

North in News

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India to create 'smart border' along Pak, B'Desh to stop infiltration: Shah

NEW DELHI, MAY 22: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the government will launch a tech-enabled "smart border" project by the next year to make the 6,000-km fronts with Pakistan and Bangladesh impenetrable and ensure that the "conspiracy" to change the demography of the country is defeated. Delivering the annual Rustamji Memorial lecture hosted by the Border Security Force (BSF) here, the minister also reiterated that the government will find each and every infiltrator and send them out of India. K F Rustamji was the founding father and the first director general of the BSF, the world's largest border guarding force with about 2.70 lakh personnel tasked to guard Indian borders with Pakistan on the west and Bangladesh on the east. It was raised in 1965. "The government of



India has decided that not only will we stop infiltration but we will find each and every infiltrator and send them out of the country," Shah said. He added his government will not allow "artificial change in our demography being attempted from the other side." "I want to assure BSF troops that we will launch the smart border project within the 60th year of its raising and we will make the Bangladesh and Pakistan borders impenetrable through major technical assistance," Shah said. The "smart border"

will use technology, drones, radars and smart cameras to help create an impenetrable border, he told the gathering. Calling these two borders "vulnerable" and a "cause of concern" for the country from the security point of view, Shah said these fronts (about 1,289 km with Pakistan and 4,096 km with Bangladesh) cannot be guarded with "traditional" methods. The concept of border security should not be seen in isolation but as a "territorial responsibility" involving all agencies and

LG Manoj Sinha Says Drug Trade Fuelling Terrorism In J&K, Vows To Protect Youth



JAMMU, MAY 22: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that drugs and terrorism are "two sides of the same coin" in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that investigations have revealed direct links between narcotics smuggling networks and terror organisations operating in the region. Addressing a programme on the drug-free Jammu and Kashmir campaign, the LG said evidence gathered during various investigations has shown the involvement of the neighbouring country

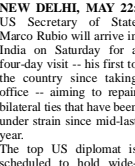
in promoting drug smuggling to finance terrorism and radicalisation activities. He said that while some smugglers may have amassed wealth and constructed houses through illegal trade, the larger share of the money ultimately reaches organisations involved in radicalising youth, purchasing weapons and spreading terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country. Manoj Sinha said the primary objective of the administration is to safeguard the younger generation from the menace of drugs, adding that a

Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai calls on LG in Srinagar



SRINAGAR, MAY 22: Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai on Friday called upon Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here, an official spokesman said. Lt Gen Ghai, who is the Deputy

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio to begin 4-day India visit today



NEW DELHI, MAY 22: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will arrive in India on Saturday for a four-day visit -- his first to the country since taking office -- aiming to repair bilateral ties that have been under strain since mid-last year. The top US diplomat is scheduled to hold wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in addition to attending a meeting of the Quad foreign ministers in New Delhi. While the Jaishankar-Rubio talks are set for Sunday, the Quad meeting will take place on



Tuesday. Besides his engagements in New Delhi, Rubio is also scheduled to visit Kolkata, Agra and Jaipur, people familiar with the matter said. There is a possibility of the US Secretary of State calling on Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well, it is learnt. "There's a lot to work on with India, they're a great ally and partner. We do a lot of good work with them so this is an important trip," Rubio said on Friday about his trip to

'Omar Abdullah missing' poster sparks political row, Farooq hits back at BJP



SRINAGAR, MAY 22: A political storm erupted in Jammu and Kashmir after the BJP circulated online 'Omar Abdullah missing' posters in a bid to mock the chief minister. The BJP's J&K unit shared the 'missing' posters on its social media handles, seeking information about Abdullah and claiming that he has been "missing for the last ten days". The saffron party's criticism comes amid reports that the chief minister is outside Jammu and Kashmir on a personal visit. Reacting to the posters, National Conference president

Farooq Abdullah hit back at the BJP, saying that the saffron party has "nothing better" to do. "They have their own campaigns, they know what they are doing. We don't have to answer them," the senior Abdullah told reporters after offering the congregational prayers at the Hazratbal shrine here. Farooq also brushed aside rumours of a split in alliance with the Congress in Jammu and Kashmir. "I think it is our enemies who are saying all this. The alliance is there, nothing will happen," he said.

BRIEF NEWS

Authorities raze 'illegal' commercial property of suspected drug peddler

JAMMU, MAY 22: Police and civil administration said they demolished an alleged "illegal" commercial property of a drug peddler in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district as part of an ongoing crackdown against narcotics trafficking, officials said. The drive targeted shops allegedly built on government land near Dewal bridge along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in the Samroli area. Officials said the properties belonged to Trilochan Dutt who has allegedly been involved in multiple drug smuggling cases and has encroached upon state land to construct the commercial

Woman sets herself on fire after boyfriend ignores calls hospitalised with 80 pc burns

JAMMU, MAY 22: A 22-year-old woman allegedly set herself ablaze here after her boyfriend did not respond to her phone calls, police said on Friday. The incident occurred near the Tawi bridge area on Thursday when the woman allegedly poured an inflammable substance on herself and set herself on fire in a fit of rage, they said. Passersby immediately rushed to her aid and managed to douse the flames before police personnel admitted her to a hospital for treatment. The woman suffered around 80 per cent burn injuries and is undergoing treatment, police said. A senior police officer said preliminary

SC Questions quota to children of Economically educationally advanced families in backward classes

NEW DELHI, MAY 22: Observing that with educational and economic empowerment there is social mobility, the Supreme Court on Friday questioned the continued grant of reservation benefits to children of economically and educationally advanced families within backward classes. A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan was hearing a plea challenging a Karnataka High Court judgment which upheld the exclusion of the petitioner, whose parents are both state gov-



ernment employees, from reservation. "If both parents are IAS officers, why should they have

reservations? With educational and economic empowerment, there is social mobility. "So then again, to seek reservation for the children, we will never get out of it," the bench observed while issuing notice in the matter. The top court remarked that if the parents of students are in good jobs with handsome incomes, then the children should get out of reservation. The apex court said several orders passed by the government already provide for the exclusion of such affluent sections from reservation benefits, but they are being challenged now. "For the Economically Weaker Section and Disadvantaged Group, there is no social backwardness but only economic backwardness. There has to be some balance. Socially and educationally backward, yes, but once the parents have attained a level because of taking advantage of reservation," the bench said. The petitioner was selected for appointment as an assistant engineer (electrical) in the Karnataka

Traffic advisory for May 23: Slow traffic likely on NH-44 amid road work, nomadic movement

JAMMU, MAY 22: The Traffic Department on Friday issued a fresh advisory for May 23, cautioning commuters about possible slow traffic movement on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) due to single-lane stretches, movement of nomadic herds and ongoing road construction works. Officials said traffic remained sluggish on NH-44 from May 21 to May 22, especially from Marog and Kishtwari Pather, because of single-lane road conditions, breakdown of two heavy motor vehicles at Dalwals and movement of eight nomadic herds between Nachlana and Banihal. The advisory stated that movement of three additional nomadic herds is expected on Saturday on

India, Cyprus upgrade ties to strategic partnership, unveil 5-yr defence roadmap

NEW DELHI, MAY 22: India and Cyprus on Friday elevated their ties to a strategic partnership and unveiled a five-year roadmap for defence cooperation as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides. The two sides signed six agreements to provide for deeper cooperation in areas of innovation, technology, education and culture besides agreeing to soon conclude a comprehensive partnership on migration and mobility. The pact, termed up included one on establishing a joint working group on counter-terrorism. The talks between the two leaders primarily focused on boosting ties in trade and investment, critical technologies, education, and implementation of the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. In his media statement, Modi highlighted that the strategic partnership will unlock commer-



cial capital and open new avenues for Indian companies in Cyprus's infrastructure, energy, and agriculture sectors, while simultaneously boosting investment in India's booming shipping and maritime industries. "The relationship between India and Cyprus has stood the test of a time and again, with today's decision to upgrade the ties to strategic partnership, we are

ACB registers disproportionate assets case against AEE In Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, MAY 22: The Jammu & Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau has registered a disproportionate assets case against AEE Hydraulic Sub-Division Chhatroo, Kishtwar, alleging possession of assets far exceeding his known sources of income, officials said. They said searches were conducted at multiple locations in Doda and Kishtwar following court-issued warrants. Further investigation is underway.

Severe Heatwave Conditions likely to Prevail over parts of India: IMD

NEW DELHI, MAY 22: Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are likely to persist over the plains of northwest India, Central and East India, and parts of Peninsular India during the next six to seven days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday. The IMD stated that heatwave conditions are likely in isolated areas of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh from May 22 to May 28. "Severe heatwave conditions over East Uttar Pradesh and East Madhya Pradesh are expected during the same period," the IMD said. It added that heatwave conditions are very likely in isolated/some pockets over Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi from May 22 to May 28. Severe heatwave conditions are predicted in some areas of these regions between May 24 and May 27. "Heatwave conditions are very likely in isolated/some pockets over Rajasthan during May 22-28, with

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India to...

state governments, he said. He said these borders currently face threats like illegal infiltration, smuggling of drugs, weapons and arms through drones apart from cattle, fake Indian currency notes and organised crime. "It is most important to identify future dangers, and it is our responsibility to stop the artificial demographic change being attempted from the other side (of the border) through infiltration, and, for this, we have to remain alert and vigilant," he told the officers and jawans in attendance. Shah said the Modi government brought a "radical" change to the security policy and border protection perspective since it took charge in 2014. "We have defeated all three attacks carried out by Pakistan whether it was in Uri (2016), Pulwama (2019), or Pahalgam (2026). We have given them a befitting response by striking deep inside Pakistan," he said. Shah asserted that gone were the days when talks used to happen after a terrorist attack and when Naxalites used to undertake massacres without any fear. "We have aligned our security perspective with the spirit of the Constitution to strengthen it... all this, in a way, is a declaration of a new defence doctrine," he said. He said his government took a "firm" decision to free India from Naxalism and this target was achieved recently. The minister said it was his belief that security agencies and forces should work to "uproot" the cause of the problem and just not "control" it. He asked the BSF troops in border areas to establish communication with the local administration so that they can identify any infiltrator living in the area and effectively plug border gaps aiding smuggling and other illegal activities. "It is time that the infiltration taking place unindered for years is stopped. You have done this earlier, for example, by creating a Naxal-free India," he said. Shah said the current state governments in Tripura, West Bengal and Assam -- all led by the BJP -- believe in the policy that there should be no infiltration from across Indian borders. His ministry, Shah added, will soon hold a meeting with the chief ministers of these states on the subject of border security. The minister added that a high-powered demography mission declared earlier by PM Modi will be announced soon by the Union government. Shah declared that the Union government was planning to launch a "big programme" within the next one year for the welfare of CAPF jawans, adding that they will also initiate a "big operation" against narcotics trafficking in the country. During the event, the minister honoured BSF jawans and officers with gallantry medals including to those who were part of the 'Operation Sindoor'.

LG Manoj...

conspiracy appeared to have been hatched to destroy the youth of Jammu and Kashmir in order to derail the vision of a "New Jammu and Kashmir" and a developed India. "If the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are ruined, how will they move forward?" he said, stressing the need for collective efforts to eliminate drug abuse and terrorism from the Union Territory.

Lieutenant...

Corps, also known as Chinari Corps, Lt Gen Balbir Singh, the spokesman said, without giving further details.

US Secretary...

India. Ways to bolster India-US ties in energy, trade, investment, critical technology and people-to-people ties exchanges are likely to dominate the talks between Jaishankar and Rubio, the people cited above said. The two sides are also expected to deliberate on the West Asia crisis and its economic impact including on energy supplies. The US Secretary of State's trip to India comes over five weeks after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri undertook a three-day visit to Washington DC that focused on stabilising the ties after a spell of uncertainty and strain. The relations between the two countries witnessed a major downturn after Washington imposed punitive tariffs on India and President Donald Trump made controversial assertions regarding his role in de-escalating the India-Pakistan military clashes last May. Over the next few months, the US president reportedly and publicly claimed that he had resolved the military conflict between the two neighbours and saved millions of lives as it was going in the direction of a full-scale war.

New Delhi stoutly maintained that the cessation of the hostilities was result of talks between India and Pakistan the US involvement had nothing to do with it. Washington's new immigration policy and its decision to increase H1B visa fee also contributed to the slide in India-US ties. However, both sides made efforts in the last few months to repair the ties. The two sides have resolved to firm up a mutually beneficial trade deal soon. Trump and Modi on April 14 held a nearly 40-minute phone conversation. Following the call, Modi said he and Trump reviewed the "substantial progress" in the bilateral ties and that both sides are committed to further strengthen the India-US comprehensive global strategic partnership in "all areas". It is learnt that India and the US will carry out a comprehensive review of their ties during Rubio's visit and focus on boosting the overall trajectory of the relations.

'Omar...

Referring to concerns about the ongoing fuel supply crisis, Farooq hoped that the West Asia crisis would end soon. "I hope the war between Iran and the US will stop, and God willing, we will get out of these difficulties," he said. On the row over the recent demolition of homes of Gujjar and Bakarwal families in Jammu's Sidhra area, the NC president said his party or the state government had no role. "We are not involved in that. They (the lieutenant governor) have done it, and an investigation is going on. It is not just in Sidhra, but also in other places in Jammu, where such attacks have taken place on Gujjars. They don't understand that these people were the biggest sympathisers on the borders," he said. To the opposition PDP's charge that the J&K government was following UP CM Yogi Adityanath's model, Abdullah lashed out at them, saying, "They are the ones who created this mess." "They ended Article 370 and 35A. They are responsible for the destruction of our state. Now they are raising a hue and cry. What is their job? I am sad that they do not feel ashamed. They took us towards destruction and are now beating the drums. They should first look within, what troubles they brought to the people here," Farooq claimed.

SC Questions...

Power Transmission Corporation Limited under the reserved category. The District Caste and Income Verification Committee, however, denied him a caste validity certificate after concluding that he fell within the creamy layer. The authorities noted that both parents were government employees and that their combined income exceeded the prescribed creamy layer threshold. The classification of the petitioner as belonging to the creamy layer was based on the income of his parents, who are salaried employees and whose combined income allegedly exceeded Rs 8,00,000. Consequently, the caste certificate issued to the petitioner, certifying him as belonging to the Kuruba community, was revoked. Earlier in January 2025, the top court in a separate case had refused to entertain a plea seeking the exclusion of children of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) officers from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) reservation benefits in Madhya Pradesh. It said the reference to the exclusion of the creamy layer from SC and ST quotas in a seven-judge Constitution bench's August 2024 ruling in the State of Punjab versus the Davinder Singh case was only a view and the legislature has to decide in this regard.

ACB registers...

DKR into allegations that the officer possessed huge assets in the form of immovable and movable properties in his name as well as in the names of family members, including a five-storey residential house at Court Road Doda, land purchased at Udrana Bhandarwah and Sunjanwan Jammu, as well as substantial bank balances including fixed deposits, costly electronic gadgets and jewellery.

"The value of assets acquired by the suspect has been found disproportionate to the income earned by him from all known sources, indicating that he has intentionally enriched himself illicitly during his service period," the spokesperson said. He added that during the course of investigation, ACB obtained search warrants from the competent court and conducted searches at the residential and official premises of the accused in Doda and Kishtwar in the presence of magistrates and independent witnesses. Further investigation is in progress.

Traffic...

coordination with the Traffic Control Unit (TCU) Ramban. On the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road (NH-244), only light motor vehicles and private cars will be allowed from Srinagar towards Kishtwar via Daksum and Sinthan Top, depending on weather conditions and clearance from NHIDCL authorities. Officials said vehicles will be permitted from Daksum between 10:30 am and 3:30 pm, while no vehicle movement will be allowed after the designated timing. Traffic authorities said LMVs will be allowed from both Srinagar and Kargil sides on the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumari (SSG) road till 1:00 pm after receiving clearance from maintenance agencies. Heavy motor vehicles will be allowed only from Sonamarg towards Kargil between 12 noon and 3:00 pm. Drivers have been advised to carry anti-skid chains due to slippery road conditions along the route. The Mughal Road will remain open from both sides for LMVs and HMVs up to six tyres, subject to favorable weather conditions. Vehicles from Chandimath (Baffliaz) towards Shopian will be allowed between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, while traffic from Herpora towards Poonch will be permitted between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm after clearance from GREF authorities. Public Asked to Check Road Status. The Traffic Department urged commuters to verify the latest road and traffic status before starting their journey through the concerned Traffic Control Units established in Jammu, Srinagar, Ramban, Udhampur, Kishtwar and Kargil.

India...

the European Union Council, but is also emerging as an important investment gateway between India and the whole of Europe," he said. "Cyprus is one of India's top 10 investors; over the past decade, investment from Cyprus to India has almost doubled. Trust has grown between the two countries." The India-EU free trade agreement has opened up many new opportunities. "Capitalising on this, we aim to double this investment again in the next five years. And to realize this commitment, today we are elevating our trusted relationship into a strategic partnership," he said. In his remarks, Christodoulides, who kick started his three-day visit to India on Wednesday, said India and Cyprus decided to set up a joint task force for cooperation in key sectors such as infrastructure and shipping. The president said the partnership between the European Union and India must become even stronger in "these times of growing geopolitical uncertainty". "Because together, the EU and India, the world's largest democracy, can play a defining role not only for our regions, but also for global stability and prosperity." Christodoulides also hailed the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and said Cyprus, located at the crossroads of three continents and the gateway to Europe, stands ready to contribute actively to it. The president also said that Cyprus and the Cypriot people deeply value India's "longstanding support in our efforts to reunify Cyprus, and for your steadfast support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus." "Today's meeting stands as confirmation that Cyprus and India are not simply strengthening bilateral ties. We are building a partnership with strategic depth and global relevance. For our countries, our peoples and for our respective regions," he said. In his comments, Modi described the defence and security cooperation between the two nations as an important

pillar of the ties.

"Today we also decided to further strengthen cooperation in cybersecurity, maritime security, and counter-terrorism," he said.

Modi said Indian professionals and students living in Cyprus are strengthening the ties between the two sides. "To further strengthen these ties, we have agreed to soon conclude a comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership, as well as a Social Security Agreement," he said.

"The friendship between India and Cyprus is both strong and futuristic. A shared belief in values like democracy and the rule of law is the foundation of our partnership," Modi said.

"We respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations. India is and will remain fully committed to these principles," he said.

At a media briefing, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Sibi George said UPI will be operational in Cyprus from 2027. Cyprus has also decided to open a trade office in Mumbai. India and Cyprus also established a bilateral connectivity dialogue.

Severe...

severe heatwave conditions likely in isolated/pockets over West Rajasthan during May 24-28," the IMD said. Parts of Vidharbha, Coastal Andhra, Yanam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Telangana, Jammu-Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand are likely to witness heat wave or severe heat wave conditions on different dates between May 22 and May 28. Furthermore, warm night conditions are expected in isolated pockets of Uttar Pradesh and Vidharbha from May 22 to May 24, in Odisha from May 22 to May 26, and in Telangana on May 22 and May 23.

Authorities...

structures. The demolition was carried out jointly by the district administration and Udhampur police following an eviction order issued by the revenue authorities, officials said. Taking to reporters, Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Chenani DSP Sukhvir Singh said the property, estimated to be worth around Rs 10 lakh belonged to a person repeatedly named in drug-peddling activities. "We have received information against him on several occasions regarding his involvement in drug peddling. Through today's action, we want to send a clear message that no drug peddler will be allowed to enjoy property acquired or developed through illegal activities," Singh said. He said police and civil authorities are identifying and proceeding against illegal assets linked to drug traffickers. Properties found to be unlawfully built on state land are being removed under relevant provisions of the Land Revenue Act, while other assets are being attached under applicable legal provisions, he added. According to the officer, an FIR had earlier been registered against Datta at Chenani police station on the basis of reports regarding his alleged involvement in drug trafficking. The officer said the civil administration, acting through the tehsildar, had recently ordered the eviction of the encroached property, following which the joint demolition drive was undertaken. The action forms part of the administration's broader campaign against drug trafficking and illegal encroachments in the district, officials added.

Woman sets...

investigations suggest that a strained relationship was the reason behind the incident. The officer said the woman's statement was recorded in the hospital on Thursday night in the presence of a magistrate. "She told investigators that she had not spoken to her boyfriend for the past two to three days, as he was not answering her calls. She said that she had no intention to die but acted in a fit of anger," the officer said. Police have registered a case and initiated further investigation into the matter.

Army organises anti-drug awareness initiatives



NIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

As part of its continued efforts towards youth awareness and the vision of Nasha Mukti Bharat, the Indian Army organised anti-drug awareness activities at Lower Dogriyan in District Poonch and Mardiyala Mohalla, Kalsa, in District Rajouri. At Government Middle School,

Lower Dogriyan, Poonch, the Indian Army conducted an awareness lecture on the theme "Bad Effects of Drugs on Life." The lecture aimed to educate students about the physical, psychological and social consequences of drug addiction. The speaker highlighted how drug abuse affects health, careers and families cautioned that narcotics are being used by anti-

national elements to mislead youth, especially in border areas. Students were encouraged to focus on education, sports and skill development for a brighter and secure future. At Government High School, Mardiyala Mohalla, Kalsa, District Rajouri, an inter-school debate competition was organised under the Nasha Mukti J&K Abhiyan. Students participated enthusiastically and expressed their views on the growing menace of substance abuse, the importance of awareness, and the role of society in building a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir. Teachers, local dignitaries and Army officials appreciated the confidence and awareness displayed by the participants. The winners of the debate competition were felicitated with certificates and prizes, while all participants were appreciated for their meaningful contributions. Both events concluded with a pledge by students and attendees to spread awareness against drug abuse and work collectively towards a healthy, disciplined and drug-free society.

MLA Arvind launches Vishwakarma Sabha Hall renovation in Bakshi Nagar

NIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta today inaugurated the renovation and development work of the Vishwakarma Sabha Hall in Ward No. 28, Bakshi Nagar. On the occasion, the MLA announced a contribution of ₹10 lakh from his Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for the execution of the project aimed at improving community infrastructure and public facilities in the area. Addressing the gathering, Arvind Gupta said that community has very important role in strengthening social harmony and providing a platform for cultural, social and public welfare activities. He stated that the development of public infrastructure remains a priority for the Jammu West constituency and assured residents that more developmental works would continue in the coming months.



"Vishwakarma Sabha Hall is an important center for community activities in Bakshi Nagar. The renovation work will provide better facilities to residents and help in organizing social and cultural programs in a proper manner," he said. During the program, local residents and members of the Vishwakarma Sabha expressed

gratitude to the MLA for extending financial support and initiating the much-awaited work. They said the upgraded hall would greatly benefit the local population and encourage community engagement in the area. Prominent locals, Sabha members and residents of Ward No. 28 were also present during the inauguration ceremony.

DC Kishtwar finalises arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha Festival

KISHTWAR, MAY 22: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review and finalize the necessary arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha festival. Detailed discussions were held regarding security, transportation, sanitation, uninterrupted water and power supply, availability of essential commodities, healthcare services, traffic regulation and other arrangements for the smooth conduct of the festival. Beside government functionaries, the meeting was attended by members of Majlis-e-Shura Committee, who projected a wide range of demands and requirements. The Deputy Commissioner patiently listened to their demands and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments. He assured every possible support from the district administration Kishtwar. The Deputy Commissioner constituted a team comprising Tehsildar, DySP Headquarters, CEO Municipal Council, Designated Food Safety



Officer and AC Legal Metrology to intensify market inspections to keep a check on black marketing, overcharging and the quality of mutton, vegetables, bakery items, sweets, fruits and other essential commodities. The TSO was directed to ensure that mutton and chicken are sold strictly at government-approved rates of mutton

(Saaf) at Rs 550 per kilogram and dressed chicken at Rs 200 per kilogram. To maintain cleanliness and avoid traffic congestion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the CEO Municipal Council and Tehsildar to ensure that sacrificial animals are not sold near the Main Jamia Masjid. Further, all district and sectoral officers were directed

to nominate nodal officers in their respective departments for regular monitoring and coordination during the festive period. The CEO Municipal Council was directed to undertake extensive sanitation drives, including lime lining and cleaning of lanes, drains, areas around mosques and the Chowgan Ground (Eidgah). The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department was directed to ensure uninterrupted supply of chlorinated drinking water to the town and adjoining areas, particularly at mosques and Chowgan Ground (Eidgah). Directions were also issued for the deployment of water tankers at Chowgan Ground, ITI and other required locations. The Executive Engineer, JPDCI was directed to ensure an uninterrupted power supply during the auspicious days of Eid-ul-Azha. The Chief Medical Officer was instructed to keep ambulances, medical teams and paramedical staff available at Chowgan Ground (Eidgah) and other major congregation.

DC Samba chairs District Rent Assessment Committee Meeting



SAMBA, MAY 22: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) to review and deliberate upon rent assessment proposals pertaining to private buildings presently rented by the government departments across the district. The Committee examined 14 rent assessment cases related to buildings being utilized by different government departments, including the Health Department, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department and other offices. The proposals were reviewed in detail, taking into consideration prescribed norms, infrastructure facilities, administrative requirements and supporting documentation. After detailed deliberations, the Committee approved 12 cases, while two cases were deferred for incomplete docu-

mentation and procedural deficiencies. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to address the shortcomings and resubmit the cases for consideration at the earliest. Emphasizing transparency, accountability and due diligence in the utilization of rented accommodations for government purposes, the Deputy Commissioner instructed all district officers to ensure thorough verification of documents and conduct independent assessments before finalizing arrangements and forwarding proposals to the Committee. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, District Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Officer, Executive Engineer PWD, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer.

Jan Bhagidaari Week: NMBA awareness camp held at Panchayat Chapper Dudu

UDHAMPUR, MAY 22: As part of the ongoing Jan Bhagidaari 'Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle' week long campaign, an awareness camp on the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) was organised today at Panchayat Chapper in Dudu subdivision of Udhampur district. Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh and SDM Dr. Manmeet Kumar sensitized the public about the importance of community participation and the objectives of the NMBA campaign. The event witnessed active participation from locals and served as an effective platform for awareness generation against drug abuse in the remote and tribal area. Additionally, the camp facilitated direct interaction between the



tribal population and the government departments, enabling people to avail information and services at their doorstep. Several government departments set up stalls to disseminate information regarding welfare schemes and citizen-centric services. On-the-spot registrations under financial inclusion

and other government schemes were also conducted. Awareness sessions under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan were organised to educate youth and locals about the harmful effects of substance abuse and the importance of leading a healthy and drug-free life.

JU's Baderwah Campus hosts awareness skit on perils of substance abuse, promotes "Nasha Mukta Bharat"

BHADERWAH, MAY 22: Baderwah Campus of University of Jammu today organized a highly impactful Nukkad Natak (Skit) on the theme "Nasha Mukta Bharat" here in the Campus's Lal Ded Auditorium. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of Little Angel School and the School of Education Baderwah Campus. Their thought-provoking performances delivered a strong social message against the growing menace of drugs in society. The skits were highly appreciated by the audience for their realistic portrayal and powerful message. Campus Rector Prof. Rahul Gupta stressed the collective responsibility of educational institutions, parents, society and law enforcement agencies in combating the serious challenge. He appreciated the efforts of the students and organizers for bringing up such a socially relevant initiative and termed awareness as the strongest weapon in the fight against drugs. Additional



Superintendent of Police Vinod Sharma, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, spoke extensively on the devastating impact of drug addiction on individuals, families and society. He appreciated the students who presented the skits for conveying such a beautiful and meaningful message through their performances. He also urged the youth to remain vigilant and stay away from substance abuse. SDPO Naveed Showkat Qazi, the guest of

honour, also addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of awareness campaigns and community participation in eliminating the drug menace from society. He stated that educational institutions play a vital role in shaping the mindset of youth and such awareness programmes help students understand the long-term consequences of addiction. He further appealed to the younger generation to channelize their energy

towards education, sports and constructive activities for building a progressive and healthy society. Head of the Department of English and Officiating I/C Campus Prof. Rakesh Sharma appreciated the initiative undertaken by the Campus in creating awareness among students and society. He highlighted that drug abuse not only destroys the future of individuals but also weakens the social fabric of communities. He encouraged students to act as ambassadors of social change and actively participating in campaigns aimed at spreading awareness against substance abuse. Dr. Kuljit Singh, Academic Coordinator presented the formal welcome address. He emphasized that institutions of higher learning have a social responsibility to educate students not only academically but also morally and socially. External Relations Officer Arif Khateeb highlighted the continuous efforts of Baderwah Campus in generating awareness.

MD JPDCI, DC review progress of Power Sector schemes in Doda

DODA, MAY 22: The implementation and progress of Power Sector Projects in district Doda was reviewed today here at a meeting chaired by Managing Director Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited (JPDCI) Gurpal Singh Arora and Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal held at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex. At the outset, functionaries from the district gave a detailed presentation on the progress achieved under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), Smart Metering and Solar Penal Installations under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli



Yojana in the district. The officers reviewed the installation status of smart meters and the status of existing tower infrastructure. The implementation of PM Surya Ghar Muft

Bijli Yojana in Doda, Baderwah and Gandoh divisions was also comprehensively reviewed. Discussions were held regarding challenges faced during execution of works, public response, technical issues and measures required for ensuring timely completion of the projects. Special emphasis was laid on enhancing transparency, reducing transmission losses, strengthening power infrastructure and promoting renewable energy adoption among households. The Managing Director JPDCI directed the JPDCI officers, executing agencies and vendors to achieve the

targets within the stipulated time frame while maintaining quality standards in all ongoing works. He stressed the need for generating mass awareness regarding the benefits of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The concerned department was asked to organise awareness camps across the district to educate consumers about the benefits of rooftop solar installations and smart metering. The MD also directed banks to expedite the disbursement of loan cases under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana to enable the beneficiaries to avail timely financial assistance.

GDC Katra organises Nukkad Natak under NMBA

REASI, MAY 22: The NCORD Committee of Government Degree College Katra in collaboration with the NSS Unit organized a Nukkad Natak in the College Campus under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan to spread awareness among students and faculty members against drug abuse and promote a healthy and addiction-free society. The programme was conducted under the leadership of the Principal Dr. Rajni Bhagat. The event witnessed good participation from students of BA SEM. II and faculty members who highlighted the harmful effects of substance abuse through an



impactful street play. The programme aimed to sensitize the youth and general public about the social, psychological and economic consequences of drug addiction and encouraged everyone to contribute towards building a drug-free nation. Dr. Usha Sharma and Prof. Mohammad Younus

Saleem coordinated the programme efficiently and motivated students to actively participate in awareness activities under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. Speaking on the occasion, the Principal of the NSS volunteers and organizers for using creative mediums.

Process initiated for rationalization of Polling Stations in AC-51 Baderwah

BHADERWAH, MAY 22: The process for rationalization of Polling Stations, including new creation, change of location and nomenclature under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has been set rolling for AC-51 Baderwah. In this regard, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Electoral Registration Officer) (ERO) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal convened a meeting with representatives from different political parties. He urged them to appoint Booth Level Agents (BLAs) and submit their names to the Election authorities for smooth conduct of electoral revision works. "The role of BLAs is important in assisting the Election authorities during revision of electoral rolls and polling related activities," he said. The political parties were also asked to submit details of polling stations that require rationalization or change of location, besides demands for creation of new polling stations, as per Election Commission of India (ECI)



guidelines. Officials informed that under the latest ECI guidelines, the maximum limit of voters for a polling station in rural areas has been fixed at 1200 electors. "A Polling station having more than 1200 voters may be proposed for creation of additional or a new polling station to ensure smooth voting and reduce inconvenience to voters," he added.

Training imparted to Supporting Staff of Legal Aid Defence Counsels of DLSA Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, MAY 22: In compliance with the directions of the Member Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Udhampur, organized a training programme for the newly engaged supporting staff of the Legal Aid Defence Council (LADC), here today. The programme was conducted at the Conference Hall, District Court Complex, under the guidance of Chairperson District Legal Services Authority and Principal District & Sessions Judge Kalpana Revo and under the overall supervision of Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Sunil Sharma. The training was coordinated by Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel Pawan Gupta. He empha-



sized the critical role of supporting staff in ensuring timely legal assistance and facilitating effective coordination between defence counsel and beneficiaries. He also highlighted that well-trained support personnel are essential to the effective functioning of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System

(LADCs) and to safeguarding the rights of under trial and indigent clients. The training curriculum addressed key operational and administrative areas necessary for efficient legal aid delivery. Topics covered included case-file management; client interviewing techniques; accurate record-keeping;

duty roster procedures and the operational aspects and workflows of the LADCs. Practical guidance and best-practice tips were imparted to help staff streamline documentation and case-tracking and to ensure compliance with applicable procedures and standards. Further, the Chief LADC urged participants to maintain strict confidentiality in all matters, to enhance client communication and to adopt systematic documentation practices to expedite assistance to undertrial and indigent clients. The programme brought together the newly engaged supporting staff of the LADC and is expected to contribute significantly to improved access to justice and more effective delivery of legal aid services in the district.

BJP questions NC silence over Ravinder Raina's 'Transfer Raj' allegations

NIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

BJP spokesperson Dr Abhijeet Jasrotia on Thursday questioned the silence of the ruling National Conference government over serious allegations raised by senior BJP leader Ravinder Raina regarding the ongoing 'transfer raj' in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued here, Jasrotia said that Ravinder Raina had alleged that the present government was "making money by merely shifting officers from one place to another," and asked why the J&K National Conference leadership was not responding to these allegations in a clear and transparent manner.

Jasrotia said the repeated transfers of officers and employees had created uncertainty and fear within the administration and raised serious concerns about the functioning of the government. He alleged that



instead of concentrating on governance and public welfare, the administration was busy in large-scale reshuffling of officials. The BJP spokesperson further claimed that honest officers and bureaucrats were being pressured and victimised through arbitrary transfers. He said such actions reflected political interference in the functioning of the administration and were damaging the morale of government employees.

"Why is the government silent on the allegations made by Ravinder Raina? If there is no wrongdoing, the government should come clean before the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Jasrotia said.

He also criticised the reported remarks regarding the use of a "transfer whip" on bureaucrats, terming them unfortunate and against the spirit of transparent governance.

Jasrotia alleged that the present system of transfers was encouraging corruption and political patronage, while genuine public issues like unemployment, development, infrastructure, and tourism were being ignored.

Dr Abhijeet Jasrotia reiterated that the BJP would continue to raise its voice against any attempt to misuse the administrative machinery and would stand firmly with honest government employees and bureaucrats in Jammu and Kashmir.

Jasrotia launches PMGSY road restoration works worth Rs.67 lakh in Hatli Zone



NIN NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 22

BJP MLA from Jasrota constituency Rajiv Jasrotia today gave a fresh push to rural infrastructure development by launching PMGSY road permanent restoration works and inaugurating two key road projects in Hatli Zone of the constituency. The total cost of the developmental package announced and initiated under PMGSY stands at 267 lakh, aimed at improving road connectivity, easing transportation issues and strengthening basic infrastructure in rural areas.

The MLA formally inaugurated two important road restoration projects including Hatli to Badoli road, sanctioned at Rs.8 lakh, and Tridwan road, sanctioned at Rs.12 lakh. These works are part of the ongoing efforts to restore damaged rural road stretches and ensure safe and smooth movement of people and vehicles.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajiv Jasrotia said that road connectivity is the backbone of rural development and the government is committed to ensuring that even the remotest villages receive durable and all-weather road facilities. He said that timely restoration of roads will directly benefit farmers, students and daily commuters who depend heavily on rural link roads. In addition to the inauguration, the MLA directed the concerned PMGSY and PWD authorities to immediately start work on several additional development projects in Hatli

Zone. These include Rasoo to Dukhal, road project worth Rs.20 lakh, Sawa road project worth Rs.12 lakh, Link Road Talad project worth Rs.8 lakh, and infrastructure development and repair works at Middle School Hatli worth Rs.7 lakh.

He instructed officials to ensure that all works are executed in a time-bound and transparent manner without compromising on quality standards. He emphasized that field monitoring and regular inspections must be carried out so that public money is used effectively and development benefits reach the grassroots level.

Rajiv Jasrotia further stated that strengthening both road infrastructure and educational facilities remains a top priority. He said that improvement in school infrastructure at Hatli will help create a better learning environment for students in rural areas and contribute to long-term social development. Local residents appreciated the initiative and expressed satisfaction over the commencement of long-pending works. They said that better road connectivity will significantly reduce travel difficulties and improve access to essential services such as healthcare, education and markets. Senior BJP leaders, officials from PMGSY and PWD departments, and local representatives were present during the inauguration and direction programme.

Awareness Programme on Nasha Mukta Abhiyan organized by Faculty of Dairy Technology, SKUAST-J

JAMMU, MAY 22

Faculty of Dairy Technology, SKUAST-Jammu successfully organized an awareness campaign under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, a 100-day initiative launched on April 11, 2026 by Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The programme was organized under the guidance and dynamic leadership of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, to educate students about the harmful effects of drug abuse, promote a healthy, disciplined and drug-free lifestyle among the youth. Dr. J.S. Soodan encouraged the students to become responsible citizens and actively contribute towards the vision of a drug-free India under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan. He emphasized that the youth play a crucial role in spreading awareness and creating a healthy and progressive society. The initiative reinforced the collective commitment towards building a healthier and drug-free society. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from the undergraduate students of Dairy Technology. Various student-centered activities were organized to effectively convey the message of a drug-free society, including Speech Competition, Poster Making Competition, Skit/Role Play Performances and Awareness Presentations



and Interactive Sessions.

During the speech competition, students highlighted the physical, mental, social and psychological consequences of drug addiction and emphasized the importance of staying away from substance abuse. The participants also discussed preventive measures and the role of youth in spreading awareness within society. The programme was conducted in the gracious presence of Dr. J.S. Soodan, Dean, Faculty of Dairy Technology; Dr. Sunil Kumar, Head, Division of Dairy Technology and other faculty members including Dr. Aika Parmar, Dr. Sabahu Noor, Dr. Banashree, Dr. Seerat Gupta,

Dr. Akshay Deep, Dr. Ruchika Zalpouri, Dr. Goldy Bhagat, Dr. Mahrukh and Dr. Shaista, who appreciated the efforts of the organizing committee and encouraged students to actively participate in social awareness initiatives.

Dr. Sunil Kumar also motivated the students to stay away from substance abuse and adopt positive habits that contribute to personal growth, academic excellence and social well-being. The campaign concluded successfully with a strong message emphasizing the importance of staying away from drugs and adopting healthy habits for the betterment of individuals and society.

Shiv Sena seeks Maharaja Gulab Singh portraits at Jammu Airport, Railway Station

NIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Continuing its ongoing campaign "Har Ghar Dogra - Har Daftar Maharaja", aimed at preserving the glorious history, Dogra heritage, and honouring the founder and first Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir, Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji, the Jammu & Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (Udhav Baisaheb Thackeray), under the leadership of J&K President Manish Sahni, today submitted memorandums to senior officials of the Railway and Airport authorities.

A delegation of party leaders met Jammu Airport Director Devender Yadav and Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Sr. DCM) of the Jammu & Kashmir (Jammu Tawi) Division of Indian Railways, Uchit Singhal, requesting allocation of suitable space within the railway station and airport premises for the respectful installation of a grand portrait of Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji.

Speaking on the occasion, Manish Sahni stated that installing portraits of Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji at prominent public places such as Jammu



Railway Station and Jammu Airport would help visitors from across the country learn about the rich history of Jammu & Kashmir, the pride of Dogra heritage, and the immense contribution of Maharaja Sahib in the formation of the state. Sahni clarified that the campaign is completely non-political in nature and is purely a sincere effort to preserve the historical and cultural identity of Jammu & Kashmir while paying due respect to Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji.

He further said that

Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji was not merely a ruler, but the architect of modern Jammu & Kashmir, whose contribution deserves proper recognition at public institutions. During the meeting, the Shiv Sena delegation also presented grand portraits of Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji to Jammu Airport Director Devender Yadav and Railway Sr. DCM Uchit Singhal as a mark of respect and remembrance. On this occasion Sanjeev Kohli (working president), Sanjay Bhatt (Gen Secretary (Org.)) were present.

Swami Ram Swarup Ji elucidates divine message of Yajurveda at Ved Mandir Yajna



YOL, MAY 22

The spiritually vibrant atmosphere at Ved Mandir, Yol (Himachal Pradesh), continued to inspire devotees and seekers as the 78-day Yajna Anushthan of the four Vedas entered its 41st day today. On the occasion, renowned Vedic scholar and Yogacharya Swami Ram Swarup Ji delivered an in-depth discourse on Yajurveda Mantra 1/1, explaining its profound relevance in human life and social welfare.

Addressing the gathering of disciples, devotees and inquisitive listeners, Swami Ji said that every individual desirous of attaining the highest results from righteous actions must remain connected to God through Yajna, prayer and Vedic knowledge. He explained that the mantra teaches humanity to dedicate all senses, thoughts, inner consciousness and life energies towards the performance of noble deeds as prescribed in the Vedas.

Swami Ji emphasized that

the Almighty, being the creator and sustainer of the universe, is the ultimate source of happiness, peace and prosperity. Therefore, human beings should pray that their entire life remains devoted to the performance of supreme Yajna karma and virtuous conduct. He remarked that the Vedas do not merely advocate rituals, but guide mankind towards disciplined living, selfless service, purity of thought and universal welfare.

Explaining the deeper meaning of the mantra, Swami Ji stated that all four Vedas describe Yajna as the most beneficial and welfare-oriented action for every living being. He noted that Yajna creates an atmosphere of positivity, harmony and spiritual awakening while simultaneously inspiring individuals to work for collective well-being.

He further said that the mantra contains a sincere prayer before God for food, noble aspirations, energy, wealth, wisdom and spiritual

strength. According to Swami Ji, true prosperity is not limited to material possessions alone but includes purity of mind, good health, righteous conduct and knowledge rooted in truth.

Highlighting the social message embedded in the mantra, Swami Ji explained that the prayer seeks a healthy, disease-free and virtuous society where people live peacefully without violence, hatred or exploitation. He added that the Vedic prayer also seeks protection for cows and other innocent animals, symbolising compassion and preservation of moral values in society.

Swami Ji stressed that the mantra prays for the eradication of sinful tendencies, theft and wickedness from society so that social harmony and justice may prevail. He said that the Vedic philosophy always advocates the protection of the weak, respect for learned people and safeguarding of animals and natural resources.

Calling Yajurveda Mantra 1/1 a "divine ready-made prayer bestowed by God Himself," Swami Ram Swarup Ji stated that the Vedas provide clear guidance for attaining happiness and peace in life. He said that God has instructed mankind to approach learned Acharyas for acquiring Vedic knowledge and to participate in Yajna with devotion and understanding for the welfare of all humanity. The discourse concluded with devotees offering oblations in the sacred fire amid the chanting of Vedic mantras, creating a deeply spiritual and devotional environment at the Ved Mandir premises.

Rohiin Chandan slams Rahul Gandhi over "Pro-Pakistan" remarks

NIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) District Jammu South Media Secretary Rohiin Chandan today launched a sharp and scathing attack on Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, stating that his recent language and utterances dangerously mirror the narrative of Pakistan and the terror elements supported by that country. Chandan described Rahul Gandhi's remarks as highly irresponsible and accused him of exposing his "anarchic and divisive" mindset that threatens the democratic fabric of the nation.

In a strongly worded statement, Rohiin Chandan said, "In the rich tradition of Indian politics, which has always been guided by integrity, mutual respect, and constructive debate, the kind of indecent and inflammatory language being used by Rahul Gandhi is completely unacceptable. Such rhetoric not only lowers the dignity of public discourse but also emboldens anti-national forces."

Chandan further highlighted that the frustration and political



despair stemming from Congress's repeated electoral defeats are now clearly visible in Rahul Gandhi's statements.

Instead of introspecting on why the people of India have consistently rejected the Congress party, Rahul Gandhi continues to make baseless and dangerous allegations. This reflects a complete disconnect from ground realities and the aspirations of the common citizen," he added.

The BJP leader drew a sharp contrast between the Congress era and the transformative leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "While Rahul Gandhi's ancestors had mortgaged the country's land and compromised its conscience through weak policies and

appeasement politics, today under the decisive and visionary leadership of the Honorable PM Narendra Modi, India's sovereignty is firmly secured. Our borders are strong, national security is uncompromising, and the confidence of every citizen has been immensely strengthened," Chandan asserted. Rohiin Chandan emphasized that Prime Minister Modi's government has ushered in an era of self-reliance, transparency, and national pride. From the abrogation of Article 370 to surgical strikes and the Balakot airstrike, the BJP-led NDA government has demonstrated zero tolerance towards terrorism. It is under Modi Ji's leadership that India has emerged as a global power that commands respect on the world stage. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, in particular, have witnessed unprecedented development, peace, and integration with the rest of the country after the historic decision of 2019," he said.

The media secretary appealed to all nationalistic forces to unite against such divisive politics. "The Congress party and its leadership must understand that the era of dynastic arrogance and anti-national rhetoric is over. The people of India have chosen development.

Bhalla blasts J&K UT, Centre over "complete governance collapse" and public suffering

NIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla on Thursday launched a scathing attack on both the J&K UT Government and the Union Government, accusing them of failing the people on every major front, including employment generation, regularization of daily wagers, restoration of statehood, inflation control and strengthening of basic infrastructure in rural and urban areas alike.

Addressing a large public meeting organised at Darsapur in R.S. Pura South, Bhalla expressed serious concern over the growing frustration and alienation among unemployed youth due to the absence of fresh recruitment drives and lack of employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir. The programme was organised by S. Gurmeet Singh, Block President Miran Sahib, under the Presidentship of Neeraj Kundan, District President Rural Jammu and Incharge Jammu R.S. Pura South, along with Amrit Ball. The meeting witnessed enthusiastic participation from



Congress workers, local residents and prominent party leaders who discussed various public welfare issues and deliberated upon strengthening the party's grassroots network and public outreach programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla alleged that the governments at the Centre and in the Union Territory have completely failed to address the pressing issues confronting common people. He said despite repeated promises made to unemployed youth, no substantial recruitment process has been initiated, resulting in increasing despair among educated young men and women.

He further criticized the administration for failing to regularize thousands of daily wagers, casual labour-

ers and adhoc employees working in different government departments for years. Bhalla said these employees have been rendering essential services under extremely difficult conditions, yet their genuine demands continue to be ignored. The youth of Jammu and Kashmir are feeling betrayed due to unfulfilled promises regarding jobs and economic opportunities. Daily health care and educational institutions, thereby putting the future of students and the health of patients at risk.

Targeting the Union Government over the delay in restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Bhalla said the people were repeatedly assured that statehood would be restored at the earliest, but no concrete

steps have been taken so far. He termed the delay as a betrayal of public trust and democratic aspirations. The Congress leader further attacked the government over rising inflation and increasing prices of essential commodities. He said skyrocketing prices of petrol and diesel have imposed an unbearable burden on the common masses and also triggered price rise in other essential goods and services.

Bhalla alleged that shortage of LPG cylinders and rising prices of cooking gas have further worsened the condition of poor and middle class families already struggling with economic distress. He added that farmers, labourers, traders and salaried classes are all suffering due to unchecked inflation and poor governance. Highlighting the poor condition of infrastructure, Bhalla said roads, drainage systems, healthcare facilities and civic amenities in both villages and towns continue to remain neglected. He alleged that despite tall claims of development, the ground reality presents a completely different

NIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Raman Suri strongly supported the ongoing anti-encroachment and demolition drive across Jammu and Kashmir, saying the protection of Jammu's "green lungs" is essential for future generations and cannot be compromised under any pressure. He said no one intending to encroach upon forest land, state land or Khad areas should be encouraged, particularly when issues of public safety and national security are involved.

Raman Suri said the recent action against illegal constructions near Mahamaya Temple, highway bridges and railway lines was necessary to safeguard forest land from large-scale encroachment. He asserted that forest land belongs to the people and must remain protected from illegal occupation and environmental destruction at all costs.

Highlighting the environmental impact, Suri said Jammu is already witnessing rapid urban expansion and shrinking green cover. "If strict action



had not been initiated now, vast stretches of forest belts around Jammu city would have disappeared under illegal constructions. Forests are the green lungs of Jammu and are vital for ecological balance, clean air and groundwater recharge," he said.

The BJP leader appreciated Vikram Randhawa for raising the issue at the appropriate time and bringing the matter into public and administrative focus before further damage could take place. He said timely intervention helped prevent deeper encroachment into protected forest zones around Jammu city.

Raman Suri also criticized certain self-styled leaders who, according to him, are trying to project themselves as "saviours" while indirectly supporting encroachers for

political interests. He said these leaders are making statements against the system and administration but remain silent on rampant encroachment of forest land, state land and Khad areas.

He asserted that the law of the land does not permit illegal occupation of government or forest land and this principle will continue to prevail irrespective of political pressure or misleading narratives. "The government is already in possession of a long list of encroachers and the present action is only the beginning. Every individual involved in illegal occupation of protected land will eventually face the law," Suri stated.

Calling for the anti-encroachment drive to continue in a transparent and non-political manner, Suri said accountability must also be fixed wherever negligence or collusion is found. He sought investigation into how illegal constructions were allowed to come up on forest land and whether any officials or departments facilitated them by providing civic or utility connections.

Urging citizens to cooperate with the administration in preserving forest.

Sat, Ashok review ongoing, and discuss forthcoming party programmes



NIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir, held an organizational meeting at the party headquarters, Trikha Nagar, Jammu, to discuss forthcoming programmes and strengthen preparations at the booth and district levels across Jammu & Kashmir.

J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma chaired a party office bearers' meeting, accompanied by General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, former Dy. Chief Minister Dr. Nirmal Singh, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra,

Mohammad Anwar Khan, and Gopal Mahajan. State office bearers, spokespersons, Morcha teams, district Prabarhis, Presidents, and Seh-Prabarhis, and other senior functionaries attended the meeting. Sat Sharma, while addressing the meeting, emphasized that regular organizational meetings are essential for maintaining coordination, discipline, and effective execution of party programmes at every level. He said that the BJP, as a cadre-based and ideology-driven party, continuously evolves and strengthens itself through consistent interaction, training, and public outreach programmes. Sharma held an

in-depth discussion on the ongoing "Prashikshan Mahabhayan" and stressed the importance of equipping party workers with ideological clarity, organizational skills, and public engagement capabilities. He also briefed the leaders about the forthcoming programmes, including "Mann Ki Baat", International Yoga Day, "Ek Per Maa Ke Naam", and the observance of Balidan Diwas of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on June 23 at the booth level. He said that Dr. Mookerjee's sacrifice for the complete integration of Jammu & Kashmir with the nation remains a guiding inspiration for every BJP worker.

Laying special emphasis on the successful conduct of "Mann Ki Baat", Sat Sharma asked all district presidents, district prabarhis, seh-prabarhis, Shakti Kendra teams, and booth-level workers to ensure maximum public participation and enthusiastic involvement in every programme. He said that the strength of the BJP lies in its booth-level structure and collective teamwork. Appreciating the dedicated efforts of party workers in successfully conducting recent programmes, he urged the cadre to work with renewed energy and commitment for the upcoming organizational.

Yudhvir Sethi flags off Ration vehicles for Maha Kaali temple Bhandara at Sohal Gulab Garh

NIN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 22

In a spiritually uplifting and socially significant programme, MLA Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi, along with Braham Jyot Satti, flagged off vehicles loaded with dry ration for the grand Bhandara being organised at the revered Maha Kaali Temple, Sohal Gulab Garh. The Bhandara is being organised by Shree Panchmukhi Sewa Dal for the service of pilgrims and devotees visiting the holy shrine, reflecting the spirit of selfless service and community participation deeply rooted in the cultural and spiritual traditions of the region. Members of Shree Panchmukhi Sewa Dal warmly welcomed the dignitaries and presented a portrait of Mindal Mata as a mark of respect and devotion. Before the flag-off ceremony, the dignitaries performed traditional religious rituals and offered prayers at the shrine of Mata Kaali, seeking blessings for peace, prosperity and well-being of all devotees undertaking the pilgrimage.

The atmosphere during the ceremony resonated with devotional fervour, as chants and hymns filled the surroundings, creating a spiritually charged environment. Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi appreciated the efforts of Shree



Panchmukhi Sewa Dal and volunteers associated with the Bhandara. He said that serving pilgrims is among the noblest forms of public service and effects the rich cultural heritage of India, where faith and humanity go hand in hand.

He further said that Jammu, known as the "City of Temples," has always been a land of devotion, hospitality and spirituality. He emphasized that collective efforts such as Bhandaras and service camps ensure that devotees visiting sacred shrines feel welcomed, supported and spiritually enriched. Yudhvir Sethi also lauded the participation of youth and volunteers, stating

that their dedication sets a positive example for society. He prayed for peace, prosperity and the smooth conduct of the ongoing pilgrimage season.

Braham Jyot Satti also praised the organisers for their commitment towards serving devotees visiting Mindal and Gulab Garh. He said that such initiatives strengthen social harmony, brotherhood and humanitarian values. He added that BJP workers have always remained committed to public welfare and will continue to support initiatives that preserve cultural traditions and serve society.

Army, Jammu Kashmir Police organises foot march as part of the drug-free campaign



NIN NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, MAY 22

On Friday, the Indian Army and Jammu Kashmir Police organized an awareness foot march under the drug-free campaign. The foot march was flagged off by ADC Nowshera Dr. Pritam Thapa, Indian Army officers, ASP Nowshera Bajjit Singh, SDPO Nowshera Sahil Mahajan, Station House Officer Nowshera Arjun Mangotra, Principal Government Higher Secondary School Nowshera. The foot march started from

sage of a drug-free and healthy society. The marchers carried placards and chanted slogans to encourage youth and the wider community to stay away from drugs. The march emphasized the harmful effects of drug abuse, the importance of education, and the collective responsibility of institutions and citizens in building a safe future. The event showcased close coordination between the Indian Army, civil administration, police authorities, and the education community.

Such joint civilian awareness efforts are examples of military-civilian cooperation and community-based awareness building in response to social challenges. Speaking on the occasion, civil administration officials, including ADC Nowshera and ASP Nowshera emphasized that the fight against drug abuse requires sustained public participation, especially from youth, parents, teachers, and community leaders. He commended the Nowshera-based Artillery Unit for successfully organising the rally and bringing together all stakeholders.

YCET students visit Sewage treatment plant, Jammu



JAMMU, MAY 22

The Visit was organized by the Yogananda Institute of Engineering & Technology to "Sewage treatment plant, Jammu," For 4th semester students of Civil Engineering on 22nd May 2026. During the visit Mr. Vinod Kumar, Manager of the plant along with his team interacted with the faculty and students and described the Working processes of various units like Preliminary Treatment: Students observed the screening and removal of

large debris (such as plastics, metals, and other non-biodegradable waste) that could damage equipment or disrupt the treatment process.

Primary Treatment: The next stage involves the removal of larger solids through sedimentation. Students might see how wastewater is allowed to sit in large tanks so that heavier particles settle to the bottom.

Secondary Treatment: This step involves biological treatment, often using bacteria to break down organic matter in the wastewater. Students are intro-

duced to activated sludge systems, trickling filters, or aeration tanks used for this purpose. Tertiary Treatment: Some plants use additional methods like filtration, chemical treatment, or advanced oxidation to further purify the water. This is often where the water is prepared for reuse or discharge into natural bodies.

Sludge Handling: Students learned about how the byproducts, or sludge, are treated and disposed of. Methods included dewatering, anaerobic digestion, or even converting sludge into energy. Environmental Considerations: A key aspect of the visit would be discussing how sewage treatment plants minimize environmental impacts, including how they handle chemicals and manage effluent to avoid contamination of local ecosystems.

Technological Innovations: In present modern systems, students looked at cutting-edge technologies used to improve efficiency, such as automation, real-time monitoring, and energy recovery systems.

Educational Benefits: Practical Understanding: Students connected theoretical.

North in News

EDITORIAL

Traffic congestion a problem getting worse each passing day, stern steps needed

Traffic congestion a problem getting worse each passing day and stern steps are needed because cities are choking on their own growth, and the daily crawl on roads from is no longer an inconvenience but an economic, environmental, and public health emergency that is eroding productivity, fueling inflation, and stealing years from human lives, and the numbers are stark. The problem is getting worse each passing day because urbanization is adding 10 million people to cities every year, vehicle ownership is rising at 9 percent annually with 25 million new two-wheelers and cars added since 2020, but road space is growing at barely 1 percent and public transport share has fallen from 60 percent in 2001 to 35 percent in 2026. The pandemic-era shift to personal vehicles for safety has not reversed, and e-commerce and food delivery have put 3 million more two-wheelers and mini-trucks on the road doing last-mile trips, and schools, offices, and markets still follow synchronized timings that dump all vehicles on the road between 8-10 am and 5-8 pm, and the result is gridlock that starts earlier, ends later, and spreads from arterial roads to colony lanes, and the cost is paid first by the poor who travel in overcrowded buses that take three hours for a 15-km journey, by women who avoid jobs due to unsafe and unreliable commutes, by ambulances that lose the golden hour in jams, and by small businesses that cannot get goods on time, and the environment pays next because a car stuck in traffic emits four times more pollutants than one moving at 40 kmph, and Indian cities already occupy 14 of the top 20 most polluted cities globally. The climate cost of congestion is undermining net-zero pledges, and the social cost is anger because time lost in traffic is time stolen from family, sleep, and skilling, and that anger spills into governance and elections, and hence stern steps are needed and they must be systemic, not symbolic, because painting a cycle lane or announcing a flyover will not suffice when the core issue is too many private vehicles chasing too little road and too poor public transport, and the first stern step is congestion pricing in central business districts of the top 10 cities, with electronic tolling for private cars during peak hours and the revenue ring-fenced to fund buses, metros, and footpaths. The message to policymakers is clear, treat traffic like a disaster and respond with war-room urgency, because it is one, and to citizens the message is that freedom is not the right to drive alone in a five-seat car, but the right to reach work in 30 minutes, to breathe clean air, and to have an evening with family, and that freedom will only come from stern steps taken today, not tomorrow, because traffic congestion is a problem getting worse each passing day, and every day of inaction is a day stolen from India's future.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

Flex-fuel: The future of India's ethanol push

BY KUSHAN MITRA

At a time when even the EV transition remains heavily dependent on imported components, flex-fuel may well represent India's most realistic route towards true energy self-reliance.

India has already proved it can move quickly on ethanol. The question now is whether it can move smartly.

The answer is not to linger over halfway stops like E22, E25 or E27. The next logical step is flex-fuel. If India wants lower oil dependence, a stronger domestic fuel base and a transport system that can actually scale, flex-fuel is the cleaner and more durable path.

The logic is simple. Flex-fuel vehicles allow consumers to use whatever blend is available locally, whether E20, E85 or E100. That flexibility matters in a country as large and uneven as India, where fuel availability, logistics and regional supply conditions vary widely. It also saves automakers from repeatedly spending on separate development and testing programmes for every new blend level. One vehicle platform, many fuel options: that is the real efficiency gain.

This debate matters even more now because the global oil environment has become increasingly unstable. The West Asia crisis is another reminder that India's transport fuel system is still too exposed to imported crude and the geopolitical shocks that come with it. The Prime Minister's call to conserve fuel and reduce import

dependence is therefore not just political messaging. It is a strategic warning.

On that measure, ethanol-blended flex-fuel vehicles make a strong case for themselves. They are, in effect, Atmanirbhar. The fuel can be produced domestically. The feedstock can be sourced domestically. The value chain stays largely within India. In a period when energy security is being tested from every direction, that is not a small advantage.

The case for flex-fuel becomes even stronger when compared with the current EV transition narrative. Electric vehicles will certainly be part of India's long-term future, but the present reality is more complicated. A large share of the EV ecosystem still depends on imported cells, batteries, motors and magnets. Out of 49 EV passenger vehicle models currently available in India, only six meet the 40 percent local value-add threshold of Performance Linked Incentive schemes.

So the danger is obvious: a rapid move to EVs today may not eliminate import dependence at all. It may simply shift it from the Middle East to China and the restriction of Chinese rare-earth magnets last year was no less impactful to EVs as the Straits of Hormuz closure has been to internal combustion engine vehicles.

That is why India needs a broader fuel strategy, not a narrow one. Ethanol and flex-fuel deserve more serious support because they are rooted in Indian agriculture, Indian biomass and Indian industrial

capability. They convert surplus grain, molasses, maize and agricultural residue into transport energy. They keep more value inside the country. They reduce pressure on crude imports. And they offer a path that is both practical and sovereign.

The Automotive Industry is right to ask for policy support to make this shift possible. If flex-fuel is to become a mass-market technology, it will need lower GST or some other form of fiscal encouragement. It will also need fuel economics that make sense. E85 or E100 must be meaningfully cheaper than petrol, ideally by at least 30%, if consumers are to see a real reason to switch. Nobody buys into a new fuel system because it sounds patriotic. People switch when the economics, convenience and availability all line up.

That is why the government's policy direction matters so much. NITI Aayog's recent report is important because it includes biofuel-based vehicles in the definition of Zero Emission Vehicles for the first time. That is a significant shift in thinking. It shows that the policy establishment is beginning to understand that India's mobility transition will not be a straight line from petrol to battery.

The report's sequencing is also sensible. It recommends first phasing out the most polluting diesel vehicles and moving toward lower-emission options such as CNG, hybrids and EVs. The next phase should expand biofuels through flex-fuel vehicles, high bio-CNG blends and hybrid FFV models,

while EV adoption continues. The final phase should move toward full deployment of Zero Emission Vehicles, including EVs, hydrogen vehicles, FFVs and CBG-based models, with segment-specific targets and compliance timelines. That is a realistic roadmap, not a slogan.

And realism is the point. India's transition cannot be powered by one technology alone. It needs a portfolio. EVs will matter. Hybrids will matter. CNG and biogas will matter. But flex-fuel deserves a central place in that mix because it can turn India's biomass advantage into transport energy now, not at some distant future date.

That is the larger strategic gain. India has the agricultural base, biomass potential and industrial depth to produce fuel domestically at scale. Ethanol gives that potential an outlet. It uses surplus and residue more productively.

It supports rural incomes. It keeps more of the energy value chain within India. And it reduces dependence on imported crude at a time when that dependence is increasingly risky.

The government should therefore stop treating flex-fuel as a side branch of the ethanol story. It should be the main road ahead. That means fiscal support for FFVs, clear pricing for E85 and E100, and a serious market-building strategy that gives both consumers and manufacturers confidence. India does not need more halfway solutions. It needs a policy that can carry the weight of its ambitions. Flex-fuel is that policy.

India's maritime ambitions begin in waste bins

BY DEEPAK BAINOUR

On 19 February, as India celebrated the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, a wooden sailing vessel named INSV Kaundinya was completing a remarkable voyage across the Arabian Sea to Oman. Built using the ancient Tankai technique i.e. stitched planks and coconut coir, not a single nail, the ship carried on board the economist and EAC-PM member Sanjeev Sanyal. It was a journey connecting India's maritime past to its blue-water present. And what a present it is.

At Visakhapatnam, the International Fleet Review, Exercise MILAN, and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium brought together over 70 nations, a scale unprecedented in India's maritime history. But India's ocean ambitions extend well beyond naval strength. 95 per cent of our trade by volume moves by sea. The Maritime India Vision 2030 targets Rs 3.5 lakh crore in investment across ports, shipping, and waterways. Port capacity has nearly doubled in a decade. Four landmark maritime reform bills replaced colonial-era legislation in 2025. A Rs 25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund and a Rs 69,725 crore shipbuilding package are on the table.

India's coastline is no longer a boundary: it is the launchpad for the next phase of economic growth. One question, that refuses to go away: How do we sustain a trillion-dollar trade corridor without energy independence? India imports 88 per cent of its crude oil which is a bill north of \$130 billion a year. By 2035, that dependence is projected to cross 90 per cent. Heavy fuel oil, the viscous sludge from crude refining, powers 95 per cent of global ship-

ping. Every Indian vessel that sails on imported fuel is a floating reminder of this vulnerability. And the clock is ticking.

The International Maritime Organisation's Net-Zero Framework, effective January 2028, will impose the world's first carbon pricing on shipping - \$100 per tonne of CO₂ for moderate non-compliance, \$380 for the worst offenders. The global frontrunners are green ammonia and e-methanol that come with a staggering price tag, two to three times that of conventional fuel. For a nation aspiring to be the world's third-largest economy, draining foreign exchange on imported green molecules is replacing one dependency with another. That is not Atmanirbharta. The answer is not in our deserts or our research labs.

It is in our garbage. Urban India generates between 1.3-1.5 lakh metric tonnes of municipal solid waste every day which amounts to roughly 50 million tonnes a year, forecast to jump to 125 million tonnes by 2031. Half of this is biodegradable organic waste. Our port cities are among the worst affected: Mumbai produces 11,000 tonnes a day, Chennai 6,000, Visakhapatnam and Mangaluru thousands more. Despite the Swachh Bharat Mission, only a quarter is scientifically treated. The rest festers in landfills. Ghazipur's 65-meter dumpsite in Delhi catches fire with grim regularity.

These are surely civic embarrassments, but they are also untapped fuel reserves. A ship engine does not care whether its fuel began as crude oil in the Persian Gulf or as kitchen waste in Dharavi. It needs carbon-hydrogen-rich molecules in liquid form. Municipal waste is precisely that. Through gasifica-

tion - heating waste in a low-oxygen environment, it becomes syngas, which is catalytically converted into green methanol, a clean-burning fuel that exists in ship engines can use with minor modifications. Alternatively, the organic fraction can undergo anaerobic digestion to produce compressed biogas. This is not speculative technology.

Edmonton, Canada ran the world's first commercial waste-to-methanol plant for eight years - processing 100,000 tonnes of municipal waste annually, producing ISCC-certified bio-methanol. Spain's Repsol is investing €800 million in Ecoplanta, which will convert 400,000 tonnes of waste into 240,000 tonnes of methanol by 2029. China accounts for 90 per cent of renewable methanol capacity currently under construction. Denmark's Kassø e-methanol plant went operational in 2025. Is India doing something on these lines? We have a 25-tonne-per-day pilot at Tuticorin and an MoU at Kandla. The economics, ironically, favours us more than anyone. Green hydrogen needs electrolyzers costing Rs 3-5 crore per megawatt. Green ammonia trades at Rs 60,000-1,00,000 per tonne.

Waste-based methanol benefits from a feedstock that is not just free, it comes with payment attached. Cities pay tipping fees of Rs 1,700-4,200 per tonne to dispose of garbage. This negative feedstock cost means green methanol from waste can be produced at Rs 34,000-50,000 per tonne that is competitive with conventional heavy fuel oil, roughly half the price of its green rivals. Lifecycle emissions drop up to 90 per cent. Add carbon credits under India's PAT scheme, and the numbers

improve further. Maersk has ordered 25 methanol-powered container ships but cannot find enough green fuel to fill them. Over 450 methanol-capable vessels are on order globally.

The demand exists. India, which handles 1.65 billion tonnes of port cargo annually, should be supplying it. So, what is stopping us? Two things. First, source segregation. Waste-to-energy works only with assured input of segregated biodegradable waste - a minimum 150-200 tonnes per day. Without it, plants run below capacity and die. Indore has cracked this: 100 per cent source segregation, 630 tonnes of biodegradable waste processed daily, a self-sustaining financial model funded through user charges and property taxes. A 100-TPD bi-methanation plant costs roughly \$5.7 million and breaks even in six years. The model works. It needs replication, not reinvention. Second, nobody has stitched the ecosystem together. Municipalities handle waste. Port authorities handle fuel. Energy companies handle production. These three sit in different ministries, different budgets, different incentive structures. The PPP model is straightforward: municipalities deliver segregated waste; energy companies gasify it into methanol near port premises; port authorities anchor demand through long-term offtake contracts with coastal shipping lines, port craft operators, and the Navy. The policy architecture exists now with the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, Harit Sagar green port guidelines, the Maritime Development Fund.

Free Medical Camp and TB Awareness Programme Organised by the THCRP Team of Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu at Block Mandi, District Poonch

Jammu, May 22: Under the able guidance of Dr. Harbans Singh Research Officer Incharge of the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu and Principal Investigator of the THCRP Project, a Free Medical Camp was successfully organised by the THCRP team of the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu at Block Mandi, District Poonch, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. During the camp, an informative awareness lecture on Tuberculosis (TB), and its prevention was delivered by Dr. Sanjana Sharma. The session was also addressed by other doctors who spoke extensively on Tuberculosis (TB) awareness and prevention. The speakers emphasised the importance of early diagnosis, timely



treatment, completion of the full course of medication, and community awareness in controlling the spread of TB. They also highlighted the need to

fatigue to seek immediate medical consultation. Alongside this, the speakers stressed the importance of adopting healthy lifestyle practices, including a balanced diet, regular physical activity, stress management, and adherence to preventive healthcare measures for maintaining overall well-being. An additional health awareness was also given by Dr. Sanjana Sharma on "Cardiovascular Disorders and Their Prevention" highlighting the major causes, risk factors, lifestyle modifications, and preventive strategies related to cardiovascular diseases. A large number of beneficiaries attended the camp and availed free medical consultation and Ayurvedic medicines. The most commonly observed health conditions among the ben-

eficiaries included Osteoarthritis, General Debility, Low Back Ache (LBA), and Acid Peptic Disorder. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials were also distributed among the beneficiaries to promote awareness regarding preventive healthcare and healthy living practices. The medical camp was conducted by the following THCRP team members: 1. Dr. Sanjana Sharma (S.R.F. THCRP) 2. Dr. Mohd Moein (S.R.F. THCRP) 3. Dr. Shreya Saraf (S.R.F. THCRP) 4. Dr. Shubam Singh Pathania (S.R.F. THCRP) 5. Mr. Popu Ram (Pharmacist) 6. Mr. Rahul Chouhan (DVR).

Jammu Division launches new commercial initiatives to enhance passenger facilities, boost revenue



NIN NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, MAY 22

In a major step towards providing world-class facilities to passengers and strengthening financial self-reliance, Jammu Division of Northern Railway has launched several new commercial initiatives under the leadership of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singh. The initiatives aim to enhance passenger convenience while generating non-

fare revenue for Indian Railways through a transparent digital e-auction system. As part of the initiative, Jammu Division has awarded key commercial contracts through the e-auction platform to ensure transparency and modernization in railway services. At Kathua Railway Station's Platform No. 1, a new multi-purpose stall will provide passengers with travel essentials, snacks and reading material under one roof, improving convenience for commuters and visitors. Similarly, a multi-purpose stall will also be established at the second entry gate of Jammu Tawi Railway Station. The facility is expected to reduce congestion at the main entrance and offer passengers an improved and premium retail experience. Besides station facilities, the division has also initiated steps to upgrade catering services in trains. As part of the first phase, TSV services have commenced in the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi K a t r a - B u d g a m Vistadhar Special train (04687/04688). Passengers travelling through the scenic Kashmir valley route will now be served branded food items and sealed drinking water directly at their seats.

DC Ramban reviews implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain- 2026 & JJM

RAMBAN, MAY 22
Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA-CTR) 2026 and progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) projects. The meeting was attended by ACD Sheraz Ahmed; CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; DFOs, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, CAO,

CHO and other concerned officers. The deliberations focused on water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional water bodies, reuse and recharge of borewells, watershed development and intensive afforestation, all aligning with the JSA-CTR-2026 theme "People's Action for Water Conservation - Towards Intensified Community Connect". The Deputy Commissioner reviewed

the action taken on directions issued in previous meetings and highlighted the role of stakeholder departments in ensuring effective implementation of the campaign. Stress was laid on geo-tagging of all PWS sources and recharge structures, besides providing technical support to Panchayats for water conservation interventions. The Agriculture and Horticulture Departments were asked to

promote crop diversification, micro-irrigation and awareness regarding water saving devices. The Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department was directed to develop water conservation and rainwater harvesting structures under MGN-REGA, promote spring shed development and organize Gram Sabhas on water conservation. The Forest, Environment & Ecology and Housing,

J&K BOSE notifies dates for submission of Class 11 Bi-Annual exam forms

JAMMU, MAY 22

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (J&K BOSE) has notified the schedule for submission of permission cum examination forms for Class 11 Annual/Private Bi-Annual 2026 session. The schedule applies to all eligible candidates across the UTs of J&K and Ladakh, including both winter and summer zones. As per the notification, candidates can submit their forms through both online and offline modes, depending on their eligibility category from May 25 to June 02 on payment of normal prescribed fee and with a late fee from June 03 to 06. The detailed notification along with necessary guidelines, fee structure and instructions are available on the official website of Board.jkbose.jk.gov.in

Secretary DLSA Jammu conducts monthly inspection at Prison Legal Aid Clinic -Central Jail Kotbhalwal

JAMMU, MAY 22

Sub-Judge-Secretary District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu Manjika Sharma today conducted the monthly inspection of the Prison Legal Aid Clinic at Central Jail Kot Bhalwal. During the visit, she inspected the overall functioning of the clinic and interacted with the Para Legal Volunteers deputed there. The records and registers maintained by the PLVs, including the inmate records and legal aid applications submitted by the inmates, were thoroughly checked. The Secretary reviewed the status of pending applications and directed the PLVs to ensure timely forwarding of requests to DLSA Jammu with proper follow-up of cases.

NOTICE
I Gulab Dei w/o Kulu Ram R/o Hiller Tehsil Raighar District Ramban have applied for correction of my name which has been wrongly written as Barfu Devi instead of correct name Gulab Dei in my Aadhar card objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE
I Abdul jabar S/o Abdul Rashid R/o Kanga Tehsil and Distt. Ramban have applied for correction of my son name which has been wrongly written as Saran Ahmed instead of correct name Sehan Ahmed in my Aadhar Card bearing No 971601241233 objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE
I Shoba Ram S/o Khem Raj R/o Bermeeth Tehsil Ramnagar Distt. Udhampur have applied for correction of my name which has been wrongly written as Soba Ram instead of correct name Shoba Ram in my Aadhar Card bearing No 971601241233 objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

INDIAN RAILWAYS
"PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"
Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25-02-2026 till the 30-06-2026, overhead traction wires will be energized or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all time and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said energized line.

Section	Date
Geetalia (km. 44) Panchayat (from 20th Locust) PMP/01/0025	20-08-2026
Changra 30/775 till to distt. Local line PMP/01/0025, 54/10/05 over	20-08-2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 17/3/2024

Plantation drive held at GDC Bishnah under NMBA 100 days campaign

JAMMU, MAY 22

A plantation drive was organized on May 22, 2026, in the campus of Government Degree College (GDC) Bishnah under the ongoing 100 Days Campaign of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), aiming to promote environmental awareness and encourage a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among students and staff. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Principal Dr. Shailu Sanjay, including Dr. Sunita Hamid, Dr. Vasudha Chaudhary, and Dr. Ashima Gupta. Saplings were planted across the college campus.

NOTICE
I, Vikrant Singh S/o Shamsheer Singh R/o Village Shamachak P.O Shamachak District Jammu (J&K UT). That the deponent's daughter namely Piya Rajput in her Date Of Birth certificate her mother name wrongly recorded as Rashi Devi instead of correct name Ranjana Langhe. Now the deponent is applied for Correction of her mother's name Ranjana Langhe in her Date Birth certificate. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the publication of this notice

NOTICE
I Charan Dass Manhas S/o puran singh Manhas R/o Dhar Tehsil & District Ramban, J&K - post office Chanderkote 182148, hereby inform the general public that I have applied for a civil DEE-Class Contractor Card. If anybody has any objection regarding this application, they may file their objection within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

NOTICE
I Shiv mohd S/o Mohd Mussa R/o Baihote Tehsil and District Ramban have applied for correction of my name which has been wrongly written as Mohd Shiv instead of correct name Shiv mohd in my Aadhar card objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION GANDHI NAGAR JAMMU
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short e-NIT No.DGN/13of 2026-27Dated 20-05-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir-tenders are invited on **Item rate basis** from registered "Security Agencies" with Union Territory of J&K for the job whose particulars are given below:-

S.N. no	Name of Work	Name of Division	Cost of document (in Rupees)	Period of Contract	Earliest Money (in Rupees)	Amount of Work	Time and date of opening of tender
1	Annual Contract for deployment of security guard for Lok Nirman Bhawan Complex Rail Road Jammu including parking area for a period of one year from the date of allotment of job contract.	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	600/-	01 Year	41560/-	The Bidder: (1200 nos) for the work at the rate of per person already advertised in S.O.	20-05-2026

Position of AAA :- **Accorded.**
Position of TS :- **Under Process.**
Major Head of Account :- **2059.**

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jkntenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:

S. No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20-05-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 20-05-2026 to 30-05-2026, 1800Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	25-05-2026 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	20-05-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date	18-05-2026 up to 1800Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	01-06-2026 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu and upload the same Le treasury challan/receipt. Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The CDR/FDR shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of TA be submitted to the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu at the time of allotment.
- Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.
- The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jkntenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids of Responders shall be opened online in the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
- The contractor has to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021.
- Intimation to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jkntenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-2.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SRD with technical bid online.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu and upload the same Le treasury challan/receipt and Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu and Correctness of Information on the notarized affidavit which must be notarized between the period of downloading of bidding document as per the format mentioned in the e-NIT/SRD with the technical documents of the bid.

- Sd -
(Er. Karanjeet Singh)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Gandhi Nagar

DIP/J-2452/26

Ebola Risk Minimal For World Cup Fans, Logistics Challenges Remain

New Delhi, May 22: The risk of Ebola affecting fans at the World Cup is low, according to Dr Oliver Johnson, a global health academic at King's College London, but heightened screening and travel restrictions could complicate logistics. The expanded 48-team tournament, co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico, runs from June 11 to July 19. An Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has recorded around 600 suspected cases and more than 130 deaths, prompting the World Health Organization to declare a public health emergency of international concern. The situation has already disrupted DR Congo's World Cup preparations. The team cancelled pre-tournament events in Kinshasa and relocated



plans to Belgium. U.S. authorities have also barred entry to non-U.S. passport holders who have been in DR Congo, Uganda or South Sudan in the past 21 days, forcing Congo-based staff to depart early. The squad is due to arrive in the U.S. on June 10 or 11 and will be based in Houston. "If you are a casual visitor to the World Cup from around the world, I think there is a very low risk that you would be at risk of Ebola," Johnson told Reuters. "Ebola has never really caused transmission in high-income country settings, where there have been very occasional cases. That is because it is not airborne. You had to normally have direct contact with someone who is quite sick, and there is usually good contact tracing. If a case does occur, it is identified quickly," Johnson said the outbreak could still have broader implications. U.S. authorities have introduced enhanced screening for travellers arriving at Washington Dulles who have recently been in affected countries, while health agencies are working with FIFA and local officials to manage potential risks. "It will affect things like airport queues and screening, which will slow things down," Johnson said.

Ronaldo's brace fires Al Nassr to Saudi league title with 4-1 Win Over Damac



New Delhi, May 22: Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice to help Al Nassr clinch the Saudi Pro League title with a 4-1 victory over Damac on the final day of the season, with Sadio Mane and Kingsley Coman also on the scoresheet for Jorge Jesus's side. The win meant Al Nassr finished on 86 points, two clear of

rivals Al Hilal, who beat Al Fayha 1-0 but were left to settle for second place. The triumph marks Al Nassr's first league crown since 2019 and the first Saudi title for Ronaldo, who joined the team in late 2022. Al Nassr broke the deadlock in the 34th minute when Mane rose to meet a Joao Felix corner, powering a header past the goalkeeper. They extended their lead in the 52nd minute when Coman weaved past the defence before unleashing a fierce left-footed strike from outside the area into the bottom corner. Damac were handed a lifeline when Morlaye Sylla converted a penalty in the 58th minute, but any hopes of a comeback were quickly extinguished. Ronaldo restored the two-goal cushion five minutes later, curling a sublime free kick into the net to make it 3-1. The Portuguese great put the result beyond doubt in the 81st minute. He pounced on a loose ball after the Damac defence failed to clear a cross, smashing a powerful shot into the top corner.

'Deep inside, I know it's my time': Pep Guardiola confirms Manchester City exit after historic decade

Madrid, May 22: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has announced he will leave the club at the end of the season, bringing down the curtain on a historic decade that reshaped both Manchester City and modern English football. The 55-year-old Spaniard will take charge of City for the final time against Aston Villa at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday, ending a trophy-laden spell that delivered 20 major honours, including six Premier League titles and the club's maiden UEFA Champions League crown in 2023.



Since arriving in 2016, Guardiola transformed City into one of Europe's most dominant teams, building an era defined by relentless success, tactical innovation and domestic dominance. Despite stepping away from the dugout, Guardiola will remain associated with the City Football Group as a Global Ambassador, where he will continue contributing through technical guidance and special projects across the group's clubs. Explaining his decision, Guardiola said the timing simply felt right. "Don't ask me the reasons I'm leaving. There is no reason, but deep inside, I know it's my time. Nothing is eternal; if it were, I would be here," Guardiola said in a statement released by the club. The legendary coach also reflected emotionally on his connection with Manchester and the culture that shaped his journey at City. "This is a city built from work. From graft. We worked. We suffered. And we did things our own way," he added. Guardiola leaves behind a legacy that redefined English football, with his City side widely regarded as one of the greatest club teams of the modern era. Across his decade in charge, he was named Premier League Manager of the Season five times and won the League Managers Association Manager of the Year award on three occasions. Manchester City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak paid tribute to Guardiola's impact, describing the past decade as transformative for the club. "There have been points along the way when he could have stopped, and it would have been enough. Somehow, Pep always found new energy and pushed on," Al Mubarak said.

City. "This is a city built from work. From graft. We worked. We suffered. And we did things our own way," he added. Guardiola leaves behind a legacy that redefined English football, with his City side widely regarded as one of the greatest club teams of the modern era. Across his decade in charge, he was named Premier League Manager of the Season five times and won the League Managers Association Manager of the Year award on three occasions. Manchester City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak paid tribute to Guardiola's impact, describing the past decade as transformative for the club. "There have been points along the way when he could have stopped, and it would have been enough. Somehow, Pep always found new energy and pushed on," Al Mubarak said.

Guardiola to end decade-long man city reign at end of season

New Delhi, May 22: Pep Guardiola will leave Manchester City at the end of the season after a decade in charge, the club announced on Friday, bringing an end to one of the most successful eras in English soccer and one of the most influential managerial reigns of all time.



The departure of the 55-year-old Catalan coach will close the book on a remarkable chapter that has seen City transform into a footballing juggernaut. Guardiola, who took charge of City in 2016, has won six Premier League titles — including four in a row — three FA Cups, five League Cups and the Champions League, but his side have not won the league in two years. "Don't ask me the reasons I'm leaving. There is no reason, but deep inside, I know it's my time,"

Guardiola said in a statement. "Nothing is eternal, if it was, I would be here. Eternal will be the feeling, the people, the memories, the love I have for my Manchester City. "We worked. We suffered. We fought. And we did things our own way. Our way." Although City sealed the domestic cup double this season, Guardiola saw his dreams of a seventh Premier League crown dashed when they drew 1-1 at Bournemouth on Tuesday to hand Arsenal the title, with City set to finish second. His final game in charge is Sunday's home fixture against Aston Villa. **RECORD-BREAKING CAM-**

PAIGNS Guardiola had arrived in Manchester with a resume already stuffed with silverware from Barcelona and Bayern Munich, taking over from Manuel Pellegrini in July 2016. After inheriting a successful club financed by the Abu Dhabi United Group, Guardiola will walk away having built a footballing empire after overseeing a paradigm shift in Premier League tactics. As Guardiola faced the challenge of adapting to England's famously fast-paced and physical league, possession became an art form and a defensive tool at City as his teams craved complete control. The result was not just utter dominance — evidenced by record-breaking campaigns like the 100-point 2017-18 season with 106 goals scored.

Sinner eyes french open breakthrough as rivals look for answers

New Delhi, May 22: With defending champion Carlos Alcaraz out injured and Novak Djokovic undercooked on clay, the big question heading into the French Open is can anyone stop Jannik Sinner from securing the career Grand Slam in Paris? Sinner's season began to build momentum through a "Sunshine Double" of titles at Indian Wells and Miami before the Italian took complete control of the European clay swing with triumphs in Monte Carlo, Madrid and Rome. The 24-year-old Italian has a golden opportunity to capture the only major title missing from his collection 12 months after a heart-breaking loss to Alcaraz in the final. Central to



Sinner's rise has been his growing authority on the sport's slowest surface. "This year is the first time I've won something big on clay," he said in Rome of his Monaco win. "Also physically I'm getting stronger. It's a mix of everything. That experience, to play certain points in a better way, but mostly I feel like physically if you improve, it helps you a lot on clay." Victory at Roland Garros would bring Sinner a fifth major and complete the set a few months after Alcaraz did so at the Australian Open. With Alcaraz skipping his Paris title defence due to a wrist injury, Djokovic looms as one of the few with the game to test Sinner.

Ajit Agarkar Blasted By Ex India Captain For Ignoring Auqib Nabi

New Delhi, May 22: The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) selection committee, led by Ajit Agarkar, has come under fire yet again for bizarre selection calls. Despite emphasising the importance of playing domestic red-ball cricket, the selectors ignored the Ranji Trophy's top wicket-taker, Auqib Nabi, when the squad for the one-off Afghanistan Test was announced. Former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar lambasted Agarkar, asking the BCCI to do away with the Ranji Trophy if performances in India's premier domestic red-ball event are



not even considered. Auqib finished the last Ranji Trophy campaign with a whopping 60 wickets, playing an instrumental role in Jammu & Kashmir's triumph. Yet, the selection committee decided to ignore the pacer, picking the likes of Mohammed Siraj, Prashidh Krishna, Manav Suthar, Gurnoor Brar, and Harsh Dubey in the bowling unit. "The selectors' decision to ignore him.

CSK Pay Hefty Fee For MS Dhoni Mania, Replacement Ignored Despite Squad Issues

New Delhi, May 22: Chennai Super Kings (CSK) are officially out of the IPL playoffs race after failing to win their last three games of the 2026 season. The franchise's inability to deliver after a major overhaul in the last mega auction has left fans and pundits to dissect a season that promised much but ultimately delivered a familiar sense of what-might-have-been. While injuries and squad depth have been blamed for the downfall, a glaring question mark overshadows the team's management of their biggest icon, MS Dhoni. Dhoni did not play a single game this season. Fans hoped to see him in the CSK colours, in the final two games of the campaign at least, but he was deemed unfit.



While Dhoni's availability remained a guessing game for fans and pundits, it seems like the management was aware of the limited possibility of his return to the team. Despite the fact that the 44-year-old never came close to taking the field, CSK chose not to name an injury replacement. In the end, it appeared that keeping the 'Dhoni mania' alive was more important to the franchise than securing a spot in the playoffs. CSK's Limited Squad Admission Following the damaging defeat against SRH in CSK's final home

game of the season, captain Rituraj Gaikwad tried to find a silver lining despite admitting the squad's limitations. "I think still, given the team that we had and limited squad and whatever best combinations we had, I'm still proud and I still feel we did well," Gaikwad said. While Gaikwad's pride in his team's effort is understandable, the phrase "limited squad" raises eyebrows. Had CSK chosen to officially replace the sidelined Dhoni, they could have injected fresh talent into a dugout that desperately needed options. The cracks in the CSK campaign were visible early on, and a lack of squad depth only amplified the impact of subsequent injuries. Speaking,

Ruturaj fined Rs 24 lakh; CSK players penalised for slow over-rate after playoff exit against GT

New Delhi, May 22: Chennai Super Kings' disappointing IPL 2026 campaign ended on another sour note as skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad was fined Rs 24 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate during their crushing defeat to Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The IPL confirmed that this was CSK's second over-rate offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the tournament's Code of Conduct. As a result, the rest of the playing XI, including the Impact Player, were also fined either Rs 6 lakh or 25 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lower. In a statement released after the match, the IPL said, "As this was his team's second offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Gaikwad was



fined INR 24 lakhs." Batting first, GT piled up a daunting 229/4 before dismantling CSK for just 140 in response. Speaking after the defeat, Gaikwad admitted CSK never truly recovered from a poor start to the season. "We had a tough season to start with, especially the hat-trick of losses. Once we found momentum, the combinations started working well. But injuries again disrupted the balance of the side," he said. The five-time champions were officially extinguished following an 89-run hammering at the hands of Gujarat Titans. The top four for three straight seasons since lifting the title in 2023. With a top-two finish still within reach, Gujarat Titans delivered one of their most dominant performances of the season.



Kapil Mishra lists Bakrid prohibitions: Banned animals, public sacrifice, illegal markets

New Delhi, May 22: Delhi's Development Minister Kapil Mishra held a review meeting with the Development Department on Thursday to lay down guidelines for animal welfare ahead of Bakrid. The meeting focused on ensuring that all legal provisions related to animal protection are followed during the festival period. Mishra directed officials to take stringent action against illegal transportation of animals, illegal slaughter, and all forms of cruelty towards animals. The minister made it clear that animal sacrifice during Bakrid will be permitted only at authorised and designated locations. No sacrifice is to take place on roads, streets, or any public place. He also ordered a strict enforcement of the complete ban on the slaughter or sacrifice of cows, calves, camels, and other prohibited animals. Officials were told that any violation must be acted upon



immediately. Buying and selling of animals in public spaces declared illegal. Mishra stated that buying and selling of animals in public spaces is completely illegal. He instructed officials to enforce this prohibition strictly and to take action upon receiving any complaint related to such activity. The minister's directives cover both the conduct of sellers and the locations

where transactions take place. Waste disposal to follow safety standards he minister gave specific instructions regarding the disposal of remains after sacrifice. Animal blood must not flow directly into roads, drains, or canals. Remains left after sacrifice cannot be discarded in the open. Mishra directed that disposal must be carried out strictly as per prescribed safety

standards. He called for coordinated monitoring among all concerned departments to ensure compliance on this front. Animal Welfare Board guidelines to be implemented. Mishra referred to the guidelines issued by the Animal Welfare Board of India under the Government of India. These guidelines were sent to Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of all states, directing effective implementation of laws related to animal protection and welfare. He stated that these guidelines must be followed in letter and spirit during the festival period. Cruelty to animals a punishable offence under 1960 Act he minister reminded officials that under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, cruelty towards animals is a punishable offence. He said that immediate action must be taken on any complaint related to illegal transportation of animals, operation of illegal slaughterhouses.

Demolition drive continues in Mumbai's Garib Nagar, 19 arrested so far

Mumbai, May 22: Undertaken by Western Railway, the large-scale encroachment drive in the Garib Nagar slum of Mumbai's Bandra region to clear the government land from illegal occupation is going on in full steam, with the city police intensifying their drive to identify, track and nab the violent protesters who pelted stones to derail the process. Providing an update on the demolition drive on social media, the Western Railway said that the operation to reclaim the illegally occupied land for future railway development is going on smoothly. "On-ground debris clearance continues as vital Railway land is reclaimed. With the demolition drive continuing near Bandra station, debris clearance is



progressing simultaneously," it said, besides sharing images and videos of the demolition drive. Also, the Mumbai Police has stepped up action against violent protesters and arrested one more accused, taking the total number to 19. IANS reported. There are several other individuals who remain under the scanner for pelting stones at the police during the demolition drive. The police officials are ascertaining their role in the violent act via CCTV footage. So far, 19 miscreants have been taken into custody for taking advantage of the crowd to inflict violence on the police, while more arrests are expected in the coming days. Out of them, one accused is a minor and was sent to a children's remand home.

Jhalmuri vendor, who treated PM Modi with local snack, receiving death threats from Pakistan, Bangladesh



New Delhi, May 22: The Jhalmuri vendor, who treated Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the popular local snack in Jhargram during the 2025 Assembly elections in West Bengal, has received death threats from unknown international numbers. The shopkeeper, named Vikram Sao, has claimed to be receiving threatening calls from

Pakistan and Bangladesh on a daily basis over the past few days, IANS reported. Sao came into spotlight when Prime Minister Modi took a brief halt at his shop during the high-voltage campaign, to get a taste of the local Bengali snack. Soon after, videos of the light-hearted exchange between the jhalmuri vendor and PM Modi became the talk of the

town, grabbing national headlines, making him a 'star jhalmuri vendor' in the region. However, the overnight fame has now come to haunt him. Sao is worried about himself and his family members. "I am getting repeated threat calls from Pakistan via video and phone calls. They are threatening to blow me up with bombs. Those making video calls to me are making frightening gestures to frighten me and also brandishing weapons, and they warned me that you will face dire consequences," IANS quoted Vikram Sao as saying. He said that his phone did not stop ringing even after he avoided picking up several calls.

'Like valves on a pressure cooker...suppressing it would be disastrous': Shashi Tharoor on Cockroach Janata Party

New Delhi, May 22: After the X account of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) was banned in India in response to a legal demand by the Government of India, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Friday said that "suppressing it is foolish in a democracy." "Democracy's great virtue is the outlets it provides for public sentiment, frustration and grievances. Letting these be aired on a satirical site is in the national interest," Tharoor wrote in a lengthy X post. The Congress leader further stated that regardless of the motivations of CJP's founders, "they have tapped into an important strain of national sentiment among our youth." He urged both the Government and the Opposition to listen and tackle the underlying discontent, warning



that "suppressing it would be disastrous." He argued that such movements serve like the valves on a pressure cooker, letting off steam. "If the

valves were closed, the cooker would explode under the pressure." He said he would prefer satire to chaos, anarchy or revolution. "I also feel it is our job to

identify and deliver solutions to the problems of Young India. Let's lift the ban and tune in!" he added. Founded by Abhijeet Dipke, the Cockroach Janata Party was thrust into the spotlight after controversial remarks by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), Surya Kant. During a recent hearing, the CJI said that unemployed youth who criticise the system are like "cockroaches and parasites." He later clarified that his remarks were misquoted by a section of the media and that he orally criticised those entering media and other professions after acquiring fake degrees. However, the CJP turned into an overnight social media sensation, garnering over two crore followers on Instagram, more than double the followers of the BJP on the same platform.

After 721 years, Bhojshala sees Friday maha aarti instead of namaz amid tight security

New Delhi, May 22: Heavy security arrangements were put in place across Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district on Friday as Hindu devotees gathered at the Bhojshala complex for a "maha aarti" days after Bhojshala in 721 years. The administration deployed around 1,800 police personnel along with central forces in and around the Bhojshala complex as authorities prepared for the first Friday gathering at the site following the



court's May 15 verdict. The event was scheduled between 1 pm and 3 pm amid heightened security and close monitoring across sensitive areas of the town. The Bhojshala complex has remained at the centre

of a long-running dispute between Hindu and Muslim groups. The High Court recently held that the religious character of the disputed area was that of a Hindu temple and also set aside the earlier ASI arrangement that had

allowed Friday namaz at the premises. "Only law will prevail": Dhar SP on security deployment to ANI, Dhar Superintendent of Police Sachin Sharma said the administration had held continuous meetings with all stakeholders and was ensuring strict compliance with the High Court's directions. "Following the High Court's order in Dhar district, it is our duty to strictly enforce compliance with all rules. We have maintained contact with everyone, and continuous meetings have been held with all groups. Everyone has assured that all activities today will be carried out in compliance with the orders that have come," Sharma said.

He added that more than 1,800 police personnel had been deployed across the district to maintain peace and law and order. Authorities also conducted flag marches in sensitive localities over the past two days, while surveillance around the Bhojshala complex and adjoining areas was intensified. Officials also warned against spreading misleading information regarding the High Court order through social media or platforms. Officials said only activities permitted under the High Court's order would be allowed at the complex. Organisers had earlier proposed a "Shobha Yatra" but later decided to cancel it to avoid tension in the town.

FIR registered against Samajwadi Party, MP Iqra Hasan, others for blocking road, creating ruckus outside DIG office

New Delhi, May 22: Acase has been registered against Samajwadi Party MP Iqra Hasan in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur district in connection with the major protest held outside the office of the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) on May 19. The Kairana MP and her supporters have been accused of blocking a road, creating a disturbance, and obstructing official duties during the protest related to the Sonu Kashyap murder case, IANS reported. The FIR names the Samajwadi Party leader, seven named individuals as well as 25 unidentified people under various sections of the law. It was registered at the Sadar Bazar Police Station based on a complaint filed by the incharge of the Civil Lines

Police Outpost. Hasan and her supporters have been accused of allegedly blocking the main road outside the DIG office, which led to severe traffic disruption and inconvenience to the public. It further stated the protest violated prohibitory orders and obstructed government functioning. The legal action was taken by police after reviewing the incident and gathering evidence. In connection with the matter, authorities are examining viral videos and CCTV footage to identify the unidentified accused persons mentioned in the FIR. The latest incident has sparked fresh political tensions in the district, with Samajwadi Party workers expressing anger over the FIR. Controversy is related to the murder case of Monu Kashyap, a resident of Dashahe village in Shamli district, who was allegedly killed on April 21.

Taking 'empathetic view', Delhi HC grants Umar Khalid 3-day interim bail in riots conspiracy case



New Delhi, May 22: The Delhi High Court on Friday granted activist and former JNU student leader Umar Khalid three-day interim bail in the larger conspiracy case linked to the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, taking what it described as an "empathetic view" considering his mother's upcoming surgery. The Court allowed Khalid interim release from 7 am on June 1 till 5 pm on June 3 on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh. It directed him to remain

within the National Capital Region during the bail period and permitted him to travel only between his residence and the hospital. Khalid had approached the High Court challenging a May 19 trial court order that had rejected his request for interim bail. While granting relief, the High Court noted that Khalid had earlier been released on interim bail on several occasions for family-related events and had complied with all conditions imposed by the courts

during those periods. HC notes Khalid is 'one of the key conspirators' The Court observed that Khalid is "one of the key conspirators" in the case but still considered it appropriate to grant temporary relief given his mother's medical condition. Khalid had sought interim bail for 15 days from May 22 to June 5 to attend the Chhath ceremony of his maternal uncle and to care for his 62-year-old mother, who is scheduled to undergo lump excision surgery on June 2. His appeal before the High Court was filed under Section 21(4) of the National Investigation Agency Act. Earlier this week, Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai of the Karkardooma Courts had dismissed Khalid's plea, observing that the grounds raised by him were "not reasonable".

ECI announces Rajya Sabha polls for 24 seats in 10 states on June 18

New Delhi, May 22: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Friday announced the schedule for the biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha to fill 24 seats, which are falling vacant due to the retirement of members in June and July 2026. According to the Commission, the tenure of 24 Rajya Sabha members elected from 10 states is set to expire during the June-July period. As per the schedule released by the ECI, notifications for the elections will be issued on June 1, while the last date for filing nominations has been fixed for June 8. Scrutiny of nominations will take place on June 9, and candidates will be allowed to withdraw their nominations till June 11. Polling for the elections will be conducted on June 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., while counting of votes will begin at 5 p.m., on the same day. The entire election process is scheduled to be completed by June 20.



The Commission stated that only measures would be taken to ensure free and fair elections, including close monitoring of the election process through the appointment of observers. The elections will cover seats from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Rajasthan,

Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Mizoram. Among prominent leaders whose terms are ending are Digvijaya Singh from Madhya Pradesh, H.D. Deve Gowda and Mallikarjun Kharge from Karnataka. The election will also be held for the seat held by the late Shibu Soren from Jharkhand, which has remained vacant since August 4, 2025. Other members retiring include Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla, Pili Subhaschandra Bose, Rambhai Harjibhai Mokariya, George Kurian, Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba, Wanveerjoy Khartukhi, Neeraj Dangi, Rajendra Gehlot, Nabam Rebba, Inama Kadadi, and K. Vanlalvma, among others. The Rajya Sabha, also known as the Council of States, is the Upper House of Parliament, where members are elected by elected representatives of the states and union territories through a system of proportional representation.

Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan

Awareness Camp on Drug Abuse held at Sumo Stand Kupwara

KUPWARA, MAY 22: In a powerful demonstration of unity and determination against the growing drug menace, Zila Sainik Welfare Office Kupwara in collaboration with District Administration and ARTO Kupwara today organised an awareness programme under Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan for the drivers and members of the Transport Association Kupwara. The programme was witnessed by many officials from Civil and Police Administration including, ACR Kupwara, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; ASP Kupwara, Shahzad Kabir; ZEO Kupwara, Principal, Boys Higher Secondary School, Kupwara, repre-



sentatives from ARTO Kupwara and DySP Traffic Runt, besides several officers from different departments along with Ex-servicemen, stakeholders from the transport association. The Programme commenced by a Welcome address delivered by Col SS Raja, Zila Sainik Welfare Officer who highlighted the collective responsibility of every stakeholder in combating the growing menace of drug abuse and stressed that the fight against drug menace is not merely an administrative responsibility but a larger social mission requiring vigilance,

awareness and sustained public participation. ACR, Kupwara in his address appreciated the initiative taken by the Zila Sainik Welfare Office and highlighted the importance of sustained awareness, community participation and role of ex-servicemen including all stakeholders to effectively tackle the drug menace and emphasized to carry out such programmes in future at gross root levels. On this occasion, various officers also addressed the gathering, including the ASP Kupwara who emphasized that fighting the drug menace is a collective responsibility and every individual has a vital role to play in

safeguarding society from this growing threat. Special emphasis was laid on the role of drivers and the transport fraternity being the main stakeholders and frontline contributors, in identifying suspicious activities, spreading awareness and helping the administration in curbing the menace of drugs. During the event, representative of ARTO Kupwara addressed the gathering and highlighted the responsibility of the transport sector in preventing the spread of Narcotics and ensuring vigilance at every level. Representatives of the transport association also shared their views and expressed.

Commissioner reviews arrangements for Eid-ul-Adha Festival

SRINAGAR, MAY 22: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lal Haseeb, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the SMC Headquarters, Karam Nagar, to review and finalize arrangements being put in place for the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha festival across Srinagar city. The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioners SMC, Secretary SMC, Chief Sanitation Officer, and other senior officials of the Corporation, who briefed the Commissioner on the preparedness of various SMC wings with regard to sanitation management, waste collection and disposal, deployment of manpower, availability of machinery, and maintenance of overall cleanliness and public hygiene during the festival period. During the meeting, the Commissioner directed the concerned officials to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness in and around mosques, shrines, Eidgahs, and other important religious places across the city to facilitate the smooth conduct of Eid



prayers during Eid-ul-Adha. Emphasizing the importance of efficient waste management during the festival, the Commissioner instructed officials to further strengthen waste collection and disposal mechanisms across all areas of the city. He also directed the provision of free hooper services for the timely collection and scientific disposal of animal skins, sacrificial waste, an internal animal organs to maintain sanitation and prevent inconvenience to the public.

Commissioner of Enquiries visits Vibrant Village Rawathpora under VVP-II

KUPWARA, MAY 22: Majid K.A. Drabu, Commissioner of Enquiries, J&K, today visited Vibrant Village Rawathpora, Block Reddi Chowkibal, under the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II). The visit was aimed at reviewing the status of infrastructure, service delivery, implementation of ongoing Central/UT Sector Schemes, and developmental indicators in Vibrant Village Rawathpora and adjoining areas. On his arrival, the Commissioner chaired a comprehensive review meeting with officers of all concerned departments at the Guest House, Reddi Chowkibal. During the meeting, he



took stock of the progress achieved under various developmental initiatives and emphasized the need for effective implementation of welfare and infrastructure projects to ensure timely benefits to the people living in border areas. Later, Drabu chaired a public darbar at Panchayat Rawathpora, where local residents projected various issues and demands related to basic amenities, road

DC Kupwara chairs NCORD Committee Meeting to strengthen Anti-Drug Measures across District

KUPWARA, MAY 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today chaired a meeting of the District Level NCORD (Narco Coordination) Committee to review and strengthen the measures being undertaken by various departments to curb drug abuse and narcotic-related activities across the district. During the meeting, the DC conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing enforcement, monitoring and preventive initiatives being implemented by the concerned departments. Stressing the need for a coordinated and proactive approach, he directed all stakeholders to intensify efforts for effective control of drug abuse and dismantling of nar-



cotics networks in the district. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized strict action against individuals found involved in drug peddling and substance abuse. He directed the concerned departments to initiate measures for cancellation of driving licences, gun

within their jurisdictions. They were further directed to ensure the installation of CCTV cameras in all chemist shops to regulate the sale of medicines and prevent misuse of pharmaceutical drugs. Highlighting the importance of community engagement and youth empowerment in combating drug addiction, the DC directed the concerned departments to expedite the development of playgrounds and libraries in all Panchayats under the NMK Abhiyan. He stated that creating constructive recreational and educational avenues for the youth is essential to steer them away from substance abuse and towards positive activities. The meeting also wit-

nessed a detailed discussion on several other preventive, enforcement and awareness measures aimed at eliminating the menace of drugs from the district. The DC stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination, regular awareness campaigns and community participation to ensure a drug-free society. Among others, the meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara, Syed Al Tahir Gilani; SSP Handwara, Sahil Sarangal; Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Chief Education Officer (CEO), Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Lolab and other concerned officers.

100-Day Intensive: Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan intensified across Budgam

BUDGAM, MAY 22: District Administration Budgam has intensified activities under the 100-Day Intensive Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan across the district with an aim to create mass awareness against drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free society. As part of the ongoing campaign, a series of awareness and outreach programmes are being organised in educational institutions and public spaces involving active participation of students, teachers, officials and community members. Various departments including



Education, Health, Social Welfare, Police, Youth Services & Sports and other stakeholder agencies are jointly conducting awareness drives to sensitise youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse. In continuation of the campaign activities, essay competition and debate programmes were today conducted at Government

Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Budgam under the National Mental Health & Behaviour Awareness (NMBA) programme. Students participated enthusiastically and expressed their ideas and awareness on important social and behavioural issues through creative writing and engaging discussions. The activities were aimed at promoting awareness, critical thinking, effective communication and positive behavioural values among students while encouraging them to stay away from substance abuse

and other harmful practices. Teachers and organisers appreciated the active involvement, creativity and confidence displayed by the participants during the programme. Officials stated that the 100-day campaign focuses on preventive awareness, behavioural change, counselling support and community participation to effectively address the growing concern of drug abuse. Awareness rallies, seminars, interactive sessions and youth engagement programmes are also being organised across different areas.

HKM GDC organizes Drug Awareness Programmes Anti-Drug Pledge, Sports activities under NMBA

BANDIPORA, MAY 22: HKM Govt Degree College Bandipora organized a series of awareness and extracurricular programmes under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) with the objective of promoting awareness against drug abuse and encouraging constructive youth engagement. As part of the campaign, the NCORD Cell of the college, in collaboration with the Department of Education, organized an awareness programme on drug abuse in the college campus. The programme aimed to educate students about the harmful effects of drug addiction and the importance of building a drug-free society. The programme was personally viewed and appreciated by the Principal of the college, Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra, who encouraged the participants and highlighted the importance of sports and physical activities in building a healthy and drug-free society. During the programme, Head of the Department of Education, Dr.

Manzoor Ahmad Parrey, delivered an insightful lecture on the growing menace of drugs among youth and highlighted its social, psychological and health-related consequences. He urged students to stay away from narcotics and contribute positively towards society. The event witnessed active participation from students and faculty members, who appreciated the initiative undertaken by the college under the banner of drug awareness. Meanwhile, under the banner of NMBA, the College Sports Committee organized a Men's Badminton Competition under the leadership of the Convener of the Sports Committee, Prof. Shahid Shafi. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and promoted the spirit of sportsmanship, discipline and healthy competition among the youth. The competition aimed to engage students in constructive extracurricular activities and reinforce the message of fitness, wellbeing and social responsibility.

DLSA Budgam organizes Cbsing Ceremony of Road Safety Awareness Week

BUDGAM, MAY 22: Closing ceremony of the Road Safety Awareness Week was today organized by the District Legal Services Authority Budgam in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Committee Magam at Luccent International School Magam. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Chairman District Legal Services Authority Budgam, O.P. Baghat and under the supervision of Secretary DLSA Budgam, Tabassum Parrey, and under the chairmanship of Chairperson TLSC Magam, Rabhya Snober Gulzar. The event was graced by the Secretary DLSA Budgam, and Chairperson TLSC Magam. Officials from Traffic Police, Police Department, PLVs, teach-



ers, students, and members of civil society also participated in the programme. During the programme, speakers highlighted the importance of road safety measures, responsible driving, use of helmets and seat belts, and strict adherence to traffic rules for prevention of road accidents. Students of various institutions presented awareness skits, speeches, and Nukad Natak performances focusing on traffic rules, safe

DC Anantnag reviews Eid-ul-Adha arrangements; Directs departments to ensure smooth observance of festival

ANANTNAG, MAY 22: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat today chaired a meeting of officers at DC office to review the arrangements for smooth observance of upcoming Eid-ul-Adha in the district. The meeting was attended by SP, ADC, SE PHE, ACR, SDMS, AC Food Safety, CAHO, DD Fisheries, Exen PDD, ARTO, AD FCS&CA, DSHO, CEO MCA, representatives of F&ES, Legal Metrology, Traffic and Waqf Board, EOs of MCs and other concerned officials. At the outset, the officers briefed the chair about the respective arrangements that have been put in place for smooth observance of the holy and festive days. Addressing the meeting, the DC said it is essential the people and devotees are duly facilitated so they observe the holy days with ease and convenience. He called for providing all requisite facilities to the devotees visiting Kharim Dargah Shareef, Kabamarg,



Reshmool, Aishmuqam, Seer Hamdan and other shrines, mosques and Eidgahs on upcoming Eid-ul-Adha. The DC directed officers of Jal Shakti Department and KPCL to ensure smooth supply of water and electricity across the district. Jal Shakti Department shall keep adequate number of water tankers available at critical locations especially in view of the prevailing high temperatures, he noted.

Emphasizing the importance of essential commodities during the festive days, the DC asked the FCS&CA Department to maintain sufficient stocks of rice, atta, sugar, and other daily essentials in the district. He further directed the concerned authorities to intensify market checking to ensure the quality and availability of essential commodities, including bakery and confectionery items, milk, meat, chicken, vegetables, and

other essentials in the markets. It is expected that demand of these items will increase ahead of the holy occasion and therefore joint inspections of shops and manufacturing units be carried out by the designated teams to ensure provision of quality edible items at fair prices to the public, the DC observed. DSHO informed the chair that adequate number of sacrificial animals, including sheep and goats, are available in the district. Similarly, CAHO informed that sufficient poultry stock is available to meet public demand during the festive days. Municipal authorities were directed to conduct regular sanitation drives for proper cleanliness and hygiene in and around towns, mosques, shrines and Eidgahs. He instructed the concerned authorities to designate teams and locations for proper collection and disposal of offal, hides and waste to maintain cleanliness and hygiene both in urban and rural areas.

CS Dullo reviews comprehensive traffic decongestion plan for Jammu, Srinagar Cities

SRINAGAR, MAY 22: Chief Secretary, Atal Dullo today chaired the 5th meeting of the Multi Disciplinary Committee (MDC) on Traffic Management System to review the implementation of a comprehensive action plan aimed at easing traffic congestion and improving mobility in the twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar. The meeting was attended by senior administrative and police officers, including Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Departments; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD); Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Kashmir, Inspector General of Police, Traffic; Deputy Inspectors General of Traffic;



Jammu/Kashmir; Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu/Srinagar; Senior Superintendents of Police, Traffic, Srinagar/Jammu; Vice-Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority (SDA); Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir/Jammu; besides officers from other concerned departments. The Chief Secretary highlighted the significance of the recommendations put forth by the committee headed by the Principal Secretary,

Home, and called for a time-bound action plan for their effective implementation. The Chief Secretary also reviewed progress on identification and rectification of black spots, widening of major roads, widening of rotaries and junction improvements in both cities. He stressed the need for clearly identifying funding sources for all the proposed works, noting that these interventions are aimed at providing much-needed relief to the general public by improving ease

of mobility in the twin cities and other urban centres of the UT. He directed the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to take up the matter with the Finance Department to ensure smooth and timely execution of these projects across Jammu and Kashmir. During the review, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the measures undertaken by different departments for decongestion of major traffic corridors, augmen-

tation of parking facilities, improvement of road infrastructure, streamlining of public transport and strengthening of intelligent traffic management systems in both the capital cities. It was informed that several diversion routes have already been identified and operationalised in Jammu and Srinagar to reduce congestion on critical stretches and ensure smoother vehicular movement. In Jammu city, 10 diversion routes are being utilised for traffic decongestion. Similarly, five diversion routes have been made operational in Srinagar to reduce pressure on heavily congested city stretches. The meeting was informed that dedicated e-rickshaw zones have also been notified to regulate traffic movement and improve last-mile connectivity.

RAABITA outreach; Advisor Wani hears delegations, pushes timely redress of issues

JAMMU, MAY 22: Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today conducted an extensive public outreach programme at the RAABITA office, Canal Road, Jammu, under the RAABITA initiative. A large number of public delegations and individuals from across the Jammu division met the Advisor and highlighted various issues, seeking speedy redress. Interacting with the deputations, the Advisor issued on-spot directions to the concerned officers for priority resolution of public grievances raised during the programme. He also asked the heads of delegations to pursue their issues with the respective departments to ensure timely disposal. The delegations which met the Advisor including a delegation from GCC Gurha Slathia (NGO) highlighted important issues before him



which were related to area development and social welfare measures. A deputation from the citizen forum of Bathindi Welfare Board sought resolution of general developmental issues of the Bathindi area. A deputation led by Chairman Citizens Cooperative Bank Limited, Jammu, highlighted urgent matters pertaining to the bank and sought intervention for redress. A deputation from retired Migrant Employees of Revenue Department, sought urgent intervention for treating their service period as on-

duty and early approval of pending leave encashment benefits. A delegation from the Panthal area raised the issue of Kendriya Vidyalaya land at Panthal and discussed developmental requirements of the institution for the benefit of the local community. A deputation from JKPCS/KSSB aspirants presented grievances related to recruitment and examinations, including delays and uncertainty in the recruitment process affecting the candidates across J&K.

Legislators, deputations call on Rana; project public issues, development demands



SRINAGAR, MAY 22: Several legislators, public deputations and individuals today called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana at Civil Secretariat here and apprised him of various public welfare issues, developmental concerns and sector-specific demands. MLA Uri, Dr Sajjad Shafi and MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar discussed several constituency-related matters. They sought the Minister's intervention for aug-

mentation of public infrastructure, improvement in water supply schemes, irrigation facilities and other developmental works in their respective areas. During the interactions, the legislators highlighted the need for timely execution of ongoing works and early resolution of issues concerning public service delivery. They also projected several demands related to strengthening civic amenities and improving infrastructure, besides highlighting the early completion of desiltation process.

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Deputy Chief Minister calls for time bound report on Gair Mumkin Khads

Sub-Committee reviews public issues, asks for identification of chronic problem areas

SRINAGAR, MAY 22: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today chaired a meeting of the Sub-Committee constituted to examine the issues related to Gair Mumkin Khads in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting, held at the Civil Secretariat Srinagar, was attended by Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana and Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and



Elections, Javid Ahmad Dar, who are members of the Sub-Committee. The Deputy Chief Minister stressed the need for seeking public suggestions before finalizing the committee's report through design-

ated officers. He directed on designating a nodal officer from the Civil Secretariat for easy access for submission of suggestions by the general public. He directed that the report be submitted in a time-

bound manner, ensuring that the genuine public concerns are addressed in a fair and legitimate way. Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, briefed the Sub-Committee on the present status of Gair Mumkin Khads and the ongoing process of segregation. Speaking during the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the need for pragmatic and people-centric decisions to ensure amicable resolution of issues faced by the public. He said that policy interventions must maintain a balance between the environmental protection and safeguarding the livelihoods and property rights of citizens. The Committee directed for constitution of a technical team for proper segregation of Khads and submission of accurate details. Directions were issued for identification of chronic problem areas to address recurring public issues effectively. Speaking on the occasion, Javed Ahmad Rana stressed the importance of adopting a balanced and environmentally sustainable approach.

J&K Biodiversity Council celebrates International Day for Biological Diversity

SRINAGAR, MAY 22: The Jammu & Kashmir Biodiversity Council celebrated International Day for Biological Diversity today at Dachigam, highlighting the Union Territory's rich ecological heritage and reinforcing the global call to "Act Locally, Impact Globally." The event was attended by Chief Guest Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary Forests, Ecology and Environment; Sarvesh



Rai, PCCF/HoFF J&K Biodiversity Council; Chaturbhuj Bahera PCCF/CWW/Director SFRI and Member

Secretary J&K Biodiversity Council; Irfan Rasool Wani, CCF Kashmir; Tawheed Ahmad Deva, Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir; Saurabh Sharma CF Srinagar; Irfan Ali Shah, CF North and Professor Anzar Khuroo Member Biodiversity Council from Kashmir University, alongside Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs), Range Officers (ROs) and members of various Biodiversity

Management Committees (BMCs) from across J&K. In her address, Sheetal Nanda told the audience that the International Day for Biological Diversity serves as a vital reminder of humanity's deep dependence on the natural world. "Humans have a core responsibility to conserve biodiversity because our very survival depends on it," she stated. The Commissioner Secretary emphasized.

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Reasi administration reviews arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha celebrations

REASI, MAY 22: Additional Deputy Commissioner Reasi Rakesh Kumar today chaired a meeting to review arrangements for the Eid-ul-Azha festival to ensure smooth, peaceful and hassle-free celebrations across district Reasi. The meeting was attended by officers from various departments, including Police, Health, Jal Shakti, JPDC, Municipal Committees, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer



Affairs, Rural Development, Transport, Fire & Emergency Services and other concerned departments, besides representatives of religious organisations.

The ADC took a comprehensive review of arrangements related to security, uninterrupted power and drinking water supply, sanitation, healthcare facilities, traffic management and the availability.

Sakeena Ito reviews Education, Health sector scenario in Budgam Constituency

Calls for acceleration of works on ongoing developmental projects

SRINAGAR, MAY 22: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito held an extensive review of the education and health sector scenario in a meeting at Civil Secretariat here today. The meeting was attended by MLA Budgam, Aga Syed Mumtaz Mehd; Special Secretaries of School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare departments, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Health Services Kashmir,



Director Colleges, Director Planning/Director Finance of School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare departments, Additional Secretaries of all concerned departments, CMO Srinagar, CMO Budgam, CEO Budgam and other concerned officers. During the review meeting, the Minister took stock of the progress achieved under various schemes and assessed the status of infrastructure development works being executed across the constituency. She directed the officials to maintain close coordination and

ensure that projects are completed within stipulated timelines without compromising quality standards. Regarding Government Degree College, Soibugh, the Minister called for expediting the ongoing works so that the project is completed

timely and dedicated for public use, on all ongoing developmental projects to ensure timely public benefit. While reviewing other developmental aspects of the Budgam constituency, the Minister directed the concerned officers to priori-

tise all the issues raised by concerned public representative and take immediate steps for their timely redressal. She also stressed on resolving all the bottlenecks to make satellite campus of Maulana Azad National Urdu University func-

tional at permanent campus. While reviewing the healthcare sector, the Minister sought detailed updates regarding functioning of health institutions, availability of medical staff, medicines, diagnostic facilities and patient care services in the constituency. She instructed the concerned authorities to address gaps on priority and ensure that healthcare institutions remain fully equipped to cater to the needs of the public. She directed the health department for rationalisation of staff in health institutions of cities and towns to fill

gaps in rural and peripheral areas. While reviewing other aspects related to health sector, the Minister directed the officers of health department that diagnostic facilities like MRI, CT Scan, USG should be made functional 24x7 in hospitals and GMCs wherever these are available. She also directed the health department to submit a report regarding these facilities availed by patients beyond routine working hours in last one month. Emphasizing the government's commitment towards strengthening public service delivery, the Minister said.

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