

North in News

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Anyone in administration or public life connected to drug trade will face strict action: LG Sinha

SRINAGAR, MAY 23 : Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday warned of strict legal action against anyone, whether in the administration or in public life, connected to drug trafficking or lending support to it. Sinha joined 'padayatra' in Shopian district of south Kashmir as part of the anti-drugs campaign in Jammu and Kashmir. "Today I want to state unequivocally: whether an official or anyone in public life, if they are in any way connected to the drug network or lend it support,



they will face strict legal consequences. I assure the people that if even the slightest trace of this infection has seeped into our system, it will be mercilessly cut out without hesitation," the LG said.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said the collective resolve of the people to end the drug menace will herald a new era. "From every lane and bylane of UT, voices are rising in unison, demanding that not a single drug smuggler should be spared. What began 43 days ago in Jammu has now surged into a powerful grassroots movement, echoing across communities with unstoppable force," he said. Millions across Jammu and Kashmir are determined to eradicate narcotics-terrorism from this land of paradise, he said. "It is now firmly etched in the minds of our people that this is not a distant issue but a challenge confronting us at our very doorstep, one we must face head-on with courage and resolve," he

said. Sinha said the poison of drugs is diverting youths from the path of progress. He said terrorist groups use proceeds from drugs to buy weapons and then use them to spill the blood of ordinary Kashmiris. "By destroying the lives of our children, thousands of smugglers and narco-terrorists have built their own dark fiefdoms. Each brick of that sordid realm is being pulled down. The cup of suffering borne by the people at the hands of drug smugglers has overflowed; their collective cry of

(Contd on Pg 2)

International ties purposefully structured to serve India's Youth: PM Modi

PM distributes 51,000 appointment letters at 'Rozgar Mela'

NEW DELHI, May 23: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India's international partnerships are purposefully structured to serve the country's youth and leaders of global corporations, representing dozens of nations, have talked about India's youth and its technological advancement. After virtually distributing appointment letters for central government jobs to more than 51,000 youths at a Rozgar Mela, Modi also said the youth will play a crucial role in realising the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) in the



years to come. Sharing insights from his just-concluded five-country tour, the prime minister conveyed the excitement that leaders of global corporations, representing dozens of nations, had expressed about India's youth and its

technological advancement. "The world wants to be a part of India's development journey," he said. Modi made it clear that India's international partnerships are purposefully structured to serve its youth. "The purpose is that India's youth get employment and global exposure," he said. Elaborating on the diplomatic and economic outcomes of his visits to the UAE, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy, the PM outlined sector-specific agreements forged and dialogues held with each nation. He said

(Contd on Pg 2)

Education minister calls for adopting roadmap to curb drug abuse in educational institutions

SRINAGAR, MAY 22 : Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakeena Ito on Friday called for adopting comprehensive roadmap and awareness mechanism to curb drug abuse in educational institutions across the Union Territory. In a move to strengthen the fight against substance abuse in J-K, the minister for education called for adopting a comprehensive roadmap and awareness mechanism in all educational institutions and coaching centres across the UT to identify and prevent

drug abuse among the youth at an early stage, an official spokesman said. He said that while chairing a high-level review meeting on strengthening drug de-addiction, mental health awareness and rehabilitation measures here, the minister emphasised that the growing threat of drug addiction among young people demands a coordinated and society-wide response involving government departments, educational institutions, parents, civil society and healthcare professionals.

(Contd on Pg 2)

No power can stop India from being biggest exporter of weapons in 25-30 years: Rajnath

SHIRDI (Maharashtra), May 23 : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said no power can stop India, once considered an importer of weapons, from becoming the biggest exporter in 25-30 years. After inaugurating an ammunition manufacturing unit in Shirdi, Singh said a nation that makes its weapons writes its own destiny. He said the role of private players in defence manufacturing was negligible a few years back, which now stands at 25-30 per cent, while the government aims to increase it further to 50 per cent. "The



private sector is not just a supplier of nuts and bolts in defence, but also a producer of state-of-the-art weapons systems," he added. Singh said India was considered a weapons importer, but no power can now stop it from being the biggest exporter in 25-30

years. He said when the government's vision and the private sector's innovation align, then the country reaches new heights. During the rule of the British in East India Company, potassium nitrate was used as raw

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Governor stresses preservation of Himachal's Rich Dialect Heritage

SHIMLA, MAY 23: The Governor Kavinder Gupta today emphasized the need to preserve the rich linguistic and cultural heritage of Himachal Pradesh by documenting and promoting the various local dialects spoken across the State. He said that the dialects of Himachal reflect the identity, traditions and collective wisdom of its people and must be preserved for future generations through literary and written forms. The Governor was speaking during a meeting with senior author Dr. O.P. Sharma, who called on the Governor at Lok Bhavan, today. On the occasion, Dr.



O.P. Sharma presented his poetry collection titled 'Mhari Sochi' to the Governor. Dr. O.P. Sharma apprised the Governor about the dire need to preserve and promote the folk languages and dialects of Himachal Pradesh, which are gradually fading with

the passage of time. He expressed concern that many regional dialects are on the verge of extinction due to changing lifestyles and the declining use of native languages among the younger generation. He emphasized the urgent

(Contd on Pg 2)

BRIEF NEWS

229 youths receive appointment letters at Jammu Rozgar Mela
JAMMU, MAY 23 : The Jammu division of Northern Railway organised a Rozgar Mela on Saturday, during which 229 selected candidates from Jammu and Kashmir received appointment letters for various government jobs. The event was part of the Centre's mega employment drive aimed at inducting youth into government services through a transparent and merit-based recruitment process, officials said. More than 5,100 candidates were selected across the country in the latest recruitment round, including 229 from Jammu and Kashmir, they said. Divisional Railway Manager, Jammu, Vivek Kumar, and

(Contd on Pg 2)

Multiple properties in Srinagar, adjoining districts attached
SRINAGAR, MAY 23 : Multiple properties valued at around Rs 5 crore belonging to individuals allegedly involved in drug trafficking and related unlawful activities were attached across Srinagar and adjoining districts of Kashmir, police said on Saturday. The action was part of the intensified crackdown against narcotics networks under the ongoing 'Nasha Mukt J-K Abhiyan', a police spokesperson said. Investigations in these cases have revealed that the attached properties were acquired through proceeds generated from illicit drug trafficking, he said. Giving details, the spokesperson said

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Ladakh Set For A Major Clean Energy Boost As LG Extends ONGC Pact For Geothermal Power Project

LEH/JAMMU, MAY 23: Ladakh is set to take a significant step towards clean energy generation with Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena approving the setting up of India's first geothermal power project by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation at Puga valley in Ladakh, at an altitude of over 14,000 feet. LG approved a five-year extension of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation for the construction of the country's first geothermal power project, officials said. The project, to be developed at an



altitude of over 14,000 feet in eastern Ladakh, aims to commercially harness geothermal energy

as a sustainable alternative source of power, they said. The earlier tripartite MoU signed on February 6, 2021, between the Ladakh administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, and the ONGC energy centre expired on February 5, 2026. ONGC had sought an extension, citing delays caused by harsh weather conditions and difficult terrain, they said. Considering the strategic importance of the project, Saxena approved the extension of the agreement for another five years, officials said. Under the revised MoU, ONGC will

(Contd on Pg 2)

Future Wars Will Be Multi-Domain With Cyber And Cognitive Aspects, Says CDS Gen Chauhan



SHIRDI, MAY 23: Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Saturday said future wars will be multi-domain with land, sea, air, cyberspace, and cognitive warfare operating together, with technology, speed and innovation being important determinants of successful operations. Speaking at the inauguration of a defence manufacturing unit here in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district, General Chauhan said war, warfare and

methods of war are witnessing rapid changes. Asserting that modern warfare is not just based on manpower, conventional weapons or platform-centric operations, the top military officer said AI, drones, robotics, cyber systems, autonomous platforms, space technologies, precision strike weapons, and information dominance are giving a decisive shape to future wars. In the coming days,

(Contd on Pg 2)

Scorching days, restless nights: Heatwave tightens grip across parts of India

NEW DELHI, MAY 23 : Blistering heat and scorching summer winds swept across several parts of India on Saturday, pushing temperatures past 44 degrees Celsius in several regions. The punishing weather forced hospitals in Punjab to operationalise heat stroke management units, while the IMD issued a heatwave alert for three districts of Jharkhand for Monday. The extreme conditions have begun to strain not just people, but also animals and birds, with veterinarians and animal rescuers in Delhi reporting exhausted pigeons dropping unconscious from the sky, dehydrated eagles being picked up from roadsides, and street animals suffering from stomach toxicity amid the capital's relentless heatwave. Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguloti Srinivasa Reddy said 16 people have died in seven districts of the state due to heatwave conditions prevailing in the state during the current summer. He directed officials to



identify villages recording very high temperatures, issue heat alerts to such villages and ensure availability of drinking water, buttermilk, and ORS packets at public places and work sites. In Rajasthan, Chittorgarh emerged as the hottest place in the state in the last 24 hours at 44.2 degrees Celsius, as the meteorological department warned that temperatures were likely to rise further from Sunday, with severe heat-

(Contd on Pg 2)

Govt imposes spending curbs, restricts official events

SRINAGAR, MAY 23 : The Jammu and Kashmir government has announced a series of expenditure-control measures aimed at ensuring fiscal discipline, imposing restrictions on official functions, foreign travel, vehicle purchases, creation of new posts, and hiring of office spaces. In an order issued by the Finance Department, all departments have been directed to implement the measures with immediate effect. "Utmost economy shall be

observed in organising conferences, seminars, workshops, training programmes, and similar events. Such activities shall be undertaken only where absolutely necessary and after exploring virtual alternatives," the order said. It said holding exhibitions, fairs, seminars, conferences, and workshops outside the Union Territory is strongly discouraged, while meetings and conferences in private hotels and

(Contd on Pg 2)

Encounter breaks out in Rajouri during major search ops

JAMMU, MAY 23 : An encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists on Saturday following a major cordon-and-search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district after reports of suspected movement, officials said. According to preliminary reports, the movement of two to three terrorists was suspected in the area. "Today at around 11.30 AM, contact was established with terrorists in the general area of Gambhir Mughlan in Rajouri during an intelligence-based joint operation conducted along with Police and CRPF," the White Knight Corps said on X. It said that troops responded swiftly with bold action. "A firefight ensued, and a cordon has been effectively established. Operations, named 'Op Sheruwalli', remain underway," it said. According to officials, the cordon-and-search operation was launched in the Dormal-Gambhir Moghla belt following inputs

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FROM PAGE ONE

Anyone...

no more has risen into an unstoppable room," he said. He said that many parents across Jammu and Kashmir live under this shadow of fear, constantly worried that their family could be the next target of narco-terrorists.

"We must banish that fear completely and ensure safety for every household in the Union Territory," the LG said.

Sinha also highlighted that more than 7,000 women's movements have been formed in Jammu and Kashmir and it is now the administration's duty to empower these committees and ensure they can work effectively.

Giving details of the action against the drug network since the campaign began last month, the LG said that in the past 43 days, 797 FIRs have been registered and 894 drug smugglers and peddlers have been sent behind bars.

He said, "59 traffickers have been arrested under PIT-NDPS provisions; 81 narcotic pallets built with traffickers' black money have been demolished; 101 immovable properties have been attached and seized.

Sinha said 457 driving licenses have been suspended. Recommendations have been made to cancel passports of 22 smugglers and to cancel registrations of 606 vehicles.

"Large quantities of drugs have been seized. About 5,641 drug stores were inspected; licences of 268 stores were suspended or cancelled, and FIRs were filed against 6 drug stores," he informed.

A comprehensive rehabilitation policy is also being prepared, the LG said, adding that the aim is not only to free addicted youth through de-addiction programmes but also to reintegrate them into the mainstream by providing employment and jobs.

International...

discussions were held on semiconductors, water, agriculture and advanced manufacturing with the Netherlands; on cooperation in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital innovation with Sweden; on green technology and maritime cooperation with Norway; MoU signed on strategic energy and technology partnerships with the UAE; and agreements signed on defence, critical minerals and science and technology with Italy.

Modi underlined the long-range significance of these collaborations and said these are the sectors that will shape industries, defining global growth for the next 25 years.

Citing the ASMI-Tata Electronics agreement as a concrete example of India's growing stature as a trusted global supply chain partner, he pointed out that India is among only a handful of countries with which the Dutch semiconductor giant has signed an accord.

He said Sweden, with Sweden on AI and cooperation with the UAE on supercomputing would similarly bolster India's technological capabilities. "This AI-Tata Electronics agreement will well be creating thousands of new employment opportunities in India," he said.

Highlighting the rapid rise of clean energy, critical minerals, green hydrogen and sustainable manufacturing as sectors of immense opportunity, the PM noted that growing collaboration with Sweden, Norway and Italy in green transition and sustainable technology would position India strongly in the clean manufacturing industries of the future.

"These partnerships are opening the doors of a new economy and new opportunities," he said.

Pointing to accelerated work on ports, shipping and maritime infrastructure agreements, Modi observed that partnerships with the UAE and Norway would fortify India's shipbuilding ecosystem, directly expanding the horizon of opportunity for the country's engineers, technicians and skilled workers.

"New opportunities will be created for India's engineers, technicians and skilled workers," he said.

Noting that each new partnership simultaneously widens global connectivity for Indian startups, researchers and young professionals, the PM reflected on a world today that respects nations which innovate, build, and deliver at scale.

He concluded that India is advancing on all three fronts. "The greatest force behind this transition is India's youth, all of you," he said.

Welcoming the new entrants into government service, Modi underscored their imminent contribution to India's development across sectors, including railways, banking, defence, health and education. Honouring the dedication and rigorous preparation that brought the appointees to this milestone, the prime minister extended his heartfelt congratulations to each one of them.

Conveying the direct relevance of each international agreement to employment generation, Modi emphasised that every new investment, every technology partnership, and every industrial collaboration ultimately creates fresh opportunities for India's young people. Anchoring the moment within the larger national mission, he spoke of the collective resolve to build a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, affirming that cross-sectoral investment by the government is generating millions of new employment opportunities as a direct consequence of this ambition.

Describing India's rise as a major electronics manufacturer, Modi pointed to the Production Linked Incentive scheme as the engine driving record electronics production and generating millions of jobs for the youth, with the entire electronics value chain being built domestically.

He also alluded upon the newly appointed government employees to remain mindful of their role in facilitating business and enterprise. "Ease of Doing Business is a great priority for the country," he said.

Underlining the foundational role of infrastructure in driving employment generation and inclusive growth, the PM observed that the true dividend of national progress reaches its full potential only when villages, small towns and remote regions are integrated into the development fabric.

Celebrating the emergence of a new culture of self-employment and entrepreneurship across the country, he noted that India has become the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, with over 2.3 lakh recognised startups and that this transformation is no longer confined to metropolitan centres. He also noted that the youth from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities are entering the world of startups and innovation in large numbers, and that this movement has become an important component of the national economy. He further highlighted the growing and decisive role of India's women in this entrepreneurial surge.

In keeping with the prime minister's commitment to prioritising employment generation, the 'Rozgar Mela' is a major initiative aimed at translating this vision into a reality, officials said.

The 'Rozgar Mela' was held at 47 locations across the country on Saturday. The appointees, selected from all parts of India, will join various ministries and departments, including railways, home affairs, health and family welfare, and departments of financial services and higher education, among others. (Agencies)

JK education...

The meeting was attended by senior officers of various departments, representatives of Civil Society Forum, Private Schools Association, Un-aided Private Schools Association and Private Coaching Centres Association, prominent citizens, and other concerned stakeholders, he said.

Addressing the participants in the meeting, Ito directed the officers of school education, higher education and health departments to initiate structured awareness programmes in schools, colleges, universities and private coaching centres with the objective of early detection, timely counselling and rehabilitation of vulnerable students.

She stressed that preventive intervention and awareness at the grassroots level are essential to protect the younger generation from falling prey to narcotic substances.

"Educational institutions are not merely centres of learning but also platforms for shaping responsible and healthy citizens. We must ensure that our campuses remain completely free from the influence of drugs and tobacco," she said.

No power...

material to make gunpowder, and the company strengthened its military capability, Singh said.

He said India has come a long way as far as its defence industry is concerned.

Singh said while ordnance factories existed even before Independence and the defence industry is deeply rooted in the country, after Independence, there was no balance between the country's old capabilities and modern requirements.

This was because private players did not get the opportunities as sector was restricted to PSUs and ordnance factories, Singh said.

He listed steps undertaken by the Union government to increase private participation in the defence sector, including policy-related reforms and FDI liberalisation.

He said the government implemented a strategic partnership model, prepared a positive indigenisation list of 5,000 items, making it mandatory for armed forces to procure them in India. Young innovators, too, are being encouraged, Singh said.

On the defence manufacturing unit, Singh said a golden chapter of self-reliance is being written in India's defence and space sector.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also attended the event.

The factory at Shiridi is built on 200 acres of land. It is expected to generate employment for 2,000 people and support Medium, Small and Micro Industries. It will export defence equipment to other countries. Nibe Group chairman-managing director Ganesh Nibe had said.

The unit is Anjlyanagar district will manufacture artillery bombs, shells and support the aerospace segment.

The complex intends to develop advanced artillery systems, missile and space technologies, rocket systems, energetic materials, and autonomous defence platforms.

India's first 300 KM Universal Rocket Launching System 'Suryastra' was flagged off as part of the event. The foundation stone was also laid for a missile complex for the system.

The unveiling of indigenously TINT Plant Technology, RDX Plant Technology and Renewable Bio-Energy Compressed Biogas Plant took place during the ceremony, while an MOU was exchanged between the group and Black Sky for satellite assembly.

"We recognised the capabilities of the private sector as it can transform India into a global manufacturing hub," Singh said.

Singh said the outcome of future wars will be determined by the nation's advancements and capabilities in munitions and automation, and not by the size of its forces.

"Glimpses of this reality can be witnessed in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and West Asia situation. India demonstrated this capability in Operation Sindoor," he said.

He called for concerted efforts of all stakeholders to transform India into a global hub for munitions and automation. "We stand ready to take every necessary step to ensure India emerges as a frontrunner in munitions and automated systems," he stated.

Singh said the fundamental objective of technology is not to diminish capabilities of soldiers, but to augment them, and the final decision must always remain in human hands.

"Modern weaponry and automated systems are playing an increasingly significant role in future warfare. It is imperative for India to advance in this direction. Let us collectively pledge to make India fully self-reliant in defence and space technology," he said.

In today's world, 'security' and 'economy' can no longer be viewed in isolation, as a robust economy serves as the bedrock for a strong military and modern defence capabilities, he said.

"National security creates a stable environment conducive to investment, industrial growth, and overall development. However, we are currently witnessing the weaponisation of almost everything - from mobile supply chains to even rare earth minerals. In such times, we cannot remain dependent on others for our defence manufacturing needs," he said.

Atmanirbharta in defence production is not merely a requirement for war, but also a necessity for peace, development, and economic resilience, he added.

In his address, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis commended the Centre's Atmanirbhara Bharat and Make-in-India initiatives.

Operation Sindoor was a shining example of the unmatched bravery of Indian soldiers and the nation's growing indigenous defence capabilities, he said.

India's defence ecosystem has transformed due to the active and equal participation of the public and private sectors, he said.

India continues to enhance its strategic might, and is playing a constructive role in promoting global peace and stability, the CM said.

Singh and Fadnavis also visited the Saibaba shrine in Shiridi.

Governor...

need for collective efforts to document, encourage and preserve these local dialects through literature, academic research and cultural initiatives. She said that the rich linguistic heritage of Himachal Pradesh can be safeguarded for future generations while interacting with the author, Shri Kavinder Gupta said that Himachal Pradesh is known not only for its natural beauty but also for its vibrant folk traditions, languages and cultural diversity. He observed that local dialects such as Kangri, Mandiali, Kullibi, Sirimari, Kinnauri and others are an invaluable part of the State's cultural identity and should be encouraged through literature, research and academic documentation. The Governor said, "Languages and dialects are the soul of a society. Preserving our regional dialects in written form is essential to safeguard our cultural roots and pass on our rich heritage to the coming generations." He further said that literature plays a vital role in strengthening social values and cultural consciousness. Appreciating the literary contributions of writers and poets, he said that authors have an important responsibility in preserving regional traditions and promoting local languages through their creative work. Shri Gupta lauded the efforts of Dr. O.P. Sharma in promoting Himachali literature and wished him success in his future literary endeavours.

Ladakh...

including a 1-MW pilot geothermal power plant in the Puga valley and prepare a detailed project report (DPR) for large-scale commercial exploitation of geothermal resources in Ladakh. Geothermal energy is derived from heat stored beneath the Earth's surface and is considered a renewable and low-carbon source of power, they said.

"India currently does not have large-scale commercial geothermal power plant, making the proposed facility in Ladakh the first of its kind in the country."

Officials said ONGC Energy Centre will deepen the existing geothermal well 1,000 metres, during the 2026 working seasons and subsequently drill another well of similar depth in the next phase of the project. Testing, evaluation and commissioning of the pilot plant are expected during the 2026-27 financial year, they said.

The second phase of the project will involve surveys and geothermal investigations in the Chumathang area, followed by drilling activities and preparation of a DPR for commercial-scale geothermal development.

The Puga Valley and Chumathang regions lie within the Himalayan geothermal belt, known for intense underground heat generated by tectonic activity, they said.

A test well drilled in Puga Valley has already tapped high-pressure steam and hot fluids, producing temperatures exceeding 200 degrees Celsius at a depth of around 400 metres, officials said.

The geothermal initiative, alongside Ladakh's expanding solar energy programme, is expected to reduce dependence on conventional fuels, cut carbon emissions and strengthen the Union Territory's position as a renewable energy hub.

The geothermal energy project in Puga Valley has the potential to become a game changer for Ladakh and a landmark initiative in India's clean energy journey. Sustainably harnessing geothermal energy will strengthen Ladakh's energy security and contribute significantly to the vision of making the region carbon-neutral and environmentally sustainable," Saxena said.

Officials said ONGC successfully drilled the first geothermal well to a depth of 405 metres in 2025 despite challenging terrain and weather conditions, making it the deepest geothermal well drilled in Ladakh so far.

Geothermometric studies and analysis of geothermal samples have indicated subsurface temperatures exceeding 240 degrees Celsius, considered suitable for power generation. The proposed pilot plant is expected to operate at a turbine inlet temperature of around 200 degrees Celsius and generate about 1 MW of electricity, they added.

Govt...

commercial vehicles have been completely banned.

Government buildings, conference halls, and other available government infrastructure must invariably be used for such purposes, it added.

The government also strongly discouraged the purchase of new vehicles, stating that exceptional cases involving critical operational requirements may be considered only with the concurrence of the Finance Department and subject to replacement against condemned vehicles with a 20 per cent reduction in fleet strength.

"Departments shall ensure that condemned vehicles are auctioned and the auction proceeds deposited as Miscellaneous Revenue before submission of any proposal for replacement vehicles," the order said.

Departments have also been directed to ensure optimal utilisation and pooling of available government vehicles and avoid deployment beyond functional necessity to promote economy in fuel consumption and maintenance expenditure.

The order further imposed a ban on foreign travel unless specific approval is obtained from the Finance Department.

"Departments shall make effective use of video conferencing and virtual platforms for meetings, consultations, and reviews to minimise avoidable travel expenditure. However, within the country, all official travel shall be only by Economy Class irrespective of entitlement if need arises," it said.

As part of fuel and energy conservation measures, the order said unnecessary use of official vehicles, generators, air-conditioning systems, lighting, and other energy-consuming equipment shall be discouraged.

"Officials shall ensure optimum utilisation of transport arrangements and reduction in avoidable movement of official vehicles. Travel within the UT shall be preferred by road or rail for all officers/officials," it said.

No new office accommodation shall be hired without prior concurrence of the Finance Department and certification by the concerned department regarding non-availability of suitable government accommodation, it ordered.

The order also stated that no furniture shall be procured except in accordance with established offices and only with the concurrence of the Finance Department.

Advising departments to adopt a digital-first approach in official functioning, the order said physical meetings, printing of bulky documents, physical circulation of files, and available paper consumption shall be minimised through maximum use of e-Office, video conferencing, and digital communication platforms.

The government also put a complete ban on official dinners, lunches, receptions, and similar hospitality functions except those hosted by the lieutenant governor and the chief minister.

Ascertaining that no new posts shall be created, the government said filling up of regular posts shall be undertaken only through the prescribed recruitment agencies and with the concurrence of the Finance Department.

Departments shall identify posts remaining vacant for more than two years and such posts shall be ordinarily be revised except under rare and unavoidable circumstances and with prior clearance from the Finance Department, the order added.

Future...

technology, speed and innovation will be important determinants of successful operations, he said.

"Future will be multi-domain where land, sea, cyberspace, cognitive warfare, and air will operate together. Battlefields will not be limited to geographical space, but to information networks, digital ecosystems and cyber infrastructure," the CDS said. In such a scenario, national security is not just dependent on the courage of soldiers, sailors and air warriors but also on technological ecosystem, industrial capability, manufacturing strength and innovation capacity, Chauhan said. Any country that innovates, speeds up production and whose armed forces adapt fast will have strategic advantage, the CDS added.

Speaking at the event, Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) chairman Satish Kamat said the need for any organisation, as seen in recent times, is ability to produce weapons and ammunition in the ongoing war, for which one need needs production capacity.

A plant like this, which will produce five lakh 155 mm artillery shells, will go a long way in making the country self-reliant in this very critical capability, Kamat opined.

This facility will go a long way in making the country 'Atmanirbhara' (self-reliant) in a very critical area, the DRDO chief said.

Scorching...

strong winds, thunderstorms, and light rain early morning, bringing temporary relief to parts of the city after days of scorching heat.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned that temperatures across Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh are likely to rise further from Sunday onwards.

The heat's impact in the national capital has extended beyond humans to animals. Veterinarians and rescuers say that distress calls involving birds and stray animals suffering from dehydration, heat strokes, and infections have risen sharply over the past few weeks as temperatures and extreme temperatures continue to batter Delhi and the NCR.

Delhi has been reeling under heatwave conditions over the past few days, with temperatures crossing the 45 degrees Celsius mark in several areas.

City's doctors, hospitals across Delhi-NCR are witnessing a rise in patients reporting heat-related ailments, including eye irritation, dehydration-induced headaches, and heat-triggered neurological symptoms.

In Punjab and Haryana, intense hot weather conditions prevailed. Rohtak in Haryana registered a maximum temperature at 44.1 degrees Celsius, while Punjab's Bathinda sizzled at 43.8 degrees Celsius.

Among other places in Punjab, Amritsar recorded a high of 40.5 degrees Celsius, while Ludhiana's maximum was 41.2 degrees Celsius.

Chandigarh, the common capital of the two states, recorded a high of 40.6 degrees Celsius.

In Haryana, Ambala's maximum was 41.2 degrees Celsius, while Hisar's maximum settled at 42.4 degrees Celsius.

Punjab Health Minister Dr Babir Singh has directed the government hospitals to operationalise dedicated heat stroke management units with active cooling measures, including ice packs and cold IV fluids, and essential medical supplies.

Singh said that his department has already taken proactive steps to prepare facilities and the workforce to prevent, mitigate, and manage the impacts of extreme heat. Essential medical supplies, such as ORS and emergency drugs, are well-stocked at every public health facility, he said in a statement.

The minister further noted that ambulance preparedness has been strengthened to provide pre-hospital cooling during transit.

In Himachal Pradesh, the Shimla meteorological centre has issued a yellow warning for heatwave conditions in parts of the state on May 26 and 27, with districts including Una, Bilaspur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Solan, and Sirmaur likely to be affected. It also forecast a fresh wet spell and thunderstorms in several parts of the state over the next few days under the influence of a weak low pressure system.

In Jharkhand, the IMD issued a heatwave alert for the north-western districts of Garhwa, Palamu, and Chatra for Monday, while several other districts are likely to experience thunderstorms, lightning, and moderate rainfall over the next six days beginning May 24.

An orange alert has also been issued for rain in north-eastern and some central districts, especially Dhanbad, for Sunday.

In view of the prevailing heatwave-like conditions across the state, Chief Minister Hemanth Soren, in a post on X, ordered all government officials and panchayat representatives to ensure proper arrangements for drinking water outside their offices and at public places for people.

In Uttar Pradesh, Congress leader and MP Kishor Lal Sharma wrote to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath seeking immediate intervention regarding the deteriorating power supply situation in the Aameta parliamentary constituency amid heatwave conditions.

In his May 21 text, Sharma said residents have been facing prolonged and unsheduled power cuts for several days during the intense summer heat, adversely affecting farmers, students, traders and the general public. He said repeated outages were disrupting daily life, while irrigation activities in agricultural fields were also hit.

With heatwave conditions intensifying across several parts of the country, doctors are warning that prolonged exposure to high temperatures may adversely affect not only physical well-being but also eye and neurological functioning, especially among children, senior citizens and people with pre-existing medical conditions.

Encounter...

the presence of suspected terrorists in the area.

A joint team of the police, Army and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) cordoned off the area and launched extensive searches, they said.

Additional reinforcements have been deployed to the scene, and the operation was continuing when reports last came in, officials informed.

229 youths...

Recruitment Board Jammu Chairman Sanjay Tyagi distributed appointment letters to the selected candidates at the Convention Centre here.

The programme commenced with Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing newly recruited candidates across the country through video conferencing.

In his address, Modi said the occasion reflected a renewed commitment towards empowering the youth and building a developed India, while highlighting transparency in government recruitment.

Following the virtual interaction, officials said appointment letters were distributed to candidates selected for various posts in banks, the armed forces, medical services, railways and departments of the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

Addressing the gathering, Kumar said the youth of Jammu and Kashmir possess talent and that initiatives such as the Rozgar Mela provide them with opportunities to contribute to nation-building.

He said India Railways remains committed to generating employment opportunities and supporting public welfare initiatives in the region.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation.

Multiple...

police attached two residential properties -- a single-storey and another double-storey housing -- belonging to Bilal and Ahsan Ahmad Sheikh, both residents of the Lalbal Beerwah area of Budgam district.

"The two are named in FIR No. 37/2024 U/S (under section) 8/20 NDPS Act of Police Station Suddar Srinagar," he said.

The properties, valued at approximately Rs 30 lakh and Rs 50 lakh respectively, were attached under Section 80(F) of the NDPS Act after completion of due legal formalities, he said.

Section 80(F) grants investigating officers the authority to seize or freeze properties suspected of being illegally acquired through drug trafficking.

In another action, the spokesperson said that police attached a double-storey residential house belonging to Subba Farooq Khan, a resident of Mini Colony, Chanaopon, involved in FIR No. 15/2023 U/S 8/21 NDPS Act of Police Station Chanaopon.

The property, valued at approximately Rs one crore, was attached under Section 68(F) of the NDPS Act, he said.

The Srinagar Police also attached a three-storey residential house belonging to Mohsin Ibrahim Naqash, a resident of Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, involved in FIR No. 42/2026 U/S 8/21, 29 NDPS Act of Police Station Suddar Srinagar, the spokesperson said.

The property, valued at approximately Rs one crore, was attached under Section 68(F) of the NDPS Act, he added.

In another major action, the spokesperson said, Srinagar Police attached a three-storey residential house belonging to Farhan Manzoor Pandey, a resident of Kussoon, Rajbagh, involved in FIR No. 18/2024 U/S 8/21 NDPS Act of Police Station Rajbagh.

The attached property has an estimated market value of approximately Rs 50 lakh.

Additionally, Police Station Karan Nagar attached a double-storey residential house belonging to Fayaz Ahmad Rather, a resident of Pater Mohalla area of Handwara district, involved in FIR No. 01/2025 U/S 8/21, 29 NDPS Act and Section 111 BNS, he said.

The attachment proceedings were conducted strictly in accordance with legal provisions as part of the ongoing anti-drug campaign, the spokesperson said.

In a separate action, Srinagar Police attached a double-storey residential house situated at Bakshibada, Bemina, belonging to Abid Hassan Dar, a resident named in FIR No. 18/2022 of Police Station Batmaloo under sections 8/21, 29, 27-A NDPS Act and sections 468, 471, 473 IPC, he said.

The property, valued at approximately Rs 1.7 crore, was attached under sections 68-F(1) and 68-E of the NDPS Act for alleged forfeiture of illegally acquired property, he added.

DC Kathua reviews progress under Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan 2.0

Seeks focus on convergence, timely completion, portal-based reporting of works

KATHUA, MAY 23: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting here at the DC Office Complex to review the progress of Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan (JSJB) 2.0 in the district. The meeting was attended by ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma; DFO Kathua Ankit Sinha; CPO Ranjeet Thakur; SE Hydraulic; SDM Hiranagar; ACD; ACP; CAO; CHO; XEN PHE; XEN Irrigation; CEO Municipal Council Kathua, EOs of Lakhnampur and Billwara and other concerned officers. The meeting was informed that under the previous phase of the campaign, 499 water conservation works were identified, of which 484 have been completed and 15 are under progress. It was further informed that during the current phase, 40 works have been taken up, including



03 Rain Water Harvesting structures, 32 Soak Pits, 02 Village Ponds, 01 Check Dam and 02 other water harvesting interventions. Of these, 36 works have been completed while 04 are in progress. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for effective inter-departmental coordination to achieve the objectives of the cam-

aign. He directed stakeholder departments to ensure timely completion of ongoing works and stressed the importance of proper geo-tagging, documentation and prompt uploading of completed works on the designated portal for accurate accounting and monitoring of district activities. The DC directed the Jal Shakti Department

to continue geo-tagging of water sources, recharge structures and extend technical support to Panchayats for identification of water conservation interventions. The Agriculture Department was asked to promote water-efficient farming practices, micro-irrigation and awareness regarding water-saving crops. The Irrigation and Flood Control Department was instructed to focus on watershed management, rejuvenation of water bodies, desilting operations and creation of recharge structures. The Rural Development Department was asked to leverage MGNREGA for development of rainwater harvesting structures, soak pits, village ponds and grey water management facilities, besides generating awareness through Gram Sabhas.

DC reviews progress of HADP, JKICP & other credit-linked schemes in Udhampur



UDHAMPUR, MAY 23: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Mingsha Sherpa today chaired a review meeting with officers of line departments and representatives of the banks to assess the progress achieved under the HADP, JKICP and other credit-linked schemes in the district. At the outset, the Chief Agriculture Officer presented a comprehensive overview of the depart-

mental performances, highlighting implementation status, establishment and tracking of units, financial utilization, Kisan Khidmat Ghar registrations, credit flow under HADP including applications and sanctions, soil health card schemes and the status of JKICP applications in terms of coverage and approvals. Reviewing the implementation of HADP & JKICP, the Deputy Commissioner

examined the loan applications (proposals) received, approved, pending and rejected, besides those ready for DLC consideration across the sectors of Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Sheep Husbandry. The DC directed the concerned departments and banking institutions to widen outreach to enable each and every farmer in the district to avail benefits from these schemes. Emphasizing the importance of awareness and accessibility, the DC directed the departments to organise block-level credit outreach camps to educate farmers about beneficiary-oriented schemes and financial assistance opportunities.

MVD Rajouri conducts extensive vehicle checking drive; issues 16 challans, seizes 4 vehicles

RAJOURI, MAY 23: The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Rajouri conducted an extensive vehicle checking drive today under the supervision of ARTO Ashiq Rafiq Malik. A total of 70 vehicles were checked. The enforcement team issued 16 challans for violation of different sections, while 4 vehicles were seized for serious violations. The expected amount of penalty from the challans stands at Rs 50,400. Further, 2 Driving Licences (DLs) were recommended for suspension for violation of traffic rules. The ARTO also interacted with passengers to verify the fare being charged by the transporters. The passengers were urged to report any instance of



overcharging or violation of transport norms to the concerned authorities. The violations detected during the drive included driving without Driving Licence, overloading, operating vehicles without Speed Limiting Device (SLD), unauthorized vehicle alteration, riding without helmet, driving without prescribed uniform, dangerous driving and defiance of lawful directions. The ARTO reiterated that strict enforcement drives shall continue to ensure road safety, promote traffic discipline and curb violations endangering public safety.

Secretary DLSA Udhampur reviews working of TLSCs, Legal Aid Clinics

UDHAMPUR, MAY 23: In compliance with the directions of the Member Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Udhampur, organized a review meeting here today to review the working of Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA and officials of the Tisli Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) of Ramnagar, Majalta and Chenani. The meeting was held in physical mode here at the Conference Hall, District Court Complex, while the Chairpersons of the respective TLSCs joined virtually. The review was conducted under the guidance of Chairperson, District Legal Services Authority and Principal District & Sessions Judge Udhampur Kalpana Revu and under the overall supervision of Secretary DLSA Sumati Sharma. The Secretary DLSA convened the



meeting and outlined its objectives. The session focused on assessing ongoing outreach activities, evaluating the impact of legal awareness programmes, reviewing case referrals and following up procedures and identifying obstacles to effective service delivery at the grassroots level. The Secretary sought the progress reports from PLVs on legal aid out-

reach, awareness camps and beneficiary identification, besides assessing the case referral mechanisms and coordination between PLVs, TLSC officials and Legal Aid Defence Counsels. Stress was laid on proper record keeping, while assessing the standard of documentation and procedures for timely reporting to DLSA. Capacity building and proposed

training programmes for PLVs and TLSC staff also came up for discussion. Measures being taken to ensure confidentiality, ethical conduct and sensitivity while dealing with undertrial and indigent clients were also assessed. The PLVs and TLSC officials from Ramnagar, Majalta and Chenani presented district level experiences, highlighting local challenges, such as logistical constraints and community awareness gaps. They proposed practical solutions to improve outreach and case management. The virtual participation of TLSC Chairpersons facilitated strategic input and ensured alignment between local committees and DLSA priorities. The Secretary DLSA outlined the plans for a Special Lok Adalat focused on cases under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act and directed stakeholders to maximize case disposal during the event.

DC Doda reviews disaster preparedness of departments ahead of Monsoon season

DODA, MAY 23: Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the district's readiness for handling emergencies arising due to heavy rainfall, flash floods, landslides, road blockades and other weather-related incidents ahead of monsoon season. The meeting was convened in view of the upcoming high-level review by the Chief Secretary, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, scheduled for May 25, 2026. The DC stressed the need for timely prepared-



ness, inter-departmental coordination and quick response mechanisms to minimize risks and ensure public safety across vulnerable areas of the district. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed in detail the preparedness and arrangements related to pre-flood emergency services, avail-

ability of rescue machinery and emergency response infrastructure in the district. The meeting discussed the availability and procurement requirements of essential rescue and disaster-prone areas for prompt restoration and rescue operations," the DC emphasized. The Deputy Commissioner directed PWD (R&B), PMGSY, NHIDCL, BRO and other stakeholders to prepare and submit detailed contingency plans regarding deployment of machinery and manpower on roads vulnerable to landslides and blockades. The PWD department informed that emergency response cells have already been established for ensuring immediate availability of machinery during emergencies. Directions were also issued to the Power Development Department to prepare a comprehensive disaster response plan and ensure advance.

CEO Doda conducts 2-day inspection tour of Bhallessa Zone

DODA, MAY 23: Chief Education Officer Doda Bhusan Kumar Pathak undertook a two-day inspection tour of the Bhallessa Zone to review the academic functioning and infrastructural status of educational institutions in the region. The CEO inspected PM SHRI High School Kahara, CSAM Higher Secondary School Kihlotran, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyaya (KGBV) Changa, PM SHRI High School Alni, Higher Secondary School Kahajusar, PM SHRI High School Gangota and Higher Secondary School Chanti. A comprehensive review meeting was held at Higher Secondary School Kihlotran, which was attended by Cluster Heads



and Headmasters of High Schools. The meeting deliberated on rationalization of staff, land-related matters and the effective implementation of initiatives under the Vidya Samiksha Kendra. Human resource management in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also figured prominently in the discussions. Additionally, the CEO assessed attendance, academic standards, staff availability and infrastructural facilities in the institutions. He interacted with students, faculty and general public, listening to their concerns and suggestions. The CEO issued necessary directions wherever deficiencies were observed and underscored the importance of continuous monitoring and improvement to ensure better educational standards.

SDRF Team conducts disaster management awareness Session at GGHS Pul Doda

DODA, MAY 23: A Disaster Management Awareness Session was successfully organized today at Government Girls High School Pul Doda by the SDRF Team Doda to educate students and staff about disaster preparedness, emergency response techniques and safety measures during natural and man-made disasters. The programme was conducted under the guidance and supervision of the Headmaster Indu Bhusan, who appreciated the initiative and highlighted the importance of awareness among students regarding disaster management and public safety.



The SDRF team provided detailed information about first aid, fire-fighting methods, rescue operations and precautionary measures to be adopted during emergencies such as earthquakes, landslides, floods and fire incidents. The trainers emphasized the importance of timely response, presence of mind and community coordination in minimizing risks and saving lives during disaster situations.

DIET Kishtwar showcases Young Scientific Talent at District-Level RSBVP 2025-26

Event promotes STEM Innovation, Plastic-Free Future

KISHTWAR, MAY 23: Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Kishtwar today organized 53rd District-Level Rajya Stariya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshini (RSBVP) 2025-26 along with a one-day seminar on the theme "Reducing Plastic Pollution". The programme was held under the theme "STEM for Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat" with the objective of promoting scientific temper, innovation, crea-



ativity and environmental awareness among students. A total 40 exhibits/models were displayed at the district-level exhibition under seven different thematic areas, while eight participants competed in the seminar on "Reducing Plastic Pollution". Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal attended the programme as the Chief Guest. Chief Education Officer Sanjay Dogra was the Special Guest, while Principal GHSS Boys Kishtwar Ashok Kumar and Principal GHSS Chatroo Vinod Kumar were Guests of Honour. Addressing the gathering, the ADC (Chief Guest) appreciated DIET Kishtwar for providing a vibrant platform to young students to showcase their scientific aptitude and

innovative ideas. He emphasized the importance of STEM education in building a developed and self-reliant India and underlined the collective responsibility towards reducing plastic pollution and protecting the environment. "Today's theme, 'STEM for Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat', reflects the vision of empowering students through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics so that they become innovative, creative and self-reliant citizens of the nation.

Indian Army organized a lecture on "How to join the Armed Forces"

Rajouri: 23 May 2026
The Indian Army organised a lecture on "How to Join the Armed Forces" at Government Higher Secondary School, Samote, Rajouri, on 22 May 2026. The event was conducted with the aim of motivating and guiding the youth towards joining the Armed Forces and serving the nation with honour and pride. The session provided detailed information on various entry schemes, eligibility criteria, selection procedures, training opportunities, career growth and life in the Armed Forces. The role of the Armed Forces in safeguarding the nation, maintaining peace and serving humanity during



ing natural disasters and other challenging situations was also highlighted. Students were encouraged to set clear goals, remain focused, maintain physical and mental fitness and work hard with dedication to achieve success. Joining the Armed Forces not only offers a prestigious career but also instils discipline, leadership, integrity and a spirit of

selfless service. The session inspired the students to dream big and contribute towards the security, unity and progress of the nation. The students and teachers expressed their sincere gratitude to the Indian Army for organising such an informative programme and motivating the youth of remote areas to aspire for a bright and purposeful future.

Omar Govt Runs on Public Trust; will complete its full Constitutional term: Rattan Lal Gupta

Jammu, May 23: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, on Saturday scoffed at those daydreaming about the fall of the Omar Abdullah-led government, saying such wishful thinkers would be better off "biting their nails" because the elected dispensation is here to serve and win the confidence of the people and will complete its full constitutional term. Addressing the One Day Convention at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu today, Rattan Lal Gupta said the government enjoys the people's mandate and



remains unfazed by what he termed as "corridor conspiracies and caffeine-table calculations" of the opposition. "Those writing premature political obituaries are merely indulging in political fiction," he remarked, asserting that the Omar government stands firm on both numbers and public confidence. The One Day Convention

was convened by OBC Cell Chairman Abdul Gani Teli who highlighted the demands and problems of the OBC community regarding their separate counting of OBC in the forthcoming census process. Speaking about the party's continued commitment towards backward classes, Gupta said, "While others reduced backward

classes to election-time rhetoric, the National Conference government turned social justice into policy and empowerment into action. From protecting reservations to opening doors of education, employment and political representation, NC has stood as a bulwark for the aspirations and dignity of marginalized communities across Jammu and Kashmir." Addressing the Convention Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu supported the demands of the OBC in toto and emphasized that the National Conference stands guarantee to the development and welfare of these OBC communities. He urged the party workers to gear up for the upcoming Panchayat and Urban local bodies elections. Among others who were present in the Convention included: Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu, D.D Mehra District President Jammu Urban OBC Cell, Prem Kumar District President Jammu Rural "B" OBC Cell, Yash Pal Verma District President Samba OBC Cell, Vijay Kumar District President Kathua OBC Cell, Inayatullah District Udhampur Rural OBC Cell, Hum Kum Chand Udhampur.

Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Dr. Karwani inaugurates Free Medical Camp of PHF.

JAMMU, J&K — May 23, 2026 — The People's Hut Foundation (PHF), in a joint collaboration with the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation (M) J&K, successfully hosted a comprehensive "Free Multi-Specialty Medical Camp" today at the Samaj Sudhar Community Hall in Durga Nagar, Jammu. Designed to deliver high-quality, accessible healthcare to vulnerable populations, the initiative successfully served 162 patients, with a specialized focus on providing care to the elderly, women, and children in the region. The camp was officially inaugurated by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), Dr. Arvind Karwani, and Deputy Commissioner (M), Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma. The ceremony was graced by several prominent dignitaries, including Sh. Kiran Watal (Convener, Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj), Sh. M.K Yogi (Senior K.P Leader), Padmasini Sh. Brij Lal Bhat, Sh. Ramesh Hangloo (MD, Radio Sharda), Sh. Anand Bhat (Bureau Chief, PTI), Prof. Sh. A.N Sadhu (President, Samaj Sudhar



Committee), Sh. Shiban Dhar (Gen. Secy., Samaj Sudhar Committee), Sh. Kamal Ganjoo, Sh. Vinod Pandita, Prof. G.L Koul, and Vishal Jyotshi. During his address, Chief Guest Dr. Karwani urged residents to fully utilize the available services. He noted that the overwhelming community response highlights a critical need to bridge the gap between specialized healthcare facilities and the communities that struggle to access them, assuring continued government support for future initiatives catering to the underprivileged. Through a powerful collabor-

ative effort, the local population was provided access to a wide array of specialist consultations. Comprehensive services included internal medicine and general physicians, orthopedics, dentistry, diagnostic testing, ophthalmology, and the distribution of free Ayush Jammu & Kashmir. Echoing this sentiment, Guest of Honor Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma emphasized that such endeavors provide immediate medical relief while simultaneously strengthening the bond and fostering trust between local communities and non-profit organizations.

CBP on Disaster Management Hosted at Rich Harvest School



Jammu, May 23: RHS successfully hosted a Capacity Building Programme (CBP) on Disaster Management under the aegis of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from educators and aimed Jammu Cantt, and Ms Anveet Budhrajia Vice Principal, Jammu Sanskrit conducted highly informative and interactive sessions on disaster preparedness, mitigation strategies and emergency response mechanisms. Their engaging pre-

sentations to the resource persons and participants. She emphasised the importance of preparedness, safety awareness and timely response in educational institutions. The resource persons for the programme, Ms Mammet Kour, Vice Principal, Army Public School Jammu Cantt, and Ms Anveet Budhrajia Vice Principal, Jammu Sanskrit conducted highly informative and interactive sessions on disaster preparedness, mitigation strategies and emergency response mechanisms. Their engaging pre-

parative style and practical insights made the sessions enriching and impactful for all participants. Addressing the gathering, Advocate Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, Managing Director, highlighted the crucial role of educators in fostering resilience, awareness and responsible action among students to ensure a safer and more prepared school community. The programme concluded successfully with active participation, collaborative discussions and positive feedback.

Yajna is supreme path to universal welfare: Swami Ram Swarup at Ved Mandir, Yol

Yol, Himachal Pradesh, May 23, 2026: On the 42nd day of the ongoing 78-day Yajna of the four Vedas at Ved Mandir, Yol, Swami Ram Swarup Ji, Yogacharya, explained the essence of Yajurveda Mantra 1/2 to devotees and described Yajna Karma as the supreme deed of the world. "Yajna is the deed that benefits all creation and leads one to the Supreme Lord. It showers all happiness and is highly praiseworthy," Swami Ram Swarup said. He noted that in the mantra, God instructs: "O learned ones and Yajmans! Never abandon this Yajna Karma that sustains the world and grants supreme happiness." By following this divine command, he said, we can attain true happiness in life. Explaining the science of Agnihotra, he said that when fragrant, nutritious, germicidal, and sweet substances are offered with Vedic mantras into the blazing fire of the Haven Kund, they transform into a very subtle form. These particles stabilize in the air and sunrays, spread across the universe, purify the atmosphere, and cause pure rainfall. Such pure rain gives us pure



water, which in turn yields pure crops, grains, and fruits. Consuming them makes our children pure in intellect and strong in body, thereby strengthening the nation. Swami Ram Swarup added that this sacred teaching was also given by Lord Shri Krishna in Bhagavad Gita, Shloka 3/14. "Bhagwan Shri Krishna and Shri Ram performed Yajna/Agnihotra throughout their lives and, walking the path of the Vedas, nourished and sustained the entire earth," he said. He expressed concern that in the present age, people are distressed because they do not adopt these ideals in life. Referring again to Yajurveda 1/2, he said the mantra declares that Yajna sustains.

Shiv Sena Demands Inclusion of Petrol and Diesel Under GST

Jammu, May 23: Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasab Thackeray) Jammu & Kashmir unit has termed the continuous hike in petrol and diesel prices as an "economic burden" on the common people and demanded that petroleum products be immediately brought under the GST regime. J&K unit chief Manish Sahni, in a statement issued on Friday, said that three fuel price hikes within the last ten days have badly affected the common public. He stated that the rise in petrol and diesel prices does not impact only vehicle owners, but also increases transportation costs, leading to higher prices of ration, vegetables,



milk, medicines, and other essential commodities, thereby directly fuelling inflation in every household. Sahni said that agricultural activities, threshing operations, crop transportation, and preparations for upcoming sowing seasons are currently underway in many parts of the country, where diesel is extensively used. In such a

questioning the Centre's "One Nation, One Tax" policy, Sahni said that if the government genuinely believes in this principle, then petrol and diesel should also be brought under the GST framework without further delay. Manish Sahni stated that bringing petroleum products under GST could reduce fuel prices across the country by nearly Rs.25 to 30 per litre. He said this would provide direct relief to the common people, help control inflation, and reduce the prices of transportation and essential commodities. Shiv Sena (UBT) demanded that petrol and diesel be immediately included under GST and that the heavy taxes imposed on fuel be reduced. Sahni warned that if the government fails to provide relief to the public, Shiv Sena (UBT) would be compelled to launch a massive public agitation on the streets.

JMC conducts special sanitation drive at Deeli Pond in Ward No. 55

JAMMU, MAY 23: As part of the ongoing CLEAN JAMMU GREEN JAMMU campaign launched by the Jammu Municipal Corporation, a special sanitation drive was conducted today at Deeli area in Ward No. 55. The drive was undertaken by the Health and Sanitation Wing of JMC with the objective of improving sanitation standards, preserving water bodies and promoting environmental sustainability in the area. During the drive, extensive cleaning operations were carried out inside the pond as well as in the adjoining surroundings. The sanitation workers removed accumulated waste, weeds, silt and other pollutants from the water body and nearby areas to restore cleanliness and improve the overall environment. The drive also aimed at spreading awareness among the



local residents regarding the importance of keeping water bodies clean and preventing the dumping of waste into ponds and drains. The wet waste collected was sent to Bandurakh for composting. To encourage and boost the morale of the sanitation workers engaged in the operation, Dr. Devansh

Yadav personally visited the site and reviewed the progress of the sanitation drive. He interacted with the workers and appreciated their dedicated efforts towards maintaining cleanliness and hygiene across Jammu city. The Commissioner also issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned

officers to ensure regular cleaning and maintenance of ponds and other public spaces under the jurisdiction of the Corporation. While reviewing the sanitation works, the Commissioner stressed upon the need for maintaining high standards of cleanliness in view of the upcoming Swachh Survekshan 2025-26. He directed all officials and field functionaries to intensify sanitation activities across all wards and ensure proper waste management, regular desilting of drains and upkeep of public spaces throughout the city. The Commissioner further stated that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is fully committed towards achieving the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission and making Jammu a clean, green and environmentally sustainable city.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
GOVT. HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL SALLAN
ZONE SALLAN, DISTRICT KATHUA

No:JSS/S/ 142 Date: 22.05.2026

AUCTION NOTICE
It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the following unserviceable and condemned articles of Govt. Higher Secondary School Sallan are proposed to be disposed of through open auction on 26.05.2026 at 11:00 AM sharp in the school premises. Interested persons may inspect the articles during office hours before the auction date and participate in the auction.
The auction shall be conducted on "as is where basis is," and the highest bidder shall have to deposit the auction amount on the spot. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason.

List of articles to be auctioned

1. Non-Woven Fabric Mat
2. Plastic Water Tank
3. Trunks
4. Steel Almirah
5. Ceiling Fans
6. Stabilizer
7. Broken Plastic Chairs
8. Broken Iron Frame of Chairs
9. Iron Karooware Stove
10. Iron Chairs
11. Plastic Stool
12. Street Light
13. Plastic Buckets
14. Termite-Eaten Wooden Material

Place of Auction: Govt. Higher Secondary School Sallan
Date & Time of Auction: 26.05.2026 at 11:00 AM

Sd/-
Principal
Govt. Higher Secondary School

DIP/J-2550/26

Rozgar Mela brings joy to 229 families at Jammu Convention Centre

Appointment letters distributed to selected youth as PM Modi calls upon youngsters to contribute towards 'Viksit Bharat'

Jammu: In a significant initiative aimed at empowering youth and strengthening employment opportunities, a grand Rozgar Mela was organised at the Convention Centre, Jammu, on Friday under the Government of India's nationwide employment generation campaign.

The event witnessed an atmosphere of enthusiasm and celebration as 229 selected candidates received appointment letters for various government services, marking a major milestone in their professional journeys.



Divisional Railway Manager, Jammu, Vivek Kumar attended the programme as the Chief Guest, while Chairman, Railway Recruitment Board Jammu, Sanjay Tyagi was also present on the dais.

The ceremony began with the traditional lamp-lighting and the National Anthem, followed by a virtual address by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who interacted with newly recruited youth across

the country through video conferencing. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister described the occasion as an important step towards empowering the youth and strengthening the vision of a developed India.

"Today is a day to infuse new energy into the resolve of the youth and the resolve of a Developed India. The transparent transformation in government services is laying a strong foundation for New India," the Prime Minister said, urging

services and various departments of the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

Addressing the gathering, DRM Jammu Vivek Kumar said that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir possess immense talent and potential, and programmes like Rozgar Mela are helping channel their energy towards constructive nation-building. "Indian Railways remains committed to providing world-class opportunities to the youth of this region and contributing towards public welfare and inclusive growth," he said.

The emotional highlight of the event came as newly appointed candidates received their appointment letters amid applause and celebrations by family members and officials present at the venue. One of the selected candidates described the moment as life-changing and said, "This is not just a job, but a matter of pride and honour for my family. It is a turning point in my life."

BSP Holds Key Organizational Review Meeting for Marh Assembly Constituency

GAJANSOO, MAY 23:

Taking an important step towards strengthening the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) at the grassroots level, a comprehensive organizational review meeting of the Marh Assembly Constituency was successfully held today at Gajansoo.



The meeting was organized under the directives of BSP National President and four-time Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Ms. Kumari Mayawati, with the objective of further strengthening the party's organizational framework at sector and booth levels.

The meeting was organized by Shri Jagdish Bhagat, State Secretary and In-charge of Marh Assembly Constituency, who has been actively working towards expanding and strengthening the party's presence in the region. On this occasion, Shri Darshan Rana,

President of BSP Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, attended as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the significance of organizational discipline, public outreach, and strengthening grassroots connections in accordance with the vision and principles of Ms. Kumari Mayawati. They urged party workers to work with renewed enthusiasm and a dedication to strengthen BSP's organizational presence down to the booth level and ensure that the party's message reaches every household in the Marh.

Raman Bhalla Raises Concern Over NFSA Move, Seeks Protection of Kashmiri Pandits' Migrant Status

Jammu, May 22: JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Friday voiced serious concern over the ongoing move to integrate ration cards of displaced Kashmiri Pandit migrant families into the National Food Security Act (NFSA) database, saying the decision has created deep anxiety within the community regarding its distinct identity and legal status as internally displaced persons.

Bhalla said the Kashmiri Pandit community has been living in exile since 1990 after being forced to migrate from the Valley under tragic circumstances. He maintained that the community cannot be treated at par with the gen-

eral population under the NFSA framework until its permanent rehabilitation and dignified return are ensured. He said clubbing displaced Kashmiri Pandit families under Priority Household (PHH) and Non-Priority Household (NPHH) categories could weaken their historical, political and humanitarian recognition as a displaced community and may gradually dilute the special relief and rehabilitation mechanisms created for them over the years.

The senior Congress leader termed the concerns being raised by Kashmiri Pandit organisations as genuine and deserving of serious consideration. He said any decision affecting the dis-

placed community must be taken only after proper consultation and confidence-building measures. Expressing concern over reports of registration of an FIR against Kashmiri Pandit youth protesting the NFSA move, Bhalla said criminalising peaceful protests and dissent was not the solution to sensitive humanitarian issues.

"The Kashmiri Pandit community has suffered decades of pain, displacement and uncertainty. Instead of intimidation and police action, the administration should engage with the community through dialogue and address their concerns with empathy and sensitivity," Bhalla said.

Sat Sharma, Ashok Koul address Ramban, Kathua training camps under Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan

Patnitop/Kathua, 23 May 2026: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, continued its organizational strengthening drive under the 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan 2026' by conducting district-level training workshops in Ramban and Kathua districts with senior party leadership addressing party cadre. BJP Jammu & Kashmir President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, accompanied by BJP Vice President Rajiv Charak and District President Neelan Langleh, addressed the district-level training workshop in Ramban district at Patnitop. Sat Sharma conducted an elaborate session on the history and development of the Bharatiya Janata Party and highlighted the ideological journey of the organization from its foundation to becoming the world's largest political party.



Addressing the participants, he said that the BJP's growth is rooted in its ideology, disciplined cadre, and unwavering commitment towards national interest and public welfare. He emphasized that the training programmes are essential to equip party workers with ideological clarity, organizational skills, and effective public outreach. He said that every activist

must understand the party's principles and work with dedication to strengthen the organization at the grassroots level. Sat Sharma further stated that the Prashikshan Mahabhiyan is aimed at creating well-informed and committed workers who can effectively communicate the achievements and vision of the BJP among the masses. He asked party cadre to remain

connected with the public and work selflessly for the welfare of society. Meanwhile, J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul addressed the District Level Training Camp organized by BJP District Kathua at Rivaaz Palace, Lakhnampur, on the topic "Vichar Parivar".

The programme was attended by BJP J&K Vice President and Kathua Prabhari Priya Sethi, Seh-Prabhari Sanjay Baru, BJP J&K General Secretary Gopal Mahajan, District President Upesh Andotra, MLA Rajiv Jasrotia, MLA Vijay Kumar Sharma, and MLA Dr. Bharat Bhushan. Ashok Koul, while speaking on "Vichar Parivar", said that BJP is not merely a political party but part of a larger ideological movement dedicated to nationalism, cultural values, and service to society.

Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat carries over 1 lakh passengers in record 22 days

Indigenous semi-high-speed train emerges as J&K's all-weather lifeline, boosting connectivity, tourism and trade

Jammu: Marking a historic milestone for Indian Railways and Jammu & Kashmir, the state-of-the-art Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express has successfully carried more than 1,01,050 passengers within just 22 days of its commercial operations, reaffirming its growing popularity as a fast, safe and reliable transport link between Jammu and the Kashmir Valley.

The indigenous semi-high-speed train commenced regular commercial operations on May 2, 2026, after being flagged off by the Union Railway Minister on April 30. Since then, the Vande Bharat Express has rapidly emerged as a preferred mode of travel for passengers, setting a new benchmark in seamless rail connectivity in the region. The achievement is being viewed as a landmark moment in the history of rail connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir, where travel



between Jammu and Srinagar traditionally depended on National Highway-44, frequently disrupted by landslides, snowfall and adverse weather conditions. Over the last 22 days, the train has maintained remarkable punctuality and operational reliability, providing commuters with a comfortable, efficient and dependable all-weather travel alternative.

Expressing satisfaction over the achievement, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu, Uchit Singhal said the overwhelming public response reflects the trust passengers have placed in the service. "Carrying over one lakh one thousand fifty passengers in just 22 days is a moment of immense pride for Northern Railway. This remarkable figure is

not merely a statistic, but a reflection of our commitment to providing world-class rail infrastructure and services to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Singhal added that passengers have responded positively to the train's comfort, hospitality, safety standards and travel efficiency, significantly reducing the fatigue traditionally associated with the Jammu-Srinagar journey. "Our priority remains maintaining the highest standards of punctuality, cleanliness and passenger safety. We sincerely thank the people for making this service a success in such a short period," he added.

Officials said the Vande Bharat Express has not only strengthened year-round connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country but has also given a major boost to tourism and trade in the region.

12 Years of Transformation in India Under PM Modi: BJP

Jammu, 23 May 2026:

In a Press Statement issued, Partimoksh Seth Spokesperson BJP J&K said that as the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi completes 12 years in office, it marks a significant milestone in India's journey of development, good governance, and inclusive welfare schemes. Seth said that since assuming office in May 2014, the government has focused on empowering the poor, strengthening the economy, expanding infrastructure, promoting transparency, enhancing India's global standing and strengthening the internal security and Defence preparations of India. Seth said that over



the past twelve years, several flagship welfare initiatives have transformed the lives of millions of citizens of India including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat Scheme for providing healthcare coverage to poor families, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, PM - Kisan samman yojna, PM Awas Yojana, PM SVANidhi and other such schemes for

welfare of people of the nation. Seth said that the government led by Narendra Modi has also accelerated infrastructure development through highways, railways, airports, digital connectivity, renewable energy initiatives, and rural electrification, contributing to India's emergence as a global economic power. Seth said a historic moment is approaching on June 7, 2026, when Narendra Modi is set to become continuously elected India's longest serving Prime Minister which is testament to the trust reposed in his leadership by the people of India.

JU Hosts Open House for Fourth Batch of Pioneering "Design Your Degree" Programme

Jammu, May 23: Marking a significant milestone in the evolution of undergraduate education, the University of Jammu today organised an Open House for the incoming fourth batch of its flagship "Design Your Degree" (DYD) programme. Held at the University campus, the event served as an important interface for prospective students and their parents to understand the innovative academic framework offered under this unique four-year initiative. The session commenced with Prof. Sadaf Shah, Associate Director, Skill, Incubation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre



(SHIEDC), formally introducing the faculty mentors to the gathering. Prof. Shah also provided a comprehensive overview of the DYD framework, highlighting the programme's close alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. She elaborated on its interdisciplinary approach, which enables

students to transcend conventional departmental boundaries and design a personalised, skill-oriented academic pathway.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. K.S. Charak discussed the core philosophy behind the "Design Your Degree" initiative. In his address, he emphasised the University's shift.

J&K BJP extends birthday greetings to national president Nitin Nabin

Jammu, 23 May 2026:

Senior leaders and office bearers of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, extended heartfelt birthday greetings to the party's National President Nitin Nabin during a programme organized at the BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from party leaders, who gathered to celebrate the occasion and express their good wishes for the national leadership. Sweets were distributed among party workers and attendees as a mark of joy and celebration.

BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, party spokespersons Balbir Ram Rattan and Vikram



Malhotra, BJP Yuva Morcha President Arun Prabhat, SC Morcha President Dharminder Kumar, along with other senior leaders and activists, participated in the programme.

The leaders conveyed their sincere wishes to Nitin Nabin, praying for his long life, good health, and continued strength to lead the organization with dedication and commitment. They expressed hope

that under his guidance, the BJP will further strengthen its organizational structure and expand its outreach among the people across the country.

The BJP leaders appreciated the tireless efforts of

the National President in promoting the party's ideology and ensuring the effective implementation of the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They said that the BJP organization has emerged stronger due to disciplined leadership, committed cadre, and people-centric policies being pursued at every level.

The leaders also expressed confidence that the party would continue to scale new heights under the guidance of the national leadership. They prayed to Almighty God to bless Nitin Nabin with wisdom, energy, and determination to continue serving the nation and the party organization with the same zeal and commitment.

North in News

EDITORIAL

Forensic studies can be the real employment opportunity in the near future

BY T KANNAN

Forensic studies can be the real employment opportunity in the near future because India and the world is witnessing a simultaneous surge in crime complexity, digital transactions, regulatory compliance, and judicial demand for scientific evidence. This convergence is creating a massive, under-served job market for trained forensic professionals across cyber, financial, biological, chemical, and legal domains, and the traditional view that forensics is limited to crime scene investigators and fingerprint experts is already obsolete. The National forensic university of Gujarat is contributing a lot already but as the experts say, only India requires more than 30 thousand forensic experts already, this field is going to be a big employment opportunity for youth. The scope today spans blockchain forensics for crypto fraud, deepfake detection for misinformation cases, DNA phenotyping for unsolved crimes, forensic accounting for startup due diligence, accident reconstruction for insurance claims, and mobile device forensics for matrimonial and corporate disputes. The drivers of this employment boom are structural. The enactment of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 mandates scientific evidence collection in all cases with punishment of seven years or more, which means every police station now needs access to forensic support and every district will require a mobile forensic van, creating at least 1,500 government positions in the next three years. Also the explosion of cybercrime, with over 1.3 million cases reported in 2025 and losses crossing ₹20,000 crore, has forced banks, fintechs, e-commerce platforms, and social media companies to hire in-house digital forensic teams to respond to law enforcement requests, conduct internal investigations, and prevent fraud. The RBI's new guidelines make cyber forensic audits compulsory for regulated entities. The startup and MSME ecosystem is driving demand for forensic accounting and due diligence because investors now insist on forensic audits before Series. Banks require forensic stock audits for loans above ₹5 crore, and with 1.4 lakh DPIIT-recognized startups and 6.3 crore MSMEs, the private sector market for forensic accountants, valuation experts, and insolvency professionals is doubling every 18 months. Supreme Court has repeatedly pulled up states for poor conviction rates due to weak evidence, and the 29 new National Forensic Sciences University campuses plus state forensic labs are being upgraded. Forensic studies can be the real employment opportunity in the near future, offering youth a career that is intellectually challenging, financially rewarding, socially respected, and virtually recession-proof, because as long as humans interact, transact, and sometimes transgress, the need to establish facts scientifically will remain, and those who can do it will always be in demand.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

Shelved Knowledge

On the second of February 1835, Thomas Babington Macaulay compressed an empire's educational ambition into a single sentence: "a single shelf of a good European library was worth the whole native literature of India and Arabia". The line is often quoted as insult, and it was one. Its deeper consequence, however, lay elsewhere. It licensed a curriculum in which India's own sources became objects of antiquarian curiosity rather than instruments of disciplined thought. Independent India did not consciously ratify that content: it did something less dramatic and more durable. It allowed the colonial syllabus to survive by inertia. Two centuries on, an Indian school-leaver can recite Newton's three laws and the Krebs cycle, but has rarely been asked, even in passing, to open the Aryabhaṭīya, the Caraka Saṅgṛaha or the Arthashastra. Plato, Hobbes, Descartes and Freud appear in our textbooks as makers of knowledge; Kauṭilya, Caraka, Susruta, Aryabhaṭa, Gautama and Ramanuja appear, if at all, as cultural names detached from method. The correction now required is neither religious instruction nor political theatre. It is the recovery of a knowledge corpus that is old, internally reasoned, and fit for critical use. The policy doorway is already open. The National Education Policy 2020 names ancient Indian knowledge as a resource to be researched, enhanced and put to new uses, and calls for accurate accounts of traditional Indian knowledge in the curriculum, expanded translation, and stronger classical-language institutions. The

National Curriculum Framework 2023, prepared under NCERT, lists "Rootedness in India and Indian Knowledge Systems" as a cross-cutting theme. In June 2023 the University Grants Commission required a small but mandatory share of credits in every degree programme to be in Indian Knowledge Systems, and the All India Council for Technical Education has seeded a dedicated IKS division across engineering campuses. The question is no longer whether the State may begin. It is whether universities will do the work with enough intellectual honesty to make the beginning respectable. Consider governance first. The Arthashastra is not a pious text masquerading as administration; it is a cold manual of statecraft. Its saptaṅga theory of the state - sovereign, ministers, country, fortified town, treasury, army and ally - belongs naturally in any public-administration syllabus. Its maṭṭala scheme of buffer states and natural enemies, and its paṭṭaṅga analysis of the six diplomatic measures, can be taught alongside the structural realism that international-relations students now learn through Mearsheimer: not as nationalist ornament, but as indigenous analytic vocabulary. The Nitiśāstra tradition supplies another register - prudence, restraint, counsel, consequence. No civil servant needs to copy Kauṭilya; many would benefit from being made to argue with him. Medicine offers a still clearer case. The Caraka Saṅgṛaha - especially its Sutrasthana, treats health through cause, symptom, diet, conduct, pharmacology and the physician's obligations; the

Susruta Saṅgṛaha's Sutrasthana classifies surgical instruments and procedures with a precision that belongs in any history-of-medicine syllabus. None of these exempts Ayurveda from evidence: it invites it. The PLOS ONE multicentric randomised trial of AYUSH-64 as adjunct care in mild and moderate Covid-19, published in March 2023, is one example: randomised double-blind trials of Withania somnifera, gathered into a meta-analysis in Phytotherapy Research in 2022, are another. In May 2025 the World Health Assembly adopted the Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025-2034, which speaks of integrating safe and effective traditional medicine where appropriate; it does not, by itself, validate every claim made in the name of Ayurveda. That distinction matters. It is, in fact, precisely the distinction a serious curriculum is meant to teach. Astronomy demands the same sobriety. Aryabhaṭa's Aryabhaṭīya is not improved by exaggeration; it is impressive enough when read accurately. In its Kalakriyapada and Gola sections the poet posits 1,582,237,500 eastward rotations of the Earth in a single mahayuga of 4,320,000 sidereal years. The sidereal day that follows from his arithmetic is twenty-three hours, fifty-six minutes and 4.1 seconds; the modern measurement gives 4.091 seconds. He held that the Earth turns on its axis a thousand years before Copernicus would publish the same idea in Europe. The decimal positional notation that organises every modern calculation is itself an inheritance whose lineage runs through Bakhshali and Brahmagupta, not through any European hand.

A modern classroom can honour Aryabhaṭa not only by refusing to make him a mascot. Philosophy completes the argument. The six darsanas are not loose spiritual opinions; they are technical schools with rules of inference and rival accounts of reality. The Nyaya-sutra opens by naming sixteen categories of inquiry and accepts pratyakṣa, anumana, upamana and sabda as the means of knowledge - material that belongs in any logic and epistemology curriculum. Rāmānujācārya's Viśiṣṭadvaita, set out in the Sribhāṭya and the Vedārthasaṅgraha, distinguishes cit, act and isvara without dissolving difference into illusion or reducing matter to consciousness - a position that reads, in modern dress, as a thoughtful neighbour to the debates from P. F. Strawson onward on the unity of subject. The tradition's description of the Veda as apauruṣeya is part of its self-understanding; it cannot be the evidentiary ground for a public curriculum. The ground must be argument. The Dharmasastras require a harder courage. They contain passages no honest reader can defend; they also contain the longest sustained argument in any tradition about the nature of normative authority, the limits of custom, and the relation of law to social reality. To teach them critically is not to endorse them. It is to train students in historical anthropology, legal sociology, gender analysis and the study of power. A civilisation that cannot read its difficult texts will either sentimentalise them from a distance or surrender them to polemicists.

The slow death of peacekeeping

BY NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

The peacekeeping system the world built to prevent its worst instincts from running unchecked is dying - not in a single dramatic moment, but through the slow bleed of empty budgets, absent troops and political indifference. The international system built to keep the world's most fragile regions from descending into chaos is quietly falling apart. Not through dramatic collapse, but through slow, steady exhaustion - shrinking budgets, fewer troops, weakened mandates and fading political will. A forthcoming report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) lays bare the scale of this retreat: personnel deployed to peace operations worldwide have fallen to just 78,633, the lowest figure in at least 25 years and barely half the number seen in 2016. This is no temporary setback or administrative hiccup. It is evidence of a structural contraction in the willingness of states to honour their collective security commitments - a signal that the multilateral ideals underpinning modern peacekeeping are losing their grip on the real world. From optimism to exhaustion Peacekeeping operations once embodied the defining optimism of the post-Cold War era. The belief that nations could set aside their rivalries and cooperate through international institutions to contain conflict and protect civilians seemed, for a time, genuinely achievable. That belief is now badly depleted. What survives is the shell of a once-ambitious system - kept alive more by institutional inertia than by any coherent strategic vision. The United Nations, at the centre of this system, is operat-

ing under severe financial and political strain. SIPRI points to persistent liquidity shortfalls driven by delayed or unpaid contributions from major member states. A funding gap approaching two billion dollars within a single peacekeeping cycle is not merely an accounting problem - it is a political statement. It signals that several influential powers no longer regard collective security as an urgent shared responsibility. International leaders continue to invoke the language of solidarity and multilateralism at global forums. But the practical foundations that once gave those words meaning are weakening. The gap between rhetoric and operational reality has become impossible to ignore. A council that can no longer agree Much of this paralysis flows from the United Nations Security Council, originally designed as the stabilising core of the post-war international order. Today, it increasingly mirrors the very fragmentation it was created to manage. Strategic rivalry among major powers, the repeated use of vetoes and the rise of transactional diplomacy have crippled consensus-building. Even routine mandate renewals for ongoing peacekeeping missions have become arenas of obstruction and geopolitical competition. The post-Cold War assumption - that global powers could, at minimum, agree on basic standards of international stability - has largely collapsed. Disputes over mandate language covering human rights protections, climate impacts and gender provisions have become flashpoints, revealing how far the international community has drifted from any shared normative framework. Africa bears the cost. The human consequences of

this retreat are most visible in Sub-Saharan Africa, which hosts the majority of peacekeeping missions yet is simultaneously experiencing some of the steepest reductions in deployed forces. Peacekeepers are withdrawing not because stability has been achieved, but because sustaining long-term international deployments has become politically inconvenient and financially burdensome for contributing states. The vacuum this creates is rarely filled by calm. Instead, fragmented alternatives are filling the space: ad hoc coalitions, bilateral security arrangements and regionally limited interventions driven by narrow strategic interests rather than universal mandates. Countries such as Rwanda, United Arab Emirates and Uganda are increasingly deploying forces abroad through bilateral deals shaped by national interest and geopolitical influence. These interventions may not be illegitimate, but they differ fundamentally from traditional peacekeeping in both purpose and accountability. The conceptual counts runs as deep as the operational one. Modern peacekeeping was built on assumptions that no longer reliably hold - that external forces could stabilise conflicts where all parties retained some interest in the result, and that armed groups would respect international presence even without coercive backing. In today's most volatile conflict zones, those assumptions are routinely confounded. Armed actors indifferent to international norms are unlikely to be deterred by lightly equipped missions operating under restrictive mandates. Meanwhile, those mandates have grown ever more ambitious - encompassing civilian protection, governance support, human rights monitoring and

counterterrorism assistance - while the political backing required to deliver on such expansive responsibilities has steadily eroded. Missions are asked to stabilise increasingly complex crises without adequate resources, military capability or diplomatic consensus. The result is peacekeeping that risks becoming little more than a symbolic presence. The erosion of a shared belief Perhaps the most profound shift is normative. The idea that peacekeeping represents a shared moral and political obligation of the international community is losing force. States increasingly treat participation as optional, shaped by domestic political calculations rather than enduring international duty. What is disappearing is not just funding or troops, but the underlying belief that nations - despite their rivalries - have a collective responsibility to preserve a minimum standard of human security. Kofi Annan, in one of his final interviews before his death in 2018, described himself as a "stubborn optimist" and insisted that international cooperation remained indispensable. He argued that there could be no security without development, no development without security, and neither without human rights. That vision now feels distant. The institutions he represented still survive rhetorically, but much of their operational substance has been hollowed out. What is ending is not peacekeeping itself, but the coherence of the global system that once gave it legitimacy and shared purpose. In its place is emerging something more selective, transactional and uneven - a fragmented landscape of interventions that may contain individual crises, but no longer reflect any unified vision of international responsibility.



BJP Senior Leader Ashok Bhat Visits Wadwan Temple in Budgam, Demands Protection and Renovation of Temples in Kashmir

Srinagar, May 23: Senior BJP leader and former candidate from Habbakadal constituency, Ashok Bhat, today paid obeisance at the historic Wadwan Temple in Soubhag, Budgam, where the sacred Shivaling and idols had recently been stolen from the temple premises. During the visit, Ashok Bhat expressed deep concern over incidents targeting religious places and symbols of faith in Kashmir. He said that such acts are not merely incidents of theft but an attack on the spiritual, religious, and cultural identity of Kashmiri Hindus. Ashok Bhat appreciated the prompt and commendable action of the Budgam Administration, especially the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, SSP Budgam, SHO Budgam, and DO Soubhag for their swift efforts in tracing the sacred Shivaling from the nallah



located in front of the temple. He also requested the administration to intensify efforts to trace and recover the remaining stolen idols at the earliest. He further informed that after recovery, the police handed over the sacred Shivaling to Mr. Avtar Krishan Koul, resident of Wadwan, Budgam. Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Bhat said, "How long will our ancient temples and sacred symbols remain vulnerable?"

The repeated targeting of religious places raises serious concerns. This is not merely theft, but an attack on the faith and cultural identity of Kashmiri Hindus. Authorities must act decisively to ensure the safety and protection of all temples across Kashmir." He urged the Government of Jammu & Kashmir to take immediate steps for the renovation, restoration, and preservation of the Wadwan Temple so that the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Kashmiri Hindus remains preserved for future generations. Among those who accompanied Ashok Bhat during the visit were BJP leaders Mr. Rafiq Wani, Mohd Rafiq Rather, Mr. Basit, Mr. Zaid, and other party workers.

brought to justice without delay. He also called for enhanced security measures for temples and religious places to prevent such unfortunate incidents in the future. While offering prayers at the temple, Ashok Bhat said he felt spiritually uplifted but expressed disappointment over the poor condition of the historic shrine. He earnestly appealed to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir to take immediate steps for the renovation, restoration, and preservation of the Wadwan Temple so that the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of Kashmiri Hindus remains preserved for future generations. Among those who accompanied Ashok Bhat during the visit were BJP leaders Mr. Rafiq Wani, Mohd Rafiq Rather, Mr. Basit, Mr. Zaid, and other party workers.

From Awareness to Action: Kulgam's Whole-of-Society Movement against Drug Abuse gains massive Momentum

KULGAM, MAY 23: What began as a determined call for collective action against drug abuse has today evolved into a district-wide people's movement in Kulgam. Under the ongoing 100-Day Intensive Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan launched from April 11, District Kulgam has witnessed unprecedented public participation, strong grassroots mobilization, youth engagement, institutional convergence, and firm enforcement action against drug trafficking networks. Driven by the vision of building a "Nasha Mukti Kulgam," the campaign has transformed from a conventional awareness initiative into a community-led social movement involving youth, parents, schools, Panchayats, religious institutions, women groups,

sports organizations, health institutions, and law enforcement agencies. One of the most remarkable achievements of the campaign has been the scale of public outreach achieved in a very short span of time. More than 35,535 awareness programmes have been conducted across tehsils, villages, panchayats, schools, colleges, public spaces, and institutions throughout the district. These programmes have collectively reached and engaged people from 100% Panchayats and wards reflecting the extraordinary level of Jan Bhagidari achieved under the campaign. At the grassroots level, all 178 Panchayats of the district have been actively integrated into the movement. To institutionalize community participation, 178 Panchayat Mahila

Sanities and 178 Youth Clubs have been activated to serve as local anti-drug ambassadors and community support structures. Recognizing that positive engagement is one of the strongest tools against substance abuse, Kulgam has strongly focused on youth empowerment through sports and recreation. As part of the campaign, 125 Panchayat-level playfields have been made functional, while work on 35 new playgrounds and stadiums has been initiated under MGNREGA for development. Simultaneously, the district organized 423 sports events and leagues across variety of sports like Cricket, Football, Basketball, Volleyball and Badminton, witnessing participation of more than 37,586 youth and students.

Drug Awareness Programme at DPL Jammu



Jammu May 23, 2026: The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation

by students, police personnel and officials from the Health Department. During

the event, students presented impactful Nukkad Nataks, delivered speeches

and shared awareness messages highlighting the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of building a drug-free society. The initiative aimed to sensitize the youth and general public about the growing menace of drugs and encourage collective responsibility in combating substance abuse. Jammu Police reiterated its commitment towards creating awareness and engaging the community, especially the younger generation, in the fight against drugs.

Ramakrishna Mission Holds Free Nephrologist Medical Camp

JAMMU, May 2026: The Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre Jammu successfully organized a one-day Free Nephrology Medical Camp (Kidney, Diabetes, B.P) at the Mission Hospital in Udhaywala. The camp featured Dr. S.K. Bali, Nephrologist. The health camp provided a comprehensive range of free medical services, including consultations with Nephrologist, Orthopedist, Gynecologist, Dental Surgeons, Allopathy Physicians and Physiotherapist. A total of 212 patients benefited from the expertise of 11 doctors at this camp. 57 no. of patients are benefited with Various Service including ECG, X-ray, Dental, Physiotherapy, Ultrasound, pathology etc. The camp also facilitated 108 blood sugar, 68 uric acid, and 40 B.P tests at free of cost. A Full Body Check-up covering 65 parameters, including CBC, LFT, KFT, Lipid profile, BSF, Urine tests, and thyroid function tests (T3, T4, TSH), was available for a nominal fee of Rs. 2100, a substantial discount from the usual price of Rs. 2200. This camp was a part of Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre's ongoing commitment to serving the community and providing accessible healthcare services to all. Swami Yajnanandananda Ji, Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu, highlighted the organization's commitment to the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada, and Swami Vivekananda, emphasizing services to humanity as a form of divine worship. He also announced plans to organize such free camps monthly. Additionally, he asked everyone to benefit from the spiritual activities offered by the Ramakrishna Mission. For other information contact us on number 9506984032. Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu provides cultural, educational and medical services following the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada and Swami Vivekananda.

NOTICE
I, Mudassar Hussain Bukhari, S/o Ashiq Hussain, R/o Village Dhalwas, Tehsil & District Ramban, UT of J&K, hereby notify for the information of the general public that my name and my father's name have wrongly been recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8488 3515 8582 as Mudassar Shah S/o Ashiq Hussain Shah instead of my correct name Mudassar Hussain Bukhari S/o Ashiq Hussain. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by my correct name Mudassar Hussain Bukhari S/o Ashiq Hussain for all official and legal purposes. If anybody has any objection regarding the above correction/change, the same may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE
I, Usha Devi W/O Daleep Singh, R/O Dharam, Post Office Gool, Tehsil Gool & District Ramban, UT of J&K., Have applied for name and Date of Birth of my son in his Aadhaar Card bearing No. 8080 6134 8794 have been wrongly recorded as "AKSHIT SINGH" and "06/03/2018" instead of his correct name and Date of Birth as "AKSHIT RAJPUT" and "06/04/2018" Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

IN THE COURT OF CIVIL JUDGE (JUNIOR DIVISION) MUNSIF RAMBAN

ZAKIR HUSSAIN NAIK S/O MOHD HUSSAIN NAIK R/O NEEL ZARADI Tehsil RAMSOO District Ramban V/S. -(Applicant)
U.T OF Jammu & Kashmir through Block Development officer Ramsoo
Non applicant
IN THE MATTER OF: An Application seeking registration of Date of death of the applicant's children u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969
May it please your Honor
The applicant humbly submits as under:
1. That the applicant due to some unavoidable circumstances could not record the date of death of his/her children with the non-applicant within the stipulated period of time provided under the Act.
2. That the applicant is filling the instant application for recording the date of death of his/her children in the register maintained by the non-applicant
3. That no prejudice will be caused to any person in case the direction with regard to the registration of date of death of the applicant's children is issued to the non-applicant
4. That the particulars of the applicant's children are given below.
5. That this application is supported by an affidavit duly sworn in by the applicant
Name Father Name Spouse Name Mother Name Date of Birth Sex Present Address Place of Birth Nationality
ZOHAIB ZAKIR NAIK ZAKIR HUSSAIN NIL NAIK JAMEELA BEGUM 01-05-2022 M NEEL ZARADI NEEL ZARADI INDIAN AADYA DO DO KAWSAR 04-03-2024 F DO DO DO
Therefore by virtue of this notice at large is informed that if any person have any objection in respect in the above mentioned application, he/she shall file his/her objection in this office within seven days from the issuance of this notice failing which said application shall be dealt into accordance with law
Date: 28/02/20
Zarin, Applicant

NOTICE
I, SEHRISH BASHIR, W/O ASAF NAWAZ, R/o Gandhi, District Ramban, hereby inform the general public that due to a clerical error in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4340 6980 5430, my name has been wrongly mentioned as "SARISH BANOO" instead of "SEHRISH BASHIR" and my date of birth has been wrongly recorded as 01-01-2007 instead of 01-01-2006. Hence, both names refer to one and the same person. For all official and legal purposes, my correct name and date of birth shall be read as SEHRISH BASHIR and 01-01-2006. If anybody has any objection regarding this notice, the same may be conveyed within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, SEHRISH BASHIR, W/O ASAF NAWAZ, R/o Gandhi, District Ramban, hereby inform the general public that due to a clerical error in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4340 6980 5430, my name has been wrongly mentioned as "SARISH BANOO" instead of "SEHRISH BASHIR" and my date of birth has been wrongly recorded as 01-01-2007 instead of 01-01-2006. Hence, both names refer to one and the same person. For all official and legal purposes, my correct name and date of birth shall be read as SEHRISH BASHIR and 01-01-2006. If anybody has any objection regarding this notice, the same may be conveyed within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CIRCLE SOUTH JAMMU

TENDER NOTICE INVITING
e-NIT No. SESJ/07 of 2026-27 dated 22-05-2026.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited on percentage rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K (CPWD, J. BRO/ Railways/ MES and other State/ Central Government) for the work mentioned below:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (in Rs.)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earned Money Deposit in form of CD/DF/BC	Time allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contract
Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division, Sattwari							
1.	Construction/Repair of lanes, drains roads, P/wall, Iron grating, Nallahs and other allied works in different location of MC Ghou Manhasan (Under disaster management scheme).	Rs.357.00 lacs	6000/-	2% of the advertised cost i.e. 714000/-	09 Months	At or after 1200 hrs on 08-06-2026	'A' Class

Position of AAA = **Accorded.**
Position of Tech. sanction = **Accorded.**

The bidding documents consist of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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://jtenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22.05.2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 22.05.2026 to 06.06.2026, 1800 Hrs
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	30.05.2026 at 1400 hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle South, Jammu
4.	Bid submission Start Date	22.05.2026 From 1800 Hrs
5.	Bid Submission End Date	06.06.2026 up to 1800 Hrs
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	08.06.2026 at 1200 hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle South, 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 challan through Treasury indicating the name of work and e-NIT No. favouring Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle South, Jammu by crediting to 0659-PWD (Revenue) issued after issuance of e-NIT No. & Date uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt issued after the advertisement of e-NIT.
- The date on challan should be between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle South, 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.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process:
a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
b) Bidders are advised to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
d) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in e-NIT and SBO as a part of technical bid.
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. BMD in shape of FDR/CDR/BSG pledged in Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle South, Jammu, should be 2% of the advertised cost & must be uploaded with the bid. The CDR/FDR/BSG shall be valid for 45 days beyond the bid validity period. 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 issuance of letter of acceptance.
c. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of issuance of allotment of work.
- Performance Security/Additional performance security:- The successful bidder /contractor shall deliver to the Employer /concerned authority, a Performance Security in any of the required forms for an amount equivalent to 3% of value of contract within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of the Letter of Acceptance, as per Circular of Worthy Principal Secretary to Government, Finance Department Civil Secretariat Jammu vide No.FD-Codes/441/2021-02-158 dated 08-08-2025 and Worthy Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department, Jammu's No.CEJ/Tech./Z-JMU/6645 dated 11-08-2025.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the percentage invoice of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work unless otherwise specified. The advertised rates are inclusive of GST. The bidder shall quote %age (above or below or at par) for the construction component only. The maintenance cost of five years shall be added at the time of allotment as mentioned in special/particular conditions of BBO.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

No. SESJ/08/1698-1705
Dated:- 22-05-2026

Self-
Superintending Engineer
PWD (R&B) Circle South
Jammu

DIP/J-2584/26

'Most arrogant player' Virat Kohli-Travis Head moment sparks massive fan debate during SRH vs RCB

New Delhi, May 23: The IPL 2026 clash between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bengaluru may not have carried massive playoff implications, with both teams already through to the knockouts, but it was a fiery moment involving Virat Kohli and Travis Head that dominated the conversation online after the match. Despite SRH's commanding 55-run win, RCB still managed to retain the top spot on the IPL points table. However, social media quickly exploded after Kohli's heated on-field exchange with Head and an apparent handshake snub after the game. The incident sparked strong reactions online, with several fans criticising Kohli's behaviour while others defended the RCB star's aggressive approach to the



game. "I have always maintained that Kohli is a self-obsessed man with zero sportsmanship. He is a sore loser," one fan wrote on social media. Another commented, "Bad times will befall Super Brat Virat Kohli... not Travis Head. The most arrogant, crass and uncouth player." "I have never been a fan of Kohli. He might be a great player and a brilliant family man, but he is snobbish and does not know the spir-

it of sportsmanship," another user posted. However, several fans defended Kohli and argued that aggression and intensity have always been part of elite sport. "The obsession with 'sportsmanship' becomes hilarious whenever Kohli gives aggression back. Opposition players can sledge, celebrate in faces and act cocky, but the moment Kohli responds, suddenly everyone becomes morality experts," one fan wrote. What really happened between Virat Kohli and Travis Head? The moment took place during RCB's chase when Kohli was seen having an animated exchange with Head on the field. While the exact conversation was unclear, cameras captured Kohli appearing visibly fired up during the interaction. The tension appeared to continue even after the match. During the custom-

ary post-match handshakes, Kohli greeted SRH captain Pat Cummins and Abhishek Sharma but appeared to move past Head despite the Australian opener extending his hand. Former India cricketer Irfan Pathan later tried to explain Kohli's behaviour, describing it as part of the intensity and aggression that often comes with elite-level cricket. "Yes, I was commenting at that time. Look, Virat also likes to play cricket the way the Australians do. A little banger, a little aggression, a little talk of 'okay, come and bowl a few deliveries.' That's what he was saying: 'You are not an Impact Player.' Generally, he is an Impact Player, and he goes off the field. He asked him to bowl, something happened, and he was calling him out as well," Pathan said on JioHotstar.

FIFA World Cup 2026 broadcast update brings relief for Indian fans as ex-AIFFF official shares major details

New Delhi, May 23: Abig relief for football fans in India after days of uncertainty around the broadcast of football's mega event, the FIFA World Cup 2026, with less than a month left before the tournament begins. Former All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Shaji Prabhakaran shared a major update, claiming that the official announcement regarding the tournament's broadcasting partner in India is expected next week. Posting on X, Prabhakaran wrote, "BIG NEWS FOR INDIAN FOOTBALL FANS! The wait is finally over. Negotiations are complete, and the official announcement for the FIFA World Cup 2026 broadcasting partner in India is expected next week! After months of uncertainty, fans can finally relax, as the World Cup match set to start at 12:30



India. Get ready for the biggest World Cup in history!" The statement comes after growing apprehension surrounding the World Cup's broadcast situation in India, with the tournament now less than three weeks away. So far, no broadcaster has officially confirmed the acquisition of media rights for the Indian market. The tournament is scheduled to begin on June 11 across the United States, Canada and Mexico, with the opening match set to start at 12:30

an IST on June 12. The issue had also reached the Delhi High Court earlier this week, where Prasara Bharati informed the court that it was not responsible for securing the broadcasting rights for the tournament. The hearing took place before Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav following a petition demanding nationwide access to major World Cup matches through free-to-air platforms such as Doordarshan and DD Sports.

Coach Mike Hesson Sees Australia ODI Series As Key Test For Pakistan Ahead Of ODI World Cup 2027



Sydney, May 23: Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson sees the upcoming ODI series against Australia at home as an apt opportunity to test the players' mettle ahead of next year's ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2027. The three-match ODI series between Pakistan and Australia is scheduled from May 30 to June 4 in Rawalpindi and Lahore.

Pakistan announced a 16-member squad on Friday. Set to be led by pacer Shaheen Afridi, the squad sees the return of key players, including Babar Azam, Haris Rauf, Nuseem Shah, Shadab Khan, and Sufyan Moqim, who had missed the ODI series against Bangladesh in March. Ahmed Daniyal, Arafat Minhas, and Rohail Nazir are the three uncapped

players in the squad. Notably, Fakhar Zaman and Saim Ayub are still recovering from injuries and were not included in the squad. Mike Hesson said the ODI series will be a strong test, noting that Australia will be highly motivated, have a strong squad, and are particularly strong in the ODI format compared to T20 cricket. "They'll be exposed to an Australian side who'll be hurting from their performance over here last time. Their squad looks strong, and they'll be coming over here. ODI cricket is probably one of their stronger formats at the moment. That group is certainly probably better than their T20 side at the moment," he said, as quoted by the ICC website.

'PBKS had enough chances to qualify': Virender Sehwag's blunt take ahead of crucial LSG clash

New Delhi, May 23: With their IPL 2026 playoff hopes hanging by a thread, Punjab Kings will head into their must-win clash against Lucknow Super Giants under immense pressure, and former India opener Virender Sehwag believes there is no room left for another mistake. Punjab's campaign, which began with promise and back-to-back wins, has dramatically derailed following a poor run of form that has pushed the Shreyas Iyer-led side to the brink of elimination. With qualification scenarios tightening, Sehwag stressed that PBKS must finally capitalise on their opportunities. "Punjab Kings cannot afford to lose this game against Lucknow. There will not be a second chance. They have had enough opportunities to seal a playoff spot, but failed to take them," Sehwag told JioStar.



The former India opener pointed to Punjab's inconsistency with both bat and ball as the key reason behind their decline in the second half of the season. "Their batting has let them down in crucial moments, and their bowling has lacked discipline. Sometimes the level of averages catches up with you win too many games, but Punjab have been on the wrong

side of it lately," he added. Sehwag also felt the conditions in Dharamshala did not suit Punjab's style of play and suggested that the move to Lucknow could help reset the team mentally ahead of the crucial encounter. "Dharamshala did not suit them at all, the conditions were tricky, and they struggled to adapt. Maybe the conditions in Lucknow will be better for them,"

he said. Despite the Lucknow Super Giants already being out of playoff contention, Sehwag warned that their freedom could make them even more dangerous against a pressure-heavy Punjab side. "But Lucknow are a dangerous side. Their batting lineup is packed with match-winners, and they have nothing to lose. That freedom can make them even more unpredictable. They will play without pressure, while Punjab will carry all the weight of qualification," he said. Calling the contest a test of temperament as much as skill, Sehwag urged Punjab to deliver across all departments if they want to keep their season alive. "It will be a test of nerves as much as skill. If Punjab want to stay alive, they need to bring their A game in all departments," he added.

POCSO case filed against boxing coach in Bengaluru over sexual harassment allegations by minor athlete

New Delhi, May 23: A sexual harassment case has been registered against a boxing coach associated with a private boxing club operating out of Bengaluru's Kanteerava Stadium following allegations made by a 17-year-old boxer and her mother. The case was filed at the Sampangirama Nagar Police Station under Sections 8 and 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, along with Section 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, which pertains to criminal intimidation. Police have launched an investigation into the matter. According to the complaint filed by the victim's mother on May 22, the minor athlete has been training at Lions Boxing Club for nearly 10 years. The accused, a 50-year-old coach, had reportedly been train-



ing the teenager and is alleged to have harassed her over the past four years, with incidents becoming more frequent in recent months. As per the FIR, the coach allegedly attempted to establish inappropriate physical closeness with the athlete and touched her inappropri-

ately on several occasions at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. The complaint also details an alleged incident during a boxing competition in Chennai on May 17, where the coach is accused of calling the minor to his private room before allegedly touching her inappropriately, forcibly kissing

her and engaging in misconduct. The victim's mother further alleged that the accused threatened the teenager with severe consequences if she disclosed the incidents to family members. According to the complaint, the coach allegedly warned the athlete that he would kill her if she spoke about the abuse. The FIR also states that a formal complaint regarding the alleged harassment had earlier been submitted to an internal committee. "The accused has been touching my daughter inappropriately with the intention of having a physical relationship. After touching her inappropriately in his private room, he verbally abused her. He had behaved similarly at a stadium in Bengaluru as well," the mother alleged in her complaint.

BCCI Sent 'Wrong Message' Warning Over Aaqib Nabi Snub For Afghanistan Test

New Delhi, May 23: There has been a lot of chatter over the BCCI not selecting Jammu and Kashmir fast bowler Aaqib Nabi for the upcoming one-off Test match against Afghanistan. The pacer was brilliant in domestic cricket and was even bought by Delhi Capitals for a huge amount of Rs 8.4 crore ahead of IPL 2026. He was the top wicket-taker in the Ranji Trophy season and even played a big role in guiding his team to a historic title. Former India pacer Doda Ganesh took to social media to express his disappointment as Nabi missed out on selection and completely rejected the explanation given by chief selector Ajit Agarkar. "No



amount of justification can convince me of the non-selection of Aaqib Nabi. Poor guy bowled his heart out for two seasons and picked 100+ #RanjiTrophy wickets only to be ignored for someone who had played just two games this season," Ganesh posted on X (formerly known as Twitter). "Please stop these nonsensical justifications: Hit-the-deck bowler, hit-

the-head bowler, hence picked. While I can understand they are special skill sets, it can't be rewarded without decent game time by ignoring someone with unprecedented performances for seasons. I'm afraid a wrong message has been sent out to the youngsters who are giving their heart and soul in the #RanjiTrophy," he added.

"Having Tough Seasons Again And Again As Captain": Ex-India Star On Rishabh Pant

New Delhi, May 23: Lucknow Super Giants captain Rishabh Pant has endured yet another poor IPL season. The player was bought by the franchise at the auction in 2024 and has failed to live up to expectations in IPL 2025 and 2026. LSG paid a record sum of Rs 27 crore, making Pant the costliest player in IPL history, but the wicketkeeper-batter's returns have been really poor. Lucknow finished in seventh spot last edition and are set to end in the bottom-two positions this year as well. Amidst all this, Pant has scored 269 runs in IPL 2025, and 286



runs in 13 matches this season. Former India pacer Lakshminath Balaji highlighted the reason behind Pant's failure. The former player said the southpaw should not bat in the top order and should rather come in the middle order. Balaji also held LSG

'I've not been using the sim': Lewis Hamilton explains key Ferrari routine switch

New Delhi, May 23: Seven-time Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton credited a major change to his preparation routine for delivering his strongest qualifying performance of the 2026 season so far after securing fifth place in Sprint Qualifying at the Canadian Grand Prix. Heading into the Montreal weekend, Hamilton revealed he had decided to step away from Ferrari's simulator programme and instead focus more on physical training, detailed data analysis and setup discussions with engineers, a move that appeared to pay immediate dividends at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve. "The Ferrari driver comfortably outqualified teammate Charles Leclerc for the first time since the



Chinese Grand Prix earlier this season and looked competitive throughout both SQ1 and SQ2 before eventually finishing behind the McLaren and Mercedes runners. "It was probably our best qualifying session that we've had in a while," Hamilton said after claiming P5 on the sprint grid. "It's

great work with the engineers on the setup changes; the car has felt really fantastic from FP1 and we've done some subtle changes for Quali," Hamilton admitted. Ferrari still lacked the final edge compared to their rivals but was encouraged by the overall progress. "SQ1 and SQ2 were

looking good, and then I don't know what's happening for the others to be able to turn up their cars a little bit more," he added. "I am just happy to be able to be in the fight." The Briton also explained how reducing simulator work had helped him better understand the car while improving his focus away from the track. "I've had so much fun over these today. It's also nice that I've not been using the sim and this is what the feeling feels like so I think for me that is the direction to go," Hamilton added. According to Hamilton, the extra time away from Ferrari's simulator allowed him to focus more intensely on fitness and technical analysis of the car's balance issues.



Tamil Nadu shaken after 10-year-old girl's murder in Coimbatore, CM vows severe punishment

New Delhi, May 23: The murder of a 10-year-old girl in Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore district has triggered outrage across the state, with Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay calling the incident "inhuman and unforgivable" and promising strict punishment for those responsible. The case has sparked protests, political reactions and heightened police deployment in Sullur after the child's body was found near a pond days after she went missing while reportedly playing outside her house. Two accused arrested in connection with the case have been remanded to judicial custody. On Saturday, the second accused, identified as Mohanraj, was produced before the Sullur Judicial Magistrate Court and remanded to judicial custody till May 27. Police had earlier arrested Karthick, a 33-year-old daily wage worker from Nagapattinam currently residing near Coimbatore,



along with Mohanraj. Investigators said the accused were known to the victim's family and allegedly lured the child away on the pretext of buying chocolates. CM Vijay calls incident 'horrific' Reacting to the incident, Chief Minister Vijay said the murder had caused "immense pain and shock". "The horrific incident that occurred yesterday to a 10-year-old girl in Coimbatore causes

immense pain and shock. Such inhuman and unforgivable criminal acts can never be tolerated in our society," Vijay said in a statement shared by the Tamil Nadu CMO. The Chief Minister expressed condolences to the victim's family and said he had directed police to carry out a thorough and speedy investigation into the case. "The Tamil Nadu government will firmly act to ensure that

those who engage in such heinous acts against women and children receive severe punishment under the law," he added. Tamil Nadu Minister V Sampath, who visited the victim's family at the hospital, also assured that the accused would face the "highest capital punishment". The murder triggered anger among local residents, leading to a prolonged road blockade outside the Sullur police station on Truchi Road. According to officials, the protest began at around 9 pm on Friday and continued till nearly 5 am on Saturday, disrupting traffic movement along the arterial stretch. Around 300 police personnel were deployed in the area as senior officers supervised the investigation through the night. TVK MLA from Sullur constituency NM Sukumar, who visited the protest site and later met the victim's family, demanded stringent punishment for the accused.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar reviews border polling booths, inspects SIR exercise in Uttarakhand's frontier region

New Delhi, May 23: Amid the Election Commission's nationwide push to strengthen the accuracy of electoral rolls ahead of upcoming electoral exercises, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Saturday visited Uttarakhand's border district of Uttarkashi to review polling infrastructure and assess the progress of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) drive in remote frontier areas. The high-level visit focused on election preparedness, voter roll verification, and the operational challenges of conducting polls in difficult mountainous terrain near the international border. Gyanesh Kumar arrived in Uttarkashi and was received at the Jhala heli-



pad by senior administrative officials, including Uttarakhand Chief Electoral Officer Dr BVRC Purushottam and Additional District Magistrate Mukta Mishra. Officials welcomed the Chief Election Commissioner with a sapling during his arrival in the strategically significant border district. During the visit, Gyanesh Kumar inspected a polling booth in Harsil and interacted in detail with Booth Level Officer Mintu Devi regarding the ongoing Special Intensive Revision process. Officials said the Chief Election Commissioner reviewed various aspects linked to the mapping of SIR data, electoral roll verification and voter record management.

Twisha Sharma death case: Accused husband Samarth Singh sent to 7-day police remand



New Delhi, May 23: Samarth Singh, the husband of Noida woman Twisha Sharma who was found dead at her matrimonial home in Bhopal, has been sent to several days of police remand by the Bhopal district court. Singh, an advocate by profession, is accused of harassing his deceased wife Twisha for dowry along with his mother

Giribala Singh, a retired judge. Samarth was taken into custody by Bhopal police on Friday after he arrived at a Jabalpur court to surrender. He was produced before the Bhopal court amid tight security. Prior to that, the police took Samarth to Jai Prakash Hospital for a medical examination. With the case getting significant public attention, a large

police deployment was made at the court premises. Police personnel escorted the accused husband to the courtroom of Judicial Magistrate Anudita Gupta at around 3.15 pm. During the hearing, the police sought his custodial remand to interrogate him in connection with his wife's death. "In this case, the Court has granted a 7-day remand of Samarth Singh. We will investigate, and as we examine everything, things will become clearer," said ACP Rajnish Kashyap. Earlier in the day, Bhopal Police Commissioner Sanjay Singh said Samarth was brought to Bhopal late on Friday night after being detained in Jabalpur.

2023 Parliament breach case: Delhi Police file 14,000-page supplementary chargesheet; UAPA offences invoked

New Delhi, May 23: The 2023 Parliament security breach case witnessed a major development after the Delhi Police Special Cell filed a nearly 14,000-page fourth supplementary chargesheet before the Patiala House Court, invoking serious offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against the accused in connection with the dramatic breach inside and outside Parliament premises. The latest filing focuses on allegations related to terrorist acts, criminal conspiracy, provocation to cause riots and destruction of evidence under the UAPA and various provisions of the Indian Penal Code. The supplementary chargesheet, consisting of 13,967 pages, was taken on record during proceedings held on Thursday before Additional



Sessions Judge Amit Bansal. According to the prosecution, the chargesheet was filed under Sections 186, 353, 153, 452, 201, 34 and 120B of the IPC along with Sections 13, 16 and 18 of the UAPA. During the hearing, the

accused Neelam Prajapati alias Neelam Azad and Mahesh Kumawat appeared before the court while on bail. Accused Manoranjan D, Amol Dhanraj alias Amol, Sagar Sharma and Lalit Jh were produced physically

from judicial custody. SI Amit Bhati appeared on behalf of the Investigating Officer, ACP Dharreender, and formally submitted the supplementary chargesheet before the court. Copies of the documents were supplied to all accused persons and their legal representatives through pen drives due to the extensive volume of records. Counsel representing accused Neelam Azad and Amol Dhanraj opposed the filing of the supplementary chargesheet at the current stage of proceedings. The defence argued that introducing such a voluminous document while arguments on framing of charges were already in progress amounted to a misuse of legal procedure. The defence also requested a hard copy of the chargesheet for examination.

No statehood yet, but Ladakh may get law-making powers under new framework

New Delhi, May 23: Afresh round of talks between representatives of Ladakh civil society groups and the Union Home Ministry has resulted in what leaders described as a "historic consensus" on a customised political and administrative framework for the Union Territory. Former Ladakh MP Thupstan Chhewang on Friday said discussions between the Leh Apex Body (LAB), Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), and the Centre had produced a "major breakthrough" after years of negotiations over Ladakh's political future and constitutional safeguards. According to Chhewang, the proposed framework



would empower elected bodies in Ladakh with authority similar to that exercised by a Chief Minister and council of ministers, including limited law-making powers, even though full statehood or Union Territory status with legislature is not

being granted at present. Speaking to ANI, Chhewang said key demands raised by Ladakh groups over the past several years had included statehood, a legislature for the Union Territory, and constitutional protections. "For five to six years, dia-

logue with the Home Ministry had brought partial consensus and implementation at the ground level, but the key demands — statehood and UT with legislature, along with constitutional safeguards — had remained unresolved," he said. "Today, however, a historic consensus was reached. It was agreed that due to financial non-viability, Ladakh cannot at present be granted statehood or UT with legislature. Yet, a customised political system will be implemented, giving elected bodies powers similar to those of a Chief Minister and ministers, including law-making authority," he added. "Major breakthrough" after years of negotiations JP

leader Tashi Gyalsen also described the talks as constructive and said several long-pending issues had finally been addressed. "I consider this a major breakthrough, as many long-pending issues were finally addressed. Key discussions centred on Ladakh's financial viability and how it can sustain itself in the future, as well as the need for Ladakh-specific customised safeguards given its unique context and dynamics," he told. Gyalsen added that the deliberations focused on balancing Ladakh's interests with national priorities. "From the very beginning, the government's intention towards Ladakh has been positive," he said.

Nashik TCS case: Police file 1,500-page chargesheet citing WhatsApp chats, witness statements

New Delhi, May 23: Police in Maharashtra's Nashik have filed a 1,500-page chargesheet in one of the FIRs linked to the high-profile TCS case involving allegations of molestation, sexual harassment and attempted religious conversion. The case, which has led to the registration of nine FIRs so far, is being investigated by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by Nashik Police Commissioner Sandip Karmik amid growing scrutiny over the allegations and the scale of the probe. According to officials, the chargesheet was submitted before the Additional Sessions and Special Court at Nashik Road against four accused: Nida Ejaz Khan, Tausif Bilal Attar, Danish Ejaz Sheikh, and Mateen Majid Patel. The FIR was regis-



tered at Deolali Camp Police Station under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Police said the investigation pointed to an alleged coordinated conspiracy involving harassment and offences related to religious sentiments. Investigators have relied on a wide range of evidence in the case, including statements of 17 witnesses recorded before a judicial magistrate, medical exami-

nation reports of both the complainant and accused, and digital material such as WhatsApp chats, mobile phone app data and email records. Officials also said documents allegedly connected to attempts to change the victim's name were seized during the probe. Financial records, bank statements, caste certificates, vehicle details and identification parade records have also been included in the chargesheet.

Punjab terror plot foiled, two held with grenades, MCOCA now for cow smuggling too: Devendra Fadnavis warns illegal cattle trade networks

New Delhi, May 23: In a breakthrough, the Punjab Police claimed to have foiled a major terror conspiracy in the state after arresting two alleged operatives linked to the Lakhya gang and recovering two live military-grade hand grenades from their possession in Ludhiana. The arrests were made during a joint operation conducted by the Ludhiana Commissionerate Police and Counter-Intelligence units against an alleged international criminal syndicate and terror-gangster nexus operating with foreign handlers. Ludhiana Police Commissioner Swapan Sharma said the network first came under the scanner on May 17, when police intercepted a targeted killing conspiracy near Hardy's World in the Ladovai police station area. During that opera-



tion, two alleged shooters, Anuj alias Gaurav Masih and Anshuk, both residents of Phillaur, were arrested with three pistols and 11 live cartridges. Police had registered FIR No. 91 under provisions of the Arms Act and Section 111 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). During interrogation, the accused allegedly revealed that they were acting under instructions from foreign-based handlers. Police

identified the key overseas operatives as Jorawar Singh, based in Germany, Sahil Sondhi alias Chunj, based in Dubai, and Lakha, also believed to be operating from Germany. Officials said further questioning during police remand, along with an intensive probe by the CIA staff and Counter Intelligence teams, helped investigators trace the explosives supply chain linked to the module.

New Delhi, May 23: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said the state government has, for the first time, invoked the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against offences linked to cow smuggling, illegal cattle transportation and unlawful slaughterhouse operations. The move signals a tougher crackdown on organised crime networks allegedly involved in the illegal cattle trade, with the state government asserting that the use of MCOCA would stand legal scrutiny in court. Speaking about the decision, Fadnavis said the action would continue against such activities. "For the first time, we have implemented the MCOCA law, and I believe it will be completely justified in court. If anyone does this, MCOCA will be invoked against them," the Chief Minister said. Maharashtra steps up crackdown on illegal cattle trade MCOCA, a stringent law enacted



to tackle organised crime syndicates, has traditionally been used in cases involving extortion rackets, gang activity and organised criminal networks. The Maharashtra government's decision to apply the law to offences related to cow smuggling and illegal slaughterhouses marks a significant expansion in its use. The Chief Minister, however, did not elaborate on specific cases in

which MCOCA had been invoked. Fadnavis flags El Nino challenge ahead of kharif season the law-and-order announcement, Fadnavis also spoke about Maharashtra's preparedness for the possible impact of El Nino during the upcoming kharif season. He said the state government had prepared a detailed plan to deal with possible weather disruptions, including heavy rainfall in some

regions and below-normal rainfall in others. "We have prepared a comprehensive plan for El Nino. There may be heavy rainfall in some places. We have prepared a plan for the precautions that should be taken in that regard," he said. Earlier on Thursday, Fadnavis had described El Nino as one of the biggest challenges facing Maharashtra this agricultural season. Water conservation works accelerated According to the Chief Minister, rainfall is expected to remain below normal this year, prompting the government to speed up water conservation work under the Jaluyukt Shivar programme. He said district administrations across Maharashtra had been instructed to remain prepared for possible impacts on agriculture and water availability. "Every district has been equipped to deal with the El Nino effect. We need to the optimum use of water to improve the crop cycle this year," Fadnavis said.

Go home for Green Card: US tells temporary visa holders to apply from their countries

Washington, May 23: The United States has announced a major shift in its immigration process, saying most foreign nationals on temporary visas who want permanent residency will now be expected to return to their home country to apply for a Green Card. The move could impact thousands of international students, tourists and temporary workers currently living in the US, as the Donald Trump administration pushes for tighter immigration enforcement and stricter interpretation of residency rules. In a policy memo issued on Friday, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said adjustment of status from within the United States would now be treated as an "extraordinary form of relief" and granted only in limited situations. USCIS says Green Card process must happen outside US. According to the USCIS release, individuals staying in the US on non-immigrant visas are generally expected to complete the immi-



grant visa process through consular processing in their home country via the US Department of State. "US Citizenship and Immigration Services today announced a new policy memo reiterating the fact that, consistent with long-standing immigration law and immigration court decisions, aliens seeking adjustment of status must do so through consular processing via the Department of State outside of the country," the agency said. The memo added that immigration officers would examine requests on a "case-by-case

basis" before deciding whether a person qualifies for an exception. "Returning to original intent of law," USCIS spokesperson Zach Kahler said the policy restores the "original intent" of immigration law and discourages people from overstaying after entering the US temporarily. "We're returning to the original intent of the law to ensure aliens navigate our nation's immigration system properly," Kahler said. "From now on, an alien who is in the US temporarily and wants a Green Card must return to their home country to apply, except in extraordinary circumstances," he added. Kahler further argued that the revised system would help reduce the burden on USCIS and allow the agency to focus on humanitarian and citizenship-related cases. "The law allows the majority of these cases to be handled by the State Department at US consular offices abroad and frees up limited USCIS resources to focus on processing other cases," he said.

Massive coal mine explosion in China's Shanxi kills 82; rescue ops on, Xi orders probe

Beijing, May 23: At least 82 people have died and nine others remain trapped after a gas explosion ripped through a coal mine in north China's Shanxi Province, authorities said on Saturday as large-scale rescue operations continued at the site. The explosion took place on Friday at the Lushenyu coal mine in Qiyuan County in Changzhi city, triggering one of China's deadliest mining disasters in recent years. The accident has once again put the spotlight on safety standards in China's coal mining industry, which has long struggled with deadly industrial accidents despite tighter regulations and repeated crackdowns by authorities. According to Xinhua, six national mine emergency rescue teams comprising 345 personnel and specialised equipment have been deployed to



assist local authorities in rescue and recovery efforts. Chinese state media reported that the person responsible for the company linked to the mine has been taken under control in accordance with the law. Xi Jinping orders investigation into mine disaster following the explosion. Rescue operations were still underway till the latest reports, with teams continuing efforts to reach the trapped workers underground. China's coal mining industry.

Death Toll In Student Dorm Strike Rises To 12, Emergency Ministry Says



Moscow, May 23: The death toll from a drone strike on a student dorm in the Russian-controlled Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine has risen to 12, Russia's state-run news agency RIA reported on Saturday citing the emergency ministry. Russia on Friday accused Ukraine of what it

described as a deliberate drone strike in the town of Starobylsk, with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday ordering his military to prepare options for retaliation. Leonid Pasechnik, head of the Russian-installed administration in the region, published a preliminary list containing details of 11

victims, most of them 19-year-old girls. Nine people remained trapped under the rubble, state-run news agency TASS said. Ukraine's military denied responsibility for the attack, saying it had struck an elite drone command unit in the area and that its forces complied with international humanitarian law.

Trump to skip son's wedding as US weighs possible Iran strikes; Tehran says gaps remain deep

Washington, May 23: US President Donald Trump's administration is preparing for a possible fresh round of military strikes against Iran as Tehran insists that negotiations with Washington remain far from a breakthrough, according to multiple media reports and official statements emerging on Friday. The developments come amid rapidly intensifying tensions in West Asia, with diplomatic efforts continuing in parallel to military planning. Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir reported arrival in Tehran and renewed messaging from both Washington and Iran have further underlined the fragile state of negotiations. Citing sources familiar with the planning, CBS News reported that the Trump administration was preparing contingency plans for fresh military action against Iran, although no final decision had yet been taken. According to the report, several officials from the US military and intelligence community cancelled



Memorial Day weekend plans following discussions around possible strikes. Trump himself is also expected to alter his schedule and return to the White House instead of spending the weekend at his New Jersey golf property. CBS News and Politico reported. Trump on Friday confirmed that he would not attend his son Donald Trump Jr's wedding to Palm Beach socialite Bettina Anderson, citing pressing government responsibilities. "While I very much wanted to be with my son, Don Jr., and the newest member of the Trump

Family, his soon to be wife, Bettina, circumstances pertaining to Government, and my love for the United States of America do not allow me to do so," Trump wrote on Truth Social. Speaking earlier at the White House, Trump suggested that developments involving Iran were among the reasons behind the decision. "It's not good timing because of a thing called Iran and other things," he told reporters. Trump also repeated his warning that Iran must never acquire nuclear weapons. "Iran is dying to make a deal. We

will see what happens, but we hit them hard and we had no choice because Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon," he said during remarks at the White House. Tehran says negotiations still far from agreement. Even as military rhetoric escalated in Washington, Iranian officials signalled that substantial disagreements continue to block progress in negotiations. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said the distance between Tehran and Washington remained "deep and significant". "We cannot necessarily say that we have reached a point where an agreement is close," Baghaei said, according to Al Jazeera. He added that Iran's focus remained on ending the conflict and defended Tehran's right to pursue peaceful nuclear energy under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. "The reason we don't talk about the details of nuclear-related discussions is clear. We have done this twice, and the other party's greed led us into war," he said.

Another round of UN nuclear talks ends in deadlock; Iran blames US for third straight collapse of NPT conference

United Nations May 23: Fresh tensions erupted between Iran and the United States after the latest round of high-level United Nations nuclear discussions ended without consensus, marking the third consecutive failure of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference to adopt a final document. Iran sharply criticised US and its allies following the deadlock, accusing them of pushing the global nuclear framework towards collapse through "obstructionism". The breakdown at the United Nations comes at a time of escalating confrontation between Tehran and Washington over Iran's nuclear ambitions, with the US repeatedly asserting that Iran must never be



allowed to develop nuclear weapons. The latest review conference, which began at the UN headquarters in New York on April 27, concluded without agreement after days of negotiations failed to bridge deep divisions among member states. Iran accuses US of derailing consensus. Reacting after the confer-

ence ended, the Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations blamed the US and its allies for the failure to finalise the outcome document. In a statement posted on X, the Iranian mission said, "US excessive demands push the NPT into free fall." It further claimed that the conference collapsed

because of "obstructionism" by Washington and its allies. Iran also warned that the future of the NPT itself could come under threat if progress on nuclear disarmament continues to stall. Dispute triggered impasse to reports from NHK Japan, negotiators revised the draft final document four times in an attempt to secure consensus among participating nations. Several contentious references were reportedly removed during negotiations, including wording linked to Ukraine's nuclear facilities and North Korea's denuclearisation. However, disagreement over Iran's nuclear programme remained unresolved until the final day of discussions. Iranian representatives reportedly

objected to language stating that "Iran can never seek, develop or acquire any nuclear weapons", while the United States insisted that the wording remain part of the document. The disagreement ultimately prevented delegates from reaching consensus before the conference concluded. Do Hung Viet, president of the conference, termed the outcome as "very regrettable" after negotiations failed to produce an agreed final declaration. Third consecutive failure for global nuclear forum. The collapse marks the third consecutive failure of the NPT Review Conference, which is generally held once every five years, to adopt a final document.

US' 'Excessive Demands' Blocking Truce Talks: Iran



Tehran, May 23: Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres that Washington's "excessive demands" are the main obstacle to ongoing peace negotiations, Al Jazeera reported. During a telephonic conversation with Guterres, Araghchi said the US had repeatedly undermined diplomacy through broken promises, contradictory positions, and military aggression, while asserting that Iran remains engaged in the truce talks. Guterres, according to Al Jazeera sources, rejected the use of force against the truce talks. Several members of the US military and intelligence community are also said to have cancelled their Washington Day weekend

administration was on Friday (local time) preparing for a fresh round of military strikes against Iran, sources with direct knowledge of the planning told CBS News. However, no final decision on the strikes had been taken, the report said. Several members of the US military and intelligence community are also said to have cancelled their Washington Day weekend

Trump's daughter Ivanka 'targeted in Iran-linked assassination plot': Report

New York, May 23: Ivanka Trump, the daughter of US President Donald Trump, was allegedly the target of an assassination plot linked to an Iraqi operative with ties to Iran-backed networks, according to a report published by The New York Post. The allegations come at a time of heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran, with reports suggesting the Trump administration is also weighing possible fresh military strikes against Iran. The alleged plot is said to have been linked to revenge over the 2020 US drone

strike that killed top Iranian military commander Qasem Soleimani. According to the report, the suspect has been identified as Mohammad Baqer Saad Dawood Al-Saadi, a 32-year-old Iraqi national accused of operating on behalf of the Iran-backed militia Kata'ib Hezbollah and maintaining ties with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The New York Post reported that investigators allegedly recovered a blueprint of Ivanka Trump's Florida residence from Al-Saadi. The suspect had also

allegedly posted online threats warning Americans that "neither your palaces nor the Secret Service will protect you." Former Iraqi diplomat Entifadh Qanbar told the newspaper that Al-Saadi had repeatedly spoken about killing Ivanka Trump "to burn down the house of Trump the way he burned down our house." Suspect arrested in Turkey, extradited to US. According to the report, Al-Saadi was arrested in Turkey on May 15 before being extradited to the United States. US authorities have also accused him of involv-



ment in 18 attacks and attempted attacks across Europe and North America, including alleged shootings, firebombings,

Tsurkov reportedly told the newspaper that the suspect had close ties with Soleimani and later with Esmail Qaani, who succeeded Soleimani after his killing. Investigators also alleged that Al-Saadi used an Iraqi service passport and operated through a travel agency to move between countries and coordinate activities. Despite the alleged covert operations, he reportedly maintained an active social media presence, posting photographs from European cities and images involving weapons sys-

tems. The suspect is currently being held in solitary confinement at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, according to the report. Fresh Iran strike discussions add to tensions. The report surfaced as CBS News reported that the Trump administration was preparing contingency plans for possible military strikes against Iran. CBS News, citing sources familiar with the matter, said no final decision had been taken. However, several officials within the US military and intelligence

establishment were said to have cancelled Memorial Day weekend plans amid the evolving situation. Trump himself is now expected to remain in Washington during the holiday weekend. According to CBS News and Politico, the US President has cancelled plans to spend the weekend at his New Jersey golf property and will instead return to the White House following engagements in New York. Trump also confirmed that he would miss his son Donald Trump Jr's wedding to Palm Beach socialite.

Javid Dar tours hailstorm hit Rafiabad assures relief to affected farmers

BARAMULLA, MAY 23: Amid growing concerns over weather-induced losses to the Horticulture and Agriculture sectors, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, on Saturday undertook an extensive tour of hailstorm-affected areas in Rafiabad constituency of Baramulla district to assess the damage caused to crops and orchards. During the visit, the Minister conducted on-the-spot inspection of affected agricultural fields and



Minister Javid Ahmad Dar (right) during his visit to Rafiabad constituency of Baramulla district to assess the damage caused to crops and orchards. He is accompanied by officials and farmers.

during this challenging period. He said that all genres of crop and orchard damage would be thoroughly assessed and relief measures extended in accordance with government norms. "The welfare of farmers remains the government's top priority. Every possible support will be provided to mitigate the losses suffered by the affected growers," the Minister said while interacting with locals. He directed the officers of the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to immediately undertake a comprehensive field survey and submit a detailed

assessment report at the earliest to facilitate timely compensation and relief measures. The Minister also instructed the concerned departments to intensify awareness campaigns among the farmers regarding modern crop protection measures, disaster mitigation practices and various government-sponsored schemes aimed at safeguarding the agricultural produce from weather-related calamities. He further stressed the need for ensuring maximum coverage of farmers under crop insurance schemes as per the prescribed guidelines.

Big push to rural entrepreneurship: Rs. 36 crore SVEP projects approved in J&K

Over 12,000 non-farm enterprises to be established over next four years: Aijaz Asad

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Saturday chaired a meeting of the UT-Level Steering Committee (Non-Farm Livelihoods) under the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission's (JKRLM) Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), which accorded in-principle approval to six Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) worth 36 crore aimed at promoting rural entrepreneurship and sustainable non-farm livelihood opportunities across Jammu and Kashmir. The approved DPRs pertain to six new SVEP blocks—Sagam-Wavoor, Pulwama-Litter, Chadoora-Surasyar, Khour-Paragwal, Pouni-Reasi and Bhadarwah-Bhalla—where over 12,000 enterprises are projected to be established over the next four years.



Secretary, Rural Development Department, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, during a meeting.

The meeting was attended by Mission Director, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma; Chief Operating Officer, HIMAYAT, Rajneesh Gupta; besides representatives from the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Tribal Affairs Department, Social Welfare Department, Handicrafts & Handloom Department, Industries & Commerce Department, MSME, KVIC, NABARD, BISFI, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) and other stakeholder institutions. Officials informed the committee that Jammu & Kashmir has been implementing SVEP since 2015-16 with technical support from National Resource Organisation (NRO) partners, including EDII. The programme initially commenced in the pilot blocks of Lar in Ganderbal district and Basohli in Kathua district, where nearly 2,500 entrepreneurs were established during the first phase. With the approval of the six new DPRs, SVEP coverage in Jammu & Kashmir will now expand from eight to 14 districts.

The Secretary also underscored the importance of strengthening entrepreneurship training, capacity building and monitoring mechanisms for effective implementation of the approved projects. He stated that entrepreneurship development should be decentralised to the village level through community-based training modules and Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes. Calling for stronger inter-departmental convergence, he directed stakeholders to ensure timely execution and rigorous monitoring so that maximum benefits reach aspiring rural entrepreneurs across Jammu and Kashmir.

Data presented during the meeting revealed that non-farm livelihood initiatives in Jammu & Kashmir have so far supported 26,551 enterprises, including 26,217 individual enterprises and 355 group enterprises under NRLM and SVEP. SVEP is a sub-scheme under the Deendayara Vaidika Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, aimed at promoting non-farm entrepreneurship among Self-Help Group (SHG) members and their families in rural areas.

PSA Delegation Meets DSEK Naseer Ahmad Wani; Seeks Time-Bound Resolution Of Long-Pending Issues Facing Private Schools

Srinagar, 23 May, 2026: The Private Schools Association (PSA) high-level delegation held a detailed and constructive meeting with Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Naseer Ahmad Wani in Srinagar to discuss several pressing issues concerning private educational institutions across Jammu & Kashmir. The PSA delegation was led by Senior Vice President Manzoor Ahmad Rather included General Secretary (Organization) M. Syed Wani, Director Media & Communications Dr. Owais Mattoo, Treasurer Hilal Ahmad Khan and Joint Secretary Dr. Yasir Ahmad. During the meeting, the delegation raised a wide range of



PSA delegation members (left) meeting with DSEK Naseer Ahmad Wani (right) to discuss issues affecting private schools.

issues affecting the smooth functioning of private schools and emphasized the urgent need for timely administrative intervention and institutional support. The delegation highlighted and submitted a charter of demands before the DSEK, including long-pending State Land issues and urged the authorities to frame proper and final guidelines to remove the uncertainty faced by schools. The members also demanded time-bound disposal of pending files, stating that unnecessary delays were creating operational difficulties for institutions and adversely affecting academic planning. The PSA delegation further

avoidable complications for institutions. The members stressed the importance of promoting sports, debates, arts, cultural and co-curricular activities in schools and suggested that the education system should encourage holistic learning and student development beyond textbooks and academic evaluation alone. The delegation also highlighted several operational and administrative challenges being faced by private educational institutions and recommended regular stakeholder interaction meetings between the School Education Department and private school representatives to strengthen coordination and institutional cooperation.

CM's calendar packed with foreign tours, not disposal of files: LoP Sunil Sharma

Srinagar, 23 May 2026: Describing Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as a "tourist-in-chief," Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma on Saturday said the CM's calendar is packed with foreign tours rather than the disposal of files to address issues faced by the common man. Sharma said the Chief Minister is missing over the past 10 days and he is behaving more like a globe-trotting traveler than the elected head of a sensitive state like Jammu and Kashmir. "Omar Abdullah seems to be under the delusion that



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during a public appearance.

including Finance, Power Development, General Administration, Tourism, Revenue, and several others. "A normal human being like me cannot do justice to more than one or two departments, but he is a 'superman' and he himself controls 50 percent of the administrative departments. How can you abandon the Civil Secretariat and rush off on foreign tours to London and other high-end destinations when you are in control of 50 percent of departments," Sharma said. The LoP added that Omar Abdullah's non-seriousness

could be imagined by the fact that a few months ago he wanted to rush to Paris in the middle of Kashmiri growers facing an unprecedented crisis with apple consignments stranded on the highway. "When the highway was shut and our growers were crying and wailing, our CM planned to proceed on a sightseeing tour to Paris, but he had to abandon the plan after facing criticism," Sharma said. He further said that the BJP would soon lodge a missing report over the disappearance of CM Omar Abdullah.

Horticulture Department issues Advisory for Hail-Affected Orchards in Bandipora

BANDIPORA, MAY 23: In view of the recent hailstorm that affected several areas of district Bandipora, the Department of Horticulture Bandipora has issued an advisory for orchardists regarding preventive and management measures for fruit crops to minimize post-hailstorm losses. According to the advisory, orchardists cultivating apple and pear crops have been advised to spray any of the recommended fungicides including Trifloxystrobin + Tebuconazole 75 WG @ 40g per 100 litres of water, Zineb (68%) + Hexaconazole (4%) 72 WP @ 125g per 100 litres of water, Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63% (75% WP) @ 250g per 100 litres of water, Propineb 70% WP @ 300g per 100 litres of water, Mancozeb 75% WP @ 300g per 100 litres of water, or Zineb 75%

WP @ 300g per 100 litres of water. The advisory further stated that after a gap of three days, orchardists may spray Urea @ 0.2% (200g per 100 litres of water) or spray NPK @ 2g per litre of water after 3-5 days to support recovery and improve plant health. Similarly, growers of cherry, apricot, plum and peach crops have been advised to spray Carbendazim 50 WP @ 50g per 100 litres of water, Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63% (75% WP) @ 250g per 100 litres of water, or Thiophanate Methyl 70 WP @ 50g per 100 litres of water. The Department also urged orchardists to remove fallen leaves and ensure proper drainage in orchards to avoid water stagnation and secondary infections.

Nasha Mukt Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan sees widespread public support, intensified enforcement across J&K

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: The ongoing anti-drug campaign, 'Nasha Mukt JK Abhiyaan' has recorded remarkable achievements and impacted awareness generation, rehabilitation, law enforcement, treatment, surveillance and prevention initiatives, reflecting an unprecedented whole-of-government approach against the menace of substance abuse in Jammu and Kashmir. As on today, the campaign has mobilized lakhs of citizens, strengthened institutional response mechanisms, intensified anti-narcotics operations and expanded rehabilitation support systems throughout J&K. Under the Drug free J&K -100 days campaign, massive Public Outreach and Awareness Drives are being held across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir. As part of the extensive awareness and outreach campaign, authorities conducted an extraordinary 16,37,484 awareness events across Jammu &

Kashmir, with a staggering public participation of over one crore people, indicating widespread community engagement and growing public support for the anti-drug movement. The outreach programmes included Mega pad-yatras, road shows, school and college campaigns, village-level awareness drives, signature campaigns, community meetings, youth engagement activities, sports events, cultural sessions, seminars, counselling sessions, and social media advocacy initiatives aimed at sensitizing society about the dangers of drug addiction. Under this campaign, Mental Health and Counselling Support services have also been strengthened as through Tele-MANAS and Counselling Support initiative, around 3,572 calls were received from individuals seeking psychological support, counselling, and guidance related to mental health and substance abuse issues. Strengthening of accessible counselling services has become a critical pillar of the Administration's strategy to ensure early intervention and emotional support for vulnerable individuals and families affected by addiction. Treatment and Rehabilitation Services have also been expanded across J&K. Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) of Health department have reported substantial patient engagement during the campaign period. 58,603 patients were received at treatment facilities, with 58,138 patients availing OPD treatment services, 465 patients IPD intensive inpatient care, besides 192 patients were cured and released. Simultaneously, the Social Welfare Department-operated DDAC Rehabilitation Centres provided Treatment and Rehabilitation Services to affected individuals. 634 patients received treatment sup-

port, 1,055 individuals underwent counselling sessions, 29 patients successfully recovered and 851 active patients continue to receive rehabilitation support in these centres. Police department is also providing substantial Counselling and Rehabilitation Support services. Under Police run DDAC and counselling support initiatives, 451 patients were registered, 786 patients received counselling and 138 patients recovered successfully, besides 363 active cases remain under monitoring and rehabilitation support. Under this ongoing campaign, an Aggressive Crackdown on Drug Networks has also been launched by the enforcement agencies. Police Department's NDPS operations witnessed extensive action against drug trafficking networks and peddlers across J&K. During the ongoing campaign, 850 FIRs were registered under NDPS-related offences, 942 persons were arrested, 293

drug peddlers were apprehended and 49 drug hotspots were identified for focused intervention. The enforcement agencies have also intensified financial investigations against narcotics syndicates as authorities carried out major action against illegal acquired assets linked to drug traffickers. As on date, 55 drug trafficker houses were sealed or demolished, 71 immovable properties were seized or attached valuing approximately 74,632.17 lakh, 34 immovable properties were demolished valuing around 71,648.50 lakh, besides 42 movable properties were seized or attached valuing around 7214.93 lakh. The campaign also targeted regulatory violations and logistical support systems associated with narcotics trafficking. 414 driving licences were suspended or cancelled, 13 vehicle RCs were cancelled, 118 drug store licences were suspended, 2 drug store licences were can-

celled, besides 1,285 Aadhaar cancellation applications were processed and 119 passport impoundment applications were initiated. During the ongoing campaign, Enforcement agencies achieved significant success in narcotics recovery operations. 6,416,070 grams and 8,019 milligrams of Heroin, 47,206 grams and 871 milligrams of Charas and 251,697 grams and 1,116 milligrams of Ganja were seized till date. Moreover, 22,474 tablets were seized besides 65 kilograms of Poppy plants were destroyed and 47 kanals of poppy cultivation was also destroyed. These seizures have led to a major setback to narcotics supply chains operating in the region. Under this campaign, Surveillance and Institutional Monitoring has also been enhanced. As part of preventive surveillance measures, 6,436 chemists were checked, 6,881 CCTV cameras were installed and 2,127

schools and hospitals were inspected. These surveillance measures are aimed at preventing illegal drug circulation near educational institutions and sensitive public areas. The Intelligence-Led Prevention measures have also been strengthened under the campaign, with 386 suspects examined, 3,045 drug peddlers and smugglers identified and 36 PIT-NDPS detentions carried out. These intelligence-based operations are being continuously strengthened to dismantle organized narcotics networks and prevent inter-district and cross-border drug trafficking. Remarkably, under the campaign significant number of Padayatra have also been organised, witnessing enormous public support and participation, to generate awareness among the masses about the impact of drug abuse on the society. Sports and co-curricular activities are also being held in educational institutions.

CS reviews Transport Department performance; stresses safer roads, smarter enforcement

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Transport Department to assess the progress achieved in road safety, traffic enforcement, technology integration and implementation of key recommendations aimed at improving traffic management and reducing road accidents across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting besides ACS PWD and Principal Secretary, Home was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Health; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Secretary, Transport; IGP, Traffic; Transport Commissioner; SIO, NIC and other concerned officers. The meeting focused on the implementation status of the recommendations of the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCoRS), functioning of



road safety mechanisms, enforcement initiatives, PM-RAHAT scheme, electronic monitoring systems and other flagship interventions being undertaken by the Transport Department in coordination with allied agencies. Expressing concern over the recent tragic road accident in Udhampur district in which around 21 people lost their lives, the Chief Secretary directed the

implementation of the hit-and-run compensation mechanism, the Chief Secretary sought detailed action taken reports in all such cases and stressed upon ensuring timely disposal and assistance to affected families. While reviewing the functioning of the e-Challenging system, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to immediately identify and address all bottlenecks hindering its successful implementation. He emphasized that technology-driven enforcement must be made fully effective to ensure greater transparency, accountability and compliance with traffic regulations. The Chief Secretary also directed the authorities to explore the feasibility of creating a separate fund head within the Public Works Department (PWD) for rectification of accident-

prone blackspots and hotspots across the road network. He further stressed that executing agencies including BRO, NHAI and NHDCL should also earmark dedicated resources for roads being maintained by them to undertake corrective measures in a mission-mode. He also emphasized development of passenger zones and designated stopping areas wherever feasible for ensuring safer public transport operations. Taking serious note of traffic congestion caused by encroachments in urban areas, the Chief Secretary directed the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to intensify anti-encroachment drives in the twin cities for smooth traffic movement and better pedestrian safety.

Anil Kumar Singh visits Golpattan under Vibrant Village Programme; outlines scheme objectives

JAMMU, MAY 23: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), PWD (R&B), Anil Kumar Singh, today visited Village Golpattan under the Vibrant Village Programme. The visit aimed to assess the on-ground requirements and interact with the locals to accelerate inclusive development in the border village. On the occasion, M.L.A. Marh. Surinder Kumar Bhagat; Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr. Rakesh Minhas, Engineer-in-Chief, Chief Engineer, Director Finance (R&B) and other district officers of Jammu were also present.



Speaking on the occasion, Anil Kumar Singh said that the Vibrant Village Programme is a flagship initiative of the Government of India to ensure comprehensive development of border vil-

lages. He stated that the scheme aims to saturate the selected villages with essential infrastructure, road connectivity, telecom connectivity, television access, electricity and livelihood generation opportunities. The ACS emphasized that the programme seeks to reverse outmigration by creating employment avenues, promoting tourism and cultural heritage besides strengthening the basic amenities like health, education and skill development. "The goal is to transform the border villages into vibrant economic hubs while ensuring national security through strong local participation. Every plan will be made keeping the people at the center," he added.

Anil Kumar Singh directed the district administration to prepare village-specific action plans in mission mode and ensure convergence of all schemes for maximum impact.

Time to explore Jammu's tourism strength and reduce foreign travel outflow, says Anil Gupta

JAMMU, MAY 23: Senior Vice President of the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Anil Gupta, has urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to launch a focused and aggressive campaign for promoting the tourism potential of Jammu region across the country. Referring to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to encourage Indians to explore domestic destinations and reduce unnecessary foreign tourism expenditure, Gupta said the time has come to bring Jammu's unexplored and under-promoted tourist places on the national tourism map. Gupta appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir to take immediate steps for developing and marketing Jammu as a major tourism destination. He said that while Kashmir has received substantial attention in the tourism sector, Jammu region continues to remain largely neglected despite having enormous potential in pilgrimage tourism, adventure tourism, heritage tourism, nature tourism and wedding tourism. He said Jammu possesses a rare combination of religious shrines, hill stations, lakes, forests, ancient temples, natural springs and adventure locations, but the lack of sustained promotion and infrastructure development has prevented the region from receiving its rightful place in India's tourism landscape. Gupta stressed that roadshows should be organised across India to promote Jammu's destinations, and local tourism stakeholders, hoteliers, travel operators, transporters and business representatives must be actively involved in these campaigns. Highlighting the condition of Patnitop, Gupta said the famous hill station, once among the most attractive destinations of Jammu region, has lost its charm due to lack of development and poor attention by the concerned authorities. He said Patnitop Development Authority must be made more active and accountable, as the destination



requires fresh planning, improved facilities, beautification, better connectivity, tourist activities and modern amenities. He observed that the continued neglect of Jammu's hill stations sends a wrong message that the government is not serious about developing tourism beyond a few selected destinations. Gupta also underlined the vast religious tourism potential of Jammu region. He said the region is blessed with revered places such as Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, Bawe Wali Mata, Shri Raghunath Ji Temple, Budha Amarnath, Nangali Sahib Gurdwara, Shahdra, Shanief Shrine, religious maths in Sunderbani, Kameshwar Temple linked with Khata Shyam Ji, Dev Asthan in Mathwar and several other sacred places. He said these destinations should be promoted through planned religious circuits so that pilgrims visiting one shrine are encouraged to explore other spiritual places of Jammu region. He further said that Jammu can also emerge as a wedding tourism destination. Places such as Katra, known as a holy city, and Sudh Mahadev, associated with the divine wedding of Lord Shiva and Mata Parvati, have immense cultural and spiritual appeal. With proper infrastructure, hospitality support, branding and connectivity, these places can

attract families from across India for destination weddings rooted in tradition and spirituality. The Senior Vice President of CCI Jammu also drew attention towards adventure tourism opportunities in Bhaderwah, Kishtwar, Bani and Basohli. He said these areas have the natural landscape required for trekking, camping, mountain tourism, water-based activities and eco-tourism. Similarly, destinations such as Dudu-Basantgarh, Peer Ki Nahar, Tatta Pan natural sulphur springs in Kalakote and Sangaldhan, Mansar and Surinsar lakes, and Gupt Ganga in Purnamandal deserve special promotion and infrastructure support. Gupta said Mansar and Surinsar lakes carry historical and cultural significance connected with the Pandavas of Dvapara Yuga and can be developed as major heritage and leisure tourism spots. He said Jammu's identity is deeply rooted in history, spirituality and natural beauty, but this potential requires professional branding and strong policy intervention. He urged the government to prepare a separate tourism promotion strategy for Jammu region, supported by budgetary allocation, destination development plans, roadshows, digital campaigns and participation of local stakeholders. Gupta said tourism can become a powerful engine of employment for youth, traders, transporters, hoteliers, artisans, small businesses and local communities. He added that after the Prime Minister's call to promote domestic tourism, Jammu has a golden opportunity to present itself before the nation as a complete tourism region. Gupta said the government must act with urgency, because Jammu has waited too long for its due share in tourism development. According to him, sincere promotion and planned development can transform Jammu into one of North India's most attractive pilgrimage, adventure, heritage and wedding tourism destinations.

Sakeena Ito inaugurates Primary School Satrajan Bangiward

Also lays foundation stone for ACR building at GMS Bangiward

KULGAM, MAY 23: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito today visited Dhara Pora Kulgam and inaugurated Primary School at Satrajan Bangiward. She also laid foundation stone for construction of Additional Classroom (ACR) building at Government Middle School (GMS) Bangiward. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards upgrading educational institutions across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in rural and far-flung areas. She emphasized that quality infrastructure is essential for creating a conducive atmosphere for effective teaching and learning. "Strengthening education sector and ensuring access to quality education in far-flung and underserved areas is what our Government strives for", she stated. The Minister underlined that the educational infrastructure forms the backbone of social and economic progress and the government is prioritizing the development of schools across Jammu and



Kashmir. The Minister said that the inauguration of the Primary School at Satrajan Bangiward will significantly benefit local students by providing better academic facilities closer to their homes, while the additional classroom block at MS Bangiward will help improve the overall learning environment and accommodate increasing student enrolment. Emphasizing the importance of holistic educational development, she directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of all ongoing educational projects and maintain high standards in implementation. Later, the Minister held a massive Public Darbar at Bangiward, where people

from various adjoining areas projected a range of public issues and developmental demands. Residents highlighted concerns related to road connectivity, drinking water supply, healthcare facilities, electricity, school infrastructure and other civic amenities. Sakeena Ito gave a patient hearing to the grievances and assured the public that all genuine issues would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner. She directed the concerned officers to take immediate action on pressing matters and ensure better public service delivery at the grassroots level. The Minister emphasized that public outreach programmes and direct interaction with people are

essential for responsive governance and help bridge the gap between the administration and the public. She added that the government remains committed to equitable development and inclusive progress across all regions. During the interaction, several delegations and individuals also submitted memorandums highlighting local developmental requirements. The Minister assured them that their concerns would be examined on priority in coordination with the concerned departments. Locals, parents and school staff appreciated the initiatives and expressed gratitude to the government for addressing the educational and infrastructural needs of the area.

Satish Sharma addresses NCC Cadets at SNIC 2026; hails youth as pillars of national unity, progress

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Information Technology, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today addressed a grand gathering of NCC cadets and Associate NCC Officers (ANOs) from across the country at the Special National Integration Camp (SNIC) 2026 organised at Badamiyab Cantonment, Srinagar. The prestigious camp, being attended by nearly 340 NCC cadets representing all 17 NCC Directorates of the country, was attended by the young participants from diverse cultural, linguistic and geographical

backgrounds on a common platform of unity, discipline, leadership and national integration. Senior civil and military dignitaries were also present on the occasion. The programme commenced with a ceremonial Guard of Honour presented by NCC cadets, followed by a vibrant cultural programme showcasing the rich traditions, heritage and cultural diversity of various states and union territories of India. The colourful performances reflected the spirit of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" and highlighted the role of youth in strengthening emotional and national integration. Maj Gen Anupinder Bevil, VSM, Additional Director



General, NCC Directorate Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh, in his address, highlighted the significance of the Special National Integration Camp in promoting cultural exchange,

mutual understanding and life-long bonds of friendship among the youth. He also appreciated the support and cooperation extended by Chinara Corps, 31 Sub Area and 216 Transit Camp towards the successful conduct of the camp. Addressing the cadets, Satish Sharma extended a warm welcome to all participants visiting Jammu & Kashmir and expressed happiness over the enthusiasm and discipline displayed by the young cadets. He said that the National Cadet Corps has emerged as one of the country's most influential youth organisations, playing a pivotal role in shaping responsible, patriotic and socially conscious citizens.

The Minister observed that camps such as SNIC provide a unique opportunity to young cadets to experience the cultural richness and diversity of India while fostering brotherhood, unity and national pride. He remarked that the youth are the true ambassadors of peace, progress and harmony and have a crucial responsibility in building a strong, prosperous and inclusive India. Recalling his personal connection with the armed forces as the son of a soldier, Satish Sharma lauded the role of NCC in instilling values of discipline, dedication, leadership and selfless service among the younger generation. He said that the organisation

continues to inspire lakhs of youth across the country to contribute positively towards society and nation-building. The Minister urged the cadets to remain committed to the ideals of discipline, integrity and social responsibility and encouraged them to become active participants in developmental and nation-building initiatives. He stressed that youth empowerment through sports, education, technology and skill development is essential for building a progressive and self-reliant nation. Highlighting the growing menace of drug abuse among youth, Satish Sharma called upon the cadets to become ambassadors.

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

