

North in News

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Amit Shah Praises BSF for "Befitting Reply" to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor

NEW DELHI, MAY 27: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday lauded the Border Security Force (BSF) for its role during Operation Sindoor, saying the force gave a "befitting reply to Pakistan" whenever required while maintaining high morale among residents in border areas.



Addressing BSF personnel during his visit to the Sanchu Border Outpost along the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan's Bikaner sector, Shah praised the force for standing firm against challenges during the operation. "I would also like to highly praise the performance of BSF personnel during Operation Sindoor."

and wherever needed, BSF personnel also gave a befitting reply to Pakistan, which has always been your tradition," Shah said. Sanchu Border Outpost, located along the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan's Bikaner sector, holds historic significance in India's military history and has long been regarded as a symbol of the country's border defence resilience. Referring to the strategic importance of the post, Shah said the outpost is "inscribed in the history of Indian wars with golden letters" and described his visit there as a moment of pride. Operation Sindoor was launched in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, with Indian Armed Forces targeting terror infrastructure linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, the groups accused of planning and carrying out attacks in India. According to officials, Indian Armed Forces struck nine terror targets, including four locations in Pakistan —

(Contd on Pg 2)

Lieutenant Governor chairs high-level meeting of Central Committee of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages



SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting of the Central Committee of Jammu Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), at Lok Bhavan. The meeting

was attended by Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Shaileendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner, Higher Education Department; Ms. Harvinder Kour, Secretary JKAACL; Dr Satish Vimal; Prof Bashar

(Pg 2)

India strongly rejects 'unwarranted' references to Jammu and Kashmir in China-Pak joint statement

NEW DELHI, MAY 26: India on Tuesday strongly rejected "unwarranted" references to Jammu and Kashmir in a joint statement issued by China and Pakistan, reiterating that the "Union Territory and Ladakh" have been, are and will remain an integral part of the country and that no other nation has the locus standi to comment on it. India's position is consistent and well known to the concerned parties, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaishwal said. "India categorically rejects unwarranted references to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the Joint Statement between China and Pakistan," he said.

The joint statement was issued during Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent visit to China. "The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and will always remain integral and inalienable parts of India. No other country has the locus standi to comment on it." (Contd on Pg 2)

Omar Abdullah meets family of murdered minor girl in Budgam

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday visited the residence of the 12-year-old girl who was found murdered in Budgam and offered condolences to her family, a day after police arrested the accused man. The girl was found murdered in the Galwanpora area of Budgam district on Sunday, a day after she was reported missing. During his visit, Abdullah expressed profound grief over the incident and prayed for strength and bereaved



family in their hour of sorrow. The chief minister said the incident had shaken the conscience of society and asserted that such elements have no place in civilised society. He assured that the culprits would be dealt with strictly in accordance with the law. Police on Monday arrested Mudasir Ahmad Mir, a neighbour of the victim, on charges of raping and murdering the 12-year-old girl. (Contd on Pg 2)

Governor Gupta calls for dedicated Religious Tourism Circuit for Dev Bhoomi Himachal Pays Obeisance at Maa Jwala Devi Temple

KANGRA, MAY 26: Emphasizing the immense spiritual and tourism potential of Himachal Pradesh, Governor of Himachal Pradesh Kavinder Gupta today called for the creation of a dedicated and well-structured Religious Tourism Circuit for Dev Bhoomi Himachal Pradesh, aimed at connecting the State's revered temples, Shakti Peethas, monasteries and sacred destinations through better infrastructure, enhanced connectivity and modern pilgrim facilities. He said that such an initiative would not only strengthen the spiritual identity of the State but also generate employment opportunities, boost the local economy and preserve the rich cultural and religious heritage of Himachal Pradesh. The Governor stated this while interacting with media persons after paying obeisance at the holy shrine of Maa Jwala Devi Temple in Kangra district today. (Contd on Pg 2)



He said that such an initiative would not only strengthen the spiritual identity of the State but also generate employment opportunities, boost the local economy and preserve the rich cultural and religious heritage of Himachal Pradesh. The Governor stated this while interacting with media persons after paying obeisance at the holy shrine of Maa Jwala Devi Temple in Kangra district today. (Contd on Pg 2)

BRIEF NEWS

Drone found in Kathua security tightened

JAMMU, MAY 26: A drone was found in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, prompting security agencies to heighten surveillance and launch a probe, officials said on Tuesday. They said the drone was found near Govindsar railway station road in Hatli belt of the district on Monday night. "Last night, we received information that a drone had been spotted under the jurisdiction of Hatli police station. Immediately, our team reached the spot and seized the drone." Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Sunil Kesar told reporters here. An investigation has been launched into the matter, he said. "A thorough verification is being carried out" (Contd on Pg 2)

Property worth Rs 1 crore of alleged drug peddler attached

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Property worth around Rs 1 Crore belonging to an alleged drug peddler was attached in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, police said on Tuesday. A police spokesman said, "Srinagar Police attached an immovable property belonging to a 'notorious drug peddler' in connection with a narcotics case registered here. He said the action was part of the police's sustained crackdown on narcotics trafficking under the ongoing 'Nasha Mukti J-K Abhiyan'." The attached property is a residential house belonging to Aamir Hassan Mir, a resident of Bonpora Dupatyar in the (Contd on Pg 2)

L-G Saxena participates in celebrations marking formation of Sham district

LEH, MAY 26: Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, today visited Khatlse, and participated in the celebrations marking the creation of Sham as a new district in Ladakh. This is L-G's first visit to Sham after its inception as a new district. Amid enthusiastic public participation and cultural performances, L-G Shri Saxena was accorded a grand traditional welcome by villagers, public representatives, students, cultural troupes and members of civil society on his arrival at Khatlse, the district headquarters. The creation of Sham district follows the approval granted by the Lieutenant Governor on April 27, 2026, for the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh. Sham district comprises 27 revenue villages, including five villages carved out from Kargi district and 22 villages from Leh district. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated the people on the fulfilment of their long-pending aspiration. (Contd on Pg 2)



arrival at Khatlse, the district headquarters. The creation of Sham district follows the approval granted by the Lieutenant Governor on April 27, 2026, for the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh. Sham district comprises 27 revenue villages, including five villages carved out from Kargi district and 22 villages from Leh district. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated the people on the fulfilment of their long-pending aspiration. (Contd on Pg 2)

DGP reviews security arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha, Amarnath Yatra



SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Tuesday reviewed security arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha and Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. The meeting was attended by senior officers of the J-K Police, CRPF, ITBP, traffic police, railways and various security agencies, a police spokesman said. (Contd on Pg 2)

Court rejects anticipatory bail to Advocate in Jammu Court assault case

JAMMU, MAY 26 (JNF): The Special Judge Fast Track Court (POCSO Cases), Jammu, Renu Dogra, has dismissed the bail application of accused Deepak Sharma in a child sexual assault case, observing that offences under the POCSO Act are heinous and cannot be viewed with leniency. The bail plea was filed in case FIR No. 81/2025 registered at Police Station Nagrota for offences under Sections 74, 137(2), 115(2), 126(2), 351(2) of BNS and Sections 7/8 of the POCSO Act. The accused had moved the application through his counsel Advocate Y.M. Khan, claiming that he had been falsely implicated and that the prosecution story suffered from serious contradictions. The defence argued that the prosecutrix, her mother and aunt had already been examined and only a few witnesses remained. It was also submitted that the accused had been in custody for more (Contd on Pg 2)

"New Chapter In India's Developmental Journey": Defence Minister Rajnath Singh On PM Modi's 12 Years in Office

NEW DELHI, MAY 27: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed 12 years in office on Monday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised his leadership, saying May 26, 2014, marked the beginning of a transformative phase in "India's constitutional and developmental journey." Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who first took the oath of office on May 26, 2014, has since been sworn in for two consecutive terms in 2019 and 2024. In a post on X, Singh said Modi's taking the oath as Prime Minister ushered in a decisive change in governance. He wrote, "May 26, 2014, marked the beginning of a new chapter in India's constitutional and developmental journey. The day Shri Narendra Modi took oath as India's Prime Minister, India witnessed a decisive shift in governance, vision, leadership, and national resolve."



Highlighting the government's work over the past 12 years, Singh said India has made progress across sectors under Modi's leadership. He said, "From economic development and social welfare to a strong push for Atmanirbhar Bharat and digital transformation, from infrastructure growth and decisive global leadership to a stronger national security framework — under his leadership, India has marched ahead with unprecedented speed and scale." Defence Minister further said (Contd on Pg 2)

India's growth has become broader and more inclusive, with millions of people becoming active participants in the country's development. He added, "India's growth story has become broader, deeper and more inclusive than ever before. Most importantly, under the leadership of PM Modi, the vision of Antyodaya has been realised in its truest sense. Millions who had remained unseen and unheard for decades became active participants in India's growth story." Referring to the BJP's governance slogan, Singh said the vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" has been reflected in policy and governance at every level. He wrote, "The vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' has not remained merely a slogan, but has reflected in governance and (Contd on Pg 2)

BJP demands strict action against accused arrested for rape and murder of 12-year-old girl

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: The Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Tuesday demanded strict punishment for the accused involved in the rape and murder of a 12-year-old girl in Budgam district. The girl had gone missing on May 23 and was found dead in a field in Galwanpora village the next morning. The incident triggered shock and grief in the area. Police have arrested one person, a neighbour of the victim. "This incident serves as a grave warning for all of us, forcing society to reflect on the direction in which we are heading. When a young girl is not safe even in her own neighbourhood, and when the mindset of local youth deteriorates to such an extent, it raises serious questions about the moral fabric of our society. It is a matter that demands deep introspection at every level, family, community, and institutions." BJP spokesperson Rajni Sethi said. The BJP spokesperson (Contd on Pg 2)

FROM PAGE ONE

Amit...

Bahawalpur, Muridke and Sialkot among them — and five targets in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir using precision-guided munitions in a coordinated operation. The operation was jointly carried out by the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force with coordinated mobilisation of troops and military assets.

Lieutenant...

Bashir, and Principals of Institute of Music and Fine Arts, University of Jammu and University of Kashmir. The Central Committee granted in-principle approval to several key proposals, including affiliation for continuing Calligraphy Course, Annual Plan of Expenditure for the FY 2026-27 and the designing of a new Academy logo, which will feature all five official languages of Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor directed for accelerating the digitization process of all Academy libraries and implementing a well-crafted plan for capacity building of the Academy artists and staff.

He instructed the Academy to expedite the process of accreditation of artists and filling the vacant posts.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that a comprehensive strategy involving the Education, Sports, and Culture departments must be formulated to promote vibrant cultural activities in schools and colleges to boost youth engagement.

The Lieutenant Governor also applauded the Culture Academy's performance in the Vande Mataram initiative.

Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Culture Department, gave a detailed presentation highlighting JKAACL's recent milestones.

The committee was informed that the Academy successfully organized over 470 events across Jammu, Kashmir, and other parts of the country, engaging 14,117 artists and writers. Major commemorative events included 150 Years of Vande Mataram celebrations, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra, Nukkad Natak under Nasha Mukta J&K Campaign, Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas, Birth Anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, and Constitution Day.

It was further informed that The Jammu & Kashmir Tableau was a major attraction during the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations at Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, on 31st October 2025. Furthermore, the J&K Tableau clinched the Second Prize at the Republic Day Parade 2026 in New Delhi, a historic national achievement for the Union Territory after 24 years.

The Committee also reviewed the Action Taken Report from the previous meeting which was held in 2021.

On the occasion, a Shina-Urdu dictionary and Annual Report of the Academy were also released.

India...

the same," Jaiswal said.

He was responding to media queries on the issue.

India also criticised the mentioning of projects under the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the joint statement, and said New Delhi rejects any moves to reinforce or legitimise Islamabad's illegal occupation of territories.

The CPEC passes through Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

"As regards the so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, some of which are in India's sovereign territory, we resolutely oppose and reject any moves by other countries to reinforce or legitimise Pakistan's illegal and forcible occupation of these territories, impinging on India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

Jaiswal said this has been clearly conveyed to Pakistani and Chinese authorities several times.

"We have also seen references to the so-called 'trans-boundary water resources cooperation' between China and Pakistan. As the two countries do not share any boundary, the question of so-called 'trans-boundary water resources cooperation' does not arise," he said.

"India has never recognised the so-called 1963 boundary agreement between Pakistan and China," he added.

Omar...

"In continuation of the investigation pertaining to the murder of a minor girl from village Galwampora, Budgam Police has completed the initial medico-legal, forensic, and evidentiary procedures connected with the arrest of the accused in the case," a police spokesman said.

He said the identity of the accused was not disclosed earlier as several legal procedures were underway at the initial stage of investigation and to avoid any prejudice to the evidentiary and legal process.

"Upon completion of the requisite formalities, the

accused involved in the commission of the crime is now identified as Mudasar Ahmad Mir, son of Ghulam Nabi Mir, a resident of Galwampora Sebdan," the spokesman said.

Police said the investigation conducted so far had established that no other individual was involved in the crime.

Police appealed to the public to maintain peace, communal harmony, and public order and urged people not to circulate rumours, speculative content, or unverified allegations regarding the case.

"Media organisations and social media users are requested to exercise responsibility and restraint while reporting or commenting on the matter. The circulation of unverified or misleading content may create unnecessary public anxiety and adversely affect the maintenance of law and order," they said.

Governor...

Governor was accompanied by the First Lady Smt Bindu Gupta. On the occasion, Shri Kavinder Gupta offered prayers for the peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Himachal Pradesh and the entire nation and sought the divine blessings of Maa Jwala Devi for happiness and harmony across the country.

The Governor observed that Himachal Pradesh possesses unparalleled spiritual wealth with world-famous shrines including Jwala Devi, Brajeshwari Devi, Chintpurni, Naina Devi, Chamunda Devi and several ancient temples and monasteries spread across the picturesque hills of the State. He stressed that there is an urgent need to integrate these sacred destinations under a comprehensive Religious Tourism Circuit to facilitate pilgrims and attract devotees from across the globe.

Shri Kavinder Gupta further said that religious tourism has the potential to emerge as a major pillar of Himachal Pradesh's economy. He called upon the State Government, the Ministry of Tourism and all concerned stakeholders to work collectively towards developing world-class facilities for pilgrims while maintaining the sanctity and spiritual essence of these holy places.

The Governor also appreciated the temple authorities and the local administration for maintaining the sacred shrine and ensuring smooth arrangements for the devotees visiting the temple.

L-G Saxena...

He stated that the creation of the new district reflects the personal attention and commitment of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah towards the development of Ladakh and border areas.

L-G Shri Saxena said that with the creation of the new district, governance and public services would now become more accessible and responsive at the doorstep of the people. He said the formation of the Sham district would act as a bridge between the Administration and the public, ensuring faster service delivery and better governance.

Describing Sham as the "Apricot Valley" of Ladakh, Shri Saxena said the GI-tagged "Raktsey Karpo" apricot variety, which is grown abundantly in Sham valley, is now being exported to international markets. He said that around 1000 metric tonnes of fresh apricots would be exported to international markets this season — a historic milestone for Ladakh's horticulture sector. He stated that the UT Administration would facilitate packaging, branding and marketing of apricots through various institutional partnerships to ensure better returns for farmers.

Shri Saxena further informed that during his recent interaction with the Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Shri Chirag Paswan, support was assured for establishing food processing units and strengthening the horticulture sector in Ladakh. He observed that these initiatives would significantly benefit farmers, particularly from Sham, who are major producers of apricots and apples.

The Lieutenant Governor further stated that creation of the district would also lead to the generation of employment opportunities for local youth through the creation of new posts in government departments as well as indirect opportunities in construction, transport, trade, tourism and hospitality sectors.

"My aim is to ensure balanced and inclusive development of every region of Ladakh while protecting its fragile ecology. I want to see a real transformation in the lives of the people of Ladakh. With the support and cooperation of the people, Sham will emerge as a vibrant, progressive and self-reliant district in the coming years," Shri Saxena said.

DGP reviews...

"The DGP chaired a meeting at Police Control Room

Kashmir to review security arrangements for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha and Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 (SANJY-2026) at PCR Kashmir," the spokesman said.

Emphasising the importance of peaceful Eid celebrations, Prabhat directed the officers to ensure comprehensive crowd management arrangements at mosques and key congregation venues across the Valley.

The DGP stressed the need for strengthening security measures, safeguarding public movement and deploying personnel at sensitive locations to prevent overcrowding.

He instructed field officers to enhance surveillance, carry out random inspections at vulnerable areas and intensify patrolling to effectively address any potential security concerns during the festive occasion.

During the meeting, the participating officers presented detailed briefings on the proposed security and logistical arrangements as well as preparedness measures for the smooth conduct of SANJY-2026.

Officers from the paramilitary and other security forces also shared their assessments and underscored the need for seamless coordination and synergy among all agencies involved.

The officers briefed the DGP regarding the administrative and logistical arrangements made for the incoming Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) companies.

The DGP issued directives for the smooth induction of CAPF companies and emphasised that district heads must ensure proper arrangements for incoming units and their efficient ground deployment.

Emphasising the importance of robust security management, J-K DGP directed officers to ensure strict implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and adopt proactive strategies to counter potential threats.

He stressed the need for heightened vigilance to safeguard pilgrims and maintain a secure environment throughout the yatra period.

The DGP instructed field formations to intensify efforts aimed at dismantling the terror ecosystem and strengthening area domination along the pilgrimage routes.

Directions were also issued for the deployment of anti-sabotage teams, and the use of advanced surveillance systems and real-time monitoring mechanisms to enhance threat detection and response capabilities, the spokesman said.

Court rejects...

than one year and that continued detention before conclusion of trial would amount to pre-trial punishment.

The prosecution opposed the plea, contending that the allegations were serious and non-bailable in nature. The learned SPP submitted that the victim was only 12 years old and the accused was known to her, which could increase the risk of undue influence and mental trauma if he was released on bail. The prosecution further submitted that four witnesses, including the victim, had been examined, while six witnesses including the Investigating Officer were yet to be recorded.

As per the charge-sheet, the prosecution alleged that on April 27, 2025, when the minor victim visited the shop of the accused, he touched her on the lips and face. Later the same night, when she took her pet out for a walk, the accused allegedly came on a motorcycle, hit her with a helmet, took her behind a washroom, touched her inappropriately and threatened to kill her if she disclosed the incident.

After considering the bail application, objections, charge-sheet and statements recorded so far, the court observed that nothing had surfaced at this stage to support the plea of innocence raised by the accused. The court noted that the victim, in her statement recorded before the court, had fully supported the prosecution story and that medical evidence also supported the case.

The court held that while personal liberty is important, a balance has to be maintained between the liberty of the accused and the interest of justice and society. Referring to the seriousness of sexual offences, the court observed that such crimes strike at the dignity, honour, privacy and right to life of the victim and must be dealt with sternly and sensitively.

Holding that the gravity of allegations, statement of the victim and pendency of examination of material witnesses did not justify bail at this stage, the court rejected the application as devoid of merit. The court clarified that observations made in the order were limited to the disposal of the bail application and would not affect the merits of the main case. (JNF)

"New Chapter..."

policy at every level. Today, India stands stronger, prouder and more self-confident than ever before."

Praising PM Modi's personal commitment to public service, Singh described him as a "Pradhan-Sevak" devoted to the nation and said his dedication continues to inspire millions.

He added, "A 'Pradhan-Sevak', in the truest sense, Modi Ji has dedicated every moment of his life to the service of Maa Bharati and her people. His tireless commitment, unwavering resolve and selfless devotion towards the nation continue to inspire millions. I pray to the Almighty for his good health, long life and continued service to the nation."

Similarly, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 12 years in office, calling May 26, 2014, a defining moment in India's modern history.

In a post on X marking the occasion, Dhami said, "26 May 2014 was not merely a date, but a historic moment marking the launch of a new era for India, when the nation took a decisive step towards a developed, well-governed, and confident New India under the leadership of the esteemed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji."

Highlighting the Centre's achievements over the past 12 years, he said India had reached several historic milestones with service, good governance and welfare of the poor at the core of governance.

He said, "Over the past 12 years, India has achieved numerous historic milestones by placing service, good governance, and welfare of the poor at the center. While on one hand, the country has established a strong identity on the global stage, on the other hand, the task of delivering the benefits of schemes to the person standing in the last row has also progressed at an unprecedented pace."

Dhami also referred to flagship initiatives and infrastructure expansion under the Modi government, saying the period had redefined development in the country.

He added, "Permanent houses for the poor, Jal Jeevan Mission, Ujjwala scheme, Ayushman Bhamat, Digital India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, women's empowerment, modern infrastructure, rapidly developing road-rail-air connectivity, and new opportunities for the youth—these 12 years have seen India redefine development."

Praising Modi's leadership, the Uttarakhand Chief Minister further said, "Under the leadership of the Prime Minister ji, the nation has elevated bold decisions, transparent governance, and the spirit of placing national interest above all to new heights. On this historic journey dedicated to 12 years of public service, good governance, and public welfare, heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to the esteemed Prime Minister ji."

BJP demands...

BJP demanded the prompt action taken by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, saying that swift response is commendable and reflects the efficiency and commitment of law enforcement agencies.

However, she added that if any links of the accused with any political party are found, a fair and impartial investigation must be conducted.

"If there is any attempt to exert political pressure, strict action must be taken against those responsible. While the police are performing their duties efficiently and deserve appreciation, it is extremely important that no political pressure or influence is allowed to dilute the investigation," she said.

Drone found...

to ascertain whether anything related to such an object is present in the surrounding area," he added. Kesar said that keeping in view the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra, all security agencies are on alert and efforts are underway to gather every possible piece of information related to the incident.

Property...

Bijbehara area of the south Kashmir's Anantnag district, he said.

The property has an estimated market value of approximately Rs 1 crore, he said.

The action was carried out under Section 68(F) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, the spokesman said.

The attachment proceedings were executed in the presence of the Executive Magistrate First Class, Bijbehara, he said.

The spokesman said the property shall neither be sold, transferred, or otherwise dealt with without prior permission from the competent authority.

DC Kathua reviews progress of District Capex Budget, MLA-CDF and MPLADS works

KATHUA, MAY 26: Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27, MLA Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) in the district. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed appraisal of the ongoing developmental works across various sectors, including Health, School Education, Rural Development Department (RDD), JPDC and other departments. He also reviewed the status of works being undertaken under DDC, BDC and PRI grants. Emphasising the need for timely execution of projects, the Deputy Commissioner directed all executing agencies to prioritise the completion of ongoing works by ensur-



ing both physical and financial progress within the stipulated timelines. He stressed that the developmental benefits of these projects should reach the public without delay. During the meeting, it was informed that under the MLA Constituency Development Fund,

informed that against 47 works sanctioned under the 2023-24 allocation, 37 works have been completed. Similarly, under the 2024-25 and 2025-26 allocations, 140 works have been completed out of a total of 160 sanctioned works. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of preparation of estimates for works proposed under the current fiscal. The Deputy Commissioner exhorted the executing agencies and concerned departments to ensure creation of quality assets and maintain strict adherence to prescribed standards. He directed the officers to closely monitor the performance of contractors and take appropriate action against those failing to meet quality benchmarks or timelines. Among others, ADC, Mahima Madan, CPO Ranjeet Thakur, ACD Akhil Sadotra, XEN REW, CEO Kathua and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

DC Rajouri conducts surprise inspection of XEN REW Office, Reviews tendering process



RAJOURI, MAY 26: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today conducted a surprise inspection of the office of the Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing (REW), Rajouri, to review the functioning of the department and assess the progress of developmental works and tendering procedures being undertaken in the district. During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner carried out

a detailed review of the tendering process and emphasized the need for ensuring complete transparency, accountability and strict adherence to codal formalities at every stage of execution of works. He directed the concerned officers to formulate proper Bills of Quantities (BOQs) and ensure that tenders are floated and allotted within the stipulated timelines so that developmental works are initiated without unnecessary delay. He further stressed that all works should be started promptly and completed within the prescribed timelines to ensure timely public benefit and effective utilization of resources. The Deputy Commissioner also instructed the officers to maintain close monitoring of all ongoing works and ensure that quality standards are strictly maintained during execution. While interacting with the officers and officials, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the importance of efficient project management, timely completion of works and transparent implementation for strengthening public trust and improving service delivery at the grassroots level.

DC Udhampur chairs DLIC meeting under mission YUVA, 279 loan cases approved



UDHAMPUR, MAY 26: Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee under Mission YUVA scheme to evaluate and screen applications submitted under various categories, including Nano Enterprises and MSMEs, for financial assistance. The meeting was attended by Additional District

Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore, General Manager DIC Kishore Singh Katoch, Assistant Director Employment Priyanka Gupta, representatives from the banking sector and other concerned officers. After detailed scrutiny and deliberations, the committee approved 279 cases for financial assistance under Mission YUVA.

While reviewing the progress achieved under the scheme, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need to accelerate its implementation through enhanced coordination among all line departments. SDMs were directed to ensure a substantial increase in the number of applications, improve performance and achieve the assigned targets in a time-bound manner.

DC Kishtwar reviews arrangements for upcoming Shri Mindhal Mata Yatra 2026

KISHTWAR, MAY 26: Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma today convened a review meeting to finalize preparations for the upcoming Shri Mindhal Mata Yatra 2026. The review meeting focused on ensuring the smooth conduct of the Yatra and the provision of essential services for the pilgrims. The Deputy Commissioner issued key directions for adequate arrangements at the Gauri Shankar Temple, Sarkoot and en route to the holy shrine of Shri Mindhal Mata. He directed the concerned departments to ensure the availability of essential commodities including uninterrupted water and power supply, maintenance of roads, especially at landslide-prone areas en route to Mindhal Mata, proper boarding and lodging facilities for the yatis at the stay venues, security arrangements and proper sanitation facilities for the devotees.



The Deputy Commissioner directed the JPDC, and Jal Shakti Department to provide 24x7 uninterrupted power and water supply, respectively, at Langar venues and stay venues for the yatis. The Health Department was directed to ensure the deployment of

medical staff at the stay venues of the yatis, viz. Sarkoot Mandir Kishtwar, Gulabgarh Paddar, Maha Kali Mandir Sohal and at Langar venues to provide first-aid facilities. Further, it was also directed to ensure the availability of ambulance services at these

locations for any emergency. The Municipal Council was directed to ensure cleanliness at the Gauri Shankar Mandir premises. The Police Department was instructed to coordinate with the Himachal Pradesh Police to ensure proper security arrangements en route to Mindhal Mata up to the jurisdiction of district Kishtwar, besides the deployment of security personnel at Langar venues. For effective crowd and vehicle movement, the ARTO and Traffic Police have been tasked with comprehensive traffic management along the Yatra route. Additionally, the PMGSY, GREF and BRO have been directed to carry out timely road maintenance to ensure the safe and uninterrupted travel of pilgrims. It is noteworthy that the Holy Mace of Shri Mindhal Mata Yatra is scheduled to arrive at the Gauri Shankar Temple Kishtwar on June 10, 2026.

100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan: DIO Samba organises Nukkad Natak at Chichi Mata Temple

SAMBA, MAY 26: As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan, the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), District Information Office Samba organised a Nukkad Natak (street play) at the historic Chichi Mata Temple, Samba to generate awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society.



The programme was organised under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan and under the supervision of District Information Officer Samba Rahul Gupta. The street play was presented by artists of Saraswati Sangeet Art and Cultural Foundation, Samba, who effectively conveyed the message of drug de-addiction through an engaging and thought-provoking performance.

The artists highlighted the social, economic and health-related consequences of substance abuse and emphasised the importance of collective efforts in preventing drug addiction, particularly among

the youth. A large number of devotees, locals and visitors present at the temple premises witnessed the performance and appreciated the initiative. The programme served as an effective

medium for spreading awareness and encouraging community participation in the fight against drug abuse. The District Information Office reiterated its commitment towards supporting the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyaan through sustained Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities across the district. The event concluded with a strong appeal to the public, especially the younger generation, to stay away from drugs and contribute towards building a healthy, prosperous and drug-free Jammu & Kashmir.

Awareness programme on Social Welfare Schemes organised at Bhadrawah

BHADERWAH, MAY 26: The Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), today organised an awareness programme at Bhadrawah to educate women about various social welfare schemes, particularly those aimed at the welfare, upliftment and empowerment of women. The programme was conducted under the supervision of the Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Bhadrawah, with the objective of spreading awareness among women regarding different government-sponsored welfare initiatives and ensuring wider outreach of beneficiary-oriented schemes at the grassroots level.



A large number of women participated enthusiastically in the programme and raised queries regarding various schemes being implemented by the government for women, children, senior citizens, widows and other vulnerable sections of society. Detailed information was provided to the participants regarding eligibility criteria, benefits available under different schemes and the necessary documentation required for availing the benefits. During the interactive session, participants were encouraged to take maximum advantage of the welfare schemes and to disseminate awareness among other eligible beneficiaries in their respective areas. Officials stressed the importance of timely registration and proper documentation to ensure smooth access to government assistance.

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JKNC OBC CELL HOLDS MEETING IN JAMMU



JAMMU, MAY 26: A meeting of the JKNC OBC Cell was held today under the chairmanship of Cell Chairman Abdul Gani Teli. District Presidents of the OBC Cell from Jammu, Samba and Udhampur attended the meeting. Key

organizational issues and matters concerning the welfare of the OBC community were discussed. The Cell resolved to strengthen the party at the grassroots level and raise public issues effectively.

DC Ramban chairs NCORD meeting, reviews anti-drug measures under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

RAMBAN, MAY 26: A meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) was held today at Ramban under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Alyas Khan to review ongoing anti-narcotics measures and strengthen coordinated efforts to curb drug abuse across the district under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan. SSP Arun Gupta, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, Chief Medical Officer Kamal Zadu, CHO, Tehsildar, DSWO, BDO, Drug Control Officer and officers from various



enforcement and line departments attended the meeting. Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars and other concerned officers participated through virtual mode. Reviewing the implementation of directions issued

in the previous meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Drug Inspector to take strict action in close coordination with the concerned Tehsildars and Police Department, besides intensifying enforcement drives.

He directed the SDMs, Tehsildars and Excise Department to maintain strict vigil on illegal poppy and cannabis cultivation and take immediate action wherever such cultivation is detected. He called for innovative interventions and focused analysis to understand the root causes leading youth towards substance abuse and ensure strict surveillance in vulnerable areas. Reviewing the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Ramban, the DC directed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure proper functioning of the IPD

facility and provide quality medical care, counselling and follow-up support for effective rehabilitation and prevention of relapse. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress achieved by various departments under the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir campaign and directed officers to implement all scheduled activities in a time-bound manner. He directed the ACD to strengthen the functioning of Panchayat Level Monitoring Committees and Panchayat-level Mahila Samitis across the district.

GGMHSS Mubarak Mandi felicitates Class 12 toppers Yudhvir Sethi announces installation of water cooler, construction of auditorium hall

JAMMU, APR 27: A grand felicitation ceremony was organized at Government Girls Model Higher Secondary School (GGMHSS) Mubarak Mandi to celebrate the outstanding performance of students in the JKBOSE Class 12th Annual Examination Session 2025-2026. The event was graced by MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi as Chief Guest, while DEPO Jammu, B.D. Sharma attended as Guest of Honour. Distinguished members of the School Management Committee, including Raj Singh, Ram Magotra, H.C. Katoch, Rajesh Verma, Satish Sharma and Ramesh Kumar, were also present. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Principal Neelam Sharma and Vice Principal Anayath Rehman. The proceedings of the function were conducted by Poonam Rajput, Bindu Gandotra and Rajnish, who welcomed the Chief Guest and other guests as anchors of the programme. Addressing the gathering, Yudhvir



Sethi congratulated the students and teachers for achieving excellent results and said that consistent hard work and dedication are the keys to success. He stated that students of government schools are proving their capability and talent across all streams. "Education is the strongest foundation for a bright future, and such achievements reflect the commitment of both students and teachers," he said. On the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi announced the installation of a water cooler for the school from his Constituency Development Funds to ensure better facilities for students. He also announced that an auditorium hall will be constructed in the school to support academic and co-curricular activities. The school recorded an impressive overall result of 91.08 per cent in Class 12 examinations. It secured 9 board positions, 190 distinctions, and 68 first divisions, reflecting the dedication of students and teachers alike. Among the top performers, Vidushi Verma secured 4th position in the Science

stream with 97.8 per cent, while Tejasvi Thakur and Vasudha Verma secured 10th positions with 97.8 per cent each. In Home Science, Siya Chouhan secured 1st position with 458/500 (91.6 per cent), followed by Tejasvi 445/500 (89 per cent), Ananya Raina 409/500 (81.8 per cent), and Shivani Devi 391/500 (78.2 per cent). In Commerce, Shradha Chetti secured 3rd position with 99 per cent, while Pragati Sharma secured 6th position in Arts with 98 per cent. The position holders were felicitated with certificates and medals in recognition of their achievements, while other meritorious students were also appreciated. Teachers from departments including English, Home Science, Biotechnology, Education, Psychology, Botany, Commerce, Mathematics, Statistics, Zoology, Sanskrit/Vedic Studies, Sociology, Stenography, and Vocational Studies were honoured for achieving 100 per cent results, reflecting their dedication.

University of Jammu Concludes Two-Day MDP on Stress Management



JAMMU, MAY 26: The two-day Management Development Programme (MDP) organized by the Department of Commerce, University of Jammu, in collaboration with Anutham Hotel & Resorts, concluded successfully today with active participation from hospitality professionals of the hotel group. The programme focused on "Stress Management for Professionals" and provided

ed participants with practical insights into managing workplace stress and enhancing productivity. The Management Development Programme was conducted under the distinguished patronage of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai, underscoring the University's unwavering commitment to cultivating an entrepreneurial culture and fostering industry-aligned competencies among aspiring professionals. Prof. Jeevan Jyoti, Head, Department of Commerce, appreciated the active participation of the attendees and expressed gratitude to the resource persons for sharing their valuable insights. She remarked that the MDP had been meticulously conceptualized to empower participants with advanced managerial insights, strategic capabilities, and transformative skill sets essential for innovation, leadership, and sustainable organizational growth. During the first day of the programme, various important aspects were deliberated upon, including self-awareness and self-reflection, stress assessment, and managing anxiety and overwhelming thoughts, thereby promoting a positive workplace culture.

Vedas provide eternal method of knowledge through questions and answers: Swami Ram Swarup

YOL, HIMACHAL PRADESH, MAY 26: On the 45th day of the ongoing 78-day Four-Veda Yajna at Ved Mandir, Yol, renowned Vedic scholar and Yogacharya Swami Ram Swarup Ji delivered a profound discourse highlighting the importance of seeking knowledge through questioning and learning from enlightened scholars well-versed in the four Vedas. Addressing devotees, seekers and disciples gathered at the Yajna, Swami Ram Swarup Ji said that whenever an individual faces doubts regarding God, creation, natural elements, spiritual practices or worldly problems, one must approach learned scholars who possess deep knowledge of the Vedas, self-restraint, ascetic discipline and noble virtues. He emphasized that such scholars remove ignorance and illuminate the path of truth through Vedic wisdom. Quoting Yajurveda Mantra 23.9, Swami Ji explained that the eternal Vedic tradition itself teaches mankind the method of asking questions to attain knowledge. He stated that the Vedas



encourage dialogue between the seeker and the learned scholar, which becomes the foundation for intellectual and spiritual progress. Explaining the mantra in detail, Swami Ram Swarup Ji cited the first question from the mantra — "Kah svit ekaki charati?" meaning "Who moves alone?" — to which the answer is the Sun, which travels alone in space. The second question asks, "Kah u svit punah jayate?" — "Who is born again?" — and the answer is the Moon, which shines repeatedly through the reflected light of the Sun. Further elaborating, Swami Ji said,

Shiv Sena Distributes Portraits of Maharaja Gulab Singh Under 'Har Ghar Dogra, Har Daftar Maharaj' Campaign

JAMMU, MAY 26: Reaffirming its commitment to revive Dogra heritage, pride, and the glorious history of Jammu & Kashmir, the Jammu & Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasahab Thackeray) today carried out a massive public outreach campaign at the historic Raghunath Bazar and Hari Market, Indira Chowk under its ongoing initiative, "Har Ghar Dogra, Har Daftar Maharaj". During the campaign, portraits of the founder of Jammu & Kashmir and the great Dogra ruler, Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji, were respectfully presented to local shopkeepers, traders, and business establishments. Led by party's J&K chief Manish Sahni, Shiv Sainiks made an emotional and dignified appeal to traders and citizens, stating that



Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji was not merely a ruler, but a symbol of Dogra culture, pride, and identity. They urged people to place his portraits at prominent and respectable places in their shops and offices so that future generations could draw inspiration from his immense contribution. Speaking to reporters on the occasion, Sahni said, "Maharaja Gulab

the portrait of Maharaja Sahib to be displayed with honour in every home and every business establishment across Jammu." Sahni said that local traders and market associations warmly welcomed the initiative. Shopkeepers not only accepted the portraits with respect and devotion but also pledged to display them prominently in their establishments. He also appreciated the continuous support being extended to the campaign by the royal family of Jammu. Sahni expressed gratitude to Kunwarani Ritu Singh, stating that her support and encouragement in promoting Dogra history, culture, and heritage among the masses has been highly inspiring and significant.

Director Agriculture Jammu Inspects Seed Multiplication Farm Chinore

JAMMU, MAY 26: Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu, Shri Anil Gupta today visited Seed Multiplication Farm (SMF), Chinore and reviewed the functioning and ongoing agricultural activities at the farm. During the visit, the Director reviewed the completion of Rabi harvesting operations and assessed the crop produce harvested at the farm. He also took stock of preparedness for the upcoming Kharif season and reviewed the arrangements being made for sowing activities. The status of foundation and breeder seed production of elite and high-yielding varieties of paddy and other Kharif crops was also reviewed during the inspection. The Director examined the latest farm machinery being utilized for agricultural operations and



inspected the availability of essential agricultural inputs and operational machinery required for the ensuing Kharif season. Stressing upon optimum utilization of available resources, he directed the officers and field staff to ensure timely availability of machinery and inputs for smooth conduct of farm operations. He emphasized that efficient use of modern machinery, scientific farming methods and advanced production technologies should be adopted to further enhance productivity and farm efficiency. The Director further stated that there remains considerable scope for

boosting agricultural production through improved farm management practices and effective implementation of modern techniques. Director Shri Anil Gupta also inspected irrigation infrastructure and other facilities available at the farm and issued necessary directions for further strengthening irrigation arrangements and maintenance of farm assets to support timely agricultural operations. During the inspection, Director Agriculture inspected the harvested Rabi produce of different crops including wheat, mustard and oats. He stressed upon proper storage, handling and safety measures for maintaining seed quality standards and directed the concerned staff to ensure that the quality of seed does not deteriorate during storage till the produce is shifted to the seed processing plant.

BJP Mahila Morcha organises Pravas-cum-Monthly organisational meeting, New women members Join the Party

JAMMU, MAY 26: BJP Mahila Morcha conducted a Pravas-cum-Monthly Organisational Meeting at Pounichak Ghou Manhasa Road, Jammu, under Talab Tillo Mandal, which was chaired by Prerna Nanda, Vice President BJP State Mahila Morcha and Prabhant District Jammu, in the presence of District President BJP Mahila Morcha Jammu Anuradha Sharma and Co-Incharge Shalu Gupta. The meeting was organised by Chandni Sharma, Mandal President BJP Mahila Morcha Talab Tillo Mandal, along with her team. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from Mahila Morcha office bearers,

Mandal team members, and women karyakartas of the area. Among those present on the occasion were District Mahila Morcha Prabhanti Asha Gupta, District General Secretary Ranju Sharma, BJP Talab Tillo Mandal General Secretary Amit Sharma, along with members of the Mandal team. Prerna Nanda emphasised the importance of strengthening the organisational structure at the booth and Mandal levels and called upon women workers to actively participate in party programmes and public outreach campaigns. She stated that Mahila Morcha plays a vital role in taking the policies, achievements, and ideology of the Bharatiya Janata Party to every household. Anuradha Sharma appreciated the active participation of women karyakartas and urged them to work collectively for strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding organisational activities, women empowerment initiatives, upcoming party programmes, and strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level. Senior office bearers and women karyakartas also shared their views and suggestions during the interaction.

Alienation of J&K reduced after abrogation of Article 370: Balbir

JAMMU, MAY 26: BJP Spokesperson and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan strongly countered the remarks of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah wherein he has urged Centre to abandon alienating policies towards Jammu and Kashmir.



Balbir reminded the NC chief that the real alienation in Jammu and Kashmir existed during the decades when dynastic political parties exploited Article 370 for their own interests while keeping common people deprived of development, transparency and equal constitutional rights. Balbir said that after the abrogation of Article 370 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed political empowerment, rapid development, improved security and stronger integration

Balbir asserted that Panchayat, Block Development Council (BDC) and District Development Council (DDC) elections have strengthened democracy at the village level. Direct funding to Panchayats and active public participation in governance have reduced the gap between administration and the people. Earlier, power remained confined to a few families, while ordinary citizens suffered neglect. Today democracy has reached every village and household. Highlighting the developmental transformation after abrogation in August 2019, Balbir said that projects which remained pending for decades are now progressing rapidly. He referred to the expansion of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, the Chenab Rail Bridge, improved railway connectivity, establishment of

AHMS and new medical colleges, besides expansion of road and digital infrastructure. "Those talking about alienation should explain why such development was missing during their own rule", he remarked. Balbir further said that record tourist arrivals, revival of hotels, houseboats and handicraft businesses, and successful hosting of international events like the G20 meeting in Srinagar clearly prove that confidence and normalcy have returned to Jammu and Kashmir. If there was alienation, lakhs of tourists would not have been visiting J&K. He also highlighted the decline in hartals, stone-pelting incidents and separatist-sponsored shutdowns, saying that the youth are now focusing on education, employment, entrepreneurship and startups.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAL SHAKTI IRRIGATION DIVISION UDHAMPUR

CORREGENDIUM

Due to Administrative reasons in Enit's mentioned below which is due on 23-05-2026 is hereby extended as under:-

S.N	Name of work	Ref. to enit No.	Date of submission	Date of Opening
01	PERMANENT RESTORATION OF F.P.W. AT MANHASA NAGAL AT SPOET, F.P.W. AT BILAW NAGAL AT SPOET, F.P.W. AT SHALU NAGAL AT SPOET, F.P.W. AT MANHASA NAGAL AT SPOET, F.P.W. AT BHARAT NAGAL AT SPOET, F.P.W. AT DISTRI NAGAL AT SPOET, F.P.W. AT SHAL SALAN NAGAL AT SPOET, F.P.W. AT ABRESDI NEAR BILAWA TRASHI (BILAWANAGAR) AT SPOET, F.P.W. AT BELWA NAGAL NEAR BELWA TRASHI (BILAWANAGAR) AT SPOET, F.P.W. AT LOUDANANG AT SPOET, F.P.W. AT SHAKAR NAGAL AT SPOET, F.P.W. AT LOUDANANG NAGAL (DWAR) AT SPOET	FWP 1487 N.O. 03 OF 2025-27	23 05 2026 upto 4.00 P.M.	23-06-2026, till 1.30 P.M.

ALL TERMS CONDITIONS ARE SAME AS PER ENIT

No. IDU/782-774
Date:- 25-05-2026
DDP/J-2687/26

Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division
Udhampur

No political pressure or influence should protect the accused. Law must act fairly and firmly. Swift, strict action against the guilty must be ensured: Rajni Sethi

JAMMU, MAY 26: The horrific incident involving the rape and murder of an 11-year-old innocent girl in Galwanpora, Budgam, is deeply painful and utterly condemnable. BJP spokesperson Rajni Sethi expressed her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and stated that daughters do not belong to any single religion or community—they are the shared responsibility of the entire society.



She emphasized that no religion permits such heinous acts. This incident serves as a grave warning for all of us, forcing society to reflect on the direction in which we are heading. When a young girl is not safe even within her own neighborhood, and when the mindset of local youth deteriorates to such an extent, it raises serious questions about the moral fabric of our society. It is a matter that demands deep introspection at every level—family, community, and institutions.

Rajni Sethi further pointed out that the reported disrespect shown toward a religious scripture during

the commission of the crime highlights the fact that the perpetrator neither understands humanity nor respects the core values of his own faith. Such actions demonstrate a complete erosion of moral and ethical boundaries, making it even more crucial for society to address these issues collectively.

She also appreciated the prompt action taken by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, who managed to solve the case and arrest the accused within just 36 hours. This

swift response is commendable and reflects the efficiency and commitment of law enforcement agencies. However, she added that if any links of the accused with any political party are found, a fair and impartial investigation must be conducted.

If there is any attempt to exert political pressure, strict action must be taken against those responsible. While the police are performing their duties efficiently and deserve appreciation, it is extremely important that no political pressure or influence is allowed to dilute the investigation.

Any effort to interfere with the course of justice, whether directly or indirectly, must be dealt with firmly. Justice must remain fair, transparent, and free from any external interference. Only then can we ensure that the victim, an innocent young girl, receives the justice she deserves.

Rajni Sethi urged the administration to ensure that those involved in this heinous crime are charged under the strictest provisions of the law. She called for the case to be heard in a fast-track court so that justice is delivered swiftly. Such decisive action is necessary to send a strong and unambiguous message across society that crimes against children will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

In addition to administrative action, she appealed to society at large to remain vigilant. Communities must take collective responsibility by observing the activities and behavior of individuals, especially youth, in their surroundings. Awareness and early intervention can play a crucial role in preventing such crimes.

She also stressed the importance of empowering young girls not just through education, but by equipping them with awareness about personal safety and self-defense. Parents and guardians must ensure that children are confident, informed, and capable of protecting themselves to the extent possible.

Sat asks BJP Morchas, Cells to take Modi gov't's 12 years achievements to every household

BJP holds meetings of Morchas, Cells at party headquarters

JAMMU, MAY 26: J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, accompanied by J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, chaired a series of meetings of senior party leaders at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to strategize and intensify the implementation of the party's nationwide programmes commemorating twelve years of the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre. The meetings were attended by J&K BJP Vice-President Rakesh Mahajan, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Gopal Mahajan, Secretary Reema Padha, All Cells Incharge Ved Sharma, Morcha office bearers, Cell convenors, co-convenors, and other senior leaders. Sat Sharma, while addressing the meetings, said that the twelve years of the Modi Government have transformed India politically, economically, strategically, and socially, while establishing a new era of development, good governance, national pride, welfare, and public trust. He said that every BJP activist must become the messenger of these historic achievements and ensure that the benefits and success stories of the government reach every household and every section of society through extensive public outreach. Sat Sharma stressed that the Morchas and

Cells have a decisive role in making the upcoming programmes a mass contact campaigns across Jammu & Kashmir. He asked the leaders to ensure active public participation in programmes including Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabhas, professional meets, intellectual meets, youth outreach programmes, women-centric programmes, beneficiary contact campaigns, exhibitions on twelve years of Modi Government achievements, press interactions, workshops, natural farming awareness programmes, cleanliness, drives, yoga programmes, blood donation camps, plantation drives under 'Ek Ped Mau Ke Naam', and large-scale booth-level public contact campaigns. Sharma further directed the party leaders to intensify outreach among youth, women, farmers, traders, professionals, SCs, STs, OBCs, and every beneficiary section so that the achievements of the Modi Government are effectively communicated to the masses. Ashok Koul, while addressing the meetings, emphasized that BJP's organizational strength lies in its continuous connection with the people and said that every Morcha and Cell must work in a coordinated and mission-oriented manner to take the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

Indian Army organises Tree plantation drive

RAJOURI, MAY 26: A tree plantation drive was organised at Government Higher Secondary School, Lassana, on 25 May 2026 under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Abhiyan by the Indian Army. The initiative aimed to spread awareness about environmental conservation and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among the youth. Army personnel, along with students and school staff, actively participated in the drive and planted various saplings within the school premises.



During the event, participants were sensitised about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of preserving the environment for future generations. The programme highlighted the collective responsibility of society in building a greener, healthier and drug-free future.

The staff and students appreciated the efforts of the Indian Army in conducting meaningful community outreach activities and fostering awareness among the younger generation. The event concluded with a pledge by all participants to contribute towards environmental protection and support the mission of a drug-free society.

DPS Jammu Celebrates Eid-ul-Azha with Spirit of Unity, Compassion and Harmony

JAMMU, MAY 26: Delhi Public School Jammu celebrated the joyous festival of Eid-ul-Azha through a special assembly that highlighted the values of gratitude, compassion, generosity, sacrifice, and communal harmony. The assembly aimed to familiarise students with the spiritual significance of Eid while reinforcing the ideals of unity, brotherhood, empathy, and mutual respect. It encouraged students to appreciate India's rich cultural diversity and uphold the spirit of togetherness.



The assembly was efficiently conducted by Sufyaan Chauhan (XI-H) and Jhanvi (XI-H), who conducted the proceedings with confidence and grace. The programme commenced with a serene prayer presented by Parag Chahotra (XI-H), invoking peace, prosperity, and

happiness for all. This was followed by the school pledge led by Reeda (VII-G), where students reaffirmed their commitment to the values of honesty, respect, and responsibility. A thought for the day was shared by Saargavi Sharma (VIII-A),

inspiring everyone to practise kindness and compassion in their daily lives. The highlight of the assembly was an insightful speech by Parikshit Sharma (XI-H), who beautifully explained the significance of Eid, the joy of moon sighting, mehendi, Eidi, and fes-

tive greetings. He also highlighted the deeper meaning of qurbani (sacrifice), encouraging everyone to practise gratitude, charity, and compassion while extending support to the less fortunate. Fostering love, unity, and humanity. Adding a spiritual and cultural touch to the celebration, the school choir, prepared by Ms. Mukti Oberoi, presented a soulful rendition of "Kar Du Karam Maula" — a spiritual presentation of Naat & Qawwali. The mesmerizing performance filled the atmosphere with devotion, peace, and reverence, leaving the audience deeply moved and spiritually enriched. The melodious presentation was highly appreciated by all present and added immense grace and warmth to the celebration.

Farmers facing acute crisis due to fertilizer shortage, rising fuel prices: Bharat Priye

REASI, MAY 26: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Kissan Congress Chairman Bharat Priye on Monday led a delegation of senior Congress and youth leaders to submit a memorandum of demands to Additional Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Rakesh Kumar, seeking immediate intervention to address the growing hardships being faced by the farming community across the district. The delegation, accompanied by Adv. Ajay Salathia, District DCC Reasi, Kamal Singh, Chairman District Congress Kissan Cell Reasi, senior Congress leaders Munshi Ram Salathia, Vijay Kumar Sharma and Ramesh Chander, besides Shoba Sharma, President District Mahila Congress Reasi, Bishan Sharma and Dev Raj Bhagat, General Secretaries



JKPCC, Karandeep Singh and Maninder Sharma, Vice Presidents JKDYC, and Khadim Chouhan, President JKAYC, urged the district administration to take immediate and concrete steps for safeguarding the interests of farmers.

In the memorandum, Bharat Priye highlighted that farmers in Reasi district are facing serious difficulties due to irregular supply and inadequate availability of fertilizers at authorised outlets during the peak agricultural season. He

stressed that many cultivators are being forced to purchase fertilizers from private dealers at inflated rates, causing heavy financial burden on small and marginal farmers. The delegation demanded adequate stocking and timely distribution of fertilizers in every block and remote area of the district. The Congress leaders also expressed concern over the supply of substandard and uncertified seeds to farmers. They demanded strict monitoring of seed distribution centres and urged the administration to ensure availability of certified high-yield quality seeds so that farmers can improve productivity and avoid crop losses. The memorandum stated that quality seeds are essential for enhancing agricultural output and strengthening the rural economy.

Vinay Gupta leads BJP District Akhnoor's strategic meet for '12 Saal Jan Vishwas' campaign

AKHNOOR, MAY 26: Under the dynamic leadership of Prabhari BJP Akhnoor District Vinay Gupta, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Akhnoor District convened a comprehensive organizational meeting at the party office in Akhnoor today. The meeting was meticulously organized by BJP District President Kuldeep Banotra to chalk out a robust strategy for the upcoming '12 Saal Jan Vishwas' mass-outreach campaign, aimed at highlighting the transformative achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government. Addressing the gathering, Prabhari Vinay Gupta emphasized the sig-

nificance of the campaign, which will run from June 5 to June 21, 2026. He said under the able and decisive leadership of PM Modi, India has witnessed unprecedented progress across all sectors over the last 12 years. The '12 Saal Jan Vishwas' campaign is not just a celebration of these achievements but a commitment to take the message of development directly to every booth and every household. He elaborated on key milestones, including infrastructure revolution through Bharatmala and Sagarmala projects; digital empowerment via initiatives like UPI and Digital India; and welfare schemes such

as PM Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, which have uplifted crores of citizens across the nation. Gupta particularly highlighted how Jammu and Kashmir has transformed under the Modi government, with record tourism, improved connectivity, and enhanced security leading to a new era of peace and prosperity. He added that the campaign will showcase the real achievements of the last 12 years—from the abrogation of Article 370 to the empowerment of women, youth, and farmers—and will further strengthen the bond between the people and the BJP.

International Daily Rising School Celebrates Investiture Ceremony 2026

JAMMU, MAY 26: International Daily Rising School proudly organized its prestigious Investiture Ceremony 2026 on 26th May 2026 in the school auditorium with immense enthusiasm, discipline, and ceremonial splendour. The event marked the formal appointment of the newly elected Student Council members, celebrating the spirit of leadership, responsibility, and commitment among students. The ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of distinguished guest DSP Albeena Malik, whose inspiring interaction added great value to the occasion. Addressing the gathering, she motivated students to become confident, disciplined, and socially responsible individuals who lead with honesty, courage, and compassion.



During her insightful address, DSP Albeena Malik also sensitized students about the growing threats of cyber crimes, online frauds, social

media misuse, and digital scams. She guided students on essential preventive measures such as maintaining strong passwords, avoiding suspicious links and unknown calls, protecting personal information online, and using social media responsibly. She further encouraged students to remain alert and informed while using digital platforms and emphasized the importance of reporting any suspicious online activity to parents, teachers,

or concerned authorities immediately. Her informative session proved to be highly educational and impactful for both students and staff members.

The programme commenced with the traditional lamp lighting ceremony and invocation, setting a graceful and auspicious tone for the event. The occasion was also honoured by the presence of the respected Chairperson & Founder Ms. Supinder Kaur, esteemed

Managing Director Mr. Raghav Gupta, Director Academics cum Principal Dr. Atul Hans, Vice Principal Ms. Pooja Sharma, Administrator Advocate Buvandeep Singh, and Jr. School Master Ms. Pooja Sharma.

During the ceremony, the newly elected council members were conferred with badges and sashes as a symbol of responsibility and trust. The oath-taking ceremony reflected the students' pledge to uphold the values of discipline, dedication, integrity, and service towards the school community.

The four school houses — Courtesy (Blue), Excellence (Yellow), Pride (Green), and Loyalty (Red) — displayed remarkable unity, enthusiasm, and team spirit throughout the programme. Motivational speeches by the dignitaries further inspired students to become visionary leaders and responsible citizens.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANSMISSION LINE, MAINTENANCE DIVISION-VIII, JKPTCL, AMBEDKAR CHOWK, RAILWAY ROAD, JAMMU.

No. TLMD-VIII/584-86 Dated:23.05.2026

Corrigendum For Extension of Date-III

Subj- Extension of E-NIT No.: TLMD-VIII/ET/03 of 2026-27 dated: 17/04/2026

Due to the poor response, the e-NIT No.: TLMD-VIII/ET/03 of 2026-27 dated: 17/04/2026 for the work of "Reassignment for bypassing housing colony lakhandi, udhampur along with Stabilization of existing 220 KV S/C Gladni-Udhampur Transmission line on D/C towers from Loc. No. 158 up to Grid station Udhampur, laying foundations and strengthening of existing line by providing missing members/conductor/other allied accessories, benching, Protection work, route clearance including Design, Engineering, survey, Supply, Erection, Inspection testing & commissioning", issued by this office is hereby extended as per following:

1	e-Bid submission (end) date and time	30-05-2026 up to 1400 Hrs.
2	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date and time	01-06-2026 at 1800 Hrs.

-Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
TLMD-VIII, JKPTCL,
Jammu.

DIP/J-795-P/26

North in News

EDITORIAL

Sports infrastructure in J&K needs a major push, specially in Jammu division

Sports infrastructure in J&K needs a major push, specially in Jammu division, because the Union Territory has the talent, climate diversity, and youth demography to become India's sporting powerhouse, yet decades of underinvestment, security constraints, and regional imbalance have left stadiums incomplete, coaches scarce, and athletes without pathways. Jammu division in particular requires targeted investment because while Kashmir's winter sports and cricket culture have received visibility, the 10 districts of Jammu from Kathua to Poonch and Doda to Ramban have raw potential in athletics, wrestling, kabaddi, archery, boxing, and football that remains untapped due to lack of facilities. The division has only one synthetic athletics track at Jammu University, no Olympic-size swimming pool, no indoor shooting range, no velodrome, and most district stadiums lack floodlights, hostels, or physio rooms, and the result is that athletes from Reasi train on riverbeds, boxers from Udhampur use makeshift rings in school halls, and footballers from Poonch travel 200 km to Jammu for a decent ground. This gap is costing medals and also costing the economy because sports tourism, which could employ thousands in Patnitop, Bhaderwah, Sanasar, and Mansar remains limited to a two-week golf event. Kathua and Samba for athletics and cricket. Udhampur and Reasi for endurance sports, temperate zones in Doda and Kishtwar for archery and mountain biking, and border belts in Rajouri and Poonch where sports can be a counter to narco-trafficking by engaging youth. Jammu has produced international fencers like Shreya Gupta, Wushu champions from Poonch, and cricketers like Abdul Samad, yet they had to migrate to other states for training. Jammu division must start with a UT-level Sports Infrastructure Master Plan 2026-2036 that maps each district to its natural sport. Kathua must get a multi-sports complex with synthetic hockey and athletics, Samba needs a football academy linked to Army grounds, Udhampur requires a shooting and archery high-performance center leveraging its altitude, Reasi should host a water sports center at Chenab basin, Doda and Kishtwar need high-altitude training centers for endurance and winter sports, Rajouri and Poonch must get indoor stadiums for boxing, wushu, and kabaddi to keep youth engaged year-round, and Ramban needs a sports science and rehab center on the highway to serve athletes and pilgrims. Jammu city needs an upgrade of MA Stadium to 30,000 capacity with FIFA and ICC standards so that it can host IPL, ISL, and international fixtures. Therefore sports infrastructure in J&K needs a major push, specially in Jammu division, not as charity but as strategy.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

Technology in Service of Tribal Dignity



BY RANJANA CHOPRA

In the forests, hills, and remote habitations that stretch across our country, a quiet yet consequential transformation is underway. Tribal communities, long awaiting their rightful place at the center of India's development story, are today emerging as active architects of the nation's progress. This is the spirit that underlies Janjatiya Garima Utsav: a national celebration of a journey towards Viksit Bharat, where progress is not a privilege of geography or circumstance, but a right belonging equally to every citizen.

The Scale of the Ambition

To appreciate why technology has become indispensable to tribal development, one must first appreciate the magnitude of challenge. Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission, and related initiatives cover more than 63,000 villages across 549 districts and 2,911 blocks in 30 States and Union Territories, benefiting more than 5.5 crore tribal citizens. With special focus on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), these efforts aim to ensure saturation coverage of essential services such as housing, drinking water, sanitation, education, healthcare, connectivity, and livelihoods. Reaching every family across such diverse and

expansive terrain demands system that are data-driven, connected, and responsive and that is precisely what we are building.

Janjatiya Garima Utsav this year is organized around four thematic weeks, that together reflect the full arc of tribal development. The opening theme, "Technology as a Development Driver," captures how digital systems, science, and innovation are helping extend governance and opportunity to some of India's remotest communities. At the heart of this vision lies a simple principle: development must reach the last mile while remaining deeply respectful of tribal languages, cultures, heritage, and traditional knowledge systems.

Technology in Service of Tribal Dignity

The most vivid illustration of what technology can accomplish when directed with purpose is BIRSA 101 - India's first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy for sickle cell disease. Sickle cell disease has long posed a significant health challenge for tribal populations, and India is now answering that challenge with advanced science rooted in equity and accessibility. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has extended financial assistance to support research, clinical trial infrastructure, and technology transfer in collaboration with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), and Serum Institute of India Pvt. Ltd. A recent seminar at CSIR-IGIB brought together scientists, policymakers and Sickle cell warriors, reflecting both the scientific progress and the human urgency behind the efforts.

The shared goal is clear: to develop an affordable, one-time curative treatment that can reach every tribal family in need. BIRSA 101 is not merely a medical milestone. It is a declaration that India's most advanced science will serve its most deserving communities.

This conviction runs deeper than a single initiative. Efforts such as the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) and Ayurgenomics demonstrate how modern technology can help document, validate,

and preserve the rich medicinal and ecological knowledge long safeguarded by tribal communities.

The same spirit of inclusion is shaping how artificial intelligence is being integrated into tribal development. At the India AI Impact Summit 2026, the Ministry presented a range of AI-enabled platforms built on a simple but powerful belief: that language is not a barrier to be overcome but an identity to be celebrated. Adi Vaani, an AI-powered Translator for Tribal Languages, supports text-to-text and text-to-speech translation, OCR, and delivery of government scheme information in tribal languages, enabling citizens to engage with public services in the language they speak at home. TriBoT, a multilingual conversational AI assistant, further strengthens this effort by providing real-time guidance and grievance support to citizens in remote regions. These efforts were also discussed during a national seminar organized with the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Cell and IIT Delhi, which focused on culturally sensitive and community-centric applications of AI, including long-term preservation and strengthening of tribal languages. Technology is also becoming a powerful instrument of cultural assertion and economic empowerment. The forthcoming TribeX platform aims to create a digital ecosystem for promoting tribal arts, languages, traditional knowledge, music, crafts, and cultural experiences. Complementing this effort, the proposed GI Potential Atlas and Craft Atlas of Tribal India will digitally map tribal handicrafts, forest products, and traditional art forms with Geographical Indication potential, helping strengthen branding, market access, and recognition of tribal intellectual heritage. Innovation Hubs, planned across Tribal Research Institutes in five states on a pilot basis, will go further still, combining design and product development support, GIS-based planning dashboards, and incubation infrastructure for innovation-led tribal entrepreneurs and startups. Technology is equally transforming the way governance reaches tribal communi-

ties. Survey Setu, deployed under PM-JANMAN for PVTG household surveys, enables real-time, geo-tagged monitoring of welfare delivery across remote regions. Operating across 18 States and 1 Union Territory, the platform has already recorded 3.43 lakh household submissions with support of 8,552 surveyors. Such data-driven systems help ensure that every eligible family is identified and connected to essential services. In parallel, the Ministry is developing an AI-enabled Forest Rights Act governance platform to streamline claim submissions, GIS-based mapping, workflow monitoring, and grievance redressal. Together, these initiatives are making governance more transparent, responsive, and accessible for tribal citizens. Tribal Communities: Drivers of Viksit Bharat There is a moment that, captures the essence of everything we are working towards. It is not found in a policy document or a ministerial review. It is found when a tribal woman in a remote habitation, empowered by technology, by language, and by the assurance that the state is listening, engages with government services on her own terms and receives an answer with full dignity. That moment is not the end of a journey. It is the beginning of a new chapter in India's national story. Janjatiya Garima Utsav carries this message with pride.

Tribal communities, with their resilience, their ecological wisdom, their artistic traditions, and their deep roots in this land, are not waiting at the threshold of Viksit Bharat. They are among its most powerful and inspiring drivers. As technology bridges distances, as science delivers healing, as AI speaks in the languages of the forests and the hills, and as governance reaches the last family in the farthest village, we move closer each day to India that is not merely developed in measure, but complete in its humanity. That is the Viksit Bharat we are building together, inspired by the vision of Prime Minister.

(The author is Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.)

Armed forces must adapt to tackle future battles

BY HARSHA KAKAR

Recent conflicts have displayed two distinct characteristics. The first is a war between neighbouring countries primarily with territorial disputes while the second is when a state or an alliance, without a common border with the adversary, seeks to force it into submission or accept its terms. The Azerbaijan-Armenia war of 2020 and 2023 and the Russo-Ukraine conflict, into its fifth year, fall in the first category, while the US-Israel-Iran war comes in the second.

India has territorial disputes with two neighbours and any conflict with either would come in the first category. Wars in recent times have been influenced by technological changes, including AI. In the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict, rockets, drones, missiles, EW and loitering ammunition were successfully employed for the first time. Armenia accepted a ceasefire because its forces were severely depleted because of coordinated strikes by Azerbaijan, utilizing Turkish UAVs and loitering ammunition. Technology has dominated the Russo-Ukraine conflict in far more imaginative ways. Russia was successful in the initial stages as Ukraine had yet to develop its UAV and counter-UAV capabilities.

As the war progressed, imaginative use of UAVs and commercial satellites made the battlefield transparent, while the inclusion of armed robots and UAVs alongside missiles added to destruction. Surprise was no longer possible nor was deployment and use of large-scale mechanized forces. As lessons emerged, Russian mechanized forces began to be equipped with counter-drone and loitering munition capabilities, while their tactics also changed. Capture of territory remains the

primary intent: hence troops are deployed to gain or deny this despite challenges. Currently, progress is slow and the frontlines are largely frozen.

There are no longer large mechanized forces bunched together and breaking through, but smaller teams backed by firepower and UAVs. Ukraine has realized that despite its vast exploitation of UAVs and armed robots (to make up for a shortfall in troops), it cannot stop Russian advances without boots on the ground. Land forces remain essential in conflicts involving territorial disputes.

Use of airpower has also changed. The Russian air force, far superior to Ukraine's, changed its philosophy of operational employment once it encountered multi-layered Ukrainian air defences, resulting in heavy losses. It began avoiding contested air spaces to prevent attrition and instead relied on its accurate long-range weapons, including cruise missiles and glide bombs, releasing them beyond the range of Ukraine's air defences. This also affected close air support traditionally provided to ground forces in contact battle. Ground troops have to be self-reliant in defence as air support is only available from a distance. To target Ukraine's industrial complexes, energy infrastructure and resupply depots, Russia utilizes UAVs and missiles, fired from deep within. Ukraine's ability to hit Russian air bases has forced Moscow to move its air power resources further back.

Troops on the frontlines are dependent on FPV (First Person View) drones and loitering munitions. These are utilized to monitor movements of the adversary and to target advancing troops. UAVs and ground drones are employed for re-supply and casualty evacuation.

Drones are now modified with anti-jamming capabilities and anti-drone nets are common over defensive positions. Iran is a different kettle of fish and the war here cannot be compared to Ukraine. Neither the US nor Israel share a border with Iran and hence operations are based on US-Israel air power and Iran's missile and drone power.

India's Operation Sindoor largely followed the Russo-Ukraine model. With Pakistan possessing Chinese air defence systems, Indian air power exploited its long-range weapon systems and its loitering ammunition alongside Brahmos missiles fired from well within our own side, targeting Pakistan's air defence systems and military bases. India's S-400 anti-aircraft missile system achieved a record-breaking surface-to-air kill of Pakistan's Airborne Early Warning and Control aircraft at a distance of 314 km. Air defences on both sides ensured air power stayed well within its own territory to avoid being targeted. This scenario will only get more complex in the future. Employment of air power close to the border or in enemy territory can only happen once air defence systems of the adversary are negated which is unlikely in short conflicts.

Air operations in Sindoor were different from Operation Bandar in 2019 targeting Balakote, where a dog fight resulted in air losses to both Pakistan and India. Simultaneously, Indian artillery fired precision-guided ammunition to degrade Pakistan's terrorist camps and posts, which had supported movement of terrorists. The Indian army has since Sindoor gone in for induction of UAVs and loitering munitions from the battalion level upwards to enhance staying power of troops on the ground.

It is also restructuring its firepower by inducting long-range weapons with precision targeting. The raising of Rudra brigades and Integrated Battle Groups is to offset presenting large mechanized forces. There are also reports of the army raising a rocket and missile force for targeting positions in depth and for defending its troops in a contact battle.

The artillery has adopted fire-and-scoot tactics to avoid being engaged by the adversary's loitering munitions and counter-bombardment. The air force is enhancing its long-range strike capabilities. The ongoing/planned induction of Rampage, Brahmos, and Crystal Maze missiles for air-to-ground targets, Gaurav, TARA glide bombs and SAAW (Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons) for the enemy's strategic installations and Meteor, Astra Mk II, etc. for long-range air-to-air combat, apart from loitering munitions and smart drones, indicate that engagement in future conflicts would be from beyond the range of the adversary's air defence systems. Future airspaces would be contested, dominated by air defence systems, and preventing traditional employment of air power.

This implies that close air support for the army, once contact battle commences, would flow from a distance exploiting accurate air-to-ground weapon systems. Hence, troops on the ground must possess the ability to identify threats and defend themselves with UAVs and loitering ammunition directly under their control alongside dedicated artillery and missile power. The airspace over the TBA (Tactical Battle Area) would be congested, being simultaneously utilized by multiple forces.

Expecting the airspace to be coordinated by a single agency, except by altitude.

Jammu Headquarters Zone Police in RS Pura arrested Drug Peddler with 10.60 grams of Heroin

RS PURA, MAY 26: Continuing its drive against drug trafficking and substances abuse under Mission 100 days Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, R.S Pura police station RS Pura achieved success by recovering * approx. 10.60 grams of Heroin (Chitta) like substance* from one drug peddler from village Rangpur Sidhrey near Shamsan Ghat under the jurisdiction of P.S.R.S.Pura. A Police team of Police Station R.S. Pura today on 26.05.2026 while on rou-



tinge patrolling under the jurisdiction of Police Station, rounded up Janak Raj S/o Nand Lal R/o Rangpur Sidhrey, Tehsil RS Pura District Jammu. During his personal search, approx. 10.60 grams of Heroin (chitta) like substance * got recovered from the possession of accused person. In this regard, case *FIR No. 100/2026 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act stands registered at Police Station R.S Pura, accused person got arrested and investigation started thereof.

Jammu Police Hqrs Zone in Miran Sahib Arrests Two Drug Peddlers; 260 Grams Heroin-like Substance Recovered

RS PURA, MAY 26: Continuing its sustained drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Police Station Miran Sahib achieved a significant success by arresting two alleged drug peddlers and recovering approximately 260 grams of heroin-like substance from their possession. On 25-05-2026, acting on credible information, a case FIR No. 76/2026 under sections 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Miran Sahib against the following accused persons namely Hanief Choudhary S/o Gani R/o Ganda, Miran Sahib and Bhim Singh S/o



Department, J&K, presently posted at Seed Multiplication Farm Chakroi, R.S. Pura. The accused persons were arrested by Police Station Miran Sahib at about 2345 hours on 25-05-2026 and are presently in police custody. Further investigation into the case is underway to ascertain forward and backward linkages involved in the narcotics network. Jammu Police remains committed to its zero-tolerance policy against drug menace and appeals to the general public by sharing any information related to drug peddling in their areas.

Jammu Police Hqrs Zone in Bishnah Arrest one drug Peddler with 8/10 grams of Heroin

JAMMU, MAY 26: Continuing its sustained drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Today Police Station Bishnah achieved a significant success in its ongoing campaign against drug trafficking by apprehending one alleged drug peddler and recovering heroin (Chitta) from his possession. On 26/05/2026, a naka/patrolling duty laid by a police party of Police Station Bishnah at Kotli Charkan near Iron Bridge, one accused namely Labha Ram S/o Late Mansa Ram R/o Kotli Charkan, Tehsil Bishnah, was apprehended after he tried to flee from the spot on seeing the



police party. During checking, approximately 08/10 grams of heroin (chitta)-like substance along with one digital weighing machine was recovered from his possession. In this connection, a case under relevant sections of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Bishnah and further investigation is underway. Jammu Police reiterates its firm commitment towards the eradication of the drug menace from society and appeals to the general public to cooperate with the police by sharing any information related to drug trafficking or other illegal activities.

NOTICE
I Ashiq Ali S/o Sh.Nazir Ahmed R/O Durang tehsil Billawar distt kathua J& k have lost my driving licence No. Jk-0820110019576 which is issued by RTO kathua. Now I am applying for its duplicate in RTO office kathua. objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority with in 7 days, from the date of publication of this notice

NOTICE
I CHAIN SINGH S/O SANSAR CHAND R/O SENCHHA TEHSIL ADISTT. RAMBAN. Have applied for the registration of DEE class contractor card in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD R&B Udhampur- Ramban Circle HQ Udhampur objection if any may be conveyed to the above said office within 07 days.

NOTICE
I YUG RAJ S/O SEWA SINGH R/O GANDHOTI TEHSIL & DISTT. RAMBAN. Have applied for the registration of DEE class contractor card in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD R&B Udhampur-Ramban Circle HQ Udhampur objection if any may be conveyed to the above said office within 07 days.

NOTICE
I Raj nath S/o Lakhmi ram R/o ward no 1 kamalrie kora Tehsil mohalla Distt. Doda. have applied for correction of my name which has been wrongly written as Raj nath Sharma instead of correct name Raj nath in my Aadhar Card bearing No 66174941962. 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 NAIIB-TEHSILDAR EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS RAJGARH
Kirpa Ram S/o Man Singh R/o Chakka Kundi Tehsil Rajgarh District Ramban
Applicant
Versus
Through BDO Assar
Non applicant

IN THE MATTER OF Application for seeking direction upon the non applicant to enter/register the Death Particulars of the applicant's grandmother in the Death Register.
NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AT LARGE
Whereas the applicant named above has filed an application seeking direction to the Non Applicant to register the date of Death particulars of his grandmother as mentioned below in the concerned register:

Name of Deceased Father Name of Deceased Mother Name of Deceased Husband Name of Deceased Death of Death Hamzila Devi Atra Dhoni Bajra 20.12.1996
Naib Tehsildar Executive Magistrate 1st Class Executive Magi Tehsildar Kalgah class 26/05/2026
Place of Death
AT Home

Therefore by virtue of this notice at large is informed that if any person have any objection is respect in the in the above mentioned application, he/she file his/her objection in this office within seven days from the issuance of this notice falling which said application shall be dealt into accordance with law
Issued under my hand and seal of this court today on date, 26/05/2026.
Sd
Naib Tehsildar executive Magistrate
1st class Rajgarh

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAL SHAKTI IRRIGATION DIVISION UDHAMPUR
Fresh E-NIT NO.02 OF 2026-27
Dated:-23-05-2026

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Short Term E-Tender (in two cover system) Cover-I containing CDR/PDR, prequalification documents and Cover-II containing price bid are invited from registered Contractors/firms for the works below:-

S. No	Name of Work	App. Cost (in lac)	Est/Money	Class of Contr.	A.A./T.S. No.	Position of Funds	Time of Completion	Cost of tender (in Rs)
1.	PERMANENT RESTORATION OF VARIOUS MEDIUM MINOR KHULS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF JAL SHAKTI IFC DIVISION UDHAMPUR UNDER SASC A. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF DUDGAR CANAL RD 0-2704 10MAT PLACES.	22.96	49960/-	B & C	Under Process	Approved under SASC/Deaster 2025-27 Component	07/2026	1000/-
2.	PERMANENT RESTORATION OF VARIOUS MEDIUM MINOR KHULS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF JAL SHAKTI IFC DIVISION UDHAMPUR UNDER SASC A. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF KIRVCHI KHUL RD 0-4000M AT PLACES B. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF PANJAR KHUL RD 0-1000M AT PLACES C. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF SANOTE KHUL RD 0-7000M AT PLACES D. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF SANDRANI THAG KHUL RD 000-1000M AT PLACES E. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF KHUBAN KHUL RD 0-800M AT PLACES F. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF MANHU KHUL RD 0-450M AT PLACES	26.85	53300/-	A & B	Under Process	Approved under SASC/Deaster 2025-27 Component	07/2026	1000/-
3.	PERMANENT RESTORATION OF VARIOUS MEDIUM MINOR KHULS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF JAL SHAKTI IFC DIVISION UDHAMPUR UNDER SASC A. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF BAIN KHUL RD 0-1300M AT PLACES B. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF SUEWAMHIEV KHUL RD 1800-2150M AT PLACES C. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF GOURKUND KHUL RD 0-5000M AT PLACES D. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF BASCHAL TO CHABGA KHUL RD 0-700M AT PLACES E. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF HEAD WORKS OF SAMBU KHUL F. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF PUNNA KHUL RD 0-200M AT PLACES	31.07	52140/-	A & B	Under Process	Approved under SASC/Deaster 2025-27 Component	07/2026	500/-
4.	PERMANENT RESTORATION OF VARIOUS MEDIUM MINOR KHULS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF JAL SHAKTI IFC DIVISION UDHAMPUR UNDER SASC A. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF PANGARA JAGR KHUL RD 0-4000M AT PLACES B. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF SCARP RIGHT KHUL RD 0-280M AT PLACES C. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF LATYAR RIGHT KHUL RD 0-500M AT PLACES D. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF HEADWORKS OF KULINEE NEELI KHUL E. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF JALSOO KHUL RD 0-800M AT PLACES	19.75	39500/-	B & C	Under Process	Approved under SASC/Deaster 2025-27 Component	07/2026	500/-
5.	PERMANENT RESTORATION OF VARIOUS MEDIUM MINOR KHULS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF JAL SHAKTI IFC DIVISION UDHAMPUR UNDER SASC A. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF PANGRAIN KHUL (SUPPLY CHANNEL) B. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF GOLD NALLAH TO JASSANI KHUL RD 0-8000M AT PLACES C. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF MANU KHUL RD 0-300M AT PLACES D. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF PROWA KHUL RD 0-700M AT PLACES E. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF SARSOO KHUL RD 0-2100M AT PLACES	33.18	66300/-	A & B	Under Process	Approved under SASC/Deaster 2025-27 Component	07/2026	1000/-
6.	PERMANENT RESTORATION OF VARIOUS MEDIUM MINOR KHULS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF JAL SHAKTI IFC DIVISION UDHAMPUR UNDER SASC A. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF NALLAH MALLAN KHUL RD 0-800M AT PLACES B. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF CHAMPANWALI KHUL 0-400M AT PLACES C. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF TELI KHUL 0-400M AT PLACES D. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF KATWAL KHUL 0-200M AT PLACES E. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF GARHI KHUL RD 0-1500M AT PLACES	34.20	68400/-	A & B	Under Process	Approved under SASC/Deaster 2025-27 Component	07/2026	1000/-
7.	PERMANENT RESTORATION OF VARIOUS MEDIUM MINOR KHULS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF JAL SHAKTI IFC DIVISION UDHAMPUR UNDER SASC A. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF BOOTANWALI KHUL RD 0-5000M AT PLACES B. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF JADIR GHORDI KHUL RD 0-2000M AT PLACES C. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF NELLI MAJANA KHUL RD 0-1000M AT PLACES D. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF NALLAH GHORRAN KHUL RD 0-1000M AT PLACES E. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF GORLA KHUL RD 0-1500M AT PLACES F. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF NASSANWALI KHUL RD 0-500M AT PLACES	36.57	77340	A & B	Under Process	Approved under SASC/Deaster 2025-27 Component	07/2026	1000/-
8.	PERMANENT RESTORATION OF VARIOUS MEDIUM MINOR KHULS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF JAL SHAKTI IFC DIVISION UDHAMPUR UNDER SASC A. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF KEVA KHUL E. PERMANENT RESTORATION OF KOTHI BALOTA KHUL RD 0-5000M AT PLACES	7.45	14900	C & D	Under Process	Approved under SASC/Deaster 2025-27 Component	07/2026	1000/-

under MtL: 0702 only). Contractor should mention the name of the work on Top of the Treasury Challan otherwise the Challan shall not be accepted.
7. The bids for the work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of bids, if any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bids/tender during the said period or makes any modifications in terms and conditions of the bid, the earnest money of such bidder shall be forfeited.
8. The rates mentioned in the BOQ are at par with SSR 2022.
9. Other details and conditions can be seen in the bidding document.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division
Udhampur.

No. 10U/713-752
Date: 23-05-2026

DIP/J-2730/26



India pushes Olympic dream with launch of World Yogasana Championship

New Delhi, May 26: India on Tuesday officially launched the first-ever World Yogasana Championship (WYC) 2026 here, marking a major step in the country's effort to establish Yogasana as a recognised competitive sport globally. The championship will be held from June 4 to 8 at the Eka Arena in Ahmedabad and is expected to feature athletes and delegations from more than 60 countries, including Uganda, Zambia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, Japan, Oman, Mauritius and the Netherlands. Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the event in the presence of federation officials and unveiled the official logo, trophy, jersey and mascot named 'Veer', a lion symbolising strength and leadership. The event is being



backed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Ministry of Ayush, Sports Authority of India, Sports Authority of Gujarat, Gujarat Tourism and the Gujarat Yogasana Sports Association. Speaking at the launch, Mandaviya said, "India gifted yoga to the world under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the nation is now leading the movement to establish

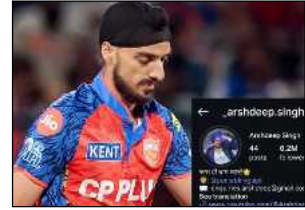
Yogasana as a globally recognised competitive sport. The World Yogasana Championship reflects the strength of our youth, our culture, and our vision of positioning India at the forefront of emerging global sports." The championship is a fantastic step towards global expansion of our sport that is a gateway to the Yoga Way of Life. I welcome all countries to India and am confident

that this championship will pave a pathway to a new 'Yogasana sporting economy,'" he added. World Yogasana and Yogasana Bharat secretary general Jaideep Arya said the response from participating nations had been highly encouraging. "My primary focus has been to ensure strong participation from all 5 continents. There are more than 60 countries joining this movement and the enthusiasm and response is growing rapidly," Arya said. "There is tremendous excitement from all athletes, institutions and national federations globally. At present, we are training and developing teams, technical officials and leadership structures and our vision is not only to organise championships, but also to establish Yogasana as a sporting discipline rooted in India's

ancient wisdom, while aligning modern sports governance and international standards." Yogasana Bharat president Udit Sheth described the championship as the beginning of a larger sporting movement. "Yogasana has the potential to become India's greatest sporting contribution to the world, and that's where we are going. This is more than a championship, it is the beginning of a global sporting movement born in India and packaged for the world with modern teaching, scoring and broadcasting systems," Sheth said. The championship will feature events across categories such as Traditional Yogasana, Artistic Yogasana, Rhythmic Pairs and Team Events in junior, youth and elite divisions under internationally recognised judging standards.

Arshdeep Singh deletes viral posts, reels after controversy-hit IPL 2026 season

New Delhi, May 26: The IPL 2026 may be over for Punjab Kings, but the noise around Arshdeep Singh has hardly faded. After a controversy-hit season on and off the field, the India pacer has now sparked fresh buzz by dramatically cleaning up his Instagram account. The India pacer deleted nearly 200 posts and reels from his account, leaving behind just 44 uploads, most of them advertisements, brand collaborations, family moments and select career highlights. Among the missing posts is his widely circulated reel with Virat Kohli from India's Champions Trophy 2025 celebrations, along with several behind-the-scenes and vlog-style videos that had gained traction during the IPL season. The sudden social media reset has fuelled speculation online, with fans debating whether the



27-year-old is attempting a personal rebrand, distancing himself from recent controversies, or simply taking a step back after an emotionally draining season. Despite rumours claiming Arshdeep removed all traces of Punjab Kings from his account, the fast bowler still has cricket-related posts visible, including a PBKS team picture captioned, "Sabar, Shukar, Punjab." On the field, Arshdeep endured a mixed

IPL 2026 campaign. Although he finished as Punjab Kings' leading wicket-taker with 14 wickets in 14 matches, his performances lacked consistency as PBKS narrowly missed out on a playoff spot. Punjab Kings ended the season in fifth place after a damaging six-match losing streak derailed their campaign. While they managed to snap the run in their final game, the franchise ultimately missed qualification.

Swiatek Cruises, Wawrinka and Monfils Conclude French Open Chapters



New Delhi, May 26: Four-times French Open champion Iga Swiatek charged into the second round with a comfortable victory on Monday, but another much-admired winner in Paris was unable to extend his stay as Stan Wawrinka bowed out of Roland Garros for the final time. French favourite Gael Monfils, who like Wawrinka will end his career when the season

concludes, was also unable to keep his campaign going and fell 6-2 6-3 3-6 2-6 6-0 to compatriot Hugo Gaston in the evening clash on Court Philippe Chatrier. The main showcourt earlier proved to be the perfect stage for Swiatek to rediscover the rhythm that had gone missing from her game in recent months and she completed a 6-1 6-2 victory over Australian

Emerson Jones. "I'm really happy with the way I played," said the Pole, who is bidding for her seventh Grand Slam title overall. "It was a solid match from the beginning to the end. I technically knew how to play, so I just did it, and it was a good day, for sure." While Swiatek avoided the worst of the blazing afternoon sun, Paris Olympics gold medalist Zheng Qinwen struggled to cope with the heat and wilted in a 6-4 6-0 defeat by Polish qualifier Maia Chwalinska. Zheng has been inconsistent since an elbow surgery last year and told reporters later that she was affected by the loopy shots that Chwalinska used to disrupt her rhythm on the smaller, court seven venue.

'From a young girl with dreams to representing India': Harmanpreet pens emotional note after Padma Shri

New Delhi, May 26: Harmanpreet Kaur expressed heartfelt gratitude to her family, teammates, coaches and fans after being conferred the Padma Shri by President Droupadi Murmu during the first Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday. The India women's cricket team captain was among the distinguished sportspersons honoured this year, alongside former India men's captain Rohit Sharma, with the duo emerging as the only cricketers included in the 2026 Padma awards list.



Shortly after receiving the honour, Harmanpreet shared an emotional note on Instagram, reflecting on her journey from a young aspiring cricketer to leading India on the biggest stage. "Today, my heart is filled with gratitude and pride as I receive the

prestigious Padma Shri honour. This recognition is not just mine - it belongs to my parents, family, coaches, teammates, friends and every single person who supported and believed in me throughout this journey," she wrote. "From a young girl with dreams in her eyes to representing India on the biggest stages, every moment has been possible because of your

love, sacrifices and encouragement," she added while sharing pictures from the ceremony. The Indian captain also thanked the President of India, the Government of India, the Sports Authority of India and the Board of Control for Cricket in India for their continued support towards women's cricket. "A heartfelt thank you to the

media, journalists and everyone who acknowledged my achievements and shared my journey with the world. Your appreciation and support have always motivated me to do better," Harmanpreet wrote. The honour comes during a landmark phase in Indian women's cricket under her leadership. In 2025, Harmanpreet captained India to their maiden Women's ODI World Cup title on home soil, defeating South Africa women's national cricket team in the final to end years of heartbreak in ICC events. The triumph marked one of the defining achievements of Harmanpreet's career and came during her fifth World Cup appearance for India. In her closing message, the India skipper also acknowledged the unwavering support of fans through every phase of her journey.

Centre notifies rules for National Sports Board, Sports Tribunal for faster dispute resolution

New Delhi, May 26: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on Tuesday notified the National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules, 2026 and the National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal) Rules, 2026 under the provisions of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. The newly notified rules lay down the framework for the functioning of the National Sports Board and the National Sports Tribunal, aimed at strengthening governance standards and ensuring quicker, cost-effective resolution of sports-related disputes in India. The rules also introduce several techno-legal measures for digital implementation, including a dedicated online portal for filing disputes, notices, responses and documents, alongside virtual hearings, digital communication from the Tribunal and online publication of orders and records. Under the National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules, 2026, the Board will comprise a chairperson and two members appointed by the central government from a panel recommended by the Search-cum-Selection



Committee constituted under the National Sports Board (Search-cum-Selection Committee) Rules, 2026. "The Central Government shall appoint the Chairperson and two Members of the Board from the panel of names recommended by the Search-cum-Selection

Committee," the ministry said in its notification. The National Sports Board will act as the central authority responsible for granting recognition to national sports bodies and monitoring compliance with governance, financial and ethical standards. The Board will also maintain a roster of the National Sports Election Panel and a register of affiliate units of national sports bodies. Both records will be treated as public documents under Section 74 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023. In addition, the Board has been empowered to frame model guidelines on sports governance, recommend adoption of international best practices and organise workshops, seminars and training programmes in collaboration with international sports bodies.

Indian stars D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa and Divya shine with Armageddon wins at Norway Chess

New Delhi, May 26: RPraggnanandhaa and D Gukesh opened their campaigns at Norway Chess 2026 with hard-fought Armageddon victories, while Alireza Firouzja delivered the biggest shock of the opening round by defeating World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in classical chess. Praggnanandhaa and Wesley So played out a tense and balanced classical encounter before the Indian teenager shifted gears in the Armageddon tiebreak. Playing with aggression and precision, Praggnanandhaa launched a powerful kingside attack to clinch the bonus points. World champion Gukesh, meanwhile, survived a major scare against Germany's Vincent Keymer. Keymer dominated large stretches of the classical game and looked on course for victory after outplaying Gukesh in the endgame. But the Indian showed remarkable defensive resilience to escape with a draw before bouncing back strongly in Armageddon to seal the win. Firouzja's stunning win over Carlsen on home soil was the standout result of the day and handed the



French Grandmaster the early lead in the open standings after the only decisive classical game of the round. Carlsen appeared in control against Firouzja for much of their clash, but severe time trouble proved costly. Firouzja capitalised clinically on the Norwegian's late mistake to register a memorable victory and silence the home crowd in Oslo.

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'This Honour Belongs To Everyone Who Believed In Me': Harmanpreet After Receiving Padma Shri

New Delhi, May 26: India women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur on Monday said receiving the Padma Shri was a moment of immense pride and gratitude, while dedicating the honour to everyone who supported her journey from a young dreamer to an international cricketer. Harmanpreet was conferred the country's fourth-highest civilian award by President Droupadi Murmu during the Civil Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Former India captain Rohit Sharma was the other cricketer to receive the honour this year. Sharing an emotional note on Instagram after the cer-



emony, Harmanpreet thanked her parents, family, coaches, teammates, friends and fans for standing by her throughout her career. "Today, my heart is filled with gratitude and pride as I receive the prestigious Padma Shri honour. This recognition is not just mine," she wrote. "From a young girl with dreams in

her eyes to representing India on the biggest stages, every moment has been possible because of your love, sacrifices and encouragement. The 37-year-old also thanked the Government of India, the Sports Authority of India and the Board of Control for Cricket in India for their continued support towards women's cricket.

Jayant Chaudhary Flags Off Indian Contingent For Taipei WorldSkills Event

New Delhi, May 26: Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary on Monday flagged off the Indian contingent for the 2026 Taipei Capital Cup WorldSkills Invitational Tournament, set to be held in Taipei, Taiwan, from May 26 to 28. The five-member Indian team will compete against participants from around 15 countries in the international vocational and technical skills competition, which is being seen as a key preparatory event ahead of the WorldSkills Shanghai 2026. The tournament aims to promote technical excellence, workforce innovation, international collaboration and global skills development, while also providing participants with exposure



to high-level international competition. The send-off ceremony was attended by Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) CEO Arunkumar Pillai and other senior officials from the Ministry and NSDC. Addressing the partici-

pants, Jayant Chaudhary urged the competitors to represent India with confidence, discipline and excellence, while learning from global best practices and international competition standards. He said such competitions not only sharpen technical skills but also strengthen India's skilling ecosystem and prepare the youth for emerging global opportunities. "Global platforms like these are not just about medals, but also about experiences that build confidence, broaden perspectives and create lifelong memories. I encouraged Team India to make the most of this opportunity, build friendships, forge partnerships and return with wider horizons," the minister said.



'Try eating paper instead of mutton': BJP leader Haji Arafat Shaikh's advice to Nitesh Rane over 'virtual Bakrid' remark

New Delhi, May 26: Maharashtra minister Nitesh Rane has sparked a major political controversy with his remarks on Eid al-Adha 2026, cow smuggling and madrasas to defend the Devendra Fadnis-led government's recent move to invoke stringent legal provisions over illegal cattle trade. The BJP leader and son of former Union Minister Narayan Rane has been advised by party colleague Haji Arafat Shaikh to try "eating paper instead of mutton" to understand its taste.



"Nitesh Rane needs to understand a little. It's the festival of Eid, and most importantly, he also has his own meat shop," Shaikh told ANI. The BJP leader reminded Nitesh Rane that his father "rose from a meat shop to become a minister and a high-ranking figure in the central government." "He has his own hotel in Chambur, named after his mother. They sell excellent crab, excellent fish, and excel-

lent mutton masala. So, Nitesh Rane, you need to understand. Look at your mutton shop and your hotel. And if you eat mutton on Sundays, you should definitely try eating paper instead of mutton. You'll understand how it tastes," he added. Shaikh further asked the state minister to understand the situation of butchers across the state, ahead of Bakrid 2026 celebrations. "I would tell Nitesh Rane that vehi-

cles carrying goats are being stopped, and it is very distressing to Hindu butchers. The Dharm community is also very distressed, and the Muslim community is also very distressed. The butcher community gets a chance to earn once a year. You do a good business at your shop in Chambur, so consider our business too," he said. Moreover, Shaikh told Nitesh Rane to "go and seek some advice from his father, Narayan Rane." "I extend Eid greetings to him in advance. I invite him to come to my house for Eid and eat the mutton," he added. While speaking to mediapersons in Mumbai, Rane recently suggested that festivals across all communities should be discussed through the lens of environmental responsibility. Talking about the appeals often made during Hindu festivals, Rane said the Hindu society was regularly asked to celebrate dry Holi and avoid firecrackers during Diwali. He then questioned why similar suggestions are not made for Eid al-Adha. "People who are environmentalists, and organisations like PETA, always tell people to celebrate environmentally friendly festivals, celebrate a dry Holi and do not burst crackers during Diwali. But playing with colours during Holi and bursting crackers during Diwali has its own special significance in our Hindu religion."

Twisha Sharma case: CBI begins probe, visits husband Samarth Singh's residence

New Delhi, May 26: A Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) team on Tuesday visited the residence of Samarth Singh, the main accused in the death of his wife Twisha Sharma, as the agency formally began its investigation into the high-profile case in Bhopal. The move comes a day after the Supreme Court handed over the probe to the CBI, directing the agency to conduct an expeditious investigation. The central agency has since re-registered the FIR that was originally filed at Katara Hills Police Station and taken charge of the case from the Bhopal Police. Twisha Sharma, a resident of Noida, died on May 12. Her family has alleged that she was subjected to mental harassment and dowry-



related torture by her husband and his family. The case has drawn significant public attention, particularly because one of the accused belongs to the legal fraternity and the mother-in-law is a former judicial officer. The apex court passed the order after hearing multiple connected legal proceedings pending before different courts, including the trial court, the High Court and the Supreme Court itself.

Pradhan writes to states, seeks their cooperation in smooth conduct of NEET-UG re-examination



New Delhi, May 26: Under fire over the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday wrote to all Chief Ministers, Lieutenant Governors and Administrators across the country, seeking their cooperation for the smooth, fair, and successful conduct of the NEET re-examination on June 21. According to a press release issued by the Ministry, Pradhan urged all the states and Union Territories to ensure the availability of all essential basic facilities at examination centres for the convenience and well-being of aspirants. "In

view of the prevailing heatwave conditions, I request you to kindly issue appropriate instructions to the District Authorities and all schools, colleges, universities, and other institutions hosting the examination in your State/UT to ensure the availability of essential basic amenities for the convenience of candidates. These may include safe drinking water, adequate seating arrangements, functional fans/coolers, clean washrooms, shaded waiting areas, uninterrupted electricity supply, and portable toilets, wherever required," the minister wrote in the letter. Pradhan further emphasised that interests and well-being of students are of paramount importance and called upon all state governments to ensure adequate transportation facilities for candidates on the day of the examination. Pradhan expressed confidence that all States would extend their full cooperation to ensure that the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination is conducted in a smooth, transparent, and fair manner.

Delhi Gymkhana Club row: High Court refuses interim stay on Centre's eviction notice

New Delhi, May 26: The Delhi High Court today declined to grant any interim protection against the Centre's eviction notice to the Delhi Gymkhana Club. However, the Court recorded the Centre's assurance that the eviction would take place without following due legal procedure and prior notice.



The matter came up before the Delhi High Court after club members, the Staff Welfare Association, and other parties challenged the Union government's order directing the club to hand over possession of the property situated in the high-security Lutyens' Delhi zone by June 5. During the hearing, Senior Advocate Abhishek Mann Singhvi, appearing for a Delhi Gymkhana Club member, urged the Court to restrain the authorities from taking coercive action against

the club. He argued that the government's order amounted to a final decision despite no prior show-cause notice being issued to the occupants. Singhvi also questioned the absence of any clarity regarding compensation in the

order issued by the Centre. The proceedings also saw Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal appearing on behalf of the club's elected body. Referring to the lease provisions relied upon by the Centre, Kapil Sibal argued that every clause of a

pre-Constitution agreement must now be tested against constitutional safeguards. He maintained that even an unauthorised occupant cannot be removed without due notice and legal procedure, adding that the club was an authorised occupant under the lease arrangement. Appearing for the Centre, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta defended the government's action, arguing that the lease deed itself empowered the government to terminate the arrangement in the public interest. Referring to Clause 4 of the lease, he submitted that the Centre retained the authority to resume possession of the property whenever required for larger public purposes. Tushar Mehta also told the Court that the issue of compensation could be addressed separately and monetarily.

'Know BJP' outreach gathers pace: Party President Nitin Nabin to meet delegation from 12 nations at Delhi headquarters

New Delhi, May 26: BJP National President Nitin Nabin is set to engage with representatives from 12 countries on Tuesday under the party's "KNOW BJP" initiative, marking his first formal interaction with foreign diplomats since assuming charge of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The meeting is scheduled to take place at the BJP headquarters at PM and is being viewed as part of the party's continued outreach to the international diplomatic community. According to an official release, heads of missions from 12 nations are expected to participate in the interaction alongside senior BJP leaders. Vijay Chauthaiwale, who heads the BJP's Foreign Affairs Department, will also be



present at the programme. BJP to showcase ideology, governance and organisational structure. The "KNOW BJP" initiative was launched in 2023 by former BJP President JP Nadda on the party's 43rd foundation day. The programme was designed to familiarise diplomats and foreign representatives with the BJP's ideological roots, political evolution, organisational model and governance approach. Party leaders said the initiative aims to provide a detailed understanding of the BJP's historical journey, internal structure and policy priorities while also highlighting its governance experience and outreach programmes. The interaction on

Tuesday assumes significance as it will be Nitin Nabin's first diplomatic engagement after becoming BJP National President. Nitin Nabin stresses nationalism and ideological commitment. Days before the diplomatic interaction, Nitin Nabin addressed party workers in Bihar, where he called the BJP's rise as a movement driven by nationalism, organisational discipline and public service rather than merely electoral expansion. Speaking on the BJP's ideological evolution, he said the party's foundations were shaped by the nationalist vision of Syama Prasad Mookerjee and the philosophy of Integral Humanism advanced by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Nitin Nabin said the BJP's primary commitment was not power alone, but ensuring that development and dignity reached the last person in society while keeping national interest above everything else. BJP chief highlights cadre strength and governance focus. Referring to the party's organisational growth, Nitin Nabin said the BJP's transformation from the Bharatiya Jana Sangh founded in 1951 into what he described as the world's largest political organisation was built on the dedication and sacrifice of its workers. He said BJP Karyakartas remained committed to ideology despite limited resources and political challenges during the party's early years. During interrogation,

Twisha Sharma case: SIT recreates crime scene; Samarth claims she was distressed after abortion



New Delhi, May 26: A Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Monday recreated the crime scene in the Twisha Sharma death case in Bhopal and questioned her husband, Samarth Singh, for nearly three hours as the probe into the alleged dowry harassment case intensified. The case has drawn attention over allegations of dowry harassment and mental torture. According to police officials, the SIT conducted a detailed recreation of the crime scene on Monday, an exercise that lasted for more than two hours. The reconstruction followed nearly three hours of questioning of Samarth Singh, who has been named as the prime accused in the case. During interrogation, Singh allegedly told investigators that Twisha had been under stress following an abortion, police said. Officials also claimed that when asked about the period during which he was absconding, he repeatedly attempted to mislead investigators. Police further said Singh maintained his earlier claim that he had given Rs 7 lakh to Twisha. SIT seizes laptop, passport and mobile phone's part of the investigation, the SIT

Kerala High Court rejects plea to quash ED probe in CMRL money laundering case linked to Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter

Kochi, May 26: The Kerala High Court on Tuesday allowed the Enforcement Directorate to continue its money laundering investigation in the controversial CMRL financial transactions case, giving a major setback to Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited and several of its senior officials who had sought to halt the probe. The case had triggered intense political controversy in Kerala after allegations emerged over payments made to a company owned by Veena Thakkandiyil, daughter of former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.



During the hearing, Justice TR. Ravi dismissed a series of petitions filed by CMRL and four of its officials challenging the Enforcement Case Information Report registered by the Enforcement Directorate and question-

ing the agency's authority to investigate the matter under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The ruling is being seen as a significant boost for the central agency, which has been examining financial transactions linked to the company amid allegations that monthly payments were allegedly routed to Exalogic Solutions Pvt. Ltd. without corresponding services being provided. Although Pinarayi Vijayan is not directly named in the pro-

Bihar-bound bus from Delhi overturns on Agra-Lucknow Expressway, 6 killed; police suspect driver dozed off

New Delhi, May 26: At least six people were killed and several others injured after a passenger bus travelling from Delhi to Bihar overturned on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district early Tuesday, prompting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to direct officials to speed up rescue efforts and provide compensation to the affected families. The accident came amid another fatal road tragedy in Barabanki, where four people lost their lives in a separate crash, taking the death toll in the two incidents to 10. The back-to-back accidents have once again raised concerns over highway safety and driver fatigue on major expressways in the state.



According to officials, the Unnao accident took place around 5.30 am near kilometre marker 262 along the Auras Police Station area when the bus reportedly lost control and rammed into a divider before overturning. Auras Community Health Centre in-

charge Dr Anoop Tiwari said the hospital administration swung into action immediately after receiving information from the Uttar Pradesh Industrial Development Authority (UIPEIDA). "At 5.30 AM, a call was received from UPDA informing that a bus on the Agra Expressway had collided with a divider. Immediate action was taken by

activating the management team. Casualties started arriving within 7 to 10 minutes, and they were managed by the team. Severely injured patients were referred to the medical college, while the deceased, after police documentation, were sent to the Medical District Hospital in Unnao. A total of 6 individuals arrived deceased," he said. Police said there were more

than 30 passengers on board the bus at the time of the accident. Five passengers died at the spot, while another succumbed during treatment after being taken to hospital. Among the deceased was sub-inspector Ramchandra, who was returning to Bihar with prisoner Chhatrapal after travelling to Delhi, officials said. Driver fatigue suspected in Unnao expressway crash Preliminary investigation indicates that the driver may have fallen asleep while driving, causing the vehicle to lose balance and overturn on the expressway. Several passengers were thrown off the road and sustained serious injuries. Critically injured passengers were referred to the Lucknow Trauma Centre for advanced treatment. Reacting to the incident, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the loss of lives. "The loss of lives in the tragic road accident that occurred on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway in Unnao district is extremely heart-breaking and soul-wrenching."

'We'll neither forget nor forgive': Iran reignites outrage over US missile strike on Lamerd sports hall that claimed 24 lives

Tehran, May 26: The February 28 missile strike on a sports hall in Lamerd in Iran's Fars Province has reignited outrage in Tehran after Iranian authorities today claimed that 24 civilians, including teenage volleyball players and a two-year-old child, were killed in a deliberate attack on a residential neighbourhood during the opening day of the war. Iranian officials said more than 130 people were also wounded in the strike, many of them critically.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei renewed accusations against the United States, calling the attack a "despicable war crime" and alleging that civilians gathered inside the sports facility were intentionally targeted. He said the missile strike hit both the Lamerd sports hall and the surrounding residential areas, causing widespread devastation and heavy civilian casualties. "There is no longer any doubt that the United States deliberately targeted a residential neighbourhood and a civilian sports hall in



Lamerd," Baghaei said while calling the incident a planned assault rather than an operational error. Iran says teenage athletes and child among those killed. According to Baghaei, the strike "slaughtered 24 persons, including a 2-year-old girl, several teenage volleyball players," while more than 130 others suffered injuries. Iranian authorities claimed several victims may face permanent disabilities because of the intensity of

the blast and the nature of the weapons allegedly used. Baghaei further alleged that the missiles detonated before impact and released thousands of high-velocity tungsten pellets across the area, causing large-scale civilian casualties inside and around the sports complex. "Calculated decision to test a new weapon system on civilians" Escalating his attack on Washington, the Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson said the strike was "not a mistake" but "a calculated decision" aimed at testing destructive military capabilities on civilians. This was not a mistake; it was a calculated decision to test the destructive power of a new weapon system on Iranian civilians," Baghaei said. He also demanded international accountability for those responsible for ordering and carrying out the strike, insisting that the attack constituted a "clear and despicable war crime."

Tehran vows it will 'neither forget nor forgive' Iranian officials said rescue operations continued for hours after the strike as emergency teams searched through debris and shifted the wounded to nearby hospitals. Baghaei said Iran would continue pursuing legal and diplomatic action over the attack and warned that the country would not allow the deaths to be forgotten. "The Iranian nation will never forget its martyred sons and daughters. We will neither forget nor forgive this crime," he said.

100 days of Tarique Rahman's gov't: Bangladesh witnessing 'renewed surge' in violent crime, rape, murder and extortion cases

Dhaka, May 26: Nearly 100 days after the Tarique Rahman-led BNP government came to power, promising major reforms and economic stability, the South Asian nation continues to witness a renewed surge in violent crime as well as rape, murder and extortion cases. This has raised serious questions over the deteriorating law and order situation. In recent weeks, police officials in Dhaka reported that these growing incidents of crime have "deepened public fear and intensified criticism," with analysts describing it as a continuing "culture of impunity" despite the political transition. Ever since Tarique Rahman came to power in February this year, security and public



confidence continues to remain one of the biggest challenges for his government. In recent days, two rape cases of minors have been reported, including one in Chittagong, triggering public outrage. The report highlights that a Rapid Action Battalion member was stabbed to death during the anti-drug operation in Sylhet, while analysts describing it as a drastic increase in attacks on journalists and law enforcement officers. This includes the attack on a reporter and cameraman of Desh TV, which has carried

During the same period, police officials have registered close to 6,000 cases of violence against women and children, besides 184 robberies, 247 kidnappings and 4,099 theft cases across the country.

'Press the pedal harder': Netanyahu orders escalation as Israel strikes 70+ Hezbollah targets across Lebanon



Lebanon, May 26: Israel launched a fresh round of airstrikes across Lebanon on Monday, targeting dozens of Hezbollah-linked sites hours after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly ordered the military to intensify operations against the Iran-backed group. The latest escalation comes at a time when tensions along the Israel-Lebanon border have sharply intensified, with drone attacks and cross-border fire continuing to fuel fears of a wider

regional conflict. Israel signalled that it is prepared to deepen military action against Hezbollah, while northern Israeli towns are once again facing tightened security restrictions. According to the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), fighter jets struck more than 70 Hezbollah infrastructure targets across Lebanon using around 85 munitions. The military said several sites in the Tyre area, including command centres and weapons storage facilities, were used by Hezbollah, allegedly

among the targets hit. In a statement posted on X, the IDF said Hezbollah operatives travelling on motorcycles were also killed during the operation. The Israeli Air Force additionally carried out strikes in the Beqaa Valley and other parts of Lebanon, the military added. Meanwhile, Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA), cited by Al Jazeera, reported that at least seven people were killed and several others injured in the attacks. According to the report, five people died in an airstrike on Machgharah, where rescue teams were still evacuating survivors trapped under the debris of damaged homes. Another strike in Koutbariyeh el-Siyad reportedly killed two people and wounded two others. What restrictions has Israel imposed in northern border areas.

Tehran, May 26: Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei on Tuesday issued a sharp warning against American military presence in West Asia, saying countries in the region would no longer act as a "shield" for US bases as tensions continue to simmer across the Gulf.

The remarks come at a sensitive moment when Washington and Tehran are engaged in negotiations over a possible diplomatic understanding, even as military and geopolitical tensions continue to shape the region's fragile security landscape. Speaking at the annual Hajj pilgrimage began, Khamenei said the geopolitical balance in the region was changing and warned that the United States would no longer enjoy a "safe haven" for maintaining military infrastructure in the Gulf. "The hand of time does not turn back, and the nations and lands of the region will no longer serve as shields for American bases. America will no longer have



a safe haven for mischief and the establishment of military bases in the region," he wrote on X. The statement was seen as one of the strongest public remarks from Tehran in recent weeks regarding the American military footprint in the region. Khamenei calls for unity among Muslim nations a separate set of posts, Khamenei urged Muslim nations to unite and asked pilgrims to pray for "the lib-

eration of Palestine and Al-Aqsa Mosque" as well as for "ultimate victory against global arrogance". He also said Islamic nations possessed shared capabilities and interests that could influence "the future geometry of the region and the world". According to an earlier report by Al Jazeera, citing the Council on Foreign Relations, the United States currently operates a wide network of military facilities

across at least 19 sites in the region, including in Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, the UAE and Qatar. Marco Rubio criticises Iran's Hormuz policy. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio criticised Iran's position on the Strait of Hormuz, insisting that maritime movement through the key global shipping route should remain unrestricted. "The Strait needs to be open without tolls. What is happening there is unlawful, illegal, unsustainable and unacceptable. No country in the world is accepting a toll on our system except Iran," Rubio said on Tuesday. He also hinted that discussions between Washington and regional allies over a possible framework with Iran were progressing. "The President (Donald Trump) had a historic call with a number of leaders from the region, and I think there is a strong alignment and agreement on what a preliminary draft should look like." Rubio said. "It will take a couple of days to settle on... Either there is going to be a good deal, or there isn't going to be one," he added.

Bakrid 2026 travel could 'worsen' measles outbreak in Bangladesh, toll reaches 545

Dhaka, May 26: The ongoing measles outbreak could dampen Bakrid 2026 celebrations in Bangladesh as public health experts and physicians have warned people to limit travel with children, avoid unnecessary gatherings and follow all the health precautions. They believe that the situation could worsen during the Eid al-Adha 2026, when people generally look forward to long-distance travel and visit their relatives' houses across remote areas in Bangladesh, treatment for measles remains limited, which raises concerns if children fall ill while travelling. Also, there are possibilities that the transmission risk could heighten



during the summer season. Due to this, families with young children are being advised to restrict travelling during Eid, Dhaka Tribune reported. Measles outbreak toll rises to 545 The current situation in the South Asian nation is worsening, with 17 more deaths due to measles and related symptoms reported in 24-hour period, as per the data

confirmed and 458 suspected measles deaths, since March 15. Bangladesh's advised to alert Public health and vaccination expert Dr A Bari asked parents to remain highly vigilant during the Eid holidays and isolate children immediately whenever fever or rashes appear. Those infected should be kept in well-ventilated rooms with adequate light. Further, the expert urged locals to avoid non-essential movement and wear masks, ensure continued breastfeeding for infants and maintain hygiene. Dr Benzir Ahmed highlighted that children under the age of five remain at higher risk. Also, those suffering from cold, fever or cough

must remain away from crowded areas as they face major risk of measles infection. Dr Ahmed noted that medical care is accessible in urban areas, but there can be shortage of doctors in rural regions, especially during Eid holidays. "In this situation, it is best for people to stay where they are. Unnecessary movement should be limited as much as possible," Dhaka Tribune quoted Dr FA Asma Khanom, Director, Infectious Diseases Hospital, as saying. Dhaka empties amid Bakrid 2026 travel rush Local media reports have stated that millions of people have already left the capital city of Dhaka to celebrate Eid-ul-Adha 2026.

'How will you sit with people whose word can't be trusted?' Pakistan's blunt reply to Trump's Abraham Accords push

Washington, May 26: Pakistan has firmly pushed back against suggestions of joining the Abraham Accords, with Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif saying Islamabad would not support any arrangement that goes against the country's "fundamental ideologies". The remarks came after US President Donald Trump publicly called on several Muslim-majority nations, including Pakistan, to join the US-brokered diplomatic framework linked to Israel as part of a wider regional deal involving Iran. Trump described the effort as a potentially "Historic Event" for the Middle East and claimed talks with Tehran were "proceeding nicely". Speaking to Pakistani broadcaster Samaa TV, Asif dismissed the possi-



bility of Pakistan becoming part of the accords and questioned the reliability of engagement with Israel. "Personally, I don't think we should join any such accord that clashes with our fundamental ideologies," the Pakistani Defence Minister said during the interview. He further remarked, "How will you sit down with those people whose word cannot be trusted even for a single day?"

Reterring Pakistan's long-held position on Israel, Asif added, "We have a very clear stance that this is not acceptable to us." He also referred to Pakistan's passport policy to underline the country's refusal to recognise Israel. "And secondly, on our passports, we are the only country whose passports don't even include Israel's name," he said. Trump pushes wider Abraham Accords expansion.

Iran dismisses uranium handover reports as US-aligned psyop; Trump says 'nuclear dust' will be destroyed

Tehran, May 26: As negotiations between Washington and Tehran continue over a possible long-term ceasefire arrangement, Iran on Monday publicly denied reports that it had agreed to transfer its enriched uranium stockpile abroad, directly contradicting claims made by US President Donald Trump. The sharp divergence in messaging has once again exposed the fragile and uncertain nature of the ongoing talks between the two countries, which are

attempting to convert last month's ceasefire into a broader political understanding after weeks of conflict across the region. According to Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency, reports suggesting Tehran was willing to move highly enriched uranium out of the country were "false" and part of what it described as a broader psychological campaign aligned with Washington's interests. The report specifically rejected claims carried by Saudi-based Al Hadath



nuclear actions in the memorandum." The denial came hours after Trump

"Dust", would either be handed over to the United States for destruction or dismantled under international supervision at another location. "The Enriched Uranium (Nuclear Dust)" will either be immediately turned over to the United States to be brought home and destroyed or, preferably, in conjunction and coordination with the Islamic Republic of Iran, destroyed in place," Trump posted on Truth Social. The US President also said the process would take place with the involvement of

atomic energy authorities and under mutually agreed supervision. Trump's remarks appeared to suggest that Tehran had softened its position during the ongoing negotiations. His statement also aligned with recent media reports in the United States claiming Iran had, in principle, agreed to give up its stockpile of highly enriched uranium as part of a broader settlement framework. Iran says no nuclear concession has been agreed Iranian officials, however, continued to publicly maintain a

harder line. Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr said there would be "no retreat", stressing that Iran needed unity to counter pressure from both the United States and Israel. Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei confirmed that discussions were continuing over a possible 14-clause memorandum between Tehran and Washington.



Gaurav Gupta Meets LG Manoj Sinha, Seeks Fast-Track J&K Semiconductor Policy

Semiconductor Policy Key to Youth Employment in J&K : Gaurav

SRINAGAR, 26 May 2026: BJP spokesperson and Convenor, International Affairs, Gaurav Gupta on Tuesday met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Lok Bhavan in Srinagar and urged the administration to expedite the proposed J&K Semiconductor Policy, stating that the initiative could become a major milestone for employment generation, industrial growth and technological advancement in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, Gupta submitted a detailed representation and referred to the comprehensive draft proposal submitted in January 2026 by the Directorate of Industries



and Commerce regarding the semiconductor policy framework for the Union Territory. He also informed the Lieutenant Governor that he had earlier projected the importance of establishing a semiconductor ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir before the administration and consistently

systems, medical devices and advanced electronics. He highlighted that recent global chip shortages and increasing geopolitical competition have reinforced the need for India to strengthen domestic semiconductor manufacturing capabilities. Gupta said Jammu and Kashmir must proactively position itself in this rapidly growing sector to ensure long-term economic development and technological progress.

Gupta informed the Lieutenant Governor that the proposed policy seeks to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a globally competitive hub for semiconductor design, manufacturing and allied value-chain activities. He said the

policy aims to attract high-value investments, strengthen industrial infrastructure, promote innovation and create meaningful employment opportunities for local youth. Emphasizing the importance of youth empowerment, Gupta said the semiconductor industry could open new avenues for engineers, technicians, software professionals, researchers and skilled workers in Jammu and Kashmir. He noted that the proposed policy includes dedicated skill incentives for companies employing local youth, which would help create a highly skilled workforce in the Union Territory.

MLA Beerwah, DC Budgam Inaugurate Multipurpose Playfield at Watalpora



BUDGAM, MAY 26: MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, and the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today inaugurated a state-of-the-art multipurpose playfield at Watalpora in the Beerwah sub-division. The project was spearheaded by the Department of Rural Development (RD) & Panchayati Raj, ensuring

high-quality asset creation for the local community. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Beerwah, said that sports infrastructure plays a vital role in channelizing the energy of youth towards constructive and healthy activities. He emphasized that the newly established playfield will provide a much-needed platform for local talent to flourish and promote a cul-

ture of sports and discipline among the younger generation. The Deputy Commissioner Budgam, while addressing the gathering, said that District administration is focussed towards equitable development and youth empowerment. He emphasized that such facilities will go a long way in fostering sportsmanship and keeping local youth away from negative influences. He further stated that the administration remains focussed on creating quality public assets that directly benefit the community. The event witnessed a massive gathering of local residents and prominent citizens of the area. Among others present on the occasion were Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Beerwah.

DC Budgam reviews Eid-ul-Adha, Muharram-ul-Harram arrangements

BUDGAM, MAY 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a follow-up review meeting of officers from various departments to assess the arrangements being put in place across the district for Eid-ul-Adha and the ensuing holy month of Muharram-ul-Harram. During the meeting, the DC reviewed preparations related to transport, sanitation, uninterrupted water and power supply, healthcare services, market regulation and availability of essential commodities to ensure smooth observance of the religious occasions. A detailed discussion was



also held regarding arrangements required for the smooth and peaceful conduct of processions and majalis during Muharram-ul-Harram. The DC reviewed various aspects including scheduled power and water supply, repair and surface leveling of key roads and link roads, timely distribution of ration, LPG and firewood, sanitation measures,

installation and restoration of street lights, healthcare facilities, transport and traffic management, besides other essential services. The DC directed concerned departments to ensure all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance to facilitate the public and avoid inconvenience during Eid-ul-Adha and Muharram-ul-Harram. The Power Development Department was directed to ensure smooth and scheduled power supply, while the Jal Shakti Department was instructed to maintain uninterrupted drinking water supply and ensure availability of water

tankers across all subdivisions of the district. Municipal authorities and Urban Local Bodies were instructed to undertake comprehensive sanitation drives around mosques, shrines, Eidgahs and major congregation points in coordination with local committees. Executive Officers of Municipal Committees were also directed to ensure proper installation and maintenance of street lights well ahead of Muharram. The Health Department was asked to keep ambulances and medical teams available at major congregation points and during processions and gatherings.

JKEDI concludes Management Development Programme-9 under RAMP Initiative

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Srinagar, successfully concluded the 9th Management Development Programme (MDP-9) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Initiative at its District Office, Srinagar. The programme focused on building entrepreneurial and managerial capacity among 22 women entrepreneurs from Srinagar. Through structured training modules, participants were equipped with essential skills in business planning, financial manage-

ment, marketing, and regulatory compliance to establish sustainable and growth-oriented enterprises. The valedictory ceremony was graced by Shabir Hussain Shah, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Srinagar, and Manager, JKEDI Syed Miflah Andrabi. Addressing the participants, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI appreciated their active involvement and enthusiasm throughout the programme. He urged the trainees to leverage the knowledge and skills gained to build scalable businesses and contribute to local economic development. He further empha-

sized that such capacity-building initiatives under RAMP are crucial for promoting grassroots entrepreneurship, and empowering women. The JKEDI course team provided continuous academic and mentoring support during the training period. Participants expressed deep gratitude to JKEDI for its guidance and for creating a platform that strengthens women-led enterprises in the region. The RAMP initiative, supported by the Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, and the World Bank, aims to enhance the performance and competitiveness of MSMEs across J&K.

NIT pushes fitness, sustainability through Cycling campaign

Srinagar, May 26: The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organised the 75th edition of its flagship fitness initiative "Sundays on Cycle" at the institute campus, drawing enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, staff, and children. The cycling event, organised to commemorate Commonwealth Day, was held on the Institute's main circuit road and aimed at promoting physical fitness, environmental awareness, and community participation. The rally was flagged off by Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman in presence of NSS Coordinator Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav,



NCC Coordinator Lt. Dr. Nitika Kundan, EBSB Coordinator Dr. Ashok Kumar and other senior faculty members. In his message, Director Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia said that reaching the 75th edition of the initiative reflects the institute's sustained commitment towards wellness, sustainable living, and creating a healthy campus culture. "Such programmes strengthen community spirit and encourage students to adopt fitness-oriented lifestyles," he said. Registrar Dr. Atikur Rehman appreciated the large turnout and highlighted the importance of cycling in promoting both personal health and a pollution-free environment on campus.

CUS launches Ph.D. journey with interactive session for inaugural batch

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Marking a historic milestone in its academic journey, Cluster University Srinagar (CUS) organized a high-level interactive session with its maiden batch of Ph.D. scholars for the academic session 2026. The landmark event was held on Monday at the Government College of Education (IASSE), M.A. Road, Srinagar. A total of 37 scholars have enrolled in the university's Ph.D. programme across nearly 15 disciplines offered by its constituent colleges. These include Government College of Education (IASSE), Sri Pratap College, Government College for Women M.A. Road, Amar Singh College, and



Government Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College Bemina, among others. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Mobin briefed the scholars about the curriculum and framework of the Ph.D. programme. He highlighted the university's core vision of promoting high-

quality research, academic excellence, and fostering a culture of innovation. The interactive session provided a unique platform for the newly enrolled scholars to engage directly with the university administration and gain deep insights into the institution's research ecosystem. In her address to the schol-

ars, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz emphasized the critical importance of dedication, academic integrity, and innovative thinking in shaping the future of higher education. She strongly urged the pioneer batch to undertake meaningful and socially relevant research that contributes significantly to both global academia and local society, while making optimal use of the advanced resources and opportunities available at the university. Others who spoke on the occasion included Prof. (Dr.) Syed Wilayat Rizvi, Registrar, Cluster University Srinagar; Prof. (Dr.) Khurshid Ahmad Mir, Controller of Examinations; Dr. Ghulam Hassan Dar from the Department of Biochemistry; and other faculty supervisors from various constituent colleges of the university. Among the dignitaries present were Prof. (Dr.) Yasmeen Farooq, Principal, Government College for Women M.A. Road Srinagar; Prof. (Dr.) Muzaffar Ahmad Bhat, Principal, Government Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College Bemina; and Prof. (Dr.) Haris Izhar Tantray, Principal, SP College Srinagar, along with other faculty members and university officials. Several other senior faculty members, department heads, and administrative officials were also present at the session.

Awareness Programme on Emotional Well-Being, Mental Health, Counselling held at GDC Magam

BUDGAM, MAY 25: SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti Budgam, under the supervision of Bilal Ahmad Mir, District Social Welfare Officer, Budgam, organized an awareness programme on Emotional Well-Being, Mental Health and Counselling at Government Degree College (GDC) Magam to promote mental wellness, stress management and psychosocial support among students. The programme commenced with an introductory session by Afroza Had, District Mission Coordinator, Mission Shakti Budgam, who elaborated on the objectives and components of Mission Shakti. She highlighted its two major components-Sambal and Samartha-which focus on the



session on emotional well-being and stress management. She emphasized the importance of maintaining emotional balance, adopting healthy coping strategies and seeking timely support during periods of stress and emotional distress. The technical session on mental health, counselling and stress management was conducted by Aijaz-ul-Asad, who highlighted the importance of mental health awareness among youth. He discussed common mental health concerns, the role of counselling in overcoming psychological challenges and the need to break the stigma associated with seeking professional help. He also shared practical techniques for managing stress and promoting overall psychological well-being.

Sadan, SANKALP - Hub for Empowerment of Women, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. Addressing the gathering, Mutina Rashid, Social Worker, Mental Health Unit, District Hospital Budgam, delivered an insightful

Tehsildar Drugmulla reviews arrangements for Annual Urs at Muqam Shahwali

KUPWARA, MAY 26: on the direction of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Tehsildar Drugmulla, Syed Basharat Rasool today conducted a visit to the revered shrine of Hazrat Zeti Shah Wali Sahib (R.A) at Muqam Shahwali Anderhama to review the arrangements being put in place for the smooth observance of the annual Urs scheduled to be held on 30th and 31st May. During the visit, the Tehsildar was accompanied by officials of various line departments including PDD, Jal Shakti, Wakt, Rural Development Department (RDD), FCS&CA, Fire & Emergency Services and other concerned departments. A joint inspection was conducted to assess the preparedness and ensure adequate arrangements for the devotees expected to participate in the annual religious congregation. On the occasion, the Tehsildar took stock of the overall preparations and issued necessary instructions to the con-



cerned departments for ensuring uninterrupted power and drinking water supply, sanitation measures, availability of essential commodities, fire safety arrangements and other public conveniences for the smooth conduct of the Urs. The concerned departments were directed to work in close coordination and ensure timely completion of all arrangements to facilitate devotees and ensure the peaceful and successful observance of the annual Urs.



CS Reviews progress of digitization & modernization of land records in J&K

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress achieved under the ongoing digitization and modernization of land records across Jammu and Kashmir, with a strong emphasis on ensuring accurate, transparent and technology-driven revenue administration in the Union Territory. The meeting was attended by Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Revenue; Secretary, Revenue; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Commissioner, Survey & Land Records; Inspector General, Registration; State Informatics Officer (SIO), NIC and other senior officers, while all the Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the significance of correct and updated land records for the effective implementation of welfare schemes and facilitating quick access to institutional credit through integration with the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) and AgriStack initiatives. He observed that the success-



ful digitization of land records would play a transformative role in strengthening governance, improving service delivery and empowering farmers through seamless access to benefits and financial services. The Chief Secretary directed the concerned Tehsildars to certify that no backlog mutations remain pending in their respective jurisdictions. He further called for the freezing of Jamabandis by the Tehsildars, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and eventually the Deputy Commissioners in the coming days to ensure that the authentic and reliable digitized records are put in public domain for its utilization by citizens here. To accelerate the process of rectification and updation of records, the Chief Secretary directed for designation of Prabhari Officers in consultation with the Financial

Commissioner (Revenue). These officers would be entrusted with exclusive responsibility of handholding districts and ensuring timely correction and validation of records. Emphasizing the need for a clear roadmap for implementation of AgriStack components, the Chief Secretary directed that the exercise should be taken up immediately after completion of digitization in the identified areas and linked with the RBI's ULI platform to facilitate easy credit access for farmers. He urged the Settlement Commissioner to lead the capacity building programme for field staff across districts and ensure completion of the process in a time-bound manner. The Chief Secretary also stressed upon transitioning fully towards digital crop surveys during the upcoming agricultural seasons for

effective implementation of AgriStack. He further directed the Financial Commissioner (Revenue) to evolve a mechanism for tracing the chain of custody of missing Mussavaf and revenue records and initiate strict action against officials found responsible for any tampering or disappearance of records. Commending the Revenue Department for undertaking the monumental task of digitization and achieving substantial progress, the Chief Secretary advised the officers to make concerted efforts to complete all components within the stipulated timelines. He also assured full support in resolving genuine issues being faced by the field functionaries engaged in the exercise. Speaking during the meeting, Financial Commissioner (Revenue), Shaleen Kabra, emphasized upon the Deputy

Commissioners to undertake rectification of records strictly in accordance with the prevailing legal provisions, particularly Section 32 of the Land Revenue Act, which empowers them to carry out such corrections. He observed that timely rectification at the district level would substantially reduce the burden of grievances reaching higher officers and help in making the land records largely error-free. The Financial Commissioner also stressed upon tracing the complete custody trail of missing records so that the actual culprits are identified and proceeded against under the law. Earlier, Secretary Revenue gave a detailed presentation on the progress achieved under various components of the digitization programme. The presentation covered the functioning of the citizen-centric J&K Zameen Sudhar Portal, digitization of backlog mutations for updation of records, digitization of cadastral maps, sub-parcelization of survey numbers as per ground realities, generation of ULPIN for Farmer Registry, Digital Crop Survey, BhuNaksha.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah meets delegations at Raabita

Discussions held on banking, youth development, heritage conservation



SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met several delegations at his Public Services and Outreach Office (Raabita) here and held discussions on matters relating to banking, youth development, heritage conservation, and the promotion of art and culture in Jammu and Kashmir. Managing Director and CEO of J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, called on the Chief Minister during a courtesy meeting. Various issues concerning the banking sector, financial outreach and customer services were discussed.

The MD & CEO briefed the Chief Minister on efforts to further strengthen the Bank's operations across Jammu and Kashmir for improved customer experience and service delivery. Director General of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), Lt. Gen. Virendra Vats, accompanied by Additional Director General, NCC Directorate J&K and Ladakh, Maj. Gen. Anupinder Bevil, also met the Chief Minister. The delegation discussed matters relating to NCC activities, youth engagement and the expansion of

cadet initiatives across Jammu and Kashmir. A delegation from the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), led by its Convener and Head, Saleem Beg, and Principal Architect, Sameer Hamdani, gave a detailed presentation to the Chief Minister on the preservation and restoration of heritage assets in Kashmir. The delegation also highlighted concerns regarding water management in the Mughal Gardens of Kashmir in the context of climate change and stressed the need for sustainable conservation measures. The Chief Minister assured the visiting delegation that the government remains committed to the preservation, protection and promotion of the rich artistic, cultural and architectural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Yasha Mudgal reviews performance of Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd Anantnag; Stresses financial discipline, digital boost

JAMMU, MAY 26: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired a meeting to review the operational performance and financial functioning of The Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. (UCB), Anantnag. The meeting was attended by the Financial Advisor, Cooperative Department; GM/CEO of Urban Co-operative Bank, Anantnag; Assistant Registrar (Hq), Cooperative Societies, J&K; and all Branch Heads of UCB Anantnag besides other senior officers of the department. During the meeting, the GM/CEO of Urban Co-operative Bank, Anantnag, delivered a comprehensive presentation detailing the bank's current financial standing. The review covered key parameters including deposits, advances, recovery performance, Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), overall profitability, Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) position, branch-wise performance and the progress made toward dig-



ital banking and technological upgradation. The Commissioner Secretary was informed that the bank has consistently maintained an "A" grade Audit Classification since its inception and that all its branches are fully operational on the Core Banking Solution (CBS) platform. Furthermore, the bank has initiated key measures to introduce advanced digital banking services

including finishing required documentation with the NPCI, Sponsor Bank and vendor agencies while conducting mandatory Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT), Information Security (IS) Audits and EDP Audits per RBI guidelines. While evaluating the financial indicators, Yasha Mudgal strictly instructed the management to

adopt aggressive recovery mechanisms to curb NPAs. She emphasized that the Gross NPA ratio must not be allowed to escalate and directed bank authorities to prevent fresh NPAs through rigorous monitoring, continuous recovery follow-ups, and prudent lending practices. The Commissioner Secretary also directed the bank management to focus heavily on reducing administrative costs and rationalizing operational expenditure to improve overall profitability and institutional sustainability. She emphasized the absolute need for efficient resource utilization and the adoption of prudent financial management practices across all branches. Yasha Mudgal stressed the importance of maintaining the Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) well within the prescribed regulatory benchmarks. She directed the management to ensure absolute financial discipline and strict compliance with all RBI directives.

FCS&CA Department Samba conducts joint market inspection drive across district

SAMBA, MAY 26: Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan and Director FCS&CA Rajesh Kumar Shavan, the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department today conducted a joint market inspection drive across various parts of the district. The drive was conducted under the supervision of Assistant Director, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Rahul Gupta, in coordination with the Revenue, Police, Food Safety and Legal Metrology departments.



The joint inspection teams covered the entire Ghagwal-Bari Brahmana belt, including the markets of Ghagwal, Samba, Vijaypur and Bari Brahmana. The objective was to ensure strict

enforcement of consumer protection laws, food safety regulations, legal metrology standards and other statutory provisions governing commercial establishments. During the inspection, various shops

and business establishments were checked for proper display of rate lists, adherence to notified prices, maintenance of quality standards, availability of essential commodities and accuracy of weighing and measuring instruments. Traders and shopkeepers were sensitized regarding their responsibilities under the relevant laws and regulations. Violations of prescribed norms were detected at certain establishments. Penalties were imposed on erring traders under the relevant provisions of law in coordina-

tion with the Food Safety and Legal Metrology departments. The inspection drive forms part of the sustained efforts of the district administration and the department to strengthen market surveillance, ensure transparency in trade practices, curb profiteering and safeguard consumer interests. The authorities reiterated that such joint inspection drives shall continue across the district in the coming days to reinforce regulatory compliance, maintain market discipline and protect the rights of consumers.

FCS&CA, LMD conduct surprise inspections of two oil mills



JAMMU, MAY 26: On the directions of Director, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Jammu Rajesh Kumar Sharan, a joint team of the Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department

and the Legal Metrology Department conducted surprise inspections of oil mills at Jammu to ensure the protection of consumer rights and adherence to prescribed standards. During the inspection of Sansar Oil Mill by the

FCS&CA team, certain discrepancies were observed in the stock of refined oil having a declared weight of 675 grams/bottle. Based on the above variation, the team of Legal Metrology was called and a joint inspection done. Following the detection of violation, the stock was seized and the packing operations of the unit were stopped. A seizure memo was served by the Legal Metrology Department for further necessary action under the relevant provisions of law.

عِيدُ الْاِثْحَا مُبَارَكٌ
 MAY ALLAH ACCEPT OUR
 IBADAH AND SACRIFICES
Eid ul Adha
 MUBARAK
 May this Eid bring peace,
 happiness, prosperity and countless
 blessings to you and your family
 عِيدُ اَصْحٰى مِبَارَك
ABDUL GANI TELI
 CHAIRMAN OBC CELL

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