "full day of productive and positive talks" on Thursday that will continue on Friday. The talks are the sides' third meeting since Israel intensified air attacks on Lebanon after Hezbollah fired missiles at Israel on March 2, three days into the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. Israel had widened its ground invasion into Lebanon's south last month. Beirut is attending despite strong objections from Shi'ite Muslim Hezbollah. Fought in parallel to the U.S.-Iran conflict, Israel's war in Lebanon has rumbled on since U.S. President Donald Trump declared a ceasefire on April 16, though hostilities have largely been contained to southern Lebanon since then.

# Jayant Chaudhary Represents India At Uganda President Museveni's Swearing-In Ceremony, Reaffirms Bilateral Ties

Kampala, May 15: Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary represented India at the swearing-in ceremony of Ugandan President Yoweri Kagame Museveni during his recent visit to Uganda, reaffirming India's commitment to strengthening ties with the African nation. Chaudhary, who holds the portfolios of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, conveyed greetings and a message of goodwill from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the people of India on the occasion of President Museveni assuming his seventh term in office.



During the visit, the minister highlighted the importance of political stability and continuity in driving national development and acknowledged Uganda's steady progress over the years. He reiterated India's commitment to deepening its longstanding partnership with Uganda and the wider African continent. As part of his engagements, Chaudhary visited the Uganda campus of National Forensic Sciences University in Jinja, which became India's first overseas public academic campus when it admitted its inaugural batch of students in October 2025.

Commenting the initiative, the minister said the institution is expected to emerge as a centre of excellence for multidisciplinary forensic sciences, research, innovation and capacity building. He described the campus as a symbol of growing collaboration and shared aspirations between India and Africa. In Kampala, Chaudhary also interacted with members of the Indian diaspora and highlighted the strong people-to-people ties between the two countries. The visit underscored India's continued efforts to expand cooperation with Uganda across education, skill development and other strategic sectors.

# US escalates pressure on Cuba: US Secretary Rubio calls communist system 'broken'; Havana denies posing any threat to US security

Washington, May 15: A fresh diplomatic flashpoint has emerged between the United States and Cuba after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio targeted Havana's communist leadership, declaring Cuba's political and economic system "broken" and incapable of reform under its current rulers. Rubio's remarks came even as a high-level US delegation led by CIA chief John Ratcliffe travelled to Havana for rare security talks with Cuban officials, underscoring the sharp contradictions shaping Washington's approach towards the island nation. The unusually direct criticism from Rubio signals a tougher American posture towards Cuba at a time when tensions are already escalating over sanctions,



migration, intelligence activity and Havana's continued designation on the US list of state sponsors of terrorism. Rubio said Cuba "broken" under current leadership. Speaking in an interview with NBC on Thursday, Rubio argued that Cubans have succeeded globally but remain trapped by a failed governing system at home. "Cubans are successful everywhere in the world except one place: Cuba," Rubio said, asserting that the island's current model "doesn't work" and "will never change" as long as the present leadership remains in power. The top US diplomat also

accused Cuba's rulers of resisting reform and "digging in" instead of acknowledging the need for sweeping political and economic changes. Rubio's comments are likely to further strain already fragile relations between Washington and Havana, particularly as the Trump administration intensifies sanctions and pressure campaigns against the Caribbean nation. CIA Director Ratcliffe holds talks in Havana amid the escalating rhetoric, CIA Director Ratcliffe led a US delegation to Cuba on May 14 for talks with officials from Cuba's Ministry of the Interior. In a statement, the Cuban government said the visit took place after a formal request from Washington

# UK's Starmer Faces Survival Battle As Potential Rivals Circle

Washington, May 15: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer was struggling to hold on to power after his main rival in the government resigned on Thursday, accusing him of political drift, and others positioned themselves for potential challenges to his leadership. Disastrous results for the governing Labour Party in local elections last week have plunged Britain into a new crisis, just under two years after Starmer won a large majority on a vow to bring stability and end a decade of political chaos. After days of calls by Labour lawmakers for Starmer to quit or set out a timetable for his departure, Wes Streeting resigned as health minister, the first senior minister to break cover. He said he was



standing down because "it is now clear you will not lead the Labour Party into the next general election". While Streeting did not trigger a formal contest, potential rivals to the prime minister, such as Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham, started positioning themselves for a possible leadership challenge that Starmer has said he will fight. Streeting criticised his former boss in a resignation letter which said he was standing down to allow a wide debate about what comes next, one which the Labour movement wanted to focus on ideas rather than personalities or factions. "It needs to be broad, and it needs the best possible field of candidates," Streeting wrote.

# Musk Accused Of 'Selective Amnesia,' Altman Of Lying As OpenAI Trial Nears End



London, May 15: A lawyer for Elon Musk hammered at the credibility of OpenAI CEO Sam Altman on Thursday, near the end of a trial over whether to hold the ChatGPT maker and its leaders responsible for allegedly transforming the nonprofit into a vehicle to enrich themselves. OpenAI's lawyers fought back, claiming the world's richest person waited too long

to claim OpenAI breached its founding agreement to build safe artificial intelligence to benefit humanity, and couldn't claim he was essential to its success. "Mr. Musk may have the Midas touch in some areas, but not in AI," said William Savitt, a lawyer for OpenAI. "To succeed in AI, as it turns out, all Mr. Musk can do is come to court." The claims were made during closing arguments of a trial in the Oakland, California, federal court. Musk is suing OpenAI and Altman for breach of charitable trust and unjust enrichment. He accused them of manipulating him into giving \$38 million as well as going behind his back by attaching a for-profit business to its original nonprofit and accepting tens of billions of dollars from Microsoft MSFTO and other investors

# Trump claims 'fantastic' US-China trade breakthroughs as Xi warns over Taiwan at Beijing summit

Washington, May 15: US President Donald Trump on Thursday projected confidence after fresh talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, claiming the two sides had struck "fantastic trade deals" and made progress on issues ranging from Iran to economic cooperation, even as tensions over Taiwan loomed large over the summit. The high-profile meeting at Zhongnanhai and the Great Hall of the People came at a delicate moment in US-China ties, with both countries trying to steady relations strained by trade disputes, technology restrictions and growing military competition in the Indo-Pacific. While the public optics of the visit centred on



ceremonial warmth and economic engagement, reports from multiple US media outlets suggested serious strategic differences surfaced behind closed doors. "We made some fantastic trade deals great for both countries,"

Trump said during the visit. "We discussed Iran and want that crisis to end. We don't want them to have a nuclear weapon and want the Straits open." According to ANI, Trump and Xi spent part of the morning walking through the gardens of Zhongnanhai, the heavily guarded leadership compound of the Chinese Communist Party often described as China's equivalent of the White House. CNN reported that the two leaders first held a brief private interaction away from the media before continuing discussions later with smaller delegations. During the stroll, Trump admired the landscaped compound and remarked: "These are the most beautiful roses any US has ever seen." Xi later told Trump that he would send rose seeds to him, according to CNN. Despite the carefully managed symbolism, the summit was overshadowed by Beijing's blunt warning.

**DC Srinagar, SMC Commissioner review preparations for Self-Enumeration, House Listing Operations of Census Phase-I**

Officers directed to ensure timely completion, data accuracy, seamless CMMS updation, effective public awareness for smooth conduct of Census exercise

SRINAGAR, MAY 15: In connection with Census-2027, the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar (Principal Census Officer (Rural), Akshay Labroo and Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) (Principal Census Officer (Urban), Faz Lul Haseeb today chaired a joint meeting of District and Sectoral Officers of all line Departments at Banquet Hall Conference Complex, Srinagar.



At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner and SMC Commissioner assessed the modalities for Self-enumeration and review progress of House Listing Operations (HLO) and its updation on Census Management and

Monitoring System (CMMS) under Phase-I of Census-2027 operations in the District. During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the ongoing preparatory activities related to Phase-I of Census-2027 was under-

taken, with particular focus on ensuring smooth implementation of self-enumeration procedures, completion of House Listing Operations within stipulated timelines and real-time updation of data on the CMMS portal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of maintaining accuracy, transparency and coordination during the Census exercise, terming it a vital national exercise that forms the basis for planning and policy formulation. He directed all concerned Officers to ensure that the House Listing Operations are conducted meticulously and that no household is left uncovered during the enumeration process. The DC instructed all line departments to strengthen inter-departmental coordination and provide full logistical and technical support to field functionaries for seamless execution of the exercise. He further

**DC reviews preparedness for implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules 2026**

BANDIPORA, MAY 15: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, chaired a meeting to review Solid Waste Management and preparedness for implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 in the district. During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held regarding the effective implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules in compliance with the directions issued by the Supreme Court.



The meeting discussed various measures aimed at strengthening waste management mechanisms across urban and rural areas of the district. The Deputy Commissioner stressed strict adherence to the Supreme Court directions regarding segregation of waste sources and directed all Block

Development Officers and Executive Officers to ensure effective implementation of the same in their respective jurisdictions. The meeting also discussed issues related to bulk waste generators, awareness campaigns, timely waste collection, and establishment and functioning of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). Emphasis was laid on ensuring proper transportation, management, and scientific disposal of solid waste. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to intensify awareness activities among the general public regarding source segregation, responsible waste disposal, and reduction in use of non-biodegradable materials. She further stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders for achieving sustainable waste management practices in the district.

**Javid Dar pays obeisance at Syed Mawaan Shah Qalandar shrine, reviews Horticulture infrastructure in Rafiabad**

BARAMULLA, MAY 15: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today paid obeisance at the revered shrine of Syed Mawaan Shah Qalandar (RA) at Dalora, Rafiabad and offered prayers for lasting peace, prosperity and progress of Jammu and Kashmir and the country. During his visit to the shrine, the Minister prayed for communal harmony, wellbeing of the people and sustained development across the region. He also interacted with the shrine caretaker and devotees, underscoring the vital role of such spiritual institutions in preserving the Valley's rich ethos of brotherhood, tolerance and social cohesion. Later, the Minister visited the Horticulture Department facility, where he undertook a detailed review of the infrastructure and support services being extended to the orchardists and farmers of the area. He inspected the available facilities and sought firsthand feedback regarding the schemes and technical assistance

being provided to the farming community. Emphasising the immense significance of horticulture as a key driver of Jammu and Kashmir's rural economy, the Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure efficient delivery of services, timely technical guidance and enhanced outreach to farmers so that they are able to fully benefit from the government welfare and developmental initiatives. He reiterated the government's firm commitment towards strengthening the horticulture sector through modernisation, capacity building and improved institutional support. He said that sustained efforts are being made to empower the farmers, enhance productivity and create better livelihood opportunities across the Union Territory. The Minister stressed the need for proactive field-level monitoring and close coordination among the departmental functionaries to effectively address the concerns of farmers and accelerate the implementation of developmental programmes at the grassroots level.

**Director Finance SKUAST-K visits KVK Bandipora-1**

Reviews Institutional functioning, developmental activities

BANDIPORA, MAY 15: Director Finance/Comptroller, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Haroon Ahmad Bhat visited KVK Bandipora-1 to review the functioning and developmental activities of the institution.



During the visit, Dr. Tariq Sultan briefed the Director Finance regarding the ongoing activities, infrastructural facilities, and future development plans of the KVK.

The Director Finance inspected various sections of the Kendra and reviewed the overall functioning of the institution. He appreciated the efforts of the KVK administration and scientific staff in ensuring the effective implementation of university programmes and institutional activities at the district level.

Dr. Tahir Saleem and other officers present during the visit also apprised the Director Finance

about various technical and administrative initiatives being undertaken by the KVK. Discussions were held on strengthening institutional infrastructure, improving administrative coordination, and enhancing the operational efficiency of the centre.

During the interaction, the Director Finance emphasized the importance of institutional

accountability, effective resource management, and coordinated efforts for the continued growth and development of KVK Bandipora-1. He reiterated the commitment of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir towards strengthening its extension and outreach institutions across the region. The Director Finance also

stressed the need for maintaining high standards of institutional performance, timely execution of developmental activities, and optimum utilization of available resources for achieving the objectives of the university. He appreciated the dedicated services rendered by the officers and staff of the KVK in ensuring smooth functioning of the institution. The visiting officers held detailed deliberations on future strategies for institutional strengthening, infrastructural improvement, and enhancing coordination among different units of the university for efficient implementation of academic and extension-related programmes. The visit concluded with a review meeting wherein various administrative and developmental matters concerning the functioning of KVK Bandipora-1 were discussed in detail.

**Speaker Legislative Assembly inaugurates advanced healthcare facilities at CHC Kremshore**

BUDGAM, MAY 15: In a significant step towards strengthening the healthcare infrastructure and enhancing patient care services, Speaker Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today inaugurated the newly established healthcare facilities at Community Health Centre (CHC) Kremshore. The facilities included a dedicated Hotline Service, an Ultrasonography (USG) Machine and a modern Dental Chair, all aimed at improving the accessibility, diagnostic capabilities and quality healthcare delivery for the local population. Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker emphasized the government's commitment



towards strengthening the healthcare services at the grassroots level. He stated that upgrading the medical infrastructure in rural areas remains a priority to ensure timely diagnosis, better treatment facilities and reduced dependence on tertiary healthcare institutions. He highlighted that the addition of advanced diagnostic and dental facilities at CHC Kremshore would significantly benefit the patients from Kremshore and adjoining areas. The Hotline Service inaugurated on the occasion will facilitate better

healthcare facilities and patient care. The installation of the Ultrasonography Machine is expected to greatly enhance the diagnostic services, particularly benefiting the pregnant women, elderly patients and individuals requiring immediate imaging support. Similarly, the newly installed Dental Chair will strengthen oral healthcare services, enabling specialized treatment for local patients and reducing the need for patients to travel long distances. During the programme, the health officials briefed the dignitaries about the functioning of the health institution and ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the healthcare

outreach, preventive and patient satisfaction. The Speaker appreciated the efforts of the Health Department and medical staff for their dedication in delivering quality healthcare services despite various challenges. Rather also interacted with the doctors, paramedical staff and the public, encouraging the healthcare professionals to continue serving with compassion and professionalism, ensuring patient-friendly services. The inauguration marks another milestone in the ongoing efforts to improve the healthcare infrastructure and ensure accessible, affordable and quality medical services for all sections of the society.

**Massive anti-drug awareness campaigns continue across Shopian under NMJKA**

SHOPIAN, MAY 15: District Administration Shopian, under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir (NMJKA), continues to organize a series of intensive awareness and outreach programmes across the district on a daily basis to educate people, especially youth, about the harmful effects of drug abuse.



As part of the sustained campaign, awareness programmes, sports activities, seminars, yoga sessions, cultural events and interactive meetings are being conducted in schools, colleges, villages and public places with active participation of students, youth clubs, teachers, civil society members and local vol-

unteers. During the programmes, participants were sensitized about the growing menace of substance abuse and were encouraged to play an active role in making society drug-free. Speakers stressed the importance of community participation, parental guidance and coordinated efforts to protect the younger generation from falling prey to drugs. Special focus is being laid on involving youth in constructive and positive activities including sports, skill development and awareness drives so that they remain engaged in productive pursuits. Various departments are jointly conducting these activities to strengthen

**Director Horticulture visits Shopian, Reviews developmental works**

SHOPIAN, MAY 15: Director Horticulture Kashmir, Vikas Anand, visited District Shopian to review various developmental works being carried out in the district. The Director conducted an extensive visit of District Shopian to review ongoing horticulture activities and interact with stakeholders in the sector.

During the visit, a meeting was held with the orchardist community wherein the Director listened to their concerns, discussed various developmental issues, and assured necessary support for the growth of horticulture in the district.

Addressing the field staff, the Director stressed the need for regular field visits to provide technical guidance to farmers and ensure the timely completion of all departmental schemes.

The Director also visited a Hi-Tech Poly House at Zawoora, Shopian, estab-

lished under the HADP programme, and reviewed its functioning and emphasized the importance of protected cultivation for local farmers.

Further, an Apple area expansion site measuring 5 kanals at Shirmal, developed under the JKICP scheme, was inspected to assess progress and ensure proper implementation of the programme.

The Director also kick-started plantation work on a 10 kanal site at Ganawpora Balpora. The project being established by M/S Golden Agrisense under High Density Plantation Scheme in favour of the applicant Taseema Akhter w/o Mohd Shafi Tak, marks a significant step towards modernizing the district orchards. The Director was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer Pulwama, Chief Horticulture Officer Shopian, District Level SMC Shopian and Horticulture Development Officer Shopian.

**Textiles Export Push Gets Major Fillip in Kashmir**

J&K charts roadmap for global textile leadership at mega SKICC consultation

SRINAGAR, MAY 15: In a major initiative aimed at aligning Jammu & Kashmir's traditional strengths with India's ambitious textile export vision, the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, under the Industries & Commerce Department, in collaboration with the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, organized a mega two-day Consultative Workshop on "Textiles for Global Markets: Strategy for Achieving USD 100 Billion Exports by 2030" at SKICC, Srinagar.

The workshop brought together policymakers, exporters, industry leaders, artisans, entrepreneurs, Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), DGFT representatives and sectoral stakeholders to deliberate on strategies for enhancing exports, strengthening value chains and positioning local prod-

ucts in global markets under the broader "Local to Global" framework. On Day-2, Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce attended the consultative session and interacted extensively with participating stakeholders. He held detailed deliberations on issues concerning export promotion, market access, value chain strengthening and opportunities for enhancing Jammu & Kashmir's presence in global textile markets. During the interaction, he highlighted the immense potential of the region's handicrafts and handloom sector and emphasized focused interventions in branding, quality enhancement and export competitiveness. The two-day programme was structured around focused policy consultations under export planning frameworks. Day-1 featured dis-

cussions under the District Export Action Plan (DEAP) framework with emphasis on identifying district-specific export strengths and sectoral opportunities. Day-2 focused on the State/UT Export Action Plan (SEAP) through wider consultations on policy interventions and export-oriented growth strategies for the textile sector. During the deliberations, it was highlighted that the Ministry of Textiles has designated Budgam and Baramulla as Aspirational Districts, while Srinagar has been identified as a Champion District, recognizing the significant textile and handicraft potential of these districts and paving the way for focused interventions, infrastructure support and export promotion initiatives. Participants held detailed discussions on major themes including export competi-

tiveness. Foreign Trade Policy 2023, District Export Hub initiatives, Free Trade Agreements, sustainability and ESG frameworks, cluster development models and strengthening linkages between artisans, producers and international markets. Officials informed that recommendations emerging from the consultations would feed into the National Consultative Summit scheduled in June 2026, where inputs from States and Union Territories shall contribute towards formulation of a comprehensive national strategy and roadmap for achieving the target of USD 100 Billion textile exports by 2030. The workshop is expected to provide a significant impetus to Jammu & Kashmir's export ecosystem and further strengthen efforts towards integrating the region's globally renowned.

# CS steers stakeholder consultations for growth of J&K's key economic sectors

**SRINAGAR, MAY 15:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired detailed consultations with key stakeholders to devise a comprehensive strategy and institutional platform aimed at accelerating the economic growth of Jammu and Kashmir by strengthening core sectors including Tourism, Agriculture, Handicrafts and Industry. The high-level consultative meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Regional Head of RBI Jammu; Managing Director, J&K Bank; Director, HIM Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretary, Skill Development, Revenue and Employment Departments, besides representatives from BISAG-



N, RXIL and other official and non-official stakeholders. During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary underscored that the primary objective of the meeting was to evolve a unified mechanism capable of bringing all stakeholders onto a common platform

for giving a major boost to the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. He observed that several initiatives are already underway across different sectors and stressed the need for convergence among them to maximize their impact. Highlighting the ongoing interventions of the government, the Chief Secretary referred to the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) for Agriculture, MSME Health Clinic and Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMPP) for Industry, Mission YUVA for entrepreneurship promotion and the Homestay initiative for Tourism, besides several Government of India schemes aimed at supporting these sectors. He emphasized that the present need is to create a single integrated ecosystem that takes into account the strengths and challenges of all sectors and works in a convergence mode to support economic verticals such as Tourism, Agriculture, Industry and Handicrafts in a coordinated manner. The Chief Secretary further proposed that the existing

Mission YUVA framework, including the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) functioning at the district level, along with the MSME Health Clinic established under the RAMPP programme, could be reoriented and leveraged to provide easier access to credit, expert advisory services, capacity building and sustained handholding support to aspiring entrepreneurs and enterprises across sectors. He observed that all these sectors fundamentally operate as economic enterprises with the common objective of achieving growth and profitability, and therefore require a unified institutional mechanism capable of continuously assessing their health and extending timely support for their expansion and sustainability.

# Secretary RDD calls for strict enforcement of SC directions on SWM Rules, 2026

Districts asked to ensure D2D waste collection, identify Bulk Waste Generators

**JAMMU, MAY 15:** Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Ajaz Asad, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess implementation of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026 and directed all districts and field officers to ensure strict and time-bound compliance with Supreme Court directions on solid waste management. The meeting was attended by Director General Rural Sanitation Anoo Malhotra, Director Finance Umar Khan, Superintending Engineers REW, Deputy Directors Rural Sanitation, Assistant Commissioners Panchayat and other concerned officers. The Secretary emphasized that the Supreme Court, through its various orders especially dated February 19, April 29 and May 5, 2026, has issued comprehensive directions to States, UTs, District Collectors and Pollution Control Boards for effective implementation of the SWM Rules, 2026. He directed all districts to submit comprehensive plans for door-to-door waste collection across rural areas and submit the same within given timelines for strengthening waste collection systems. Ajaz Asad stressed constitution



of Village and Block Sanitation Committees under overall supervision of District Sanitation Committees (headed by DCs), wherever pending to improve coordination, monitoring and implementation of sanitation initiatives. He also directed wide dissemination of the SWM Rules, 2026, including translation into regional languages, and called for awareness workshops at UT, district and block/panchayat levels to educate communities on scientific waste management practices.

# Comm Secy School Education visits Vidya Samiksha Kendra Jammu; reviews functioning



**JAMMU, MAY 15:** Commissioner Secretary, School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma, today visited the Vidya Samiksha Kendra Jammu to review functioning of the integrated educational monitoring and governance system established under the School Education Department. During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary took a comprehensive review of the real-time monitoring mechanisms being implemented through the VSK platform for improving governance, transparency and efficiency in the education sector across the Union Territory. The officers and technical teams briefed the Commissioner Secretary regarding various digital dashboards, data analytics tools and monitoring modules being utilized for tracking key educational indicators. These included student attendance, teacher attendance, infrastructure status, learning outcomes and implementation of various schemes under Samagra Shiksha. The Commissioner Secretary reviewed the school attendance scenario across the UT and assessed the district-wise performance. He directed officers to follow up with low-attendance schools and ensure that attendance is marked daily, on time, and by all teachers without fail. The Project Director Samagra Shiksha, J&K and technical team Vidya Samiksha Kendra briefed the Commissioner Secretary about the progress achieved highlighting the enhancement in Digital Learning

instructions to the Technical team for regular follow up. He suggested the entire manpower of the organization to improve the outreach and engagement at the ground level. Reviewing the district-wise performance of VSK initiatives, Ram Niwas Sharma directed the VSK team to submit detailed district-wise performance data of all the VSK bots to facilitate closer monitoring and assessment of implementation across the districts. The Commissioner Secretary further directed the officials to convene a review meeting with all the Chief Education Officers (CEOs) regarding the performance of VSK Bots. He cautioned that the Chief Education Officers of the low performing districts shall be put to task. The Director, Samagra Shiksha also showcased the Data Monitoring Framework including the Dashboards Platform and the CRM system driven Tele-Calling set up in the VSK. Ram Niwas Sharma emphasized the importance of technology-driven governance in strengthening the education system. He directed the concerned officers to ensure effective utilization of the platform for evidence-based decision making and timely grievance redressal. Stressing upon data accuracy and regular up-dation, he said that the Vidya Samiksha Kendra would play a pivotal role in enhancing the accountability and improving the quality of education in schools across J&K. The Commissioner Secretary also interacted with the officials and staff working at the centre and appreciated their efforts in establishing a robust digital monitoring ecosystem for the School Education Department. He asked for further strengthening the coordination with the field functionaries and ensuring optimum use of technology for monitoring the educational initiatives and flagship programmes in the UT. While reviewing the progress of the low performing districts, the Commissioner issued strict

# Numerous infra, economic dev projects being executed under Hydro Power Projects Rehab Plans in Kishtwar

DC reviews progress achieved under LADP, R&R Plans

**KISHTWAR, MAY 15:** A comprehensive review meeting regarding the progress of works being executed under the Local Area Development Programme (LADP), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative and Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) Plans of the Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kwar and Ratle Hydro Power Projects was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma here in the meeting Hall of the New DC Office Complex. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of the key developmental works being undertaken across the district. These included creation of a 63 MVA,



33/11 KV Receiving Station along with a 33 KV line at Hasi Kishtwar, construction of Veterinary Complex with residential accommodation at Kukerwas, Drabshalla; Development of individual high-density orchards; additional water lifting schemes; renovation of GMS Nagesni and MS Chingnana; upgradation of power distribution infra-

structure in tribal areas and several other public welfare projects. The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of both the physical and financial progress of ongoing as well as completed works. Stressing the importance of timely implementation, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments and executing agencies to ensure expedi-

ent completion of projects for the larger benefit of the public. Officers from the line departments including RDD, Education, Health, Agriculture, Youth Services & Sports, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Municipal Committee, PWD, Jal Shakti, REW RDD, Fire & Emergency Services, JPDC and other allied departments presented updates on the current status of the works allotted to their respective departments. "Any requirement of funds for priority works shall be brought to the immediate notice of my office for timely intervention and resolution," he instructed the executing departments. The Deputy Commissioner

directed the concerned executing agencies to submit Technical Sanctions (TS) of the works within stipulated timelines and emphasized fixing accountability in cases of delay. Stress was laid on accelerating pending works while maintaining quality standards and transparency in implementation. The meeting was attended by ADDC Kishtwar Vinod Kumar Behnal, ACD Kishtwar Manoj Kumar, CEO Municipal Council Kishtwar Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, CAO Kishtwar Kushal Chandel, CEO Kishtwar Sanjay Dogra, CHO Kishtwar Sajid Mustafa, DSHO Kishtwar Dr. Jamil Nasir, ExEns, besides other Officers and Concerned Staff.

## NATIONAL DENGUE DAY

### 16TH MAY, 2026

Theme: "Community Participation Dengue Control: Check, Clean and Cover"

DENGUE	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	PREVENTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dengue is a viral disease.</li> <li>• It is transmitted by the bite of Aedes mosquito.</li> <li>• Dengue Fever is a severe, flu-like illness.</li> <li>• Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) &amp; Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) are more severe forms of disease, which may cause death if left untreated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High fever.</li> <li>• Frontal headache.</li> <li>• Pain behind the eyes which worsens with eye movement.</li> <li>• Muscle and joint pains.</li> <li>• Rashes on the body.</li> <li>• Pain abdomen.</li> <li>• Nausea and vomiting.</li> <li>• Bleeding &amp; low B.P in severe cases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid water stagnation in &amp; around the house.</li> <li>• Change the water in air coolers, flower/plant pots, bird baths once a week.</li> <li>• Discard junk items like coconut shells, tyres, disposable cups/bottles etc.</li> <li>• Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.</li> <li>• Use mosquito repellents/Anti mosquito creams.</li> <li>• Do not wear clothes that expose arms and legs.</li> <li>• Use mosquito nets while sleeping</li> <li>• Use netted screens for doors &amp; windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes.</li> </ul>

• Person suspected of having Dengue should visit nearby Health Facility.

• The tests and treatment are available free of cost at Govt. Health Institutions.

• Don't take pain killers and any other medicines without consultation of Doctor.

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**STATE MALARIOLOGIST/SPO, NVBDCP, J&K.**

**DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU**

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