

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:

- Headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Steady ten-point or more bleed on skin, nose or stool
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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LG Sinha flags off J&K's 1st batch of Hajj Pilgrims from Srinagar International Airport

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, MAY 4

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today flagged off the first batch of Hajj pilgrims of the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir from Srinagar International Airport.



The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the pilgrims and extended his greetings and best wishes for a safe pilgrimage and a truly fulfilling spiritual experience. He prayed for peace and prosperity of J&K UT and well-being of one and all.

"I extend my heartiest greetings and felicitations to pilgrims undertaking the sacred Hajj journey.

The divine pilgrimage is a call from almighty and a cherished and life-long dream. The central government is committed to ensure best possible arrangements for the well-being of pilgrims and their

sacred pilgrimage," the Lieutenant Governor said. This year, around 3622 pilgrims from Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir will perform Hajj pilgrimage. Srinagar International Airport is scheduled to

operate 11 flights between 4th to 15th May 2025, facilitating approximately 3132 Hajj pilgrims from J&K, and 242 from UT of Ladakh. The Hajj pilgrims will be received by the Con-

sulate General of India, Ministry of External Affairs, GoI, at Jeddah. The Lieutenant Governor also recognised and appreciated the support by all the stakeholders for successful organisation of holy pilgrimage.

Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister; Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Budgam and members of J&K Hajj Committee, senior officers of Airport Authority, Civil and Police administration were present on the occasion.

Army vehicle plunges into gorge in Ramban, Three Soldiers Killed

AGENCIES
RAMBAN/JAMMU, MAY 4



Three Army personnel were killed when their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a 700-foot deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Sunday, officials said.

The army truck was part of a convoy moving from Jammu to Srinagar along national highway 44 when the accident occurred near Battery Chashma at around 11.30 am, the officials said.

They said a joint rescue operation was launched immediately by army, police, SDRF and local volunteers and three soldiers, travelling in the vehicle, were found dead

on-the-spot. The deceased were identified as sepoy's Amit Kumar, Sujet Kumar and Man Bahadur and their bodies are being retrieved from the gorge, the officials said, adding the crash reduced the vehicle into a mangled heap of metal.

India has cut water flow through Baglihar Dam after Indus Treaty suspension: Source

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 4



India has stanch the flow of water through the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River and is planning similar measures at the Kishanganga Dam on the Jhelum River, a source said.

The source familiar with the matter said these hydroelectric dams – Baglihar in Ramban in Jammu and Kishanganga in north Kashmir – offer India the ability to regulate the timing of water releases.

India's decision to suspend the decades-old treaty follows the killing of 26 people, mostly tourists, in a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

The Indus Waters Treaty, brokered by the World Bank, has governed the use of the Indus River and its tributaries between India and Pakistan since 1960.

CM Omar Abdullah bids farewell to first batch of Hajj Pilgrims at Srinagar Airport

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, MAY 4



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah this morning accorded a warm send-off to the first batch of Hajj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir, extending his best wishes for their safe journey and smooth performance of Manasik-e-Hajj.

The Chief Minister arrived at Sheikh-ul-Alam International Airport Srinagar early this morning, where he interacted with the pilgrims before their departure. A total of 178 pilgrims boarded a direct

flight to Saudi Arabia. While interacting with the pilgrims, the Chief Minister expressed his hope for their well-being and a spiritually fulfilling Haj-e-Baitullah. He urged

them to pray for lasting peace, prosperity and progress in Jammu and Kashmir, and for protection of its people from suffering and adversity.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and other

concerned. The pilgrims expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for the elaborate and efficient arrangements made at both the Hajj House and Srinagar International Airport. Elaborate facilities have been put in place for the convenience of the pilgrims, including smooth transportation, boarding & lodging, luggage verification, security screening, refreshment, food, prayer arrangements, distribution of travel documents and prompt issuance of boarding passes.

Pakistani troops violate ceasefire along LoC in J&K for 10th Day

AGENCIES
JAMMU, MAY 4



Pakistani troops continued unprovoked small arms firing in different sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, prompting effective retaliation by the Indian army, officials said on Sunday.

The ceasefire violation by Pakistan was reported from eight places spread across five districts in the Union Territory during the intervening night of Satur-

day and Sunday but there was no report of any casualty, the officials said. This was the 10th consecutive night of unpro-

voled firing from across the border in Jammu and Kashmir, amid heightened tensions following the April 22 terror attack

in Pahalgam that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead.

"During the night of May 3 and 4, Pakistan Army posts resorted to unprovoked small arms fire across the LoC in areas opposite Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Naushera, Sunderbani, and Akhnoor in J-K. Indian Army responded promptly and proportionately," a defence spokesperson said.

The ceasefire violations along the LoC and Inter-

national Border (IB) have been very rare since India and Pakistan renewed the ceasefire agreement on February 25, 2021.

Taking precautionary measures, the panicked border villagers have already started cleaning their community and individual bunkers to make them habitable.

Since the night of April 24, just hours after India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty following the Pahalgam

>> Tel Aviv Airport Attack Air India's Delhi-Tel Aviv Flight Diverted To Abu Dhabi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 4

the Air India flight AI139, operated with a Boeing 787 aircraft, was to land at Tel Aviv, the sources said.

An Air India flight from the national capital to Tel Aviv was diverted to Abu Dhabi on Sunday as there was a missile attack near the airport in the Israeli city, according to sources.

The attack happened less than an hour before

They said the flight will be coming back to Delhi.

As per information available on flight tracking website Flightradar24.com, the flight was in the Jordanian airspace when it was decided to

divert the flight to Abu Dhabi. Air India's flight from Tel Aviv to Delhi has been cancelled for Sunday. A statement from Air India was awaited. Air traffic to the Tel Aviv airport was briefly suspended after a missile launched from Yemen landed near the Tel Aviv airport.

Rise of Sanskrit is intrinsically linked to rise of India: Amit Shah

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 4

wisdom is deeply embedded in the Sanskrit language. As the mother of most Indian languages, Sanskrit's promotion is not just about its revival, but also about advancing the nation's overall progress.

He noted that for thousands of years, the churning of ideas across various disciplines has produced a wealth of knowledge preserved in Sanskrit. This vast treasure spans every field and should be made accessible to the entire world.

He stressed that the profound wisdom contained in the Vedas, Upanishads, and countless Sanskrit manuscripts must reach a global audience, and added that the ongoing efforts by Sanskrit Bharati are a significant first step towards achieving this goal.

"Sanskrit is not only the most scientific language in the world, but also possesses an unparalleled grammatical structure. Sanskrit was the first language to refine the use of meter and syllables,



which has contributed to its continued vitality and relevance even today," he said.

Praising the Sanskrit Bharati for its remarkable

and courageous initiative in organising 1008 Sanskrit Sambhashan Shivirs, Shah noted that the decline of Sanskrit began even before the era

of colonial rule, and its revival will require time and sustained effort.

Shah said that since 1981, Sanskrit Bharati has been working to present the vast knowledge available in Sanskrit to the world and to train and enable millions of people to speak and learn Sanskrit. He highlighted that many renowned global scholars have acknowledged Sanskrit as the most scientific language.

Emphasising a forward-looking approach, the Home Minister said that

rather than dwelling on the history of Sanskrit's decline, efforts should now focus on its resurgence.

He said that the government has launched various initiatives to promote Sanskrit. Around 18 projects have been implemented under the Ashtadashi scheme, and the Government of India provides financial support for the publication, bulk purchase, and reprinting of rare Sanskrit texts.

He highlighted that the new National Education

Policy (NEP) places strong emphasis on the Indian Knowledge System, with Sanskrit as its core pillar. He noted that the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan has been elevated to the status of a Central Sanskrit University.

He also mentioned that under the Sahasra Chudamani Yojana, the government has facilitated the appointment of retired eminent Sanskrit scholars as educators.

He emphasised that one of the most

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Natrang Stages Hindi Comedy 'Aag Ka Tamasha' in Sunday Theatre Series

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

Natrang presented a Hindi comedy play, 'Aag Ka Tamasha' here today at Natrang in Natrang's weekly Theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'. The play has been written by Giriraj Sharan Aggarwal and directed by Neeraj Kant. A very well conceived and structured play carried candid instances of comedy in its content and stage action, which received appreciation from the audience of different age groups.

The play opens in a busy market where a Policeman is shown looking for one Fakir Muhammad Urf Jhunjhuna Qawwal's house. Even after inquiring from many people moving all over in the street, he fails to get any clue about his exact whereabouts, but eventually a man escorts him to Jhunjhuna's house. Jhunjhuna Qawwal mistakenly thinks that Havaladar has come from the Police Station with an invitation for a commissioned Qawwali programme for that he start demonstrating his entire repertoire of Qawwalis. The policeman gets engrossed in his poetry recitations and soulful Qawwali renderings and forgets that he has come to pick him up. Later, the moment he remembers the purpose of his visit, he swings into action and



drags him straight to the police station.

On reaching the police station, the sub-inspector tells Jhunjhuna that someone has filed a complaint against him alleging having set his Muftal Beedi Store on fire which resulted in a loss of Lakhs of Rupees to him. On this Qawwal pleaded that the inspector has some misunderstanding, as his art works like a fire extinguisher and not sets things on fire. On this the proprietor of Muftal Beedi Bhandar is summoned, who accuses Jhunjhuna Qawwal for setting his Beedi store on fire as he was heard singing the entire night 'Aah Laga Doonga' (Will set on fire, will set on fire). Pleading further Jhunjhuna's wife Bulbuli Begum informs that they were rehearsing a Qawwali that night whose lyrics were "Har Dil Mein Mohabbat Ki Hum Aag Laga Denge". Mean-

while, Ahe ji, the poet of that Qawwali, is also summoned. Both Jhunjhuna Qawwal and Ahe ji are booked for a conspiracy for setting on fire the Muftal Beedi Bhandar. While pronouncing the judgement, it was observed the 'Love' that Qawal and the poet are pleading is not found in contemporary times. Laws are made to punish and not to reward anyone for spreading the message of peace and love through artistic expressions.

Natrang artists who presented a wonderful performance included Neeraj Kant, Pawan Verma, Mohd. Yaseen, Shivam Singh, Simran Bhagat, Vansh Pandotra, Aryan Sharma, Adaksh Bagal and Kartik Kumar. The lights of the play were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant whereas the presentations were done by Prerna Sharma.

Silent Crisis-The Growing Burden of Heart Disease in Rural India: Dr Sushil

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

To make people aware about cardiovascular diseases and cardiac ailments in rural areas Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac awareness cum health check up camp at Village Pandori Brahmana block Bishnah Jammu where people from all walks of life were educated to follow cardiac friendly lifestyle and adopt environmental friendly approach to decrease the morbidity and mortality and improve quality of life.

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil Stated that worsening cardiovascular health in rural India is a silent epidemic demanding urgent attention. It reflects not just a medical issue but a deep socio-economic imbalance. If the rural health continues to falter, the entire nation's health and productivity are at risk. To preserve the vitality of India's villages, healthcare must be reimagined—not just in terms of infrastructure. India, a nation characterized by vibrant cultures and sprawling landscapes, is undergoing a rapid epidemiological



transition. Once dominated by communicable diseases, the country now grapples with a growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), particularly cardiovascular diseases (CVDs). While urban areas have long been the focus of healthcare interventions, rural India—home to nearly 65% of the population—is now witnessing a silent and deadly shift.

He elaborated that historically, rural India had lower rates of CVDs, owing largely to active lifestyles and traditional diets. However, this advantage is eroding fast. Studies now reveal that rural populations are catching up with, and in some cases surpassing, urban areas in CVD prevalence. The reasons are multifaceted: dietary transitions involving high-fat, high-sugar processed foods; decreasing physical

activity due to mechanization; increasing tobacco and alcohol use; and rising stress levels due to changing economic and social dynamics. Compounding the problem is the lack of awareness about cardiovascular health. Many rural residents do not recognize symptoms of heart disease or understand the importance of regular health check-ups. Preventive care is almost nonexistent, and the first sign of a heart condition is often a fatal event.

He added that Poverty, illiteracy, and cultural beliefs further hinder effective cardiovascular care in rural regions. Many people prioritize immediate economic survival over long-term health. For instance, men, often the primary breadwinners, may delay or avoid seeking medical attention for symptoms of heart disease. Women,

on the other hand, are frequently under diagnosed or ignored due to gender biases in healthcare access. Traditional beliefs also play a role. Home remedies or consultations with local healers are still common, and while they hold cultural significance, they often delay timely medical intervention. Addressing the cardiovascular crisis in rural India requires a multi-pronged approach. First, there must be a concerted effort to strengthen rural healthcare infrastructure through government investment and public-private partnerships. Mobile clinics, telemedicine, and community health workers can play vital roles in expanding access. Second, widespread awareness campaigns in local languages are essential to educate the rural population about risk factors,

symptoms, and the importance of early detection. School-based interventions and village health committees can be effective in spreading information and encouraging lifestyle changes. Third, policies must be tailored to ensure affordability and accessibility of medicines and treatments for chronic conditions like hypertension and diabetes. He said Management Committee of the Brahman Mahasabha Rakesh Pant, Tarsem Sharma, Aman-deep Bhagat, Rakesh Sharma, Balwinder Sharma, Dev Raj Sharma and Arjun Sharma appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for accepting their request and conduct cardiac awareness cum health check up in their area and shows their heartfelt gratitude.

Others who were part of this camp includes Dr Venkatesh Yellupu and Dr Dhaneshwar Kapoor. Paramedics and volunteers includes Raghav Rajput, Ranjeet Singh, Raj Kumar, Shubham Sharma, Vikas Kumar, Maninder Singh, Arun Singh, Rohit Nayyar, Makhn Sharma, Rajinder Singh, Paramveer Singh, Kartik Sharma and Nirvair Singh Bali.

Sadguru Madhuparamhans Ji Delivers Discourse on the Eternal Realm at Akhnoor

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

Sahib Bandgi's Sadguru Shri Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj, while delighting the congregation with the nectar of his discourses in Akhnoor, Jammu today, said that the country from where the soul has come is an immortal country. The saints have given the message of that country. There is no earth and sky there.

Wherever there are five elements, there is Pralaya (catastrophe). There is destruction. Elements give birth to elements and elements destroy elements. Whatever Paltu Sahib said, it was Sahib's words. Whatever the other saints said, they were all Sahib's words. Whatever Kabir Sahib said, they were transformed from what he said. Paltu Sahib was a good saint, others were also good saints, but everyone has transformed Kabir Sahib's words and said them.



Paltu Sahib is saying that there is no water, no wind, no earth, no sky in that country. This is Sahib's words. Other saints have said the same. Vedas, books do not know that difference. Paltu Sahib was a good saint. But he came 300 years before Sahib. So Paltu Sahib has told the message of Kabir Sahib in his speech.

Sahib is saying that even the gods, ten incarnations do not go to that country. No Siddha, one who goes

into Samadhi can meditate there.

Sahib's words have been copied a lot. Only a saint knows what Sat Lok is like. Some people speak after reading books, but they are not aware. The Satya Lok that I am talking about, I really go there. That is why Sahib also said that you are only talking about what I have read, I am talking about what I have seen with my own eyes. Your mind and mine cannot be the same.

'Vigraha (Prant) Pratishtha' of Sri Ramakrishna in Nagdandi

J I NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, MAY 4

The 'Pranam Pratishtha' of Thakur Ramakrishna Paramhansa began in "SRMA- VK", Nagdandi, Anantnag, Kashmir with "Panch Sahakar" Havan which concluded after a day-long puja with 'Pooran Ahuti' here.

The impressive event witnessed participation of Shri Hanumantha Rao Ji (Vice President) as 'Yejman', Shri Bhanudassji Dhakras (General Secretary), Shri Kishore Tokekar Ji (Joint General Secretary), managing body Vivekananda Rock Memorial & Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, Shri Manas Bhattacharyajee (Prant Sanghathak, Gujarat), Shri Lokesh Ji (Sah Prant Saughathak, Vivekananda International Foundation Delhi besides, other galaxy of people &



devotees attached to Nagdandi Ashram.

The "Vigraha Pratishtha" as per Sri Ramakrishna Padhati was performed by Shri Ramakrishna Mission Margdharshaks like Swami Vinirmuktananda Ji & Swami Anamananda Ji of RK, Mission Srinagar, Swami Kalatitananda (Narendrapur, West Bengal), Swami Shankarshananda Ji (Rajkot, Gujarat), Swami Hiranmananda

Ji (Porbander, Gujrat) & Swami Prabhupadananda Ji from Tamluk, West Bengal.

Condolence Meet to pay the most respectful homage to Baisaran, Pahalgam Martyrs attended largely by civil society activists from various walks of life, members of the "Barfani Baba Trust", Swamijs & devotees of Sri Ramakrishna Mission, VK, Kanyakumari Manage-

ment was organised. Ashokananda Vatika was addressed by Swami Swami Virmuktananda Ji, Secretary Sri Ramakrishna Mission, Srinagar & Mananyee Hanumantha Rao Ji, Vice President, Vivekananda Rock Memorial & Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari.

While highly appreciating the concern of the local Kashmiri populace against terrorism, killing of innocents & recent barbaric attack on humanity in Baisaran Pahalgam, they expected the civil society from all walks of life to come forward openly against all such satanic acts aimed to destroy age old composite culture in this heaven on earth.

The appreciated the roles of youth especially like the "Barfani Bhana Trust" to integrate Kashmiri's of all faiths to rebuild "Naya Kashmir" as crown

of India & torch bearer for the whole universe. Perfect normalcy parameters they explained are a complete replacement of 'Gun' with 'Pen' & honourable return & dignified settlement of all displaced from any faith in their birth land.

Mananyee Hanumantha Rao Ji explained that with 'Pranam Pratishtha' Thakur Sri Ramakrishna shall now continue to bless all and emit the essence of universal brotherhood through humility, tolerance, transparency, self control and prideless ness necessary for "Man Making & Nation Building as per wishes of Swami Ashokananda Ji Maharaj, founder of "SRMA- VK", Nagdandi. B. L. Bhat, Chairman Administrative Committee thanked all participants, district civil police & defence personnel for all logistic support.

Amity Meeting Organised for Civil Society at Haribudha, Poonch

J I NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, 04 MAY 2025

Haribudha village is near the line of control where the people are facing various challenges every day. The meeting was attended by a number of locals who included representatives of civil administration, Sarpanch, Nambardar, and village elders of area in and around Haribudha. The Amity meeting was a step towards a progressive and continuous interaction of the Indian Army and civil society. The people informed about



the challenges they are facing in their daily lives and they were assured by the Indian Army that these problems would be solved on priority. The younger generation was informed about the qualification requirement for joining

the Indian Army and also how they can play an important role in shaping the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The locals expressed their desire that such meetings must be conducted periodically to maintain the bonhomie between Awam and Indian Army. The villagers praised the efforts of Indian Army during all hours of their need. They expressed their faith in the Indian Army and requested for such events in future.

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

Dr. Rudraksh S. Gupta, Research Fellow at the School of Mechanical Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), achieved a remarkable feat by winning three gold medals in the Aquatics Championship at the 4th Edition of the Khelo India Masters Games held in Common Wealth Village, New Delhi. This outstanding performance not only underscores Rudraksh's dedication and passion for sports but also highlights SMVDU's growing emphasis on integrating physical excellence within its academic environment. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the University for its continuous support and encouragement, acknowledging the infrastructure



and motivation provided to pursue his sporting aspirations alongside academic commitments. Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering, along with faculty members, extended their warmest congratulations to Rudraksh, applauding his achievement as a source of inspiration for

the university community. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, also congratulated Rudraksh on his success, noting that his victory adds another feather to the cap of SMVDU and enhances the institution's stature in promoting holistic development through sports and academics.

Indian Army Conducts Medical Patrol for Gujjar-Bakkarwal Communities in Rajouri



J I NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, 04 MAY 2025

In its constant endeavor to understand and touch the basic needs of people in the remote areas of Rajouri especially the Gujjar and Bakkarwals which lack such amenities, Indian Army has initiated the conduct of Medical Patrols where in the troops while ensuring safety and security of the local Populace are

helping them with their basic medical needs. Indian Army conducted medical patrol in the remote villages of Gunda which has a considerable population of Gujjar and Bakkarwals, a total of 09 females, 08 males and 04 children benefited from this initiative. They expressed great satisfaction and gratitude towards the Indian Army for the assistance provided.

Anurag Sharma Wins Gold as District Sport Climbing Championships Begin in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

Anurag Sharma of Aryan Oriental Convent Hr. Secondary School, Udhampur bagged the first Gold medal in the Junior Boys category of the Udhampur, Samba & Reasi District Sport Climbing Championships which were organised today at Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Bantala, here. Whereas Akhil Sharma bagged the silver medal the brone medal was shared by Shahitya Sharma and Varun Kumar.

Similarly, in the Junior Boys category of Samba District there was a good competition among Rijul Sharma, Dhairy Sharma and Vidyut Sharma in which Rijul emerged victorious. Dhairy Sharma and Vidyut Sharma clinched the Silver and Bronze medals respectively.

Other results: Samba District.

Men: 1. Nikhil Kumar 2. Adarsh Sharma 3. Dheeraj Sharma. 2. Jyoti Choudhary 3. Bhavna

U-10 Girls.: 1. Bhavneet Kour . 2. Naveet Kour. 3. Arya Singh

U-10 Boys.: 1. Nirvaan Padyor . 2. Zorawar Singh. 3. Viren Partap Singh

Sub Junior Boys.: 1. Viraj. 2. Nischay Balhotra. 3. Sarvagya Singh Saini.

In the Junior, Sub Junior and Mini Girls categories there was not adequate participation. However, consolation prizes were awarded to Vanshika Kumari (Junior Girls), Aaradhya Vaid (Sub Junior Girls) & Tanisha (Mini Girls) Competitions in the



Mini Girls and Mini Boys categories of the Udhampur district were completely dominated by climbers of Aryan Oriental Convent who bagged all the medals in these categories. Whereas Aliya Alahi, Sanchita Sharma and Kavia Rajput secured the first three positions in the Mini girls categories, Farz Malik, Ansh Angurana and Vihaan Ghaltora were the winners in the Mini Boys categories.

However, there was a tough competition in the Sub Junior Boys category in which Arshad, Abhimanyu Singh and Mohd Ayaan secured the first three positions respectively.

Almost similarly, in the Sub Junior Girls categories of Udhampur District there was a keen competition among the fresh climbers in which Akanshika emerged victorious. Ishika Thakur and Varsha Devi clinched the second and third positions.

In the junior girls category there were only two participants but they gave a good account of themselves by climbing the wall in style and were thus

presented Gold and Silver medals.

However, competitions in the Men and Women categories of Udhampur district could not be held for lack of adequate participation.

Competitions in respect of Reasi district were in progress when the last report was received

Earlier, the championship in which about 210 climbers of Udhampur, Samba and Reasi District participated was declared open by Chairman of Sprawling Buds ICSE School, Jammu Rahul Sharma who is also Patron of Tawi Trekkers J&K in the presence of Shawetica Khajuria, General Secretary; Ram Khajuria, Sr. Vice President and Sumit Khajuria, Vice President of Mountaineering Association of J&K. International climbers Shivani Chark and , General Secretary of District Mountaineering Association, Jammu Sonam Sidharth were also among the prominent persons present on the occasion.

At the prize distribution function of Samba and Udhampur districts Prof

C K Khajuria, Principal, Govt Degee College, Purnamand (Samba District), a former General Secretary of Mountaineering Association of J&K was the Chief Guest. Prof Khajuria who is a national judge in sport climbing keenly watched the performance of each climber and gave important tips to the budding climbers. He along with Guest of Honour Arti Sharma, Director Apple Kids International Pre School presented medals to the winners of the various categories.

While addressing the gathering the Chief Guest lauded the role of Mountaineering Association of J&K in promoting sport climbing in the Union Territory of J&K and producing national and international climbers like Shivani Charak and assured all possible help and cooperation for further promotion of the game in J&K and hoped that J&K would produce more international climbers and medalists.

The championships are being organized by Mountaineering Association of J&K and sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

War outmoded and unaffordable way to resolve conflict: Rajesh Kesri

JI NEWS SERVICE
ARNIA, MAY 4

A meeting was held at village Jagwal, attended by members of Shiv Sena Hindustan and villagers, under the chairmanship of Jammu Kashmir President Pandit Rajesh Kesri. The gathering included people from border areas who discussed the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, condemning the brutal act of violence against unarmed civilians. The attendees shared their views on the ongoing tensions and the possibility of war. The consensus was that war should be the last resort, adopted only when all other avenues have been exhausted. War is an out-



dated, ill-informed, outmoded and unaffordable way to resolve conflict. War harms and obliterates life and the right to life, and cannot restore them. They emphasized that war requires extensive preparation and should not be used as a solution to problems. The gathering criticized those who are putting pressure on the Prime Minister to wage war against Pakistan.

They argued that war is not a solution to problems and that a policy of pressure and diplomacy would be more effective in achieving India's goals. The attendees stressed the importance of focusing on retrieving the territories occupied by Pakistan, including Gilgit-Baltistan and Akhnoor. They believed that India's diplomatic efforts should capitalize on the global

condemnation of Pakistan to reclaim its territory. The meeting emphasized the need for caution, citing the potential risks of war and its impact on global stability. They urged the government to explore diplomatic channels and maintain peace, given the ongoing conflicts in various parts of the world. The meeting was attended by prominent figures, including Sirachak's President Suresh Kumar, Jagwal's President Captain Ghara Ram, Captain Om Prakash, village Sarpanch Tilak Raj, State Vice President Balveer Kumar, Dhiraaj Kumar, Darshan Devi, Neeru Devi, Vijay Devi, Bhushan Kumar, Satpal, and many other villagers.

Design academic odyssey as per aptitude: MLA Marh tells meritorious pass outs

JI NEWS SERVICE
MARH, MAY 4

MLA Marh Surinder Kumar today exhorted students to aim high, saying sky is the limit for the meritorious and those striving for achieving academic excellence. The path to success is not easy, but with perseverance, determination and firm belief in self, the talented ones can overcome any challenge that comes their way, be it academics or any other field", Surinder Kumar said at a felicitation ceremony, organised at Government High School Mandal to honour the meritorious students, who had outstanding performance in the Board Examination in Marh Constituency.

In his motivational discourse, MLA said that only those students, who have concentration and willpower towards studies, score top marks. They do not only lay strong foundations for their academic odyssey



but also and bring laurels to their parents, teachers and the soil they belong to, he observed.

Complementing the achievers, Surinder acknowledged their resilience and determination in setting their goals and working to achieve success. The success of the meritorious students is not only due to their hard work, but the support system and dedication of their parents and teachers. But for their strong backing, it was not possible to achieve such a big success,

he added. "If there is no direction, we cannot achieve the goal. Parents and teachers are the foundation of life, always respect them", MLA advised the outstanding students, saying that parents play an important role in taking youngsters forward. Earlier parents used to tell children what to study, but today children themselves decide what they want to study, he added. MLA Surinder Kumar showered special praise for the girl students, who

outshined the boys with their outstanding performance in the 10th and 12th class exams and said that this is the indication of a vibrant and prosperous future generation. He also asked the meritorious students to help the fellow students to do well in their career. He also congratulated the students for their achievements and advised them to maintain good habits, principles, moral character which are key to progress and prosperity. He wished them success in future career.

The ceremony was attended by esteemed guests, including School Principal Smt. Surekha Raina, Vice Principal Rajinder Singh Sandhu, Mandal President Amarjeet Kaur, former Sarpanch Balbir Kumar, Mandal General Secretary Bunty Sharma, Chowki Incharge Balbir Singh, teachers and other prominent members of the community.

Jasrotia slams Pakistan for spreading disinformation and propaganda to deflect attention from its own wrongdoings

JI NEWS SERVICE
JASROTA, MAY 4

Former Minister and MLA Jasrotia Rajiv Jasrotia today strongly condemned the coordinated disinformation campaign launched by Pakistan-based media outlets and proxy social media handles. The campaign aims to discredit senior Indian Armed Forces officers in the wake of India's resolve to punish the perpetrators of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

In a handout issued here, Jasrotia debunking false narratives stated that these attempts have been comprehensively debunked by official records and authorita-

tive fact-checks. He emphasized that this exposes Islamabad's habitual resort to fake narratives whenever confronted with the prospect of decisive Indian action. Slamming Pakistan's pattern of deception, Jasrotia highlighted Pakistan's consistent pattern of spreading disinformation and propaganda to deflect attention from its own wrongdoings. He emphasized that such tactics will not deter India from taking decisive action against terrorism.

Jasrotia's statement underscores the need to expose and counter Paki-



stan's disinformation campaigns. India's resolve to punish the perpetrators of the Pahalgam terror attack remains unwavering, and the country's armed forces will continue to take all necessary measures to ensure national security. Saluting Security Forces, Jasrotia said nation's security forces are indeed the epitome of bravery and sacrifice. They have consistently demonstrated their unwavering commitment to defending Mother India, often putting their lives on the line with a smile.

Jasrotia taking pride

and expressing gratitude said that nation is forever grateful for the sacrifices made by our security forces. Their selfless service and bravery inspire a sense of pride and admiration in the hearts of every Indian. Our security forces stand tall as the defenders of the nation, protecting its sovereignty and integrity. Their courage and dedication are a beacon of hope and security for the country and its citizens. We pay tribute to the martyrs who have laid down their lives in the line of duty. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten, and their memory will continue to inspire future generations, added Jasrotia.

Ashok Koul, Arvind hold key meeting with Ward 41 delegations, Kashmiri Samaj members



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

In a step aimed at further strengthening grassroots engagement and reinforcing the party's connect with the local community, senior BJP leader and General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul, along with MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta, today convened a crucial meeting with delegations from Ward No. 41 and prominent members of the Kashmiri Samaj.

The meeting, held at BJP Headquarters in Jammu, served as an important platform for dialogue between the BJP leadership and representatives of the local population, especially from areas with a strong Kashmiri presence. Community members raised several civic and developmental issues and put forward sugges-

tions regarding the upliftment and representation of their concerns in governance.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the gathering, reiterated the BJP's commitment to inclusive development and assured the delegations that their concerns would be given top priority. "The BJP remains dedicated to building stronger bonds with all communities, especially those who have been instrumental in the region's cultural and social fabric," he said.

Ashok Koul reiterated the BJP's commitment to ensuring the voices of the Kashmiri people are heard and addressed at every level. He emphasized the government's ongoing initiatives aimed at empowering displaced and resettled Kashmiri families, and pledged continued support in resolving their

long-standing issues.

MLA Arvind Gupta highlighted his continuous efforts toward resolving issues faced by residents of Ward No. 41. He appreciated the active participation of community members and emphasized the importance of such engagements in ensuring responsive and transparent governance. "Our goal is to create an open and accessible interface between the administration and the people. Every suggestion shared here today will be taken seriously and followed up," he added.

The MLA further highlighted the Party's consistent efforts in maintaining a direct connection with the grassroots and ensuring transparent communication with the community.

The delegation members expressed appre-

ciation for the BJP leadership's outreach and presented their concerns and suggestions.

The BJP leaders assured them that their inputs would be taken seriously and reflected in future policy decisions.

Among those who were present in the meeting included Brijesh Gupta, K.L. Sharma, Rajeev Pandita, and other senior BJP leaders. Local residents, including Krishan Gopal Sood, Sukhdev Singh, Jagdish Sethi, Jawahar Lal Koul, Sunny, Anuj Sharma, Sanjay Singh, Neelam Singh, Chaman Lal Sharma, D.K. Magotra, Ishan Mahajan, Naresh Verma, Sanjeev Arora, Madan Lal, R.K. Sharma, Ritesh Gupta, Rakesh Sharma, Rakesh Mattoo, Lal Singh Jasrotia, Ashok Singh, Kuldeep Singh, and Girdhari Lal Sharma, also marked their presence.

Modi Govt correcting historical injustice through Caste Census: Bali Bhagat

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat today welcomed the Centre's landmark decision to include caste enumeration in the forthcoming national population census, calling it a long-awaited step towards ensuring truly inclusive and equitable governance in India.

Lauding the decision taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the senior BJP leader

termed it a "historic move that will empower marginalized communities and help frame more focused and socially just policies."

"By incorporating caste data in a transparent and scientific manner, this census will lay the foundation for targeted welfare initiatives that reflect the realities of our diverse society," Bhagat said, adding that this step reaffirms the Modi government's deep commitment to social justice and equality.

In a press statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader also took

a strong stance against the Congress party for failing to include caste enumeration in the past despite being in power for decades. "Why did the Congress not include caste enumeration in the 1951, 1961, 1971, 1991, and 2011 censuses—conducted entirely under its leadership?" he questioned. "Rahul Gandhi must answer why former Congress Prime Ministers—Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, P.V. Narasimha Rao, and Dr. Manmohan Singh—did not see the need for a caste census."

Bali Bhagat said the

Modi-led government is correcting a historical oversight and doing so in a manner that ensures transparency and national cohesion. "This is not a political stunt but a national necessity. It is the BJP that is taking bold steps to ensure no section of society is left behind."

He also criticized some opposition-led states for carrying out non-transparent caste surveys for political gain, saying, "Such moves only create division and doubt. The BJP's approach is about unity through data and development."

Secretary Dharmarth Trust visits Kashmir, reviews facilities at temples

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 4

Ashok Kumar Sharma (IPS Retd), Secretary of the Jammu & Kashmir Dharmarth Trust, has conducted a comprehensive tour of the Kashmir Valley to inspect various temples managed by the Trust.

During his visit, the Secretary inspected the iconic Shri Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar in view of Shankaracharya Jayanti, the historic Shiv Temple at Gulmarg, and the revered Gauri Shankar Temple in Pahalgam. The tour was aimed at reviewing the upkeep, infrastructure, and facilities at these sacred sites, ensuring that pilgrims and devotees are provided with a spiritually enriching and hassle-free experience.

In addition to these



visits, Ashok Sharma also paid a visit to the revered Kheer Bhawani Temple in Ganderbal district. With the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela scheduled to be held on 6th June, 2025 this year, he took stock of the ongoing preparations and arrangements being made for the smooth conduct of the event. He directed the concerned staff and local

management to ensure cleanliness, proper sanitation, adequate water supply, and necessary facilities for devotees expected to attend the Mela in large numbers.

The Secretary emphasized the Trust's commitment in preserving the spiritual and cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir. He reiterated that regular

inspections and proactive management are vital to maintaining the sanctity and infrastructure of these age-old temples.

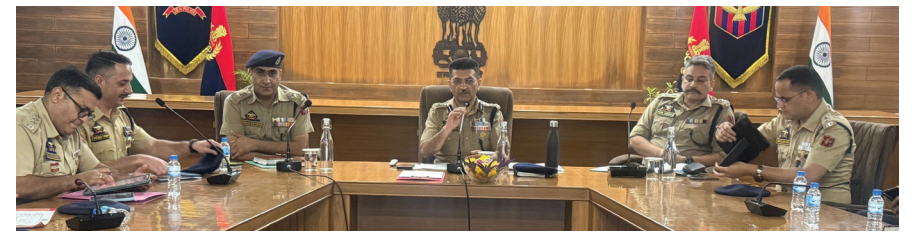
While boosting the morale of Trust's employees working in Kashmir Province, the Secretary encouraged them to continue their dedicated service to the temples and the devotees.

SSP Jammu held crime/security review meeting at DPL Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

The Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu Sh. Joginder Singh-JKPS today on 04.05.2025 held a Crime/Security review at District Police Lines. The meeting was attended by all the Zonal SsP, SDPO's, DySP DAR, SHO's & IC PP's of Jammu District.

During the meeting in addition to Crime review, various security measures were discussed for controlling crime & ensuring peace and stability in the district. Various aspects of policing including quality investigation of cases, crime disposal, verifications, disposal of NDPS, UAPA cases, inquest proceedings, history sheeters, absconders, missing persons and other issues related to account-



able policing were also discussed. Disposal of cases registered under Old as well as New Criminal Laws of each Police Station/Sub-division was discussed in detail including disposal within time limit period of 60 & 90 days.

Progress on CCTNS front, e-Sakshaya, SID's, e-summons was also taken up during meeting.

Progress on mandatory utilisation of FSL services was also discussed.

SSP Jammu also advised the police officers posted in the district in various capacities to provide a

good policing to the general public and give a tough time to anti-national and antisocial elements.

SSP Jammu specifically mentioned that all drug peddlers should be identified & strict action need to be taken against them. There is clearly policy of ZERO TOLERANCE against Drugs and whatsoever, is involved in drug trafficking should be strictly dealt

SSP Jammu emphasized upon the participating officers to ensure quantitative and qualitative disposal of under investigation cases of various nature as prior-

ity and to take stringent action against those who are involved in various social crimes.

He also directed that there is zero tolerance to corruption, burking of crime and indiscipline at any level. He said that the efficiency of police can be gauged from the time it takes to respond to the day to day situations. He asserted that alongwith quickness in response, the polite behavior and sympathy at heart are required while dealing with the problems of general public

Ex-Corporator Sucha Singh backs PM Modi's strong measures against terrorism, Pakistan

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

Former Corporator Sucha Singh extended strong support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his decisive actions in safeguarding the nation and countering terrorism.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, Sucha Singh praised the Prime Minister's inclusive leadership, emphasizing that Modi is leading the country by taking everyone along and making decisions thoughtfully in light



of the current national and international situation.

Singh noted that at a time when tensions are high across the nation, especially along the bor-

ders, the steps being taken by the Central Government are well-calculated and necessary.

"For the first time, we have a Prime Minister who

has taken bold and historic steps to break the back of terrorism," he said, lauding the measures as praiseworthy and timely.

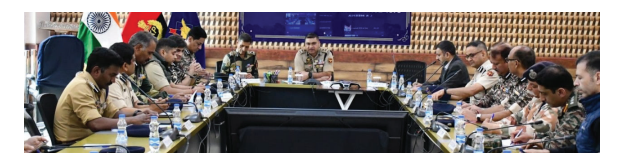
Highlighting specific actions, Singh commended the government's move to stop Pakistan's water supply, suspend trade with Pakistan, and halt cross-border letters and communication.

"These steps are unprecedented and reflect the government's strong resolve to send a clear message to Pakistan," he added.



R.S Bhatti, Director General, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

IGP Kashmir Chairs Joint Security Review Meeting at PCR Kashmir



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 4

IGP Kashmir, Shri V. K. Birdi, held a joint security review meeting today at PCR Kashmir, which was attended by officers from multiple security forces, including the Police, Army, Intelligence Agencies, and CAPFs.

The meeting was attended by IGBSF FTR Kashmir, IG CRPF KOS, IG CRPF Srinagar, DD IB Srinagar, DIG SSB Kashmir, DIG RPF, DIG BSF Srinagar, DIG CRPF North/South Srinagar, DIG ITBP, DIG CKR, DIG Traffic Kashmir, Col GS (IS) 15 Corps, SSP Srinagar, SSP Railways, SSP Traffic Rural, SSP CID CIK, SSP APCR Kashmir, SSP SDRF, DC SB Srinagar, SP PC Srinagar, SP Telecommunication, and other officers, and was virtually attended by DIG CISF, DIG SKR, and other SSPs of districts/PDs of Kashmir Zone.

Police arrests 03 drug peddlers in Handwara; Contraband substances recovered

JI NEWS SERVICE
HANDWARA, MAY 4

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Police have arrested 03 drug peddlers in Handwara and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A Police team of Police Post Zachaldara at a check-

point established at Sultanpora Bridge intercepted a suspicious individual. During search, officers were able to recover 06 grams of a brown sugar-like substance from his possession. He has been identified as Raja Hashim Khan, son of Raja Altaf Khan, resident of Rengpath Kralgund.

Moreover, a Police team

of Police Post Langate at a checkpoint established at Gund Kuhroo intercepted a suspicious individual identified as Naveed Rehman Dhobi, son of Ab Rehman Dhobi, hailing from Dangi-wacha Rafiabab. During search, officers were able to recover 8.45 grams of heroin-like substance from his possession.

Meanwhile, a Police team of Police Post Magam at a checkpoint established at Batpora intercepted a suspicious individual identified as Basharat Ahmad Bhat, son of Abdul Rahim Bhat, resident of Magam Handwara. During search, officers were able to recover 07 grams of heroin-like substance from his possession.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

India has cut water...

The Baglihar Dam has been a longstanding point of contention between the two neighbours, with Pakistan having sought World Bank arbitration in the past.

The Kishanganga Dam has faced legal and diplomatic scrutiny, especially regarding its impact on the Neelum River, a tributary of the Jhelum.

Rise of Sanskrit...

significant initiatives of the Modi government is a nationwide campaign with a budget of approximately Rs 500 crore aimed at collecting scattered manuscripts in Sanskrit and Prakrit. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Gyan Bharatam Mission with a foundational corpus of Rs 500 crore dedicated to manuscript preservation, with allocations planned in every budget going forward.

He further informed that over 52 lakh manuscripts have already been documented, around 3.5 lakh digitized, and 1,37,000 made available online at namami.gov.in. To support this massive effort, a team comprising scholars from various disciplines and languages has been constituted to translate and preserve these rare manuscripts.

Shah said that the work undertaken by Sanskrit Bharati since 1981 is truly unparalleled. He emphasized that the solutions to many of the world's challenges can be found through the revival, propagation, and simplification of the profound knowledge contained in Sanskrit. He highlighted that since its inception, Sanskrit Bharati has introduced over one crore people to spoken Sanskrit, trained more than one lakh Sanskrit teachers, and nurtured 6,000 families who converse exclusively in Sanskrit.

Moreover, there are now 4,000 villages in India where all communication is conducted entirely in San-

skrit. Shah noted that Sanskrit Bharati has established 4,500 centers across 26 countries and, in 2011, organised the world's first World Sanskrit Book Fair. It also hosted the Sahitya Utsav in Ujjain in 2013.

The Home Minister affirmed that while there is no opposition to any language, no one can be distanced from their mother tongue – and Sanskrit is the mother of nearly all Indian languages. Adding that as Sanskrit becomes richer and stronger, it will, in turn, empower every language and dialect across the country.

Pakistani troops...

terror attack, Pakistani troops have been resorting to unprovoked firing at various places along the LoC in J-K, starting from the Kashmir Valley.

Initially beginning with unprovoked small arms firing at several posts along the LoC in Kupwara and Baramulla districts of north Kashmir, Pakistan swiftly expanded its ceasefire violations to the Poonch sector and subsequently to the Akhnoor sector of the Jammu region.

This was followed by small arms firing at several posts along the LoC in the Sunderbani and Naushera sectors of Rajouri district. Subsequently, the firing expanded to Mendhar in Poonch district and the international border in Pargwal sector in Jammu district.

The renewed ceasefire violations come despite a recent hotline conversation between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan, during which the Indian side is learnt to have cautioned Pakistan.

On April 24, Pakistan blocked its airspace for Indian airlines, closed the Wagah border crossing, suspended all trade with India, and warned that any attempt to divert water would be considered an "Act of War." (Agencies)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD (R&B) DIVISION CHENANI

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh e-NIT No. 04 of 2025-26 Dated 02.05.2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Union Territory, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work.

S. No.	Name of Work	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity period of contract	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1.	Stage Contract for the day to day maintenance works of the buildings during the year 2025-26, Sub-Division Chenani :- i) PWD (R&B) Division Office Chenani, ii) DakBunglowkud, iii) Inspection Hut Sudhmadhadev, iv) Mantalai PWD building v) Temporary Toilet at Sudhmadhadev, Mantalai, Benisangam and BudhaKedarnath, vi) Bathing Ghat at Benisangam.viii) Illumination of Buildings. ix) Service of AC etc.x) Generalupkeeping of Division office Chenani, Sub-division office Chenani and Sub-division office Latti.	600.00	30000/-	31.03.2026	14-05-2025	"A/B/C/D"
2.	Stage Contract for the day to day maintenance works of the following buildings and the temporary toilets on the eve of various Melasin Latti Sub-Division during the year 2025-26.- i) Inspection Hut Latti ii) DakBunglow Latti iii) JE Quarter TriungaliaBasantgarh.iv) Temporary Toilets etc.	600.00	30000/-	31.03.2026	14-05-2025	"A/B/C/D"
3.	Stage Contract for therestoration of the road of PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Latti during the year 2025-26.- i) Approach road to Siameri Bridge (L-5km) ii) Approach road to NTPHC Marohiti (L- 0.17 km) iii) Approach road to NTPHC Latti (L- 0.200 km) iv) MantalaiDudu road km 32nd to Sheetla Mata Mandir (L- 0.400 km). iv) various lanes at Latti and other adjoining roads. Incl. other allied links. and other adjoining roads. v) All foot bridges falling under the jurisdiction of sub-division latti etc.	600.00	30000/-	31.03.2026	14-05-2025	"A/B/C/D"

1/ The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligible criteria, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in>

1.	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	02-05-2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From: 02-05-2025, 1800Hrs to 13-05-2025, 1800Hrs
3.	Bid submission Start Date	02-05-2025 From 1800Hrs
4.	Bid Submission End Date	13-05-2025 up to 1800Hrs
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	14-05-2025at 1100Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Chenani.
6.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

No:-EE/C/651-57
Dated:-02.05.2025

-sd-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Chenani

DIP/J-834/25
Date: 3-5-25

JYF slams failure of DDOE to open UG admission, urges CM to intervene

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

While strongly flaying Centre of Distance and Online Education (DDOE), JU for not opening admission for undergraduate students, JYF has appealed the Chief Minister to initiate high level investigation to find out the recklessness of Centre of Distance and Online Education (DDOE) in this behalf.

This was stated by Jammu Youth Forum State President Ajaz Khan in a press conference today and said that there is no information about the courses which were closed last year in the Centre of Distance and Online Education (DDOE). However, when students came to take admission in undergraduate courses in DDOE, they were told that admission would be opened admission next year in March-2025, but still DDOE did not open the admission making students to run helter shelter for seeking admission with none to listen to their grievances, he revealed.

He further said that due to the negligence of a Sr. Professors of DDOE the admissions has not been opened there till now, which now needs probe as the Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai is protecting the Director DDOE Prof Pankaj Srivastav or Sr Professors because both incumbent VC and Director are from outside with VC seems hesitating to take action against the Director DDOE responsible for dereliction of duty.

He is acting arbitrarily there and no one is there to question Director because VC is shielding Director DDOE as whenever the former requires money from DDOE, the Director forthwith provides VC money generously without even holding a meeting or fulfilling other codal formalities, which amounts to flagrant violation financial propriety.

He further said that there was an advertisement for a law post in DDOE but the Director and VC together converted the post into Sociology subject without citing any reasons. In brief sorry state

of affairs is prevailing in DDOE without any check by the University Authority.

He added that only the names of professors are shown in the time table but classes are taken virtually by the Scholars.

He further said that instead of professors, entire work of teaching is given to the Contractual teachers and the one who does not agree to the dictates of a Professor is fired for next year Contractual engagement as teacher.

A few years ago, a campus dean's meeting was held in which a decision was made that there will be a contractual lecture for 500 students, he revealed, adding that lakhs of rupees are being spent every year on contractual appointments. If PCP is not compulsory, then why are contractual teachers appointed, he pointed out, saying that Contractual teachers are required in some regular Departments. He asked why the DDOE should be favored by the Vice-Chancellor of Jammu University.

He further said that in the Centre of Distance and Online Education (DDOE), the Director is appointed from an outside department and all the professors put pressure on the Director to get their wrongdoings done. In order to save his chair, the Director gets influenced by those professors.

He further said that just as there are two permanent Professors in English, one Professor in Hindi, one professor in Political Science and similarly in other subjects also, there are professors. But in spite of that the contractual appointments are made. He asked why the VC, JU does not streamline the system in terms of requirement of teachers Vis a Vis teaching workload in Centre of Distance and Online Education (DDOE).

JYF members demanded the CM of the UT who is Pro-Chancellor of Jammu University to constitute a fully-fledged enquiry involving the investigating agencies of the State to look into and probe the irregularities that took place during the tenure of Vice-Chancellor.

Martyrdom Day of Amarjeet Sharma to be observed on June 9 in Hiranagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, HIRANAGAR, MAY 4

On June 9, 2024, the Martyrdom Day of Amarjeet Sharma, who was brutally killed by terrorists in Hiranagar, will be observed at the very site of the incident. This tribute is being organized by his family. On this solemn occasion, members of Movement Kalki and all Sanatanis and patriots from Jammu have been cordially invited to participate and show their solidarity.

Following the tragic incident, Movement Kalki strongly raised its voice for justice, which eventually led to government action—Amarjeet's son was given a government job, and he was honored with martyr status. This event is not just a remembrance, but a united stand against terrorism.

To extend the invitation,



Amarjeet's brother Ramgopal Sharma, along with Master Devaraj, Sanjay Singh, Arjun Rajput, and Rishabh Singh, reached Amphala Chowk in Jammu and personally handed over the invitation card to Movement Kalki founder Deepak Singh and senior member Sanjeev Dubey.

Accepting the invitation, Sanjeev Dubey stated:

"We, along with our

organization, will definitely participate in the Martyrdom Day event. We also urge the government to create a lasting tribute in Amarjeet Sharma's name—be it a memorial, a song, or naming a public place after him—so future generations remember his sacrifice."

Movement Kalki founder Deepak Singh added: "The sacrifice of our martyrs can never be

forgotten. Terrorism has deeply wounded our country from within. Internal elements with extremist ideologies have long tried to weaken India. Now is the time to give them a strong and decisive reply. After the recent Pahalgam terrorist attack, the government has shown some action, but we believe these forces must be rooted out entirely. Even the name of Pakistan, which has become a global symbol of terror, should be erased so that a new chapter of peace and unity can begin."

Movement Kalki calls upon all nationalists, Sanatanis, and brave citizens of Jammu to join in large numbers on June 9 at the site of Amarjeet Sharma's martyrdom in Hiranagar to send a strong message of unity and support to his family and the local people.

Suresh Sharma inaugurates 63 KVA Transformer and Passenger Shed in Devnagar Village

JI NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, MAY 4

Senior BJP leader and District Development Council (DDC) member, Pandit Suresh Sharma, today inaugurated a new 63 KVA transformer worth Rs 5 lakh and a passenger shed costing Rs 3 lakh in Devnagar village, Panchayat Nardi, Block Maira Mandrian. These developments fulfill a long-pending and heartfelt demand of the local residents.

For years, the people of Devnagar have struggled with low voltage issues, significantly impacting their daily lives. During a recent Janta Darbar, villagers raised the need for a transformer and a passenger shed. Taking immediate cognizance, Suresh Sharma allocated funds from his DDC budget and assured the public that their demands would be addressed. Today's inaugu-



ration marks the fulfillment of that promise.

While addressing the gathering, Sharma emphasized that development initiatives are being executed with a people-first approach. "Over the past four years, we have installed new transformers in multiple villages of Block Maira Mandrian and Chowki Choura to tackle low voltage problems. We are aware that some villages are still facing similar issues, and we are com-

mitted to resolving them soon," he said.

In addition to the infrastructure projects, Sharma also distributed cricket kits to the youth of the village, encouraging them to actively participate in sports alongside academics. "Physical activities are crucial for holistic development," he noted.

The local residents expressed heartfelt gratitude towards Suresh Sharma for his proactive efforts and urged him to

continue working diligently for the welfare of the community. Prominent attendees present on the occasion included former Sarpanch Milkhi Ram, Ashok Purohit, Akshay Magotra, Subedar Satyapal, Retired EO Subhash Chandra, Om Prakash, Praveen Kumar, Subedar Sukhdev Raj, Subedar Rashpal Sharma, Mohit Sharma, Shamlal, Mahesh Kumar, Ranjit Malhotra, Chunnilal, Bablu Sharma, and other respected village dignitaries.

Munir Ahmed appeals to PM, HM to provide justice

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

Ex-Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel Munir Ahmed has appealed to the Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Minister for Home Sh. Amit Shah to provide him justice regarding his whimsical dismissal from the force. Strongly condemning the terrorist attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgam in which 26 civilians including 25 Hindus and one local were killed, he hailed the strong resolve and action of the Govt. of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi against the perpetrators of the heinous act of terrorism in UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference here today, Munir Ahmed who was dismissed from service by the CRPF for marrying a Pakistani National namely Meenal Khan, said that all the allegations spelt out in his dismissal letter are misleading and have deep malafide. He said that they (his family) have been the resident of Jammu and Kashmir since ages and have been residing in village Handwal of tehsil Bhalwal in Jammu for last many generations. "We did not leave Jammu even in 1947 while the family of Meenal Khan (his maternal uncle) migrated to Pakistan. He said adding, "I had a strong urge to serve

my Nation and that is why I joined CRPF and have served in many difficult and remote areas since last 9 years.

Munir Ahmed further informed that his matrimonial alliance was decided during their early childhood by her mother and maternal uncle and in the year 2022, he informed the CRPF officials his intent of marrying a Pakistani National Meenal Khan and sought permission for the same. Then again responding to a letter dtd. 24/1/2023 by CRPF raising some queries all the required documents were submitted vide my letter dtd. 18/10/2023 seeking clearance/NOC for marriage on 05/11/2023.

On 17/11/2023 a letter by the office of the IGP, Jammu Sector CRPF, Ban Talab Jammu was sent to Special DG, J&K Zone CRPF, Jammu regarding issuance of NOC for marrying a Pakistani girl. The letter read, "kendriya civil Sewa (Acharan) Niyam 21(3) mein diye gaye pravdhanon ke anusar, "A Government Servant who has married to marries a person other than of Indian nationality shall forthwith intimate the fact to the Govt of India." And sought directions from the higher authorities.

Munir Ahmed further informed that vide a reply dated 30/04/2024, the office of the Director General of Police, CRPF New

Delhi said that Kendriya Civil Sewa (Acharan) Niyam 1964 niyam 21(3) ke tehat, "A Government Servant who has married or marries a person other than of India Nationality shall forthwith intimate the fact to the Government." Ukt karmic ne niyamaanusar vibhag to iski soochna de di hai (above employee has informed the department).

There is no mention of the NOC in the said rule, it added."

Munir Ahmed further informed that as per the directive of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India only two types of Visas have been exempted from cancellation and i.e. Diplomatic Visa and long term Visa Holders (LTV). The applicant Meenal Khan has applied for the same on March 4, 2025 and the mandatory period of 21 days, after which it is deemed to have been granted has already passed. The local Foreigners Registration Office, Jammu too, after due diligence has forwarded it to the MHA, GoI for grant of LTV.

He said that the allegation that Munir Ahmed has been providing shelter to a foreign national and compromising national security is far from truth.

He again appealed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to consider the factual position and provide him justice.

Perpetrators of Terrorism in J&K will be dealt with sternly: Pathania



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 4

Reaffirming the nation's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism, Ranbir Singh Pathania, MLA from Udhampur East and BJP Spokesperson, delivered a strong message during a series of public meetings held in the constituency. Speaking at the inauguration of the Khubbani to Talmara road project in Jaganao Mr. Pathania asserted, "The spirit and sentiment of the people of India is clear – those who perpetrate terrorism or support terror activities on Indian soil will be dealt with sternly and decisively. 'Shanti ke liye Shakti bhi Zaroori hai' – peace must be backed by strength."

Mr. Pathania stressed that terrorism is not just a threat to security, but to the very idea of India. "We must stand tall and united against this evil, and our response must be swift and uncompromising – whether on the ground, in policy, or through the process of rule of law. The people of India, in their collective resolve, are not willing to tolerate even a shadow of terrorism or its sympathizers."

Reflecting on the unique sensitivities and challenges faced by Jammu & Kashmir, Mr. Pathania noted that while the region has seen significant development and normalization in recent years, attempts to destabilize peace still continue from across the border and through radical networks. "J&K is marching ahead on the path of peace and progress. The people of this region have suffered long enough. It is our duty to ensure that no anti-national element derails the hard-won gains of stability. National security and public safety will always remain our top priority," he added.

On the development front, Mr. Pathania inaugurated the Khuban to Nagain road, a critical infrastructure project estimated at Rs. 7.81 crores which will benefit nearly 1,000 local residents. He emphasized the dual approach of "Vikas aur Suraksha" (Development and Security) as the cornerstone of progress in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meetings saw participation from prominent local figures including Gopal Singh Mankotia, Ashish Sharma, Mohan-

lal Sharma, Mohinder Sharma, Kuldeep Singh, Raman Khajuria, Manoj Verma, Surinder Singh, and Sunita Devi – all ex-Sarpanches – along with a significant number of community members and supporters.

As part of his outreach to the farming community, a sensitisation program was also organised at village Thanoa by the Department of Agriculture. During the program, local agriculturists were informed about the latest advancements in vegetable seed varieties, with a focus on non-conventional crops aimed at doubling farmers' income. Mr. Pathania encouraged farmers to utilise weather control advisories effectively to maintain healthy vegetable production, safeguard crops, and ensure better land management. He reiterated the government's commitment to empowering the farming sector through innovation and timely support.

Pathania concluded by reaffirming his commitment to grassroots development, national integrity, and ensuring a secure future for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

NMC urges J&K Govt to hike medical allowance, release pending DA arrears

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

President of the National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) Subash Shastri today appealed to the Chief Minister to enhance the medical allowance from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1000 per month as per the norm of UT administrations, throughout the country and start process of distribution of medical allowance so that JKUT comes at par with Ladakh UT.

In a Statement issued here today, Shastri said that UT of Ladakh has already hiked Medical allowance of the pensioners to Rs. 1000 per month from 1st of April 2020. "Medical allowance in UT J&K is just Rs. 300 per month for the last two decade as the prices of medicines and other medical related expenditure has increased to a large extent so medical allowance should also be increased at par with UT Ladakh Administration." he maintained hoping that J&K UT Administration should take a decision in this regard soon so that pensioners may have a sigh of relief from rising prices of medicines and other expenses.

Shastri also demanded increase of 2% house rent in favour of UT J&K employees as the DA crossed 50%. Stressing on the need in releasing of pending DA / DR of 18 months from the month of January 2020 to ending June 2021 Shastri also appealed to the Central Government to release the outstanding 3 DA instalments arrears blocked while releasing the same to its employees and pensioners 3 years ago.

Raksha Mantri to hold bilateral talks with his Japanese counterpart in New Delhi

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will hold a bilateral meeting with Japan's Minister of Defense Mr Gen Nakatani in New Delhi on May 05, 2025. Both sides will exchange views and ideas on the current regional & international security situation and discuss ways to further deepen the bilateral defence cooperation.

India and Japan share a long-term friendship, which has further gained qualitative momentum after the elevation of this collaboration to Special Strategic & Global Partnership in 2014. Defence and security are important pillars of the ties between the two countries.

Defence exchanges between India and Japan have gained strength in recent years due to the growing convergence on strategic matters. Its significance is increasing from the common outlook on issues of peace, security and stability of the Indo-Pacific Region.

This will be the second meeting between the two Defence Ministers within six months after their maiden interaction in November 2024 on the sidelines of ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus at Lao PDR.

EDITORIAL

Congress at a crossroads

THE RECENT terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of 26 innocent tourists, has left the nation in mourning and fury. As the country reels from this heinous act of violence, calls for unity, resolve, and a decisive stand against terrorism are echoing across communities and political lines. Yet, in an unfortunate turn of events, the Congress party in Jammu and Kashmir finds itself embroiled in internal discord—at precisely the moment when it should be speaking with one voice. The friction between Jammu-based and Kashmir-based Congress leaders, long a simmering undercurrent, has now been thrust into the national spotlight. Statements made by senior leaders such as Saifuddin Soz, suggesting that India consider Pakistan's denial of involvement and advocating for dialogue at this sensitive time, have not only ignited public outrage but have deeply embarrassed and alienated the party's Jammu leadership. The pain in the voices of Jammu Congress leaders is palpable. Their constituents are angry, grieving, and demanding accountability. In such an emotionally charged atmosphere, Soz's remarks have landed not as calls for peace but as tone-deaf overtures that appear to excuse or deflect from the gravity of the violence. These leaders are right to fear a backlash. In regions where the Congress is already struggling for relevance, especially in Hindu-majority constituencies, such missteps risk cementing the image of a party disconnected from the public mood and sentiment. More troubling than the remarks themselves is what they reveal about the Congress's internal dysfunction. Despite clear directives from the high command urging restraint, Kashmir-based leaders continue to issue polarizing statements. The party's official communication machinery, led by General Secretary Jairam Ramesh, has tried to draw a firm line, asserting that only the views of the Congress president and designated AICC office-bearers represent the party. But the damage to party cohesion and credibility is already underway. The Congress must now ask itself some hard questions. Can it afford to allow internal divisions to overshadow national grief? Can it tolerate leadership voices that undermine its core message during moments of crisis? The public looks to its political institutions not only for answers but for solidarity and strength in the face of terror. Mixed signals and internal squabbles will only weaken that trust. This is not a time for ambiguity. The Congress must reaffirm its unequivocal condemnation of terrorism and demonstrate that it is capable of speaking in one voice during national tragedies. Leaders who choose to deviate from this imperative—whether in the name of nuance, diplomacy, or ideology—must be held accountable, lest their personal views become a liability for the party's future. In the wake of the Pahalgam attack, the Indian National Congress is at a crossroads. One path leads toward clarity, unity, and moral strength. The other leads to irrelevance. The choice, now, is urgent and unavoidable.

Package as well as Jammu based Employees held as Hostage in Kashmir

OMKAR DATTATRAY

Both the Prime Minister Package Employees as well as the SC, ST, OBC Jammu based employees working across Kashmir valley are working in perpetual threat to their life, limb and dignity and they are made to work in most unfavorable and undesirable conditions. Both these groups of employees are made to lick the dust. In fact it is no exaggeration to say that these employees of the UT are made to work in continuous fear and risk to their lives and in fact are held as hostages and they can be targeted at any time by the Islamic terrorists and so they are working in risk to their life and the government is very unjust to both these categories of employees. So far as package employees are concerned they have to work in Kashmir Valley up to their superannuation and this is big injustice to these employees. These posts are supernumerary, as such are additional posts and they have to work when some JK employee is on leave but the height of injustice is that these package are made to work as regular employees and they are overburdened with the work, when justice demands and deserves that Package employees should be given work when any employees is away on leave. Most disgusting is the travesty

of justice that these PM package employees posts were made non-transferable which is a big injustice with these hapless employees when the fact is that for all purposes they are like the other regular employees of Jammu and Kashmir. The height of injustice and unlawfulness is that these package employees are made to execute a bond to the effect that they will not claim their transfer to Jammu division till their retirement. It negates the civil services rules and now that Jammu and Kashmir is a union territory so these package employees have a right to be transferred to any part of the UT and so their bond is void ab initio and so they should be given the right of transfer to other division of Jammu and Kashmir. It is very illegal, unlawful and negation of the CSR that the package employees are required to execute a bond at the time of joining the service. So what is needed and is also lawful the package employees service should be made transferable so that they can also reap the fruits of transferring to other division or region of J & K and doing this will end injustice with the package employees to a vast extent. Both Package employees and the reserved category employees are made to work under threat to their life, limb and honor as they are working in most unfavorable environment where the

rite of the terrorists looms large and these employees are held as hostages and thus there is immense risk to their precious lives, but the government has been denying their sad plight. So the package employees and reserved category employees working across Kashmir should be allowed to claim transfer to Jammu region and to the home district in the case of RCE. At present the environment across the valley is most fragile and there is an atmosphere of fear psychosis as there is great and severe risk to their lives. So to both the package and reserved category employees an option needs to be given for work from home till the normalcy returns to the valley. At present the situation is very serious and unfavorable to both these categories of the employees. They are in continuous fear, panic, grief and gloom and they are susceptible to killings and assaults and therefore it is not feasible for them to live and work across Kashmir and thus to lessen their fear and gloom, it is necessary to issue order for their work from home till the situation becomes normal. If this is not done, these hapless and helpless employees will have the risk of being kept as hostage and therefore there is risk of some of them being killed while in the line of duty. Both the package employees as well as

RCE are in a very difficult, peculiar and trying circumstances because one side local police of J & K are unofficially asking them to stay away from their duties because of the possibility of terrorist threat and attack on their lives and on the other hand their immediate bosses / DDO's are asking them to attend duties continuously and so these unfortunate employees fell themselves entangled into such a situation in which they are unable to decide the right course of action. Thus to save them from the harassment, intimidation, fear and uncertainty the best and only course will be to allow them to work from home so that there is no harm done to their precious lives. So the LG administration should take a decision in this regard at the earliest so that it seems that the government thinks and cares for them. So they should not be given the feeling that they are kept as hostages by the government where there is risk and continuous threat to their life, limb and dignity. It is opportune and appropriate time to take the opportunity and order their work from home so that on one side the work of the government will not suffer and on the other hand the lives of these soft targets are saved from the bullets of the savage terrorists. No delay should be made in this matter as it will

prove counterproductive and harm the life, limb and honor of these employees. It seems that these employees are more than bonded laborers and their lives have been made hostage by the insensitivity and apathy of the government. Therefore the authorities should see the reason and at the earliest order work from home for these employees till the situation becomes feasible and normal for their work in valley. These employees are facing mental tension and depression as they are forced to work across valley and their old, ailing parents and children and families are far away in Jammu and it is at such a time when their old parents want them with their parents and when their parents need their services. Therefore government should see the issue from humanitarian angle and make no further delay in ordering work from home for package employees and in this lies the good of the powers, government work and these employees. What has been written above is truth and undiluted and concentrated truth and nothing beyond that. But is there anybody listening is the million dollar question?

The author is a columnist, social, KP activist & Freelancer

In a world of plenty, why do we feel so empty?

ASHA IYER KUMAR

While the jury is still out on whether the world will sink into a recession — thanks to the antics and arbitrary decisions of an Orange Man in the West, one thing is clear: the global population is descending into a deep depression. The mood across nations is sombre, and people are slipping into mental health crises owing to the uncertainty that pervades the world. Prolonged wars, trade conundrums, stock market crashes, climate-induced disasters, and a general sense of unease and scepticism have gripped the lives of people. The irony about this phenomenon is that it is happening at a time when mankind is blessed with the latest conveniences, high-end luxuries and mind-boggling technologies designed to make life easier and more comfortable.

It is the best of times for a man to live in this world, facilitated by all sorts of modern gimmicks

and sidekicks. Despite all these, no one seems genuinely happy or content with the way the world is leaping into the future. There is a sense of melancholy hanging over the collective psyche of the multitudes from East to West. Perhaps it is this very leap into the future that has left our inner worlds flailing. In a world where artificial intelligence can predict our next move and food can be delivered with the flick of a finger, we are, paradoxically, becoming strangers to ourselves and each other. The human heart, with all its ancient needs — for belonging, for meaning, for simplicity — now finds itself in a gridlocked world of constant connectivity and chronic loneliness. What once made life whole has now become fragmented. Relationships are filtered through screens. Success is measured in fleeting likes. The race to stay relevant, to stay ahead, to be seen, has robbed people of rest, reflection, and real joy. Even the act of pausing — of doing nothing — has

begun to feel like a luxury few can afford. To be laid back and slow-paced is fraught with guilt trips. There is a hurry, a feeling of inadequacy and a fear of impermanence permeating the very fabric of modern existence. And so, the sadness seeps in. Quietly, invisibly. In the middle of meetings. Between laughter reels. On vacations curated for envy.

The world celebrates progress, but behind the curtain of progress lies an ache that neither wealth nor wellness apps seem capable of curing. A deep, resonating weariness is taking over our lives despite the advances we have made, and there is a hunger for something more lasting and palpable. This craving for the soul's satiety has nothing to do with mangled geopolitics, spiraling inflation or technological overload. It stems from a dissatisfaction that nothing outside of us can supply. The lack of jobs and wobbling economies, the high-handedness of autocratic regimes and the stifling of voices,

Wars and violence have taken the sheen out of our lives. But even in societies where there is abundance and freedom, there is a restlessness arising out of a spiritual vacuum and emotional fatigue. People feel unanchored as if life is moving too fast for them to find meaning in it. The pursuit of more — more success, more validation, more possessions — has left little room for inner stillness or genuine connection. In the din of progress, we have lost touch with our essence. We are surrounded by conveniences, yet struggle to feel comforted. We have information at our fingertips, yet feel uninformed about who we truly are or what we seek. The discordant notes are reaching a crescendo and there is an urgent need to steer ourselves out of the moral and spiritual morass we are sinking into. It seems like the whole world is now grappling with anxiety disorder triggered by one reason or the other. Going forward, it will only get worse. The tragedy

is that there is no easy solution to this amorphous despair that is cloaking the human sphere. Restoring the inner landscape is not a sure-shot panacea, but it is a potential path.

A beginning. A gentle pivot from the relentless outer chase to a more conscious inner reckoning. It will not erase wars or fix economies overnight, but it can offer individuals a more grounded way to move through a faltering world. It can bring clarity in chaos, meaning in monotony, and peace amid persistent uncertainty. An inward turning of the gaze may not cure the ailments of the world, but it might soothe the soul of the individual and sometimes, that is the best we can offer. And perhaps, in doing so, we might even inspire a collective shift of attitudes and outlooks, one that will serve the world order with good intent.

The author is a Dubai-based columnist and writing coach. Views are personal

Why blood in the valley and waters on the edge

BY MOOL RAJ

Rivers are more than water they are lifelines of civilizations, symbols of cooperation, and some times, silent weapons of geopolitics." In the picture que Baisaran Valley, Pahalgam picturesque algam, a place often described as the "mini-Switzerland of Kashmir, the earth was soaked in blood instead of spring dew. More than 28 innocent tourists, were killed in a cold-blooded terrorist attack an incident that has left the nation stunned and grieving. As Indian intelligence reports ports trace the origin of the attack to Pakistan-based terror groups, the Indian government is now actively reconsidering its long-standing commitments to its western neighbor. Among the most serious reconsiderations is the potential revocation of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) a landmark agreement that has endured decades of des of hostilities but may no longer survive the weight of bloodshed.

What Is the Indus Waters Treaty Signed in 1960, the Indus Waters Treaty is a water-sharing pact between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank. It governs the use of six rivers of the Indus basin:

Pakistan was granted exclusive rights to the three western rivers Indus, Jhelum and Chenab. India retained control over the eastern rivers Ravi, Beas and Satlej

India is allowed limited, non-consumptive use of the western rivers for purposes like hydropower generation, but cannot divert or store their waters in ways that harm Pakistan's access. Despite wars and diplomatic breakdowns, the treaty has functioned for over six decades as rare example of sustained bilateral cooperation.

Why Is India Reconsidering the Treaty Now? The Pahalgam massacre has deeply shaken the Indian psyche. For many, the killing of innocent civilians visitors seeking peace in Kashmir's beauty has become become a tip tipping point. The Indian government has expressed a firm stance: terror and talks cannot go hand in hand, nor can terror and treaties.

Citing repeated provocations and a "fundamental change in circumstances, India is reportedly exploring the legal and diplomatic framework re-im or suspend required to unilaterally withdraw from or suspend the Indus Waters Treaty, potentially under Article 62 of the Vienna

Convention on the Law of Treaties

Why should India continue to honor a treaty that benefits a country allegedly sheltering groups responsible for murdering its citizens? Leg Legal and Diplomatic Complexities

Any withdrawal or suspension of the treaty would thrust India into complex international legal waters. While India is not permanently bound by the treaty, unilateral abrogation could attract criticism from global bodies including the World

Bank, which continues to play a facilitating role. Pakistan would likely challenge the move international courts, potentially invoking the international Court of Justice or seeking arbitration through the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Such a step could also impact India's reputation as a rule abiding global actor, especially at a time when it seeks leadership roles in climate diplomacy, global trade and multilateral institutions. Consequences of Scrapping the Treaty

1. Humanitarian and Environmental Crisis in Pakistan Pakistan relies on the Indus system for 90% of its agriculture and drinking water. Disruptions could lead to severe water scar-

city, crop failure and urban water crises, sparking public unrest and destabilization.

2. Increased Risk of Military Conflict: Water is emerging as the most contested strategic resource of the century. Any move perceived as weaponizing it could push the already fragile Indo-Pak dynamic to the brink of military confrontation.

3. Global Diplomatic Fallout India's action could trigger international pressure, especially from the United States, China and EU countries, which have interests in South Asian stability. The World Bank may be compelled to step in again to prevent escalation.

Strategic and Developmental Gains for India On the domestic front, India could accelerate hydropower projects in Jammu & Kashmir and maximize usage of its water entitlements, especially in the Ravi and Beas basins. However, such projects demand years of planning and face ecological hurdles

5. Unpredictable Precedents Abrogating a treaty upheld during war times may set a precedent for reversing peaceful diplomatic agreements, introducing facing a new era of transactional geopolitics in

South Asia

A Turning Point or a Tactical Pressure Move? Strategists are divided. Some see India's threat to cancel the treaty as a calibrated signala pressure tactic designed to extract global and regional accountability without resorting war. fear it could erode one of the few functioning bilateral agreements between the two nuclear-armed neighbors

Veteran diplomats argue that while justice for Pahalgam must be pursued, dismantling the Indus framework might harm India's long-term strategic interests more than it hurts Pakistan. Waters of Wrath or Wells of Wisdom?

The Indus Waters Treaty, for all its technical clauses and diplomatic roots, is more than a document it is a testament to cooperation amid conflict. Yet the bloodshed in Pahalgam has cast a long shadow and India finds itself at a moral and strategic crossroads.

Will it choose to dismantle the last remaining bridge of diplomacy? Or will it use the treaty as leverage to build a more accountable regional order. Only time and the rivers themselves tell will.

The author is a regular columnist and freelance writer

Tony urges CM Omar to order bifurcation of ration cards amid rising inflation

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

Senior Congress leader and DDC Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, today made a strong appeal to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to immediately order the bifurcation of ration cards in view of the rising inflation and growing economic distress among common people.

He was speaking after distributing new ration supplies to 40 beneficiaries in Rajiv Nagar area of Jammu.

Tony expressed concern over the bureaucratic apathy being faced by the local residents. He highlighted that the residents had submitted all necessary documents and applied for new ration cards nearly four and half years ago to their concerned Tehsil Supply Officer, yet their cases have been kept in abeyance for reasons best



known to the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

"It is extremely unfortunate that due to administrative delays and negligence, these families have been deprived of their rightful access to subsidized food grains. None of this is their fault, and the government must act without delay," Tony said.

The senior Congress leader further urged the government to review and revise the criteria for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category, stating that a

large number of families who were previously not under BPL have now fallen below the poverty line due to the relentless rise in inflation.

Quoting government data, Tony noted, "The Prime Minister had announced that over 81.35 crore beneficiaries would be provided free food grains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for five years. This clearly indicates the depth of economic hardship. Before 2014, around 40 crore people

were categorized as BPL. In the last ten years, an additional 40 crore have joined this list. This is a serious issue."

Tony stressed that it is becoming increasingly difficult for common people to afford even two square meals a day, and in such circumstances, the timely issuance and bifurcation of ration cards is not just a formality but a lifeline.

Tony appealed to the Chief Minister to personally intervene and ensure that the process of bifurcation and issuance of new ration cards is expedited, especially in vulnerable localities like Rajiv Nagar.

Prominent persons present on the occasion included Gagan Ex Panch, Raj Kumar Raju, Pahalwan Ji, Ram Bhagat, Harvinder Kaur, Banwari Baba, Parbhat Giri, Pudina Ram, Gopal Sharma, Darshana Madam, Neelam Devi and Kala ji.

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Tawi Welfare Society celebrates Founder's 75th Birth Anniversary

Jammu: Tawi Welfare Society, Jammu, organized a grand ceremony and ration kit distribution program to commemorate the 75th birth anniversary of its founder, Late Shri R.C. Gupta. The event was held at "Apnavan" in village Sureh Chak and was attended by prominent dignitaries, including MP Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma and MLA Shri Surinder Kumar.

Earlier Yash Paul Mangotra, General Secretary, TWS welcomed all the guests and briefed about various kinds of welfare activities being undertaken by the society from time to time without any financial Grant-in-Aid from the Govt. or other Agencies, but with the full support and co-operations of its Worthy Members. "TWS could be successful so far



because, we have not deviated from our original policy of doing goods to others to the best possible without discrimination but gracefully," he said. The MP and MLA appreciated the organization's efforts and encouraged them to continue their philanthropic work.

R. Vijay Magotra, Executive Committee Member of District Red Cross Society shared various experiences of his association with late Gupta. I D. Soni, President, Home for Aged and

Infirms in his Presidential Address said Gupta was a Saint like always concerned about the welfare of others. He was an Asset not only for TWS but the Society at large and I salute him for the big contributions he made not only during his life time but after his departure also he is being remembered for his number of good deeds.

The ceremony was a tribute to Late Shri R.C. Gupta's inspirational legacy of social ser-

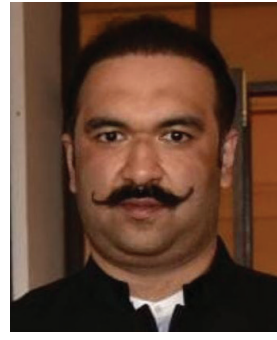
vice. The attendees paid homage to his contributions to society and drew inspiration from his selfless work. During the program, Tawi Welfare Society distributed ration kits to needy families, embodying the spirit of social service. The event saw a large gathering of social workers, local citizens, students, and society members. They collectively resolved to work towards realizing Late Shri R.C. Gupta's dreams and continue his legacy of service to humanity. The grand ceremony and ration kit distribution program were a fitting tribute to Late Shri R.C. Gupta's legacy. Tawi Welfare Society's efforts reflect its commitment to serving humanity and making a positive impact in the community.

Ranvijay expresses grief over death of Three Army Personnel in Ramban road mishap

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

Ranvijay Singh, Scion of the Dogra Royal Family, today expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic death of three Army personnel in a road accident in Ramban district.

In a statement issued here, Ranvijay Singh said he was deeply pained to learn about the unfortunate incident in which an Army truck, part of a convoy moving from Jammu to Sri-



nagar, skidded off the road near Battery Chashma and plunged into a 700-foot deep gorge, resulting in the

death of three brave soldiers—Sepoy Amit Kumar, Sepoy Sujet Kumar, and Sepoy Man Bahadur.

He said the entire nation is indebted to the selfless service and sacrifices of the Indian Army, and the loss of these jawans in the line of duty is an irreparable one. "Even in times of peace, our soldiers face grave risks while performing their duties. Their unwavering commitment to the nation is both humbling and inspiring," he

stated. Ranvijay Singh extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls. He urged the government and concerned authorities to ensure that the families of the deceased are provided with all necessary assistance and adequate compensation. "The nation must stand shoulder to shoulder with the families of our fallen heroes," he added.

Nitish Mahajan Hails Ban on Pakistan Trade, Calls it a Bold Step Against Terrorism

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

Nitish Mahajan, President of BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal, has strongly welcomed the Modi Government's decision to impose a complete ban on the import and transit of goods from Pakistan, calling it a strategic, timely, and necessary response to the recent terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed innocent lives.

In a press release issued here today, Nitish Mahajan said the heinous act of terror in Pahalgam once again unmasked Pakistan's longstanding



role as a state sponsor of cross-border terrorism. "This move sends a clear message—India will not maintain any engagement, not even trade, with a nation that perpetuates violence on our soil. The government has taken the

right stand, and the entire nation stands with this bold action," he said.

He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unwavering stance on national security and stated that the ban reflects the Centre's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism. "This isn't just about economics—it's a matter of national honour. Every rupee traded with Pakistan risks supporting the infrastructure that fuels terrorism. This decision ensures that not a single coin from India contributes to those nefarious networks," he added.

Nitish Mahajan

appealed to the business and trading community to fully support the government's move. "National interest must always override commercial interest, especially when the lives of our soldiers and civilians are at stake. The time has come for complete economic disengagement with Pakistan."

Reiterating his faith in the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, Nitish Mahajan affirmed that such actions will further strengthen India's resolve in the fight against terrorism and uphold the dignity and security of every Indian citizen.

Ajaz Jan urges India, Pakistan Nuclear Nations to prioritize civilian safety, avoid escalation

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 4

A significant workers' meeting of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) was convened today at the Dak Bungalow in Poonch, chaired by Hon'ble MLA Ajaz Ahmed Jan. The gathering witnessed the participation of prominent senior leaders and party workers from across the Haveli constituency.

At the outset, the house strongly condemned the recent terror attack in Pahalgam and expressed solidarity with the families of the victims. During the meeting, workers raised several grassroots issues affecting their respective villages and blocks, including the acute shortage of doctors and ambulances.

All present members appreciated Ajaz Jan for vocally raising the public's concerns in the Assembly without fear and for his continuous efforts in highlighting the issues of the Haveli constituency. The members also congratulated him on the successful completion of his Umrah pilgrimage.

Speaking on the current



situation along the border areas, Mr. Jan expressed serious concern, stating that the conditions resemble a war-like atmosphere. He emphasized that war is not the solution to existing problems. However, if the Government of India is considering such a course, it must be fully prepared – including arrangements for medical care, food, water, and secure shelters such as bunkers. He stressed the need to make contingency plans for the safety of women and children.

Mr. Jan stated, "Both nations, being nuclear powers, must take full responsibility for the protection of all their citizens and ensure that tensions do not escalate to the point where innocent lives are put at risk."

He acknowledged the unwavering support of the people of Poonch, who have always stood with

the Indian Army and contributed selflessly during times of national need. He urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure the safety of children, laborers, and workers across the country by directing concerned states and their police departments to take proactive measures.

In a major organizational move, Ajaz Jan announced the formation of special committees for Blocks Poonch, Nangali Sahib, Mandi, Sathra, and Lorán. These committees will assist the public and security forces in the event of any emergency and maintain coordination with district administration and police authorities.

He concluded the meeting by thanking all the attendees for their dedication and assured them of his continued commit-

ment to serving the public and resolving their issues.

Among those who were present in the meeting include: Bagh Hussain Rathore (District President), Sayeed Anayat Bukhari (District Secretary), Mohd Ishaq (Block President NSSB), Shazad Khan (Senior Leader), Peer Nisar Sahib, Ab. Ahad Bhat (Mandi), Har Charan Singh Khalsa, Narash Kumar, Ch. Mohd Shafi Saloonia, Ch. Mohd Akbar (Bagyaldara), Qazi Javid (Sarpanch Jhulass), Parvinder Singh (Ex-Councillor), Haji Najab Din Dar, Ghulam Hussain Bhatti, Abdul Jabbar, Mohd Afzal, Kh. Ab. Razzak, Mashooq Khan, Ajmal Khan, Shoket Khan (Jhulass), Jafir Hussain, Mohd Aslam Malik (Arai), Mohd Farooq (Arai), Mukhtar Rathore, Raju Thakur, Ch. Shabir (Sarpanch Gali Pindi), Adv. Mohd Shabir, Jahangir Sagar, Molvi Hafeez (Dhara), Bashir Mir (Sawajian), Mohd Sadeeq Qureshi, Hafiz Younis (Qasba), Shamim Dar Sahib, Narinder Singh Talwar, Mohd Bashir Mir Sahib, Abdul Rashid (Shahpuri), Manzoor Mahir Sahib, Mohd Zaman Sahib, and Abdul Qayoom Sofi Sahib.

Ex-Corporator Sucha Singh backs PM Modi's strong measures against terrorism, Pakistan

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

Former Corporator Sucha Singh extended strong support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his decisive actions in safeguarding the nation and countering terrorism.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, Sucha Singh praised the Prime Minister's inclusive leadership, emphasizing that Modi is leading the country by taking everyone along and making decisions thoughtfully in light of the current national and inter-

national situation. Singh noted that at a time when tensions are high across the nation, especially along the borders, the steps being taken by the Central Government are well-calculated and necessary.

"For the first time, we have a Prime Minister who has taken bold and historic steps to break the back of terrorism," he said, lauding the measures as praiseworthy and timely.

Highlighting specific actions, Singh commended the government's move to stop Pakistan's water supply, suspend trade with

Pakistan, and halt cross-border letters and communication.

"These steps are unprecedented and reflect the government's strong resolve to send a clear message to Pakistan," he added.

Singh argued that diplomatic measures alone will not yield results as Pakistan continues to betray India by supporting terrorist activities.

"Pakistan repeatedly stabs us in the back; therefore, giving a strong and befitting reply has become necessary," he asserted. "There is no solution left

except war."

Drawing parallels with historic epics, Singh remarked, "Just as the Mahabharata and Ramayana concluded with wars, similarly, Pakistan's chapter must end. Peace cannot be achieved without decisive action."

He further expressed confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and the central leadership, stating that every decision they are taking is aimed at securing the country's future.

Modi Govt's ban on Pakistan trade a strong message to terror sponsors: Dr Parneesh

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 4

Senior BJP leader Dr. Parneesh Mahajan today strongly endorsed the Modi Government's decision to impose a complete ban on trade with Pakistan, calling it a "firm, strategic and morally upright" step that sends a loud and clear message to sponsors of terrorism.

In a press release issued

here today, the senior BJP leader stated that the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of brave civilians and security personnel, was a grim reminder of Pakistan's continued complicity in destabilizing peace in Jammu & Kashmir. "Through this economic disengagement, the Modi Government has drawn a clear red line—terror and trade cannot go hand in hand," he asserted.

Dr Parneesh said the government's action reflects not just a policy decision but a powerful shift in India's national posture—where diplomatic restraint no longer comes at the cost of national security. "This is not just about trade. It's about standing up for the dignity and security of every Indian life. The economic corridors that once silently benefited terror backers are now



being sealed decisively," he added.

The senior BJP leader also emphasized that this bold move showcases the government's commitment to ensuring national security through all available instruments—economic, diplomatic, and strategic. "India will engage only with nations that respect peaceful coexistence. For those who continue to support violence, the doors—

whether of dialogue or trade—will remain shut," he remarked.

He urged the people of Jammu & Kashmir, especially the youth, to see this as a sign of New India's resolve. "Today's India is fearless. We don't respond with mere words—we respond with action that resonates globally," he added.

Calling upon political parties across the spec-

trum to rise above partisan interests, he said, "When it comes to national interest and fighting terror, there must be no opposition. This ban should be a point of unity, not division."

Dr. Parneesh stated that the Central Government's bold decision has not only isolated Pakistan diplomatically but also proved that India stands unshaken in the face of cowardly attacks.

“Rise of India’s Indigenous Sports to the Global Stage” – A Call to Celebrate and Globalize India’s Sporting Heritage, at WAVES 2025

JNEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI | 4 MAY 2025

In a spirited and insightful panel discussion held yesterday at WAVES, Mumbai, the spotlight was turned on the rich heritage of Indigenous Sports and their growing journey from Indian heartlands to global arenas. The session, titled “Indigenous Sports: From India to the Global Stage”, witnessed the convergence of influential policymakers, celebrated athletes, sports entrepreneurs, and thought leaders united in a shared vision: to catapult India’s native games to international recognition and success.

Delivering the keynote address, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Chief Minister of Odisha, passionately highlighted the deep cultural roots of indigenous sports in India. “These games are not just physical contests; they are an integral part of our communities, our traditions, and our identity,” he said, expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his visionary leadership towards making India a global sports powerhouse. Shri Majhi further highlighted that Odisha, home



to vibrant tribal communities has preserved these ancient games and is emerging as a sports hub. “We are committed to nurturing rural talents and ensuring every gifted athlete finds a platform to shine”, he stated.

Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse, Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the WAVES platform for fostering a meaningful dialogue around this significant movement. “India has already emerged as a global ambassador of Yoga. Now, we are proudly showcasing our traditional games like Kho-Kho and Kabaddi on the international stage. The Khelo India initiative is proving to be a transformative force in nurturing

grassroots talent and shaping the future of Indian sports,” she remarked. She further emphasized that sports not only promote physical well-being but also strengthen relationships and foster unity—reflecting the very essence of India’s rich cultural heritage.

Anupam Goswami, League Commissioner, Pro Kabaddi League, emphasized India’s vast potential as a sports market. “We must harness this opportunity by promoting indigenous sports, which hold immense emotional and cultural value”, he added.

Fazel Atrachali, iconic PKL athlete from Iran, shared how Kabaddi has transformed lives. “Thanks to PKL, Kabaddi has become a professional sport, giving players fame

and financial security”, flagged an elated Fazel.

Nic Coward, Regulatory Chairperson, English Cricket Board, stressed the importance of globalization and modern distribution channels. “To popularize traditional sports worldwide, we must embrace digital platforms, including e-sports”, he flagged.

Sudhanshu Mittal, President of the Kho-Kho Federation, revealed that Kho-Kho is now played in 55 countries, with a target to reach over 90 nations by year’s end. “Our indigenous games are unique—requiring more strategy, stamina, and spirit. They hold immense global appeal. But they need government backing, branding, and diplomatic support”, he asserted.

Yannick Colaco, Founder of Fancode, pointed to technology as a game-changer. “Access and engagement are key. With the right tech, we can create deeper fan connections and take Indian sports global”, he added.

The session was moderated by Mantra Mugdh, who masterfully navigated the discussion, weaving together diverse insights and forward-looking strategies.

WAVEX 2025 Highlights Investment Potential of M&E Startups; working on dedicated angel network for M&E

JNEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, 4 MAY 2025

WAVEX 2025, the flagship startup initiative under the World Audio-Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) being held in Mumbai is a promising intersection of innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment.

Shri Ashutosh Mohle, Joint Director at the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB), set the tone with a succinct overview of WAVEX, underscoring its vision of nurturing startups in the M&E space and providing a national platform to scale up their ideas.

Sandeep Jhingran, Chief Growth Officer, Internet and Mobile Association of India (IMAI), expressed satisfaction with the promising response to the initiative. “We received over a thousand applications. Thirty of them pitched directly to investors and over half of them are already in active conversations,” he revealed,



emphasizing that such efforts are essential to give focused attention to M&E startups.

Investor voices added further perspective to the transformative potential of the initiative. Shri Rajesh Joshi, Venue Partner from Warmup Ventures, reflected on his personal journey from being a startup founder to becoming an investor. “Life has come a full circle...We’re now speaking with 11 startups,” he added.

Shri Mustafa Harnesswala, Founder of CABIL, highlighted the tradi-

tional reluctance in funding this space. “Many shy away from investing in media and entertainment. WAVES is shifting that mindset. We’re now working on creating a dedicated angel network for M&E, and even exploring global linkages through collaborations with international governments.”

The panel also fielded questions from the media, offering insight into the evolving startup landscape. When asked how investors differentiate meaningful content, Rajesh cited the example of “Giggle,” a

startup app that is creating a platform that helps avoid cyberbullying and sexual content, calling it a benchmark for responsible innovation.

On gender representation, Sandeep acknowledged the limited participation of women entrepreneurs. “We’re committed to doing better. In the future editions we hope to see more women entrepreneurs coming in,” he added.

Expanding on the event’s format, Sandeep Jhingran shared that 30 startups were given one-on-one pitching opportunities in 2 days; Mustafa Harnesswala emphasized the need for monetization strategies for content creators, stating that initiatives like WAVES help bridge that gap.

WAVEX 2025 continues to establish itself as a game-changer in the startup ecosystem for the M&E sector, breaking old boundaries and fostering new opportunities for innovators across India.

Bharat Pavilion: From Kala to Code – receives overwhelming response at WAVES 2025

JNEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, 4 MAY 2025

The Bharat Pavilion, an immersive viewing zone that took visitors through the continuum of India’s storytelling traditions at WAVES 2025, has received an overwhelming reception and response from the public. The Pavilion, under the theme “From Kala to Code”, offered a compelling narrative of India’s evolution in media and entertainment—from oral and visual traditions to cutting-edge digital innovations.

The Bharat Pavilion presented the soul of India, balancing our rich cultural heritage with the new waves of techn-



cal advancements that are already underway. On the inaugural day of WAVES 2025, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited the Pavilion. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, External Affairs Minister Shri S. Jaishankar, Union

Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and many other dignitaries visited the pavilion and appreciated its role in telling the story of Bharat. The pavilion also garnered huge footfall, leaving people in awe and wonder on discovering the many treasures of

our nation.

Celebrating India’s creative journey, the Bharat Pavilion was not just an exhibition of content but a powerful expression of India as a creator. It projected India’s cultural depth, artistic excellence, and emerging dominance in global storytelling. The Pavilion was structured into four thematic zones, each reflecting a different dimension of India’s creative legacy:

The Bharat Pavilion at WAVES 2025 offered a multi-sensory celebration of India’s storytelling traditions and innovations. It reaffirmed India’s identity as a creative powerhouse, rooted in heritage and looking to the future.

JNEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, 4 MAY 2025

Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. L Murugan released five significant Reports that collectively present a comprehensive overview of India’s dynamic and rapidly evolving media and entertainment ecosystem, at the ongoing WAVE Summit in Mumbai, yesterday. Prepared by reputed national and international Agencies, these Reports provide valuable insights into the creator economy, content production, legal frameworks, live events industry, and data-backed policy support.

The Statistical Handbook prepared by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting serves as an essential resource for data-driven policy and decision-making. It captures sectoral trends, audience behaviour, revenue growth patterns, and regional and national trajectories. The handbook is designed to inform and guide future policymaking and industry strategies, ensuring that they remain grounded in empirical evidence and practical realities.

The Report ‘From Content to Commerce: Mapping India’s Creator Economy’ - Report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) highlights the unprecedented scale and impact of India’s creator economy in the digital era. With 2 to 2.5 million active digital creators, India is home to one of the world’s fastest-growing creator ecosystems. These creators already influence more than \$350 billion in annual consumer spending—a figure projected to triple and exceed \$1 trillion by 2030. The report urges stakeholders to look beyond numerical metrics and acknowledge the evolving role of creators as storytellers, culture-shapers, and economic drivers. For businesses, this shift implies moving



away from transactional influencer engagements and building long-term partnerships rooted in authenticity, trust, and creative agility.

‘A Studio Called India’ by Ernst & Young - Envisions India as a Global Content Hub. The Report presents India not just as a content-consuming nation but as a studio to the world. It underlines India’s strengths – linguistic diversity, cultural richness, and a technologically adept talent pool – which position the country to create narratives that transcend borders. India offers a 40% to 60% cost advantage in animation and VFX services, supported by a large, skilled workforce. The report also notes the increasing international appeal of Indian storytelling, with up to 25% of views on Indian OTT content now originating from overseas audiences. This phenomenon is not merely commercial—it represents a moment of cultural diplomacy, wherein India’s stories are forging emotional and cultural connections across continents.

Recognizing that creativity must be complemented by regulatory clarity, Khaitan & Co. has

prepared a detailed legal and regulatory handbook for the media and entertainment sector. Designed as a practical guide for producers, studios, influencers, and platforms, the handbook covers a range of key legal issues such as, compliance norms for both domestic and foreign entities, Incentive schemes for international productions, Legal frameworks around influencer marketing and digital content and Definitions, taxation implications in the gaming sector, including GST, Protection of celebrity rights and Ethical considerations and regulatory treatment of AI-generated content. This handbook is intended to equip stakeholders with tools for confident, compliant, and responsible engagement in the creative economy.

The White Paper on India’s Live Events Industry underscores the sector’s robust growth and shifting consumer dynamics. With a 15% year-on-year growth rate, the industry added Rs 13 billion in revenue in 2024 alone. The report notes that nearly half a million fans are now travelling between cities to attend events, reinforcing the emergence of event-based

tourism in India. There is a rising demand for premium and curated experiences, and Tier-2 cities such as Shillong, Vadodra, and Jamshedpur are emerging as cultural centres. The Report calls for a strategic reimagining of India as not just a spectator in the global cultural arena, but a key stage in the international spotlight.

The launch event was attended by Shri Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; Shri R.K. Jena, Senior Economic Advisor, MIB; Smt. Meenu Batra, Joint Secretary, MIB; and Shri Prithul Kumar, Joint Secretary, MIB and MD, NFDC. Representing the Knowledge Partners, Shri Vipin Gupta, Managing Director & Partner, Boston Consulting Group, Ms. Payal Mehta, Partner, Boston Consulting Group; Shri Ashish Pherwani, Partner, Ernst & Young; Shri Amiya Swarup, Partner, Ernst & Young; Ms. Tanu Banerjee, Partner, Technology and Media, Khaitan & Co; Shri Ishan Johri Partner Khaitan & Co; Shri Vinod Janardhan, Director, EVENTSFAQ Live; Shri Deepak Chaudhury MD, EVENTS FAQ also attended the event in Mumbai

Ajay Gupta Visits Rural Jammu to Hear Grievances of Small Private Schools

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 4

Lal Chand Gandotra (District President of JKPSA) along with other office bearer accompanied Ajay Gupta who was on the one day tour to gather the grievances of small private schools of rural and border areas of Jammu district.

While speaking members of different schools said that some private schools are functioning without any recognition/affiliation by clubbing the students with the nearby government / recognized private and Zonal Education Officers of different zones are in deep slumber.

Due to the hypocrisy of the JKBOSE / Education department, all the merits have been left aside which have already been laid in SRO292 of 2018 to the grant of affiliation / recognition in time bound manner to the pri-



ivate of Jammu & Kashmir as till date schools whose recognition has lapsed in 2023, 2024 and 2025 are deprived of affiliation / recognition without any fault.

Members also highlighted their serious concern for not obtaining approved management committee

from the Director School Education due to the delay in verification of antecedent of the members included in management committee of a school by CID.

President of the Association Ajay Gupta concluded that education department has designed

a complicated mechanism to harass and torture the small private schools with a motive of their closure. It is unfortunate that Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has till date verified the antecedents of only 70 files out of 420 which were submitted online mode since 2024 by the DSE, Jammu.

An appeal was made on behalf of all small schools to Shantmanu Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), School Education Department for the withdrawal of the provision of CID verification of the members of the management committee and quick disposal of all files which are gathering dust for the grant of affiliation/ recognition.

The members who accompanied included Vijay Sharma, Yogesh Sharma, Deep Dayal, Yog Raj Sharma, Anil Sharma and Vineet Gupta.

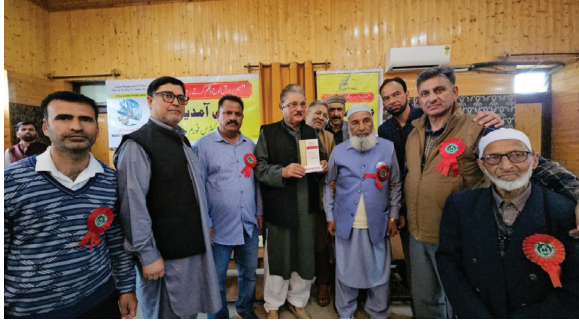
Mushaira held at Baramulla

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 04

As a tribute to the region's literary and cultural legacy, the Baramulla Writers Forum organized a mushaira at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla here.

The event was attended by distinguished poets, writers besides students and literary enthusiasts from across North Kashmir.

Presided over by renowned literary figure Prof. Ghulam Hassan Baig, known by his pen name Aftab, the mushaira featured celebrated poets



Kanisपुरi, Shabnam Vijpuri, Mufti Bashir, and Abdul Rehman Sayha also participated in the programme.

The event saw evocative recitations on love, identity, social justice, and human resilience. The diverse poetic styles and voices on display offered insight on contemporary Kashmiri thought and sentiment.

Students from Government Degree College Baramulla also participated in the event underlining the growing interest in literature among the younger generation.

including Fayaz Tilgami, Mushtaq Kirmani, Anzar Mohjoo, Nazir Talib, Showkat Habib, Bashrat Bukhari, Dr. Parvaiz Yousuf, Mrs. Lahaina, Dr. Riyaz Rabani, Abdul Rashid Bhat and Bashir Zoogari.

Besides, Sagar Nazir, Ibni Shahbaz, Gul Mir, Abdul Ahad Aliham, Abdul Gafar, M. Sultan Mulani, Sadia Showkat, Sabir Mohiuddin, Tameel Bashir, Tahural Rehman, Muneeb Narwari, Rafaqat Hafeez, Mudasir, Rashid

Fit India Sundays on Cycle event held in Baramulla



JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 04

Youth Services and Sports Department Baramulla engages field staff, students and locals across all zones in a unified fitness mission and organised a district-wide cycling event under the banner of Fit India Sundays on Cycle initiative. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from field staff, students, and locals across all education zones of the district.

The Zones that actively conducted cycling drives included Zone Dangi-wacha, Wagoora, Singhpora Pattan, Chandoosa, Kunzer, Tangmarg, Singhpora Kalan, Fatehgarh, Baramulla, Uri, Dangerpora, Sopore, Nehalpora, Pattan, and Rohama.

At Zone Dangi-wacha, the cycling rally began from Rawoocha and concluded at Dangi-wacha, drawing participation from 37 YSS field staff along with students and locals. The event was flagged off

by the SHO Dangi-wacha at 8:00 AM.

Zone Wagoora organized a successful event starting from Wagila Bridge and ending at HSS Wagoora, engaging field staff and residents of the area. Similarly, Zone Singpora Pattan flagged off its rally from HSS Gund Kh Qasim to Mazhama Railway Station.

Zone Chandoosa conducted its event from Haji Chowk Faqirbagh to GMS Chandoosa for the field staff. In a collaborative effort, Zones Kunzer and Tangmarg jointly organised their event, which was flagged off by SHO Kunzer and witnessed energetic participation from both staff and the community.

Zones Baramulla, Singhpora Kalan, and Fatehgarh conducted a joint event from Eco Park to Bipin Rawat Stadium, flagged off by ZPEO Fatehgarh Mubeen Ahmad Khan. Meanwhile, Zone Dangerpora's event was flagged off by BDC Sopore Dr. Fareeda Khan and

included both staff and local participants.

Zone Sopore's rally from Khushal Stadium to Amargarh also saw robust local involvement. In Zone Nehalpora, the rally commenced at Chuker Pattan and concluded at HSS Nehalpora, exclusively for field staff.

Zones Pattan and Uri too organized their respective events with full spirit and in line with the objectives of the Fit India Movement.

DYSSO Baramulla, Zahoor Ahmad Wani lauded the efforts of Zonal Physical Education Officers, field staff, and participants for making the initiative a grand success. He reiterated the department's commitment to promoting fitness, community engagement, and a healthy lifestyle through regular outdoor activities.

The Fit India Sundays on Cycle initiative continues to foster a culture of active living and collective well-being across the district.

Pawan Sharma praises PM Narendra Modi's commitment to ending terrorism, creating safer future for all

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 04 MAY 2025:

Pawan Sharma, Senior BJP Leader and Former State Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir BJP, has enthusiastically praised Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's courageous and visionary leadership in combating terrorism, paving the way for a brighter, more secure future for generations to come.

In a statement released today, Sharma commended the Prime Minister's unequivocal message that terrorism and its supporters will not find refuge or tolerance in New India. He underscored that the government's unwavering commitment to taking firm, decisive, and uncompromising action against terrorists—as well as those who aid, abet, or glorify them—is a crucial step toward fortifying national security and safeguarding the lives of innocent citizens.

The Modi government's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism is a significant step towards ensuring the safety and security of our citizens. By taking decisive action against terrorists and their supporters, the government is sending a strong message that terrorism will not be tolerated.

Sharma stated, "The Hon'ble Prime Minister has once again demonstrated to the nation and the world that India will not succumb to the forces of terror. His leadership epitomizes the resolve of 140 crore Indians who stand united against any threat to our sovereignty and peace."

Mega Audition Event Held at Star Villa Banquet Hall, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU 4 MAY

A grand audition event was held at Star Villa Banquet Hall, Channi Himmat, Jammu, organized by ALSA Productions – a Mumbai-based film production house – in collaboration with Aadya productions, Dharma mart, Zohi Salon, and Star Villa.

The audition primarily focused on three categories: Acting, Modeling, and Singing. Aspiring actors, singers, and models from various parts of Jammu enthusiastically participated in the event.

The auditions were conducted for upcoming films, songs, and short films under the banner of ALSA Productions. The event received an overwhelming response from the youth, with a large number of talented individuals showcasing their skills in hopes of being selected for future projects.

The collaborative effort by the organizers created a vibrant platform for fresh talent in Jammu to step into the entertainment industry.

RDD Minister visits Rafiabad Constituency; assesses development works, public issues

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 4

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, conducted an extensive tour of Rafiabad constituency on Sunday, visiting several villages including Judinambal, Braman, Khahmoh, Brandub and Arkharwari.

The tour aimed to assess progress on various development works and address key issues affecting the local residents of the area.

During his visit, the Minister focused on several critical areas including water supply, electricity, road connectivity, food supply and water bodies development.

He issued on the spot directions to the concerned officers to ensure access to clean and ade-



quate water for the residents. He assessed the status of electricity infrastructure besides identifying the areas requiring improvement for smooth supply of electricity.

The Minister directed the officers to assess the condition of roads and related infrastructure besides monitoring the availability and distribution of essential commodities.

He further instructed for timely and quality completion of all ongoing development projects.

The Minister had exclusive interaction with the local residents of these villages, seeking feedback on status of development works in their respective areas. He took stock of their grievances and demands, assuring speedy redress of the same.

Labour Department, Pulwama conducts Awareness camp on Labour Laws at IGC Lassipora



JI NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, MAY 4

The Office of the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Pulwama, conducted a comprehensive Awareness Camp at Industrial Growth Centre (IGC) Lassipora. The camp was aimed at educating industrial unit holders, workers including non-local workers about various key labour laws and their entitlements under the same.

The Awareness Camp focused on important legislations such as the Payment of Wages Act, Employees' Compensation Act, Payment of Gratuity Act, Minimum Wages

Act and the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act. Detailed discussions were held on the timely payment of wages, entitlement to minimum wages, gratuity benefits, compensation in case of injury and the rights and welfare of workers including non-local workers.

ALC emphasised the responsibility of employers to ensure compliance with labour laws and the importance of creating a safe, fair, and dignified working environment for all workers, including non-local labourers who form a vital part of the industrial

workforce in the area.

The event witnessed active participation from the Presidents of various Unit Holders' Unions/Associations and the General Secretary of Cold Stores, along with a large number of workers. The interactive session also allowed workers to raise queries and clarify their doubts regarding their legal rights and entitlements.

The initiative was part of the Labour Department's ongoing outreach programme aimed at promoting awareness, compliance, and welfare of workers in industrial clusters.

DC Kupwara inspects NEET Examination Centres



JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MAY 4

In connection with the smooth and fair conduct of the NEET (UG) 2025 examination, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today carried out a comprehensive visit of various examination centres in the district.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner thoroughly inspected the examination arrangements and reviewed the overall preparedness on the ground. She interacted with the Principal, designated Magistrates, and security personnel deployed at the venue, emphasizing strict adher-

ence to examination protocols. The DC also inspected the control room set up at the centre to ensure real-time coordination and monitoring of the examination process.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the GDC Kupwara, Government Higher Secondary School Handwara and other designated NEET centres, to assess the arrangements there. She was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javid Naseem Masoodi and expressed satisfaction over the conduct and coordination observed at the centre.

Following the directions of the Deputy Commission-

er, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Kupwara Mumtaz Ahmad visited all five NEET examination centres across the district to supervise arrangements and assess the on-ground situation.

A total of five centres were established across Kupwara district for NEET 2025. Out of 2,159 registered candidates, 2,100 appeared for the examination, while 59 candidates remained absent.

The district administration reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring a transparent, secure, and hassle-free examination environment for all candidates, in coordination with the concerned stakeholders.

Centre drawing up new plan to push exports of farm goods & processed foods

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 4

The government is committed to reducing logistical barriers and enhancing market access for Indian agri and processed food products, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said at a high-level Chintan Shivir, organised by the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Authority (APEDA) here on Sunday.

In his address, Barthwal pointed out that "Academia and research institutions must be a part of multisectoral consultations so that research and development can be a major focus for innovation and sustainability in agri exports".

He emphasised that agricultural production and productivity are both the need of the hour and reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to further deliberate on the ideas and strategies discussed during the sessions.

The consultative dialogue brought together senior officials from the Union government, Central Ministries, representatives from state governments, policy experts, industry leaders from agri trade and processed foods sector to deliberate on strategies for enhancing exports.

In his opening remarks, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) Secretary, Subrata Gupta,



highlighted the importance of infrastructure development and value addition to ensure sustainable export growth. He emphasised that there is a need to develop infrastructure, sanitary and phytosanitary standards at par with international norms, tariff plans and more synergy between the Union government, state governments, various departments, and industry stakeholders. He identified key potential products and sectors for processed foods exports like alcoholic beverages, nutraceuticals and value-added products.

This Chintan Shivir was also attended by Special Secretary, Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Varsha Joshi, and other senior officers of the Union and state governments, policymakers and industry leaders.

Agrawal emphasised the need to have a more synergistic approach amongst

various stakeholders to take new agricultural, processed food, and value-added products to new geographies.

A total of 14 states, namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, participated in the high-level meeting.

Industry leaders of the agri and processed food sectors were represented by LT Foods, KRBL, Amul, Organic India, ITC, Meatzza, Suguna Foods, Kaybee, TPCI, Organic India, Allansons, Fair Exports, and HMA Exports, amongst others, participated in the dialogue.

The Shivir was divided into five parallel technical breakout sessions focusing on specific agri-trade commodities and the processed food sector, which included basmati and non-basmati rice, animal products, horticulture and processed foods, as well as organic products.

India blocks X accounts of Imran Khan, Bilawal Bhutto

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 4

The Indian government on Sunday blocked the X accounts of Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and former Pak Prime Minister and PTI founder Imran Khan.

The official X handles of both have been withheld following their anti-India and malicious content regarding the current tense situation.

India has already blocked the official X handle of the Government of Pakistan and also the X account of the country's Defence Minister Khwaja Asif. The X account of Pakistan Information and Broadcasting Minister Attaullah Tarar was withheld in India, days after he had claimed that India was planning to carry out a military strike, citing "credible intelligence".

The action comes following the dastardly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, which killed 26 people and injured several others.

India has banned 16 Pakistani YouTube channels for spreading provocative and communally sensitive content, along with false and misleading narratives targeting India, its Army, and security agencies.

The decision was taken by the Government of India based on recommendations from the Ministry of Home Affairs following the dastardly Pahalgam terror incident in Jammu and Kashmir.



Account Withheld
@ImranKhanPTI has been withheld in IN in response to a legal demand. Learn more.

The banned channels include Dawn News, Irshad Bhatti, SAMAA TV, ARY NEWS, BOL NEWS, Raftar, The Pakistan Reference, Geo News, Samaa Sports, GNN, Uzair Cricket, Umar Cheema Exclusive, Asma Shirazi, Muneeb Farooq, SUNO News HD, and Razi Naama. These channels were found to be disseminating disinformation related to India's national security, foreign relations, and public order.

Together, these YouTube channels had a cumulative viewership of several crores. They were spreading false and unverified information aimed at creating panic, inciting communal disharmony, and disturbing public order within India, according to an official statement.

Following the deadly attack, India has launched a strong diplomatic offen-

sive and a series of sweeping retaliatory actions after Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed the assault a "cowardly attack on innocent civilians."

The attack, orchestrated by Pakistan-based terror outfit The Resistance Front, has triggered a sharp escalation in tensions between the two countries. In response to the attack, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), led by Prime Minister Modi, announced several stringent measures. These include the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, closure of the Attari-Wagah border, cancellation of the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) for Pakistani nationals, expulsion of Pakistan's military attaches from New Delhi and a reduction in diplomatic staff at both High Commissions.

Dalai Lama greets Australian PM Albanese for winning second term



AGENCIES
DHARAMSALA, MAY 4

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama on Sunday congratulated Anthony Albanese on his re-election as Prime Minister following his party's victory in the Australian parliamentary elections.

"It has been a privilege for me to have been able to visit Australia several times over the years," the Dalai Lama wrote in a letter to Albanese.

"The friendship and affection that Australian brothers and sisters have shown me have touched me deeply. I have also been encouraged by their enthusiasm and interest in my efforts to promote the human values of loving kindness, compassion, a sense of oneness of humanity and closer inter-religious harmony.

I take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the Australian government and its people for their interest in and support for the Tibetan people's freedom and dignity. I wish you every success in meeting the challenges that lie ahead in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the Australian people," he said.

The Dalai Lama ended his letter by offering his prayers and good wishes.

Left-leaning PM Albanese claimed victory in the general election on Saturday. He vowed to steer the nation through global uncertainty.

"Couldn't do this without the support of my incredible local community in Sydney's Inner West. Grayndler, thank you for everything. We'll keep working every day to make you proud," PM Albanese wrote on X.

Opposition leader Peter Dutton conceded defeat and had called Prime Minister Albanese to congratulate him on the win.

"We didn't do well enough during this campaign, that much is obvious tonight, and I accept full responsibility for that," Dutton said.

Padma Shri awardee Baba Shivanand passes away at 128, PM Modi pays tribute

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 4

Renowned spiritual guru and yoga practitioner Baba Shivanand, a Padma Shri awardee, passed away at the age of 128 in Varanasi due to health complications. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the Baba's demise.

Taking to social media platform X, the Prime Minister wrote, "It is extremely saddening to hear about the demise of Shivanand Baba Ji, a yoga practitioner and resident of Kashi. His life dedicated to yoga and sadhana will continue to inspire every generation of the country. He was also awarded Padma Shri for serving the society through yoga. Shivanand Baba's departure to Shivaloka is an irreparable loss for all of us Kashi residents and millions of people who draw inspiration from him. I pay my



tribute to him in this hour of grief."

Baba Sivanand, who passed away on Saturday night, was admitted to BHU Hospital on April 30 after experiencing health issues.

A resident of Kashi (Varanasi), Baba Sivanand was known for his disciplined lifestyle centred around yoga, meditation, and spiritual practice. His dedication to holistic wellness and traditional Indian values earned him national recognition when he was awarded the

Padma Shri in 2022 for his exceptional contribution to society through yoga.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also paid his respects.

In a post on X in Hindi (loosely translated), he wrote, "The demise of Kashi's renowned yoga guru 'Padma Shri' Swami Shivanand ji, who made an unparalleled contribution in the field of 'Yoga', is extremely sad. Humble tribute to him! Your spiritual practice and life of yoga is a great inspiration for the entire society. You

dedicated your entire life to the expansion of yoga. I pray to Baba Vishwanath to grant salvation to the departed soul and give strength to his bereaved followers to bear this immense sorrow. Om Shanti!"

Baba Shivanand was born on August 8, 1896, in the Sylhet district of present-day Bangladesh. Orphaned at the age of six after his parents died of starvation, he was taken in by Omkarnand, who became his spiritual mentor and guided him in yogic and ascetic disciplines.

His long and disciplined life, marked by simplicity and devotion, made him a revered figure. Disciples stated that his body has been kept at his residence in Kabirnagar Colony for the public to pay their last respects. His last rites will be performed later this evening.

Piyush Goyal commends India-UK sustainability initiatives during London visit

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 4

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, who is currently in London for ongoing India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks, visited the International Centre for Sustainability and praised its efforts to promote India's sustainability initiatives and strengthen bilateral ties.

Taking to the social media platform X, Goyal shared his appreciation after meeting Sachin Nandha, the founding trustee of the Centre.

The Minister expressed his delight in learning about the Centre's work to enhance global understanding of India's environmental efforts and to deepen cooperation between India and the UK.

"Very pleased to hear from Sachin Nandha, the founding trustee, about



the work being done by the Centre to enhance the understanding about India's sustainability efforts and to strengthen India-UK ties," Goyal posted on X.

This visit is part of the Minister's broader engagements in the UK, where he is meeting with stakeholders across various sectors to bolster economic and diplomatic relations.

Earlier, Goyal met representatives of Indian

organisations based in the UK and acknowledged their contributions to cultural and economic collaboration.

"Met with representatives of various Indian organisations based in the UK. Highlighted the growing strength of the India-UK partnership, with both countries actively working to deepen collaboration across diverse sectors," Goyal said.

Commended their valuable contributions and conveyed my best wishes as they continue to play a vital role in strengthening cultural, political, and economic ties between the two nations," he stated on X.

He also engaged with the India Global Forum, appreciating its role in promoting the India-UK partnership and encouraging its continued efforts.

The Minister's visit comes at a crucial time as India and the UK continue to advance discussions on a long-awaited Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Recently, Minister Goyal met with UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds to further the negotiations.

Both sides have reiterated their commitment to finalising the deal, which is expected to boost trade, investment, and innovation.

Rajnath Singh to skip Russia visit amid escalating tensions between India-Pakistan

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 4

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will not likely attend Russia's Victory Day parade to be held in Moscow on May 9 to mark the 80th anniversary of the Soviet Union's win over Germany in World War II, amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, sources said.

Singh's Deputy, the Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, may represent India at the event in Moscow, the officials said on Saturday.

The decision comes amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan following the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

While no official reason has been cited for Singh's absence, sources within the Ministry of Defence suggested that the security situation arising from the Pahalgam attack played a significant role in the decision.

The development came on a day the Pakistan Army fired at Indian posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in sectors including Kupwara, Uri and Akhnoor,

violating the ceasefire agreement for the ninth straight day after the April 22 terror strike that killed 26 people.

The Indian Army's counter-fire was measured but effective.

Initially, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was invited by Russian President Vladimir Putin to attend the Victory Day parade. However, due to the evolving security concerns and the escalating situation with Pakistan, it was decided that Rajnath Singh would attend in his place.

Sources further mentioned that Prime Minister



Modi's absence from the parade has sparked diplomatic discussions, with speculation linking the decision to the recent developments in Pahalgam.

Russian President Vladimir Putin had extended invitations to leaders of several nations, including China's President Xi Jin-

ping, for the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Soviet victory in World War II. This year's Victory Day parade in Moscow will host leaders from nearly 20 countries.

Victory Day on May 9 is a significant event in Russia, commemorating the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in 1945. The parade at Red Square is one of the most important ceremonies in Russia, drawing attention from world leaders and military officials.

Prime Minister Modi visited Russia twice in 2024—once for an annual summit

with President Putin and again for the BRICS Summit held in Kazan.

The upcoming Victory Day event is set to be a crucial part of Russia's diplomatic calendar, with President Putin planning a visit to India later this year for an annual summit.

The decision to send Sanjay Seth instead of the Defence Minister highlights the sensitivity of India's security concerns following the Pahalgam attack.

The attack, which claimed the lives of several security personnel, has intensified the security

situation in Kashmir and strained relations between India and Pakistan.

"While the invitation to the Victory Day parade was extended to both PM Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the growing concerns regarding the security situation have prompted this change in representation," a diplomatic source said.

As tensions remain high, India's decision to send a lower-profile representative underscores the ongoing security challenges and the careful diplomatic balancing act the government is navigating.

Goa's Vaibhav Marathe emerges fastest at Indian National Autocross Championship round 1

AGENCIES
CHIKMAGALUR, MAY 4

Goa's Vaibhav Marathe finished on top of the Chikmagalur Gravel Fest 2025, Round 1 of the FMSCI Indian National Autocross Championship (INAC) 2025 which was held here at Survey 85 on Sangnipura Road in Kurvangi Grama.

Marathe representing JK Tyres fended off a tough fight from his teammate Syed Salman to finish with a timing of 02:57.876 s in the INAC 1 Unrestricted Class. Aeman finished third with a timing of 03:01.786 s while Salman finished in 02:59.687 s. The Chikmagalur Gravel Fest 2025 served as the qualifying round of FMSCI Indian National Autocross Championship 2025.

Syed Salman later won the INAC 1 2000 CC class finishing with a timing of 02:59.169 s while Chetan Shivram and Aeman finished second and third respectively. Vaibhav Marathe could only manage a fourth place finish in this



class.

Ashad Pasha finished on top of the INAC 2 1650 CC class while Aeman and Syed Salman finished second and third. Syed Salman then went on to win the INAC 2 1450 CC class and followed it up with another victory in the INAC 2 1100 CC.

The INAC 2 800 CC class was won by Azveer. Zee-shan Mohammed won the INAC 3 category while Sha-meena CP finished on top in the Women's category with a timing of 03.41.004.

Sanctioned by the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI) and conducted under the 2025

FIA International Sporting Code and relevant FMSCI regulations, the Gravel Fest in Chikmagalur is one of seven qualifying rounds that form the INAC Cup circuit.

To qualify for the Grand Finals, each driver must participate in at least two rounds. Only the top five finishers in each class will secure a berth in the final championship face-off, where the best of Indian autocross will be crowned. The event was promoted by Octane Pits by Lokesh Gowda and organized by the Motor Sports Club of Chikmagalur (MSCC).

Women's ODI tri-series: Bowling is something we need to work on, says Harmanpreet

AGENCIES
COLOMBO, MAY 4

After India suffered their first loss in the women's ODI tri-series through a three-wicket defeat to Sri Lanka, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said the bowling department is an area where a lot of work has to be put in.

India had previously defended 276 against South Africa in the ongoing tri-series, but at the R Premadasa Stadium on Sunday, they couldn't defend 275/9 against Sri Lanka. What also didn't help India's cause was seam-bowling all-rounder Kashvee Gautam limping off the field after bowling just five overs, which meant opener Pratika Rawal was used as the sixth bowler.

In this series, only Sneha Rana has been a standout bowler for India, and on Sunday, she picked 3-45. Apart from their erratic



fielding, India not getting a finishing kick after Richa Ghosh's 58 also hurt them. "Sri Lanka batted really well, they didn't give us many opportunities. Even when they gave us opportunities, we didn't really hold on to them. We were a bowler short as well since Kashvee Gautam wasn't there.

"The way Richa was batting, we thought we'll cross 280 easily but after she fell, we couldn't execute like we expected to.

Her wicket was the turning point. We weren't able to get breakthroughs in the first 10 overs. Batting we're still doing good but bowling is something we need to work on," said Harmanpreet after the match ended.

Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu, who was amongst the standout bowlers for the hosts' by picking a three-fer alongside Sugandika Kumari, said her bowling mindset was to pitch

the ball on stumps, apart from being pleased over Harshitha Samawickrama and Nilakshi de Silva leading the side to victory via their respective half-centuries.

"We played positive cricket in the last game and today as well. Really happy as a captain, the youngsters lead from the front and play their best cricket. We are ready for anything, can't predict the toss. If we bat first, we will try to score 250 runs, that's our target.

"Haven't been in the best form for the past two games, that's why stepped down the order (to number four in batting) and played a different role. As a senior player, have to lead from the front, that's important. I've played for 15 years and haven't bowled much. These days I'm bowling more. Try to keep it simple and on the stumps, that's my mantra," she said.

IPL 2025: We need to win all our games, says KKR's Moeen Ali on playoffs chances

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, MAY 4

Defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders are having a difficult season so far as their chances of qualifying for the playoffs are hanging by a thread but spinner Moeen Ali said all they can do is win their remaining matches in the IPL 2025.

KKR are sitting at seventh place with nine points in 10 matches and have four games left, including today's match against the Rajasthan Royals at Eden Gardens.

"We know what we have to do, we need to win all our games. It's a big game today," Moeen told broadcasters ahead of the home match.

England spinner only played in four matches in the season so far and the match against RR will be his fifth appearance after being named in the playing 11. KKR have backed Varun Chakaravathy and Sunil Narine as front-line spinners.

In their last game against Rajasthan in the season, Moeen returned with the figures of 2-23 as KKR won by eight wickets in Guwahati.

"They are a really good side and they have some brilliant players. We are looking forward to it. He (Rahane) is good, but he will hide somewhere in the field (due to the injury), which means I will be somewhere in the hotspot today. You need to keep yourself on top of your game and need to keep practising well. They told me at the start that I will play certain games, depending on the wickets," Moeen said.

"You have to take it in your stride and try to be as professional as you can. When there are left-handers in the opposition you have more chances of playing as an off-spinner. We have two of the best T20 spinners with us, so difficult to break into that side. They (Jaiswal and Suryavanshi) are talented young players, so it's going to be challenge for us. We also have some world-class players in our side, so we are ready for it," he added.

China beat South Korea to clinch Sudirman Cup title

AGENCIES
XIAMEN (CHINA), MAY 4

China clinched the 2025 Sudirman Cup title after beating South Korea 3-1 in the final here on Sunday.

China have won the biennial badminton mixed team world championship 14 times since Indonesia was crowned in the first edition in 1989. South Korea have triumphed four times in the competition.

In the mixed doubles, the first duel of the best-of-five final, China's Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping beat Seo Seung-jae and Chae Yu-jung 21-16 in the first game, but the South Korean pair recovered in the second with a 21-17 win. However, Feng and Huang took the deciding one 21-15, reports Xinhua.

"Two years ago, our teammates Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong did very well in the final match. We learned a lot in



this year's matches. I think I performed perfectly and Huang is still passionate," Feng told Xinhua.

Huang praised her partner Feng with the word "perfect," saying, "he grows a lot and deals with some deciding points very reasonably."

In the following women's singles, China's Wang Zhiyi lost to World No. 1 An Se-young 21-17, 21-16.

"I had a mix feeling with nervousness and excitement because this is the first time I played in the Sudirman Cup final," said Wang.

"Today I played the basic tactics we prepared, but I made a lot of mistakes,"

the world No. 2 added. China's Shi Yuqi had a comfortable win over Jeon Hyeok-jin 21-5, 21-5 in the men's singles, giving China a 2-1 lead over South Korea.

"I feel my condition is getting better game by game. Although my opponent's world ranking is relatively low, I remember that I had a struggling match in the last Thomas Cup. So I went all out," Shi said.

Olympic women's doubles silver medalists Tan Ning and Liu Shengshu sealed the victory for China after defeating world No. 3 Baek Ha-na and Lee So-hee 21-14, 21-17.

Women's ODI tri-series: Harshita and Nilakshi fifties help Sri Lanka defeat India by three wickets

AGENCIES
COLOMBO, MAY 4

Fifties from Harshita Samawickrama and Nilakshi de Silva helped Sri Lanka defeat India by three wickets in fourth match of the women's ODI tri-series at the R Premadasa Stadium on Sunday. Wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh top-scored with 58 as India made 275/9 in their 50 overs

In reply, Harshitha made 53 while Nilakshi turned the chase in the hosts' favour through a blazing 33-ball 56. All-rounder Nilakshi also shared a partnership of 57 off 38 balls with Kavisha Dilhari (35 off 32 balls), before she fell in the 43rd over.

Anushka Sanjeevani (23 not out) and Sugandika Kumari (19 not out) took Sri Lanka home with their unbroken 40-run stand for the eighth wicket, as the hosts' pulled off their second-highest successful run chase in women's ODIs. They also registered their first ODI win over India since 2018, which is also their third victory over the



Harmanpreet Kaur-led side in 34 matches.

Pushed into batting first on a sluggish pitch, Pratika Rawal and Smriti Mandhana had a 51-run opening stand, before the latter was run-out in the final over of power-play. After Pratika was trapped lbw by Inoka Ranaweera, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur had partnerships of 42 and 44 with Harleen Deol (29) and Jemimah Rodrigues (37) respectively.

Richa then stepped up to hit 58 off 48 balls, while sharing a 52-run stand with Deepti Sharma. But once

Richa fell in the 44th over, India failed to get the finishing kick they desired, as Sri Lanka conceded just 29 runs from the last five overs. Sugandika and skipper Chamari Athapaththu were the standout bowlers for Sri Lanka by picking three-fers each.

In the chase, Sri Lanka never looked like they were out of control. Sneha Rana was once again the standout bowler for India with 3-45. But all-rounder Kashvee Gautam limping off the field after bowling just five overs meant Harmanpreet had to use Pratika as the sixth bowler.

Though Hasini Perera and Vishmi Gunaratne fell before the half-way mark, Harshita ensured the hosts' were steady in their run-making through her brisk fifty.

But it was Nilakshi's knock that took the game away from India. With her big-hitting skills and some help from India's erring fielding unit, Nilakshi and Kavisha took 20 runs off Arundhati Reddy in the 37th over, and from there, Sri Lanka got home with five balls to spare. Sunday's outcome means the competition is now wide open, as Sri Lanka are now equal with India via four points and will now face a winless South Africa on Tuesday.

Brief Scores: India 275/9 in 50 overs (Richa Ghosh 58, Jemimah Rodrigues 37; Chamari Athapaththu 3-43, Sugandika Kumari 3-44) lost to Sri Lanka 278/7 in 49.1 overs (Nilakshi de Silva 56, Harshitha Samawickrama 53; Sneha Rana 3-45, Pratika Rawal 1-32) by three wickets

India women end Australia tour with 1-0 win

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 4

The Indian Women's Hockey Team enjoyed a 1-0 victory over Australia in the fifth and final game of their Australia tour, at the Perth Hockey Stadium on Sunday. Navneet Kaur (21') scored the only goal of the match to ensure India ended the series on a strong note.

In the first quarter, Australia dominated the play and won two penalty corners but India's resilient defence denied them the opening goal. Six minutes into the second quarter, India clinched the lead courtesy of a field goal from Vice Captain Navneet Kaur.

It was a cagey affair in the second half with both teams eyeing to score a goal but India held their composure at the back and successfully defended their slim lead. In the final quarter, Australia received a crucial penal-



ty corner, however, they squandered the chance to equalise and handed over the victory to the visitors.

After two losses against the Australia A side and two losses against the senior team, India bounced back well in the series with a positive win over the hosts on the final day.

India's 26-member squad, led by captain

Salima Tete and vice-captain Navneet Kaur, played the Australian senior team thrice, and despite a spirited performance were handed two defeats by the hosts. Before the game against the Australian senior side, the Indian team also played friendlies against the Australia A side, but were not able to register wins despite gritty and deter-

mined performances.

With one eye on the World Cup next year and the FIH Hockey Pro League in Europe later this year, the Indian team is also trying out new combinations and strategies on this tour of Australia. A win in the final game of the tour is sure to inject confidence into the team for the upcoming months.

Premier League: Chido Obi becomes Man Utd's youngest starter in English top tier

AGENCIES
LONDON, MAY 4

Ruben Amorim has made eight changes to his starting XI as Manchester United take on Brentford at the Gtech Community Stadium on Sunday. At 17 years and 156 days, Chido Obi is set to become United's youngest-ever Premier League starter.

Altay Bayindir starts in goal for Manchester United in a much-changed line-up. Youngsters Tyler Fredricson, Chido Obi and Harry Amass all start along with Mason Mount. Only left wing-back Patrick Chinazaekpere Dorgu, midfielder Manuel Ugarte and forward Alejandro Garnacho retain their places in the XI.

With one eye on next Thursday's UEFA Europa League semi-final second leg against Athletic Club at Old Trafford, Amorim has rested the majority of the



team that performed brilliantly to secure a 3-0 lead from the first leg in Bilbao.

The Portuguese head coach had confirmed his decision to play Chido in the pre-game press conference with an eye towards the clash against Athletic.

"Maybe some kids will have to play against Brentford. We have some problems in our squad. Some

players are in the limit. We will try to manage everything and the best way is to prepare for all these things. We'll see what we can do at the weekend.

"Chido cannot play against Athletic but, in the Premier League, yes, of course. They will have to play. We have some problems. We have some players, in this moment who

can play one game, but the next one they cannot play.

"We don't know what kind of starting XI we need for the second game [this week]. Everything is in my mind but they [the youngsters] will have to play," said Amorim.

Starting line-up
Man Utd

Starting XI: Bayindir; Fredricson, De Ligt, Shaw (c); Chinazaekpere Dorgu, Ugarte, Mainoo, Amass; Garnacho, Mount; Obi.

Substitutes: Heaton, Lindelof, Maguire, Yoro, Case-miro, Eriksen, Fernandes, Amad, Hojlund.

Brentford
Starting XI: Flekken, Kayode, Collins, Van Den Berg, Lewis-Potter, Norgaard, Yarmoliuk, Damsgaard, Wissa, Mbeumo, Schade

Substitutes: Valdimarsson, Henry, Pinnock, Jensen, Thiago, Mee, Ajer, Konak, Nunes

DC Rajouri, SSP chair meeting with Civil Society members to promote communal harmony, development

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAY 4

In a significant move to reinforce communal harmony and review developmental issues, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, and Senior Superintendent of Police, Gaurav Sikarwar, convened a meeting with representatives of political parties, religious and social organisations, and other prominent citizens of the district.

The meeting, held in the wake of the recent tragic incident in Pahalgam, served as a platform for open dialogue and mutual assurance of peace and brotherhood across communities in Rajouri. At the outset, two-minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack.



Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma commended the collective condemnation of the incident by the people of Rajouri and appreciated their unwavering commitment to unity and peace. He specifically acknowledged the civil society's efforts in offering assistance and shelter to tourists who had halted in Rajouri during their travel before the incident occurred.

"The solidarity shown by the people of Rajouri in this difficult time is com-

mendable. Your support to tourists and your commitment to harmony reflect the true spirit of our district," he said.

Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Sikarwar, while addressing the gathering, reaffirmed the district police's commitment to maintaining law and order. He called for continued cooperation from all stakeholders to ensure that peace prevails and any attempts to disturb communal harmony are thwarted.

"Together, we can ensure that Rajouri remains a model of peace and resilience," the SSP said.

Prominent citizens present at the meeting also shared valuable feedback and suggestions concerning law and order, community engagement, and further strengthening the bonds of communal harmony.

The meeting was also attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chander Prakash; and other senior officers and dignitaries from civil society.

The administration reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding public welfare, promoting inclusive development, and preserving the peaceful fabric of Rajouri district.

DC, SSP hold meeting with Civil Society at Surankote- Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 4

In a significant gathering aimed at fostering community engagement, the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal and Senior Superintendent of Police Shafakat Hussain chaired a meeting with civil society members in Sub Division Surankote to discuss pressing developmental issues and promote communal harmony.

In the meeting, SDM Farooq Khan, Tehsildar, Akbar Hussain, SDPO, Aijaz Choudhary besides Executive Engineers and other concerned officers were present to address the local issues.

The meeting served as a vital platform for community feedback, where local leaders and residents called for effective imple-



mentation of social welfare schemes, measures to augment water supply, improvement of medical facilities, upgrading of roads and blacktopping.

The Deputy Commissioner patiently listened

to the issues raised during the meeting and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers to resolve all genuine concerns. He assured attendees that their issues would be prioritized and

addressed promptly. Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal emphasized the importance of unity among community members, urging them to collaborate with the administration to tackle challenges effectively.

SSP Shafakat Hussain highlighted the need for safety and security, calling for collaborative efforts to build a peaceful community. He encouraged residents to report any untoward incidents to the authorities, so that proactive measures can be taken.

This meeting marks a step forward in strengthening the relationship between the administration and the public, fostering a cooperative spirit to enhance local conditions and maintain communal harmony.

Refresher course on Registration of Documents organised for newly appointed Registrars, Sub Registrars

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 04

To strengthen institutional capacity and enhance the technical skills of the field functionaries involved in property registration, the Department of Registration, J&K, in collaboration with the Revenue Training Institute Jammu organized a one-day sensitization-cum-training programme.

The focus of the training was on document registration through National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) in consonance with the provisions of The Registration Act, 1908, the Stamp Act, Samvat 1977, and other allied rules and regulations in vogue.

The training programme witnessed participation from over 30 officers physically and more than 50 officers virtually, including Registrars, Sub Registrars, Tehsildars and other supporting staff posted across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Inspector General of Registration J&K Bashir Ahmed Bhat, in his inaugural address, congratulated the department for its commendable Revenue contribution amounting to Rs. 600 crore in form of Registration Fees and Stamp Duty during the last financial year. He highlighted the multifaceted responsibilities of Registrars and Sub Registrars and said that the Training



Programme aims to sensitize field officers regarding their legal, quasi-judicial, revenue, and statutory duties under the prevailing regulatory framework. He emphasized the participants to attend the training program actively as it would help them in gaining experience and learning the intricacies of document registration.

Earlier, the Training Programme commenced with a welcome address by Principal, Revenue Training Institute, Jammu Sunaina Sharma Mehta, who underscored the importance of continuous skill upgradation and legal orientation for registration personnel. She stated that this online and offline training programme orchestrated jointly by both the departments under the active and able guidance of worthy Financial Commissioner Revenue (ACS), Shaleen Kabra, and Inspector General Registration J&K Bashir Ahmad Bhat, inscribed for achiev-

ing greater transparency, accountability, and citizen satisfaction in registration-related services.

The technical sessions were conducted by a panel of domain experts and senior officers including, P. D. Kotwal, President, District Consumer Commission, Jammu and former District & Sessions Judge, who initiated the training with an insightful session on the roles, responsibilities, and legal obligations of Registrars and Sub Registrars under the Registration Act, 1908. This was followed by a technical session on the functioning and features of NGDRS, conducted by representatives from the NGDRS core technical team, which covered end-to-end digital registration processes, citizen service modules, and grievance redressal features. Then representative from Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd. (SHCIL) delivered a session on the implementation of e-Stamping and its integration with the

NGDRS portal, ensuring secure and tamper-proof stamp duty collection. The State Taxes Department (Stamps Wing) represented by State Taxes Officer, J&K conducted an analytical session on commonly encountered mistakes and misinterpretations while dealing with Schedule I of the Stamp Act, Samvat 1977, with emphasis on field-level implementation and scrutiny.

Executive Engineer (Central), Design Inspection and Quality Control Wing, J&K Shwetanki Sharma conducted a detailed presentation on valuation methodologies for built-up structures and the relevance of valuation in the context of property registration and stamp duty computation. Later on, Farooq Hussain, Tehsildar Consolidation, Jammu, and Ram Lal, Retd. Officer elaborated on relevant provisions of the Land Revenue Act and allied revenue laws governing the registration of documents.

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Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal conducted a site inspection of various developmental projects in Surankote today. The Deputy Commissioner inspected the progress of the NABARD road construction and ongoing water supply initiatives.

Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SDM Surankote Farooq Khan, Tehsildar Surankote Akbar Hussain, executive engineers and other officers. The Deputy Commissioner inspected the 4KM NABARD road from Jogi Morh to TCP via Dak Bunglow Surankote. He emphasized the importance of completing the

Deputy Commissioner convenes public outreach camp at Dachhan

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHITWAR, APRIL 04

To strengthen institutional governance and streamline the delivery of public services, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today organized a Public Outreach Camp in Block Dachhan.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local populace, who engaged actively with the district administration.

The DC provided valuable insights and guidance on various government schemes and initiatives, including the JK Samadhan Portal, Mission Yuva Scheme, Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, Water Kuhl Development, Women Empowerment Programs, and other centrally sponsored schemes.

During the session, the DC issued a series of directives to the concerned departments for improving public services in the area.

The BDO Dachhan was Directed to ensure the functionality of all abandoned drains, achieving 100% man-days generation under MGNREGA, The Ex En PWD R&B was directed to submit road



estimates to ensure no area is left unconnected.

The ARTO Kishitwar was directed to organize awareness camps for transporters and drivers in the region.

The Ex.En Jal Shakti Kishitwar was tasked with expediting JJM works, ensuring timely completion of reservoirs, establishing filter plants, and

revamping old water supply schemes.

PMGSY authorities were directed to undertake road widening from Dangduro to Sounder, construct two new culverts, and carry out blacktopping works at an accelerated pace.

Concerned departments were instructed to prioritize the renovation of school buildings and the

completion of languishing projects.

The DC also assured the public that issues raised during the camp would be addressed with due diligence. He emphasized the administration's commitment to responsive and inclusive governance.

Further, the DC shared that skill development courses are now open for registration and encouraged unemployed youth to enroll. He announced that an Employment Awareness Camp would soon be organized at Block Dachhan.

Additionally, directions were issued to ensure timely compensation for fruit-bearing and non-fruit trees, as well as land compensation.

The DC also presented baby care kits to the mothers of newborns under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.

The DC was accompanied by ADC Pawan Kotwal; SDM Marwah Dr. Mohamed Ashraf; ASP Ops N. A. Khoja; CPO Shah Nawaz Bali; ARTO Tasleem Wani; AD Handicrafts Pardeep Shan; DFO Marwah, CAO, besides other District and Sub Division level Officers.

Satish Sharma meets Shikara Owners; assesses their issues

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 5

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, and Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today had detailed interaction with Shikara owners operating in the Dal Lake.

The Minister was accompanied by the Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan and other senior



officials. The Minister reiterated the commitment of the government towards preserving the livelihoods of the tradi-

tional boatmen community while fostering sustainable tourism, a vital pillar of the region's economy.

During the interaction,

the Minister patiently listened to the concerns raised by the Shikara owners. These included difficulties in obtaining and renewing licenses, financial and technical support for boat maintenance, environmental issues affecting the lake's ecosystem and improved infrastructure around Dal Lake to enhance the experience for both the operators and the tourists.

DC Poonch inspects developmental works in Surankote

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 04

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal conducted a site inspection of various developmental projects in Surankote today. The Deputy Commissioner inspected the progress of the NABARD road construction and ongoing water supply initiatives.

Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SDM Surankote Farooq Khan, Tehsildar Surankote Akbar Hussain, executive engineers and other officers.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the 4KM NABARD road from Jogi Morh to TCP via Dak Bunglow Surankote. He emphasized the importance of completing the



widening and blacktopping of the road promptly and

ordered the demolition of any encroachments, warn-

ing of strict action against defaulters.

Additionally, Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal reviewed the water tank construction on the National Highway to Manahasa Mohalla Surankote. He directed the Jal Shakti engineer to ensure the water tank becomes operational and supply water to the local community without delay.

The civil society hailed the Deputy Commissioner's proactive approach to enhance infrastructure and improve public services in the region.