

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Diarrhoea
- Steady fast pulse or weak, fast or fast
- Redness

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Unity key strength of India besides its military power: PM Modi

**AGENCIES**  
AMARAVATI, MAY 02 (KNO)

After getting full support from NDA allies for his government's response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 people, mostly tourists dead, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that India's strength today is not just in its weapons but also in its unity.

Addressing a rally in Amaravati, PM Modi, according to the news agency, said, "Unity is a key strength of India besides its military strength."

Minutes before the Prime Minister's address, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan referred to the Pahalgam

terror attack and voiced their open support to the Prime Minister in his actions against Pakistan and terrorism.

"Today, our strength is not just weapons but also our unity. (Aaj humari taqat humare hathiyaar hi nahi hai... humari ekta bhi hai). Ekta malls are being built throughout the country," said, PM Modi.

"India has tested a new DRDO missile. We are boosting our defence sector by spending more on the defence sector. We laid the foundation stone of DRDO's Missile Test Range at Nagayalanka. The Navdurga Testing Range being built in Nagayalanka will empower the nation's defence power, just like Goddess Durga," he added.

Pertinently, after the Pahalgam

terror attack PM Modi led Government has downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan. The Indus Water Treaty has been put in abeyance, while Pak nationals and diplomats in India have been sent back.

Amid growing indications of tough action against the Pahalgam terror attack perpetrators, PM Modi has given complete operational freedom to the armed forces to decide on the mode, targets and timing of response to Pakistan.

During the past ten days PM Modi has chaired two back to back meetings of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and has passed strict directions to eliminate terror and its supporters.



### Pahalgam attack will be avenged: LoP Sharma

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 02 (KNO)

Stating that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi April 22 Pahalgam attack will be avenged, Leader of Opposition and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

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### J&K students enrolled in Iran Universities can directly transfer tuition fees via UCO Bank

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 02 (KNO)

The parents, who have enrolled their wards in different educational institutions in Iran, can now directly transfer

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### Dal Lake boat capsizes near Duck Park; one rescued, one still missing

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 02 (KNO)

A boat capsized in Dal Lake near Duck Park on Friday afternoon, after which authorities launched a rescue operation that

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## Cloudburst triggers flash flood in Ramban, Jammu-Srinagar Highway closed

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 02 (KNO)

A man died after a lightning struck him in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, while flash floods triggered by a cloud burst in Ramban District led to the closure of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway yet again, officials and reports said on Friday.

According to the details available with the news agency a 37-year-old auto driver, Tariq Ahmad Padder, of Gansorgam, Kulgam, died after being struck by lightning in his native village. He was rushed to District Hospital Kulgam where doctors declared him "brought dead."

The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway was once again closed for vehicular movement after a landslide occurred at Chamba Seri in Ramban area. "It occurred soon after the area near the highway was hit



by the cloudburst, leading to the flash floods again," said an official.

The commuters have been advised not to travel until the road is cleared.

"Please check the status of roads before starting your journey," a traffic official said.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic National Highway (Ramban), Raja Adil Hamid said that restoration work is underway to clear the debris and resume traffic.

He said most of the vehicles have already been cleared, while some stranded ones have been halted at safer locations. "Our priority will be to clear traffic going uphill," he said.

Pertinently, flashfloods last month had washed away significant portion of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and the restoration work is on.

**GUSTY WINDS WREAK HAVOC**  
Meanwhile, the gusty

winds followed by the moderate rainfall wreaked havoc in several areas as the reports about the uprooting of a tree was received from SKICC here, leading to the massive traffic jam along the route.

Moreover, the reports were received that a tree uprooted near SKICC this afternoon amidst the gusty winds, causing huge traffic jam along the route.

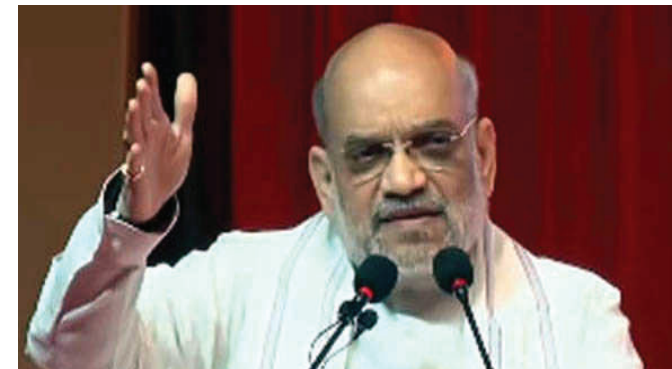
Furthermore, two flights were also diverted due to the windstorm today.

According to an official, IndiGo flights 6E896/2305 (Delhi-Srinagar-Delhi) and 6E214 (Mumbai-Srinagar-Ixj) were unable to land at Srinagar International Airport due to windstorms and have been diverted to Chandigarh and Delhi, respectively.

Moreover, as predicted by the local Meteorological department, (MeT),

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## Bharat is axing down drug cartels with ruthless aggression: Amit Shah



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 2

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that the seizure of drugs worth Rs 547 crore by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) shows that "Bharat is axing down drug cartels with ruthless aggression" under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In a post on X platform, Shah said, "The Amritsar Zonal Unit of

the NCB axed a drug diversion cartel through a 4-month-long operation across four states, seizing drugs worth Rs 547 crore and arresting 15. It is a giant stride towards building a drug-free Bharat under the vision of PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji. Congratulations to Team NCB," a Home Ministry statement said.

In a major step towards Government's zero

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## Bye-elections in J&K ECI set to complete voter revision exercise in Budgam, Nagrota seats

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 02 (KNO)

The authorities are set to complete the special summary revision of electoral rolls in Budgam and Nagrota seats, which are lying vacant in Jammu & Kashmir Assembly for more than six months now.

Official sources told news agency that voter revision exercise would be completed in these segments on May 5 (Monday) with publication of the final electoral roll. "The conclusion of the exercise would set the ball rolling for the announcement of

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## Pak troops resort to cross border shelling for 8th consecutive night, get befitting reply

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 02 (KNO)

Pakistani troops continued unprovoked firing in five districts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir for eight consecutive night on Thursday, officials said.

Jammu based defence spokesman, according to the news agency said, "During the night of May 1-2, 2025, Pakistani Army posts resort-

ed to unprovoked small arms fire from posts across the LoC opposite Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Naushera, and Akhnoor areas of J&K." "Indian Army responded in a calibrated and proportionate manner," he added.

Pertinently, the most recent cross-border shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) began on April 23, 2025, with unprovoked firing from Pakistani reported in the Tattapani

sector of Poonch. This marked the start of a series of ceasefire violations by Pakistani forces, escalating tensions following the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, which killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

Since then, shelling and small-arms fire have continued intermittently, with notable incidents reported across multiple sectors, including Naushera, Sunderbani,

Akhnoor, Kupwara, Baramulla, and the Pargwal sector along the International Border, occurring over several consecutive nights up to last night.

It may be recalled that during a hotline conversation on April 30, 2025, between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan, India issued a stern warning to Pakistan, reiterating that such

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## India's GERD doubled in last decade, Rs 60196 to Rs 127380 Cr: Dr Jitendra

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 2

Marking the 55th Foundation Day of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh disclosed that India's Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) has doubled in last one decade from Rs 60, 196 cr to 1,27,380 cr.

The Minister outlined



India's evolving scientific landscape, emphasising the need for increased industry involvement to the extent of industry led innovation, changes in approach and long-term inno-

vation to position the country among leading global players.

Addressing a packed audience that included leading innovators, academicians, researchers and former Sec-

retaries, Dr. Jitendra Singh traced the DST's journey since its inception on May 3, 1971, crediting it with catalysing India's evolution into a science and technology powerhouse.

"The founding of DST mirrors the march of post-independence India in the field of science," he said, highlighting how the department has bridged research and governance, turning vision into verifiable outcomes.

The Minister hailed DST's efforts in nurturing a nationwide research ecosystem, particularly through mission-mode programmes

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## Pahalgam handlers same as those behind 26/11, Uri, Pulwama: Farooq

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 2

Hinting at Pakistan's role in the Pahalgam terror attack, former Union Minister and president of the National Conference party Farooq Abdullah on Friday said the same handlers who perpetrated 26/11, Uri, Pulwama and Pathankot strikes are behind the April 22 tragedy in the Baisaran Valley.

Talking to news agency, the former J&K Chief Minister described the Pahalgam strike as 'very painful'



and 'murder of humanity', adding, "Anyone could be involved in the Pahalgam incident. Until we catch them, we cannot say who it is. The handlers must be the same ones

who did it before. It's not just about today. They did it in URI too. You must have seen what happened in Pulwama. Who did it in Mumbai? Who did it in Pathankot? Who did it in Rajouri and Poonch? The handlers are sitting there."

He suggested that Pakistan's objective behind the Pahalgam strike was to disrupt J&K's journey of progress.

"They feel that we are living in peace, living calmly, thousands of tourists are roaming here. They didn't like it.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Dementia & its variants: National Midterm CME-2025 inaugurated at GMC Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

The Indian Association for Geriatric Mental Health (IAGMH) in collaboration with Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar inaugurated the two-day National Midterm CME-2025 on "Dementia & Its Variants: Recent Advances and Innovation" today.

The conference aims to bring together leading mental health professionals to deliberate on evolving clinical practices, research, and innovation in dementia care.

The event has drawn a significant gathering of national delegates including Founding president IAGMH- Dr S.C Tiwari, President IAGMH-Dr Alka Subramanyam, Vice president - Dr Sandeep Grover, senior psychiatrists in the



valley, Dr Arshid Hussain, Dr Abdul Majid, Dr Zaid wani, faculty members, and mental health experts from across the country.

The inaugural session was presided over by Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan, Principal / Dean GMC Srinagar who while speaking on the occasion said that this conference highlights the importance of addressing dementia and its variants in the context of an aging population and provides a platform for mental health professionals to share their expertise, experiences, and insights on the latest developments in dementia care.

As our population ages, the prevalence of dementia is expected to rise significantly, making it one of the most pressing public health challenges of our time.

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Maqbool, Organising Chairperson and Head of the Department, Government Psychiatric Diseases Hospital (IMHANS), also shared his insights on the importance of addressing dementia and its variants.

Dr. Alka Subramanyam highlighted the need for a specialized unit in Geriatric Mental Health and proposed starting fellowship programs in Geriatric Psy-

chiatry in Kashmir.

Dr. Junaid Nabi, Organising Secretary and Incharge Geriatric Unit at IMHANS, emphasized the rising prevalence of dementia in India and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He advocated for adopting a convergence model in geriatric mental health care, focusing on a rights-based approach to treatment and support services for the elderly.

The conference features expert talks, panel discussions, case studies, research paper presentations, and poster presentations covering all dimensions of dementia and its variants.

Over the course of two days, participants will engage in discussions and deliberations on the latest advances and innovations in dementia care.

## Multifarious activities against drug abuse held in educational institutions in Ganderbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, MAY 2

In a determined effort to curb substance abuse and raise awareness among the youth, multifarious activities under the "Nasha Mukht J&K" campaign against drug abuse were held today in various educational institutions of district Ganderbal.

Several educational institutions were actively engaged under the campaign's banner, aiming to maximize outreach to the most vulnerable and impressionable age group by fostering awareness, community participation, and support for rehabilitation.

Energetic student rallies echoed through streets, inside classrooms and



auditoriums, vibrant poster-making competitions, debates, and thought-provoking awareness sessions were organized, each one a testament to the youth's commitment to a healthier future.

In the rallies, teachers, volunteers, and officials from various departments joined hands to ensure that the message of a drug-free society reach every corner of the district.

While in the institutions, students enthusiastically participated in debates, poster-making competi-

tions, and awareness talks, voicing their commitment towards building a healthier and drug-free future.

The resource persons from various departments emphasized the importance of the campaign against drug abuse. Parents and guardians were urged to remain vigilant for early warning signs.

Furthermore, the campaign also emphasized rehabilitation and support for those already affected, reminding the community that compassion and solidarity are key to recovery.

## 75 Teaching, Non-Teaching Staff get Time-bound promotion

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 2

The Directorate of School Education Jammu has given time-bound promotion to 75 employees across various cadres in the education department. The officials promoted include 68 Masters; 5 Senior Assistants and 2 Librarians.

The time-bound promotion cases were examined and approved by the duly constituted promotion committee headed by the Director School Education, Jammu, with the Joint Director (SE), Personnel Officer, FA/CAO and AAO as committee members. The committee meticulously reviewed and sanctioned all 75 cases as per the norms and eligibility criteria.

## JKAACL organises classical cultural event 'Kala Darpan 2025' at Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 2

Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organised 'Kala Darpan 2025', a classical cultural event, in collaboration with Bhavishya Academy and Institute of Classical Dance at Abhinav Theatre here today.

The event was themed and dedicated to Lord Shiva (SWAYAMBHU).

MLA Jammu East, Yud-

hvir Sethi was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while as Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, Sheetal Nanda was guest of honour.

Secretary, JKAACL, Harvinder Kour; senior officers of JKAACL, students and large number of music and dance enthusiasts were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Sheetal Nanda appre-

ciated the performances given by the students and organisers. She hoped that such events should be organised regularly to promote our classical music and culture.

The event showcased various levels of Kathak by young and dynamic performers that blended the seamless singing of classical music to promote a classical music, with new take on the traditional Indian dance form.

## SC grants interim protection to Srinagar family facing deportation amid Pahalgam fallout

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 2 (UND)

In a significant order, the Supreme Court on Friday granted interim protection to a Srinagar-based family facing the risk of deportation to Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack that occurred on April 22.

A bench comprising justices Surya Kant and NK Singh directed the authorities not to take any coercive action, including deportation, against the family until a decision is made after verifying their claims of Indian nationality.

The family, which includes a married couple and their four children, contended that they are Indian citizens and possess valid government identification such as Aadhaar

cards, PAN cards, voter IDs, and Indian passports.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the Pahalgam attack, prompting the Indian government to suspend visa services for Pakistani nationals and mandate that all Pakistani citizens leave the country by April 27.

Despite this, the petitioner-family alleged that they were detained unjustly, even though one of them had long surrendered his Pakistani passport and settled in India.

Advocate Nanda Kishore, representing the family, informed the Court that while one family member works in Bangalore, the rest are settled in Srinagar.

The bench emphasized the need for proper verifi-

cation of the family's documents before any action is taken.

"Besides the human element, there are issues which need to be verified. Since the factual plea requires verification, we dispose of the matter without expressing anything on merits, with a direction to authorities to verify the documents and any other relevant facts brought to their notice."

The court instructed that an appropriate decision be taken by the authorities at the earliest, while refraining from prescribing a fixed timeline. The bench made it clear that if the family is not satisfied with the outcome, they may approach the Jammu and Kashmir High Court for further relief.

## Srinagar court dismisses obscenity plea against Gulmarg fashion show

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 02 (UND)

A Court in Srinagar has dismissed a complaint alleging that the designer duo Shivan & Narresh, ELLE India's Editor-in-Chief, and unnamed models, committed obscenity during a fashion show held at the famous ski resort of Gulmarg.

The controversy stems from a skiwear fashion show held on March 7 in snowy Gulmarg that triggered massive outrage in Kashmir, with political and religious leaders condemning the event as "obscene" and demanding accountability. The organisers later tendered an unconditional apology for the fashion show.

After the outrage, a complainant was filed in a Srinagar court by Aakil Nazir Khan, a leader of the Awami Ittehad Party, who alleged that the fashion event featured obscene content, insulted religious sentiments, and involved public consumption of alcohol.

Khan, represented by advocates Hasnain Khawja and Naveed Bukhtiyar, claimed the fashion show was "offensive and explicitly sexualized," especially since it took place during the holy month of Ramadan. He sought prosecution under Sections 296 and 299 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Section 50-A of the J&K Excise Act.

The Srinagar court later issued a pre-cognizance notice to the accused named in the complaint.

The accused, through their legal counsels, filed detailed responses before the court and rebutted the charges, submitting event permissions and alcohol service licences issued by local authorities.

They also placed on

record before the court copies of permission for serving liquor issued by Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive) Kashmir Division.

Special mobile magistrate, Srinagar, railway magistrate, Kashmir Faizan-I-Nazar said two models wearing skimpy clothes or swim wear in the broader scheme of the event do not attract the penal offence of obscenity so far as facts disclosed in the complaint pertain, hence cognizance cannot be taken of such offence.

The court also cited lack of requisite government sanction for pursuing charges under Section 299 BNS which proscribes deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs.

"As the complainant has not placed on record sanction of appropriate government, thus the bar for taking cognizance of such offence operates. The complainant can renew, if law permits so,

his complaint with respect to offence under section 299 BNS only after obtaining the sanction from the appropriate government as stipulated in the section 217 BNSS, 2023. At this stage in the absence of such sanction, this court cannot proceed to take cognizance of such offence," the court order issued on April 30 read.

On the complaint of consumption of alcohol at the event, the court said the local law bars taking cognizance of complaints made by private individuals.

"In view of above discussion this Court deems it fit not to proceed further in the complaint and is, accordingly, disposed of as such," the order read.

## Deputy Chief Minister inspects progress on construction works in Dak Bungalow Nowshera



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MAY 2

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary, today visited the PWD Dak Bungalow in Nowshera to inspect the progress on construction works being executed there.

The visit aimed to evaluate the progress on ongoing developmental works, especially conference hall at PWD Dak Bungalow Nowshera.

During his visit, the Deputy Chief Minister

was apprised that the estimated cost of the project is Rs 249 Lakh and it will be completed by December 2025.

The Dy CM inspected the quality of construction works and directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of progress while maintaining high standards in work execution. Highlighting the significance of infrastructure development, he directed the officials to ensure strict adherence to deadlines besides address-

ing any bottlenecks hindering the timely completion of projects.

"Quality should not be compromised at any cost, as these projects are pivotal for overall development of the region and well-being of the people," Surinder Chowdhary remarked.

The Deputy Chief Minister called for regular monitoring and evaluation of ongoing works to ensure transparency and accountability.

## Div Com Kashmir reviews progress under Special Summary Revision for 27-AC Budgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, MAY 2

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, who is also the Electoral Roll Observer, today chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved under the Special Summary Revision (SSR)-2025 of Electoral Rolls for 27-AC Budgam.

The meeting was held at the Conference Hall, Budgam, where Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo, who is also the District Election Officer (DEO), briefed the chair about the progress and status of work with regard to the SSR of Photo Electoral Rolls in the constituency.

At the outset, the ERO of 27-AC Budgam provided a detailed review of the progress achieved under SSR as of date, and also highlighted the number of fresh applications received, as well as the number of claims, objections, and rejections so far.

On the occasion, the ERO also briefed the chair that the Special Summary Revision commenced on 8th April and ended on 24th April, and will be published on 5th May 2025



accordingly for the 27-AC Budgam.

Div Com emphasised upon the concerned Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) to conduct revisions strictly according to the guidelines of the ECI and as per the notified schedule.

Div Com stressed on intensifying SVEEP activities and ensuring timely disposal of claims and objections.

ERO and AEROs were directed to cross-check the completed summary

revision with a focus on 100 percent enrolment of eligible voters, including the addition of new voters and deletion of duplicate voters, within the set timeline.

He emphasised that the successful conduct of all SVEEP programmes in 27-AC Budgam must focus on achieving maximum registration of all eligible voters in the constituency. ACR/ERO for 27-AC Budgam, Dy. Election Officer, AEROs, and representatives of various political parties were present in the meeting.

## Power Shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

According to Chief Engineer KPDCL that in view of pole erection, cable stringing and DTR earthing, the power supply from Badampora-Kurhama Dab 33 kv Line to receiving stations including Kurhama, Dab, GCET, Sainik School and feeding areas including Kurhama, Youngoora, Baroosa, Old Dab, Checki Baba, Sainik School, Rabitar, Kondbal, GCET, Safapora & adjoining areas shall remain affected on May 03 from 10Am to 4Pm.

## Javid Dar assesses functioning of Sheep Breeding Farm Khimber

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today visited Sheep Breeding Farm (SBF) Khimber here to assess the functioning of the facility and inspect the newly introduced Texel sheep breed imported from Australia.

MLA Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar; Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, Rafiq Ahmad and other senior officers of the department also accompanied the Minister during the visit.

While inspecting the facility, the Minister said, "The Texel sheep breed will emerge as a revolutionary force in the livestock industry in J&K. Its intro-



duction offers tremendous potential for transforming sheep rearing practices, enhancing productivity, and ultimately improving the livelihoods of our farming community."

He directed the concerned officers to organize awareness camps to educate farmers on the benefits and management

practices associated with the Texel breed. He highlighted that the awareness camps will serve as vital platforms to disseminate technical know-how and improve adoption of scientific sheep husbandry practices.

The Minister also appreciated the department for their efforts in successful

completion of the importation process of Texel Sheep.

During the visit, Director Sheep Husbandry informed the Minister on the introduction of around 450 high-quality Texel sheep; including 338 ewes and 112 rams—imported from Australia under the Holistic Agriculture

Development Programme (HADPP). He added that the initiative is aimed at addressing the J&K's substantial mutton demand of approximately 310 lakh kilograms annually.

He also informed that the Texel breed will be reared under intensive farming conditions at SBF Khimber, adding that the

breeding lines will be scientifically maintained to preserve pedigree records. He also briefed the Minister that the first-generation (F1) progeny will serve a dual purpose of establishing breed-based farms by distributing male and female Texel sheep to farmers in isolated clusters for further propagation and upgrading local sheep breeds by distributing superior-quality Texel rams to local farmers for breeding, with requisite approvals from the Scientific Advisory Committee of SKUAST.

Pertinently, the Minister's visit highlights the government's efforts towards strengthening the livestock sector through innovation, scientific management, and farmer-centric interventions.

## Chairman, Secretary, DLSA Shopian visit fire victims of Peer Mohalla



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, MAY 2

In a compassionate outreach to families affected by the recent devastating fire in Peer Mohalla, Shopian, Mehmoos Ahmad Chowdhury, Chairman DLSA Shopian along with Mudasar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Shopian today visited the affected area to assess the damages.

During the visit, the Chairman DLSA Shopian assured the victims that necessary steps would be taken to expedite com-

pensation through insurance companies.

He further directed SHO Shopian to expedite the investigation and determine the cause of the fire.

Accompanying the delegation were Mohammad Waseem Mirza, Munsiff and Rafiq Ahmad Ganie, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel who provided legal guidance and assistance to the distressed families, reinforcing the DLSA's commitment to upholding justice and welfare in times of crisis.

## Remarkable improvement of Government School in Board Results

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

Following the announcement of Class 12 examination results, it has become evident that teaching standards in government schools are progressing rapidly. There has been a significant and positive shift not only in innovative achievements but also in academic outcomes.

A recent example of this is the exceptional performance by students from the Valley in a national-level innovation competition, besides, remarkable performance of government school students by securing more than 100 merit positions in the Class 12 results.

Sharing the details, Director of School Education Kashmir, Dr. G. N. Itoo, stated that while the Class 12 results are encouraging with no school

having a pass percentage close to zero, the performance in Class 10 exams is equally commendable with 438 schools achieving over 90% pass percentage.

He further added that 219 schools recorded a 100% pass rate, which is extremely encouraging.

Expressing satisfaction over the success, Dr. Itoo said these achievements are the result of the students' hard work, the dedicated role of teachers, and the growing trust of parents in government schools.

Director affirmed his full confidence in the overall success rate of students in both Class 10 and 12 examinations, emphasizing that these statistics indicate a significant improvement in the quality of education. He credited this progress to initiatives like the establishment of various laboratory facilities, ICT labs,

implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and the provision of education aligned with modern-day requirements.

Dr. Itoo attributed this success to the collective efforts of teachers, school heads, and parents, stating that these achievements are the result of their consistent dedication.

He extended heartfelt congratulations to the successful students and assured that the government of Education will continue to ensure modern educational facilities are made accessible to students in every corner of Jammu and Kashmir.

It is worth noting that this year, 39,768 students appeared for the Class 10 exams, out of which 31,010 passed, bringing the overall pass percentage to 77.97%.

## Inter-School Zonal Level Tournament held at Ghat

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA MAY 02

An Inter-School Zonal Level Sports Competition was today organised at Ghat under the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and the guidance of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Pritam Singh.

The Zonal Physical Education Office coordinated the tournament featuring spirited contests in Volleyball, Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho.

The event drew enthusiastic participation from 162 students representing different schools of the Ghat Zone. The young athletes showcased remarkable talent, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the competition, making the event a vibrant celebration of youth and physical fitness.

Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Ghat Dinesh Kumar was the chief guest. He lauded the participants for their dedication and energy.



PEL and I/C ZPEO Surinder Kumar served as the Nodal Officer and played a crucial role in organizing and overseeing the event. The successful execution of the tournament was made possible by the collective efforts of all PEMs, PETs, and REKs.

A special vote of thanks was extended to the Block Medical Officer, Ghat, for deploying medical staff and ensuring first aid sup-

port on-site. The organizers also expressed sincere gratitude to the Diamond Youth Club Ghat for providing a free ambulance service, further contributing to the safety and smooth conduct of the event. The tournament not only promoted healthy competition but also reinforced the importance of sports and physical education among school students.

## Rogi Kalyan Samiti reviews patient care services in Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 2

The Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu hosted a meeting of Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS), a patient welfare committee, to discuss and implement initiatives aimed at improving Patient care services.

The meeting was chaired by MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa (Chairman of the committee) and attended by Chief Medical Officer Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh; Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr. Balvinder Singh and the members from other departments like PWD, PDD PHE, AYUSH, Information, ICDS, eminent members - Dr. Sunita Puri, Rahul, EX-corporator, Akhill along-with staff of Government Hospital

Gandhinagar Dr. Sanjeev, Dr. Poonam Manyal and Dr. Ruchita Mahajan.

The meeting focused on the quality improvement initiatives, patient amenities such as improving hospital infrastructure & providing support to patients who are admitted without any attendants. They discussed different patient safety protocols, implementation of staff dress code & the ways to overcome the shortage of staff in different departments of the hospital. This was followed by discussion on agenda points framed for the meeting of the RKS. It was noted that the Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu is situated in the heart of the city catering to nearby urban & rural population & strengthening of health care facilities

in this hospital is must to fulfill the needs of the general public.

The Chairman took a detailed tour of the hospital campus including Pediatrics ward, OPD Block, Blood Bank, Maternity Ward, MICU & interacted with patients, their attendants and elicited the patient response for working of staff of Govt Hospital Gandhinagar. He directed the staff to work with Zeal and enthusiasm in the interest of patient care and also admired the efforts of staff in providing patient care.

The meeting was concluded by a vote of thanks to all the dignitaries who were present on the occasion by Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr. Balvinder Singh.

## Mission Director JJM J&K reviews progress of Water Supply schemes in Rajouri district

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 02

Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah today reviewed the implementation of JJM in Rajouri district. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Rajouri, Executive Engineers of field divisions, AEEs and JEs including their counterparts from the Mechanical wing.

The chair was briefed about the schemes being executed in the district through a power point presentation elaborating that out of total 87,188 rural households in the district 55,454 have been provided with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) till date.

It was further informed that as many as 183 civil schemes comprising of 351 works which include 10 dugwells, 108 bore wells, 43 Rapid Sand Filtration plants (RSFP's), two overhead tanks (OHT's) 183 pipe networks and 5 Slow



Sand Filtration plants (SSFP's) are at different phases of execution, while 43 schemes comprising of 159 works stand completed till date.

The Mission Director, while commending the department for successfully drilling 107 bore wells in the district, stressed on immediate commissioning of Rapid Sand Filtration Plants (RSFP's) which form an essential component of ensuring quality drinking water to the beneficiaries. He stressed on effective

financial management to prevent cost escalation of Water Supply Schemes.

The MD was assured that most of these RSFP are in advanced stages of completion and will be commissioned soon along with other components of the ongoing schemes.

The MD was further informed that 145 mechanical schemes are being implemented in the district of which machinery has been procured for 92 schemes and 50 schemes have been completed.

## DC interacts with toppers of Board exams at Poonch



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, MAY 2

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Vikas Kundal today interacted with top scorers of class 12 and class 10 Board exams, the results of which were recently declared.

The students with 95% marks met with DC at his office. He congratulated the students for their exceptional academic achievements and praised their dedication and hardwork.

The DC lauded the government schools in providing quality education and nurturing the potential of students, even in the face of various challenges.

District Education and Planning Officer (DEPO) Mukhtar Manhas announced that a formal felicitation ceremony will be held soon to honor these outstanding students.

toppers included Shabana Mirze from GHSS Girls Surankote, who scored 491 marks (98.2%); Tabassam Latief Paswal, also from GHSS Girls Surankote, with 485 marks (97%) and Arzoo Asif Manhas from GHS Jaranwali Gali, who achieved 483 marks (96.6%).

The Class 12th toppers include Mohammad Motayoubo from GHSS Fatehpur with 478 marks (95.6%); Iqra Qureshi from GHSS Girls Surankote with 477 marks (95.4%); and Vanishika Bali from GHSS Girls Poonch, with 476 marks (95.2%).

## Police arrests drug peddler in Baramulla; Contraband substance recovered

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, MAY 2

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested a drug peddler in Baramulla and recovered contraband substance from his possession. A Police party of Police Station Baramulla at a checkpoint established near HP Gas Agency Drangbal, intercepted a person identified as Mohammad Afzal Khan son of Ata Mohammed Khan resident of Bimiyar Boniyar, Baramulla. During search, 1.15 kg of Charas like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been arrested.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 63/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Baramulla and investigation has been initiated.

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

## KU's North Campus hosts special awareness program on drug de-addiction

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

To raise awareness and strengthen collective efforts against drug abuse, the NSS Wing, North Campus, University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with District Administration Baramulla, J&K, organized a Special Awareness Programme under

the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

The event focused on highlighting the growing concerns around drug addiction and the urgent need to tackle it through education, community involvement, and institutional support. Experts from the Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare, Police,

and Rehabilitation Services shared their perspectives and shed light on the psychological, social, and legal dimensions of substance abuse.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofar Khan, in her message, emphasized the role of awareness and community engagement in curbing the menace.

“Addiction is not just a personal problem; it

is a social challenge that demands a collective and compassionate response. We must empower our youth with knowledge and a strong value system to resist such harmful influences,” she said.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad, Director, North Campus KU, said that prevention begins with conversations at

home, in classrooms, and within communities, where young people feel seen, heard, and guided in the right direction.

Dr. Sheikh also led a pledge-taking ceremony in which students, faculty, and staff vowed to promote a healthy lifestyle and support efforts to create a drug-free society. A short documentary was also screened during

the program that showed how deeply drug addiction affects individuals, families, and communities, especially the youth.

Students and faculty from various departments of the campus attended the programme. The event was coordinated by Mr. Bilal A. Kaloo, Programme Officer, NSS North Campus KU.

## Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India sells 4,80,896 units in April 2025

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 2

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India today announced its sales numbers for the month of April 2025. The company's total sales for April'25 stood at 4,80,896 units. This includes domestic sales of 4,22,931 units and 57,965 units exports.

HMSI introduced the updated OBD2B compliant versions of the Dio 125 with advanced new features. Moreover, the company's premium motorcycle portfolio has been further strengthened with the launch of the 2025 CB350, CB350 H'ness, and CB350RS, featuring vibrant new colours. Aligned with the global market action, HMSI also announced a voluntary recall for its CB300R motorcycle for certain units manufactured between 2018 to 2020.

Expanding road safety

awareness in India, HMSI promoted campaigns in 12 locations across India - Navsari (Gujarat), Yoi Cantt. (Himachal Pradesh), Rajapalayam (Tamil Nadu), Ranchi (Jharkhand), Bengdubi (West Bengal), Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Pune (Maharashtra), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh), Tiruvallur (Tamil Nadu), Jaipur (Rajasthan) and New Delhi. Additionally, HMSI celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Traffic Training Park in Hyderabad, advancing its efforts towards responsible road habits.

Honda India Foundation (HIF) held the valedictory ceremony of Project Buniyaad in Shillong, Meghalaya to mark the successful culmination of the training programme in Shillong, with 30 beneficiaries receiving job letters, paving the way for meaningful employment opportunities.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### Cloudburst triggers...

rains lashed several central and southern areas of Kashmir this afternoon.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is a possibility of brief spell showers at isolated to scattered places with thunder and gusty winds till May 05. KNO

### Bharat is axing...

tolerance approach against drugs the NCB has seized 1.36 crore psychotropic tablets from a distributor in Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. NCB has also seized 11,693 CBCS bottles and 2.9 kg of Tramadol powder from a manufacture in Haridwar, Uttarakhand. The total value of seized drugs is around Rs 547 crores.

In pursuance of the government's vision of Nasha Mukta Bharat, Amritsar Zonal Unit of NCB has busted major networks involved in illegal diversion and distribution of pharmaceutical medicines for non-medical use across Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi.

A sustained intelligence-driven operation and top to bottom and bottom to top approach in investigation of cases from December 2024 to April 2025 led to significant seizures and arrests, exposing a complex nexus between manufacturers, stockist, and front operators.

On April 20-21, 2025, the raids were conducted in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. The search in Uttarakhand resulted in seizure of 11,693 CBCS bottles and 2.9 kg of Tramadol powder from J R Pharmaceuticals. The search at the premises of key distributor, Embit Bio Medix, Himachal Pradesh, resulted in the seizure of 19,25,200 tablets and the search at the premise of Aashi pharmaceutical, Bawana, Delhi resulted in the seizure of 1.17 crore tablets of Tramadol and Alprazolam indicating massive unauthorized possession and illegal distribution of pharmaceuticals medicine. The proprietor of Embit Bio Medix was arrested earlier, while attempting to flee to Vietnam on April 18 at Indira Gandhi Airport, Delhi.

The investigation revealed that proprietor of Embit Bio Medix, Himachal Pradesh had previously operated in Delhi, where his drug license was cancelled in December 2022. Concealing this, he obtained a new license in Himachal Pradesh and also launched another firm in Delhi, registered under an associate's Aashi Pharmaceutical.

The investigation started four months ago when a person impersonating as a medical professional was intercepted at Amritsar with 2,280 Alprazolam and 1,220 Tramadol tablets. Further investigation revealed a local distribution chain, leading to several arrests and follow-up searches that resulted in the recovery of 21,400 more Tramadol tablets and 43,000 Alprazolam tablets.

In another case in February 2025, a separate seizure of 5,000 Tramadol Hydrochloride (Trek-100) tablets in Amritsar led investigators to a chain extending into Tarn Taran, Dehradun, and Manawala. The source trail pointed toward the illegal supply of pharmaceutical medicines by individuals operating without valid licenses, supported by dummy medical setups.

Investigations in both cases revealed involvement of same pharmaceutical manufacturing company that is J R pharmaceutical based in Haridwar, Uttarakhand which led to suspicion and through investigation conducted so far, has disclosed large-scale diversion of pharmaceuticals medicine by M/s J R Pharmaceuticals, Haridwar and others.

The follow up raids conducted in the month of February, 2025 at J R Pharmaceuticals led to seizures of 16,860 Tramadol tablets, 327 bottles of Codeine-based cough syrup, and 2.55 lakh loose Tramadol tablets (80.7 kg) hidden in drums. Further raids in the same month, based on information provided during interrogation, led to the seizure of 8,89,064 CBCS bottles held without valid documentation purportedly for diversion.

Investigation further revealed that several front stockist firms were found to be fake or non-operational and diversions of the drugs were carried out using them. One such firm, M/s Tiwari Medical Agency, Dehradun was found upon verification to be a sweet/tailor shop and proprietor of firm was found to be working as a maid, while other firms, M/s Kavati Health Care Pvt Ltd, Dehradun, and M/s Life Care Pharma, Kolkata found to be non-existent at declared address. The mastermind behind the dummy stockist M/s Tiwari Medical Agency was arrested, leading to the seizure of 1.24 lakh Alprazolam tablets from a roadside dhaba in Dehradun. The investigation revealed that he was getting the pharmaceutical drugs from other firms as well.

The NCB is actively coordinating with the GST Department, State Drug Controllers, Income Tax Authorities, CBN, and financial institutions to uncover the full extent of the drug diversion network.

Investigation conducted so far led to cumulative seizure of over 1.42 crore of Tramadol and Alprazolam tablets, 2.9 kg tramadol powder, and 9,01,084 CBCS bottles (approx. 135 tons), and arrest of 15 accused from four different states in last four months. Leads about involvement of others, have also been revealed during investigation and more seizures are expected in the next few weeks.

The seizure exemplifies the NCB's commitment to successfully dismantle drug networks. To fight against drug trafficking, NCB seeks the support of the citizens.

Any person can share information related to sale of narcotics by calling on MANAS- National Narcotics Helpline Toll Free Number-1933.

### ECI set to complete...

the schedule for electoral exercise by the Election Commission of India,” they said, adding that it will take into account the situation in Jammu and Kashmir following the Pahalgam attack before announcing the schedule for the upcoming polls.

Both these seats fell vacant in October last year. Omar Abdullah vacated the Budgam seat on October 21, while the Nagrota seat became vacant on October 31 following the demise of BJP MLA Devinder Singh Rana.

As per Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a bye-election to fill any vacancy must be conducted within six months from the date the seat was vacated.

However, the poll-body couldn't hold the exercise within the six-month deadline.

As of now, National Conference appears to have a strong position in the Budgam seat, benefiting from a weak and fragmented opposition in Kashmir. On the other hand, the BJP is expected to secure the Nagrota seat without significant obstacles.

In the 2014 and 2024 assembly polls, these seats were respectively won by NC and BJP. KNO

### Pak troops resort...

unprovoked actions violate the 2003 ceasefire agreement and will not be tolerated.

The Indian DGMO emphasized the need for Pakistan to adhere to bilateral commitments and cease all hostile activities along the LoC and IB. KNO

### India's GERD doubled...

such as the National Supercomputing Mission, Cyber-Physical Systems, and the recent National Quantum Mission. Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasised that DST's interventions have not only advanced science but also driven grassroots development, with focused efforts on women, children, and marginalised communities.

The Minister spotlighted India's rising global rankings as a measure of DST's impact – from a dramatic leap in the Global Innovation Index (from 81st in 2015 to 39th in 2024), to securing the 3rd spot globally in start-up numbers, PhDs in science and engineering, and research publications. India is now also ranked 6th worldwide in intellectual property filings.

But the core of Dr. Jitendra Singh's message was forward-looking: science must align with market forces. Advocating for “industry-determined innovation research,” he argued that sustainable innovation must be both driven and funded by private players. “In India, knowledge partnerships alone don't work – industry must have skin in the game,” he quipped, underlining that private sector buy-in is essential for enduring scientific success.

He also highlighted the role of the newly formed statutory body, ANRF (Anusandhan National Research Foundation), as a transformative force aimed at democratizing research funding and boosting university participation. Two major schemes – the 1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation Fund and the National Geospatial Mission – are now housed under DST's leadership.

Calling out a quiet revolution, Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed to the “digitalisation of mind” that has ignited India's scientific temper, reshaped India's socio-scientific fabric. “Even a semi-literate person today prefers WhatsApp over writing down a number – that's the extent of behavioural change,” he said, stressing that the real transformation lies not only in numbers but in the rise of aspiration and confidence among ordinary Indians.

The Minister didn't shy away from calling for a strategic return of talent from abroad, urging scientists to plan their overseas journeys with a return timeline. “India today has everything to offer. It's time we built a reverse pipeline for global talent,” he said.

Concluding on a note of optimism, Dr. Jitendra Singh declared, “This is one of the best times for science and research in India – and the best is yet to come.” The Foundation Day celebrations saw participation from Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, DST Secretary Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Dr. Sharad Sharma of ISPIRT, and Adil Zainulbhai, Chairman, CBC reflecting a strong convergence of scientific, institutional, and industry leadership.

### Pahalgam handlers...

They want us not to stay with them. Since 1947, they have tried to destroy as much as they can and will continue to try,” he said.

Seeking strict action against the accused in the Pahalgam terror strike that left 26 dead, Abdullah said, “The culprits should be caught and given exemplary punishment.”

The former Union minister was also suspicious about the involvement of local Kashmiris in the Pahalgam terror attack.

“I don't think this kind of thing can happen without some kind of help. Unless someone supports them, how

did they come, from where did they come?” he said.

Amid indications that Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist Rauf Asghar, brother of Jaish chief Masood Azhar, could be among the masterminds of the Pahalgam strike, Abdullah regretted the release of Masood Azhar by the Indian government in exchange for freeing the hostages of the hijacked Indian Airlines Flight 814 in Kandahar in December 1999.

“I said earlier too, when Azhar was released, I said don't release him. He has already made his paths. Who knows if he is involved in this too? But no one listened to me. They took him to Pakistan. Children were killed here. They shot my cousin at his home. We caught him with great difficulty, but they took him in a plane to Kandahar. No one listened to us in that,” he said. (Agencies)

### Pahalgam attack...

leader, Sunil Sharma on Friday said that the perpetrators will be hunted down and taught a lesson.

Sharma, according to the news agency said, “Everyone is aware that PM Modi fulfills his promise. But, we will have to wait for the revenge of the Pahalgam attack. Those responsible will be hunted down.”

Sharma also said that the country under the leadership of PM Modi has witnessed a change.

“The time has gone when the other countries would dare to undermine Bharat. It is Modi's Bharat and those responsible will be brought to justice,” he said. “Bharat continues to follow values of humanity even after witnessing the attacks like Uri, Pulwama and Pahalgam. India has never compromised with these values and witnessed the growth. However, some people who are not happy with this growth are trying to destabilize the peace and killing innocents,” he said.

He added that PM Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have already promised that the Pahalgam terror attack will be avenged. “India stands at the top and follows the values of humanity in letter and spirit,” he said.

Sharma also remembered Adi Shankaracharya and greeted the people on the occasion of Shankaracharya Jayanti. KNO

### J&K students enrolled...

the student tuition fee through UCO Bank.

According to the news agency, the Ministry has officially approved the transfer of student tuition fees to Iran through UCO Bank. “This important development now enables students to legally and securely send their tuition fees to Iranian universities using the official banking channel provided by UCO Bank,” said officials.

This breakthrough is the result of two years of continuous efforts and coordination with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New Delhi, the officials said.

“During the past over two years, we worked diligently to address the legal, financial and diplomatic aspects of the process. Our sincere gratitude goes to the Ambassador of Iran, whose guidance, support and active involvement played a vital role in facilitating communication with the relevant authorities and obtaining the necessary approvals,” the officials said.

“With this new channel in place, students and their families can now avoid unofficial or risky methods of fee transfer. The process through UCO Bank ensures transparency, legal compliance, and peace of mind for all parties involved.”

“We remain committed to supporting students in their educational journey and will continue to work towards simplifying and improving procedures that affect their academic progress,” the officials said. KNO

### Dal Lake boat capsizes...

was halted late in the evening due to poor visibility and fading light.

While one person was rescued earlier in the day, efforts to locate the second individual have so far been unsuccessful. The rescue teams plan to resume their search with the first light on Saturday morning.

Officials told the news agency that the incident occurred during gusty winds when two fishermen in the lake were caught off guard. Their boat was overwhelmed by the sudden weather change and capsized near Duck Park.

“The two fishermen jumped into the water in an attempt to save themselves. One of them, identified as Abdul Majeed Khosa, son of Mohammad Sultan Khosa from Rainawari, Srinagar, was rescued immediately. Despite continuous efforts, the second person, Taufeeq Ahmad Chopan (24), son of Ghulam Mohammad Chopan, a resident of Chopan Mohalla, Rainawari remains missing,” an official said.

The rescue operation involved teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) along with divers and rescue boats deployed to thoroughly scan the area. However, as darkness set in, the operation was suspended due to limited underwater visibility and poor lighting conditions.

An SDRF official said that despite extensive search efforts using specialised equipment, there were no signs of the missing person.

“The rescue teams will resume the search at first light tomorrow (Saturday) morning to ensure all efforts are exhausted in locating the individual,” the official said. KNO

## Indian Army conducts Ayush, Vet Camp at Balmatkote, Reasi



JI NEWS SERVICE  
REASI: 02 MAY 2025

As part of continued efforts to reach out to the remote and underserved areas of Jammu & Kashmir, the Indian Army organised a Comprehensive AYUSH and Veterinary Camp at Balmatkote. The initiative was aimed at providing much-needed healthcare service to the local populace with a special focus on remote villages having limited access to medical facilities. The camp witnessed participation from dedicated teams of doctors from the Indian Army, specialists in AYUSH (Ayurveda Yoga & Naturopathy) and Veterinary experts. A wide range of services were provided, including general health

check-ups, distribution of free medicines, Veterinary treatment and vaccination of Livestock's, AYUSH consultations, awareness sessions on Health & Hygiene. More than 425 local residents including Gujjar & Bakarwal and 235 livestock benefited from the day-long camp. The event was well received by the villagers, who expressed immense gratitude for the Indian Army's sustained support and humanitarian outreach in the region. This initiative is part of the Indian Army which aims to foster goodwill, trust and collaboration with the Army's commitment to support the health and well-being of citizens in the most remotest and challenging terrain.

## Inter-College Table Tennis tournament-men concludes at KU

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

The annual Inter-College Table Tennis Tournament (men) concluded successfully here at the University of Kashmir (KU).

The tournament was organized by the varsity's Directorate of Physical Education and Sports (DPE&S), as part of its annual sports calendar.

Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar, lifted the trophy after an impressive final performance (3-0). The tournament, held over three days, witnessed participation from 16 affiliated colleges across Kashmir, bringing together over 100 talented paddlers who displayed remarkable skill, deter-

mination, and sportsmanship throughout the competition.

In grand finale, Islamia College Srinagar defeated GDC Anantnag with 3-0 to clinch the title. The third-place match (bronze) was played between GDC Uri and GDC Baramulla, wherein GDC Baramulla emerged victorious in a tough contest 2-1.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Dr. Surjeet Singh, Coordinator, DPE&S KU, congratulated the winners and runners-up teams and emphasised the Directorate's continuous efforts to enhance the competitiveness and excitement of these tournaments by ensuring the involvement of all affiliated colleges.

## District Social Welfare Department (SANKALP) HEW signs MoU with GDC Ramgarh to empower Women Affinity Group

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, MAY 2

To empower young women through skill development and other schemes & facilities. Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the District Social Welfare Department (SANKALP-HEW).

The MoU was signed by the College Principal Dr. Meeru Abrol, and District Social Welfare Officer (Nodal Officer, SANKALP HEW) Nawaz Sharief. Also present at the event were Associate Professor Dr. Aditi Khajuria and Associate Professor Dr. Snobar, along with District Mission Coordinator Social Welfare Department Dr. Ruchi Thakur & Gender Specialist, SANKALP, HEW, Social Welfare Department Mansi Abrol.



As part of this collaboration, Hub for Empowerment of Woman (HEW) has been established in the College, offering a dedicated platform to women students pursuing higher education & various other fields. The initiative will offer students various opportunities, including participation in knowledge-building sessions, skill-enhancement workshops, industry-oriented training programs, and networking events organized by SANKALP-HEW.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Meeru Abrol hailed District Social Welfare Department (SANKALP-HEW) ini-

tiatives for the College. She highlighted the importance of such schemes & various knowledge building programmes and reaffirmed her commitment to supporting future initiatives that contribute to the holistic development of students.

This partnership marks another significant step by the District Social Welfare Department (SANKALP-HEW), Samba towards fostering skill development and financial empowerment among young women, reinforcing its mission to create a brighter future for women in Jammu and Kashmir.

## District Admin Ramban intensifies anti-drug campaign

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, MAY 2

In a determined effort to combat the menace of drug abuse, the District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, intensified its anti-drug campaign under the nationwide Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir initiative.

A series of awareness activities were organized across various educational institutions in the district to sensitize students and the community about the harmful effects of drug and substance abuse.

These initiatives are part of a sustained campaign initiated by DC Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary to eradicate drug abuse and build a safer, healthier future for the youth of Ramban.

In Gool, the girl students of the Government Model Higher Secondary School led from the front by conducting sensitization drives within their community. Their active participation and leader-



ship underlined the role of youth especially young women in driving social change.

At the PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Tethar, students actively participated in anti-drug pledge ceremonies and awareness programs aimed at promoting a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

Similarly, the PM Shri Government High School Chakka also held awareness events under the same campaign, where students took part in discussions and activities emphasizing the importance of staying away from

drugs. In a notable grassroots effort, the students of the Government High School Shagan staged a Nukkad Natak (street play) highlighting the devastating impact of drug addiction. The performance received appreciation for its impactful message and creativity.

Meanwhile, students at Kaskoot, Bankoot and various other schools took a pledge to observe the Anti-Tobacco campaign and joined the Nasha Mukta Bharat campaign, reaffirming their commitment to an addiction-free lifestyle.

## Celebrating Excellence: Dir Education felicitates Sehrish Jahangir

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, MAY 2

A felicitation ceremony was held at Higher Secondary School Bugam, Kulgam, to honor outstanding academic achievers. The highlight of the event was the recognition of Sehrish Jahangir, a 12th class student of the institution, who secured 2nd position in the Science stream across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The ceremony was graced by the Director of School Education, Kashmir, Dr. G. N. Itoo, who felicitated Sehrish Jahangir for her exceptional performance. Dr Itoo also congratulated the students, their parents, and teachers for their hard work and success in the Class 10th and 12th examinations for which results were declared by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE).

In his address, Dr Itoo stated that the Department of Education has implemented the National Education Policy 2020 and undertaken several initiatives to modernize school education, among which the establishment of ICT laboratories is particularly noteworthy. He added that aligning the education system with contemporary demands remains



a top priority of the state government.

On this occasion, Chief Education Officer Kulgam, Mohammad Shabir, welcomed the Director and expressed that his presence had greatly encouraged successful students, teachers, and field officers across the district. He also briefed the Director on the overall educational landscape of the district and mentioned that educational services are being advanced in full accordance with the Direc-

tor's guidance.

Dr. Itoo, while addressing the gathering, further lauded the efforts of the students and the faculty, emphasizing the importance of dedication, hard work, and quality education in shaping the future of the region.

The event concluded with a round of applause and appreciation for the young achievers, with Sehrish Jahangir serving as an inspiration for her peers and juniors.

## ADC reviews working of school Education Department in Bhadarwah, Bhalla Zones

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BHADERWAH, MAY 2

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Bhutyal today chaired a meeting with key stakeholders of the Education Department of Bhadarwah and Bhalla zones to review academic activities in the schools and execution of different schemes. The meeting was attended by the Chief Education Officer, ZEOs of Bhaderwah and Bhalla, ZPEOs of both zones, and Principals from all GHSSs of the Sub Division.

The meeting focused on measures to improve quality of education and assessment of developmental projects related to school infrastructure, student enrollment, and resource allocation.

The ADC directed the officials to ensure timely completion of ongoing infrastructure works, such as classroom repairs, drinking water facilities and sanitation improvements as per quality standards.

A major area of focus



during the meeting was the growing concern of drug abuse among students and youth. The ADC instructed school heads to collaborate with civil society, parents, and local law enforcement to create awareness and implement preventive strategies. He also suggested organizing anti-drug campaigns, counselling sessions, active participation of students in sports activities and moral education programs to steer students toward a healthy lifestyle and responsible behavior.

Promoting social harmony and a safe learning

environment was also discussed. The ADC asked for imbuing inclusiveness and values of unity, tolerance, and discipline among the students. The Principals were urged to take proactive steps in addressing grievances of students and ensure that teachers maintain a positive, engaging environment in classrooms.

The meeting concluded with directions to ensure transparency in educational programmes, effective use of ICT labs and smart classrooms, and regular teacher performance evaluations.

## DC reviews working of FCS&CA Department in Poonch

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, MAY 2

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a review meeting here today to assess the working of the Food Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs Department.

Assistant Director FCS&CA Adil Shabir and all Tehsil Supply Officers (TSOs) of the district attended the meeting.

At the outset, the Assistant Director FCS&CA gave a detailed presentation regarding the functioning of the department. He said that the district has ample stocks of essential commodities including wheat, rice, LPG, petrol and diesel.

A thorough discussion ensued and the DDC reviewed the status of e-KYC/e-Shram/NFSA/Non-NFSA & PMFSS schemes focusing on three categories of Non-Priority Households (NPHH), Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). He reviewed the current status and



issues faced by the TSOs from various zones in the district.

The DDC reviewed E-KYC reports from each zone and asked the TSOs to complete the E-KYC registration in their jurisdictions. He also discussed issues related to online transactions, instructing officers to only provide ration through online mode. Manual or offline ration provision is not permitted only in areas having network issues. The Assistant Director was asked to review the network location of the offline PoS Machine again.

## DC, SSP interact with Civil Society members at Poonch



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, MAY 2

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal and Senior Superintendent of Police Shafakat Hussain convened a meeting with civil society members and religious leaders to address local developmental issues. The gathering aimed to gather feedback and coordinate efforts for the betterment of the district.

Key attendees included DDC Members, ADC, ACR, DSWO/DIO, Tehsildar Haveli, ARTO, Former MLC, and the BDC Members, along with prominent civil society members and religious leaders. Participants shared their concerns regarding the need for unity and communal harmony, reaffirming their commitment to support the administration.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal listened attentively to all issues raised, assuring attendees that their concerns would be prioritized. He emphasized the administration's commitment to the district's development and the necessity of cooperation to foster communal harmony.

The SSP underscored the importance of safety and security for all residents, highlighting collaboration as key to building a peaceful community.

## Chairman DLSA Budgam holds meeting of Judicial Officers, stresses on identification of court cases for settlement in National Lok Adalat

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BUDGAM, MAY 2

Following directions of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, JK Legal Services Authority, a meeting of Judicial Officers of District Budgam was held under the chairmanship of O.P Bhagat, Pr. District & Sessions Judge and Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, (DLSA) Budgam, here.

Yahaya Firdous, Additional District and Session Judge Budgam, Imran Hussain Wani Sub-Judge/Chief Judicial Magistrate Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak Sub Judge/Secretary District Legal Services Author-



ity Budgam, Easar ul Nabi Shah Special Mobile Magistrate Budgam and Tasneem Kawoosa Munsiff/JMIC Budgam attended the meeting in person while Iqbal Rafiq Vakeel Sub judge, Chadoora, Nazia Hassan Munsiff/JMIC

Budgam, Rabiya Snobar Gulzar Munsiff Magam, Aiman Aiman Munsiff/JMIC Char-i-Sharif and owfeel Ahmad Mir Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Beerwah attended the meeting virtually. During the meeting,

Chairman DLSA stressed upon all Judicial officers to identify the maximum number of pending court cases for their amicable settlement in the upcoming National Lok Adalat scheduled on 10th of May, 2025.

He emphasized upon all officers to focus on old cases and identify these cases for the said National Lok Adalat. He also stressed to identify Civil Suits, Matrimonial disputes, 138 NI Act cases etc, where there is an element of settlement for the said National Lok Adalat so that the cases of more and more litigants can be amicably resolved.

## Kupwara admn bids farewell to outgoing Dy. DEO Abdul Hamid

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, MAY 2

District administration Kupwara today bade a warm farewell to the outgoing Deputy District Election Officer, Abdul Hamid, in a ceremony held here. While acknowledging Hamid's dedicated service, Deputy Commissioner, Ayushi Sudan praised his commitment to upholding democratic processes and his efficient handling of electoral responsibilities in the district. She expressed appreciation for his professionalism and collaborative spirit during the tenure in district. ACR Kupwara, Mumtaz Ahmad, and staff of Election Office were present at the occasion and shared their experiences working with outgoing Officer, wishing him success in his future assignments.

The event concluded with the presentation of a memento as a token of appreciation for his contributions to the district administration.

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender No:- 08 & 09-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR		Date: 30.04.2025	
DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> with closing date- 22.05.2025 & 21.05.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
29.04.2025	08.05.2025 & 07.05.2025	22.05.2025 & 21.05.2025 / 15:00 Hrs	
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	
1.	08-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR	CTR(s) 1.00 KM in Mechanical Workshop at ASR in c/w Augmentation of facility for testing of newly built wagon by ASRW for G-105 certification.	
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money
		89,59,612.92/-	1,79,200.00/-
		Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		60 Days	04 Months
<b>Similar nature of work</b> - "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of track/screening distressing of track/pre & post works for track maintenance machine like lamping machine/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28."			
2.	09-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR	Augmentation of Amritsar Workshop by providing new administrative building with Account department & Personal department at Amritsar Workshop.	
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money
		3,26,09,280.69/-	3,13,100.00/-
		Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		60 Days	06 Months
<b>Similar nature of work</b> - "Any civil work other than track work."			
<b>Note 1.</b> Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			1307/25

## EDITORIAL

## Upholding the Pillar of Democracy on World Press Freedom Day

May 3rd marks World Press Freedom Day, a reminder not only of the fundamental role the press plays in democratic societies but also of the growing threats it faces around the world. In 2025, as global conflicts intensify, misinformation proliferates, and authoritarian tendencies gain traction, defending press freedom has become more critical—and more challenging—than ever.

A free press is not a luxury. It is the bedrock of accountability, transparency, and informed citizenry. Journalists uncover truths, amplify marginalized voices, and hold those in power to account. Without a press that is free, independent, and protected, democratic societies risk becoming hollow, susceptible to propaganda and manipulation.

Yet the reality is stark. Reporters continue to face harassment, imprisonment, and even death for doing their jobs. Governments deploy surveillance tools, criminalize dissent, and manipulate laws to stifle investigative reporting. Even in countries that champion democratic values, political polarization and economic pressures have eroded editorial independence and undermined public trust in the media.

This year's theme, "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis," rightly underscores the essential role journalists play in addressing humanity's greatest collective challenge—climate change. Investigative reporting has exposed illegal deforestation, pollution, and greenwashing. But environmental journalists are increasingly targeted by powerful interests seeking to silence scrutiny. Protecting these reporters is not just a matter of press freedom—it is a matter of global survival.

On this World Press Freedom Day, we must do more than commemorate. Governments must strengthen legal protections for journalists, uphold the independence of media institutions, and ensure that violence and intimidation do not go unpunished. Tech platforms must take greater responsibility in curbing disinformation without curbing legitimate speech. And citizens must continue to support credible journalism, recognizing it not as a product, but as a public good.

Press freedom is not a given—it is a fight renewed with every generation. Today, as the world stands at the crossroads of truth and tyranny, we reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding this pillar of democracy. Without a free press, we do not have a free society. And without courageous journalists, we lose the voice of reason in times of chaos.

# Green Bonds: Powering the net-zero transition

YASH MEHTA

The energy sector is the backbone of the global economy, and transitioning from fossil fuels to renewables demands massive upfront capital—often beyond the reach of public budgets alone.

As the world grapples with escalating impacts of climate change, the need for sustainable financial solutions has never been more urgent. Achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector by mid-century will require total global clean energy investment of USD 4.5 trillion by 2030.

Clean energy investment stands at approximately USD 1.8 trillion globally (CY 2023) as against USD 1.1 trillion invested in 2015. Despite these trends, clean energy investment levels remain below what is needed to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector.

As recent years have demonstrated, favourable macroeconomic conditions (e.g. the Russia-Ukraine war) and low cost of capital cannot be taken for granted. The monetary tightening undertaken by central banks also had implications for the cost of capital overall—and therefore also potential knock-on effects for clean energy investment and the net-zero transition.

While emerging and developing economies (excluding China) comprise two-thirds of the

global population, they represent less than one-fifth of global clean energy investment, indicating that investment remains unevenly distributed across the globe. To align with a pathway to net zero by 2050, clean energy investment in developing countries (excluding China) needs to increase almost sevenfold. Green bonds have emerged as a powerful tool to channel capital toward clean energy projects, offering a bridge between environmental goals and economic realities.

By aligning investor interests with planetary needs, these instruments are reshaping how we fund the transition to a low-carbon future. Green bonds are fixed-income securities designed to raise funds for projects with environmental benefits. Unlike traditional bonds, their proceeds are earmarked for initiatives like renewable energy installations, energy efficiency upgrades, sustainable transportation, wastewater treatment, reforestation, etc.

Introduced in 2007 by the European Investment Bank with its Climate Awareness Bond, the green bond market has since then made significant strides. In 2023 alone, global issuance surpassed USD 500 billion, according to the Climate Bonds Initiative, reflecting growing demand from both issuers and investors.

The appeal lies in their simplicity: issuers—Governments, corpo-

rations, pension funds, insurance companies or financial institutions—borrow money from investors, who receive regular interest payments, while the funds are deployed to combat climate change.

Transparency is the key, issuers must report on how proceeds are used, often adhering to frameworks like the Green Bond Principles, voluntary guidelines that ensure credibility and accountability. While returns on green bonds are typically comparable to conventional bonds, their environmental impact offers a dual benefit: financial stability plus a stake in a cleaner planet.

India's energy demand is soaring, projected to double by 2040 as urbanisation and industrialisation accelerate. Coal still powers over 50 per cent of its electricity, making the shift to renewables urgent yet capital-intensive. A single gigawatt of solar capacity, for instance, requires roughly 4,000 crore upfront.

As the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases—yet a nation with vast renewable energy potential—it faces the dual challenge of powering its growing economy while curbing environmental damage.

Introduced globally in 2007, they gained traction in India in 2015 when Yes Bank issued the country's first green bond, raising 1,000 crore for renewable energy. IREDA has used green bond proceeds to finance over 10 GW of

renewable capacity since 2017, supporting rural electrification and off-grid solar systems. In 2022, India took a landmark step by issuing its first sovereign green bonds—raising 16,000 crore to fund solar, wind, and green hydrogen projects.

In 2023, NTPC raised USD 750 million internationally for renewable projects. There have been other private player issuances as well, and these examples highlight a key strength: green bonds can scale solutions across borders and sectors, making clean energy accessible where it is needed most. Despite progress, India's green bond market faces hurdles.

At USD 30 billion in cumulative issuance by 2025, it is a fraction of the global USD 2 trillion market—constrained by rigorous disclosures/certifications and limited investor awareness. Small and medium enterprises, crucial for decentralised energy solutions, often lack the creditworthiness or expertise to issue bonds—leaving the market dominated by large corporates and public entities.

Greenwashing—where projects are labelled as sustainable without delivering real impact, remains a concern.

SEBI introduced green bond guidelines in 2017, mandating disclosures, but enforcement remains patchy. Robust certification and third-party verification, such as the Climate Bonds Standard, are critical to maintaining

trust. India's green finance ecosystem is evolving.

RBI's inclusion of green bonds in priority sector lending in 2024 has spurred bank participation. India's green financing push could gain new momentum this year, with the Government exploring plans to increase its 25,000 crore target for issuing sovereign green bonds. This suggests a turnaround in the Government's stance, when it was considering a plan to fall back on conventional Government securities and other debt instruments for green financing—as green bonds have delivered only modest returns.

Green bonds and climate finance can transform how India funds its clean energy ambitions. By harnessing capital markets, they offer scalable and market-driven solutions to a pressing global challenge. For a nation balancing development with sustainability, green bonds are not just financial mechanisms—they are a commitment to a greener and more resilient future.

It is also essential that countries put in place supportive frameworks that enable access to capital at low cost. This includes implementing political commitments to climate action and climate policy packages; putting in place structures that support predictable, efficient, and transparent governance; and developing and strengthening financial markets.

A major surge in

clean energy investment between now and 2030 is crucial to keep the objective of net-zero emissions by mid-century within reach. The scale and speed of the transition required to achieve net-zero emissions by mid-century mean that investment capital cannot exclusively target clean energy projects in low-risk environments. Investment must increase significantly in two areas typically seen as higher risk: in developing countries and in nascent clean energy technologies.

In conclusion, green bonds represent a vital financial instrument to drive the global shift toward clean energy, especially in developing nations like India. While progress is evident, investment remains far below what is needed to meet net-zero goals by 2050. Bridging this gap requires not only increased capital but also robust policy frameworks, transparency, and inclusive market access.

As the climate crisis intensifies, leveraging green finance can unlock scalable, market-driven solutions. For India and the world, green bonds offer more than just funding—they embody a long-term commitment to sustainable development, resilience, and a low-carbon future for generations to come.

**(The writer is General Manager, Project & Corporate Finance, AMPIN Energy Transition. Views are personal)**

## Global trade slumps as India defies the trend

SHIVAJI SARKAR

The US tariff war resetting the world order of 80 years slows down global growth to 2.8 per cent in 2025—down from the January forecast of 3.3 per cent—says the World Economic Outlook (WEO) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF seemingly has a grim forecast as it foresees repetition of the Great Depression (GD) or worse, as the US effective tariff rate surged past levels reached during the GD, while counter-responses from major trading partners significantly pushed up the global rate.

The world may be in turmoil, as the US may plunge into severe slowdown with its growth dipping to 1.8 per cent—a 90-basis point loss. The problems could surpass economic trouble, leading to worsening trade tensions—a hint towards a bigger political conflict.

The silver lining—India is to grow at 6.2 per cent, almost in sync with Reserve Bank of India projections, though China is likely to lose steam as its GDP growth is downgraded to 4 per cent, down from 4.6 per cent in the January 2025 WEO forecast. For India, however, the growth outlook is relatively more stable.

The IMF projects steady expansion for the Indian economy, supported by firm private consumption, particularly in rural areas. In a global environment marked by uncertainty and subdued growth, India's resilience stands out—reinforcing its role as a key driver of global economic activity. Despite these revisions, India's robust growth trajectory continues to set it apart on the global stage.



The projections could change the global investment pattern. It might create additional interest in India, despite the capital flight witnessed in the country's bourses, a falling rupee against the dollar, and surging gold and silver prices. The rupee could fall further, as the WEO states the US benefits as the tariff—imposing country, with the dollar appreciating further. The global investment scenario could face difficulties, adding to the problems in the Indian market.

However, greater policy uncertainty, dimmer US growth prospects, and an adjustment in the global demand for dollar assets—which has so far been orderly—can weigh down on the dollar. In the medium term, the dollar may depreciate if the tariffs translate into lower productivity in the US tradable goods sector relative to its trading partners.

Risks to the global economy have increased, and worsening trade tensions could further depress growth. Financial conditions could tighten further as markets react negatively to the diminished growth prospects and increased uncertainty. While banks remain well capitalised overall, financial markets may face more severe tests. Tariffs constitute a negative supply shock, leading to productivity loss accompanied by higher production prices and increased rent-seeking—a word for rising corruption—that could further impact world growth. Monopolisation could increase as competition decreases.

In the US, demand was already softening before the recent policy announcements, reflecting greater policy uncertainty. With a one-percentage-point rise in inflation above the 2 per cent predicted earlier, it could spur global prices to rise.

Growth in the Euro area, which is subject to relatively lower effective tariffs, is revised down by 0.2 percentage point to 0.8 per cent. Both in the Euro area and China, stronger fiscal stimulus will provide some support this year and next. Many emerging market economies could face significant slowdowns depending on where tariffs settle. The WEO lowers its growth forecast for the group by 0.5 percentage point to 3.7 per cent.

### Uncertainty Rises, Oil Softens

Dense global supply chains, the WEO says, can magnify the effects of tariffs and uncertainty. Most traded goods are intermediate inputs that cross borders multiple times before being turned into final products. Disruptions can propagate up and down the global input-output network with potentially large multiplier effects—as seen during the pandemic.

Companies facing uncertain market access will likely pause in the near term, reduce investment, and cut spending.

Likewise, financial institutions will reassess borrowers' exposure. The increased uncertainty and tightening of financial conditions could well dominate the short term, weighing on economic activity, as reflected in the sharp decline in oil prices.

Risks to the global economy have increased, and worsening trade tensions could further depress growth. Financial conditions could tighten further as markets react negatively to the diminished growth prospects and increased uncertainty.

While banks remain well capitalised overall, financial markets may face more severe tests. "Growth prospects could, however, immediately improve if countries ease their current trade policy stance and forge new trade agreements. Addressing domestic imbalances can, over a period of years, offset economic risks and raise global output while contributing significantly to closing external imbalances.

For Europe, this means spending more on infrastructure to accelerate productivity growth—a prescription that increases cut-money syndrome. It also means boosting support for domestic demand in China and stepping up fiscal consolidation in the US," says the WEO. The scenarios are painted with many conditionalities. In short, the IMF does not appear optimistic. Assessing global financial stability, it says that risks have increased significantly as financial conditions tightened and economic and trade policy uncertainty

remain elevated.

There are three key vulnerabilities: high valuations in some major segments indicating further deterioration and tightening, which would impact emerging markets' currencies, asset prices, and capital flows. Second, some financial institutions could come under strain in volatile markets such as banking and non-banking NBFCs. Third, further turbulence could descend upon sovereign bond markets, especially in jurisdictions where Government debt levels are high. More challenged market functioning and the unwinding of popular leveraged trades in core sovereign bond markets could contribute to further volatility. Emerging market economies—already facing the highest real financing costs in a decade—may now need to refinance their debt and fund fiscal spending at higher costs.

Overall, investor concerns about public debt sustainability and other fragilities in the financial sector can worsen in a mutually reinforcing fashion. As the IMF reaffirms India's economic resilience, the country's role as a key driver of global growth continues to gain prominence. It feels the country can sustain momentum in a complex international environment. Despite that, the threat is not diminished. It is witnessed in its volatile bullion and currency markets, inflation indicators, and manufacturing. India has chances to stand apart—but weathering the global winds will not be easy.

**(The author is a political analyst. Views are personal)**

## Even short-term antibiotic use may cause resistance in gut bacteria

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

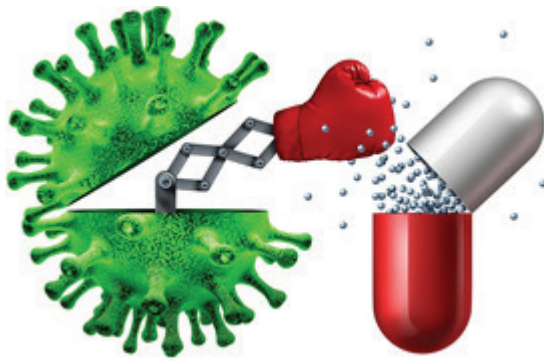
As antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has become a global health concern, with millions of deaths occurring each year due to it, a new study showed how even a short period of antibiotic use can lead to persistent resistance in human gut bacteria.

Researchers from the Stanford University in the US focused their study on ciprofloxacin -- used to treat bacterial infections in many different parts of the body.

They showed that ciprofloxacin can lead to resistance that can emerge independently across diverse species and continue for more than 10 weeks.

AMR is widely driven by excessive and inappropriate antibiotic use.

Previously studies have relied on in vitro experiments and animal models to understand AMR. But, the new study, published



in the journal Nature, performed a longitudinal metagenomic study to explain how resistance evolves in 60 humans.

The researchers prescribed 500 mg of ciprofloxacin to 60 healthy adults, to be taken twice daily for five days.

The team used stool samples and a computational tool to reconstruct 5,665 genomes representing commensal bacterial populations and identified

2.3 million genetic variants.

Among these, 513 populations showed genetic changes or mutations in gyrA -- a gene associated with fluoroquinolone resistance. Fluoroquinolones are a class of broad-spectrum antibiotics that work by interfering with bacterial DNA replication, ultimately killing the bacteria.

Many mutations typically arise independently

within individuals. Nearly 10 per cent of initially susceptible bacterial populations acquired resistance through these mutations.

The resistance persisted beyond 10 weeks and was predicted to remain detectable for up to a year.

Notably, resistance was more likely to emerge in populations that were abundant before treatment. These also experienced significant declines during exposure.

"These findings revealed that brief ciprofloxacin exposure drives the evolution of resistance in gut commensals, with mutations persisting long after exposure," said the researchers in the paper.

"This study underscores the capacity of the human gut to promote the evolution of resistance and identifies key genomic and ecological factors that shape bacterial adaptation in vivo (in humans)," they added.

## Just 3 minutes of moderate activity daily can boost heart health in elderly

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Just three minutes a day of moderate activity may be enough to boost better heart health in older adults, according to a study.

Previous studies have shown that as people age, many do not engage in physical activity, increasing their chances of experiencing a cardiovascular event.

In the new study, researchers from the UK and Australia noted that doing household chores or shopping for groceries -- referred to as incidental activities -- may also be enough to boost health. Incidental physical activity (IPA) encompasses activities of daily living outside the leisure-time domain



and includes preparing meals, keeping the house clean, mowing the lawn, or gardening.

"Any daily IPA amount of vigorous or moderate-intensity was associated with lower cardiovascular disease risk in a dose-response manner," said the researchers from the University of Sydney. "Our findings highlight

the potential cardiovascular health value of incidental physical activity, especially for people who struggle to do structured exercise," they added.

In the study published in the journal Circulation, the team analysed data on 24,139 people who wore wrist monitors that tracked their activity levels and who self-identified as

non-exercisers.

These were compared with those whose wrist monitors showed they engaged in regular moderate activity with those who were more or less active.

The results showed that people who engaged in regular moderate incidental activity had a lower risk of experiencing a cardiovascular event or dying from one.

More specifically, the team found that people who were moderately active for at least three minutes regularly reduced their chances of having a heart attack, stroke, or other type of cardiovascular event.

The key is to try to do several short-duration activities every day, said the researchers.

## Sleep well, avoid junk food to keep your liver healthy

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Having a good night's sleep and avoiding junk food is essential to keep the liver healthy, said Dr. S.K. Sarin, Director of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) on Friday.

He said that junk food, as the name suggests, must be put in dustbins as its regular consumption can significantly affect liver health.

"The word junk food means it is junk. It has to be put in the dustbin. But if you think your stomach and intestines are dustbins, put that food inside. Otherwise, avoid, don't use it," Sarin said, in a post on social media platform X.

Junk food which is rich in unhealthy fats, sugars, and processed ingredients increases the risk of obesity, high cholesterol, and type 2 diabetes. These diseases then raise the chances of non-alcoholic fatty



liver disease (NAFLD), and progress to more serious complications like cirrhosis and liver cancer.

Sarin also urged people to sleep well and not eat late as it may affect the gut bacteria, critical for better health. Studies have shown that people with poor sleep are at increased risk of fatty liver disease.

Further, eating late at night has been linked to a higher risk of significant fibrosis -- a sign of liver damage. It is because the body is unable to process

fat and carbohydrates during sleep, leading to their accumulation in the liver.

"Sleeping late and eating late-night food is not a great idea, because the bacteria in your intestines which process the food, will also sleep late. Restorative good sleep is the best thing," the leading hepatologist said.

Sarin advised people to not lose their health by running after "money, power and positions". Instead maintaining "a

sound healthy body and good night's sleep" is essential as these are the "only two things which give happiness in life", the expert said.

NAFLD, currently termed metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), is a chronic liver disease that occurs when fat builds up in the liver in people who don't drink much alcohol. It can affect people with diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, or high cholesterol.

Fatty liver disease is emerging as an important cause of liver disease in India, affecting about three in 10 people in the country.

In September last year, the Union Health Ministry released the revised operational guidelines and training module for MAFLD to promote early detection and help boost patient care and outcomes related to the disease.

## Social Justice department brainstorms issues affecting beggars, homeless

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) has hosted a seminar to understand and deliberate on strategies and share knowledge regarding rehabilitating beggars, the homeless, and the destitute in the country.

The seminar in collaboration with the World Bank, was held with the theme 'Hard to Reach Population - SMILE (Beggary)' in the national capital.

The event, witnessing participation from both national and international experts, formed part of an ongoing knowledge seminar series aimed at deepening dialogue and action to strengthen social protection systems for the most vulnerable sections of society in India.

"We need to hear directly from real stakeholders -- those who have transitioned out of begging -- to understand the



root causes and impact of support systems," said Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, while sharing his vision on inclusive development and disability-friendly outreach.

He also acknowledged the complexity of the issue, touching upon its

social, religious, and economic dimensions.

"It is important for individuals to have foundational documentation -- such as having a registered address, a bank account, and access to healthcare -- to enable identification and support in vulnerable conditions," said Benedicte Leroy De La Briere,

Lead Economist, World Bank, while bringing a global lens to the discussion on beggary rehabilitation.

Noting that such events provide valuable grassroots insights and authentic data from the field, La Briere stressed the need to focus discussion on targeted interventions and actionable solutions.

The seminar also featured compelling presentations by nodal officers and grassroots organisations from various states who shared on-the-ground realities, challenges, and success stories in engaging with hard-to-reach populations.

"Approximately 18,000 individuals have been identified under the SMILE initiative, of which 1,612 have already been rehabilitated," said Ajay Srivastava, Economic Advisor (MoSJE). He assured that efforts are underway to accelerate the rehabilitation of the remaining individuals.

## Malnutrition as a global health concern

DR. TASADUK HUSSAIN ITTOO  
(FELLOW, INTERNATIONAL DIABETES FEDERATION (IDF) FELLOW, BELGIUM)

As per World Health Organization (WHO) data of year 2020, globally around 149 million children under 5 years of age were estimated to be stunted (too short for age), 45 million were estimated to be wasted (too thin for height), with around 45% of deaths among children under 5 years of age - linked to undernutrition. Childhood overweight and obesity that attribute to other forms of malnutrition are also on rise.

While every country in the world is affected by one or more forms of malnutrition - the major impact is found to occur in middle and low income countries, including India. As a result, combating malnutrition in all its forms is becoming one of the serious global health challenge. Undernutrition makes children in particular much more vulnerable to disease and death.

Broadly understanding the forms of undernutrition

- wasting, which means low weight-for-height. It usually indicates recent and severe weight loss, because a person has not had enough food to eat and/or they have had an infectious disease, such as diarrhoea, which has caused them to lose weight. A young child who is moderately or severely wasted has an increased risk of death, but treatment is possible.

Low height-for-age is known as stunting. It is the result of chronic or recurrent undernutrition, usually associated with poor socioeconomic conditions, poor maternal health and nutrition, frequent illness, and/or inappropriate infant and young child feeding and care in early life. Stunting holds children back from reaching their physical and cognitive potential.

Low weight-for-age is known as underweight. A child who is underweight may be stunted, wasted, or both. Moreover, micronutrient-related malnutrition can occur due to inadequacies in intake of vitamins and minerals often referred to as micronutrients. Micronutrients enable the

body to produce enzymes, hormones, and other substances that are essential for proper growth and development - their deficiency represents a major threat to the health and development of populations, particularly children and pregnant women.

Generally speaking, all age groups are at risk of malnutrition -- women, infants, children, and adolescents. Poverty amplifies the risk - people who are poor are more likely to be affected by different forms of malnutrition. Moreover, malnutrition increases health care costs, reduces productivity, and slows economic growth, which can accentuate a cycle of poverty and ill-health.

To combat this emerging global health challenge of malnutrition, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in the year 2016, proclaimed 2016 to 2025 as "United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition". Led by WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Decade can provide as a great opportunity for addressing all forms of mal-

nutrition.

The Decade sets a timeline to meet a set of global nutrition targets and diet-related NCD targets by 2025, as well as relevant targets in the Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030 - Sustainable Development Goals like SDG 2 (to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and SDG 3 (to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages).

Moreover, it promises to take steps for creating sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets; providing social protection and nutrition-related education for all; aligning health systems to nutrition needs, and providing universal coverage of essential nutrition interventions; ensuring that trade and investment policies improve nutrition; building safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages; and strengthening and promoting nutrition governance and accountability everywhere.

[drtasadukitoo@gmail.com](mailto:drtasadukitoo@gmail.com)

## 9 reasons why you should start your day with soaked dry fruits

Eating soaked dry fruits in the morning is a healthy and beneficial habit that many people incorporate into their daily routines for a variety of reasons. This practice not only enhances the digestibility and absorption of nutrients but also helps kickstart your day with a boost of energy, hydration, and essential vitamins and minerals. Soaked dry fruits can be a great choice for anyone looking to improve their overall health, manage their weight, or simply fuel their body with nutritious, whole foods in the morning. Here's why soaked dry fruits can be beneficial for your health:

### 1. Boosts Digestion

Soaking dry fruits like almonds, walnuts, and raisins helps break down the enzymes and phytic acid present in them. This makes it easier for the body to digest and absorb nutrients.

The soaked fruits are gentler on the stomach, especially after a long overnight fast, aiding smoother digestion in the morning.

**2. Improved Nutrient Absorption**  
Soaking activates beneficial enzymes and reduces anti-nutrients, such as phytic acid, which can block the absorption of important minerals like zinc and iron. This results in better nutrient absorption.

Nutrients like fiber, healthy fats, vitamins, and antioxidants in dry fruits are more readily available for your body when they are soaked.

### 3. Helps with Hydration

Dry fruits are packed with natural sugars and fiber, and soaking them helps them retain moisture, making them more hydrating and easier to consume, especially after waking up.

Staying hydrated in the morning helps kickstart your metabolism and energy levels for the day.

**5. Helps Regulate Blood Sugar Levels**  
Dry fruits such as almonds and walnuts are known for their ability to regulate blood sugar levels due to their healthy fats, fiber, and protein content. Soaking these fruits before eating them can enhance their benefits for blood sugar control.

Soaked dry fruits can prevent sharp spikes in blood sugar, making them a great option for people with diabetes or those looking to maintain steady energy levels.

### 6. Rich in Essential Nutrients

Soaked dry fruits are packed with vitamins (like vitamin E and B-complex), minerals (like magnesium, calcium, and potassium), and antioxidants, all of which support overall health, including immune function, skin health, and heart health.

Almonds, for example, are rich in healthy fats, while raisins are packed

with iron, making them great for boosting energy in the morning.

### 7. Supports Skin and Hair Health

Many dry fruits like almonds and walnuts are high in vitamin E and omega-3 fatty acids, which are essential for maintaining healthy skin and hair. Consuming them in the morning can contribute to your daily intake of these vital nutrients.

### 8. Boosts Mental Health

Soaked almonds, walnuts, and figs are known to have cognitive benefits. They contain omega-3 fatty acids, antioxidants, and vitamins that support brain health, improve focus, and enhance memory. Starting your day with these can give you a mental boost for the rest of the day.

### 9. Natural Detox

Soaked dry fruits like raisins and apricots have mild detoxifying properties. The high fiber content helps cleanse the digestive tract, removing waste and promoting regular bowel movements.

## JKEDI hosts Entrepreneurship Orientation Program for students of MIET College

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 2

In a step towards strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem, the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Friday organized an Entrepreneurship and Startup Orientation Program in collaboration with the Model Institute of Engineering and Technology (MIET) here. The program was aimed at sensitizing the participating students about the opportunities and support mechanisms available under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

The program majorly focused on educating the students regarding the role of entrepreneurship and innovation in shaping their career.

Around 40 students participated in the orientation programme, held at JKEDI Bari Brahmana campus, featuring interactive sessions on startup ideation, business plan modeling,



and the support of the government under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

The experts from JKEDI provided valuable insights into the various schemes and incentives available for budding entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, Director JKEDI Khalid Jahangir emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship and startup awareness programmes in nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit among youth. He stressed that these programs shall help the students to think innovatively, understand

the basics of entrepreneurship, and explore the path of becoming job creators rather than job seekers.

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students and faculty members along with other officials of the institute. This initiative is a part of JKEDI's broader efforts to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit among the youth in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, contributing to the economic development of the region by creating new opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship.

## Dogri Sanstha Jammu organizes Musical Evening of Dogri Songs

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 2

Dogri Sanstha Jammu organized a Musical Evening of Dogri Songs at Kunwar Viyogi Auditorium, Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar, Jammu in which Ajay Singh Chib presented Dogri Songs of celebrated poets like Inderjeet Kesar, Dogri folk songs and Hanuman Chalisa and two Dogri Songs were also released. On this occasion former Vice Chancellor of University of Jammu Prof. R.D. Sharma was the Chief Guest.

While speaking on the occasion, Prof. R.D. Sharma complimented the singer and hoped that such musical evenings dedicated to mother tongue Dogri should become a regular feature because when literature gets blended with soulful music and is backed with an impressive voice, it creates magic. Music has the power to connect with the soul and Dogri songs are very sweet and have



the wanted flavor to cast a spell on the audience. He complemented the singer to create the same impact in the auditorium.

Earlier Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu while welcoming the audience said that Sanstha has always worked with a sole purpose of promoting mother tongue Dogri through Mushiaras, Kahani Goshthi, Seminars or musical performances. He further added that music is loved by all and when it's Dogri Songs then the impact is even more. These days we find many youngsters doing wonders on social media platforms with their music albums.

The way they are using folk music is commendable and the viral videos give an indication that folk music holds a special place in our hearts, because it's connected to our roots.

Ajay Singh Chib also shared his journey as a singer and composer with the august gathering. He thanked Dogri Sanstha Jammu for providing a platform to perform before eminent literary personalities and music lovers. He said that Dogri language is our mother tongue and we have a responsibility towards our cultural existence which we can fulfill only by promoting our culture. He does it through music.

## Div Com visits Hajj House Bemina; inspects arrangements for Hajj-25; directs meticulous service delivery

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 2

Ahead of the commencement of Hajj-25, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today visited Hajj House Bemina to take first hand appraisal of arrangements & basic amenities laid out by various departments.

Intending pilgrims would start leaving for the pilgrimage from Sunday, May 04, 2025.

During the visit, Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Bilal Mohi ud din Bhat. Other officers present during the visit included Director, Airport Authority of India, Srinagar International Airport, Regional Director of BCAS, representatives from Health, PHE, KPDC, Information, Hajj Committee, SMC, JK Police, Customs, Emigration, SpiceJet, and various banks.

On the occasion, Div Com took comprehensive

inspection of services and infrastructure, including forex counters set up by banks, luggage screening machines, e-bracelet counters, and boarding facilities.

Div Com also reviewed the cleanliness of lodging rooms and the availability of basic amenities, such as water and uninterrupted electricity supply.

On the occasion, Officers from the Hajj Committee briefed the Div Com on the extensive measures taken to ensure comprehensive arrangements for security, traffic management, sanitation, and other essential services.

Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com emphasized the importance of delivering meticulous services to the pilgrims during their time at the Hajj House and during their departure. He called for coordinated efforts to provide the best possible experience for the Hujjaj, ensuring their comfort and safety during the sacred journey.

## Amit Shah's firm stance on terrorism echoes Nation's unwavering resolve: Kavinder

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 02

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah's firm message against terrorism reflects the collective resolve of the nation to uproot the menace of terror from Indian soil once and for all.

Referring to Shah's recent remarks following the Pahalgam terror attack, Kavinder Gupta said the Home Minister's unequivocal commitment to bring every terrorist to justice sends a strong message not just to the perpetrators, but to the entire world that India stands united and uncompromising in its fight against terrorism.

"Amit Shah ji's state-



ment that 'we will not spare anyone' and 'every terrorist will be made answerable' is not just a warning—it is a declaration of India's resolve under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership," said Gupta. "This zero-tolerance approach reflects the sentiment of 140 crore Indians who are determined to see the end of terrorism."

Speaking after the meeting held at Party Headquarters in Jammu, the senior BJP leader also

echoed Amit Shah's assertion that the pain of those who lost loved ones in such attacks is shared by every citizen of the country, and reaffirmed that the sacrifices made by the victims and their families will not go in vain.

"The Modi Government has consistently shown that national security is non-negotiable. From policy to action, the commitment is visible on every front—from eliminating terror infrastructure to strengthening border

and internal security," he added.

Kavinder said that the overwhelming support India has received globally in the aftermath of such attacks underscores the strength of India's position on terror. "The entire world is standing with India today, as Amit Shah rightly pointed out. This is not just India's fight—it's a global battle against extremism and violence," he said.

The former deputy Chief Minister stated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are fully behind the Modi Government's mission and have seen a visible change in approach, accountability, and action over the last decade. "New India will never tolerate terror, and this message is loud and clear," he said.

## Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari PVSM AVSM VM takes over as Vice Chief of Air Staff, Indian Air Force

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MAY 2

Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari PVSM AVSM VM took charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff, IAF on 02 May 25.

The Air Marshal completed his schooling at Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) in Dehradun before joining the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasala, He passed out from NDA in Jun 1985 with the President's Gold Medal. He was commissioned as a Fighter Pilot in the Indian Air Force on 07 Jun 1986. The Air Marshal has over 3600 hours of flying experience on various types of aircraft. Besides being a Qualified Flying Instructor and an Experimental Test Pilot, the Air Marshal is a graduate of the Air Command and



Staff College, USA. He has also served as Directing Staff at the IAF Test Pilots' School and the Defence Services Staff College in Wellington. His extensive field experience encompasses operational testing of various weapons and systems, including a key role in operationalising the 'Litening' Laser Designation Pod during the Kargil

Operations in 1999. He was actively involved in the flight testing of the

LCA from 2006 to 2009 and later in 2018-19, wherein, as the Project Director (Flight Test) at the National Flight Test Centre, he was involved in the Final Operational Clearance of the aircraft. The Air Marshal served as the Air Attache at Paris from 2013 to 2016. He has also held appointment Deputy Chief of the Air Staff at Air HQ (VB).

Prior to assuming charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff, he was the

Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief at South Western Air Command. In recognition of his distinguished service, the Air Marshal was awarded the Presidential Award of Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2025, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2022, and Vayu Sena Medal in 2008.

He is married to Mrs. Richa Tiwari, a postgraduate in Cytology. The couple is blessed with two daughters.

## Goyal meets Minister Satish Sharma, assures full cooperation in Amarnath Yatra

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 2

Rajkumar Goyal, National Executive Chairman of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society, met the cabinet minister of Jammu and Kashmir Government Satish Sharma, in view of the security of the devotees of the Amarnath Yatra and in view of the arrangements.

He was accompanied by Rajkumar Gupta, Chairman of All Jammu and Kashmir Gau Raksha Samiti. Rajkumar Goyal said that after the Pahalgam terror attack, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has worsened to a great extent. At this time there is also a situation of tension between the two countries. In such a situation, the number of tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir has come down drastically. Amarnath Yatra is also going to start in a few days. He hopes that the Lieutenant Governor administration and the Jammu and Kashmir government will complete all the arrangements before the start of



the yatra and people will be able to perform darshan without any fear. He said that Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society is serving pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir for a long time. The committee has full support with the government. The Amarnath Yatra is a matter of pride for the person of Jammu and Kashmir. Welfare Society of Shri Amarnath will fully support the government to run the yatra smoothly. Rajkumar Gupta, Chairman of All Jammu and Kashmir Gau Raksha Samiti, also spoke of supporting the government in

the travel management. Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma said that apart from the government, the people's has an important role in running the Amarnath Yatra smoothly and attracting tourists to Jammu and Kashmir again. He appreciated the efforts of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Welfare Society and said that the institution serves the devotees coming from India and abroad and they hope that amidst the big challenges, this time too, the society will cooperate with the government in running the Amarnath Yatra in a peaceful manner.

## BFGI offers Quality, Affordable Education, Career Opportunities: Dr. M. P. Poonia

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 2

Prof. (Dr.) M.P. Poonia, Campus Director of Baba Farid Group of Institutions (BFGI) and former AICTE Vice Chairman, highlighted the institute's commitment to empowering youth through accessible, industry-oriented education during a press conference at the Press Club Jammu.

He said BFGI, a NAAC A+ accredited institution with over 30 years of excellence, offers 60+ approved programs in engineering, management, paramedical, agriculture, law, and more. The institution provides modern infrastructure, 100% merit-based scholarships, and strong placement support, ensuring affordability and employability.

Dr. Poonia noted that BFGI is registered under PMSSS and is providing scholarship for free education for students from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh under this scheme. He said BFGI



offers 100% Tuition Fee Waiver for ST Students from the region, making it one of the most inclusive institutions in North India. Under NEP 2020, BFGI's Applied Learning Model enables students to earn while studying. Implementing the Applied Learning Policy, students can earn stipends through internships and on-campus work opportunities while pursuing their degrees.

He informed that in 2024-25, over 125 top national and international companies, including TCS, Infosys, Wipro, HDFC, Amazon, and Deloitte, recruited from BFGI. The institution boasts an 85%+ placement rate, with many students securing multiple job offers before graduation. BFGI promotes innovation through

125+ published patents and nurtures startups via its Baba Farid School of Entrepreneurship. It offers live projects and hands-on experience, including paid internships through collaborations with over 30 hospitals and clinics.

The institute has signed an MoU with Arora Classes, Bathinda—known for coaching around 50,000 Punjab Government employees—to provide expert training for government and PSU competitive exams. It has also partnered with renowned UPSC mentor Avadh Ojha for career guidance and coaching.

Dr. Poonia invited students from Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh to explore BFGI's opportunities aimed at education, empowerment, and societal upliftment.

## Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Awaam at Jallerian, Rajouri



RAJOURI-02 MAY 2025

In a spirited initiative to promote harmony and cooperation amongst the awaam, Indian Army conducted a medical patrol at Jallerian Village. This event, aimed at providing medical aid to local people who are living in areas not having road connectivity and have difficulty in obtaining basic medical aid. One of the

primary objectives of the medical patrol is to promote healthy living among the people in these remote regions. With limited access to medical facilities, such patrols play a crucial role in prevailing feelings of harmony and cooperation amongst the awaam. This patrol is an opportunity for the Indian Army to build stronger ties with the local communities.

## Mission Director JJM, J&K Emphasizes Financial Management To Avoid Cost Escalation Of Water Supply Projects In Rajouri District

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, 2ND MAY, 2025.

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Mr. Khurshid Ahmad Shah (JKAS) today reviewed the implementation of JJM in Rajouri district. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu, Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Rajouri, Executive Engineers of field divisions, AEE's and JE's including their counterparts from the Mechanical wing.

The chair was briefed about the schemes being executed in the district through a power point presentation. As per the figures there are 87,188 rural households in the district out of which 55,



454 households have been provided with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) till date. 183 civil schemes are in various phases of execution comprising of 351 works which include 10 dugwells, 108 bore wells. 43 Rapid Sand Filtration plants (RSFP's), two overhead tanks (OHT's) 183 pipe

networks and 5 Slow Sand Filtration plants (SSFP's). 43 schemes comprising of 159 works stand completed till date. The Mission Director while commending the officers for successfully drilling of 107 bore wells in the district, also highlighted the non commissioning of Rapid Sand Filtration Plants (RSFP's)

which are essential component as far as quality drinking water to the beneficiaries is concerned. The MD was assured that most of these RSFP are in advanced stages of completion and will be commissioned soon along with other components of the ongoing schemes.

The MD was further informed that 145 mechanical schemes are being implemented in the district for which machinery has been procured for 92 schemes and 50 schemes have been completed.

The Mission Director stressed upon the officers implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district for proper financial management of Water Supply Schemes to prevent cost escalation.

## SP North releases Devotional Bhajan "Machaila Maa De Jana Ho"

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 2

Superintendent of Police Jammu North Vivek Shekhar Sharma JKPS, Sub Divisional Police Officer Jammu West Dr Satish Bhardwaj JKPS, Prominent Social Activist & Chairman of the Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra along with Managing Director Maa Bawe Wali Records Sahil Mahajan releases Devotional Bhajan "Machaila Maa De Jana Ho". The Bhajan has been sung by Singer Manupreet Bhogal, Lyrics and composed by Jeevanjot, Music was given by Dr V Kaith and it has been released on YouTube Channel "Maa Bawe Wali Records" simultaneously. Vivek Shekhar Sharma while speaking hailed



the work of the Whole team of the album and said that new opportunities are being opened for youths of the J&K. He also asked the Youths to make themselves busy in activities and stay away from Drugs, He also said that the people should also support and encourage the local artists so that

they can also grow and reach new heights. Keshav Chopra congratulated the whole team for bringing out their talent to the public and inspiring the youth to come forward. He also highlighted the importance of such initiatives in preserving and promoting the local artists and

Music. Sahil Mahajan while speaking praised the artists for devoting their services to the divinity of Machaila Maa De Jana Ho in a melodious composition and hailed the efforts of organizers. He further said that he is always there to support every artist of J&K

## Central University of Jammu hosts NPTEL-SWAYAM Awareness Workshop-cum-Felicitation Ceremony

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 2

The NPTEL Team (IIT Kanpur) and the NPTEL Local Chapter, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), jointly organized an NPTEL Awareness Workshop-cum-Felicitation Ceremony today at the CUJ campus in Rahya Suchani (Bagla), Samba. The event aimed to familiarize faculty and staff from Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) with NPTEL's online certification courses, features, and the role of Local Chapters. The inaugural session began with the traditional lamp-lighting ceremony.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu, congratulated all the students and faculty for achieving this mile-

stone and achieving 'A' Rating getting a grade as well as being listed among top 100 institutes across the country. Prof Jain further remarked that this is a major encouragement to all of our efforts to provide our students with the best resources to expand their knowledge beyond the classroom. He also appreciated Dr J N Baliya SPOC, SWAYAM NPTEL C U Jammu for putting up his sincere efforts in this direction.

Dr. Angana Sengupta, Project Manager, NPTEL explained NPTEL's operational framework and the National Credit Framework (NCRF).

Prof. Raghu Nandan Sengupta, IME, IIT Kanpur demonstrated MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) development for NPTEL.



Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, CU Jammu, spoke about the online courses and the Central University of Jammu.

Earlier Prof. J. N Baliya, sharing this achievement informed that Central University of Jammu SWAYAM NPTEL Local Chapter, which is active since 2017, has been facilitating the NPTEL technology courses offered through online platforms. He further added that SWAYAM NPTEL enables the stu-

dents and faculty to gain valuable skills through the programs designed and delivered by the experienced IIT and IISc Bangalore faculty through online courses in different technology, Social science and humanities disciplines.

During the event the outstanding performers, from Local Chapter during the July-December Examinations, will also be felicitated with Gold and Silver Medals as well as certi-

icates of achievement.

The Central University of Jammu SWAYAM-NPTEL Local Chapter has again been awarded A Grade in the recently declared results of the online courses offered by SWAYAM NPTEL. In addition to this achievement 45 students have been awarded Gold Medals, 83 students got Silver Medals and 219 students have achieved Elite Certifications in the recently declared results of the Session July- December 2024. On the basis of this performance, the Local Chapter of NPTEL Central University of Jammu has got this distinction, wherein 10 students have been ranked among top 1% , 5 students have been ranked among top 2% and 12 students among top 5% across the country. The

National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) is a joint venture of the IITs and IISc, funded by the Ministry of Education (MoE) Government of India, and was launched in 2003. SWAYAM NPTEL has been offering self-study courses across engineering, humanities and science streams for more than a decade. SWAYAM NPTEL offers online certification for its courses by which the students get an opportunity to earn a certificate from the IITs or IISc Bangalore.

The Vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Preeti Gupta (CUJ), extending gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and participants. The program was anchored by Dr. Anju Thappa, followed by the National Anthem.

## ADGP Armed visits IRP 2nd Bn Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 2

As part of ongoing efforts to review battalion functioning, Sh. Anand Jain, IPS, ADGP Armed J& K, visited IRP 2nd Battalion Headquarters at Fatehpur, Rajouri. The ADGP Armed was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour and accompanied by senior officers including Sh. Tajinder Singh, IPS, DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range; Sh. Vinod Kumar, IPS, DIG Armed Jammu; Sh. Rajinder Singh, SSP APCR Jammu; and others.

During the visit, the ADGP inspected various unit establishments including the administrative block, MT fleet, stores, barracks, and other infrastructure. He issued on-spot directions for renovation and beautification of the premises.

A mega darbar was also held, where personnel shared their service and welfare concerns. The ADGP assured timely redressal and issued necessary instructions.

Jain also visited C and E Companies stationed at Shadhra Sharief and DC Office Rajouri for a security review, directing officers to maintain high alertness in view of the prevailing security scenario.

Also present were Sh. Gaurav Sikarwar IPS, SSP Rajouri Sh. Nasir Ahmed SSP, Commandant IRP 2nd Bn. and other Officers.

## Global Media Dialogue 2025: Member Nations adopt WAVES Declaration and agree to collaborate on giving Voice to Traditions and Heritage, while promoting Creativity in era of AI

JINNEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, MAY 2

"Global Collaborations on promoting creativity is the way ahead, while understanding the cross-cultural sensitivities of each other." This was one among the many outcomes of the Global Media Dialogue held in Mumbai during the ongoing World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES 2025). Widening creative spaces in the countries therefore holds the key to our collective progress as we all tread the path to bridge the digital divide, felt the nations that took part in the dialogue. The dialogue focused on the role of governments in fostering global peace and harmony amid an increasingly globalized media environment, culminating in the adoption of the WAVES Declaration by the member nations.

The Global Media Dialogue echoed the sentiment that films, depicting cultures across the world, hold an immense potential in bringing people closer, and participating nations appreciated the role of Indian films in this



regard. As an entertaining format of storytelling, the films act as a strong force to collaborate with each other. Individual stories are also emerging fast as a strong force in the creator's economy with the confluence of technology in the art of storytelling redefining the entertainment world. Some member nations shared the concerns on the need to enhance "responsible journalism", which they felt can thus be addressed by mutual collaborations on the forum of WAVES.

Calling the WAVES 2025 as a microcosm of the global community, Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, Govern-

ment of India said that the Summit brings together content creators, policy makers, actors, writers, producers and visual artists on a common platform for discussing a future roadmap for the Media and Entertainment sector.

During his address, Dr. Jaishankar touched upon the broad contours under consideration at the Global Media Dialogue 2025. He noted that the World order, which has a strong cultural dimension, is under transformation today. "It is essential that we give voice to our traditions, heritage, ideas, practices and creativity", he said.

EAM stated that tech-

nology and tradition must go hand in hand, as technology can strengthen awareness of our vast heritage and deepen consciousness about it, especially for the younger generations. "It is crucial that young talent is made ready for an age of creative collaborations through relevant skill development. Innovation is key to the leapfrogging that will build Viksit Bharat", he highlighted.

In the emerging era of AI, Dr. Jaishankar stated, the possibilities are beyond imagination, yet there is a need for a responsible use of emerging technologies, while reducing bias, democratizing content

and prioritizing its ethics. "For a global workplace and global workforce, there is need for shifts in mindsets, frameworks, policies and practices", he concluded while reposting confidence in WAVES as a platform to deliberate on the key issues before the global media and entertainment sector.

Setting the tone for the dialogue in his welcome address, Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Government of India in his opening remarks said that culture inspires creativity which connects people across borders. He added that content creation and consumption is changing fast as technology is reshaping the way we tell our stories. We are at an inflection point where we need to incentivize local content creation.

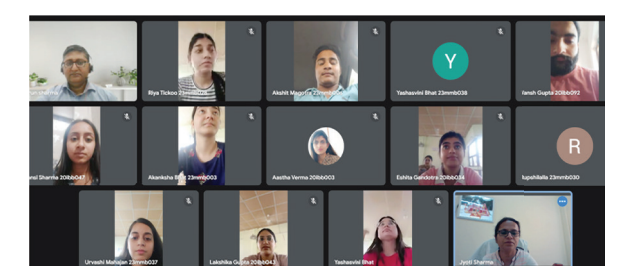
Welcoming the delegates from 77 countries to the city of dreams, Mumbai, the Shri Vaishnav stressed on the crucial role of collaborations and asserted that for common success, we need to focus on co-production treaties, joint funds and a declaration

which helps us bridge the digital divide, foster brotherhood, global peace and harmony. We need to thus widen the global bridge of creativity to an expressway of ideas, he said.

During the deliberations, where senior-most Ministerial-level delegations expressed their views, India informed participating nations about the 32 Create in India challenges, which resulted in identification of over 700 top creators from across the globe in the first season of WAVES. India informed the members that from the next edition, these challenges will be conducted in 25 global languages so that creative talent can be identified from across the globe in different languages. This will help them showcase their creative content at WAVES forum.

Other dignitaries gracing the occasion included Dr. L. Murugan, Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, along with Shri Sanjay Jaju, Secretary (I&B), besides other senior officers of the Government of India.

## Students Interact with Alumnus of School of Business, SMVDU



JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 2

Varun Sharma, alumnus of the School of Business interacted in online session with management students of School of Business. Proud SoB alumnus, Mr. Varun Sharma 2004-06 MBA batch pass out, is presently working as Head of HR - Rail and Inland Terminals and Bulk Business SCO, Gurgaon. Drawing from his extensive corporate experience, Mr. Sharma spoke about practical issues related to Competency Mapping and Assessment mechanisms implemented in the corporate sector. He enlightened the management students regarding how organizations identify and build key competencies- both behavioural and functional. He enlightened the students regarding important concepts like the 9-Box Model for mapping

performance and potential, and explained how companies design career paths and succession plans around these competencies. He concluded his session highlighting the integration of competency framework with HR framework for getting the desirable benefits. The session was crammed with real-world examples and practical advice, leaving students with a clearer understanding of what it takes to succeed and grow in today's corporate world. The management students expressed their gratitude towards Mr. Varun Sharma for this insightful session. The Head, School of Business, Prof. Jyoti Sharma acknowledged the continuous support and guidance of Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for organizing such kind of interactions regularly.

## BJP upholds the spirit of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas" through honouring martyr's family

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 02 MAY 2025:

On April 22, 2025, a tragic terrorist attack shook the tranquil town of Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir. In this cowardly act of violence, brave souls stood firm against terror to protect innocent lives. Among them was Lt. Adil Hussain, who made the ultimate sacrifice while saving tourists from the onslaught. His courage and heroism became a symbol of the unbreakable spirit of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. To honour his bravery and support his family in this time of grief, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took a significant step that truly reflects its core philosophy—"Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas."

In a touching gesture



of solidarity and support, the younger brother of the martyr, Sh. Nazakat Ali, was handed an official government appointment letter. This was not merely a symbolic act but a sincere demonstration of BJP's commitment to stand by every Indian, regardless of community or background. The appointment was personally delivered by Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson of the J&K Waqf Board, alongside her team. The solemn event was held in the presence of

J&K BJP President Sh. Sat Sharma (CA), General Secretary (Org.) Sh. Ashok Koul, and other senior party leaders.

This act underlines the BJP's dedication to justice, inclusion, and equal opportunity for all communities. The party's consistent effort to work across religious and regional lines continues to win trust and confidence throughout the nation. By extending a helping hand to the family of a Muslim martyr who laid down his life protecting fellow citizens, the BJP has yet again reinforced its nationalistic and humanitarian values.

BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, believes in nurturing and recognizing the contributions of all Indians, regardless of their caste, religion,

or region.

The gesture also resonates strongly with the people of Jammu & Kashmir, who have suffered the brunt of terrorism for decades. By giving due recognition and support to the martyr's family, the BJP not only honoured their sacrifice but also sent a powerful message that the sacrifices of every braveheart will be remembered, and their families supported.

BJP's consistent efforts in Jammu & Kashmir—ranging from development, employment initiatives, to inclusive governance—continue to lay the foundation for long-term peace and prosperity in the region. This appointment is another milestone that reflects the party's deep-rooted principle of equitable justice and inclusive progress.

## DDC Chairman champions quality education, secure learning spaces for empowering youth

Visits GMHSS Basohli, reviews facilities

JI NEWS SERVICE  
BASOHLI, MAY 2

Col Mahan Singh (Retd), Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, today paid a visit to the Government Model Higher Secondary School (GMHSS), Basohli, on the invitation of Principal Brij Bhushan Sharma.

Upon his arrival, the DDC Chairman received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the school staff, students, and faculty. The students lined up to greet the dignitary, showcasing their discipline and school spirit, while teachers and the principal expressed their gratitude for his visit.



Following a brief interaction with the Principal, Col Mahan Singh toured the school complex to review its infrastructure and academic facilities. He inspected classrooms, the Science Laboratories, ICT Lab, School Library, Assembly Hall, and the sports infrastructure, gaining firsthand insight into the institution's academic environment and resources.

The DDC Chairman lauded the efforts of both students and teachers for their commendable

performance in academics, sports, and various skill development programmes. He appreciated the dedication and proactive attitude of the staff and students in striving toward excellence, despite certain infrastructural challenges.

During the visit, Principal Brij Bhushan Sharma presented several concerns and requirements of the school to the visiting Chairman. Key issues highlighted included the non-availability of an examination or multipurpose hall, the need to raise

the boundary wall to prevent trespassing, urgent renovation of Physics and Chemistry laboratories, and the necessity of a standby power supply to ensure uninterrupted academic activities.

Col Mahan Singh listened to the concerns with keen interest and assured the school administration of all possible support. He emphasized the importance of quality education and safe learning environments in shaping the future of the region's youth. The Chairman also committed to taking up the highlighted issues with the concerned departments for their timely resolution.

The visit concluded with an expression of mutual respect and optimism for the continued growth and development of the institution.

## PCC adopts resolution congratulating Rahul Gandhi for announcement of Caste Census

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 02

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee has congratulated the LOP in Lok Sabha Shri Rahul Gandhi and the Congress leadership for the success of the Congress struggle for the Caste Census in the country.

A unanimous resolution was adopted in a meeting at PCC HQ, Jammu today, to express gratitude to the Congress leadership especially LOP in Lok Sabha Shri Rahul Gandhi for the success of the struggle to pressurize Government to concede the demand of Congress Party for Caste Census in the Country. The resolution moved by JKPC Chief Spokesperson Mr. Ravinder Sharma was seconded by Working President Shri Tara Chand (Ex-Dy. CM) & Shri Raman Bhalla (Former Minister) and adopted unanimously by the participants, by raising hands, amidst raising of slogans in favour of Congress Part, Congress President Shri Malikarjun Kharge and Shri Rahul Gandhi.

JKPC Working Presi-



dent Shri Tara Chand who presided over the meeting alongwith Shri Raman Bhalla, which was attended by several senior leaders, said that the struggle of Rahul Gandhi has finally yielded results and the Government had to accept the demand raised by Congress Party for Caste Census. He said that the entire credit for this goes to Shri Rahul Gandhi and the Congress Party. He said that now the party demands that the Caste Census should be completed within time frame so that the complete benefits reach to the common man, at the earliest.

Working President Shri Raman Bhalla while expressing gratitude to Shri Rahu Gandhi said that the announcement of Caste Census is the result

of the struggle of Shri Rahul Gandhi and entire Congress party behind him. He called for a time frame to complete the exercise, so that the benefits of Government scheme reach the targeted population. All participants fully endorsed the resolution and adopted by one voice.

The meeting also asked the party cadres in the border areas including DCC Presidents to remain in constant touch with the people and the administration in view of the prevailing situation, keeping a close watch on the activities on the border belt.

The meeting strongly condemned Pakistan for the unprovoked firing on the border and LOC and reiterated the decision of CWC and Congress President Malikarjun Kharge and Shri Rahul Gandhi

that Congress party is fully behind the nation and the Government to give befitting response to terrorism and Pakistan for the Pehalgam carnage.

Earlier a two minutes silence was also observed to mourn the death of Veteran Congress leader and former union minister Smt. Girija Viyas and pray for peace to the departed soul.

Those who participated in the meeting include S/ Shri Th. Balwan Singh, Yogesh Sawhney, Th. Balbir Singh, Ved Mahajan, Smt. Kanta Bhan, Yash Pal Kundal, Sr. Adv M.K. Bhardwaj, Th. Manmohan Singh, Suresh Dogra, Narinder Sharma, Babal Gupta, Madan Chalotra (OBC Chairman), K.D. Singh, Ashok Bhagat, Dwarka Choudhary, Neeraj Gupta, Vijay Shastri, Sanjeev Panda, Rajveer Singh, Dr. Kamal Singh, Sahil Sharma, Bharat Priye, Ram Mangotra, Sohith Sharma, Nasir Masih, Ajay Kumar, Shekhar Sharma, Michal Wazir, Thomas Khokhar, Ricky Dalotra, Ranjit Manhas, Hoshari Singh, Mandeep Chaudhary, Janak Mehra, Maqbool and others.

## Under "Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan" Balbir Ram distributes booklets, pamphlets

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 2

As part of "Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan" Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson, J&K BJP & former Vice Chairperson, distributed booklets and pamphlets based on the life and thoughts of Dr. Ambedkar among prominent citizens of various sections of the society.

The aim of this initiative is to spread the ideas of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar to the masses and to give his contributions the due respect they deserve.

The booklets and pamphlets elaborate on how the BJP has truly adopted and honoured Dr. Ambedkar's ideas and work. They highlight key steps taken by



the BJP government under PM Narendra Modi, such as the development of the five "Panchteerth" sites, declaring national holiday on Ambedkar Jayanti and laying foundation stone for constructing tallest statue of Dr. Ambedkar in Maharashtra. The BJP also persuaded VP Singh in 1990 to honour Dr. Ambedkar with Bharat Ratna, when it was supporting his government from outside.

Balbir Ram Rattan stated

that Dr. Ambedkar gave India a strong and inclusive Constitution and the BJP has always worked to promote his ideas.

The booklet also expose how the Congress Party historically neglected and disrespected Dr. Ambedkar. His name and contributions were sidelined for years. His ideas were not taken seriously. Moreover, the Congress failed to appropriately recognize his contributions.

Balbir Ram Rattan fur-

ther noted that the BJP government has launched several schemes aimed at building the India envisioned by Baba Saheb, with a focus on social justice, education, and economic empowerment.

He said that this campaign will not only promote Dr. Ambedkar's ideas but also raise awareness among all sections of society about his contributions, paving the way for a more inclusive and just India.

## Omar Govt taking concrete steps for upliftment of Labour community: Verma



JI NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, MAY 2

The Mazdoor Dastkar Union today organized a Labour Day function in Udhampur under the presidency of Darshan Kumar, District President, Udhampur. The event was marked by spirited participation of the labour community and local leaders.

The Assistant Labour Commissioner Udhampur was the Chief Guest while Sunil Verma, District President, JKNC, Udhampur, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

In his address, Shri Darshan Kumar highlighted the multifaceted challenges being faced by the labour class and emphasized the need for targeted welfare measures. He

urged the government to allocate two kanals of land for the construction of a community hall dedicated to the labour community in Udhampur, stating it would serve as a hub for welfare activities and support programs.

The Assistant Labour Commissioner spoke in detail about various government schemes aimed at uplifting the working class and ensuring their access to social and economic benefits.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sunil Verma said, "May Day is not just a ritual; it is a day to honour the contribution of our labourers. Our labour force is the backbone of our economy, and it is our responsibility to ensure their dignity, rights, and

welfare are safeguarded." He reaffirmed the JKNC's commitment to the welfare of the labour community, under the leadership of Party President and Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. He highlighted several pro-poor initiatives of the current government, including free travel for women in government buses, provision of 200 free power units to AAY families, enhancement in ration quota for AAY families, increase in marriage assistance for poor girls, etc.

The senior NC leader also highlighted the enduring commitment of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah to the upliftment of the weaker section, recalling

landmark initiatives like the "Land to the Tiller" Act which brought lasting change to the lives of the underprivileged.

He assured the gathering that all concerns and demands raised during the event, especially the demand for land for a community hall, would be taken up with the concerned authorities at the earliest.

Prominent among those who attended the function included Krishan Bhagat (Ex-MLA & Ex-Distt), Sumit Magotra, Cong. President (Cong-I), Sardar Lakhbinder Singh, Om Parkash Sanyal, Shastri Sanyal, Bansilal Sharma, Dhani Ram Atri, Dr. M. R. Bhumragi, Ram Lal Bhagat and Suhail Malik.

## Toyota Kirloskar Motor introduces Exclusive Edition of Innova HyCross

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 2 MAY 2025:

Staying true to its customer-first philosophy, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced the launch of the Exclusive Edition of the Innova HyCross available in the ZX(O) grade. Building upon the remarkable success of the Innova HyCross, this new rendition offers distinguished styling and enhanced cabin experience.

Trusted by over a lakh customers across the country, the Innova HyCross continues to impress with its exceptional spirit of glamor and efficiency. Crafted to make every journey as distinctive as the individual behind the wheel, the Innova HyCross Exclusive Edition of ZX(O) will be available from May 2025 through July 2025, in two colors—Super

White and Pearl White, in limited quantity, said a press release issued here announcing the introduction.

Speaking on the introduction, Mr. Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said "The Innova HyCross has consistently garnered strong customer appreciation for its proportions & poise of an SUV with the spaciousness of an MPV, and we are truly humbled for their continued trust placed in the brand. Today, we are delighted to launch the Innova HyCross Exclusive Edition in ZX(O), thoughtfully crafted to meet the evolving aspirations of our discerning customers. This special variant embodies Toyota's commitment to exclusivity and elevated customer experience.

With this introduction, we aim to offer enhanced value and added convenience features, while continuing to build on the strengths of the versatile Innova HyCross - perfect for families wanting a car that can deliver a seamless, fatigue-free drive."

Since its debut in November 2022, the Innova HyCross has emerged as a preferred choice among customers, epitomizing Toyota's renowned Quality, Durability, and Reliability (QDR). Powered by the 5th Generation Self-Charging Strong Hybrid Electric System, built on the advanced Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA), the Innova HyCross is much celebrated for delivering outstanding performance, unmatched fuel efficiency, and superior driving dynamics. Equipped with

a 2.0-litre 4-cylinder gasoline engine and an e-drive sequential shift, it delivers an impressive power output of 137 kW (186 PS) while offering best-in-segment fuel efficiency. The hybrid electric system is capable of operating the vehicle upto 60% of the time in electric (EV) mode, providing a seamless combination of power, efficiency, and environmental consciousness, giving customers a wise choice for a greener tomorrow.

With its class-leading features such as Powered Ottoman Second Row Seats, Front Ventilated Seats, Dual Zone Air Conditioning, Panoramic Sunroof, Toyota Safety Sense™, and connected infotainment experience, the Innova HyCross has set new benchmarks in the premium MPV segment, delighting our customers across India.

## Tony leads delegation of displaced Rani Bagh families to DC Jammu, SDM South

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 2

Senior Congress leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony today led a delegation of 29 displaced families from the Rani Bagh area, whose houses were demolished during the Jammu Airport expansion drive in November 2019. The delegation submitted a representation to the Deputy Commissioner Jammu, seeking early implementation of the rehabilitation plan promised by the authorities.

Tony highlighted that it has been nearly six years since the families were evicted from their homes, which they had been residing in since 1947. They included Col. Parveen Singh, S. Gurdeep Singh, Piara Singh, Rattan Singh,



Kala Singh, Gurbachan Singh, Mohan Singh, Nirmal Singh, Babu Ram, Parkasho Devi, Swaran Singh, Dattar Kour, Milkhi Ram, Sudheshan Kumar, Tara Chand Jatt, Chain Singh, Jeet Lal, Madan Lal, Kulwant Singh, Dewan Singh, S. Khazan Singh, S. Jasbir Singh, S. Satpal Singh, Ram Singh, S. Jasbir Singh, Satnam Kour, Dharam Paul, Harmeet Kour and Shri Sain Dass.

Despite repeated assurances by the administration, neither adequate compensation nor alterna-

tive plots have been provided to the affected families. The senior Congress leader informed that land for their rehabilitation has already been identified at Beli Charana and transferred to the Revenue Department for allotment. However, the physical distribution of plots to the affected families remains pending. As per the government's commitment, each family is to be allotted 10 marlas of land, he added.

"These families are facing extreme hardships,

with many forced to pay rent for years without any stable source of income. Several among them are elderly and have no means to support their families," Tony stated, demanding that the government fulfill its commitment without further delay.

The Deputy Commissioner Jammu gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them that the matter would be resolved at the earliest. He marked the application to SDM South with instructions to address the issue on priority.

Following this, the delegation led by Tony also met SDM South Manu Hans, who assured them that necessary steps would be taken promptly to expedite the physical allotment of plots and bring relief to the suffering families.

## Online Training Program on "NEP Orientation & Sensitization Program" Organised at SMVDU

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 2

University, Katra; has organised the 8-day Online training Program entitled "NEP Orientation & Sensitization Program" which was conducted for University and College teachers from all over India during. The Event was organized under the objectives of UGC-MMTTC, which aim at "Improving the quality of Education at all levels by infusing quality and excellence in our teachers and teaching". By participating in the program, the Faculty Members get trained to impart holistic education, imbuing the ideals of India-centric ethics and human values. The Inaugural address was delivered by the Chief Guest of the event, Prof. Supran Kumar Sharma, Director MMTTC-SMVDU, who dwelt upon the need for sensitizing faculty members in realizing their role in futuristic institution-building in the Indian Education Policy ecosystem. He also spoke about aspects of redesigning the higher education ecosystem as envisaged by NEP 2020, which requires strengthening the role of the Faculty. Further, Prof. Sharada Potukuchi, Deputy

Director MMTTC-SMVDU, described the role of a teacher in the implementation of the NEP-2020 as vital. Therefore, this type of workshop would strengthen teachers' knowledge for the successful implementation of NEP-2020 in various higher education institutions across India. In a valedictory programme, Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena, Coordinator of the programme, spoke about how the course contents of the 8-day Online Training Program, such as Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education, Indian Knowledge Systems, Academic Leadership, Governance and Management, Higher Education and Society, Research and Development, Skill Development, Student Diversity and Inclusive Education and Information & Communication Technology enhanced the knowledge of faculty members who were participated from Various State Universities, Deemed to be Universities, Private Universities, Institutions of National Importance, Colleges and other Higher Education Institutions across India. In this programme, a total of 71 participants attended various technical sessions online. The

event, spread over 10 days, included 16 Technical Sessions and the Speakers were specifically selected from various Institutions of the country to articulate the need for imparting training and skills to Faculty Members for the smooth and successful implementation of NEP-2020 as per the decisions taken by UGC at Institutions of Higher learning across the country. A vote of thanks was also proposed by Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena, Coordinator of the Programme, who thanked Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, for his constant guidance. He also thanked Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma (JKAS), Registrar and Sh. Neeraj Gupta (JKAS), Finance Officer, for their cooperation and help in organizing this programme. Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena also thanks all the participants who have attended this program online across India. Finally, he thanked Prof. Sharada Potukuchi, Prof. Raghvendra Mishra, Prof. Ankush Anand, Dr. Anil Bharadwaj, Dr. Surinder Singh, Dr. Sunanda, Dr. Kamaldeep and Staff Members of the organizing committee of MMTTC-SMVDU for the successful completion of the programme.

## Dr. Narinder Singh inaugurates development works in Sainik Colony

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, 02 MAY 2025.

Dr. Narinder Singh, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) RS Pura-Jammu South and National Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), inaugurated newly completed development works in Sector-C of Sainik Colony. The inauguration event witnessed the presence of several prominent leaders and local residents who appreciated the efforts made to address longstanding civic issues in the area.

The works, carried out by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), were completed at an estimated cost of Rs 22 lakh and include development works such as the construction of a drain and road crossing. These projects aim to ease the challenges faced by the local population due to waterlogging and poor infrastructure, thereby improving day-to-day commuting and living conditions.

Dr. Singh, while addressing the gathering, emphasized the importance of infrastructure development in urban areas like Sainik Colony. He stated that the projects now dedicated to public use are a testament to the BJP-led government's commitment to holistic development and the well-being of every citizen.

He added, "The Narendra Modi government is working with a vision to ensure that basic civic amenities and infrastructure reach every household. At the local level, BJP representatives are tirelessly implementing this vision to bring development to the doorsteps of the people."

The event was graced by District President Jammu South Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Mandal President Ajay Partap, former Councillor Gurmeet Kour Randhawa, former Councillor Narinder Bunt, and other senior party workers and prominent locals. The collective participation underscored the BJP's inclusive approach in addressing public issues and working towards their resolution.

Local residents expressed their gratitude to Dr. Singh and the municipal authorities for their prompt response to civic problems that had persisted for years. The newly constructed drain and road crossing are expected to significantly reduce the inconvenience faced by commuters, especially during the rainy season.

## Bharat Priya terms Caste Census as victory of Rahul Gandhi's struggle

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 2

JKPCC Kisan Congress chairman, Bharat Priye termed caste based census as success of struggle of rahul gandhi. He said Rahul Gandhi has proved that any decision can be implemented in the interest of the country on the strength of continuous struggle and truth. He said that the Congress said from the beginning that the caste census is for the good of the poor and common people of the country. From the Prime Minister to the Minister of the govt, they always criticize census and described it as division of the country, but Rahul Gandhi did not back down, he fought



continuously and forced the government to come to knee. He said that Rahul Gandhi is truly a public hero. He showed what he said till date. Never lied and never lies with anything. He said that even today, even though BJP leaders are trying to take credit for it, the country knows very well that this decision has been possible only due to Rahul Gandhi's struggle.

## Arvind inaugurates Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji Memorial Hockey Tournament



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 2

Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta today inaugurated the Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji Memorial Hockey Tournament at the Guru Tegh Bahadur Mini Stadium, Camp Gole Gujral. The tournament is being organized by the Khalsa Club and Khalsa Warrior Hockey Club in Ward No. 32 of the Jammu West Assembly Constituency.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Arvind Gupta emphasized the importance of sports in shaping the character and future of youth. He lauded the efforts of the organizing clubs for their commitment to nurturing talent and promoting the sport of hockey in the region.

He paid rich tributes to Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, stating that organizing such events in his memory not only honors his supreme sacrifice but also reinforces the values of courage, righteousness, and unity among the younger gen-

eration. The inaugural ceremony witnessed a strong turnout of dignitaries, party leaders, and community members. Present on the occasion were former Deputy Mayor and senior BJP leader Dharamveer Singh Jamwal, Mandal President Kushant Prajapati, BJP leader Keshav Chopra, and several other senior BJP functionaries. Besides, Ex-Sarpanch Prithpal Singh Raju, Ex-Naib Sarpanch Kuldeep Singh, Ex-Panchs Amritpal Singh and Surinder Singh, Organisers Gurpreet Singh, Sarabjeet Singh, and Malkeet Singh; JK Hockey Secretary Supinder Singh Bakhshi, Prithpal Singh Bunt, Harpal Singh Bakshi, and Kamaljeet Singh (Raju) were also present.

The tournament aims to foster a sense of discipline, teamwork, and heritage among the youth, aligning with the broader vision of empowering the next generation through meaningful engagement and active participation in physical activities.

## JJAR organizes mental health session for students, faculty

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 2

The Jammu Institute of Ayurveda and Research (JIAR) today organized a session on "mental health and well-being" to promote spiritual growth and overall wellness among students and faculty.

Students and faculty participated enthusiastically, showing strong interest in the subject.

The key speaker was MAAsterG, a spiritual leader and founder of GOD HOME JOURNEY TRUST, who spoke about achieving happiness and well-being. Other speakers included Mr. Bhanu Pratap, Dr. Ishita Gupta, Mrs. Ashok Lata, and Mr. M.K. Dhar, who shared insights on the importance of mental health in modern life.



The session was attended by JJAR Chairperson Smt. Suman Sharma, who was the Guest of Honour, highlighting the institute's commitment to holistic development.

Dr. Nitin Mahajan, CEO and Principal of JJAR, stressed the importance of mental well-being for academic and personal growth. Managing Director Mr. Ravish Sharma and CEO Mrs. Jasudha Sharma also thanked the speakers

and contributors. The session reflected JJAR's commitment to building a caring and supportive environment for its academic community.

The "Mental Health & Well-Being" session stood as a testament to JJAR's dedication to creating a supportive, compassionate, and spiritually uplifting environment where individuals are empowered to thrive—both academically and personally.

## Langeh slams Pakistan for repeated Ceasefire Violations on borders

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, MAY 2

Former MLA and District President BJP Ramban, Shri Neelam Langeh, expressed serious concern over the repeated ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir, terming them as a cowardly attempt to disrupt peace and terrorize border residents.

Reacting to the eighth consecutive night of unprovoked firing by Pakistani forces in multiple districts—including Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Naushera, Akhnoor, and parts of Jammu—Langeh said these acts expose Pakistan's desperation and persistent support to cross-border terrorism.

"The timing of these violations, soon after the tragic Pahalgam attack, clearly indicates a well-orchestrated strategy to destabilize the region and instill fear among civilians," Langeh said. "But the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially those living in border areas, have immense courage and faith in our armed forces."

In a press release issued here today, the former MLA lauded the Indian Army's disciplined and proportionate response to the provocations and



said the soldiers are fully capable of giving a befitting reply to any misadventure. "Our jawans are alert, brave, and committed to safeguarding every inch of our motherland," he added.

Reaffirming BJP's commitment to national security and the welfare of border residents, Langeh said the Modi Government remains vigilant and responsive. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, India has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards cross-border terrorism and ceasefire violations. The safety and dignity of every Indian, especially our border residents, is paramount."

He urged the administration to remain in close touch with affected families and provide all necessary support, including emergency supplies, medical care, and shelter arrangements, in case of any further escalation.

## NSF Applauds Caste Census Move; Calls on Sikhs to Uphold Casteless Khalsa Ideals"

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 2

The National Sikh Front (NSF), under the dynamic leadership of Chairman S. Varinderjeet Singh, has hailed the Prime Minister's announcement of a nationwide Jaati Jaganana (caste census) as a transformative step toward social equity. Speaking from the NSF's Jammu headquarters, S. Varinderjeet Singh urged Sikhs to seize this moment to reject caste divisions and embrace the Sikh ethos of equality, drawing on the Gurus' teachings, Sikh history, and his bold vision for a united Panth.

The caste census, a historic initiative to address systemic inequalities, aligns with Sikhism's prin-

ciple of Sarbat da Bhala (welfare of all). However, S. Varinderjeet Singh cautioned against letting caste labels—like Jaat, Khatri, Brar, or Lubana—fracture the Sikh community. "We are Khalsa, bound by the names Singh and Kaur. Caste is a relic that defies our Gurus' command to see all as one," he declared, echoing the recent appeal of former Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh Ji, who urged Sikhs globally to shun caste practices.

Sikhism, founded on Guru Nanak Dev Ji's revolutionary vision, rejects hierarchy through teachings like "Ek pita ekas ke hum baarik" (One Creator, we are all His children). Guru Gobind Singh Ji's creation of the Khalsa in



1699, exemplified by the Panj Pyare—who hailed from diverse regions and shed caste identities—cemented this ethos. Historic figures like Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, who led a casteless uprising against Mughal oppression, Nawab Kapur Singh, who unified Sikhs under equality, and Maharaja Ranjit Singh, whose inclusive empire championed merit over birth, embody

this legacy. "Our ancestors fought for a world without caste. We must honor their sacrifices," S. Varinderjeet Singh said.

S. Varinderjeet Singh's unique vision for the NSF blends this heritage with a forward-looking call to action. He envisions a Sikh Panth that leads India's social transformation by example, using the census to uplift the marginalized while transcending caste identities. "The Jaati Jaganana is a tool for justice, but our true strength lies in living as one Khalsa, united in purpose," he said, announcing NSF-led campaigns, including youth seminars and Gurdwara outreach, to ignite pride in Sikhism's casteless ideals. Recent discus-

sions on platforms like X highlight growing Sikh support for rejecting caste, with community leaders citing the Guru Granth Sahib's universalism and historical Sikh resistance to social hierarchies. S. Varinderjeet Singh's appeal resonates with this sentiment, urging Sikhs to participate in the census while reaffirming their Khalsa identity. "Let us show the world that Sikhism's vision of equality is not just our past but our future," he said. The NSF extends gratitude to the Prime Minister for the Jaati Jaganana and pledges to build a society rooted in justice and unity, inspired by the Gurus' timeless wisdom and the valor of Sikh heroes.

## Police conducts awareness programme on new criminal laws in Handwara

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
HANDWARA, MAY 2

In a significant initiative aimed at promoting legal literacy and civic responsibility, Police in Handwara organized an awareness programme on the newly enacted criminal laws at New Millennium Public School, Handwara. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers and members of the local community.

During the session, students actively engaged with the officers, posing insightful questions related to the new laws. The queries ranged from the advantages of specific legal reforms to their impact on everyday life.

## Secretary DLSA Ganderbal chairs meeting of LADCs

J I NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, MAY 2

The Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, today chaired a meeting of Legal Aid Defense Counsels in his office chamber.

The meeting was attended by all Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) and aimed to discuss strategies for improvement and provision of qualitative and competent legal services in criminal matters to all eligible persons and strategies for legal research & implementation of calendar of activities.

During the meeting, the Secretary emphasized the importance of managing and implementing the legal aid system in a professional manner in criminal trials. He stressed upon the Legal



Aid Defense Counsels to ensure that the legal aid services are delivered in an efficient and effective manner, upholding the principles of justice and fairness.

The meeting provided a platform for the Legal Aid Defense Counsels to discuss challenges and share best practices in providing legal aid ser-

VICES to the marginalized sections of society and conduct a legal research for effective implementation of schemes devised by NALSA.

The Secretary's guidance and directions are expected to further strengthen the legal aid system in the district, ensuring that justice is accessible to all.

## DC Reasi reviews performance of Health department, lays emphasis on maternal, neonatal Healthcare

J I NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, MAY 2

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Health Department to assess the status of ongoing health programmes and initiatives in the district.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Kohli, provided an overview of the department's functioning in the district including Maternal and neonatal healthcare, Family Planning and immunisation and a briefing on the 100-Day TB Elimination Campaign.

The Deputy Commissioner laid special emphasis on Maternal and neonatal Healthcare and instructed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to furnish detailed data on institutional deliveries and home births. She



emphasized the need to minimize home deliveries, highlighting the risks these pose to both mothers and newborns. The DC Reasi urged health officials to ensure that all deliveries take place in registered healthcare institutions, where proper medical support is available, to enhance the overall safety and outcomes of childbirth in the district.

For improving child healthcare, the Deputy

Commissioner emphasized on the significance of the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK). She directed the CMO to ensure early detection and prevention of diseases among children, so that timely treatment and support can be provided to them.

It was informed that the district has improved many parameters like ANC registration touching 91% in the first trimester of 2024-25 in comparison

to last year's 80%, institutional deliveries reaching 91% during 2024-25, BCG Vaccines rate recorded at 108% and considerable improvement in PPIUCD insertion.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that the hilly, inaccessible, remote areas of Mahore, Reasi & Pouni, where people still resort to home deliveries need to be given special attention. She asked for conducting Block wise monthly review of implementation of each Programme. She further directed the officials to compile monthly health data and furnish the same to her office.

The meeting also included a briefing on the 100-Day TB Elimination Campaign, a focused initiative to raise community awareness around TB prevention and treatment.

## DDC Chairperson Kulgam expresses grief over loss of life in cloudburst at Gownsargam

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, MAY 02

Chairperson of the District Development Council Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parray, expressed profound grief over the death of Tariq Ahmad Paddar, Son of Mohd Subhan Paddar in a cloudburst at Gownsargam village of the district.

He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul. He urged the District Administration and concerned authorities to provide immediate compensation and rehabilitation support to the affected family.

## Police solves theft case in Baramulla; accused arrested, stolen property recovered

J I NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, MAY 2

Police in Baramulla have successfully solved a theft case reported from the Mechanical Irrigation Subdivision Pattan, leading to the arrest of the accused and recovery of stolen property.

On 15/03/2025, Police Station Pattan received a written complaint from the AEE, Mechanical Irrigation Subdivision Pattan, regarding a theft incident at the Lift Irrigation & De-Watering scheme structure at Gund Ibrahim. As per the complaint, during the intervening night of 10-11/03/2025, unknown thieves had stolen copper coils and cables from the scheme structure after breaking into the premises.

Acting on the compli-



ant, a case under FIR No. 36/2025 was registered at Police Station Pattan and initiated an investigation.

During the investigation, reliable inputs suggested the involvement of one Nazir Ahmad Dar son of Sanaullah Dar resident of Hygam Sopore A/P Wushkar Sumbal, a known habitual thief, who was reportedly roaming in the area of Trikbal Gund Ibrahim days before the incident. Despite multiple raids at various locations, the suspect managed to evade arrest, further strengthening suspicion about his involvement. However, based on specific intelligence and technical inputs, it came to fore that the suspect was moving towards Mirgund in a Mahindra Bolero load carrier bearing registration number JK05M 0894.

Accordingly, a check-point was laid at Diver Crossing, where the accused was apprehended tactfully along with the said vehicle. Upon sustained questioning, the accused confessed to the commission of the theft and disclosed the location where the stolen copper coils were concealed. The stolen property has since been recovered and seized. The said vehicle used in the commission of the crime has also been seized.

J&K Police remains committed to upholding the rule of law and ensuring the safety and security of public infrastructure. The general public is requested to remain vigilant and continue to cooperate with police in curbing such criminal activities.

## International Labour Day: GDC Ramgarh hosts Lecture on Workers' Rights

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, MAY 2

In a thoughtful initiative aimed at raising awareness about the significance of labour rights and honouring the contribution of workers, Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized a lecture to mark the International Labour Day 2025.

The event was held under the leadership of Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, who highlighted the importance of acknowledging the efforts of workers across sectors and the need to uphold their rights and dignity in a fair and just society.

The programme was initiated by Head of the Department of Political Science Priya Sharma, with introduction to the

significance of International Labour Day. In her address, she shed light on the historical struggles of workers worldwide, the emergence of labour laws, and the ongoing challenges faced by the labour force in India. She emphasized the importance of educating students about labour rights, legal frameworks such as the Minimum Wages Act, the Industrial Disputes Act, and various Social Security Schemes designed to protect workers' welfare.

A detailed and interactive lecture was delivered, focusing on the fundamental rights of workers, working conditions, social protections, and the role of labour unions. The lecture also addressed contemporary issues such as informal labour, economic challenges, and gender disparity in the

workforce. The programme also featured discussions on the role of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Indian Constitution in securing the rights and welfare of workers. Real-life examples and relevant case studies were shared to give students a better understanding of the ground realities and the legal remedies available for workers.

The event was coordinated by the Department of Political Science with active support from faculty members including Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Dr. Snobar, Ashok Kumar, Prof. Brham Dutt, Dr. Neeraj Bargar, Dr. Susheel Kumar, Priya Sharma and Ms. Sayema. The session concluded with an engaging interaction between students and faculty.

## Digital Radio is the medium of the future; analog medium should also co-exist – From the Discussion at WAVES 2025

J I NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, 2 MAY 2025

A panel discussion on the subject 'Radio Reimagined: Thriving in the Digital Age' brought together global experts to engage in an insightful discourse at WAVES 2025 today.

The esteemed panelists included the pioneer of commercial radio Jacqueline Bierhorst, Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) Chairman Ruxandra Obreja, Vice Group Leader of DRM Alexander Zink, ex-CEO of Prasar Bharati and Co-Founder of Deep Tech for Bharat Shashi Shekhar Vempati and noted broadcast technology expert Ted Laverty. Nisha Narayanan, Director & COO of Red FM moderated the conversations with expertise and led to throwing lights on the factors influencing the radio broadcasting industry.

**'Digital Radio is the medium of the future, but analog should also co-exist'**

Jacqueline Bierhorst feels that digital radio is likely to be the primary format in the future, as it offers advantages like

better sound quality, more reliable transmission, and the ability to integrate multimedia elements. "While analog radio remains relevant in some contexts, particularly for simpler communication and in areas with limited digital infrastructure, the shift to digital broadcasting is ongoing and expected to continue", she opined. Cost saving happens by switching from analog to digital, they informed.

However, Jacqueline Bierhorst and Alexander Zink noted that broadcast is an important backing point needed during exigencies like terrorist attacks, floods etc., when digital networks may not always work. DRM Chairman Ruxandra Obreja noted on this point that it is important to preserve analog radio in India which reaches out to 600,000 villages. In case of exigencies, undoubtedly broadcast radios are more likely to reach out to a larger population, remarked the experts. "The challenge is to introduce new technologies, without disrupting the old ones", noted Ruxandra Obreja.



**The new 5Cs of radio communication**

Jacqueline Bierhorst mentioned the classical 5Cs namely, Conciseness, Clarity, Confidence, Control and Capability, and juxtaposed them with the new 5 Cs essential in the era of a thriving digital radio infrastructure. These are: Coverage, Content, Consumer Devices, Car, Communication. She advised to make sure that the radio network is covering the right areas where listeners are based.

Measurement of listenership is an important step to take concerted efforts for enabling the sector to

prosper. Ted Laverty spoke about radio playing Apps in Europe, like Radioplayer and Radio FM, that offer features that can be used to measure listenership, without infringing of privacy. Such programmes and apps, sample surveys and listening diaries can be used to analyse hotspots of radio listenerships in India as well, he advised.

**Good content, collaborations, cross platform promotions work well**

"Content is King" - the experts agreed on this success mantra for the sector. Nisha Narayanan flagged the issue faced by private

FMs of high license fee for varied contents. As a result, they end up mostly catering popular music which has a lower licence fee than other categories of content. The Red FM COO agreed on the need for bringing variety in content for private FMs.

Speaking about the value of good, useful content, Jacqueline Bierhorst highlighted the success story of British digital radio station Absolute Radio which grew and earned revenue throughout the 70s, 80s and 90s while engaging in various educational and promotional activities that ben-

efit their audience.

Digital radio has to offer more than the audio content - it has visuals and text applications that is advantageous for growing audience base, Alexander Zing reminded of this yet another aspect of Digital Radio.

Ted Laverty urged that an ecosystem needed to support the spread of radio listenership. Making low-cost devices, having favourable platforms like android are some of the measures he stated. In addition to existence of external hardware components, diversity of content is also important as it helps to address different sub-groups of listeners.

**Climate Change and Digital Radio**

Digital radio can achieve significant energy savings by using more efficient modulation techniques and enabling single-frequency networks. However, switching off FM stations is not possible. Though some European countries have tried complete switch off of FM stations and complete digitization, it is not the holy grail, said Ruxandra

Obreja. She suggested that it is important to invent the needs of commercial radio stations while speaking with the Government for policy interventions.

**Radio Industry in India - scope for strengthening the ecosystem**

Ruxandra Obreja mentioned that public policies in Europe have leveraged the reach of digital radio. Having radio in cars, mobile phones, easy availability of radio sets in the market are important steps in that direction. A digital radio consortium should be built up in India, opined the experts.

Ruxandra Obreja stated that India is a driving force in digital radio. Digital to Terrestrial Radio is important and so is digital to mobile. "Prasar Bharati has a reach to nearly 90 crore population. India is a golden goose in this field, plus points being billions of mobile phone users in India. Important to build on these plus points", she added.

Shashi Shekhar Vempati stated that India is the biggest market for radio, and referred to the

medium as the original public good. He highlighted the need for coordinated public action for the sector. "Radio is not going anywhere. Radio consumers in India come from a broad cross section of society", he stated while charting out the advantages of the sector in the country. Policy interventions may include sequence of stipulations like certain categories of devices must have radio. AI powered devices as well as passive devices like traditional radio should exist side by side.

With climate change being an important determinant of public policies, it is important to preserve traditional devices. Ted Laverty urged for scaling up of the ecosystem for radio in India, using schemes like 'Make in India' for incentivizing radio device manufacturers.

The experts agreed that digital radio is the way forward in India and elsewhere and urged that commercial stations with Common Transmission Infrastructure ion big cities to form a platform for collaboration.