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

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Strictly monitor & regularly report on demographic changes in border districts: Amit Shah to DMs

AHMEDABAD, MAY 30: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has directed the District Magistrates to strictly monitor and regularly report on demographic changes occurring in border districts. Shah, who chaired a security review meeting at Bhuj in Gujarat's Kutch district located along the India-Pakistan border on Friday, also stated that administrations of border districts should formulate SOPs to ensure identification of existing infiltrators and the



tracking of threats related to drones and narcotics, said an official statement. District Magistrates must strictly monitor and regularly report on demographic changes occurring in

border districts. Shah was quoted as saying in the release issued on Saturday. Notably, earlier this week the home minister had announced the formation of a high-level committee to assess demographic changes across India due to "illegal immigration and other unnatural causes" and suggest measures to deal with the issue. At the review meeting,

Shah emphasised the need to adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards unauthorised encroachment within 15 km belt along the international border and to maintain a close watch on centres of radicalisation in border areas. The meeting was attended by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Deputy CM Harsh Sanghani, senior officials as well as District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police. **(Contd on Pg 2)**

'Erase every trace of colonial mindset': Sinha urges writers to shape positive discourse on India



SRINAGAR, MAY 30: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday called for erasing every trace of colonial mindset, and urged writers on shaping positive discourse on

India through fiction, non-fiction and other creative forms. The LG inaugurated the third edition of Kashmir Literature Festival here, an official spokesperson said. Addressing the gathering,

the LG urged writers on shaping positive discourse through fiction, non-fiction and other creative forms and inspire people because writer's craft lives not only in words, but in the pulse of people. "We must erase every trace of the colonial mindset and ensure that people abroad do not distort our history and present to serve their own narratives. It is the responsibility of writers to correct such errors and take the truth to global readers," he said. Sinha said Indians should repeatedly remind the **(Contd on Pg 2)**

Over 500 Agniveers inducted into Army after training in JK

SRINAGAR, MAY 30: A fresh batch of 540 Agniveers was on Saturday inducted into the Army after completing months of rigorous training here in Jammu and Kashmir. An Attestation and Passing Out Parade was held at the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) Regimental Centre in the outskirts of the city here, a defence spokesman said. In a splendid display of military precision, discipline and patriotism, 540 Agniveers of the seventh batch successfully passed out from the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre during an impressive attestation and passing out parade, he

said. Set against the majestic backdrop of the Kashmir Valley, the parade marked the transformation of young recruits into proud soldiers, ready to serve the nation with honour, courage and dedication, he said. The spokesman said the parade was reviewed by General Officer Commanding, White Knight Corps, Lt Gen PK Mishra, who complimented the Agniveers on their immaculate turnout, synchronised drill movements and exemplary standards of military bearing. The ceremony was attended by senior military officials, civil dignitaries and proud family **(Contd on Pg 2)**

Armed Forces ready for Operation Sindoor 2.0 If Need Arises: Army Chief

PUNE, MAY 30: The armed forces are fully prepared for 'Operation Sindoor 2.0' if the need arises, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi said on Saturday, asserting that all three services are enhancing synergy for modern multi-domain warfare that extends beyond land, air and sea. Speaking at a press conference on the sidelines of the passing-out parade of the 150th course of the National Defence Academy (NDA) here, General Dwivedi noted that while a temporary cessation of hostilities currently exists, all three services are preparing intensely for the next phase



should it take place. India launched Operation Sindoor, a military exercise to destroy terror infrastructure in Pakistan in May 2025, in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives in April. "As far as Operation Sindoor is concerned, firstly, it is still continuing. There is a temporary cessation of hostilities. So the

Indian Army and all the three services are preparing well for Operation Sindoor 2.0 if it takes place," he said. He noted that future warfare will not be limited to land, maritime and air alone, but would be increasingly influenced by emerging domains such as space, cyber and cognitive **(Contd on Pg 2)**

Indian Navy confined entire Pak Navy to its ports during Operation Sindoor: Rajnath

LUCKNOW, MAY 30: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that the Indian Navy forced "the entire Pakistan Navy to remain confined to its ports during Operation Sindoor". Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the "Nausena Shaurya Vatika", an open-air naval museum here, Singh said, "The Navy played a significant role in maintaining pressure on Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. Our Navy was deployed in the Arabian Sea with full preparedness and strength, maintaining constant pressure on the adversary. As a result, Pakistan's entire Navy remained confined to



its ports." Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7, 2025, to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack, with Indian forces conducting precision strikes on multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The military conflict was halted

after both sides reached an understanding on the evening of May 10. Talking about the opening of the Nausena Shaurya Vatika, which has been designed to showcase the legacy, operational capabilities and maritime achievements of the Indian Navy, Singh said it is not only a moment of pride and honour for the people of Lucknow and Uttar Pradesh, "but also for us personally." "In the coming years, this facility will not only become a centre of inspiration for Lucknow but will also develop into a tourist hub and emerge as one of the city's defining landmarks." **(Contd on Pg 2)**

BRIEF NEWS

8th Central Pay Commission team to visit J&K; Govt Dept asked to present demands

SRINAGAR, MAY 30: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has informed that the 8th Central Pay Commission will visit the Union Territory from May 31 to June 5 to interact with various stakeholders, including government employees, unions and associations. According to an official communication issued by the Finance Department (Codes Division), the Commission has scheduled an interaction and presentation session with the J&K Government on June 1, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Meeting Hall CR-3, SKICC, near Centaur Hotel, Srinagar. The meeting will be led by the Chief Secretary and attended **(Contd on Pg 2)**

Two killed as truck falls into Gorge, Catches Fire

BANIHAL/JAMMU, MAY 30: Two people died after a truck plunged into a deep gorge and caught fire along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district on Saturday, officials said. The accident took place near Gangroo in the Ramban area. According to police, the truck carrying limestone was travelling from Jammu to Srinagar when the driver allegedly lost control of the vehicle near Gangroo. The truck rolled down the gorge and caught fire. Teams from Ramban police station, the Himalayan Quick Response Team (QRT), the CRPF and Fire and Emergency Services reached **(Contd on Pg 2)**

Dr Jitendra Launches AI-'CHATBOT' For Complainants, Terms It Democratisation Of Grievance Redressal

NEW DELHI, MAY 30: The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh, today launched the CPGRAMS AI-enabled Voice "Chatbot" "Samadhan Didi", developed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with Bhasini, at Kartavya Bhawan,



here. Delivering the keynote address on the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh termed the transformation

to CPGRAMS AI-enabled Voice Chatbot as the "Democratization of the Public Grievance Mechanism" in the nation show-

casing the Government's unwavering commitment to enhance "Ease of Using" public services for citizens. He noted that a citizen-centric approach has remained at the core of governance reforms under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Underlining the transformative role of technology in public administration, the Minister noted that Artificial Intelligence is driving the democratization of grievance redressal — making it more accessible, responsive and **(Contd on Pg 2)**

Properties worth Rs Two crore linked to drug trafficking attached

SRINAGAR, MAY 30: Properties worth around Rs 2 crore, allegedly acquired using proceeds from illicit narcotics trafficking, have been attached in Jammu and Kashmir as part of an intensified crackdown on drug networks, police said on Saturday. Srinagar police has attached multiple immovable properties belonging to individuals involved in narcotics-related activities under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, a police spokesperson said. In the

first case, Bema Police Station attached immovable property worth approximately Rs 1.5 crore belonging to an alleged drug peddler, Mudisar Ahmad Pir alias Sahil alias Doge, a resident of Firdous Colony in Bema here, the spokesperson said. The attachment was carried out under Section 68(1) of the NDPS Act after obtaining confirmation from the Competent Authority under the SAFEMA, Ministry of Finance's Department of Revenue. **(Contd on Pg 2)**

False Rape Case Robbed Man of 19 Months' Liberty: Court Orders Action Against Complainant, Cops



JAMMU, MAY 30 (JNF): In a blistering indictment of an alleged false rape prosecution and the police investigation behind it, the Fast Track Court, Jammu, has acquitted Subash Chopra of the charge under Section 376 IPC, recording that he suffered incarceration for one year, seven months and eleven days in a case in which, according to the Court, the alleged occurrence never took place. The Court described the investigation as "botched up, fabricated,

LG Directs Ladakh admin to adopt austerity measures as per PM's call

LEH/JAMMU, MAY 30: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday directed departments to promote austerity, adopt sustainable practices and ensure the judicious use of natural resources, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's austerity call. The directions aim to reduce government expenditure, cut fuel consumption and carbon emissions, promote renewable energy, encourage the use of sustainable products, strengthen local livelihoods and enhance environmental sustainability, officials said. Saxena also called for greater promotion of domestic tourism, natural farming, renewable energy and efficient utilisation of public resources across sectors. The Lieutenant Governor said he has already reduced the number of vehicles in his official motorcade by 50 per cent following the Prime Minister's appeal.



Calling for a coordinated and time-bound approach, Saxena directed all administrative secretaries to implement the measures through their respective departments and issue necessary instructions to subordinate offices and field formations. "The Prime Minister has given a timely and visionary call for adopting sustainable practices in our daily lives, governance systems and developmental activities. Resource conservation, pro-

motion of renewable energy, support to local products, healthy lifestyles and sustainable development are collective responsibilities," Saxena said. He said Ladakh, with its unique ecology and immense potential, is well placed to lead by example in implementing such transformative measures. The Lieutenant Governor directed all departments to submit a consolidated Action Taken Report **(Contd on Pg 2)**

No Reinstatement for Cop Accused of Aiding Pakistani Militant: DB

JAMMU, MAY 30 (JNF): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has restored the dismissal from service of a police constable accused of aiding a Pakistani militant by arranging a hideout for him, holding that sufficient material existed to dispense with a regular departmental enquiry in the interest of State security. A Division Bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Panihar allowed the appeal filed by the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, now Union Territory of J&K, against a Single Bench judgment which had quashed the dismissal of Ghulam Mohd. Tantray, a Driver Constable in the Police Department. Tantray, who was enrolled in the Police Department in 1991, was dismissed from service through Government Order No. 367-GAD of 2007 dated April 2, 2007, by invoking Section 126(2)(c) of the erstwhile Constitution of Jammu and **(Contd on Pg 2)**

FORWARD

Strictly...

Kutch, Vallabhnagar and Patan districts. The Home Minister called reverse migration happening in border areas due to the establishment of industrial units a welcome development and said that everyone, from police stations to patwaris (village revenue officials), should work in unison to ensure deportation of the existing illegal infiltrators, stated the release. He also called for forming Security Coordination Groups in every such district, comprising the BSF, Coast Guard, Income Tax Department, Enforcement Directorate and the managers of leading banks in the area.

The responsibility for the effective enforcement of Income Tax, anti-money laundering and Customs duties rests with the District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police and Inspector General (IG), Border Range, said the Union Minister. He also highlighted the need to maintain strict vigil over hawala transactions, financial dealings, bank accounts, shell companies, suspicious vehicles and GST collections in border districts. Agencies dealing with financial crimes must be kept abreast regarding border areas, and the Income Tax Department, in collaboration with the RBI, should conduct extensive survey campaigns, Shah said. He also called for prioritising coastal security and ensure effective coordination with the Indian Coast Guard, given Kutch's proximity to the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). Alongside the 'Vibrant Villages' initiative, 100 per cent saturation of every scheme, both of the Central and State government, must be ensured in border villages, Shah said. Border fencing, maritime border security and strong political will of the state government have brought about a significant transformation in Gujarat's security landscape, resulting in a complete cessation of infiltration and smuggling on the border, he noted.

'Erase...'

world that like the Vedas were composed some 6,000 years ago", India was the centre of the world's economy, education, culture, and philosophy. For centuries, India was the engine of global civilisation and culture. It laid the foundations for socioeconomic advancement across the world through its gift in science, mathematics, astronomy, and medicine," he said. The LG said there is an urgent need to restore history and convey its true form to every section of society so that India's narrative is properly shaped.

He said since the Vedic age "our ancestors recorded facts and transmitted knowledge with great accuracy" but for various reasons India lost the habit of writing its own history in modern times. "We failed to communicate our priceless traditions, culture, knowledge and sciences and that's why many people to claim that certain things came from other places or introduced by the invaders. These assertions are baseless," he said. Saha said that foreign historians have, sometimes deliberately, omitted India's ancient discoveries and achievements in science, literature, art, and architecture.

"When India stood at the peak of scientific achievement, many countries shied away from mentioning of science. The earliest references to science, mathematics and astronomy in Persia and other places appear only in the eighth century, and even those owe much to India," he said. Europe's first Renaissance in the 12th century drew on India's treasure of knowledge, science, culture, and art. Centuries before any other countries discovered invention and innovations, India had already established itself as a scientific civilisation, he added. Asserting that India's modernity has often led the world, with scientific contributions unmatched in history, he also said that writers should present creation of our nation's great talents in simple, accessible language.

"India's story is not only of the past but of the present. Despite centuries of subjugation and plunder, we have risen to become the world's fourth largest economy, the fastest growing major economy for years, and by 2047 we aim for a fully developed nation," he said. Today, pride and ownership of this heritage are awakening across society. The task is not self-praise, but for respected writers and thinkers to build India's new narrative on this strong foundation. They must remember that writers have the power to change civilisations," the LG said.

Over 500...

members, whose presence added warmth and significance to the occasion, the spokesman said. Months of rigorous physical training, tactical instruction and character building culminated in the solemn attestation ceremony, symbolising the Agniveers' unwavering commitment to the ideals of duty, courage and selfless service, he said. The Passing Out Parade reflected the professional excellence, discipline and rich military traditions upheld by the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regimental Centre, he said. Addressing the newly attested soldiers, Lt Gen Mishra exhorted them to uphold the finest traditions and values of the Indian Army and remain steadfast in their commitment to the nation's security. The Army officer commended the Agniveers for their determination, resilience and sense of purpose displayed throughout their demanding training. Lt Gen Mishra also praised the training staff and instructors for their tireless efforts in moulding the young Agniveers into disciplined and combat-ready soldiers.

The parade reached an emotional crescendo as the young soldiers saluted the Oath of Allegiance and marched past with confidence and pride, the spokesman said. As the National Flag fluttered high above the parade ground and the final salute echoed across the venue, the ceremony stood as a powerful reaffirmation of patriotism and the enduring commitment of India's youth towards the unity, integrity and security of the nation. The successful completion of training by the seventh batch of Agniveers marks another significant milestone in the Indian Army's efforts to nurture a new generation of motivated, disciplined and technologically adept soldiers, the spokesman said. He said their induction into the ranks strengthens the Army's operational capabilities and reinforces its commitment to safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Armed...

warfare. Modern battlefields have become highly transparent, General Dvivedi said, adding that military planners must remain cautious about deployments and force protection measures. "What we have seen over a period of time is 24/7. The battlefield is so transparent that every movement is known to the other side. Therefore, we have to be very cautious in terms of our deployment, in terms of our employment, and the protection which is required to protect our troops as well as the civilians in the border areas," he said. Referring to information warfare lessons from Operation Sindoor, General Dvivedi said public trust and national cohesion would remain decisive factors in future conflicts. "Victory is always in the mind. It's not on the ground. Therefore, information warfare is only successful if the whole of the nation gets together and trusts the people who are giving the information," he said.

"It that happens, I can assure you that the nation trusts the trust each other and all these stakeholders will always win wars," the Army Chief added. He said that Operation Sindoor demonstrated India's resolve and the armed forces' ability to deliver a calibrated, precise, and purposeful response. This operation underlined the importance of integrated planning, real-time intelligence, precision targeting, strong air defence, secure communications, and synergy across domains," the Army chief said. He said the Indian Army is fully conscious of modernisation transformation. "We are transforming ourselves into a future-ready force under the 'Decade of Transformation', wherein the role of the younger generation would be pivotal," he added. He noted the raising of industry drone battalions, Divyastra batteries, Shaktian regiments, Bhairav battalions, Divyastra batteries, technology-enabled structures from within our resources is part of this transformation.

The general said the next major step is networking and data-centricity, where data becomes a strategic resource, and decision-making becomes faster, smarter, and more resilient. Talking about the use of drones and other indigenous weapons, General Dvivedi said since he has taken over, he has been talking about "Eagle on the Arm". "This means every soldier should have an "eagle" in their hand... Every soldier should have the capability to fly a drone. You have seen that in our academies and other places, training for this is ongoing, simulators are there," he said. He further said that long-awaited military theatreisation process is on the "right track", with deliberations within the Chiefs of Staff Committee completed and a report submitted to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for review. All major concerns and interests of the three services have been accommodated in the proposed structure, he said. General Dvivedi said service chiefs would continue to be responsible for "raise, train and sustain", while theatre commanders would be tasked with operational orchestration of forces. "We are hopeful that the next setup which is coming under the new CDS should be able to take the journey forward and in the next two to three years, we should be able to see it happening on the ground," he said.

Earlier in the day, General Dvivedi reviewed the passing-out parade of the 15th course at NDA, Khadakwala, where he said that Operation Sindoor had set a benchmark for when national will was expressed with precision and resolve, defining India's response to provocation. "From control grey zones to high-velocity hybrid warfare, today's security environment demands that those who serve must think sharply as they act," he said. "Operation Sindoor demonstrated that and set the benchmark when national will was expressed with precision and resolve, defining how Bharat responds to provocation. That standard now belongs to you to uphold," the Army Chief said. "During the occasion 'A program and a particularly personal moment', General Dvivedi recalled passing out from the same quarter over 42 years ago. "Today, as I stand before you at the far end of a life in uniform, preparing to doff shoes as you prepare to doff yours, I can tell you with certainty: what you begin here endures forever," he said.

Indian Navy...

Earlier, Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Shaurya Vaika in the CG City area in the presence of Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, and deputy chief ministers Brajesh Pathak and Keshav Prasad Yama. Developed jointly by the Indian Navy and the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department, the museum is dedicated to the bravery, valour and technological excellence of the naval force. On the rationale behind establishing the naval museum in a landlocked city like Lucknow, Singh said maritime security is linked to every citizen.

"The Indian Ocean is connected to our economy, trade and energy resources. Those who safeguard it come from every village, town and city of India. "The Navy is an asset of the entire nation, and its strength comes from the resolve and confidence of every citizen, whether they live by the sea or in a city like Lucknow," Singh said.

Referring to the decommissioned warship INS Gomati, which forms the centrepiece of the museum, Singh highlighted its connection with Lucknow. "Just as the Gombi river flows through the city and ultimately joins the Ganga and then the sea, INS Gomati brought honour to Lucknow while serving in the Indian Ocean. The ship's crew carried the name of Lucknow's historic 'Chhatra Manzil'," the defence minister said. Calling the Shaurya Vaika more than a tourist attraction, Singh said it would remain a source of the sacrifices made by the armed forces. "This is not an ordinary tourist destination but a living centre of inspiration. It will teach future generations the value of freedom and security. It will make people pause and reflect on the immense contribution of those who ensure the safety of our daily lives," he said. The defence minister also referred to India's military preparedness and indigenous defence production capabilities.

"Our defence manufacturing output has risen considerably. Before 2014, India's defence exports were worth less than Rs 1,000 crore. Today, we are exporting defence equipment worth nearly Rs 44,000 crore to countries around the world," Singh said. Praising the state government, Singh, who has represented Lucknow in the Lok Sabha since 2014, said Uttar Pradesh has witnessed a dramatic transformation under Yogi Adityanath. "There was a time when Lucknow was identified with criminal rate and deteriorating law-and-order. People lived in fear and investors hesitated to come here. Today, a state once known for 'One District, One Mafia' has transformed into 'One District, One Product'," Singh said. "Chief Minister Adityanath provided a prime location for the museum near the Ekana Stadium and adjoining the Gomti wetland. From budget approval to monitoring every important stage of the work, he personally ensured that it was completed in record time," he said. Announcing plans to further enhance the attraction, Singh said, "I want to assure the people of Uttar Pradesh, especially those in Lucknow, that efforts will be made to bring a submarine to this site. A key attraction at the museum is the INS Gomati that was decommissioned on May 28, 2022. The other exhibits include the ship's anchor, CDS-5 submarine obstacle equipment, main mast and propeller official statement said. The visitors can also learn about maritime security, naval operations and the technological capabilities of the Indian Navy, it said s.

Dr Jitendra...

efficient — and that AI-enabled tools are strengthening citizen engagement and improving the quality and speed of grievance resolution. Emphasising that these steps are testimony of the Government's Whole of the Nation approach, the Minister urged the States and other stakeholders to adopt and integrate AI-driven, voice-assisted tools like Samadhan Didi into their own state-level grievance portals to reach out to the last mile. Highlighting the paradigm shift in the public grievance mechanism in the country in the last 12 years of the Modi Government, Dr Jitendra Singh stated that when the Government assumed office in 2014, the grievance redressal system witnessed limited public participation, with only about 2 lakh grievances being registered annually, however, after the CPGRAMS reforms were undertaken, the number of grievances received through the system has now increased manifold to over 25 lakh every year. He underscored that this shift reflects growing public confidence in the Government's responsive and citizen-centric approach when the grievance disposal rate has now crossed 95%.

The Minister observed that the Chatbot reflects the commitment to governance that reaches the last citizen. He said that India's linguistic diversity must be an enabler of access rather than a barrier — embodying the spirit of a self-reliant, technologically sovereign India in which every citizen's voice is heard, in their own words and in their own language. "The Minister further informed that efforts are underway to expand linguistic accessibility on the CPGRAMS platform. Beyond the 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution already supported, regional and indigenous languages such as Bhojprai, Garo, Khasi and Mizo and Bhotia are being incorporated in a phased manner, ensuring greater inclusivity for citizens from diverse linguistic backgrounds. —

Dr Jitendra Singh further remarked that CPGRAMS has emerged as a global role model for citizen-centric governance, exemplifying how technology-enabled governance can enhance transparency, accountability and responsiveness while strengthening trust between citizens and the Government. The Chatbot marks a significant step towards making public grievance redressal simpler, more accessible and truly multilingual. A citizen can now lodge a grievance simply by speaking, in their own language, describing the concern in their own words — without needing to know which Ministry, Department, category or sub-category it belongs to. The Chatbot understands the concern, asks a few relevant clarifying questions, automatically identifies the appropriate Ministry, Department, category and sub-category, and files the grievance with the correct authority.

The system integrates the language capabilities of Bhashini with ground-classification models trained on CPGRAMS data, enabling a seamless experience across Indian Languages. It has been developed within secure Government infrastructure, ensuring data privacy. At the launch event, the Chatbot was demonstrated live and tested in different Indian languages. Secretary, DARGP, Nivedita Shukla Verma; Additional Secretary, DARGP, Puneet Yadav; senior officers of DARGP; and representatives of Bhashini were present on the occasion.

Properties...

The attached property comprises a double-storey residential house along with approximately four marlas of land, situated, he said. Investigations revealed that the property was acquired through proceeds generated from illicit narcotics trafficking, he added. In a separate action, Srinagar police attached a residential house and land worth approximately Rs 80 lakh (belonging to alleged drug peddler Sharif Ahmad Khawaja, a resident of Dikar Kamah, in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. The property was attached under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act, 1988, in connection with Case No. 10/2024 registered under Sections 8/21-29 of the NDPS Act at Police Station M R Gunj, he said. The attachment proceedings in both cases were carried out after following due legal procedures and establishing that the properties were acquired through proceeds generated from illicit narcotics trafficking, the spokesperson said.

False Rape...

The prosecution case was that during the intervening night of May 28 and 29, 2022, the complainant's uncle, Sabash Chopra, entered her room at their residence in R.S. Pura and committed rape upon her. Following the complaint lodged on May 14, 2022, the accused was arrested and later put on trial for the offence punishable under Section 376 IPC. However, after examining the evidence of 11 prosecution witnesses, the Court held that the case collapsed on every material aspect — from the alleged occurrence and the medical evidence to the conduct of witnesses and the quality of evidence. The Court found it difficult to accept the prosecution's version that the accused was in the room at the time of the incident for around 30 to 45 minutes and raped her twice while her parents and two other uncles were present in the same residential building. The Court observed that the house was situated in a populated neighbourhood and yet, as per the prosecution case, no one heard any cries or alarm during the alleged incident. Holding that the narrative defied ordinary human conduct and logic, the Court termed the prosecution's story and the testimony of the prosecutrix "patently absurd and palpably improbable."

The Court also flagged a major improvement in her version. While she claimed during her deposition that she was raped twice, this allegation was not recorded in her statement under Section 164 CrPc. A serious blow to the prosecution case came from the medical evidence. The prosecutrix was medically examined on May 14, 2022, shortly after reporting to the FIR, but her medical report recorded no marks of violence and no evidence of recent sexual intercourse. The Court observed that where the prosecutrix alleged that she had been gagged, overpowered and raped twice, the complete absence of the alleged occurrence and the evidence of recent intercourse materially undermined her testimony. It held that the medical evidence was wholly inconsistent with the allegation projected during trial.

The testimony of the prosecutrix's mother further shook the foundation of the prosecution case. According to the judgment, the mother testified that when she asked her daughter why she was taking her to the police station, she stated that nothing had happened to her. The mother further stated that she came to know about the rape allegation only after reaching the police station. The Court sharply questioned the role of prosecution witnesses Monika Manhas and Dr. Richa Abrol, whose intervention preceded the alleged occurrence of the FIR. The judgment recorded that Monika Manhas denied working for any NGO and did not materially support the prosecution case. Dr. Richa Abrol, on the other hand, stated that she was associated with Muskan Foundation and had intervened in the matter.

The Court noted that Dr. Richa Abrol admitted during cross-examination that the mother of the prosecutrix had reportedly stated that no wrong had been done to her daughter. The Court further observed that Dr. Richa appeared to have played an "unduly overt role" in initiating and pursuing the criminal case.

The Court also noted that the prosecutrix's version was precipitated by external intervention rather than emerging from a spontaneous report by the prosecutrix or her family, raising grave concerns over misuse of the law.

The Fast Track Court strongly censured the investigation, noting that the Investigating Officer visited the alleged place of occurrence only on the tenth day after the alleged incident and got the statement of the prosecutrix under Section 164 CrPc recorded after a similar delay. The Court recorded that the Investigating Officer failed to cite or refer to any forensic or medical evidence in his report, which is in total contradiction with the other witnesses. The officer also failed to obtain call detail records, screenshots or any material to establish the claimed telephone call. The Court further noted that although the Investigating Officer claimed to have collected CCTV footage, he did not analyse it, did not send it to the Forensic Science Laboratory and failed to place any footage on record during the trial. He also failed to collect any medical or documentary proof to support the claim that the prosecutrix's father was suffering from paralysis, which had been cited as the reason for her not pursuing the allegation to him immediately. Coming down heavily on the investigation, the Court observed that the Investigating Officer and the then SHO appeared to have bent to the will of outside interveners while registering and pursuing the matter.

"Whole investigation therefore is fabricated, botched and concocted and accused has been framed up in a frivolous case by deliberate manipulation by Investigating Agency," the Court recorded. The Court noted that Sabash Chopra was arrested on May 15, 2022, and was granted bail only on December 26, 2023, after remaining incarcerated for one year, seven months and eleven days. While acquitting him and dismissing the challan, the Court observed that tainted investigation and a false complaint had ruined both his liberty and social standing.

The Court also noted that a false complaint based on which FIR was registered, not only trampled freedom of accused but also damaged his reputation," the Court observed. The Court also warned against blind reliance upon statements recorded under Section 164 CrPc, observing that such a statement is "not a divine edict" and must always be examined for credibility and truthfulness. In a stern accountability order, the Court directed the Inspector General of Police, Jammu, to initiate departmental enquiry against the Investigating Officer and his immediate supervisory officer, the then SHO of Police Station R.S. Pura, and conclude it expeditiously in accordance with law. The Court also directed the Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, to take a stern accountability order, the Court directed the Inspector General of Police, Jammu, to initiate departmental enquiry against the Investigating Officer and his immediate supervisory officer, the then SHO of Police Station R.S. Pura, and conclude it expeditiously in accordance with law. The SJP Jammu was further directed to conduct an enquiry into the involvement of Monika Manhas and Dr. Richa Abrol in facilitating the alleged occurrence and the registration of the FIR. The Court ordered that if their role is established, criminal action be initiated against them in accordance with law. Mr. Anil Sharma, Additional Public Prosecutor, appeared for the State, while Mr. Anil Sharma, Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, represented the acquitted accused. (JNF)

LG Directs...

(ATR) to the Chief Secretary within 30 days and launch public

awareness campaigns on energy conservation, domestic tourism, local products, healthy lifestyles, natural farming and sustainable development.

Under these directions, the general administration department has been asked to maximise the use of video conferencing and digital platforms for meetings and training programmes, reduce official travel and examine the feasibility of work-from-home and hybrid working arrangements wherever appropriate.

The Power, Transport and Urban Development departments have been tasked with promoting energy conservation, accelerating installation of rooftop solar systems in government buildings, expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure and encouraging the use of public transport and electric vehicles.

The public works department has been directed to encourage environmentally sustainable construction materials, promote the use of plastic waste in road construction where feasible and explore green technologies such as biotreatment.

The Industries and Commerce, Handicrafts and Handloom, and Rural Development departments have been asked to strengthen the promotion of local products under the 'vocal for local' and 'one district one product' initiatives and support MSMEs, artisans, self-help groups and cooperatives. The tourism department has been directed to intensify campaigns to promote Ladakh as a preferred domestic tourism destination and encourage responsible and sustainable tourism practices.

The agriculture and horticulture departments will promote natural farming and sustainable agriculture through awareness programmes and capacity-building activities, and the Health Department has been asked to conduct campaigns promoting healthy lifestyles and balanced dietary habits, officials said.

No Reinstatement...

Shah, corresponding to Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution of India. The provision permits dismissal of a government employee without holding a departmental enquiry where the competent constitutional authority is satisfied that such an enquiry would not be expedient in the interest of the security of the State.

Tantray had challenged his dismissal before the High Court, contending that his services could not have been terminated without a departmental enquiry and an opportunity to defend himself. A Single Judge, in April 2011, accepted his plea and set aside the dismissal order after holding that no sufficient reasons had been shown for abandoning the departmental enquiry initially initiated against him. Reversing the Single Bench ruling, the Division Bench termed the judgment "sketchy and seriously flawed", holding that the record contained abundant material justifying the invocation of the security clause and dispensing with the enquiry.

According to the judgment, Tantray was allegedly found involved in anti-national activities in 2004 and was arrested in FIR No. 06/2004 registered at Police Station Zaddib, Srinagar, for offences under Section 120-B CrPc and provisions of the Arms Act, 1959.

The Court noted that contemporaneous official record, including an interrogation report and a detailed memorandum prepared by the Home Department for consideration of the Cabinet, showed that Tantray was allegedly in contact with a Pakistani missionary and had managed a permanent hideout for him in the house of one Haji Mushtaq Ganj.

The judgment records that, acting on a tip-off, the house was raided and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered. The investigation into Haji Mushtaq's role allegedly led to Tantray, following which a search of Tantray's rented accommodation resulted in the recovery of two hand grenades.

The Division Bench observed that the material placed before the authorities showed that Tantray, despite being a member of the Police Department, was allegedly involved in subversive activities aimed at the disintegration of the country and was considered a grave threat to State security.

"The respondent was in such pawn in the hands of the enemy who had been persuaded to act not only against his employer but also against his country for extraneous reasons and considerations," the Bench observed.

The Court took note of the prevailing security situation in Jammu and Kashmir at the relevant time, observing that proxies of a neighbouring country had attempted to create terror and infiltrate government machinery by roping in to government employees, including those serving in security and intelligence agencies. The government had pleaded that although departmental proceedings were initially initiated against Tantray, it was subsequently realised that holding a full-fledged enquiry would expose sensitive security information and privileged witnesses.

The Division Bench found that a committee headed by the Chief Secretary had examined the case and the Home Department thereafter prepared a detailed memorandum for the Cabinet. The memorandum recorded that Tantray allegedly had military-related connections; witnesses might not come forward due to fear of reprisal; and an Enquiry Officer could also face threats to life, family and property. The militants or organisations with whom Tantray allegedly had links.

The Court noted that the Cabinet approved the proposal and recommended action to the Governor, who exercised the power under Section 166(a) to dismiss Tantray from service without a regular departmental enquiry. Explaining the law, the Bench observed that while a civil servant ordinarily cannot be dismissed or removed without charges, enquiry and reasonable opportunity of hearing, the Constitution creates a stringent exception in cases involving the security of the State. The Court held that "security of the State" has a high threshold and may cover terrorism, espionage, militant links, activities threatening the sovereignty and integrity of the country and grave anti-national conduct.

The Bench further ruled that although the constitutional court can judicially review such action where satisfaction is shown to be mala fide, arbitrary or founded on irrelevant material, courts cannot sit in appeal over the sufficiency of material relied upon by the competent authority in national security matters. Holding that the relevant material was available "in abundance" and that there was no justification for interfering with the dismissal order, the Division Bench set aside the Single Bench judgment and dismissed Tantray's writ petition, thereby restoring his termination from police service.

Mr. Mohsin Qadri, Senior Additional Advocate General, appeared for the appellants, Mr. Syed Faisal Qadri, Senior Advocate, with Mr. Mir Adnan Zafar, Advocate, and Mr. Salih Prizade, Advocate, represented the respondent. (JNF)

8th...

by senior officers from various departments. Those invited include Additional Chief Secretaries of Jal Shakti, Power Development, Tourism, Agriculture, Finance, Public Works (R&B) and the Chief Secretary. The 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) is headed by the Principal Secretaries of the Home Department, Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat and Election Department, along with the Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, Commissioner Secretary, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Department, and all Heads of Departments of the Finance Department, have also been directed to participate.

It is to be implemented in a phased manner and representations from stakeholders regarding pay structures, service conditions and other issues to be considered by the 8th Central Pay Commission during its review process.

Two killed...

the spot and launched a rescue operation. Officials said the vehicle was already engulfed in flames when rescuers reached the scene. During the operation, the bodies of the driver and his helper were recovered from the burnt cabin of the truck, they said.

The bodies were recovered in a partially charred condition, officials said, adding that the truck was completely destroyed in the fire. Police have taken cognisance of the incident and launched an investigation, officials said.

DC Rajouri reviews implementation of 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan

Stresses intensified outreach, community participation

RAJOURI, MAY 30: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the quality and impact of activities being organized under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan across the district. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the range of awareness, sports, educational and community-based activities being conducted under the campaign and emphasized the need to ensure meaningful public participation and tangible outcomes. He directed all concerned officers to further intensify the campaign by organizing more awareness and outreach events across all 312 Panchayats and municipal areas of the district. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of involving



representatives of various associations, community groups, educational institutions and civil society organizations to broaden the reach and effectiveness of the campaign. He also directed the officers to submit information regarding any government official, Lambardar or Chowkidar found involved in drug-related activities so that appropriate action could be initiated. The Deputy Commissioner directed

addiction centres in the district, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for greater awareness regarding the treatment and rehabilitation facilities available for addicts, particularly in remote and far-flung areas. He called upon all stakeholders to disseminate information about de-addiction services so that affected individuals and their families can seek timely assistance. The Deputy Commissioner further

stressed that recovered patients should be connected with livelihood and self-employment opportunities under MISSION YUVA to facilitate their reintegration into society and ensure sustainable rehabilitation. To strengthen community vigilance, he emphasized the engagement of school and college-going students as anti-drug vigilantes and directed the concerned departments to facilitate registration of youth clubs on the My Bharat Portal. He also called for the activation of Mahila Nigami Samitis at the grassroots level to enhance community monitoring and awareness efforts. The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to plan and organize mega awareness and sports events, especially in border villages, to engage youth positively and reinforce the message of a drug-free society.

Restoration of Kathua-Madhupur Rail Bridge No. 17 Completed, CRS Inspection Done

JAMMU, MAY 30: The restoration work of Rail Bridge No. 17 between Kathua and Madhupur, Punjab has been completed. Today, on 30 May, Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Railway Shri Dinesh Chand Deswal conducted a detailed safety inspection and speed test of the bridge. Divisional Railway Manager, Jammu Vivek Kumar and other officers were also present during the inspection. After the inspection, CRS has approved train operations on the bridge. Train services will resume soon. Last year in 2025, heavy rainfall and floods caused the water level of the Ravi River to rise dangerously. Due to the strong current, one pillar of the bridge was partially damaged. For safety reasons, train operations on this section were stopped immediately after the floods. Railways started the restoration work on a war footing. The damaged pillar was rebuilt with a new, stronger foundation. Girders, deck slab and the track were also replaced. After completion of the repair work, CRS checked the strength of the bridge, track level, and flood safety

measures. The bridge was also tested by running an engine at different speeds. Divisional Railway Manager Vivek Kumar said, "The team completed the repair work in a very short time despite difficult conditions. After CRS approval, trains on this route will run at normal speed. "This bridge is an important part of the Pathankot-Jammu-Srinagar rail route. Its restoration will directly benefit passengers and freight trains traveling to and from Jammu-Kashmir. Pilgrims going to Katra and Jammu will also get relief. With the bridge restored, trains will run on time and special trains during the Amarnath Yatra and summer vacations can be operated easily. Many trains that were cancelled will resume from June, including 12207/12208, 14611/14612, 19107/19108, 22705/22706, 12549/12550, 19415/19416, 20847/20848, 20985/20986. Other trains including 12265, 14503/14504, 22401/22402, 22431/22432, 22431/22432 will resume from 15th June.

International Day of Potato 2026 celebrated at PSDF Nathatop



JAMMU, MAY 30: The Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu today celebrated International Day of Potato 2026 at Potato Seed Development Farm (PSDF) Nathatop under the guidance of Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta. Joint Director Agriculture (Farms/SLUB) Jammu Aman Jyoti Sharma spearheaded the programme. More than 30 farmers participated under the theme "Where Potatoes Grow,

Livelihoods Flourish." Among those present were Agriculture Economist Tilak Raj Sharma, Potato Development Officer Jammu Ravi Sharma, Farm Manager PSDF Nathatop Ravinder Singh, besides officers and staff of the department. The Director extended greetings to farmers, agriculture professionals, FPOs and stakeholders. He highlighted the vital role of potato cultivation in ensuring food security, nutritional security, employment generation and sustainable rural livelihoods.

Joint Director Agriculture (Farms/SLUB) Aman Jyoti Sharma emphasized the adoption of scientific cultivation practices, quality seed and modern technologies to enhance potato productivity and farmers income. He highlighted the importance of potato cultivation as a key contributor to the agricultural economy of the region. Agriculture Economist Tilak Raj Sharma stressed the economic potential of potato cultivation and advised farmers to explore value addition and collective marketing initiatives for better returns. Potato Development Officer Ravi Sharma informed that potato cultivation occupies nearly 900 hectares in hilly areas and about 2,045 hectares in plain areas of Jammu Division.

DC Samba chairs NCORD meeting, Calls for intensified anti-drug campaign across district

SAMBA, MAY 30: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the District Level NCORD (Narco Coordination Centre) Committee to review the Action Taken Report on anti-drug initiatives and assess the progress achieved on decisions taken during the previous meeting. During the meeting, the DC reviewed the measures undertaken by various departments to curb drug abuse and narcotics trafficking and stressed the need for a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach to effectively tackle the menace. She directed all stakeholder departments to further strengthen preventive, enforcement, treatment, rehabilitation and awareness measures to ensure a sustained impact at the grassroots level. Emphasizing the importance of treatment and rehabilitation, the DC directed the concerned authorities to strengthen the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Samba



and ensure greater accessibility of counselling and de-addiction services for individuals affected by substance abuse. The Deputy Commissioner underscored the critical role of educational institutions in prevention efforts and called for enhanced capacity building of teachers and educators to enable them to identify vulnerable youth, provide guidance and pro-

vide guidance and promote awareness regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse. Highlighting the need for community participation, she directed all departments to intensify awareness campaigns, outreach programmes and IEC activities across the district. She further stressed for organizing orientation programmes, sports events and youth engagement activities to encourage

healthy lifestyles and channelize the energies of young people towards constructive pursuits. Reiterating the district administration's commitment towards making Samba a drug-free district, the DC called upon all departments, enforcement agencies, educational institutions and community stakeholders to work in close coordination and adopt a proactive approach in addressing the challenge of narcotics and substance abuse. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagdish Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police Garu Ram, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Sub-Divisional Magistrates; Principals of Government Degree Colleges; representatives of enforcement agencies and other senior district and sectoral officers.

SCERT Jammu organizes Divisional Level 53rd Raja Stariya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani (RSBVP) 2025-26 at Kisan Bhawan

JAMMU, MAY 30: The Divisional Office Jammu of the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), J&K organized the Divisional Level 53rd Raja Stariya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani (RSBVP) 2025-26 at Kisan Bhawan Jammu under the inspiring theme "STEM for Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat." The programme also featured an awareness seminar on "Reducing Plastic Pollution." The event was organized under the guidance of Director, SCERT J&K and Director School Education Jammu Dr. Naseem Javid Choudhary. The exhibition aimed at fostering scientific tem-



perament, creativity, innovation and experiential learning among students through diverse thematic areas. The central theme was "STEM for Viksit and

Atmanirbhar Bharat," encompassed sub-themes including Agriculture, Sustainable Management and Alternatives to Plastics,

Green Energy, Emerging Technologies, Recreational Mathematical Modelling, Health and Hygiene and Water Conservation and Management. The exhibits prepared by students reflected practical applications of science and mathematics in addressing contemporary societal and environmental challenges. A total of 1,350 innovative models from 98 educational zones were initially showcased at the zonal level, out of which 325 exhibits were shortlisted for district-level competitions. Finally, 54 outstanding exhibits qualified for the divisional-level exhibition organized by SCERT Jammu. The exhibition fea-

tured participation of 92 students accompanied by 56 escort teachers representing different districts of Jammu Division. The innovative models displayed by the students reflected scientific creativity, practical problem-solving abilities and awareness regarding sustainable development and emerging technologies. The participants were formally welcomed by the Joint Director, SCERT J&K, while a detailed concept note highlighting the objectives and significance of the exhibition was presented by Dr. Rohini, Senior Academic Officer, SCERT Divisional Office Jammu. The exhibition

Agriculture Department Jammu accords farewell to retiring employees

JAMMU, MAY 30: The officers and staff of the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu, bid farewell to Madan Lal, Regional Level Subject Matter Specialist (JDA Extension Office, Jammu); Gopal Krishan, Head Draftsman (Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu); Manju Gupta, Field Assistant-III (Divisional Soil Survey Office, Jammu); Madan Lal, GCSEO (ADLE, Jammu) and Jeet Singh, Driver (Agriculture Chemist, Jammu), who superannuated today after rendering more than three decades of dedicated service to the department. A farewell function was organized at the Conference Hall,



Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan Jammu to honour the retirees for their valuable contributions towards the department and the farming community. Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu Anil Gupta along with sectoral heads, senior officers and staff members, graced the occasion and extended their best wishes to the retirees. Anil Gupta appreci-

ated the services rendered by the retiring employees and commended their professionalism, dedication and commitment towards agricultural development and farmers' welfare. He observed that their contributions had strengthened the functioning of the department and their sincerity and work ethic would continue to serve as an inspiration for others.

Doda Veteran Col Rajesh Gupta (Retd) assumes charge as ZSWO Udhampur; Reaffirms commitment to Ex-Servicemen welfare

JAMMU MAY 30: A formal Handing Over/Taking Over ceremony was held today at the Zila Sainik Welfare Office (ZSWO), Udhampur, marking a significant transition in leadership. During the ceremony, Col Rajesh Gupta (Retd), a distinguished veteran hailing from Doda district, formally assumed the duties and responsibilities of ZSWO Udhampur from Wg Cdr Tirath Singh (Retd). As part of the transition process, a comprehensive briefing was conducted to ensure the smooth transfer of responsibilities and continuity of ongoing welfare initiatives. The outgoing officer apprised his successor of the office's functioning, key welfare schemes, ongoing projects and matters concerning veterans, war widows and their dependents. The detailed handover aimed to maintain efficiency and uphold the high standards of service delivery associated with the organization. Following the assumption of charge, Col Rajesh Gupta (Retd) interacted with the staff of ZSWO Udhampur and outlined his



vision for strengthening welfare measures and enhancing outreach to the veteran community. He emphasized the importance of timely grievance redressal, improved coordination with stakeholders and greater awareness regarding welfare schemes available to ex-servicemen and their families. He also stressed the need for a compassionate and service-oriented approach in addressing the concerns of beneficiaries.

GBMHSS Rajouri organises symposium on "Nasha Mukta Bharat"

RAJOURI, MAY 30: As part of the ongoing efforts under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the Government Boys Model Higher Secondary School Rajouri today organised a symposium on the theme "Nasha Mukta Bharat" to generate awareness among students regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse and to encourage a healthy and responsible lifestyle among youth. The programme was organised under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma and the patronage of Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafeez. The symposium witnessed



enthusiastic participation from students and teachers of various educational institutions across the district. Students from Government Boys Model HSS Rajouri, Government Girls Model HSS Rajouri, Himalayan Education Mission School Rajouri, National Public School

was the guest of honour. The chief guest highlighted the growing challenge posed by drug abuse and stressed the need for collective efforts involving educational institutions, parents, law enforcement agencies and society at large to combat the menace. He urged students to remain focused on their studies, adopt healthy habits and actively contribute towards building a drug-free society. Maqbool Hussain emphasised the importance of value-based education and character building in safeguarding youth from social evils. He encouraged students to channel their energy towards academics, sports,

creative activities and community service. During the symposium, students expressed their views on the devastating impact of substance abuse on individuals, families and society. They advocated greater awareness, community participation and youth empowerment as effective measures to eradicate drug addiction. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Principal GBMHSS Rajouri M M Wani. All participants also took a pledge to remain committed to the cause of a Drug-Free India and to spread awareness against substance abuse in their respective communities.

Local power hungry BJP leaders Black mailing democratically elected Govt : Rattan Lal Gupta

Jammu, May 30
The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta today strongly criticized certain local BJP leaders for indulging in political blackmail and creating unnecessary confrontation against the democratically elected Government in Jammu and Kashmir merely to satisfy their hunger for power.

Addressing a One Day Convention of District Presidents and Party functionaries of SC Cell at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu today which was organized by Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell who highlighted the Scheduled Caste demands and problems of their respective areas. Rattan Lal Gupta said that the people of J&K have given a clear and decisive mandate in favour



of the present elected Government, and any attempt to undermine, destabilize or weaken this mandate amounts to disrespecting the democratic will of the people. He asserted that instead of working for the welfare and development of the masses, some BJP leaders are busy conspiring to create political uncertainty and confusion in the Union Territory.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that

these power-hungry elements are trying to please their political bosses in New Delhi by continuously targeting the elected Government and creating hurdles in governance. Such actions are not only undemocratic but also harmful to the interests of the people who voted in large numbers with hopes of peace, development and restoration of democratic rights.

He reminded the BJP lead-

ership that democracy survives only when the mandate of the people is respected. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered enough due to political uncertainty, bureaucratic control and denial of full democratic rights. Any attempt to weaken the authority of the elected Government will further alienate the masses and damage democratic institutions. He urged the Centre Government to

respect the verdict of the people and cooperate fully with the elected Government instead of encouraging confrontation through politically motivated elements. The repeated promises regarding restoration of Statehood must also be fulfilled without further delay, as the people of J&K deserve a full-fledged democratic system as assured by the country's leadership on several occasions.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that Jammu and Kashmir needs development, employment generation, infrastructure growth and effective governance, not political games aimed at grabbing power through the backdoor. He warned that any effort to subvert the people's mandate for narrow political interests would be strongly opposed by democratic forces.

Shiv Sena launches campaign to connect pilgrims with Jammu's Heritage, Unveils Poster

Jammu, May 30

The Jammu & Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasabhe Thackeray) on Saturday launched its "Spend a Day in Jammu" campaign and unveiled a special poster urging pilgrims visiting the Shri Amarnath Yatra and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine to spend at least one day exploring Jammu's rich heritage, culture and tourist attractions.



Releasing the poster at the party's state office here, Shiv Sena J&K chief Manish Sahni said that Jammu should be promoted not merely as a transit point but as a major religious, cultural and tourism destination.

He said that lakhs of pilgrims visit Jammu & Kashmir every year, but a large number of them proceed to their destinations without exploring Jammu city's historical, religious

and tourist landmarks. If pilgrims dedicate even one day of their journey to Jammu, it would provide them an opportunity to experience the region's rich Dogra culture and heritage while also boosting local tourism and trade.

Sahni said that under the campaign, the posters will be distributed among pilgrims during the Amarnath Yatra and displayed at major public locations, including railway stations, bus stands and prominent city intersections, to create awareness about Jammu's key tourist attractions.

He said the poster highlights several important landmarks, including Raghunath Temple, Bahu Fort, Bagh-e-Bahu, Hari Ki Pauri Tawi Ghat, Mubarak Mandi, Amar Mahal Museum, Peer Kho Cave Temple, Suchetgarh Border and other prominent destinations. It also showcases the contribution of Maharaja Gulab Singh, founder of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu & Kashmir, and Maharaja Hari Singh, who signed the Instrument of Accession with India on October 26, 1947.

Ensure people centric development in the absence of Panchayats, ULBs, BDC, DDCs

Jammu, May 30

Expressing great concern over power and water crisis in all parts of Jammu region, Senior leaders of JKPC have asked the government to take immediate steps in this regard besides urging the government to ensure people oriented development by involvement of people through Gram Sabhas in the finalization of plans in the absence of Panchayats, ULBs, BDCs and DDCs.

Addressing a press conference here today at PCC HQ Rajiv Bhawan Jammu, senior functionaries of the party Mr. Raman Bhalla Working President, Mr. Ravinder Sharma Chief Spokesperson JKPC,



Shri Ved Mahajan Incharge PCC HQ Shri Mannohan Singh senior congress leader & Ex District President Jammu Urban said that in the absence of Panchayats, ULBs, BDCs and DDCs the development has become MLA centric rather than people centric, as entire plans for fund's utilization is at the

discretion of MLAs leaving no scope for left out sections and areas which are not on the priority of concerned MLA. They also took strong exception to the failure of Modi government on all fronts and playing with the career of youth and students in the country, as the frequent paper leaks in prestigious tests.

Adv Devraj Sharma reviews preparations for PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat'

Jammu, May 30

Senior BJP leader Adv. Devraj Sharma on Saturday chaired a meeting of party leaders and office-bearers at Miran Sahib to review and finalize preparations for the forthcoming broadcast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular monthly radio programme, "Mann Ki Baat," scheduled to be aired on Sunday, May 31, across the RS Pura and Suchetgarh constituencies. During the meeting, Sharma urged party workers to ensure the widespread conduct of listening programmes at the booth level throughout both constituencies. He emphasized that "Mann Ki Baat" has evolved into one of the most effective platforms through which Prime Minister Modi establishes a direct emotional and intellectual connect with cit-



izens across the nation. Highlighting the significance of the programme, Sharma said that through "Mann Ki Baat," the Prime Minister consistently brings attention to issues that inspire social transformation and collective action, including environmental conservation, innovation, youth

engagement, women empowerment, healthcare awareness, and citizen-driven development initiatives. He observed that the programme has become a powerful medium for motivating individuals and communities to actively contribute towards nation-building.

According to Sharma, the Prime Minister's messages encourage people to embrace positive change and participate in developmental efforts that strengthen the social fabric of the country. Sharma further remarked that "Mann Ki Baat" has emerged as a unique national platform that recognizes the inspiring contributions of ordinary citizens and showcases local success stories before a nationwide audience. He noted that several public movements, including cleanliness

campaigns, promotion of indigenous products, water conservation initiatives, fitness awareness drives, and environmental protection efforts, gained remarkable momentum after being highlighted in the programme. Calling for maximum public participation, Sharma urged party leaders and workers to reach out to people from every section of society and ensure that the Prime Minister's message of collective responsibility, social harmony, and inclusive growth reaches every household across the Union Territory. Stressing the importance of seamless coordination and effective booth-level management, Sharma said BJP workers across Jammu and Kashmir are enthusiastically preparing for the upcoming broadcast. He expressed confidence.

Karan Bhagat charts public outreach strategy, focuses on grassroots issues in RS Pura and Suchetgarh

Jammu, May 30:

Karan Bhagat, National Coordinator of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) Scheduled Caste Department and Co-Incharge for Punjab in the party's SC Department, today convened a meeting of office-bearers from the RS Pura and Suchetgarh constituencies to formulate a comprehensive strategy for reaching out to the people, listening to their grievances, and effectively projecting their concerns before the concerned authorities.

The meeting witnessed detailed discussions on a wide range of public issues affecting residents of the border constituencies. Participants highlighted persistent unscheduled power cuts, deteriorating and dilapidated road infrastructure, poor drainage systems, and inadequate civic amenities that continue to hamper the daily lives



of people in the region. Special attention was given to the challenges faced by the farming community, which remains the backbone of the local economy. The office-bearers expressed concern over deficiencies in irrigation facilities, shortage of fertilizers, and the availability of poor-quality seeds, issues that are adversely impacting agricultural productivity

and placing additional burdens on farmers. Addressing the gathering, Karan Bhagat emphasized that public representatives and party workers must remain closely connected with the people and act as a bridge between citizens and the administration. He stressed the need for a systematic mechanism to identify local problems, document grievances, and pursue their resolution through the appropriate channels. Among all the concerns discussed, the issue of unemployment emerged as a major point of focus. Bhagat expressed serious concern over the growing lack of employment opportunities for educated youth, describing it as one of the most pressing challenges facing society today. He observed that prolonged unemployment is creating frustration and uncertainty among young people and pushing

many towards despair and an uncertain future. He called for sustained efforts to create employment opportunities, strengthen skill development initiatives, and formulate policies that can harness the potential of the younger generation. "The youth are the greatest asset of our nation. Their energy and talent must be channeled towards productive avenues that contribute to both personal growth and national development," he said. Bhagat urged party functionaries to intensify grassroots engagement, regularly interact with residents, and ensure that genuine public concerns are raised effectively before the concerned departments. He reiterated the Congress party's commitment to standing with the people and advocating for solutions to issues affecting farmers, workers.

Vedic wisdom on charity, worship and knowledge shared at 78-day Yajna in Yol

Yol, May 30:

On the 49th day of the ongoing 78-day Yajna dedicated to the study and recitation of all four Vedas at Ved Mandir, Yol, renowned Vedic scholar and Yoga Acharya Swami Ram Swarup Ji delivered an enlightening discourse based on Samaveda Mantras 388, 389 and 1683, emphasizing the eternal values of divine worship, righteous association and charity. Explaining Samaveda Mantra 388, Swami Ji stated that Almighty God is the creator and revealer of the Vedas, referred to in the mantra as "Brahmakrite." He urged devotees to sing and contemplate the teachings of the Samaveda, described as the greatest among the four Vedas for its profound spiritual melodies and wisdom. Referring to Mantra 389, Swami Ji explained that God especially blesses charitable and generous individuals with prosperity and wealth. Elaborating further through Mantra 1683, he said that those who willingly donate their cherished possessions for noble causes transcend sins and attain spiritual elevation. He stressed



that the Vedas place immense importance on three fundamental principles-Dev Pooja (divine worship), Sangatikan (association with learned scholars), and Daan (charity). Swami Ji elaborated that Dev Pooja signifies offering respect and reverence to parents, Vedic scholars, guests and the Almighty through the recitation of Vedic mantras and sincere worship in accordance.

Army conducts women-led awareness drive under Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan

Akhnour, May 30:

Continuing its dedicated efforts towards building a drug-free society, the Indian Army organized the third session of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan at Village Bomal in the Akhnour sector. The awareness programme was conducted as part of the nationwide anti-drug campaign spearheaded by the Government of India, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and aimed at educating local communities about the dangers of substance abuse.

A special women-led awareness drive formed the highlight of the programme. The initiative focused on empowering women with knowledge



and awareness regarding the harmful physical, psychological and social consequences of drug addiction. Recognizing the vital role played by women in shaping families and communities, the session emphasized their responsibility in guiding the younger generation towards a healthy, disciplined and drug-free lifestyle. During the awareness cam-

paign, participants were sensitized about the growing menace of substance abuse and its adverse impact on society. Speakers highlighted the importance of remaining vigilant against drug-related activities, maintaining open communication within families and creating a supportive environment where children and youth can openly discuss their concerns.

Raman Suri urges residents to complete census self-enumeration well in time

Jammu, May 30

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Raman Suri has appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to actively participate in the ongoing Census 2027 self-enumeration process and complete their details online before the deadline of May 31, 2026. Describing the Census as one of the most important national exercises that helps the government formulate welfare schemes, development plans and public provision, Suri said that every citizen's participation is vital to ensure accurate representation of the population and its needs. In a statement issued here today, Raman Suri said that the Government of India has provided a unique opportunity to citizens to self-enumerate through the online Census portal from May 17, 2026



to May 31, 2026. He urged families across Jammu and Kashmir to take advantage of this facility and furnish their details voluntarily and accurately without waiting for the physical visit of census officials. Suri emphasized that an accurate Census forms the foundation for

effective governance, allocation of resources, planning of infrastructure projects, strengthening of healthcare and education facilities, and implementation of various welfare programmes. He said that the information collected during the Census helps governments understand demographic changes, housing requirements, employment trends and social development indicators, thereby enabling better decision-making for the benefit of citizens.

The BJP leader informed that after the self-enumeration phase concludes on May 31, enumerators will undertake house-listing and verification visits from June 1 to June 30, 2026. Citizens who complete the online self-enumeration process must carefully note and preserve their Self-Enumeration Identification Number (SE ID) and

share it with the enumerator when he or she visits the household for verification. This will facilitate smooth processing and help avoid duplication of information. Raman Suri further said that participation in the Census is not merely a civic responsibility but also an opportunity for every citizen to contribute towards the nation's planning and development process. He called upon educated youth, social organizations, resident welfare associations, trade bodies, panchayat representatives and community leaders to spread awareness about the self-enumeration facility and assist elderly persons and those unfamiliar with digital platforms in completing the process. Appealing for maximum public cooperation, Suri said that a complete and accurate Census will help ensure that Jammu.



Digitek hosts grand mini expo in Jammu, showcases latest content creation solutions

JAMMU, May 30

Leading imaging and content creation brand Digitek organized a grand one-day Mini Expo at Hotel Showay, near Delhi Public School, Jammu, bringing together photographers, videographers, content creators, influencers, YouTubers, media professionals and technology enthusiasts under one roof. The exhibition was organized by My Life My Style Private Limited, Jammu, the Premier Partner of Digitek for Jammu & Kashmir. The event featured live demonstrations and hands-on experience of a wide range of products including Digitek lights, microphones, podcast setups, chroma studio setups, Viltrox lenses and accessories, Zhiyun gimbals, and various professional photography and videography solutions.



Speaking on the occasion, Sunil Sharma of My Life My Style Private Limited said that the objective behind organizing the expo was to provide local creators and professionals an opportunity to explore the latest technology without having to travel to metropolitan cities. "Most major exhibitions are organized in cities like Delhi and Mumbai. We requested Digitek to bring this experience to Jammu so that photographers, videographers, YouTubers, vlog-

gers, social media influencers, makeup artists and media professionals can directly interact with the latest products and technologies. We are grateful that Digitek accepted our proposal and organized this impressive exhibition in Jammu," Sharma said. He added that every product category had dedicated demonstration stations with experts explaining practical applications and usage. "The biggest advantage is that visitors can experience products in a

real working environment. Such live demonstrations are rarely available in regular retail outlets. This exhibition is highly beneficial for anyone associated with content creation and digital media," he said. Representing Digitek, Brand Marketing Manager Rosy Malik said that the company was delighted by the enthusiastic response from Jammu's creative community. "This Mini Expo has been designed to showcase Digitek's complete ecosystem of content

creation products. From microphones and lighting solutions to podcast setups, professional studio arrangements, Viltrox products and Zhiyun stabilizers, visitors can explore and experience everything firsthand. Whether someone is a beginner or an established professional, we have solutions for every stage of content creation," she said. The event was attended by ZSM Rajiv Anuja, Brand Marketing Manager Rosy Malik, Digitek Sales Team members Sandeep Sabharwal and Ravi Sharma, along with all major authorized dealers of the region including Color World, Gupta Studio, Sonu Brothers, S.R. Photo Enterprises, Taj Studio, Subash Radio & Co., Papu Radio & Watch Co., and Anand Studio.

Strong organization and nationalist ideology make BJP the world's largest party: Sat Sharma

JAMMU, May 30

J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, accompanied by District President Rajeev Pandita, addressed the District-Level Training Camp organized by BJP District Kashmir Displaced under the ongoing 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan-2026'. Former MLC spokesperson BJP Girdhari Lal Raina, Prabhari KDD Chand ji, Seh Prabhari KDD Hira Lal Bhat, District office Bearers, Mandal presidents and general Secretaries, morcha representatives, and grassroots activists from across the district, participated in the camp. Sat Sharma, while addressing the party leaders, elaborated on the history, philosophy, and growth of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He said that BJP is not merely a political organization but a nationalist movement



inspired by the ideals of cultural nationalism, good governance, and service to society. He stated that the remarkable journey of the BJP from a small ideological force to the world's largest political party reflects the dedication, sacrifices, and unwavering commitment of its cadre. Sat Sharma emphasized that the strength of the BJP lies in its ideology, disciplined organizational structure, and committed workers who remain connected with the aspirations of the common people. He asked the party activists to strengthen their engagement at the grassroots level and ensure that the welfare

initiatives and developmental schemes launched under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi reach every deserving beneficiary. Sat Sharma said that while many political parties thrive on dynastic politics, appeasement, and divisive agendas, the BJP has consistently worked with the sole objective of nation-building and public welfare. He asserted that the people of the country have repeatedly reposed their faith in the BJP because of its transparent governance, commitment to development, and unwavering dedication to national interests.

Army extends timely medical assistance to a civilian in a remote area

Poonch, May 30

Demonstrating its enduring commitment towards the welfare of local communities under the Winning Hearts and Minds initiative, the Indian Army extended timely medical assistance to a civilian injured in a bear attack in a remote area of Poonch District.



Upon receiving information about the incident, troops of Indian Army responded promptly and evacuated the injured individual to the MI Room, where immediate first aid was administered. Suturing of wounds was carried out under strict aseptic precautions, and necessary medical

treatment was provided. Thereafter, the casualty was evacuated to the nearest Primary Health Centre at Sujanpur for further medical management and observation. The condition of the

injured civilian is presently stable, and the concerned authorities continue to monitor the situation. Local residents have also been advised to exercise caution while moving in the affected area.

Two days Abayas Barg of Aganwadi workers welfare association concluded

JAMMU, May 30

A two-day Residential Orientation Workshop-cum-Abayas Barg organized by the Anganwadi Workers Welfare Association, affiliated with the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), concluded successfully at Trikuta Yatri Nivas, Ambphala, Jammu. The programme witnessed the participation of more than 50 Anganwadi workers and helpers representing various districts of Jammu province.



The workshop was aimed at enhancing awareness among Anganwadi workers regarding organizational values, labour rights, social security measures, and issues concerning working women. The event provided a platform for participants to discuss

challenges faced in their professional and personal lives and explore possible solutions. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Sohan Lal Gupta, Organizing

Secretary, BMS North Zone, who elaborated on the core principles and ideology of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. Addressing the participants, he emphasized the

importance of adhering to BMS values such as Nation First, dedication to organizational work, collective bargaining, commitment of time and effort, the non-political character of BMS, and the absence of discrimination based on class or social status. He urged the participants to adhere to these principles in their daily lives and professional responsibilities.

Dr. Sanyogita Suddan, Deputy Superintendent, Super Speciality Hospital Jammu, delivered an informative session on the health concerns of working women. She discussed various physical and mental health issues faced by women employees, their social responsibilities, and practical measures for maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

APS Ratnuchak hosts Samsung solve for tomorrow 2026 innovation workshop

JAMMU, May 30

Army Public School (APS) Ratnuchak successfully organized the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow 2026 - Design Thinking and Innovation (DTI) Workshop for students of Classes IX to XII at the school's Khetarpal Auditorium. The workshop, conducted under Samsung India's flagship youth innovation programme in collaboration with HTF, Delhi and ThinkStartup, provided an excellent platform for students to explore the world of innovation, entrepreneurship, and problem-solving. A total of 367 students enthusiastically participated in the event, making it a vibrant and engaging learning experience. The workshop was led by Dr. Vivek Sharma, Chief Innovation Officer, IIM Jammu, who brought



with him a wealth of experience in innovation, startup incubation, entrepreneurship, and leadership development. Through an interactive and thought-provoking session, Dr. Sharma introduced students to the principles of design thinking and encouraged them to

look beyond conventional approaches while addressing real-world challenges. During his address, Dr. Sharma emphasized the importance of empathy in innovation and guided students through the process of identifying problems faced by

communities, understanding the needs of people, and developing practical, sustainable, and impactful solutions. He motivated the young participants to become changemakers by leveraging creativity, technology, and critical thinking to solve pressing societal issues. The students actively engaged in various brainstorming exercises, group discussions, and idea-generation activities. They also participated in pitching sessions based on key themes such as AI Living for India, Sport & Tech, Health & Education, and Environmental Sustainability. The sessions encouraged collaborative learning and enabled students to present innovative ideas that addressed contemporary challenges while promoting social good.

BJP Minority Morcha to organize 'Pragati Path Yatra'

JAMMU, May 30

J&K BJP Minority Morcha, led by its President S. Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, convened a meeting at the BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to discuss preparations for programmes highlighting the achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government over the last two years. J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, who addressed the meeting. The meeting was attended by district presidents and office bearers of the Minority Morcha from across Jammu and Kashmir. H.S. Pummey, Prabhari of the Minority Morcha, Minority Morcha



General Secretaries Adv. Jasmeet Kour Pandey and Dharamjeet Singh, and others participated in the meeting. Sat Sharma, while addressing the meeting, emphasized the transformative impact of the Modi government's policies and welfare initiatives, which have ushered in an era of development, trust, and public welfare across

the country and particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. He assured that the Minority Morcha of the party's full support in organizing programmes aimed at taking the message of development and good governance to the people. Rakesh Mahajan briefed the participants about the schedule and details of the upcoming programmes.

BJP Mahila Morcha Reviews Organisational Activities at Ambphala Mandal

JAMMU, May 30

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Mahila Morcha organized an important Organisational Pravaas and Meeting at Ambphala Mandal, New Plot, under the guidance of Mahila Morcha Vice President and Jammu District Incharge Perma Nanda, along with District President Anuradha Sharma and Co-Incharge Shalu Gupta. The meeting was attended by District Mahila Morcha Incharge Asha Gupta, BJP Mandal General Secretary Karan, District General Secretary Mahila Morcha Manu Bali, Mandal Mahila Morcha Incharge Surbhi, Mandal Mahila Morcha General Secretary Anu



Aggarwal, and other office bearers and dedicated women workers. The programme was organized by Shivani Sharma, President, Ambphala Mandal Mahila Morcha. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on strengthening the organizational structure, increasing the active par-

ticipation of women workers, and effectively expanding party activities up to the booth level. The workers were also briefed about the upcoming organizational and party programmes, and strategies were discussed to ensure their successful implementation with maximum public participation.

SC Verdict on SIR exposes Rahul Gandhi's Lies, vindicates Election Commission: Bali Bhagat

JAMMU, May 30

Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat on Saturday welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict upholding the Election Commission of India's (ECI) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, terming it a "constitutional endorsement of electoral transparency" and a "devastating blow to Rahul Gandhi's sustained campaign to defame India's democratic institutions."



In a strongly worded statement, Bhagat said the apex court's observations have completely demolished the false narrative being peddled by Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party, who sought to create fear and suspicion among voters by falsely portraying the SIR exercise as an attempt to disenfranchise citizens. "The Supreme Court's verdict is not merely a legal validation of the

Election Commission's authority; it is a complete rejection of the opposition's dishonest propaganda. Rahul Gandhi has once again been exposed for spreading misinformation and attempting to weaken public faith in constitutional institutions for political convenience,"

Bhagat said. He accused the Congress leader of repeatedly targeting institutions such as the Election Commission, judiciary, armed forces and investigative agencies whenever political developments fail to suit his narrative. "Rahul Gandhi has developed a habit of questioning every institution that refuses to endorse the Congress party's political agenda. Whether it is election results, judicial pronouncements or constitutional processes, he chooses to cast doubt rather than respect democratic norms. This mindset is dangerous for democracy and reflects a deep disregard for the institutions that uphold the Republic," Bhagat remarked. The BJP leader said the SIR exercise is aimed at ensuring that electoral rolls remain free from duplicate, fake and ineligible entries,

thereby strengthening the sanctity of the electoral process. He asserted that any genuine democrat should welcome efforts to improve the accuracy and credibility of voter lists rather than oppose them. "Why is the Congress party uncomfortable with cleaning up electoral rolls? Why is Rahul Gandhi repeatedly objecting to measures that ensure only genuine voters participate in elections? The answers are obvious: The opposition thrives on confusion, misinformation and fear-mongering because it has lost the confidence of the people," Bhagat said. He further stated that the Supreme Court's endorsement of the SIR exercise has exposed the hollowness of the opposition's allegations and reaffirmed that the Election Commission is acting strictly within the framework of the Constitution.

North in News

EDITORIAL

Improved railway infrastructure will boost tourism and also ease travelling to great extent

Improved railway infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir will boost tourism and also ease travelling to great extent because the Union Territory's economic growth, social integration, and strategic mobility have for decades been constrained by geography, weather-dependent highways, and limited air connectivity, and railways are the only all-weather, high-capacity, affordable mode that can connect the plains of Jammu to the Valley and to the rest of India. The game-changing Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link, USBRL, with its 272 km alignment, 38 tunnels, and 927 bridges, including the Chenab Bridge which is the world's highest railway arch at 359 meters above the riverbed and the Anji Khad Bridge as India's first cable-stayed rail bridge, is not merely an engineering marvel but an economic lifeline that has already cut travel time between Katra and Srinagar from 6 to 3 hours. Jammu-Srinagar National Highway which is prone to landslides, closures, and 12-hour jams at Ramban-Banihal, and airfares spike to Rs.20,000 in peak season, shutting out budget travelers, while a Vande Bharat sleeper at Rs.1,800 is making Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, and Vaishno Devi accessible to middle-class families from Nagpur, Lucknow, and Ahmedabad year-round, and the rail link will add 30 lakh additional tourists annually as per NITI Aayog estimates. Because it reduces cost, improves safety, and allows circuit tourism, pilgrims can do Katra in the morning and Srinagar by evening. Skiers can board an overnight train from Delhi and reach Baramulla next morning, and the ripple effect is helping create 1.8 lakh direct and indirect jobs in hotels, homestays, transport, handicrafts, and food services. The same infrastructure will ease travelling to great extent for locals because a farmer from Anantnag can send apples to Delhi in 24 hours through dedicated freight corridors and Kisan Rail, cutting wastage from 30 percent to 8 percent and raising farm-gate prices by Rs.12 per kg, and a student from Doda can attend classes in Jammu without spending Rs.3,000 on taxis and hotels, and patients from Kishtwar can reach PGI Chandigarh for treatment without relying on expensive air ambulances. Migrant workers from Bihar and UP who form the backbone of J&K's construction and agriculture will travel safely instead of risking lives on overloaded buses, and the railway will integrate Jammu division's 10 districts because the Jammu-Poonch line via Akhnour and Rajouri, sanctioned under National Projects, will end the isolation of Pir Panjal region and the proposed Billawar-Basohli-Bani line will open Sarthal and Dhagar to eco-tourism, and the extension to Leh via the Bhanupli-Bilaspur-Manali-Leh alignment, though long-term, will give Ladakh its first rail-head and reduce Army logistics costs by more than Rs.1,200 crore annually.

RAJANI SHARMA, EDITOR

BY S.S. SAXENA

India's healthcare system has yet to match the country's claimed growth in economy and living standards. The strain comes not only from uncontrolled population increase and rapid urban migration, but also from a chronic shortage of doctors and paramedics. With fewer than one doctor per 1,000 people - far below WHO norms - and trained paramedics even scarcer, the gap is glaring. After years of study and heavy investment, many doctors gravitate toward corporate hospitals where compensation and visibility are higher.

Patients, meanwhile, are swayed by the publicity of gleaming corridors and machines, often overlooking modest clinics that could serve them more directly. The paradox is stark: families pay hefty sums to hospitals yet resist paying fair fees to individual practitioners, making private practice less viable. Rural areas continue to suffer from inadequate infrastructure, understaffed primary health centres, and limited emergency care, while urban centres choke under congestion, costly facilities, and rising lifestyle diseases. Out of pocket expenditure still accounts for nearly half of total health spending, leaving millions vulnerable.

The answer lies not in further corporatisation but in establishing multi-specialist government hospitals where doctors and paramedics are compensated respectably to remain in service. Unless government hospitals are strengthened to retain skilled professionals, the imbalance between corporate hubs and neglected districts will only deepen. Without such dispersal and accountability, universal healthcare will remain elusive. The contrast between urban and rural facilities is stark.

Metros like Delhi or Mumbai boast world class hospitals, yet they are overcrowded and often inaccessible to the poor. In rural districts, primary health centres

are understaffed, under-equipped, and frequently non-functional. This imbalance leaves rural populations dependent on informal practitioners, while urban hospitals are flooded with patients who cannot afford private care. Emergency handling is equally uneven: ambulances are scarce in villages, trauma care is concentrated in cities, and reaching a hospital in time is itself a challenge for millions. Lives are lost not because treatment is unavailable, but because it is unreachably.

Modern Indian city life has become sedentary, screen heavy, and isolating. Over 243 million adolescents are at risk from inactivity, leading to obesity, hypertension, and diabetes. Energy levels are dwindling, physical strength is eroding, and mental resilience is weakening. Hours spent on screens reduce physical activity, slow metabolism, and increase insulin resistance. What was once a disease of middle age is now creeping into adolescence, visible in the declining vitality and patience of India's young.

Gyms mushroom across cities, yet remain underutilised, serving more as symbols of aspiration than instruments of health. Alongside this physical decline, urban loneliness has emerged as a silent epidemic, with one in four youth suffering from depression, anxiety, or substance abuse. India has less than one psychiatrist per 100,000 people, far below WHO norms, leaving millions underserved. Academic stress, unemployment, and social media comparison fuel mental strain, which manifests in reckless behaviour, strained relationships, and a fraying social fabric. Unless addressed, this crisis will erode the resilience of an entire generation, worsened by stigma and the absence of accessible counselling or community support.

Alcohol consumption among youth is rising, with initiation as early as 14-18 years. National surveys show that more than

one in ten young men and a growing proportion of young women consume alcohol, with sharp regional variations. Alarming, this trend has crept into young women, the mothers of tomorrow's generation. The implications for maternal health and the wellbeing of future generations are serious. Rash driving and reckless public behaviour are direct spillovers. In 2023, India recorded over 1.7 lakh road accident deaths, with over speeding accounting for more than 80 per cent of cases.

Alcohol use and diminished self control contribute significantly to these violations. The sight of young men and women drinking openly in public spaces, followed by rash driving or violent altercations, is no longer rare. It signals a deeper erosion of civic discipline, where health decline translates into social decline. Diagnostics and testing form another neglected pillar. Hospitals in metros may boast advanced equipment, but the costs are prohibitive for ordinary families.

In rural areas, even basic blood or imaging facilities are scarce, forcing patients to travel long distances or rely on informal practitioners. Accountability here means ensuring that every district hospital, every primary health centre, has functional, certified diagnostic facilities that deliver results quickly and transparently. Without accountability, diagnostics become a profit driven enterprise rather than a public service. The issue becomes even more urgent when we look at food testing. Adulteration in milk, vegetables, and staples is widespread, and yet reliable testing facilities are few and far between.

Why does so much adulteration carry on unchecked in India? The answer lies in weak enforcement, lack of accessible testing labs, and a culture of impunity where violators rarely face consequences. Citizens are left consuming food contaminated with hazardous preservatives, chemicals or diluted sub-

stitutes, with little recourse to verification. Affordable, authentic food testing facilities must be dispersed across regions, so that both producers and consumers are held accountable.

Without this, the polluted plate becomes a silent killer, undermining health at its very foundation. Dietary pollution compounds the crisis. Adulterated food, pesticide laden produce, and processed diets are creating disastrous health hazards. Combined with sedentary lifestyles and mental strain, India faces a compounded health emergency that threatens productivity, stability, and the well-being of future generations. The polluted plate today is the precursor to tomorrow's chronic disease.

The health hazards are not abstract - they are lived realities, shaping the energy, temperament, and productivity of India's youth. The irony is that while India prides itself on being the world's largest producer of fruits and vegetables, the very produce reaching our plates is often contaminated, robbing nutrition of its natural value. The polluted plate is a metaphor for the polluted environment, and together they conspire against the health of the nation. Other democracies offer lessons. Scandinavian countries embed preventive care into everyday life, ensuring that healthcare is not just about hospitals but about lifestyle. Japan tackles urban health stress through community-based clinics and emphasis on diet and exercise. Canada disperses healthcare facilities across regions, reducing the rural-urban divide. Brazil, after facing corruption scandals in healthcare, moved toward universal access with stronger regulation. India can learn from these examples. Healthcare must be decentralised, preventive care must be embedded in education, and mental health must be treated as integral to wellbeing. Without such reforms, India risks falling behind not just in health outcomes but in social stability.

Grappling with a counterfeit reality

BY ARCHANA DUTTA

Recently, the New York State University in the US initiated a programme called 'NYU in real life', to promote a student-led culture change of spending less time online and more in living life in person, and creating together a 'collective effervescence'. Many others followed suit like the Yale University with its 'Offline Oasis', where students in a place full of sunlight and plants, hang out without screens.

The University of Alabama offers 'Tech Free Thursdays' at its students' center, and the University of California at Berkeley opened a class on limiting technology use, which became very popular in no time. New global data from the Financial Times and GWI - collected from more than fifty countries - revealed that the social media usage that peaked in 2022, is now on a steady decline. The gradual retreat is led by teens and 20+ youths with a 10 per cent cut back. FT pointed out that the withering away of real-person social content, and a deluge of AI-generated 'slop' feeds were the accelerants. The downward curve is more pronounced in Europe and other developed markets.

While North America stands out as the major exception with the U.S. and Canada continuing to have a climb of about 15 per cent higher consumption than Europe. However, there is a parallel behavioural wave of 'digital minimalism' that is taking hold on American campuses. In a

recent Pew Research Center survey, about half of teens (48 per cent) spoke about how social media mostly casts negative effects on people of their age, and a significant margin of young adults (44 per cent) are now consciously reducing social media and smartphone usage. A 2024 report from the US National Center for Health Statistics, disclosed that about 41.6 per cent of college students have described anxiety as a top concern, and many of them feel that social media feeds evoke 'unrealistic expectations'.

A global 2025 Deloitte consumer trends survey showed that almost a quarter of respondents who deleted social apps reported increasing pressures of being online as well as damage to their mental health as causes. A nationally representative survey (More in Common) in the UK in 2025 found that 62 per cent of young people (ages 16 to 24) believe social media does more harm than good for those under 16, rising to 66 per cent among Gen Z women.

Australian survey data showed similar patterns, with young people identifying social media as a leading contributor to declining youth mental health. Now, according to the 2026 UNICEF update, two-thirds (66 per cent) of 30,000 children polled globally expressed fear about cyberbullying, and a survey of about 2,80,000 young people (11-15 years) across 44 countries and regions in Europe, central Asia and Canada found that 12 per cent of adolescents are at risk of

problematic gaming. In India, where social media adoption is reportedly at its peak with average usage growing by 5.23 per cent from 2024 to early 2026, a 2024 study of college students in Tamil Nadu found that over 26 per cent of adolescents engaged in excessive social media use, and showed symptoms of anxiety and low self-esteem.

The Annual Status of Education Report (GOI), 2024, revealed that only 57 per cent of children aged 14 to 16 use phones for education, and a staggering 76 per cent for social media. Youth aged 15 to 24 were identified as most vulnerable to addiction and gaming disorders. A series of teen suicides across the country has been linked to online gaming addiction, task-based viral apps, and mounting digital debt. Dr. Anne Marie Albano, director, Columbia University Clinic For Anxiety and Related Disorders, has explained that social media tends to promote a 'counterfeit reality' for students who are unable to cope with their circumstances. A study using the Interaction of Person-Affect-Cognition-Execution (I-PACE) model, appraised that high-frequency social media use among college students undermines academic performance through an emotional pathway whereby social anxiety leads to increased fear of missing out or FOMO. It further said that a strong teacher-student relationship can function as an emotional regulatory mechanism. Research also suggests that

healthy relationships with digital tools help in improving focused attention, mental wellbeing, and academic performance. When NYU professor Jonathan Haidt's research and landmark book 'The Anxious Generation' drew the world's attention to the mental health crises among the youth, many governments acted.

They limited or banned access to social media for adolescents and teens. Australia was the first country to impose a full-fledged ban for users under 16, which was followed by countries like France (under 15) and Malaysia (under 16). Many others are finalising similar bans. More than 10 countries such as the UK, Denmark, and Norway are mulling over strict age-verification laws. India's Digital Personal Data Protection (D PDP) Act, 2023, mandates 'verifiable parental consent' for data processing for anyone under 18, but does not regulate the 'addictive architecture' of digital platforms. While the world passes through an intense wave of digitised socialisation, many contend that legally imposed bans and restrictions cannot entirely address the emotional challenges faced by the youth. A group of social scientists maintains that parent-child relationships should be at the centre-stage of managing the use and value of social media, and should help create a safe and supportive physical environment in fostering healthy digital habits.

DC Kishtwar chairs District-Level NCORD Meeting, Emphasizes coordinated efforts for drug-free district

KISHTWAR, MAY 30: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination Centre) meeting to review the district's response to drug abuse and strengthen ongoing anti-narcotics initiatives. The meeting focused on reinforcing the institutional framework for drug de-addiction and assessing progress under the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign being carried out as part of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan and the 100 Days Nasha Mukti JK Abhiyan. At the outset, District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Parveez Qazi presented an Action Taken Report (ATR) on decisions taken during the previous NCORD meeting. Reviewing the prevailing drug abuse scenario in the district, the Deputy Commissioner sought detailed inputs regarding vulnerable areas, affected demographic groups and identified hotspots requiring targeted intervention. He also



reviewed preventive, rehabilitative and enforcement measures being undertaken by various departments. The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned Heads of Departments to ensure active participation of designated resource persons and officials in IEC activities under the Nasha Mukti Bharat/JK Abhiyan and cautioned that negligence or non-compliance would be viewed seriously. He further directed the School Education Department to ensure that all remaining educational institutions are declared Tobacco-Free Zones in strict accordance with TOFEI guidelines. To strengthen grass-root-level interventions, the DC instructed Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars to expedite the declaration of Panchayats as "Nasha Mukti" in accordance with prescribed

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), ensuring due verification and community participation. The Deputy Commissioner also directed all line departments to organize maximum activities as per the notified schedule under the 100 Days Nasha Mukti Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan and ensure timely submission of photographs and reports of activities to the DSWO Kishtwar. All Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) were directed to submit Drug-Free Office Certificates after obtaining duly certified self-declaration forms from government employees. The ADC was directed to organize awareness meetings with already constituted Mahila Nigam Samitis and further strengthen existing Youth Clubs. He was also instructed to convene meetings with courier operators to ensure maintenance of proper records and prevent transportation of unauthorized Schedule H drug consignments through courier services.

DC Samba reviews progress of HADP, JKICIP

SAMBA, MAY 30: Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the implementation and progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKICIP). During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner held detailed deliberations on the status of major projects being implemented under HADP and JKICIP across the district. The



Committee reviewed applications received through the online HADP and JKICIP portals and finalised the selection of eligible beneficiaries under various Agriculture and Allied Departments. A total of 293 beneficiaries were approved under different projects of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), while 57 beneficiaries were approved under JKICIP. The total number of approved beneficiaries to 350. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to scale up the coverage of Vibrant Villages and directed all stakeholder departments to identify villages where

fewer applications have been submitted under HADP. She stressed the importance of output tracking through digital monitoring mechanisms to ensure transparency, accountability and real-time assessment of outcomes. The stakeholder departments were instructed to expedite the completion of Daksh Kissan training and certification programmes. She also underscored the need for timely establishment and effective tracking of units under the Kisan Samridhi Outreach and Transformation (KSOT) initiative to ensure efficient on-ground implementation of projects.

One Drug Peddler Arrested; Approx. 4.60 Grams of Heroin Recovered by Police Station R.S. Pura in Jammu



JAMMU, MAY 30: Continuing its sustained drive against drug trafficking and substance abuse under the ongoing "Mission 100 Days Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan", Police Station R.S. Pura achieved a significant success by apprehending one drug peddler and recovering approximately 4.60 grams of heroin like substance from his possession under the jurisdiction of Police Station R.S. Pura. A police team of Police Station R.S. Pura, while on routine patrolling on 29.05.2026, rounded up one suspicious person

identified as Raj Kumar alias Jhony S/o Bahadur Singh R/o Ward No. 7, R.S. Pura, Tehsil R.S. Pura, District Jammu. During his personal search, approximately 4.60 grams of heroin (chitta) like substance was recovered from his possession. In this regard, a case FIR No. 106/2026 under Sections 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station R.S. Pura. The accused has been arrested and further investigation into the case is underway. Jammu Police remains committed to its zero-tolerance policy against drug menace and appeals to the general public to cooperate with police by sharing information related to drug peddling and substance abuse in their areas.

NOTICE

I REYAZ AHMED SHEETI S/O GHULAM HUSSAIN R/O DIGDOLA TEHSIL & DISTT. RAMBAN, has applied for the registration w of "DEE" class contractor card in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD NEW-R&B Circle Udhampur-Ramban Circle HQ Udhampur objection if any may be conveyed to the above said office within 07 days authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

NOTICE

I, RAGHUBIR SINGH S/O RAM SARAN R/O KANTHI TEHSIL DISTT. RAMBAN That I am adhaar card holder bearing adhaar card No. 9584-2510-1283 issued by Government of India. That my name has been wrongly written in my above said adhaar card as RAGHUBIR SINGH instead of correct name RAGHUBIR SINGH. Now I am applying for the necessary correction objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

SAMBA POLICE RECOVERS 40 MISSING MOBILE PHONES WORTH RUPEES 8.20 LAKH, RETURNS THEM TO RIGHTFUL OWNERS

SAMBA, MAY 30: In a significant public service initiative, Samba Police has successfully recovered forty (40) lost and missing mobile phones worth approximately Rs. 8.20 lakh and handed them over to their rightful owners during a simple function organized at the District Police Headquarters Samba.

The recovered smartphones were traced from various parts within and outside the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir through the dedicated and persistent efforts of Samba Police. Acting promptly on the reports lodged by the citizens regarding their lost or missing mobile phones on the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) Portal, Samba Police initiated a systematic tracking process and successfully located the missing devices. The recovered mobile phones were subsequently verified and returned to their respective owners. The recipients expressed immense happiness and gratitude towards Samba Police for their sincere efforts and commitment in tracing and recovering their valuable mobile phones. Speaking on the occasion, the Senior Superintendent of Police



(SSP) Samba, advised citizens to maintain a record of the IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) numbers of their mobile phones, as these numbers play a crucial role in tracking and recovering devices in cases of loss or missing. The SSP further stated that citizens can easily verify their phone's IMEI number by dialing *#06#. On their mobile handset and should cross-check it with the IMEI details mentioned on the phone's box or purchase invoice to ensure accuracy. The SSP urged the public to promptly report any lost or missing mobile phones through the CEIR Portal (www.ceir.gov.in), which serves as an effective platform for blocking, tracking, and recovering mobile devices.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old Name) Mohamed Hanif to (New Name) Mohammad Hanif in future. I will be known as (New Name) Mohammad Hanif. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office Srinagar within & 07 days. After 07 days no objection will be accepted.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old Name) Zainab Bano to (New Name) Zainab Bano in future. I will be known as (New Name) Zainab Bano. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office Srinagar within & 07 days. After 07 days no objection will be accepted.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PMGSY CIRCLE, JAMMU.
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

E-NIT NO.-SE/PMGSY/1/15 OF 2026-DATED 29/05/2026

Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Jammu on behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders on "Bids Above/Excess (+) OR Sage Below/ Less (-)" basis (i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with BIS (U.T. Govt. CPWD), Railway or equivalent and other State/U.T. Govts up to 1700 hrs. on 22-06-2026 for each of the following works:

S.No.	Name of the Work/Package No.	Cons't Part (Rs. in Lacs)	Estimate Part (Rs. in Lacs)	Total (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Documents (Rs. in Lacs)	Est. No. of Documents (Rs. in Lacs)	Est. No. of Documents (Rs. in Lacs)	Time Allowed for completion	Call of tender	Time and date of opening of financial bids	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction and Maintenance of link road from Chumbur Road, road km. 1.150 to Feharna - PMKAGI MO. J31-4513, PMGSY-V, Batch-I of 2026-27 Block-Nasha DISTRICT POCORCHI, Lacking waste Plastic (3.00km) Length-3.000 Km. Cost including maintenance but inclusive of GST-Rs. 420.34 Lacs	420.34	55.65	475.99	0.10	1.08	10	Months	1 st	23-06-2026 (1000 hrs)	Also registered with BIS (U.T. Govt. CPWD), Railway or equivalent and other State/U.T. Govts
2.	Construction and Maintenance of Road from LRS - GHR ROAD FROM Roadside to Derya/Naaga Package No. K05-4065, PMGSY-V, Batch-I of 2026-27 Block-Nasha, District Jamm Length 3.500 Km. Cost including maintenance but inclusive of GST-Rs. 463.17 Lacs	463.18	12.25	475.43	0.10	8.75	10	Months	1 st	23-06-2026 (1000 hrs)	Also registered with BIS (U.T. Govt. CPWD), Railway or equivalent and other State/U.T. Govts
3.	Construction and Maintenance of road from K24 (link road) from Chak Naha to Khatras Package No. J05-4027, PMGSY-V, Batch-I of 2026-27 Block -Nasha, District Jammu, Length-5.000 Km. Cost including maintenance but inclusive of GST-Rs. 423.21 Lacs	423.21	33.78	456.99	0.10	6.13	10	Months	1 st	23-06-2026 (1000 hrs)	Also registered with BIS (U.T. Govt. CPWD), Railway or equivalent and other State/U.T. Govts
4.	Construction and Maintenance of road 1055-Fist road/are 34 Bagpara to Aze Road to Nigraji Mahatla Package No. J02-4573, PMGSY-V, Batch-I of 2026-27 Block -Nashamand - District Jammu, Using Waste Plastic 3.00km Length-3.000 Km. Cost including maintenance but inclusive of GST-Rs. 446.75 Lacs	446.75	51.74	498.49	0.10	13.07	11	Months	1 st	23-06-2026 (1000 hrs)	Also registered with BIS (U.T. Govt. CPWD), Railway or equivalent and other State/U.T. Govts
5.	Construction and Maintenance of road 1079-Like road from Pali to Bahar Package No. J02-4591, PMGSY-V, Batch-I of 2026-27 Block -Nashar - District Jammu, Using Waste Plastic 3.00km Length-3.000 Km. Cost including maintenance but inclusive of GST-Rs. 446.75 Lacs	446.75	51.68	498.43	0.10	13.56	11	Months	1 st	23-06-2026 (1000 hrs)	Also registered with BIS (U.T. Govt. CPWD), Railway or equivalent and other State/U.T. Govts
6.	Construction and Maintenance of road 1239-Fist road from Khatra to Bahar Package No. J02-4535, PMGSY-V, Batch-I of 2026-27 Block -Nashar - District Jammu, Using Waste Plastic 3.00km Length-3.000 Km. Cost including maintenance but inclusive of GST-Rs. 447.59 Lacs	447.59	51.80	499.39	0.10	13.06	11	Months	1 st	23-06-2026 (1000 hrs)	Also registered with BIS (U.T. Govt. CPWD), Railway or equivalent and other State/U.T. Govts

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid shall be submitted online on www.empsysindia.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register on the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from any one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Accepted bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website www.empsysindia.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized Certifying Authorities (CA) can use the same in this tender.

3. Date and Time Schedule

S.No.	Particulars	Date	Time
1.	Date of issue of tender notice	26-05-2026	1700 hrs
2.	Document Download / Sale Start Date	30-05-2026	1655 hrs
3.	Pre-Bid Meeting	01-06-2026	1200 hrs
4.	Bid Submission Start Date	02-06-2026	1000 hrs
5.	Bid Submission End Date	22-06-2026	1700 hrs
6.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	23-06-2026	1100 hrs
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical evaluation is completed.	

4. A Pre bid meeting will be held on 01-06-2026 at 1200 hrs. in the Office of The Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Jammu, to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of Instructions to bidders of the bidding documents.

5. The site for the work is available.

6. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore, bids must be submitted online on website www.empsysindia.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 1100 hrs. on 23-06-2026 by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://www.empsysindia.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids shall be opened automatically on the same Web Site at the Office of The Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Jammu at Tigris Duxar Bus Stand, Opp Military Hospital Srinagar Cantt, Jammu.

7. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.

8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

9. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same MT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.

10. The bids of such bidders shall be liable to be rejected whose bids would be lacking to comply with the instructions contained under Clause No-4.7(i) of Section 2-Instructions to Bidders (ITB) specifically mentioning record of poor performance such as abandoning the work, not properly completing the contract, inordinate delays in completion, litigation history or financial failure etc.

54/
No.-SE/PMGSY/1/15/5-81
Dated-29-05-2026
Superintending Engineer
PMGSY Circle, Jammu
For and on behalf of The Government
of Jammu and Kashmir

DIP/J-2913/26

Team India script history, retain Asia-Oceania 24-Hour Championship title at Hiroasaki 2026

Ahmedabad May 30: Team India, representing the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), achieved a historic milestone at the IAU 24-Hour Asia & Oceania Championship in Hiroasaki, Japan, in May 2026. Their remarkable performance marked the best in India's ultrarunning history and solidified India's status as a leading force in the sport.

The Indian men's team made history by sweeping the entire individual podium. Amar Singh Devanda took gold with a total distance of 282,881 km (226 laps), setting a new Indian National Record. Geeno Antony earned silver, covering 272,894 km (218 laps), and Saurav Kumar Ranjan won bronze with 260,058 km (208 laps). India's men's team won the team gold medal, covering a total distance of 815,833 km and setting a new Asia-Oceania record. This achievement is the highest



team total ever by an Asian country at any IAU Championship and the highest in the history of the IAU Asia-Oceania Championships. Japan came in second with 754,726 km, and Australia took third with 732,525 km. In the women's event, Japan secured the team gold with 707,357 km, while Australia finished second with 684,450 km. India took bronze, totaling 667,722 km. Leading the Indian women's team, Tenzin Dolma performed

outstandingly with 228,939 km, placing fourth overall and setting a new Indian National Record. The championship marked a historic milestone for Indian ultrarunning, with the entire Indian ultrarunning community can celebrate. This victory belongs not only to the athletes, but to every supporter who believed in Indian ultrarunning. "I am proud to carry the Indian flag on the international stage," Sangakkara said. "This performance was not just about distance or records. It was about representing India with pride and pushing myself beyond every limit physically and mentally. There were many moments during the race when the body wanted to stop, but the mind and the heart kept moving forward. To set a new Indian National Record and achieve the second-best performance ever by an Asian athlete in this event is truly special for me. I hope this inspires more Indian athletes to believe that we can compete with the very best in the world in endurance sports. This achievement belongs not only to me, but also to everyone who supported me throughout this journey—my coach, family, team, AFI supporters and every person who believed in me. I am proud to carry the Indian flag on the international stage."

Devanda said. "This performance was not just about distance or records. It was about representing India with pride and pushing myself beyond every limit physically and mentally. There were many moments during the race when the body wanted to stop, but the mind and the heart kept moving forward. To set a new Indian National Record and achieve the second-best performance ever by an Asian athlete in this event is truly special for me. I hope this inspires more Indian athletes to believe that we can compete with the very best in the world in endurance sports. This achievement belongs not only to me, but also to everyone who supported me throughout this journey—my coach, family, team, AFI supporters and every person who believed in me. I am proud to carry the Indian flag on the international stage."

Sangakkara Backs Rajasthan Royals Sooryavanshi For India Call-Up

Ahmedabad May 30: Teenager Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has shown he is more than ready to take on the challenge of playing for India, Rajasthan Royals head coach Kumar Sangakkara said after the batter finished his Indian Premier League season with a sensational performance. Sooryavanshi delivered a fiery knock of 96 off 47, which was laced with eight fours and seven sixes, but Rajasthan's campaign came to an end as they suffered a seven-wicket defeat by Gujarat Titans in the second qualifier on Friday.

Sooryavanshi, 15, has been a standout this year and leads the IPL scoring charts with 776 runs from 16 matches, while also having broken Chris Gayle's record for most sixes in a season. "The guy, at 15 years old, he's very mature, he reads the game really well, he reads situations well, and he's got no fear," Sangakkara told



reporters after Rajasthan's defeat. "We are very, very proud of the season that he's had, and we just want to make sure that he keeps going, keeps that intent, keeps that no fear attitude, and keeps growing. I think he's going to be even better as the years go by." Sooryavanshi's performances have earned him a call-up to the developmental India A squad, with many tipping him for a spot in the senior Twenty20 International side. Asked if he was ready to play for India, Sangakkara said: "You never know if anyone's ready until they play them. With everything going, keeps that intent, some of the best bowlers in the world, I think he's more than ready to take on any challenge that you throw at him. And I'm sure that he'll get that call-up very, very soon. He's back with a lot of maturity. He shouldered the responsibility of that opening partnership so well for us this season."

'Season-ending injury, but playing domestic league': Sangakkara questions Sam Curran's IPL absence



New Delhi, May 30: Rajasthan Royals Director of Cricket and Head Coach Kumar Sangakkara appeared visibly frustrated after his team's seven-wicket defeat to Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 2, which ended their IPL 2026 campaign. During the post-match press conference, Sangakkara raised con-

cerns over player availability, specifically referring to English all-rounder Sam Curran, who is currently playing for Surrey in the T20 Blast 2026. "We were told that Sam Curran had a season-ending injury, but I think I saw him playing for Surrey for two or three games now. So that was disappointing! We'd have loved to have had him here

playing for us," said Sangakkara. Curran, who was part of the high-profile pre-auction trade between Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals, was ruled out of the season due to a groin injury. The trade saw CSK acquire Sanju Samson, while RR brought in Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran. On the broader issue of player availability, Sangakkara said a stricter framework was needed under the BCCI system. "I think a proper tight policy around this is always a requirement. BCCI has a strict policy on that. Every person goes through injuries. And if it's a serious injury, a season-ending injury, of course, we understand. I mean, we've had quite a few injuries."

Anil Kumble hails Shubman Gill's 'captain's knock' after Gujarat Titans seal record chase in Qualifier 2

New Delhi, May 30: Shubman Gill delivered when it mattered most, smashing a captain's century to guide Gujarat Titans into their third IPL final in five seasons with a record-breaking chase against Rajasthan Royals in Qualifier 2. Leading from the front in a must-win encounter, Gill struck a brilliant 104 off 53 deliveries, laced with 15 fours and three sixes, as GT chased down a daunting target of 215 with seven wickets in hand and eight balls to spare. The Gujarat skipper shared a match-defining 167-run opening partnership with Sai Sudharsan, whose 58 off 32 balls provided the perfect support as the Titans completed the highest successful run chase in IPL playoff history. Former India captain and JioStar expert Anil Kumble hailed Gill's innings as a textbook captain's knock, praising both his



intent and execution under pressure. "It was clinical. He approached his batting, you could see that he was really switched on and wanted to get to that final. He would obviously have been disappointed with the performance against RCB in Qualifier 1. But the way he batted, he just switched the bowlers on. As Sai Sudharsan

mentioned, they wanted to get hard in the second over, make a statement and then continue from there," said Kumble. "The way Shubman batted, not just against the fast bowlers but even against spin, was outstanding. He used his feet brilliantly against Ravindra Jadeja. It was a classic, less, classic innings, a typical

Shubman innings. To reach a final with a hundred, it was truly a captain's knock," he added. Earlier, Rajasthan Royals posted 214/6 after a 15-year-old sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi narrowly missed out on a century, hammering 96 off 47 balls with eight fours and seven sixes. Donovan Ferreira then provided the finishing flourish with an unbeaten 38 off just 11 deliveries. However, Gill and Sudharsan ensured the target never looked out of reach as Gujarat Titans booked a place in the title chase. This was the highest target chased in IPL playoff history, surpassing Punjab Kings' successful chase of 204 against Mumbai Indians in Qualifier 2 last season. It was also Gujarat Titans' highest-ever run chase in the IPL, eclipsing their 204-run pursuit against Delhi Capitals in 2025.

Vinesh Phogat enters 53kg semifinals at Asian Games trials with close 7-6 win over Nishu

New Delhi, May 30: Vinesh Phogat moved a step closer to an Asian Games berth after advancing to the women's 53kg semifinals at the selection trials in New Delhi on Saturday, extending her winning run following a dramatic build-up to the competition. The Olympian wrestler, whose participation was only confirmed after legal and administrative hurdles over the past two days, registered two victories on the mat to stay in contention for a place in the Indian squad. Vinesh opened her campaign with a convincing 7-1 win over Jyoti before overcoming a much sterner challenge from Nishu in the quarterfinals. In a closely contested bout, the former World Championships medalist held her nerve to secure a narrow 7-6 victory and book her place in the last



four. Competing in her preferred 53kg category after the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) revised its earlier stance restricting her to 50kg, Vinesh gradually settled into her rhythm in the opening match. After taking an early point through

a push-out, she increased the intensity in the second period and built momentum with a successful take-down and a series of counter-attacking moves to race to a 7-0 lead before eventually winning 7-1. The quarterfinal against Nishu

proved to be a far tougher test, with the bout remaining close throughout. Vinesh ultimately edged the contest 7-6, moving within two wins of sealing an Asian Games spot. Vinesh's participation in the trials was only confirmed on Friday when the Supreme Court permitted her to compete. A bench led by Justice P.S. Narasimha noted that she deserved the chance, given her contribution to the country. Previously, the WFI had insisted she could only compete in the 50kg category, a decision she strongly opposed, accusing the federation of bias. After discussions within the organization and intervention from WFI president Sanjay Singh, the decision was reversed on Saturday morning, allowing Vinesh to compete in the 53kg trials.

MPL 2026: Gwalior Cheetahs announce squad with Rajat Patidar, strong pace attack for Scindia Cup

New Delhi, May 30: The Gwalior Cheetahs have unveiled a strong and balanced squad for the upcoming Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) T20 Scindia Cup, headlined by IPL-winning captain Rajat Patidar and a promising pace unit featuring Akash Singh Raghuvanshi and Mangesh Yadav. The announcement highlights the franchise's intent to build a competitive side blending experience and youth as they prepare for the new season. Patidar, who led Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to their maiden IPL title in 2025, will bring leadership experience to the setup after continuing to play a key role in the franchise's strong run in the ongoing IPL season as



well. The pace attack, featuring Akash Singh Raghuvanshi and Mangesh Yadav, is expected to add depth and versatility to the bowling unit as Gwalior aim for a strong campaign. Madhav Singhania of Gwalior Cheetahs commended RCB skipper Rajat Patidar and expressed confidence in the team's overall balance and strength. "We are delighted to have Rajat Patidar in the squad. Winning an IPL title as

captain speaks volumes about his leadership qualities and experience. Our squad has a very good balance of experienced players and exciting young talent, which gives us a lot of confidence going into the season. We believe this is a strong and settled group capable of playing positive cricket throughout the tournament," said Madhav Singhania. Gwalior Cheetahs will start their campaign against Ujjain Falcons.

Teen sensation fonseca comes of Age by Taming Djokovic At French Open

New Delhi, May 30: Novak Djokovic's latest bid to capture a record 25th Grand Slam title was left in tatters after a stunning third-round defeat by Brazilian teen sensation Joao Fonseca in an entertaining epic at the French Open on Friday. Djokovic's 4-6 4-6 6-3 7-5 7-5 defeat meant the 39-year-old Serb's wait to surpass Margaret Court will go on in the twilight of a glorious career, as the draw in Paris opened up further a day after world number one Jannik Sinner's shock exit. Victory in an epic clash lasting four hours and 53 minutes ensured that

Fonseca became the first teenager to beat Djokovic at the Grand Slams, as he announced himself as another genuine contender to claim a maiden major crown. "I actually didn't believe I could win the match, I just played and enjoyed being on the court. What an idol we have and what a pleasure it was to step onto the court against him, so I actually didn't believe I was going to win. I was just trying to hit the ball as fast as I could. I mean Djokovic doesn't miss, and we still think he's 20. At the end of the match, he was more fit than me, which is crazy. "But I felt

as it was getting darker, and it was a bit slower, for me that was better, because I could produce a bit more power, for sure." Fonseca dedicated the hand-fought win to his mother, who was beaming in the stands on her birthday, while Djokovic walked off to a standing ovation from 15,000 fans and hailed his young opponent in his press conference later. "Incredible match to be part of. Obviously a tough one for me to lose, being two sets to love up, but huge credit to Joao for really deserving to win the match," Djokovic said. "I think he was, without a doubt,



was the better player in important moments in those crucial fourth and fifth sets. Those amazing exchanges and points. He just found incredible shots, lines. It was amazing. "Not great for me to be facing a

player playing at such a level, but I don't think I've done too much wrong with my game. It's just that he was just better." FIRST-TIME CHAMPION While Djokovic was less sure about his return next

year, Roland Garros will crown a first-time Grand Slam champion, with holder Carlos Alcaraz skipping the tournament due to a wrist injury and Sinner going down early. "He definitely has the potential," a gracious Djokovic said of Fonseca's title chances. Alexander Zverev is another player who will sense a glorious chance after three unsuccessful visits to finals, and the German remained on course with a 6-4 6-3 5-7 6-2 victory over French hope Quentin Halys.

Khachanov 7-5 5-7 6-2 6-7(2) 6-2, Spaniard Rafael Nadal downed Alex Michelsen 7-6(2) 6-7(5) 4-6 6-3 6-3 and Czech Jakub Mensik stunned eighth seed Alex de Minaur 0-6 6-2 6-3. They were joined by Andrey Rublev and Pablo Carreno Busta. There were few surprises in the women's draw as four-times champion Iga Swiatek defeated fellow Pole Magda Linette 6-4 6-4, while Elena Svitolina, Belinda Bencic, Marta Kostyuk and Mirra Andreeva all moved into the next round. EARLY MARKER

A week after turning 39, Djokovic began strongly and played like a younger version of himself as he comfortably won five of the opening six games and put down a marker in the first set on a sun-drenched Court Philippe Chatrier. The Serb produced a stunning lob, a couple of heavy forehand winners and two delightful drops in that spell, almost schooling his 19-year-old opponent on the art of playing on Parisian clay, and wrapped up the set after a late Fonseca comeback attempt. Fonseca, who was still in his crib when Djokovic lifted.

'Differing opinions should not be taken as a shock': RSS weighs in on social media buzz around 'Cockroach Janta Party'

New Delhi May 30: Amid social media chatter around the 'Cockroach Janta Party' (CJP), the Rashtriya Swamsevaka Sangh (RSS) on Friday sought to downplay the controversy, saying public debates and differing viewpoints are a routine feature of a healthy democracy. Addressing reporters in Nagpur, RSS Prachar Pramukh Sunil Ambekar said India's democratic framework is strong enough to accommodate open discussions, criticism and diverse opinions without causing alarm. He stressed that public discourse, whether through traditional media or social media platforms, should be viewed as a natural outcome of democratic engagement. His remarks come as conversations around the term 'Cockroach Janta Party' have gained traction online, prompting questions about whether organisations such as the RSS should intervene or respond to such discussions. According to Ambekar, India remains an aware and participative society where transparent elections, independent media and public forums provide sufficient



space for people to express their views. "We are an aware society, and we follow the democratic process. Within that democratic process, we have transparent elections, an open media, and now social media as well. Open forums take place every day. So, I believe that in a democracy, any kind of discussion and people expressing differing opinions should not be taken as a shock. They should be considered a part of the normal process," he said. Asked whether the RSS should respond to such debates, Ambekar suggested that democratic institutions are capable of addressing issues arising from public discourse on their own. He said political parties, the media and other institutions possess the strength and independence required to deal with such matters, adding that there is no reason for the RSS to step in immediately. "These are all conversations, and the people involved will themselves deal with those issues. I

believe the media is free enough to handle them. Political parties are capable, and none of our institutions are weak. They are capable of handling matters, and our system is capable as well. Therefore, I do not think the organisation (RSS) needs to rush into matters immediately," Ambekar said. During the interaction, Ambekar also spoke about India's younger generation, describing them as optimistic about the country's future and committed to contributing through constitutional means. He said the country's youth have faith in India's growth trajectory and are channeling their energy towards national development. "Our younger generation, sometimes called Gen Z, is very hopeful. They have tremendous faith in India. Whatever they do is within the constitutional process. Their contribution is towards taking India forward. The youth of our country have invested all their energy into this, and that is why the nation is progressing in every field," he said.

Audrey Truschke's anti-India campaign continues. Know her latest diatribe



New Delhi May 30: American historian Audrey Truschke has once again triggered controversy after challenging the Indian government's interpretation of the famous Harappan "Pashupati Seal", reigniting a heated debate over India's ancient civilisational identity and the interpretation of archaeological symbols linked to Hindu traditions. The latest row erupted after the Ministry of

influences from regions outside the Indian subcontinent. The artefact at the centre of debate is a small stoneware seal discovered during excavations at Mohenjodaro. Archaeologists estimate the object dates back roughly to 2300-2000 BCE. The seal depicts a horned human figure seated cross-legged and surrounded by animals. Decades ago, British archaeologist John Marshall identified the image as a possible "Proto-Shiva" figure or an early form of Pashupati, often interpreted as the "lord of animals". That interpretation has remained influential in sections of Indian historical and cultural discourse for decades, though scholars across the world continue to debate the exact identity and symbolism of the figure.

Culture called the over 4,300-year-old seal from the Indus Valley Civilisation a powerful marker of India's "unbroken civilisational continuity" and referred to the central figure on the artefact as "Shiva-Pashupati". Audrey Truschke publicly rejected that interpretation, arguing that the image on the seal should not be associated with Lord Shiva and instead may have connections to older cultural

Sunetra Ajit Pawar-led NCP may cease to exist, says Sanjay Raut

New Delhi, May 30: Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP and chief Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut said here on Friday that the Deputy CM Sunetra Ajit Pawar-led NCP will cease to exist or may merge with the BJP. "This party formed by Ajit Pawar will not exist in the future. Now the quartet of Chhagan Bhujbal, Praful Patel, Sunil Tarkare, Hasan Mushrif and Dhananjay Munde may repeat their moves. They might regret their move to tie the Ajit Pawar to the BJP by separating him from Sharad Pawar," Sanjay Raut said, reacting to reports about infighting inside the Sunetra Ajit



Pawar-led NCP. It was reported that there was a heated exchange between Sunetra Ajit Pawar leader Sunil Tarkare and Chhagan Bhujbal at a recent party meeting held on Tuesday. It was also reported that there was another major spat between Sunetra Pawar's son as well as party MP Parth Pawar and

Killed in Canada, awaited in Gujarat: Family waits for 22-year-old daughter's final journey home

Ahmedabad, May 30: A 22-year-old student from Gujarat, who had completed her studies in Canada and enrolled in a new course, was killed in a suspected homicide in the Niagara region earlier this month. As her family awaits her return for the final rites, Indian authorities in Canada say they are assisting with the repatriation process. The death of Vidhi Megha, a resident of Borsad in Gujarat, has drawn attention both in India and Canada, with the Indian Consulate in Toronto stepping in to coordinate with family members and local authorities. The incident has also prompted appeals from the family and intervention by political leaders seeking an expedited return of her mortal remains. In a statement posted on X, the Consulate General of India in



Toronto said it was "deeply saddened" by the death of the Indian international student in St Catharines, located in Canada's Niagara region. "The Consulate is in touch with the

family members in India and Canada, and also the funeral home and is providing all support and assistance to the family, including for transportation of the mortal remains to India," the mission said. Consulate coordinating with family in India and Canada. According to the Consulate, officials have remained in contact with relatives on both sides and are assisting with formalities related to the transportation of the body to India. The mission also conveyed condolences to the family and expressed solidarity with them following the tragedy. Vidhi Megha was reportedly killed on May 15 after being attacked with a knife in what has been described as a suspected homicide incident in St Catharines.

Family appeals for swift repatriation. Speaking about the incident, her father Kalpeshbhai Megha said the family wishes to perform her last rites in India and has urged authorities to expedite the process. "My daughter is 22 years old. The incident happened in St Catharines in Canada's Niagara region. She was attacked with a knife," he said. "My request to the government is that we must perform my daughter's final rites right here in India; therefore, please provide us with the body as soon as possible and send it here," he added. Kalpeshbhai Megha said he was informed about his daughter's death by the police and subsequently contacted relatives in Canada to begin the required procedures.

Punjab municipal poll verdict endorses AAP's development agenda: CM Bhagwant Mann

Chandigarh, May 30: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Friday described the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s sweeping victory in the municipal elections as a decisive endorsement of the Punjab Government's development-driven governance model and a complete rejection of the opposition's politics of hatred, division, and negativity. Stating that Punjab has "swept out" the Congress, Shiromani Akali Dal, and BJP, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said the verdict reflected people's faith in free electricity, quality education, improved and free healthcare, employment generation, and other public welfare initiatives. Highlighting AAP's dominance across Punjab, including its emphatic victory in Dhuri, where the party won 19 out of 21 seats, he said the results had reduced the



BJP — which he referred to as the "ED Party" — to fifth position and sent a clear message that Punjab firmly supports the politics of performance. The Chief Minister asserted that the mandate also indicated that the AAP was on course to surpass its historic 2022 Assembly election performance in 2027. He further assured that every city, town, and pind in Punjab would witness equal development without any discrimination.

Addressing a press conference, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "The people of Punjab have shown the door to communal forces and delivered a resounding verdict in favour of secularism and the Aam Aadmi Party. Despite the scorching heat, people came out to vote to safeguard democracy, which is a very encouraging sign." Highlighting the party's electoral performance over the last four years, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said that people from every section of society have consistently supported the AAP and its policies. "AAP won more than 11,000 panchayat seats out of nearly 13,000. The by-elections to the Jalandhar Lok Sabha seat, four Vidhan Sabha seats, Zila Parishads, Block Samitis, and now Nagar Councils and Nagar Panchayats have all demonstrated that public support for the AAP continues to grow," he

said. The Chief Minister said the combined strength of the opposition parties had failed to match the support received by the AAP. "Congress, the Shiromani Akali Dal, and the BJP — which I call the ED Party — together could not even match the number of seats won by the AAP. The people have completely rejected their negative and divisive agenda. Even in urban areas, which the BJP considers its traditional vote base, voters have decisively rejected them," he stated. Referring to the BJP's performance, CM Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "The BJP failed to save its deposits on more than 1,000 seats. Despite creating so much hype, it has ended up in fifth position in these elections. In many places, even independent candidates have won more seats than the BJP. It appeared as though the BJP was competing.

BJP Minority Morcha chief Jamal Siddiqui receives death threats; caller asks for Rs.1 crore

New Delhi, May 30: BJP Minority Morcha National President Jamal Siddiqui has filed a complaint with the Nagpur Police after allegedly receiving death threats and extortion demands via messages on WhatsApp. Siddiqui approached the police after receiving threatening messages from the mobile number "8999162823" between May 25 and May 27, IANS reported. As per the FIR, the accused demanded an amount ranging from '50 lakh to '1 crore. They asked to send money via UPI and bank transfer. If Siddiqui failed to pay the amount, the unidentified accused allegedly threatened to harm him as well as his family members. As per reports, messages



sent to the BJP Minority Morcha chief even contain references to bomb blasts and targeted killings of senior Congress leaders. The accused claimed that the attacks will be carried out because those leaders had "disrespected" the sender. In the threatening messages, the accused person has named several Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra,

Sachin Pilot and Uday Bhanu Chib. In his complaint, Siddiqui has submitted several screenshots of WhatsApp chats, chat logs along with other digital evidence to the police. The police have registered a case under Sections 308(5), 351(2), and 351(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for criminal intimidation and extortion, along with Section 66(d) of the Information Technology Act, IANS reported. Further investigation in the case is currently underway. Police is now tracing the origin of the mobile number and identify the sender through call record analysis, IP address tracking and cyber forensic examination. "We are treating this seriously as it involves.

After crushing TMC, task is to keep our party stable and united in Bengal: BJP Noapara MLA Arjun Singh

New Delhi, May 30: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has wiped out the Trinamool Congress (TMC) from West Bengal but according to Noapara MLA Arjun Singh, the task is only half done as the biggest challenge of keeping the saffron party stable and united remains. The BJP formed its first-ever government in Bengal since independence, winning a landslide majority in the recently held Assembly elections. The saffron party not only breached the TMC fortress but reduced the party that ruled the state for 15 years to below 100 seats. However, the saffron party doesn't want to get carried away with its electoral success. "We have wiped out the opposition. Now our biggest challenge is to keep our party strong, stable, and united," said Arjun Singh, MLA, Noapara. The election defeat has also triggered a crisis within the ranks of the TMC, with several disgruntled leaders quitting key party posts. TMC leader and former Sabha MP Dr Santanu Sen has

resigned from his post as the party's national spokesperson, alleging the party's involvement in corruption and "immoral acts." Lok Sabha MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar has also stepped down from all party posts. A day before, the Barasat MP, along with six TMC MLAs — Anisur Rahman (Deganga), Burhanul Mukuddim (Baduria), Bina Mondal (Swarupnagar), Surajit Mitra (Basirhat South), Usharini Mandal (Minakhan), and Abdul Matin Muhammad (Haroa) — had attended a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari in Kalyani. On the other hand, the Suwendu Adhikari-led BJP government in Bengal has been working actively to fill its poll planks since coming to power. According to CM Adhikari, the state government has initiated intensified measures to strengthen border security by facilitating the construction of BSF outposts and barbed-wire fencing, further enhancing security in the border areas.

Before DK Shivakumar's expected elevation, Congress faces a new battle over Deputy CM posts

New Delhi, May 30: Even as the Congress leadership moved closer to formalising Karnataka's next government, competing demands for the Deputy Chief Minister's post surfaced in Bengaluru on Saturday, adding a fresh layer of political pressure ahead of the legislature party meeting expected to endorse DK Shivakumar as the state's next Chief Minister. With senior Congress leaders arriving in the city for consultations and the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting scheduled later in the day, community groups and party supporters stepped up lobbying efforts for key positions in the



new dispensation. The developments come days after Siddaramaiah's resignation as Chief Minister and amid expectations that a new cabinet structure will be announced soon. At Kempegowda International Airport, leaders of the Madara

AICC Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, who arrived in Bengaluru for the day's meetings. The protesters argued that the Madiga community had historically been overlooked for top political posts in Karnataka and said the community deserved representation at the highest levels of government. They warned that ignoring the demand could politically damage Congress and claimed the community would respond electorally if its concerns were not addressed. Community groups push for Deputy CM representation. Pressure was not limited to Dalit organisations. Supporters of senior

Congress leader Ishwar Khandre also pressed for Deputy Chief Minister representation from the Lingayat community. Guru Basava Pattadevaru said the Lingayat community expected adequate representation in the new government and warned of political consequences if its demand was ignored. Meanwhile, KH Muniyappa remained cautious when asked about the ongoing discussions. "Some are proposing, some are seceding."

Two-hour Situation Room meeting, zero breakthrough: US-Iran standoff deepens

Washington, May 30: Hopes of a breakthrough in the uneasy US-Iran ceasefire process remained elusive on Friday after President Donald Trump convened his national security team in the White House Situation Room, only for Tehran to later insist that no final understanding had been reached. The latest exchange laid bare the deep differences that continue to separate Washington and Tehran. While Trump signalled that a decision on a possible agreement could be near and reiterated demands on Iran's nuclear programme and the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian officials rejected what they described as attempts to dictate terms and denied that negotiations on the nuclear issue were underway. The White House said the Situation Room meeting lasted around two hours but offered no indication that a deal had been finalised. A White House official said Trump would only accept an agreement that met US red lines and ensured that Iran never



obtained a nuclear weapon. "The Situation Room meeting has concluded and lasted approximately two hours. President Trump will only make a deal that is good for America and satisfies his red lines. Iran can never possess a nuclear weapon," an official said. Before the meeting, Trump had suggested that discussions with his security team would help him make a final determination on Iran-related issues. In a post on Truth Social, he said Iran must commit to never possessing a nuclear bomb and

called for unrestricted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Iran must agree that they will never have a Nuclear Weapon or Bomb. The Strait must be immediately open, no tolls, for unrestricted shipping traffic, in both directions. All water mines (bombs), if any, will be terminated (we have removed, through detonation, numerous such mines with our great underwater mine sweepers. Iran will complete the immediate removal and/or detonation of any mines that are left, which will

not be many!). Ships caught in the Strait due to our amazing and unprecedented Naval Blockade, which will now be lifted, may start the process of "heading home!" Say HELLO to your wives, husbands, parents, and families from me, your favorite President!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social. He added: "The enriched material, sometimes referred to as "Nuclear Dust," which is buried deep underground with virtually collapsed mountains, caused by our powerful B2 Bomber attack 11 months ago, sitting on top of it, will be unearthed by the United States (which, it is agreed, is the only Country, along with China, with the mechanical capability of doing so), in close coordination and conjunction with the Islamic Republic of Iran, plus the International Atomic Energy Agency, and DESTROYED. No money will be exchanged, until further notice. Other items, of far less importance, have been agreed to.

Hegseth rewrites America's Pacific playbook

Washington, May 30:

At the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Saturday, US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth delivered a blunt message to Indo-Pacific allies, urging them to shoulder greater security responsibilities and stating that the era of American security subsidies is over. He also described India as a "critical anchor," signaling a shift toward a new strategic equilibrium in the region. He warned allies in Europe that those unwilling to share the burden should not expect to be treated as partners. There was little diplomatic cushioning in Pete Hegseth's remarks at the defence forum as he made a pointed agenda to tell wealthy American allies, plainly and publicly, that decades of discounted security were finished.



Speaking to a hall packed with defence ministers and military chiefs, Hegseth, on his fourth official trip to the region, outlined a revised National Defense Strategy that amounts to the sharpest American pivot away from post-Cold War security guarantees in decades. "The era of the United States subsidising the defence of wealthy nations is over," he declared. "We need partners, not protectorates. We

seek alliances built on shared responsibility, not dependency." The tone was transactional and deliberate. Hegseth praised South Korea as President Lee has committed to raising defence spending to 3.5 per cent of GDP as the model ally. In a pointed aside that drew quiet laughter, he added that "Western Europe might take note," before quipping: "Less Shangri-La, more ships, more subs."

Myanmar President arrives in India for 5-Day visit, Offers Prayers at Mahabodhi Temple in Gaya

Gaya, May 30:

Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing arrived in Gaya in Bihar on Saturday as he kicked off his five-day visit to India. He then offered prayers at the Mahabodhi Temple in Both Gaya. Taking to X, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said "Strengthening civilisational links with our neighbour! A warm welcome to President U Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar on his arrival in Both Gaya. He was received by Hon'ble Governor Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd.) at the airport." "The visit reflects the strong spiritual, historical and people-to-people ties that bind our two countries and the depth of our ongoing cooperation," the Ministry added. The Myanmar President will also visit the Mahabodhi Ekta Dhamma Monastery later in the day. During his



visit, President U Min Aung Hlaing will hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 1 on further strengthening the ties between the two countries, according to the MEA. This is President U Min Aung Hlaing's first visit to India after assuming office. U Min Aung Hlaing will also participate in a business forum in India. For his visit, he will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising several cabinet ministers, senior officials and business leaders. On June

US seized \$1 billion in Iranian crypto, Tehran now 'at end of tether financially': Treasury Secretary Bessent

Washington, May 30:

The United States has seized nearly USD 1 billion worth of Iranian cryptocurrency assets and intensified efforts to freeze overseas properties and financial holdings linked to Tehran, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Friday, claiming the pressure campaign has pushed Iran into a deep financial crisis. The comments came at a time when Washington is trying to squeeze Iran economically while keeping diplomatic channels open, even as tensions remain high after recent military action in the region. The Trump administration has framed the measures as part of a broader strategy to cut off Tehran's access to funds and weaken its financial networks. Speaking during an appearance on Fox Business' Kudlow at the Reagan National Economic Forum, Bessent said US authorities had directly taken control of cryptocurrency wallets linked to Iran. "We have seized about a bil-



lion dollars of their crypto. Just outright grabbed the wallets," he said. Bessent argued that a combination of military operations and economic measures had significantly eroded Iran's financial capacity. "I think between five and a half-six weeks of an incredibly successful military campaign and then Operation Economic Fury, where we have really cut them off... they are at the end of their

tether now financially," he said. According to him, the administration's sanctions drive, known as "Operation Economic Fury," has targeted Iranian financial channels through asset seizures, frozen bank accounts and coordination with international partners since its launch in March 2025. The Treasury Secretary claimed Iran was facing growing economic distress, alleging that many mem-

bers of the country's security apparatus were not being paid and that inflation had risen sharply. He also accused Iranian authorities of distributing food vouchers and restricting internet access as economic pressures mounted. Bessent said Washington was also working with European allies to identify and seize overseas assets allegedly linked to Iranian officials. "We are working with our allies all over Europe to grab villas and houses and properties," he said, adding that the assets represented "money that's stolen from the Iranian people." He further alleged that Iranian leaders had previously diverted between USD 400 million and USD 500 million every month before US actions disrupted those financial flows. Bessent comments on negotiations with Iran addressing ongoing talks between Washington and Tehran. Bessent said the US was now engaging with a different layer of Iranian leadership following recent military action.

US General Meets Cuban Military Officials At Edge Of Guantanamo Bay

Washington, May 30:

The top U.S. general overseeing forces in Latin America held a rare meeting on Friday with senior Cuban military officials at the perimeter of US Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the U.S. military said on Friday, confirming a Reuters story. U.S. General Francis Donovan, head of U.S. Southern Command, briefly discussed operational security matters with the Cuban delegation, which included Cuban General Roberto Legra Sotolongo, first deputy minister of the chief of the General Staff, U.S. Southern Command said on X. "Donovan also led a perimeter security assessment of the naval base and discussed force protection, safety of service members and their families, and operational readiness with base officials," it said. Donovan's meeting in Cuba is the first in recent memory by a head of Southern Command and comes amid grow-



ing concerns in Cuba of a possible U.S. military attack on the Communist-run island. Cuba's armed forces said on Facebook that the meeting took place with mutual agreement and that both sides agreed to maintain communication. "Both delegations evaluate positively the meeting where issues related to security around the dividing perimeter of the mili-

tary enclave were addressed and agreed to maintain communication between both military commands," the statement said. The meeting follows a rare visit earlier in May by CIA Director John Ratcliffe to Havana. President Donald Trump has often cited Cuba among the foreign policy goals of his second term and has hinted it will become his focus once the war

with Iran is over. Cuba has been a U.S. antagonist for decades, since Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution. Trump is strongly supported by hardline Cuban Americans in Florida, who have pushed for U.S. instigated regime change for decades, and his administration has been steadily ramping up pressure on the island. On May 20, the U.S. formally charged former President Raul Castro with four counts of murder for the 1996 downing of civilian aircraft operated by Miami-based exiles. The indictment was the latest example of the Trump administration's efforts to assert U.S. influence in the Western Hemisphere. Washington's more assertive role in Latin America was epitomized by an audacious raid by the U.S. military on January 3 to capture Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, and then fly him to New York to face drug trafficking charges.

Nigeria Identifies 21 Regions With High, Moderate Risk For Ebola Importation

Washington, May 30:

Nigerian public health authorities have identified 21 of the country's 36 states as being at high or moderate risk of Ebola importation, amid growing concerns over cross-border transmission. In a statement issued by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) said that recent Ebola outbreaks in parts of East and Central Africa had increased the risk of the disease being imported into Nigeria, although no confirmed case has yet been recorded in the country. The NCDC classified the capital city Abuja, the southern states of Lagos, Rivers, Enugu, Akwa Ibom and Cross River, as well as the northern states of Kano, Borno, Taraba and Adamawa, as high-risk



areas because of active travel and trade routes linked to international airports and porous land borders. Xinhua news agency reported. The agency also listed Ogun, Ebonyi, Abia and Bayelsa states in the south, along with Nasarawa, Kaduna, Katsina, Niger, Jigawa, Plateau, and Bauchi states in the north, as moderate-risk areas requiring enhanced surveillance and preparedness measures.

Jide Idris, Director General of the NCDC, said the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s declaration of the Ebola outbreak as a "public health emergency of international concern" underscored the need for Nigeria to strengthen preparedness efforts. He warned that Ebola symptoms closely resemble those of malaria and Lassa fever, increasing the risk of delayed detection and further transmission.

Vietnam's To Lam Warns of Eroding Rules-Based Order at Shangri-La Dialogue

Washington, May 30:

Vietnam's general Secretary and President To Lam issued a veiled warning against the erosion of the international rules-based order, drawing global attention at the Shangri-La Dialogue as he highlighted a widening "trust deficit" and the dangers of selective adherence to international norms amid mounting geopolitical tensions. Though he avoided naming the United States, President Donald Trump or any other major power, Lam's remarks resonated against a backdrop of trade disputes, protectionist policies and growing strategic

competition. At the opening session of the Shangri-La Dialogue 2026, To Lam delivered a wide-ranging keynote address urging nations to move from reactive crisis management to "proactive" shaping peace, stability and development in a world undergoing profound changes. Speaking before regional defence leaders, including Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and representatives of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), To Lam framed the current global environment as one marked by deepening

uncertainty and systemic strain. The Vietnamese leader said the world was confronting three overlapping crises: widening respect for international law, faltering development models and declining trust between nations — and called for renewed commitment to dialogue, cooperation and multilateralism. He opened by stressing the urgency of cooperation in a fragmented world, warning that "we meet at a time when the world is confronted with multiple risks and uncertainty: more connected yet more vulnerable... more deeply interdependent yet increasingly



susceptible to pressure and coercion." A key theme of his speech was the erosion of global stability, which he described through three interconnected "crises." He

said: "The current instabilities reflect the convergence of three foundational crises: the erosion of international order; a crisis of development models; and a crisis of security

trust." On the international order, he warned against selective enforcement of rules, stating that "the crisis of the international order begins when rules are still invoked yet their binding force erodes... when might makes right and the strong prey upon the weak." He added that such conditions place smaller nations under "mounting pressure to choose sides." Turning to global development, he cautioned that economic fragmentation and rising inequality are undermining long-term stability. "For many nations, development is not secondary to security.

Development is the very foundation of enduring security," he said, noting that disrupted growth pathways can quickly lead to "economic fragility [bringing] into social and political instability." On strategic trust, he warned of a "silent yet dangerous crisis," stating that "when trust declines, defensive measures may even be perceived as provocation... and a minor incident may trigger spirals of reactions." He also highlighted emerging technologies as both an opportunity and a risk, stating that "when technological advances outpace the evolution of

rules and human oversight, strategic stability becomes more fragile." Focusing on Asia-Pacific, To Lam said the region sits at the center of global tensions but also solutions. "Precisely because it is where these challenges converge, the Asia-Pacific must also become, where solutions emerge," he said. He emphasized ASEAN's role, stating: "ASEAN's centrality is neither taken for granted nor self-sustaining. It can only be preserved through unity, strategic autonomy and the capacity to shape a common agenda." On maritime security and regional disputes,



DM Bandipora reviews NCORD measures; Stresses stronger enforcement, Awareness against Drug Abuse

BANDIPORA, MAY 30: District Magistrate (DM) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar today chaired a meeting of the District Level NCORD Committee to review the implementation of anti-drug measures and illicit drug trafficking in the district.

During the meeting, the SSP presented a detailed review of cases registered under the NDPS/PIT NDPS Act across different police stations in the district. He also briefed the meeting regarding attachment and freezing of prop-



erties of drug peddlers, demolition of illegal structures and action taken in commercial quantity cases. The Deputy Director Prosecution apprised the meeting about the status of NDPS cases, acquittals, bail applications and chal-

cancellation/suspension of DL, Passport, contractor cards, Arms Licences and other documents of accused involved in narcotics-related offences. She also emphasized enhanced coordination among departments for sustained enforcement. The meeting was informed that CCTV surveillance had been strengthened in various educational institutions and hotspot areas. The DM directed the Education Department and Principals of Government Degree Colleges to ensure installation of CCTV cameras in all schools, colleges and coaching centres, particularly in vulnerable and

shadow areas. The Education Department and Government Degree Colleges apprised the meeting about awareness and outreach programmes conducted under NMBA, including debates, seminars, essay competitions and student interaction programmes aimed at sensitizing youth against drug abuse. The Rural Development Department (RDD) was directed to further intensify awareness activities at the grassroots level by conducting regular anti-drug programmes in wards and Panchayats across the district.

NMBA gains momentum across Budgam with awareness Programmes, Yoga sessions, Enforcement Drives

BUDGAM, MAY 30: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), a series of awareness, wellness and enforcement activities were conducted across various educational institutions and locations in Budgam district to strengthen the fight against drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free society. An awareness drive was organized at GDC Magam, where students were sensitized about the harmful effects of substance abuse and encouraged to act as ambassadors of change in their communities. Similarly, GDC Beerwah conducted a pledge-taking ceremony against drug



abuse, with students and faculty reaffirming their commitment to a drug-free future. To promote physical and mental well-being as an effective safeguard against addiction, a Yoga session was organized at Government Higher

Secondary School Wathora. Students actively participated in various yoga practices and were encouraged to adopt healthy lifestyle choices. Meanwhile, HSS Dragger also organized awareness activities.

SDM reviews Forest Nursery Stock Plantation Activities, Muharram Arrangements

BUDGAM, MAY 30: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Khansahib, Jahangir Ahmed Giri, today visited the Forest Range Office and Range Nursery at Raithan to review the availability of nursery stock and preparedness for the upcoming monsoon plantation drives in the sub-division. During the visit, the SDM inspected the stock of conifer saplings, including Deodar, Kail and Fir, and appreciated the maintenance of around 95,000 healthy saplings in the nursery. He stressed the importance of ensuring quality plantation and proper care of saplings to enhance green cover in the area. The SDM also held a meeting with Range Officer Raithan, Ghulam Rasool,



and field staff to review arrangements for the forthcoming holy month of Muharram. He directed the department to ensure timely availability of firewood for Shia-dominated villages as per past practice. The Range Officer assured that adequate stocks of firewood would be reserved and distributed in consultation with local

Quiz Competitions, Awareness Programmes held across Bandipora under NMBA

BANDIPORA, MAY 30: Various educational institutions across district Bandipora on Saturday organised quiz competitions, pledge ceremonies and awareness programmes under the ongoing Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to spread awareness against drug abuse and promote healthy lifestyles among students.

Pledge taking ceremonies under NMBA were organised at High School Panar and Government High School Nadihal, while a special morning assembly focusing on awareness against substance abuse was held at HSS Gadakhud. Health Awareness Quiz programmes were organ-



ized at PM SHRI Government High School Odina, HSS Gadakhud, HSS Nowgam, High School Ahamsharif, H S Ketson, HS Koraghal and HSS Quilmuqam. Students

participated enthusiastically in the quiz competitions and awareness activities focusing on health, well-being and prevention of drug abuse. At HSS Quilmuqam, stu-

dents and staff also participated in a Nasha Mukti pledge ceremony reaffirming their commitment towards a healthy and drug-free society, while winning teams in the quiz competition were awarded prizes. Meanwhile, Government Degree College Sumbal organised a "Dosti Discussion" under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Shabeena Iqbal Shawl, where students held interactive discussions on substance abuse, peer pressure, mental well-being and the importance of healthy lifestyles. HKM Degree College Bandipora also organised a Student Awareness Programme on Drug Abuse under the banner of NMBA

CM Omar backs innovation, mentorship as SANGAM-3.0 begins at NIT Srinagar

Srinagar, May 30: Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, on Saturday extended his greetings as the two-day global alumni reunion SANGAM-3.0 commenced at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, expressing confidence that the initiative would promote innovation, mentorship, collaboration and knowledge-sharing while contributing to the academic and professional growth of the institution and the region.

Organised by the Office of Dean Alumni and International Affairs in collaboration with the Alumni Association of REC-NIT Srinagar, the event aims to strengthen alumni engagement, foster academic and professional collaboration, and reconnect former students with



their alma mater. The inaugural ceremony was held at the Common Hall of the institute and commenced with the National Anthem, lighting of the ceremonial

lamp, and formal welcome of alumni, guests, and dignitaries. On the occasion, Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, conveyed his greetings and best wishes to the organisers and participants. In his message, he lauded NIT Srinagar for fostering a strong alumni network and providing a platform that reconnects generations of graduates. He expressed confidence that SANGAM-3.0 would strengthen collaboration, innovation, mentorship, and knowledge-sharing, while contributing to the academic and professional growth of the institution and the region. Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. B K Kanaujia, while addressing the gathering, said that SANGAM-3.0 represents the Institute's vision of building stronger bridges with its alumni community across the globe.

DC Shopian presides over monthly NCORD meeting

SHOPIAN, MAY 30: The District Level Narco Coordination (NCORD) committee meeting was held here at Mini-Secretariat Shopian chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta. During meeting, the DC conducted a comprehensive review of the ongoing enforcement, monitoring and preventive initiatives being implemented by the concerned departments. Stressing the need for a coordinated and proactive approach, the DC directed all stakeholders to intensify efforts for effective control of drug abuse. While speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner took depart-



ment-wise action taken reports and laid stress on creating awareness against the drug and substance abuse. The concerned departments informed the chair about their activities against the ongoing fight on drugs. It was apprised that strict enforcement is

being done against the illicit crop (poppy) cultivation in the district. Directions were issued to strengthen the fight against drug abuse, keeping close vigil on the cultivation of poppy across the district and informing the police about illegal crop cultivation.

PD&M Budgam bids Farewell to Deputy Director Gul Mohd Bhat on his Superannuation



BUDGAM, MAY 30: Warm Farewell Ceremony in honour of Gul Mohd Bhat, Deputy Director Planning/District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, Budgam, was organized at the district level on the occasion of his superannuation. The event was attended by distinguished officers

and dignitaries, including Joint Director, Industries & Commerce, Kashmir; Abdul Rashid, Joint Director Planning, KPDCI; Javed Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Budgam; Fayaz Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar; Gulzar Ahmad, Deputy Secretary, Industries & Commerce;

DLSA Ganderbal conducts Awareness Programme on NALSA Scheme for Access to Justice for Victims of Human-Wildlife Conflict

GANDERBAL, MAY 30: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, in collaboration with the Sind Forest Division Ganderbal, organized an awareness programme on the NALSA Scheme for Access to Justice for Victims of Human-Wildlife Conflict, 2025 at the Conference Hall of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Sind Forest Division Ganderbal. The programme was conducted under the supervision of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal.

The programme was organized with the objective of sensitizing participants about the provisions and benefits of the NALSA Scheme for Access to Justice for Victims of



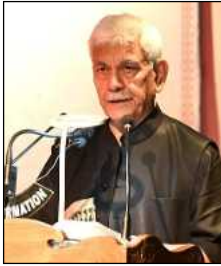
Human-Wildlife Conflict, 2025, which aims to provide legal assistance, facilitate access to compensation and rehabilitation measures, and ensure effective legal support to

affected persons and their families. The programme commenced with an inaugural address by Iqbal Rasool, Divisional Forest Officer, Sind Forest Division

Ganderbal, who highlighted the increasing incidents of human-wildlife conflict and emphasized the importance of forest conservation, protection of wildlife habitats, and public awareness to minimize such conflicts. He observed that destruction of forests and natural habitats often compels wild animals to move towards human habitations, resulting in increased human-wildlife interactions. He appreciated the initiative of DLSA Ganderbal in creating awareness regarding the legal rights and remedies available to victims. Tanveer Ashraf and Shaheena Ali, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, informed the participants about the NALSA Scheme for Access to Justice for Victims of Human-Wildlife Conflict, 2025 and explained the procedure for seeking compensation and legal assistance. They highlighted the extrajudicial relief available in cases of death, permanent incapacitation, grievous injuries, and minor injuries resulting from human-wildlife conflict. The participants were also informed about the documents required for compensation claims, including medical records, post-mortem reports, FIRs, photographs, and other relevant records. Awareness material was distributed among the participants. They further highlighted the role of DLSA in providing free legal aid, facilitating access to compensation and rehabilitation measures, and assisting victims and their families in availing the benefits of various welfare schemes.

Statehood Day celebration of Goa Held in Lok Bhavan

SRINAGAR, MAY 30: Lok Bhavan Jammu Kashmir today hosted a special programme to mark the statehood day of Goa. The event was attended by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, senior officials, invited guests from Goa who are living in Jammu Kashmir and artists. The Lieutenant Governor said that between 1946 and 1961 many brave sons of Mother India laid down their lives in the struggle to liberate Goa. Hundreds were jailed and subjected to brutal hardships, yet the unity and courage of the freedom fighters kept the movement alive. "Today I pay homage to Bala Raya Mapari of the Azad Gomantak Dal, the first martyr of Goa's freedom struggle. Great figures such as Luis de Menezes Bragança, Mohan Rande, Tristao Bragança da Cunha, Puroshottam Kakodkar, Prabhakar Vaidya, Nana Kajekar and Sudhir Phadke kept the spirit of satyagraha alive across Goa, Daman, Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Today we salute their dreams and resolve, the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor said that the enduring ideals of service to humanity, commitment to national prosperity, and the preservation of culture have long shaped the Goan contribution to modern India. "I strongly believe that Goa's ancient arts and vibrant heritage have enriched the vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.' As the Konkani proverb wisely reminds us,



"Ekvantaikad, rashtrantpragati" unity is the bedrock of a nation's progress," he said. The Lieutenant Governor also observed that the bond between Jammu Kashmir and Goa goes back centuries. "Seen through that ancient bond, a priceless and enduring connection unites Goa's golden shores with the majestic mountains of Jammu & Kashmir. Today's celebration in Goa is also a moment to weave together the timeless philosophies and values nurtured along the banks of the Tawi and Terekhul rivers with the principles that continue to guide our lives today," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Commissioner JMC inspects encroachment situation in City Chowk, Malhotra Mohalla



JAMMU, MAY 30: Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav today conducted an on-site inspection of Ward No. 11, covering City Chowk and Malhotra Mohalla areas, to assess the issue of encroachments on public footpaths and roads. The visit was undertaken following repeated representations and requests from locals, who highlighted

the difficulties being faced by pedestrians due to the widespread encroachment of footpaths by vendors and shopkeepers. During the inspection, Dr. Yadav observed that several vendors and traders had occupied pedestrian pathways by displaying and selling goods on the footpaths, leaving little or no space for public movement. Acting on the spot, the

Commissioner directed the concerned vendors and shopkeepers to immediately remove the encroachments and ensure that footpaths remain accessible to pedestrians. He emphasized that public spaces are meant for the convenience and safety of citizens and cannot be allowed to be obstructed. Speaking during the visit, Dr. Devansh Yadav stated that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is committed to finding a sustainable and practical solution to the issue. He informed that a meeting will soon be convened involving traders and business representatives from the affected areas, along with the local MLA and other stakeholders to discuss measures for regulating commercial activities while safeguarding public convenience.

Satish Sharma meets Union Railway Minister; pitches for revival of Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch Rail connectivity project

NEW DELHI, MAY 30: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today met Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and strongly projected the long-pending demand for rail connectivity to the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

During the meeting, Satish Sharma urged the Union Railway Minister to accord priority to the proposed Jammu-Akhnour-Dori Dager-Sunderbani-Nowshera-Rajouri-Poonch rail corridor. He described it as a project of immense strategic, economic and social significance for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those residing in the border districts. The Minister highlighted that a survey for the



proposed rail alignment had been conducted in the past and stressed the need for its revival and early execution. He underscored that Rajouri and Poonch remain among the few major regions in the country without rail connectivity despite their strategic importance and substantial population. Satish Sharma informed the Union Minister that the twin border districts frequently face connectivity challenges due to adverse weather conditions, road disruptions and difficult terrain, which adversely impact the

movement of people, essential commodities and emergency services. He maintained that rail connectivity would provide a reliable, all-weather transportation network, significantly improving the accessibility, boosting economic activity and enhancing the overall quality of life of the people. Emphasizing the national security dimension of the project, Sharma noted that Rajouri and Poonch share a sensitive international border and have historically played a crucial role in safeguarding the nation's

interests. He said that a rail corridor to these districts would not only strengthen the civilian connectivity but also enhance logistical capabilities and facilitate faster movement of personnel and resources, whenever required. The Minister stated that the project would open new avenues for tourism, trade, industry and employment generation in the region. Improved rail infrastructure, he said, would help integrate the border districts more closely with the national economy and accelerate their socio-economic development. During the discussion, Satish Sharma urged the Railway Minister to immediately commission a fresh feasibility study based on the earlier survey, declaring the project a national priority in view of its strategic location and consider appropriate budgetary provisions for its implementation. He also conveyed the commitment of

Health Minister convenes grievances redress camp; emphasizes enhanced public service delivery

PULWAMA, MAY 30: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today convened a public grievances redress camp at Circuit House Pulwama. The event was attended by MLA Pampore Justice Hasnain Masoodi, MLA Zainapora Showkat Hussain Ganie, Programme Officer ICDS, Chief Medical Officer Pulwama, Assistant Commissioner Development Pulwama, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE and other line departments besides officers from the Health, Education and Social Welfare departments. During the camp, deputations from different villages and urban areas of Pulwama and Shopian, representatives of trade



bodies, social organisations, senior citizens and other stakeholders projected a wide range of public issues and development demands and submitted memoranda of demands concerning their respective areas. The issues raised during the interaction included strengthening of healthcare facilities, improvement of educational infrastructure, augmentation of sports facilities, water supply schemes,

development of public parks, establishment of scientific dumping sites, road connectivity, widening and upgradation of roads, deployment of adequate staff in health and educational institutions besides concerns related to agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry sectors. The Minister gave a patient hearing to all the deputations and sought on-the-spot feedback from the concerned officers regard-

ing the issues raised. She directed the officers to take immediate measures and ensure timely resolution of genuine public grievances. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Pampore expressed gratitude said that such interactions provide an effective platform for addressing the genuine concerns of the people. He expressed hope that similar programmes would continue in future to strengthen the public participation in

governance and ensure prompt redress of public issues. MLA Zainapora, while addressing the gathering, said that the visit of the Minister to directly interact with the people and listen to their concerns at their doorstep demonstrates a people-centric approach aimed at ensuring that the voice of every citizen is heard and considered in the decision-making process. Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo assured the participants that all genuine issues projected during the meeting would be examined and addressed in a timebound manner. She said that a follow-up review meeting would also be conducted to assess the progress achieved on the issues raised and ensure their effective redressal.

DC Kathua reviews anti-drug, tobacco control measures; Calls for coordinated action

KATHUA, MAY 30: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired meetings of the District Level NCORD Committee and District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex. The meetings were attended by ADC Mahima Madan, GM DIC Mushtaq Choudhary, ASP Sunil Kesar, RTO Surinder, Sharma CMO Dr. Vijay Raina, ACD, ACP, CEO and other concerned officers. Reviewing the NCORD agenda, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the action taken on decisions of the previous meeting. ADC Mahima Madan informed that extensive awareness activities are being undertaken under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukti Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, with scope for improving further outreach besides reaching out to uncovered and remote areas. The meeting was informed that around 21,000 kg of lathan had



been destroyed, 39 litres of illicit liquor seized/destroyed and four working stills dismantled during recent enforcement drives. ASP informed that properties worth nearly 77 crore belonging to drug peddlers had also been dismantled as part of the intensified crackdown against narcotics networks. The DC stressed the need for sustained surveillance on narco-traffickers and those involved in illicit liquor production and sale. He directed Agriculture, NRLM and other departments to intensify IEC

activities, while asking the Lead District Manager to monitor suspicious financial transactions and share inputs with enforcement agencies. Highlighting the importance of the Nasha Mukti JK Abhiyan, the Deputy Commissioner called for coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to curb drug abuse. He emphasized the role of schools and colleges in spreading awareness and directed the Education Department to identify vulnerable students, particularly dropouts.

The ACD and ACP were asked to seek regular feedback from Mahila Nigrani Samitis, while the DYSSO was directed to engage youth in sports activities. All departments were instructed to submit Action Taken Reports with photographs. Later, chairing the DLCC meeting under NTCP in connection with World No Tobacco Day, observed this year under the theme "Unmasking the Appeal: Countering Tobacco and Nicotine Addiction", the Deputy Commissioner reviewed tobacco control initiatives in the district. The meeting was informed that 18 villages have been declared Tobacco-Free Villages. Schools were directed to register on the designated portal/app for monitoring and certification of tobacco-free institutions. The DC also called for strict enforcement of anti-smoking laws and increased challenging of violators smoking at public places. He urged all stakeholders to work collectively towards building a drug-free and tobacco-free Kathua.

Div Com Kashmir reviews SANJY-2026 arrangements, Interacts with stakeholders

Emphasises seamless facilities, expeditious completion of Yatra works



ANANTNAG, MAY 30: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today visited Pahalgam and chaired a review meeting at Pahalgam Club to assess the preparedness and arrangements being put in place for the smooth, safe and successful conduct of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag (Yatra Officer

Pahalgam Axis), Dr. Bilal Mohuddin Bhat, Chief Engineer, KPDC, CEO PDA, ADC, SP, CPO, SES Hydraulics, PWD and KPDC, ACD, SDM Pahalgam, CMO, CAHO, DFO, ALC, AD FCS&CA, CEO MCA, EO MC Pahalgam, officers from Beacon, F&ES, Traffic Police, SDRF, representatives of telecom service providers and other concerned officials. During the meeting, the

Divisional Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of arrangements being put in place along the Pahalgam axis and other locations connected with the Yatra. Detailed discussions were held regarding augmentation of infrastructure, strengthening of essential services and ensuring seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments. Reviewing the preparedness of the Jal Shakti Department, the Divisional Commissioner directed officers to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply at all camps, halting stations and along the Yatra route. He stressed the need for installation of adequate water storage facilities and regular monitoring of water quality.

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E-Mail: editor.northinnews@gmail.com
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