

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous abdominal pain
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Police book four notorious drug peddlers under PIT NDPS Act

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 06 (KNO)

In the relentless crackdown against drug trafficking and dismantling the illegal narcotics network, Srinagar Police on Tuesday said to have booked four notorious drug peddlers under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (PIT-NDPS Act).

These drug peddlers namely Tawfeeq Ahmad Khan S/o Mohammad Ayoub Khan R/o Shangulipora Noorbagh, Aaqib Mushtaq Kenoo @ Khoda S/o Mushtaq Ahamd Kanoo R/o Pamposh Colony Noorbagh, Imran Ahmad Bhat @ Chaanda S/o Aijaz Ahmad Bhat R/o Guzerbal Noorbagh and Faizan Rashid Wani S/o Ab. Rashid Wani R/o Palpora Noorbagh have been booked under the PIT-NDPS Act after obtaining the formal detention orders from Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir on the basis of dossiers prepared by Srinagar police against them, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

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LG grieved over loss of lives in Poonch accident

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 06 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed deep grief over the loss of lives due to a tragic accident in Poonch on Tuesday.

In a condolence message, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Pained by the loss of lives due to tragic road accident in Poonch. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. I pray for a speedy recovery of those injured in the accident". KNO

J&K govt orders inclusion of children aged 6 or above in public distribution system

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 06 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir government Tuesday ordered for the inclusion of children aged 6 years or above and left out beneficiaries in the public distribution system across the Union Territory.

According to an order, a copy of which lies with news agency, the department of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs stated that children aged 6 years & above or upon attaining 6 years age be included in PDS in their respective AAY, PHH, NPHH or Exclusion family ration cards.

It also stated that any left out eligible beneficiary be included under the public distribution system, if not covered so far, as per norms.

"Wherever any case of a widow or a divorcee, not covered under PDS is reported to the department, such beneficiaries shall be provided a separate ration card in PHH, NPHH or Exclusion group, as the case may be, depending upon the financial status, and conformity to NFSA rules, so as to provide them coverage under PDS," the order reads. KNO

>> PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK AFTERMATH

India's water will flow for country's benefits: PM Modi on Indus Water Treaty

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 06 (KNO)

Referring to the recent developments around the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that India's water resources will be used for the country's own benefits and cannot be allowed to flow outside.

Speaking with the national TV channel, the Prime Minister, as per the news agency, said, "Bharat ke haq ka paani, Bharat ke haq mein bahega." He added that the country



had started initiatives to link use of its water resources. Notably, India suspended

the Indus Waters Treaty on April 23, 2025, following a terror attack in Pahalgam, which left 26 innocent people, mostly tourists dead.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had announced the decision, linking it to Pakistan's alleged support for cross-border terrorism.

PM Modi had earlier remarked that "water and blood cannot flow together."

PM Modi said, "For decades, the water of our rivers has been a subject of tension and conflict."

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Amid tensions, Army, BSF on high alert in J&K



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 06 (KNO)

Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, the Army and Border Security Force (BSF) are on high alert along the Line of Control (LoC) and International

Border (IB) across Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

Pertinently, the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, and its cross border linkages have led to the heightened tensions between the two

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J&K set for civil defence mock drill today

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 06 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir is all set to witness a civil defence mock drill on Wednesday.

According to the details available with the news agency the directions to hold the nationwide exercises have been passed by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

An official said that the preparations for conducting mock drills in J&K have been finalized and tomorrow sirens will be activated at various locations in the union territory to test emergency response systems. "Public is requested to remain calm and not be alarmed," he added.

The official said that Union



Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Tuesday reviewed the civil defence preparedness across the country through a high-level video conference with Chief Secretaries and heads of civil defence of all states and union territories.

"The aim is to assess readiness in the event of a hostile attack, with a specific focus

on improving coordination and training across all levels of administration," the official said, adding, "Over 270 'civil defence districts' across India, which include sensitive locations such as military installations health institutions, schools will be covered under the drill."

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After Pahalgam terror attack people of Kashmir for first time came on streets to show their anger: CM Omar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 06 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that after the Pahalgam terror attack—which left 26 people mostly tourists dead—people of Kashmir for the first time came on streets to show their anger.

Talking to reporters here the Chief Minister, according to the news agency said, "What happened in Kulgam shouldn't have happened, but not only Kulgam, the news of arrests, which is coming from different places in Kashmir—for the first



time, the people of Jammu & Kashmir, especially Kashmir, came on the street against the attack and have shown their anger. This message shouldn't be conveyed to them that they

all are being punished."

On the SDRF personnel conducting a mock drill in Dal Lake, the Chief Minister said, "During the past few days, two boats have capsized in Dal Lake and we have asked the SDRF to deploy their teams to prevent tragedies and loss of life."

Asked whether SDRF personnel have been deployed in Dal Lake after the MHA issued instructions to make civil defence preparations, Omar quipped, saying, "I don't work in MHA. I work in J&K

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CS pushes for swift claim settlements, financial inclusion of all in J&K



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 6

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation status of various financial inclusion and

social security schemes of the Government of India being executed through banks and financial institutions in J&K.

Besides Principal Secretary, APD and Principal Secretary, Finance Departments,

CONTINUED ON ►► PAGE 4

Pahalgam attack 'barbaric', Govt must respond effectively: Owaisi in Sgr

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 06 (KNO)

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) Chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday said the central government should respond effectively in response to the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed the lives of over two dozen people.

"We want our government to give an effective response to it. We have said the same in the all-party meeting," Owaisi said after arriving in Srinagar this morning.

This is the first visit of AIMIM Chief to the Valley following the deadly attack in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025. Earlier, he had visited Kashmir last month to attend a marriage ceremony.

Speaking to reporters, Owaisi, as per the news agency, termed the incident a 'cowardly and barbaric attack'. "It was a cowardly attack. We have condemned it and are still condemning it. We have seen how terrorists from Pakistan killed 26 people," Owaisi said.

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Appeals invited for Electoral Rolls in respect of 27-Budgam and 77-Nagrota ACs

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

After house to house field survey by 323 Booth Level Officers (BLOs), draft Electoral Rolls were published on 8th April 2025 by the respective Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) in the two Assembly Constituencies viz; 27-Budgam and 77-Nagrota, for inviting claims and objections.

All Political Parties together appointed 279 number of the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) for verifying the draft electoral rolls in these two constituencies. After addressing

all claims and objections, the final electoral rolls were published by the respective Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) on 5th May 2025 and a copy was handed to all political parties.

As per Section 24 (a) of the Representation of People Act 1950, anyone can now file an appeal against the decision of the concerned ERO to the respective District Magistrate.

In case anyone is not satisfied with the decision of the District Magistrate, an appeal can still be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer, UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

CM Omar launches JK Pension Suvidha portal for retiring employees, pensioners

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 06 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday launched the Pension Suvidha Portal at the Civil Secretariat here. Developed by the Finance Department, J&K in collaboration with the National Informatics Center (NIC) and the Principal Accountant General (A&E), J&K, the portal marks a significant step towards digitizing the pension sanctioning process for government employees.

The event was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary Education Shantmanu, ACS to CM



Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries of Agriculture Production Department, Finance, Information Technology, Social Welfare, Forest, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Public Works Department, Rural Development Department, Cooperatives,

Law Department. The event was also attended by Principal Accountant General (A&E) J&K along-with his team of officers, Principal Resident Commissioner J&K, MD & CEO Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd,

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UNSC discusses India-Pakistan tensions, Islamabad probed regarding LeT role in Pahalgam attack

AGENCIES
UNITED NATIONS, MAY 6

The issue of escalating India-Pakistan tensions was discussed with concern at a closed-door meeting of the UN Security Council (UNSC) where Islamabad was asked tough questions, including about the role of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror group in the Pahalgam attack, sources said.

The issue was taken up by the UNSC on Monday at the behest of Pakistan whose claim about the Pahalgam terror attack being a "false



flag" operation by India was not accepted, the sources said. Pakistan is currently a Non-Permanent Member of the UNSC since January 1 this year.

The UNSC has five Permanent Members with Veto Power and 10 Non-Permanent Members, who are elected for a

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Government Degree College, Kathua honours sports achievers of 2024-25 at felicitation ceremony

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 6

The Sports Board of Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua organized a grand felicitation ceremony to honour the outstanding student-athletes who brought laurels to the college in various inter-college and inter-university tournaments held during the academic session 2024-25. The event was organized in the college's smart classroom and was graced by worthy Principal of the college Prof. Seema Mir, as a chief guest and senior faculty members of the college, Dr. Sanjay Karlipua, Prof. Neelam Bhagat, Prof. R. K. Pandita, Prof. Shalini Sharma, Prof. Rakesh Jasrotia, Dr. Ram Singh and Dr. Yash Paul Sharma.



The ceremony commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp followed by the saraswati vandana. The ambience was filled with pride and celebration as more than 80 athletes were recognized for their remarkable achievements in various sports such as football, gatta (male & female), badminton, kabaddi, Kho-kho (male & female), boxing, wrestling, grappling, hand-

ball, power lifting, athletics (male & female). These students had participated and excelled in diverse Inter-college and Inter-university Tournaments and brought laurels to the college by winning top three positions. In her welcome address, the Convener of the Sports Board, Prof. Shivani Kotwal provided a detailed account of the

sports activities undertaken during the year. She highlighted the notable victories of the GDC Kathua teams, including the Football (female), Gatta (male) and badminton (male). All the sports achievers participated in various above mentioned categories were felicitated with track suits in recognition to their excellence and contribution to the college's glory.

Esteemed Principal of the college, Prof. Seema Mir in her address, congratulated the awardees and praised their unwavering commitment, teamwork, and determination. Prof. Mir emphasized the importance of sports in holistic development. "Your achievements have not only made the college

proud but also set a benchmark for your peers. Keep striving excellence both on and off the field" said the Principal.

The felicitation ceremony was accompanied by the college Sports Board members Dr. Dinesh Jasrotia, Advisor, Prof. Shivani Kotwal, Convener, Prof. Neeraj Gupta, Dr. Gotam Singh, Dr. Shiv Kumar, Dr. Jagmohan Sharma, Dr. Jasvinder Singh and Prof. Rakhi Malhotra. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Sh. Sandeep Sharma, Physical Director of GDC Kathua, who acknowledged the efforts of all student participants, organizing committee members, and supporting faculty, whereas, the proceedings of the event was conducted by Dr. Gotam Singh, member sports board.

DC inspects JJM, PHE mechanical offices in Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAY 6

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today conducted a surprise inspection of the offices of the Executive Engineer, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and the Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division here to assess the functioning and ongoing progress of JJM-related works in the district.



During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner issued string of directions to the Executive Engineer JJM and Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical to ensure regularity and punctuality of staff in their respective offices. He emphasized that indiscipline and laxity in attendance will not be tolerated, especially in departments involved in the execution of crucial

public utility schemes. While reviewing the status of ongoing JJM works, the DC instructed the concerned officers to expedite the installation of machinery and equipment at the sites of ongoing projects. He underscored the importance of ensuring that all infrastructural and mechanical components are installed in tandem with civil works to avoid

delays in project completion. The DC reiterated the administration's commitment to providing safe and adequate drinking water to every rural household in line with the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission and directed officers to work in a mission mode to achieve the set targets within the stipulated timelines.

DC Poonch reviews implementation of AB-PMJAY, redressal of public grievances

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 6

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today reviewed the implementation of Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and redressal of public grievances at a meeting of District Grievance Redressal Committee (DGRC) of the Health Department. During the meeting, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz Khan briefed the chair that all three registered grievances, one received through the JK Samadhan portal and two via the CPGRAMS portal have been resolved. The chair was also briefed that 11,942 beneficiaries have received treatment in public empanelled hospitals across the District under the Golden



Card initiative. An amount of Rs 1,71,28,696 has been received from the State

Health Agency to support these services. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated

the efforts of the Health Department for effective implementation of AB-PMJAY and timely redressal of public grievances. He reiterated the administration's commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery and ensuring accessible services for all. The meeting was attended by Medical Superintendent District Hospital, Dr. Nusrat-ul-Nisa, Block Medical Officer Mandi, Dr. Riyaz Jan, District Coordinator State Health agency Dr Tanweer Malik and District Information System Manager Dr Parvez.

ABVP Jammu Kashmir urges students and youth to actively participate in the 'Civil Defence Mock Drill'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has called upon youth and students to enthusiastically participate in the 'Civil Defence Mock Drill' being organized nationwide by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 7 May 2025. In light of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, and the rising cross-border security threats including cyber attacks and hostile activities, this nationwide mock drill is a vital step towards strengthening civilian and institutional preparedness. This drill will include testing of air raid warning sirens, crash blackout exercises, rehearsals for safe

evacuation of civilians, and training of youth and general public in safety measures during emergencies. Additionally, strategic camouflage techniques will be practiced to conceal critical installations such as radar stations and power plants. ABVP believes that national security is not solely the responsibility of our armed forces, but a shared duty of every citizen, especially the youth. Our schools, colleges, and universities must become centers of awareness, alertness, and preparedness. ABVP urges students, youth, and educational institutions across the country to participate actively in this 'Mock Drill', take the training seriously, and

contribute to building a vigilant, disciplined, and secure Bharat. ABVP Jammu Kashmir State Secretary Sannak Shrivats stated, "ABVP welcomes the 'Civil Defence Mock Drill'. We call upon all students, teachers, administrative officers, and citizens to participate in this initiative with full dedication and enthusiasm, and ensure their role in building a 'Safe, Strong and Self-Reliant Bharat'. Citizens of the country must be prepared for emergency situations. Today's India is capable of giving a befitting response to terrorist incidents. Every citizen must remain aware of their role and responsibility."

ADM Doda issues prohibitory orders against hate speech, provocative statements, acts that incite violence

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 06

Additional District Magistrate Doda in exercise of the powers vested under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 today issued strict prohibitory orders within the jurisdiction of District against hate speech, provocative statements and acts that incite violence. "No individual, digital platform, representative of community, organization, or group shall deliver, publish, or circulate any hate speech, objectionable remark, or irresponsible statement in public places, through print, websites, electronic media, or on social media platforms.

JMC team seizes huge stocks of banned Polythene material in Rajiv Nagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 06

In a major crackdown on the illegal storage and distribution of banned materials, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) seized approximately 40 metric tonnes (40,000 kg) of polythene from the Narwal area, specifically from a warehouse located along Rajiv Nagar Road, late Monday evening. The operation was led by the Corporation Commissioner Devansh Yadav, who was present at the site along with a dedicated team of municipal officials. A truck fully loaded with polythene was discovered parked at the warehouse, alongside a substantial quantity of polythene stored inside the premises. The team also uncovered a large stock of gutka packets during the raid. Given the magnitude of the seizure, police personnel and administrative officials were called to the scene to support the operation. The team carried out a thorough inspection of the premises, including registers and equipment found within the warehouse. Commissioner Yadav



stated that the seized polythene appears to be single-use plastic, which is banned. However, the material will be sent to the Pollution Control Committee for laboratory analysis to confirm its composition. "By appearance, it seems to be single-use polythene, but we will wait for lab results to confirm," he added. He further mentioned that individuals present at the warehouse fled the scene upon seeing the JMC team. Investigations are now underway to identify the persons involved in

the storage and intended distribution of the polythene. Authorities are also looking into the origins of the consignment and its intended recipients. "The police will investigate who owns the warehouse and to whom this polythene was being supplied. Strict action will be taken against those found responsible," Commissioner Yadav affirmed. This action underscores JMC's commitment to enforcing environmental regulations and curbing the use of banned plastic materials within city limits.

Tony lays foundation stone of Gurudwara Sahib at Village Seer in Suchetgarh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SUCHETGARH, MAY 6

Senior Congress leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, along with members of the Sangat, today laid the foundation stone of a new Gurudwara Sahib at Village Seer in Suchetgarh. The ceremony was attended by a large gathering of devotees and community leaders who participated with great devotion and enthusiasm. Addressing the gathering, Tony emphasized the timeless and universal message of Guru Granth Sahib Ji, stating, "The teachings of Guru Granth Sahib are centered around universal brotherhood, love, and peace. At a time when the country is facing increasing communal polarization, the message of the Gurus becomes even more relevant and necessary." Tony warned against the dangerous trend of dividing the nation on religious lines, citing the tragic partition of India in 1947 as a stark reminder of the devastating consequences of communal hatred. "We have already seen what happened in



1947 when India was divided due to religious intolerance. Unfortunately, today some vested interest groups and political parties like the BJP and RSS are attempting to repeat history by spreading the venom of communalism," he said. He further stressed the need to follow the core teachings of all religions—whether Hinduism, Sikhism, Islam, or Christianity—which consistently preach love, compassion, and harmony. "Every religion has the same message: to serve humanity and uphold peace," he said. On this occasion, Tony also announced that a Drug De-addiction Centre will be established under

the aegis of the Gurudwara Seer Singh Sabha to help save youth from the menace of substance abuse. "It is our collective duty to guide the younger generation towards a path of righteousness and discipline," he added. He appealed to the people of the village to donate liberally for early completion of this Gurudwara. Among those who were present included Rashpal Singh Gill ex sarpanch, Satvinder Singh President Gurudwara Committee and Chairman of the Village, Panch Ravail Singh, Jagjit Singh Bittu, Hardeep Singh, Jeet Raj, Kuldeep Singh, Bhag Singh, Hardayal Singh, Sarabjeet Singh and Manjeet Singh.

Javid Dar meets delegations; assures prompt redress of public concerns



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 6

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today met with various delegations at Civil Secretariat to assess and address their issues and concerns. The Minister, while assuring them of prompt resolution to their concerns, emphasised the government's commitment towards addressing the needs and issues of the people. The Minister took stock of representations from different deputations and individ-

uals taking note of their demands and grievances. He assured the delegations that their concerns would be addressed on priority basis. The Minister reiterated that the government is committed to take all necessary measures to fulfil the desires and aspirations of the people. He emphasized the importance of effective implementation of policies and programs to ensure the well being and prosperity of the citizens. Javid Dar said that the government would work tirelessly to resolve the concerns and issues raised by the delegations.

Dy CM reviews performance of J&KKVIB, JKPC

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 6

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today chaired a meeting to review the performance of Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (J&KKVIB) and Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC) at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary Industry & Commerce Vikramjit Singh, CEO J&K KVIB Jagdish Chander, senior officers from the Board and district officers. In the review meeting of KVIB, the concerned official gave a PowerPoint Presentation to apprise the meeting of the functioning besides the physical and financial achievements of the Board.

It was apprised that there are three main schemes being imple-

mented by the KVIB including PMEGP, JKREGP and SFURTI. It was further informed that the main objective of all the schemes is to generate employment opportunities, to foster a strong rural economy, enhance socio-economic status of rural artisans and promote environment friendly and sustainable development in Khadi or Micro Industrial Sector.

Highlighting achievements of the boards, the official informed that 19444 males and 13689 female have been provided benefits under PMEGP whereas 4010 males and 937 females were provided benefits under JKREGP to promote entrepreneurship in J&K in last six years. Besides, 8 cluster projects have been approved under SFURTI scheme.

It was also informed that under JKREGP, 1637 cases have been sponsored, out of which, 1148



have been sanctioned. It was further informed that 115 bee keeping training camps have been organised by KVIB in Kashmir division.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Surinder Choudhary, who is also the Chairman of KVIB, emphasized on the need of active engagement of all stakeholders to amplify employment opportunities across the Jammu & Kashmir. He reiterated the importance of making these employment generation programmes inclusive, ensuring equal opportunities for all seg-

ments of society, particularly marginalized communities, women and individuals with disabilities.

The Dy CM emphasised upon the officers to simplify the process of establishment of income generating units under such programmes for all. He maintained that the applicants should be provided training for better management of the units in order to maximise their gains.

Commending the Board's efforts in employment creation across J&K, he urged the officers to adopt a robust monitoring and evaluation frame-

work to guarantee target-oriented implementation of schemes. He stressed the importance of aligning all activities with the overarching goals and objectives.

Surinder Choudhary also highlighted the need for synchronized efforts by the implementing agencies and banks to ensure that the benefits of employment generation programmes such as PMEGP and JKREGP reach the target population effectively.

The Dy CM asked the Board to ensure convergence with other departments and establish for-

ward and backward linkages with the skill training so as to provide end-to-end assistance and required handholding to the job seekers and young entrepreneurs.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister convened a meeting with senior officials of Jammu & Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC) to review its functioning and issues being faced by the Corporation.

MD JK PCC, Bashir Ahmad Dar, apprised the Dy CM of several matters including filling up of vacant posts, deployment of manpower, finalisation of accounts of the Corporation and its court cases, liability on account of works executed on nomination basis, reconciliation of material on work sited, deployment of JKPC machinery etc.

The Dy CM assured that the issues apprised by JKPC will be resolved in a phased manner.

Two days Pre-Lok Adalat concludes at Budgam



JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MAY 06

In connection with the upcoming 2nd National Lok-Adalat scheduled on 10th May, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam successfully concluded 02 days Pre Lok Adalat on Tuesday.

The said Pre Lok Adalat was held under the directions and supervision of O.P Bhagat, Chairman DLSA (Ld. Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Budgam and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam.

The two days Pre-Lok Adalat was scheduled for the amicable settlement/compromise of pre-litigation matters (PHE, BSNL etc) at ADR Centre, Budgam for which one bench was constituted which was presided over by Nusrat Ali Hakak (Secretary DLSA) and was assisted by Javid Ahmad Mir, Deputy LADC.

Overall 1395 Pre-Litigation matters were taken up by the said bench, out of which a maximum number of cases got settled and the said Pre Lok Adalat was very successful.

Satish Sharma conducts surprise visit to MD RTC, Director, FCS&CA, Kashmir offices

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 6

In an endeavour to ensure transparency and accountability, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, conducted a surprise inspection of offices of the Managing Director's Road Transport Corporation (RTC) headquarters and Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Kashmir here today.

During the visit, the Minister reviewed operational and administrative records to assess compliance with government norms and efficiency in service delivery. He also



interacted with the staff, encouraging open dialogue about their roles, challenges and suggestions for improvement.

The officers and officials present at the RTC office briefed the Minister on key operational aspects, ongoing projects and service enhancement measures.

The Minister assured full support from the gov-

ernment for modernizing the SRTC and improving public transport services across the state.

While interacting with the Director, FCS&CA, Kashmir, the Minister was given a brief about the activities being undertaken by the Department in order to ensure hassle-free deliverance of food grains and other civil supply services to the public.

"The objective of today's visit was to understand the ground realities and ensure that the departments are functioning smoothly and in the best interests of the public," said the Minister. "It is essential to maintain a culture of accountability and I commend the staff for their cooperation and dedication, he maintained"

BJP Lal Chowk constituency holds workers committee meeting at Rajbagh



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 6

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Lal Chowk Constituency today held a Workers Committee Meeting at Rajbagh, with enthusiastic participation from office bearers, executive members, active workers, and senior party leaders.

As part of the organizational strengthening efforts, Shakti Kendra units were formally constituted during the meeting. Each unit was tasked with finalizing their respective booth teams and appointing one dedicated Karyakarta as the Mann Ki Baat Incharge at the booth level. This initiative aims to enhance the

outreach and engagement with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's monthly radio programme, Mann Ki Baat, across the grassroots.

Addressing the gathering, senior BJP leader and Lal Chowk constituency in-charge Er. Aijaz Hussain spoke on key organizational responsibilities and the importance of timely and disciplined implementation. "Our strength lies in our structure and sincerity. With teamwork, discipline, and people-centric efforts, we will deliver on the expectations of the people," he stated.

BJP Vice President, Minority Morcha, Shri Amarjeet Singh also graced the occasion and encour-

aged party workers to stay steadfast in their dedication to the party's mission of inclusive development and national integration.

Lal Chowk Constituency President, Shri Umer Shafi, expressed gratitude to all attendees for their presence and participation. He called on the cadre to work with renewed zeal and determination to expand the BJP's footprint across every booth in the constituency.

The meeting concluded with a strong message of unity, coordination, and grassroots empowerment, reflecting the party's focused approach toward future organizational and electoral challenges.

ECI initiates interactions with Political Parties to strengthen electoral process

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 6

In continuation to the Election Commission of India's emphasis on fostering enhanced engagement with different stakeholders, it has initiated interactions with National and State political parties.

These interactions would provide a long-felt need of constructive discussions which enable National and State Party Presidents to share their suggestions and concerns directly with the Commission.

This initiative aligns with the Commission's broader vision of further strengthening the electoral process in accordance with the existing legal framework with all stakeholders.

Earlier, a total of 4,719 all-party meetings have been conducted including 40 meetings by CEOs, 800 by DEOs and 3879 by EROs engaging over 28,000 representatives of various political parties.

Zonal level inter-school tournament for U 14/17 Boys & Girls inaugurated at GHSS Boys Bhandarwah



JI NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, MAY 06

As per the annual calendar of activity 2025-26 approved by the Director Youth Services & Sports J&K (UT), the Department of Youth Services and Sports zone Bhandarwah today organized an inter-school zonal level tournament for Under 14/17 Boys and Girls in the discipline of Kho-Kho, Volley Ball, Badminton, Athletic, Football, Tug of War, Yoga, Cricket, etc.

The tournament began with Kabaddi, Kho-Kho,

Badminton, Carrom, Chess, and athletic competitions, under the overall supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Pritam Singh

Assistant Development Commissioner Anil Thakur was the Chief Guest, while local Tehsildar Kamalpreet Singh was the guest of honour at the opening ceremony.

The host School Principal Kapoor Singh; ZPEO Vijay Kotwal; NCC Commandant Arif Rana; REKs, NYCs and other sports lover were also present. Student players drawn

from Govt as well as private schools of zone Bhandarwah are participating in the tournament.

The Chief Guest ADC interacted with the participants and advised them to make physical exercise, games and sports as their routine in life for overall personality development. He praised the enthusiasm and dedication shown by the students.

The competitions were coordinated by the trained officials of the department of youth services & sports department zone Bhandarwah.

Mendhar Road Mishap: Ex Gratia announced by DC Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 06

A tragic road accident occurred today involving a passenger bus bearing registration number JK02AX-1671, on way from Ghani to Mendhar. The incident resulted in the unfortunate loss of four lives and injuries to several others.

District authorities responded swiftly and launched rescue and medical relief operations. The injured were shifted to nearby medical facilities for treatment.

The Deputy Commissioner Poonch, who also serves as the Chairman of the District Road Safety Committee, has announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 lakh each for the families of the deceased. This compensation will be disbursed from the Road Safety Victim Fund.

The district administration has extended its deepest condolences to the bereaved families and assured to provide all necessary assistance.

SHEW Mission Shakti Shopian organises awareness programme at Dunaroo Keller

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MAY 06

With an aim to empower women through knowledge and access to government welfare initiatives, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW) Mission Shakti Shopian today organized a comprehensive awareness programme at the Dunaroo Keller ST area.

During the programme, participants were thoroughly sensitized about a range of welfare schemes aimed at improving the socio-economic status of women and girls. Detailed awareness was provided on various central and UT-sponsored welfare schemes designed for the upliftment of women and marginalized communities. The team explained the eligibility conditions for availing different schemes and guided participants on the documentation required



for smooth application processes.

Essential helpline numbers, including women helpline services and emergency support contacts, were shared to ensure timely assistance in distress situations.

The functioning and support services of the One Stop Centre were discussed, including legal aid, counselling, temporary shelter and police facilitation.

Information was also

disseminated about government-sponsored skill training programmes to enhance employability and self-sufficiency among women.

On the occasion, women were encouraged to take up entrepreneurship and were informed about financial assistance, subsidies, and mentorship available under various schemes.

Emphasis was laid on the importance of women's health, and the right to quality education for

girls, along with details of health and scholarship schemes. The programme also covered social security benefits, including widow, divorce and old-age pensions, and financial assistance available under marriage support schemes for economically weaker sections.

The awareness initiative received active participation from the local community and was appreciated for its informative and inclusive approach.

India's water will...

Now, our country is working on river-linking initiatives. Projects like the Ken-Betwa Link and the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link will help farmers."

He also said that prior to 2014, the banking sector was facing major challenges, but reforms had helped stabilise it. "Our banking system today is among the strongest in the world. Banks are seeing record profits and depositors are benefiting."

On the broader governance record, PM Modi said, "In 2014, people had lost trust in the government. Some even questioned if democracy and development could go together. Today, it can be said that democracy can deliver."

He said that over the past decade, 25 crore people were lifted out of poverty. He also said that small entrepreneurs had gained access to credit through schemes like Mudra Yojana, which had improved their livelihoods.

Earlier in a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "Delighted to speak with my friend PM @Keir Starmer. In a historic milestone, India and the UK have successfully concluded an ambitious and mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement, along with a Double Contribution Convention. These landmark agreements will further deepen our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and catalyse trade, investment, growth, job creation, and innovation in both our economies. I look forward to welcoming PM Starmer to India soon." KNO

Amid tensions...

nations. India has downgraded the diplomatic ties with Pakistan, has suspended trade, closed border gates and deported all Pakistani nationals from India.

An official told the news agency along with the nationwide civil defence mock drills to be held on Wednesday, the Army and BSF will remain on high alert along the LoC and the International Border. "Armed forces have been directed to maintain tight vigil and not to lower the guard," the official added.

Meanwhile, amid the rising tensions, Indian forces apprehended a Pakistani national near the LoC in the Poonch district. The individual was arrested at a time when relations between India and Pakistan are already strained.

Senior officials stated that the arrested man is being questioned to ascertain further details about his intentions.

Pak Army violates ceasefire for 12th night

Pakistan Army once again violated the ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control (LoC), continuing their pattern of unprovoked firing in several areas.

The latest incident occurred on the night of May 5-6, when Pakistani troops opened fire using small arms across the LoC in multiple sectors, including Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Naushera, Sunderbani, and Akhnoor.

This marks the 12th consecutive night of ceasefire violations by Pakistan, further aggravating the already fraught situation between the two neighboring countries.

In response to the provocations, the Indian Army carried out a strong and calibrated retaliation, adhering to standard operating procedures to maintain security and safeguard personnel and infrastructure in the region.

These repeated violations of the ceasefire agreement, which was established in February 2021, have significantly undermined the credibility and effectiveness of the agreement.

Truce violations instill fear

The relentless violations following the April 22, Pahalgam terror attack, have instilled widespread fear and panic among the people living in the frontier areas. "For 12 consecutive nights, 53 incidents of small-arms fire and mortar shelling have been reported in villages across Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, and Akhnoor," an official told KNO.

Residents, rattled by the constant sound of gunfire, are fleeing to safer areas or fortifying their homes and bunkers. "We live in constant fear. Every night, we hear the sound of shells landing near our homes," said Farooq Ahmad, a resident of Uri.

"I don't know how long we can stay like this. Our children are scared to even sleep," added Shabir Ahmad from Poonch.

The escalating violence, coupled with the severed India-Pakistan diplomatic ties, have heightened anxieties about a potential military escalation. "We're caught in the middle. No one seems to care about the people who are suffering here," said Rukhsana Begum, a resident of Rajouri. KNO

J&K set for...

These drills, the official said, are designed to test air-raid warning systems, public alert mechanisms, and bunker management procedures.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Directorate of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Civil Defence Kashmir has issued a public advisory notifying residents of the scheduled mock drill.

According to the advisory, the drill will begin at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, and sirens will be activated as part of the exercise.

It urged residents not to panic, and to cooperate fully with officials during the simulation. "This is a practice exercise to test our emergency response systems. Please remain calm and do not be alarmed," reads the official notice issued by the SDRF & Civil Defence Kashmir.

"To enhance the Civil Defence preparedness for emergencies, a Civil Defence Mock Drill will take place on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at 4:00 PM. As part of the drill, sirens will be activated at various locations in Kashmir. This is a practice exercise to test our emergency response systems. We kindly request all members of the public to remain calm and not be alarmed. Your cooperation is essential in making this safety initiative a success," the Directorate of SDRF and Civil Defence Kashmir stated in another public advisory.

Authorities across all states and the union territories have been instructed to ensure active public participation. Students, hospital staff, government and private sector employees, railway and metro officials, and members of the police, paramilitary, and defence forces will be part of the exercise.

The MHA has said that the civil defence framework is an important component of national preparedness,

especially given "new and complex threats."

It stated that such drills improve the passive defence strategy and help safeguard civilian lives and infrastructure.

Officials have also been directed to ensure communication systems are tested, bunkers are cleaned, made accessible and designated personnel are familiar with evacuation procedures.

The government said that the civil defence drill is part of a broader initiative to improve grassroots-level readiness and empower local communities to respond effectively to emergencies.

SRINAGAR POLICE, SDRF HOLD MOCK DRILL IN DAL LAKE

Meanwhile, Srinagar Police, in collaboration with the Tourist Police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), conducted a mock drill in Dal Lake on Tuesday to strengthen emergency response capabilities.

Simulating rescue operations for boat capsizing and drowning incidents, the exercise was held to improve real-time response to such emergencies.

The drill followed recent boat accidents due to high velocity winds, resulting in death of a youth.

Senior officers, including SSP Enforcement and SSP Srinagar, monitored the exercise. KNO

After Pahalgam...

government."

Pertinently, the Ministry of Home Ministry had on Monday directed the Chief Secretaries of all the States and Union Territories to strengthen civil defence preparedness in vulnerable areas and districts.

A letter written by the Additional Director General (ADG) Civil Defence, which is in possession of KNO reads: "The issue of strengthening of civil defence set up and maintaining optimum civil defence preparedness in the categorized CD towns/districts at States/UTs has been emphasized by the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister during their address at the 'Chintan Shivir', held at Surajkund, Haryana on 27 & 28 Oct 2022." KNO

CS pushes for...

the meeting was attended by MD, J&K Bank; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Secretary, Revenue; Secretary, RDD; MD, JKRLM; Convenor, UTLBC; representatives from NABARD, SIDBI and other banks operating here.

The meeting focused on the progress under major schemes including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), saturation of unbanked rural areas, priority sector lending, credit flow to MSMEs, agriculture sector initiatives including Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), and skilling interventions undertaken through Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) established in the UT.

While reviewing the current status of population coverage under these schemes, the Chief Secretary also took stock of the compliance on earlier directions issued to financial institutions. He directed the concerned agencies to ensure saturation of all identified unbanked rural centres before the stipulated deadline of June this year.

Stressing on the need for prompt and efficient claim settlements, Dulloo observed that the success of these social security schemes should be judged not merely by the number of beneficiaries enrolled, but also by the speed and effectiveness of claim settlements.

He emphasized that financial institutions must instill confidence in public by providing full assistance in processing and settling their genuine claims, and proactively reaching out to families, especially in case of the death of insured members, to ensure timely support.

To ensure the schemes reach the most deserving, the Chief Secretary directed for the inclusion of Self Help Group (SHG) members registered with JKRLM and their families under all applicable social security schemes. He also instructed for coverage of registered building and construction workers under Atal Pension Yojana, with the premium to be borne by the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board here.

Dulloo also called for formulation of a focused strategy to enhance credit flow under the priority and MSME sectors, ensuring that all banks meet the targets assigned to them. He also enquired about the progress in rolling out the 'Gramin Credit Score' system for agricultural lending on the lines of the CIBIL score used for individual borrowers.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed IT-enabled financial interventions such as the distribution of RuPay Debit Cards under PMJDY and Smart Cards for KCC beneficiaries. He assessed progress made in designing loan products to promote High-Density Plantation, rural homestays, and properties identified under the Svamitva Yojana.

Further, he sought an update on the Credit Grievance Redressal Portal, being developed for the convenience of all bank customers in the UT. He was informed that the portal is ready for launch and will soon be made operational to facilitate efficient resolution of customer grievances.

During the meeting, Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, highlighted the noteworthy performance of J&K Bank, stating that it had achieved an 11% year-on-year growth in its business, significantly reduced its Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) to 3.37%, and brought down its cost-to-income ratio to 58% from the earlier 71%. He appreciated the bank administration for these achievements and termed the performance as satisfactory and commendable.

Managing Director, J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, also shared important statistics on the implementation of social security schemes across the UT. As the lead bank and Convenor of UTLBC, he detailed the bank's efforts to popularize financial inclusion schemes and expand credit outreach to the priority sectors.

He pointed out that the latest statistics clearly reflect significant improvement over the figures presented in the previous review meeting held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. He pointed out that the UT has recorded significant strides in financial inclusion and social welfare coverage as per the performance data for various centrally sponsored schemes thereby highlighting the growing participation of citizens and strong involvement by banking institutions here.

In its presentation the Convenor UTLBC, Rayees

Maqbool revealed that J&K currently hosts 2,197 brick-and-mortar bank branches in addition to 5,135 Banking Correspondents (BCs) and a network of 2,661 ATMs operated by 37 banks and financial institutions ensuring that one banking touch point is available per 1,227 of population.

The meeting was apprised that efforts are underway to fully cover the remaining 21 URCs identified by RBI here under tier 5 areas (population under 5,000) with banking touch points. It was given out that 150 additional Gram Panchayats are scheduled to be covered by May 15, 2025, by J&K Bank.

Regarding the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), an accident insurance scheme for citizens aged 18-70 years saw 6.04 lakh enrollments during FY 2024-25; reaching the cumulative coverage of 23.57 lakh beneficiaries in the UT.

About the performance J&K Bank had registered 2.29 lakh accounts, SBI (1.27 lakh), and HDFC Bank (39,096) with 285 claims settled with Rs. 5.69 Cr disbursed during the year.

With respect to Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) offering life insurance for citizens aged 18-50 years an impressive number of 2.47 lakh new enrollments were done during the previous financial year with cumulative coverage reached 9.67 lakh and settlement of 668 claims with Rs. 13.34 Cr disbursed during the previous financial year.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) targeting unorganized workers also registered a significant progress with 24,230 new account openings, cumulatively reaching 2.48 lakh accounts since inception.

As far as the priority sector lending is concerned under the Annual Credit Plan 2024-25, J&K's banks collectively achieved 92% of the credit disbursement target, totaling Rs. 36,575 Cr. J&K Bank emerged as the top contributor, surpassing targets at 139% for physical targets and 134% in credit volume. The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector absorbed Rs. 22,688 Cr, accounting for 62% of priority sector lending. A total of 2.96 lakh accounts were supported with J&K Bank leading the table with Rs. 5,537 Cr disbursements in this sector.

The meeting was informed that the agriculture sector too received focused attention with Rs. 6,430 Cr disbursement out of a target of Rs. 11,056 Cr, achieving nearly 58% of the set goal.

Under PM Mudra and PM Vishwakarma Yojana aiming at empowering the entrepreneurs as on March 31, 2025 substantial disbursements were made under Shishu, Kishor, and Tarun categories providing support to small entrepreneurs, women, and youth-led micro businesses

It was added that under PM Vishwakarma Yojana, growing traction was observed across various trades. The RSETI performance in skilling of rural masses (since 2009) depicted training of 1,07,672 trainees, and starting of 78,059 ventures (72.5%), and nearly 50% beneficiaries availing bank credit to start their respective enterprises.

Pahalgam attack...

He said that the way people were killed by asking males about their religion was barbaric and inhumane. "Those who couldn't recite the Kalma were fired upon. This is barbaric," he said.

Owaisi said the local Kashmiris are bearing the brunt of the attack, stating that the tourism sector has taken a hit after the Pahalgam terror attack.

Responding to a question about the death of 22-year-old Imtiaz Ahmad Magray from Kulgam, Owaisi said an inquiry should be conducted to ascertain the circumstances that led to the death, stating that he has read the statements of his relatives in the media. KNO

CM Omar launches...

Director General, Funds Organization/Codes/Audit & Inspection/Budget/Local Fund, Audit & Pension, Directors of Finance/Financial Advisors of all Administrative Departments, Director Accounts and Treasuries, Jammu / Kashmir, State Informatics Officer, NIC J&K and other concerned. The outstation officers and officials attended the launch via video conferencing.

The Chief Minister formally inaugurated the portal and congratulated the Finance Department, AG's office, J&K Bank and all stakeholders involved in the initiative.

Chief Minister said, "Whatever we can do to simplify the retirement process and post-retirement of our employees, I think that is a responsibility that lies on our shoulders. Employees who have served J&K and its people for long years, they deserve a simplified process. And the more we do for our employees, I think the more we need to appreciate it."

Extending his congratulations to the officers and his best wishes to all pensioners who will benefit from the initiative, the Chief Minister said that verification of pensioners also needs to be made pensioner-friendly as every year pensioners have to prove that they are still alive and have to submit various documents and to visit offices in person. "So this initiative, I think, is something that all employees will appreciate," he said.

Highlighting the inclusive nature of the portal, he said it also covers ex-legislators who are pensioners. "So my suggestion would be that together with the Assembly Secretariat, some sort of briefing material can be sent out to all the ex-legislators, so that they are aware of this change and how better to utilize it," he added. Acknowledging the challenges faced by employees nearing retirement, he noted that the last few months of service are often consumed by paperwork. He emphasized that more often than not, efforts are made to post such employees close to Srinagar or Jammu to ease their transition. "With this initiative, I believe that process will be simplified. Now, going ahead, what we must always try and do is to ensure that employees get their dues on time," he said.

The Chief Minister also pointed out that timely disbursement of dues—such as GP fund—is a recurring concern among employees. "So for that, in the Finance Department, we are working closely to ensure that these sort of issues are resolved. But generally, clearly, the initiative that has been taken today, I think, is a welcome one," he remarked.

Earlier, Director General Accounts & Treasuries Fayaz Ahmad Lone presented an overview of the Pension Suvidha Portal. The portal supports the digitization of pension records for 2,40,000 pensioners under the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). He added that data collection

was executed through multiple modes: treasury visits for 2,31,127 pensioners, home visits for 7,002, video calls for 1,819 pensioners residing abroad, and postal notices to 9,513 individuals. The portal captures comprehensive data including name, date of birth, service details, and photographs of pensioners.

Notably, he said, the initiative has helped identify and rectify several anomalies, including pension disbursement after death in some cases, duplicate dearness allowance payments, and premature cessation of recoveries.

He informed that the objectives of the portal include streamlining and digitizing pension processing, enhancing efficiency and transparency, reducing paperwork, reconciling pension disbursement with banks, and enabling real-time tracking of pension application status.

Key features of the portal include early SMS and email alerts issued eight months before an employee's retirement, online application submission with required document uploads, and integration with JKHRMS and JKPaysys for service and salary details. It is also linked with the offices of the Accountant General and J&K Bank for seamless electronic data exchange.

The portal facilitates the issuance of PPOs, provides post-retirement services tracking, and supports online KYC updates and the use of Jeevan Pramaan for life certificate submission.

The streamlined workflow involves eight stages: registration, application submission by the employee, DDO review and approval, sanction by the Pension Authority, submission to the AG's office, authorization and PPO number issuance, payment processing by the Treasury, and final completion.

The portal engages a wide range of stakeholders. Retiring employees can initiate and monitor their pension cases, while DDOs and Pension Authorities are responsible for verification and processing. The Accountant General's office authorizes PPOs, treasuries handle payments, and pensioners can view disbursement details, request for revision, and apply for transfer of pension accounts online.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also handed over a settled pension case to Ragubhir, a retired employee who superannuated on 30th April this year. KNO

UNSC discusses...

two-year term, with five seats changing every year.

No statement was issued after the meeting as is the norm regarding the "informal" sessions.

At the 'informal meeting' of the world body, "there was broad condemnation of the terrorist attack and recognition of the need for accountability," a source said about the April 22 carnage in Baisaran area of Pahalgam in Kashmir in which 25 tourists and a local man were gunned down in cold blood.

"Some members specifically brought up the issue of targeting tourists on the basis of their religious faith," the source said.

While condemning the act of terrorism in Pahalgam, the UNSC members posed "tough questions" to Pakistan.

"They refused to accept the false flag narrative by Pakistan and asked whether the LeT was likely to be involved," the source said.

The UNSC members also criticised Pakistan's escalatory missile tests and nuclear rhetoric and asked Islamabad to resolve issues with India bilaterally, the sources added.

"Many members expressed concern that Pakistan's missile tests and nuclear rhetoric were escalatory factors. Pakistan's efforts to internationalise the situation also failed. They were advised to resolve issues bilaterally with India," the sources said.

Notably, Pakistan has test-fired two ballistic missiles in the past one week, and its Information Minister as well as Defence Minister have been issuing inflammatory statements, that Islamabad would use Nuclear weapons in case of a war with India.

Tensions began to escalate after the ghastly terror attack in Pahalgam as The Resistance Front (TRF), a frontal outfit for Pakistan-based LeT, issued a statement, claiming responsibility for the act. However, days later, it retracted, saying the earlier statement was issued by mistake.

India, which vowed to punish the perpetrators of the heinous act as well as their masters across the border, has since taken certain punitive steps against Pakistan, like suspending the 1960 Indus Water Treaty, shutting down the Attari-Wagah border transition point, shutting down airspace and disallowing access to Pakistani ships at Indian ports.

Suspension of trade, snapping of postal links and downsizing of diplomatic staff in the Missions in Delhi and Islamabad are the other steps taken.

Pakistan too has taken certain "retaliatory" actions, like suspending the 1972 Simla Agreement and shutting its airspace for Indian flights.

Police book four...

Consequently, police said that these drug peddlers were detained and subsequently lodged in Kot Balwal Jail Jammu and District Jails of Udhampur, Kathua and Bhandarwah.

"These drug peddlers have been involved in the peddling of narcotics among the youth of Srinagar on an alarming scale. Besides, they were also involved in several NDPS Act cases of various police stations of Srinagar. Despite several NDPS Act cases registered against them, they did not mend their ways after getting bailed out from courts and were brazenly promoting drugs among the youth of the valley, especially in Srinagar, through their illegal narcotics network. Srinagar Police has also set into motion the process to attach their properties under the provisions of PIT-NDPS Act," the statement reads.

Pertinently, Police has been systemically targeting and dismantling the illegal narcotics infrastructure in the Srinagar city and numerous drug peddlers have been detained under the PIT NDPS Act in Srinagar till date.

"J&K Police affirms its steadfast commitment of eliminating drug peddling in the region with the full might of law. We also caution those engaged in this unlawful activity that the long arm of law would catch them sooner than anticipated and every offender will face justice," police said. KNO

Diamond Honda Workshop wins Prestigious Award for Best Smart Workshop Utilization for 101Ki

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

Diamond Honda Workshop, a leading automotive service provider of Honda two wheeler segment, is thrilled to announce that it has received the esteemed award for Best Smart Workshop Utilization for 101 Ki. The award was presented by Mr. Mohammed Hanif, Zonal Manager Service, Punjab Zone, to Mr. Kush Sambyal, Service Manager, Diamond Honda, at the Mohali office of Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India (HMSI).

This recognition is a testament to the workshop's commitment to innovation, customer satisfaction, and excellence in service delivery. The award highlights Diamond Honda Workshop's successful implementation of smart workshop solutions,



enhancing efficiency, productivity, and customer experience. With a focus on leveraging technology and best practices, the workshop has set a new standard for the industry.

This workshop is one of the best workshops in North India, located at Honda Workshop's successful implementation of smart workshop solutions,

like an owned paint booth and trained manpower. The workshop also provides a good ambiance for customers. "We are proud to receive this recognition, and it reflects our team's dedication to delivering exceptional service," said Mr. Sanjay Majajan, Mr. Sanjeev Majajan, and Mr. Aryan Mahajan, Directors, Diamond Honda.

Zonal level sports competitions hosted in Drabshalla, Paddar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHITWAR, MAY 06

The spirit of youth empowerment through sports has taken center stage as the Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS) launched the Inter-School Zonal Level Sports Competition in Drabshalla and Paddar Zones, here today.

The inaugural day in Zone Drabshalla witnessed a vibrant start with Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) presiding over the event as Chief Guest.

A total of 98 U/14 boys and girls showcased their talent in Chess, Carrom, Yoga, and Rope Skipping competitions.

The atmosphere was electric, marked by intense mental challenges and displays of physical agility that highlighted a well-rounded



approach to youth development.

On the second day, the action shifted to Zone Paddar where 102 U/14 girls from different high and middle schools engaged in spirited contests of Kho-Kho,

Kabaddi, Volleyball, and Tug of War.

The grounds reverberated with energy, determination, and a strong sense of sisterhood, turning the event into a celebration of teamwork and athletic prowess.

Advocate General's Office condoles demise of Sr Additional Advocate General, Ramesh Arora

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

The Office of the Advocate General, Jammu, today convened a condolence meeting to mourn the untimely demise of Ramesh Arora, Senior Additional Advocate General, Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was presided over by Monika Kohli, Senior Additional Advocate General and witnessed the presence of a large gathering of Law Officers and Government Counsels, including Senior Additional Advocate Generals, Additional Advocate Generals, Deputy Advocate Generals, Government Advocates, along with officers and staff members

of the Advocate General's Office, J&K, Jammu.

Expressing profound grief over the loss, Monika Kohli described late Arora as a towering figure in the legal fraternity, a seasoned professional and a noble soul whose contributions to the legal field and public service will be remembered with deep respect and admiration.

The gathering, resonated with heartfelt tributes, joined in expressing their sorrow and extending sympathies to the bereaved family.

As a mark of respect, a two minute silence was observed during the proceedings, and prayers were offered for the eternal peace to the departed soul.

DC Samba reviews impact of key initiatives, developmental schemes

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAY 6

Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma today chaired a high-level multi-departmental meeting to evaluate the impact of key governance initiatives and developmental schemes in the district.

The meeting extensively reviewed multiple critical areas including registration on the JK Samadhaan portal, e-office implementation status at block and tehsil level offices and the status of the developmental schemes across the departments.

A special presentation highlighted the district-wide implementation of the Jal Shakti Ministry's 'Catch the Rain' program, underscoring the importance of the government initiative for water conservation and management.

The DC emphasized the



administration's commitment to good and effective governance, directing all officials to avoid unnecessary delays in public services delivery and ensure smooth execution of day-to-day departmental activities.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Champa Devi Thakur; Programme Officer ICDS Subhash Chandra; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Sub-

Divisional Magistrates and all district officers.

"This comprehensive review aimed to strengthen the administrative response and ensure that government initiatives reach the citizens effectively," stated the Deputy Commissioner, reaffirming the district administration's dedication to transparent and efficient governance.

GDC, Ramgarh organizes cleanliness drive

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

In a commendable effort to promote cleanliness and hygiene, the "Prabha" NSS Unit of Govt. Degree College Ramgarh organized a cleanliness drive on the college campus. The drive was held under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal of the college, and aimed at contributing towards the vision of Swachh Bharat, making the college a cleaner and healthier place to study.

The initiative saw active participation from the entire student community, who, along with NSS volunteers, enthusiastically engaged in cleaning the college campus. The students also raised slogans of "Swachh Bharat Shreshth Bharat," showing their commitment to the cause.

Addressing the participants Principal Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol highlighted the crucial link between cleanliness (Swachhta) and health during the drive. She emphasized that maintaining cleanliness is not just about keeping the surroundings tidy, but also about fostering a sense of responsibility and environmental care



among students. "Cleanliness is a fundamental requirement for a healthy community," she stated, adding that consistent efforts in maintaining cleanliness can significantly impact the environment and serve as a model for the broader community.

The entire event was organized by Prof. Brham Dutt, NSS Program Officer, who urged students to incorporate cleanliness

into their daily routines. He pointed out that such habits could help reduce diseases, cut down on medical expenses, and promotes overall health. The drive was a significant step towards achieving the dream of a Swachh Bharat, reflecting the dedication and zeal of the college community in contributing to a cleaner and more hygienic India.

Govt extends coverage under Public Distribution System

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 6

In a significant move aimed at strengthening food security across Jammu and Kashmir, the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, has enhanced inclusion measures under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

The information was given by Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, here today while interacting with the media.

"In accordance with the Government Order No. 47-JK(FCS&CA) of 2024, the new directive mandates the inclusion of children aged six years and above in family ration cards. These children will be incorporated into relevant categories such as Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Priority Household (PHH), Non-Priority Household (NPHH),

or Exclusion, in accordance with existing guidelines", maintains the minister. The Minister further said that in a bid to ensure no eligible citizen is left behind, the Department of FCS&CA has been directed for undertaking identification and inclusion of previously omitted eligible beneficiaries into the PDS framework, adhering to established norms.

"A notable provision of the order addresses the inclusion of widows and divorcees who were not previously covered under the system. Upon notifying the department, such individuals will be eligible for issuance of separate ration cards based on their financial status and eligibility under the National Food Security Act (NFSA)", the Minister emphasised.

The Minister further said that the initiative reaffirms the government's commitment towards promoting inclusive access to food and essential supplies, especially among vulnerable sections of society.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 06

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Shahzadpur, Marh, Gajansoo, Bishnah, Chak Hasla, Rehal Pandorian, Kheri, Nandpur, Ramgarh, Kamore, Rangoor, Abtal, Nanga, Shahpur and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 7 and 9 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Lambari, Bagnoti, Narian, Nowshera, Jaba Deeing Syal, Nonial, Manpur, Chowki-Jangher, Qila, Darhal, Rajpora Laroka and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 8 from 6 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Railway Station Banihal will remain affected on May 7 from 11 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Pathi, Dairy Farm, Devik and Jakheni will remain affected on May 8 and 9 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Battla and Airforce will remain affected on May 10 from 6 am to 10 am.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer, (Distribution), JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Kanhal-I and its adjoining areas will remain affected on May 07 from 7 am to 1 pm.

Versatile Drishti: An inspiration for young sportspersons

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

Hailing from village Pounichak in the outskirts of Jammu City, multi-talented Drishti Pawan Sharma serves as an inspiration for young sportspersons of Jammu and Kashmir.

Physical Educationist Drishti, who has done Bachelors as well as Masters Degree in Physical Education, has the distinction of representing Jammu and Kashmir in five sporting disciplines including Yoga also. The other disciplines include Kabaddi, Wrestling, Rugby and Pencak Silat.

Earlier, Drishti has the honour of being a part of prestigious Pro-Kabaddi Season XI as an official. Besides serving as an official in the 37th National Games.

Her success story stands as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring athletes, especially young women from Jammu and Kashmir.

Despite being good in studies, Drishti balances studies and sports, thus



managing to give time to all the games she had represented J&K as a player and now serves the same as an official.

Local and national leaders, sports authorities, and citizens alike have extended their congratulations, applauding her hard work and commitment to excellence.

Despite being from a village where the game of Kabaddi is loved by one and all, Drishti apart from this traditional game, chose four more games and excelled in all of them as a

player and now as an official.

In the present era, when Government of Jammu and Kashmir is leaving no stone unturned to make J&K a sporting hub and its athletes are burning midnight oil in carving a space on the country's sports map, involving multipotentialite sportspersons like Drishti in the system is the need of the hour.

"Apart from serving J&K as an official in the national level events, my aim is to catch the athletes young and coach them in various games to produce international stuff from J&K and yield better results. I believe in gender equality and want to make women folk strong and brave through the medium of sports. Wish to see J&K as a sporting hub," Drishti maintains

Hiring such sportspersons for good health of sports in J&K, rather than making the young athletes blossom at the higher levels, is the need of the hour.

Javed Rana visits GMC Rajouri; meets Ghani Bus accident victims



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAY 6

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri to enquire about the health of the passengers injured in the tragic bus accident that occurred at Ghani in the Mendhar area.

During his visit, the Minister interacted with the injured patients and assured them of all possible support for their treatment and speedy recovery. He directed the Medical Superintendent and the hospital staff to provide the best possible medical care and extend every necessary assistance to the victims.

The Minister was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, along with other district and sectoral

officers. Expressing deep concern over the rising number of road accidents in the Pir Panjal region, the Minister called for urgent and concrete measures to enhance road safety. He emphasised the need to improve road infrastructure across the hilly and accident-prone areas. He asked for strengthening driver training and licensing systems, strict enforcement of traffic regulations, regular inspection of commercial and passenger vehicles, launch of targeted public awareness campaigns on road safety and detailed data analysis of past accidents to identify and address key risk factors.

Later, the Minister met with various public delegations at Dak Bungalow, Rajouri, and listened to their issues and concerns.

He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for time bound redressal of genuine public grievances.

EDITORIAL

Politics collides with technical glitches

The symbolism of steel rails cutting through mountains is not just about engineering marvels; it represents national unity, economic opportunity, and political ambition. The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, a colossal infrastructural effort to bind Kashmir to the rest of India, is now under scrutiny not merely for its technological gaps—but also for the political firestorm it has ignited. Set for a high-profile inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 19, the final Katra-Sangaldan section of the USBRL project faced a sudden deferral, officially due to weather. But the storm clouds gathering were not only meteorological—they were deeply political. The Congress party has alleged that the cancellation was linked not to clouds in the sky but to a more troubling intelligence input received days before the Pahalgam terror attack. The question raised by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge—why that intelligence was not shared more broadly to preempt violence—goes beyond political one-upmanship. It cuts to the heart of accountability and transparency in national security. However, amid these escalating political exchanges, a more quietly damning reality has emerged: the communication system critical to safety inside the escape and main tunnels of the USBRL project remains incomplete and flawed. Northern Railway's letter to the Konkan Railway Communication Limited (KRCL) lays bare an inconvenient truth—technical glitches are still rampant. Voice distortion, communication breakdowns, uninstalled equipment, and incomplete VHF (Very High Frequency) setups are not teething issues of a new system—they are red flags in a terrain where every second of clarity can spell the difference between safety and disaster. In this tangle of unfinished installations and political accusations, it becomes vital to remember the core issue: public safety and operational readiness. The escape tunnels and their communication systems are not ornamental details; they are life-saving infrastructure in a region with difficult terrain and a history of unrest. If the system is not fully tested and operational, any rush to inaugurate the project would amount to playing roulette with lives—for the sake of optics. Furthermore, the politicization of intelligence reports and security lapses adds a layer of cynicism to a moment that should have marked national progress. If intelligence did advise against a visit, prudence would demand silence on details to avoid mass panic—but equally, it demands swift and comprehensive action to protect the public. The government must walk that fine line between discretion and disclosure. Technical delay and political theater, when combined, threaten to erode public trust. This trust cannot be regained through speeches or ceremonies; it must be rebuilt through transparency, timely execution, and putting safety before symbolism. The USBRL project will indeed be a game-changer when completed—but let its story not be remembered as one where politics raced ahead of reality, and where technical diligence was sacrificed at the altar of headlines. Before any ribbon is cut or any locomotive rolls through that final tunnel, the communication system must be bulletproof, and the politics must be grounded in responsibility. Kashmir deserves not just connection, but a safe and functional one.

From sinclair to supply chains:
The jungle is still with us

SITANSHU KAR

When Upton Sinclair published *The Jungle* in 1906, he wasn't just exposing the gruesome conditions of Chicago slaughterhouses. His goal was far more ambitious: to hold up a mirror to a system where working class immigrants were chewed up by industrial capitalism and discarded without consequence.

In Sinclair's world, the factory floor was a battlefield, and the enemy wasn't just spoiled meat, it was a society that let exploitation flourish unchecked. The "jungle" he described wasn't just physical filth; it was moral and systemic rot. It was chaos disguised as progress. Sinclair believed in the power of literature to inspire reform. And it worked — sort of. Outrage over the novel led to sweeping reforms in food safety, but less attention was paid to the human cost Sinclair was trying to highlight. "I aimed at the public's heart," he famously said, "and by accident I hit it in the stomach." Still, *The Jungle* succeeded in embedding its metaphor deeply into the American psyche.

A New Kind of Jungle
Fast forward to the early 2000s. On television, a new jungle appears, this time in the form of a catchy, ironic song. Randy Newman's "It's a Jungle Out There," the theme for the detective show *Monk*, reframes the jungle as something psychological. The main character, Adrian Monk, isn't fighting corrupt bosses or oppressive systems. He's battling a world filled with germs, lies, and sensory overload. This evolution of the metaphor is telling.

Over the decades, the jungle shifted from a collective, societal concern to an individual, psychological one. In the early 20th



century, the jungle was a cry for labour reform.

By the early 21st, it had become a symbol of the unpredictability and anxiety of modern life. The metaphor lost none of its power — but it changed direction. Instead of organising strikes, people organised their thoughts. Instead of challenging industrial titans, they challenged their inner demons.

The Jungle Reawakens
And then came Donald Trump. With Trump's rise to power, particularly his approach to trade and foreign policy, the jungle metaphor clawed its way back to the surface of political discourse. His doctrine of "reciprocal tariffs" was pitched as a fairer approach to trade. In practice, it turned global commerce into a chaotic, unpredictable game.

Allies became adversaries. Long-standing norms were tossed out. And instead of careful deliberation, trade policy was sometimes announced via tweet. Businesses, Governments, and markets struggled to keep up. One week, a country might be a trade partner;

the next, it could face penalties. This wasn't strategy as much as survival. Just like Sinclair's characters, modern players in this new jungle had to navigate an environment where the rules could change without warning. Once again, the most vulnerable bore the brunt. Small businesses couldn't hedge risks like multinational corporations. Developing countries had little recourse when hit with tariffs. Working class families paid more for goods as supply chains buckled. The jungle had returned, red in tooth and tweet.

A Global System Under Strain
But here's the twist: today's jungle is not confined to a single country. We live in an interdependent, globalised world — one shaped as much by the legacy of communism as by the triumphs of capitalism. The Cold War may have ended, but its economic aftershocks continue to ripple through international relations. Our current global system wasn't built by one ideology. It was cobbled together by generations of leaders, economists, and institutions from across the ideological spectrum. Free

trade agreements, international courts, multinational cooperation — all these evolved not just to promote prosperity but to prevent the kind of chaos that destroyed economies and started wars. To unwind this system is no small feat. And voters around the world are beginning to push back against leaders who promise to tear it all down.

Democracy Strikes Back
In Canada, the Liberal Party led by Mark Carney recently won re-election, staving off a challenge from the Conservative Party.

The results were seen as a clear rebuke of Trump-style rhetoric. Carney's platform emphasised international cooperation and climate leadership — not walls, tariffs, or isolation. In Australia, Anthony Albanese's centre-left Labour Party pulled off a significant victory. Despite months of grim polling, Labour secured a second consecutive term — a feat not accomplished in over two decades. Voters expressed concern that Peter Dutton, leader of the conservative Liberal Party, would replicate Trumpian tactics if elected. The result? A resounding no to polarisation and chaos. In Europe, Germany's Government took a bold step by officially designating the far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) party as a right-wing extremist group.

In the words of the domestic intelligence agency, the party's "ethnicity-and ancestry-based understanding" was "incompatible with the free democratic order." In a region still scarred by the consequences of extremism, the warning was stark. All of this underscores a global shift. People are weary of the jungle. They want rules, predictability, fairness. They want a system that works or at least tries to.

Lessons from the Past
Upton Sinclair understood

the power of systems. He knew that individuals could struggle all they wanted, but unless the system changed, their suffering would continue.

That's why *The Jungle* wasn't just about rotten meat; it was about a rotten order. Today, the metaphor still works because the risks are the same. When leadership becomes impulsive, when rules are abandoned for the sake of bravado, the ones who suffer are always the ones with the least power. The jungle, then and now, thrives on chaos. And chaos, as history teaches us, rarely leads to justice or prosperity.

Cutting a Path Forward
So where do we go from here? Recognising the jungle for what it is — a metaphor for broken systems, is the first step. Reform, transparency, and global cooperation aren't just lofty ideals; they're tools to carve paths through the undergrowth of uncertainty. Maybe Monk was right: it is a jungle out there. But unlike Monk, who could afford to retreat into his fears, we don't have that luxury.

Climate change, economic inequality, and geopolitical instability demand engagement, not withdrawal. It's not too late for political leaders, Trump included, to reconsider the narratives they're pushing. Trade policy isn't a reality show. Governance isn't a branding exercise.

If we want to avoid sliding deeper into dysfunction, the time to act is now. History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes. And right now, the echoes of *The Jungle* are growing louder. Let's listen, before the noise becomes deafening.

(The writer is Former Principal Director General and Principal Spokesperson, GoI. Views are personal)

Ensuring quality in online vocational education

DINESH SOOD

India's ambitious goal of establishing itself as a global knowledge economy is contingent upon the successful integration of vocational education into its mainstream educational framework. A crucial determinant of this success is the capacity to equip the workforce with job, ready skills through effective vocational training.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 clearly states the objective of exposing at least 50 per cent of learners to vocational education by 2025. While online learning platforms have revolutionised the delivery of vocational skills, the unchecked expansion of these programmes has raised serious concerns about quality, credibility, and industry relevance. Without the implementation of robust quality assurance and accreditation mechanisms, the promise of enhanced employability through online vocational education will certainly fall short.

The online education market in India is booming, projected to reach a staggering \$11 billion by 2026. Government — led initiatives like 'SWAYAM' have successfully enrolled over 12 million learners in diverse fields, and the launch of the National Digital University in 2023 underscores India's unwavering commitment to digital learning. However, accessibility is a significant barrier that cannot be overlooked. The Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey (CAMS) 2022-23 conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) reveals a stark reality: only 4.2 per cent of rural households own a computer, compared to 21.6 per cent in urban areas. Similarly, a mere 24 per cent of rural households have internet

access, in contrast to 66 per cent in urban regions.

This glaring digital divide unequivocally undermines the democratisation of vocational education, excluding a vast segment of rural and marginalised youth — precisely those who would benefit most from skill enhancement programmes. Furthermore, the inconsistency in the quality of online vocational content, ranging from world-class professional certifications to outdated and inferior courses, only exacerbates the skills gap rather than closing it. The digital revolution has fundamentally transformed access to vocational education. Initiatives like SWAYAM have successfully facilitated over 12 million student enrolments across various courses, while the establishment of the National Digital University in 2023 signals a bold commitment to expanding digital learning opportunities.

The NEP 2020 firmly advocates for a holistic integration of vocational education, highlighting the critical need for flexibility through multiple entry and exit points. It is essential to align curricula with the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) to ensure that vocational qualifications are standardised and recognised nationally. This standardisation is vital for facilitating learner mobility and progression. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) plays an indispensable role in advancing skill development through its public-private partnership model. With over 5.2 million students trained and partnerships with more than 235 private sector organisations, NSDC's initiatives, such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), have dramatically improved skills across the

country. However, it is imperative to recognise that most existing frameworks were designed for offline, centre-based training. Adapting these for online-only or hybrid models requires bold reimagining rather than simple replication. Accreditation is a non-negotiable quality assurance mechanism that guarantees vocational programmes meet established standards.

While the NSQF provides a solid foundation for competency — based certification, the current educational ecosystem lacks a dedicated regulatory framework for online vocational programmes. Regulatory bodies like the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) must rapidly evolve protocols tailored specifically for MOOCs, hybrid apprenticeships, simulation labs, and skill development powered by virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR). Additionally, the rise of micro-credentials, short-term, skill-specific certifications — underscores the urgent need for India to integrate these within formal educational frameworks.

This integration will enable learners to stack micro-credentials towards full qualifications that are recognised by employers. Without credible accreditation, we face significant risks: learners may waste time and resources on "certificate mills" without improving their employability, while employers may rightfully lose trust in online certifications, perpetuating biases against non-traditional pathways. We must act decisively to address these challenges.

Enhancing Employability
The true measure of any vocational programme is its job outcomes. In India, we face a significant

paradox: despite an alarmingly high unemployment rate of 18.4 per cent among educated youth, industries are desperately seeking skilled talent. To effectively tackle this issue, NEP 2020 underscores the critical need for robust industry — academia partnerships. Initiatives such as mandatory internships, apprenticeship-embedded degrees, and industry-co-designed curricula are not just beneficial — they are essential. Online vocational platforms must go beyond theoretical knowledge and provide hands-on exposure through virtual labs, live projects, remote internships, and industry-sponsored challenges and hackathons. Moreover, the lack of soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving — often plagues online programmes. It is imperative to embed these skills into the curriculum to ensure graduates are fully prepared for the demands of the workplace.

Additionally, we must integrate vocational education into mainstream education to destigmatise skill-based learning and promote it as a respected and viable career option. Establishing a dedicated body to oversee the accreditation of online vocational programmes is vital to ensuring they meet high-quality standards and align with industry requirements. The time for action is now — we must prioritise and strengthen vocational education to enhance employability.

Technology for Quality Assurance
Utilise advanced analytics and AI-driven tools to monitor and enhance the effectiveness of online vocational training. Promote public — private partnerships and encourage collaborations between educational institutions, industry stakehold-

ers, and Government bodies to co-create curricula and provide real-world training opportunities. Invest in digital infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, to ensure equitable access to online vocational education. Regularly update course content to reflect the latest industry trends and technological advancements. Ensuring the quality and accreditation of online vocational programmes is pivotal for India's socio-economic development. By aligning educational initiatives with industry needs and leveraging technology, India can equip its youth with the skills necessary for the future workforce. A concerted effort involving policy-makers, educators, industry leaders, and the community is essential to realise this vision.

As India aspires to become a global skill capital, ensuring online vocational education's quality, relevance, and credibility is no longer optional but a national necessity. The stakes are immense: empowering millions of youth with the skills to thrive in a dynamic global economy, driving economic growth, and advancing social mobility. This transformation requires bold policy innovation, rigorous accreditation, technological leverage, and relentless industry collaboration. Only then can online vocational programmes fulfil their promise, not just as a bridge to employment but as a foundation for India's future prosperity.

(The writer is a Co-Founder and MD of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and a Network Member of India International Skill Centres, an initiative of GoI. Views are personal)

World Immunisation Week: Vaccines saved 38 million lives SE Asia, says WHO

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Vaccines have saved 38 million lives in South-East Asia, including India, said World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday, as part of the World Immunisation Week.

World Immunisation Week is marked annually in the last week of April (24th-30th), to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.

"Each year, in the last week of April, we come together to celebrate World Immunisation Week -- a powerful reminder of the life-saving impact of vaccines. This year's theme, 'Immunisation for all is humanly possible,' reinforces our collective commitment to protect every individual, at every age, from vaccine-preventable diseases," said Saima Wazed, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia. She noted that in the



last five decades, "vaccines have saved over 154 million lives globally -- an average of six lives every minute".

"Our WHO South-East Asia Region has been at the forefront, with an estimated 38 million lives saved across the Region," Wazed added.

Notably, the region has maintained wild poliovirus-free status and has also upheld the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus as a public health concern.

"Four of our countries

have eliminated measles, five have eliminated rubella, and six have achieved control of hepatitis B through immunisation. This has all led to unprecedented improvements in childhood survival," the Regional Director said.

"In the past two years, three of our countries have launched national HPV vaccination programmes. This is a major step forward in protecting adolescents' health," she added.

Moreover, the region proudly vaccinates over 40

million pregnant women and 37 million newborns each year as well as contributing 46 per cent of the global vaccine supply.

Yet, "more than 2 million children remain completely unvaccinated," Wazed said, stressing the need for continuing efforts as the threat of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks is growing worldwide.

She also noted the shrinking global health budgets that are placing additional strain on immunisation programmes, surveillance systems, and on outbreak response capacities.

Wazed urged the need to "invest in routine immunisation; embrace innovation and combat vaccine hesitancy".

"On World Immunisation Week, join us in spreading the message that vaccines are safe, that vaccines save lives, and immunisation for all is essential," she said.

Why treating depression in teenagers may be easier than in adults

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Depression in young teenagers could be easier to treat than in adulthood due to the symptoms being more flexible and not yet ingrained, according to a study.

Depression is a complex condition, characterised by a range of connected symptoms. Current interventions treat overall depression severity and do not consider how symptoms interact and evolve.

Researchers from the University of Edinburgh, in the UK, explained that symptoms such as sadness, fatigue, and a lack of interest are less predictable in teenagers. However, these become more fixed in adults, which can lead to persistent depression.

"The findings highlight the importance of targeting depression at an early age when symptoms are



still changing," said Poppy Z. Grimes, Division of Psychiatry, at the varsity.

In the paper, published in the journal Nature Mental Health, the team analysed data from more than 35,000 young people to capture how depression symptoms interact throughout adolescence.

They found that symptom patterns become

more stable across adolescence, with individuals more likely to be persistently depressed or experience no depressive symptoms, while symptoms fluctuate at younger ages.

The researchers explained that the variability seen in teenage depression is likely to be influenced by three main

factors: puberty and hormones; ongoing brain development; and social and environmental influences.

The team also found that among teenagers, depression symptoms stabilise faster in boys than girls, leaving less time for risk or protective factors to have an effect. Symptoms in teenage girls continue to fluctuate over a longer period.

"Targeted support for young teenagers while symptoms are flexible and more responsive to treatment could help to prevent persistent depression into adulthood," the researchers said.

Further, the findings could also help to explain why some adults -- with stable symptoms that are unable to change tend to experience depression that is resistant to treatment. The experts noted that further research is needed to explore the theory.

Novel CAR-T therapy shows promise against hard-to-treat cancer

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

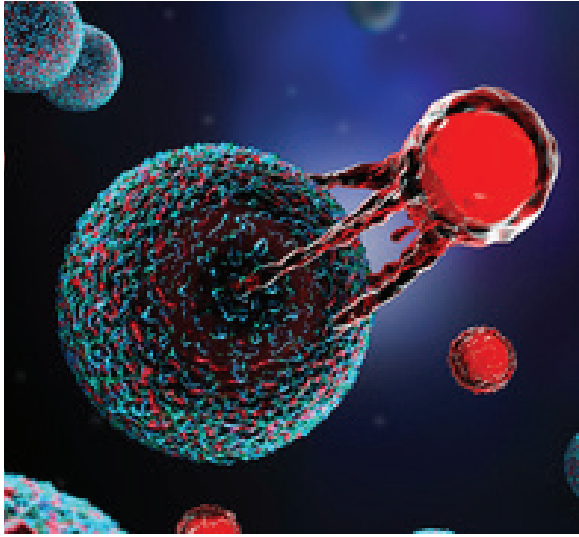
A team of Brazilian researchers has developed an innovative CAR-T cell therapy that showed positive results in patients with a refractory type of lymphoma -- cancer in lymph nodes, spleen, and bone marrow.

HSP-CAR30 is the first European CAR-T30 study to successfully complete its initial phase.

The results of the Phase I trial, published in the journal Blood, trial revealed that the new therapy which targets the CD30 protein has shown high efficacy in patients with refractory CD30+ lymphoma.

The therapy also promotes the expansion of memory T cells, leading to long-lasting responses and improved clinical outcomes in treated patients.

"The most remarkable aspect is the 100



per cent overall response rate, which is extremely rare in patients who have undergone multiple lines of treatment. Additionally, 50 per cent of patients achieved complete remission, meaning the disease was undetectable in imaging studies and clinical analyses," said Dr. Javier Briones, Head of the Hematological Oncology

at the Sant Pau Research Institute (IR Sant Pau).

About 60 per cent of patients who achieved a complete response remained in remission with no signs of relapse after a median follow-up of 34 months.

"This is crucial," Briones said, "because it indicates that the persistence of CAR-T cells in the body

has a real and lasting impact on the disease, which is precisely what we aim for with this type of therapy."

While CAR-T cell therapies have emerged as a promising alternative for treating B-cell leukemias and lymphomas, their application to CD30+ lymphomas has been limited due to the lack of persistence of modified cells and the high relapse rate among patients.

The Phase I trial involved 10 patients with relapsed or refractory classical Hodgkin lymphoma or CD30+ T-cell lymphoma, yielding highly positive results.

No dose-limiting toxicities were detected.

One of the most significant findings of the study was the high in vivo persistence of CAR30+ cells, which remained detectable in 60 per cent of evaluable patients one year after infusion.

New machine algorithm can identify heart, fracture risks with routine bone scans

AGENCIES
SYDNEY

Australian and Canadian researchers have developed a cutting-edge machine learning algorithm capable of rapidly identifying heart disease and fracture risks using routine bone density scans.

The innovation, developed by researchers from Australia's Edith Cowan University (ECU) in conjunction with Canada's University of Manitoba, could pave the way for more comprehensive and earlier diagnoses during routine osteoporosis screenings, improving outcomes for millions of older adults, Xinhua news agency reported.

The automated system analyses vertebral fracture assessment (VFA) images to detect abdominal aortic calcification (AAC) -- a key marker linked to heart attacks, strokes, and falls. Traditionally, assessing



AAC requires around five to six minutes per image by a trained expert. The new algorithm slashes that time to under a minute for thousands of images, making large-scale screening far more efficient, it said.

About 58 per cent of older women undergoing routine bone scans showed moderate to high levels of AAC, many of them unaware of the elevated cardiovascular risk, ECU research fellow Cassandra Smith said.

"Women are recognised as being under-screened and under-treated for cardiovascular disease," Smith said.

"People who have AAC don't present any symptoms, and without doing specific screening for AAC, this prognosis would often go unnoticed. By applying this algorithm during bone density scans, women have a much better chance of a diagnosis," Smith added.

Further research by ECU's Marc Sim revealed

that AAC is not only a cardiovascular risk indicator but also a strong predictor of falls and fractures. In fact, AAC outperformed traditional fall risk factors like bone mineral density and past fall history.

"The higher the calcification in your arteries, the higher the risk of falls and fractures," Sim said, adding clinicians typically overlook vascular health in fall assessments, and this algorithm changes that.

"Our analysis uncovered that AAC was a very strong contributor to fall risks and was actually more significant than other factors that are clinically identified as fall risk factors."

Sim said that the new machine algorithm, when applied to bone density scans, could give clinicians more information about the vascular health of patients, which is an under-recognised risk factor for falls and fractures.

Air pollution exposure raises brain stroke risk in older adults: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Older adults are at significant risk of brain stroke due to prolonged exposure to air pollution, according to a study led by Chinese researchers.

The study showed that elderly males are disproportionately affected by ischemic stroke related to air pollution. Ischemic stroke is a condition resulting from reduced blood supply to specific areas of the brain due to blocked blood vessels. The primary contributor to this burden is PM2.5 from air pollution.

Researchers from the Shandong First Medical University evaluated the burden of ischemic stroke attributable to air pollution in China from 1990 to 2021. They also examined gender and age-specific differences and projected future disease burden trends from 2022 to 2036. The results, published



in the journal BMC Public Health, observed a decline in both age-standardised mortality rates (ASMR) and age-standardised disability-adjusted life years (DALY) rates for ischemic stroke attributed to air pollution.

However, the decline was slower among men than women, with a higher burden observed in elder-

ly males. "This suggests the need for gender-specific interventions and policies that target male populations, particularly the elderly, to reduce their exposure to air pollution and its adverse health effects," said the researchers.

Previous studies suggest that both brief and prolonged exposure to air

pollution can heighten the risk of ischemic stroke.

The underlying mechanism may involve environmental PM2.5 exposure contributing to the formation of atherosclerosis, which affects both small cerebral vessels and large arteries, thereby increasing the risk of ischemic stroke.

The study suggested effective measures and policies to improve air quality and simultaneously enhance public awareness of the health risks associated with air pollution, particularly for vulnerable groups such as elderly men.

"Government actions could include stricter regulations on industrial emissions, promoting the use of clean energy, and increasing public health campaigns to educate people about the risks of air pollution and the importance of protective behaviours," said the researchers.

No scientific evidence to prove urine therapy can treat any disease: Experts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

There is no scientific evidence to prove that urine therapy can treat any disease, said health experts on Tuesday, after Bollywood actor Paresh Rawal vouched for its benefits for his knee injury.

In a recent media interview, the veteran actor claimed that he "sipped his urine like a beer first thing in the morning" to heal his injured knee.

"I did for 15 days and when the X-ray reports came in, the doctor was surprised," Rawal said.

"As an oncologist, I must emphasise that while anecdotal experiences like Paresh Rawal's are fascinating, they should not be mistaken for medical advice. There is no scientific evidence supporting urine therapy as a treatment for any diseases whether musculoskeletal injuries



or cancer," Dr. Abhishek Shankar, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, Dr BR Ambedkar Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital at AIIMS, Delhi, said.

"Even with all the scientific progress and easy access to good healthcare information, it is unfortunate that some people still look for shortcuts and try to promote them. Drinking urine does not cure any health problems. This myth has been proven wrong many times," added Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan, Convener, Research

Cell, Kerala State IMA.

Urine therapy, also known as Urophagia, is the practice of drinking urine.

In Ayurveda, urine was used to treat asthma, allergies, indigestion, wrinkles and even cancer.

However, the claims are based on anecdotes or ancient texts and have no robust scientific evidence to support the benefits.

On the other hand, there is evidence to show that drinking urine has several health risks, said Shankar.

Many studies showed

that urine contains bacteria, which if ingested could be harmful. It can also introduce toxins into the gut and potentially cause further illnesses like stomach infections. Further, because urine is a diuretic, it may also increase a person's risk of dehydration.

Rawal is not the only one to claim the benefits of urine therapy. The list also includes British TV star Ben Grylls and Mexican boxer Juan Manuel Marquez.

"There is no credible scientific evidence that supports this type of therapy for any benefit whatsoever, urine is actually body based that contains a lot of waste materials which the kidneys filter, and reintroducing it into the body can cause a lot of side effects like infection, electrolytic balance or delayed appropriate medical care," Dr Charudatt Vaity, a Mumbai-based intensivist said.

Movement Kalki and RBD organize anti-Pakistan rally, express strong protest against terror attack

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

Movement Kalki and Rashtriya Bajrang Dal jointly organized a massive anti-Pakistan rally. The rally started from Parade Chanakya Chowk and concluded at City Chowk, passing through Pret Chowk, Rajneetik Road, Purani Mandi, and Pahadi Mala. A large number of activists from both organizations participated and expressed strong outrage against the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

The protestors raised slogans such as "Down with Pakistan" and expressed their anger by pasting the Pakistani flag on roads at various spots. This symbolic act sent a strong message against



Pakistan's continued involvement in terrorist activities.

Kranti Kari Sanjeev Dubey, a core committee member of Movement Kalki, said, "The time has come to put an end to Pakistan's cowardly acts. This time, the Government of India must respond so

strongly that Pakistan will never dare to repeat such actions again."

Rakesh Sharma, President of the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, stated, "Pakistan has been promoting terrorism for years. Those who live in India and support Pakistan are clearly warned—either go to Paki-

stan or stop insulting India, because traitors have no place in our country."

Tight security arrangements were in place throughout the rally, which was concluded peacefully.

This protest rally served as a powerful message in favor of nationalism and peace.

Arun Gupta stresses on heightened vigilance, citizen sensitivity to ensure peace and security in Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 06 MAY 2025:

Emphasizing the need for constant vigilance in the current security landscape, Arun Gupta, Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, today addressed a press conference at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar. He was accompanied by senior party leaders Sanjay Kumar Baru and Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra.

Gupta underlined that peace in the region must not be taken for granted and cautioned against any complacency, stating that "no incidents for some time" does not justify lowering the guard. He highlighted that daily precision monitoring by concerned agencies is crucial to prevent any uncalled-for disasters. Citing the issue



of unauthorized vehicle parking at locations such as Maharaja Hari Singh Park and Bahu Plaza in Jammu, Gupta said these areas pose serious security concerns. In today's environment, even the smallest oversight can be exploited by elements with nefarious intentions. "Suspicious underground organizations with terrorist links are continuously assessing systemic vulnerabilities to plan attacks," he warned.

The BJP spokesperson stressed that ensuring safety is not solely the job of security agencies. Citizens too must play a

proactive role in reporting suspicious objects, movements, or abandoned vehicles. "A conscious and vigilant society is key to effective security. Every citizen must act as the eyes and ears of the system," he added. Gupta also criticized the prevalent post-incident response mechanism, advocating instead for a culture of prevention. "Monitoring should be habitual and ongoing. Reacting only after an incident occurs neither ensures safety nor strengthens future preparedness," he remarked.

Highlighting the broader consequences of any

security lapse, he pointed out that such incidents disrupt peace, economic activity, education, and daily life. "Uncertain environments affect business, create fear, and impact students. This is not the path to progress," he asserted.

Drawing lessons from developed countries, Gupta noted that while incidents may occur even in highly monitored regions, the key lies in learning from them to prevent recurrence. He urged for a similar approach in Jammu & Kashmir.

Concluding with a strong message, he said, "A stitch in time saves nine. We must act now, stay alert, and adopt a precautionary mindset. Only a conscious and cautious society can help avoid preventable tragedies and maintain lasting peace."

BFGI organizes Grand Felicitation Ceremony for Winners of Grand Techne Competition 2025 at GPJ

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

A grand felicitation ceremony was organized in the auditorium of Government Polytechnic Jammu to honour the winners of the prestigious Grand Techne Competition 2025, organised by Baba Farid Group of Institutions along with academic toppers from Government Boys Polytechnic Jammu, Government Women Polytechnic Jammu, and NITS Polytechnic.

The event was graced by several distinguished dignitaries. O.P. Bhagat, Director, Skill Development Department, Jammu & Kashmir, presided over the function as the Chief Guest. Dr. M.P. Poonia, Former Vice Chairman of AICTE and Campus Direc-

tor of Baba Farid Group of Institutions (BFGI), was the Guest Speaker and Guest of Honour. Suket Gupta, Secretary, JKBOE, attended as the Special Guest. Also present on the occasion were Kuldeep Singh Bhatia, Registrar JKBOE; Reeta Kundal, Deputy Registrar; Talat Mahmood, Principal of the host college; Amandeep Singh, Dean BFGI; and Gaurav Singh, Deputy Dean BFGI.

In his keynote address, Dr. Poonia delivered a powerful and motivational talk on "Youth Empowerment through Affordable, Quality Education and Employment." He encouraged students to develop their skills, pursue innovation, and contribute to building



a self-reliant and progressive India. Chief Guest O.P. Bhagat appreciated the dynamic participation of students and lauded Baba Farid Group of Institutions for organizing the Grand Techne Competition, emphasizing the critical

role of such initiatives in fostering creativity, technical aptitude, and innovation.

Principal Talat Mahmood, in his welcome address, reiterated the institution's dedication to promoting holistic

development and skill-based learning through events that bridge the gap between theory and practice. The ceremony showcased the exceptional talent of students across multiple competitions. In the IC Engine Assembly & Disassembly, the Automobile Department of Government Polytechnic Jammu emerged victorious, with the Mechanical Department of NIT's Polytechnic as runner-up. In the Hackathon, Government Polytechnic Jammu claimed the top spot, while NITS Polytechnic was runner-up. The Circuit Designing competition was won by the Instrumentation & Control Department of Government Polytechnic Jammu, with Government Women

Polytechnic Jammu securing second place. In AutoCAD Designing, Vaidehi Charak from the Mechanical Branch of GPJ took first prize, and Vinay Dogra of NITS Polytechnic was the runner-up.

All winners received a cash prize of Rs 3,100 and a memento, while runners-up were awarded Rs 2,100 along with a memento. Toppers from all three institutions were also felicitated for their academic excellence. The proceedings of the program were smoothly conducted by Jasdeep and Sakshi, who served as anchors for the event. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks and an inspiring message to the students to continue striving for excellence in academics, innovation, and personal growth.

Prof. H. C. Verma inspires NIT Srinagar students: calls for scientific inquiry beyond exams



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 6

Prof. H. C. Verma, one of India's most celebrated physicists and educators, delivered an inspiring address at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday and urged them to look beyond the narrow goals of competitive examinations like JEE and NEET and instead embrace scientific inquiry as a lifelong pursuit.

In his keynote speech, Prof. Verma emphasized the value of curiosity-driven learning over rote memorization. He encouraged students to engage deeply with the fundamentals of Physics and Mathematics, citing unsolved problems in Physics that require fresh and imaginative thinking.

"Real science begins where textbooks end," he said, stressing the need for innovation and original thought.

Prof. Verma also highlighted the pressing environmental challenges facing the world today. He called on the academic community, especially young scientists and engineers to incorporate sustainability into both research and daily practice.

"Water conservation and the responsible use of natural resources should be core concerns in scientific development," he said. Prof. Verma expressed his gratitude to the Department of Physics for hosting the event and fostering a vibrant academic culture at NIT Srinagar. Expressing his appreciation, Prof. Verma thanked the Department of Physics for hosting the event and fostering an environment conducive to academic excellence and critical thinking.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, expressed his deep appreciation for Prof. Verma's visit and its lasting impact. "We are honored to host Prof. H. C.

Verma, whose teachings have ignited scientific curiosity across generations," he said.

"His philosophy aligns perfectly with our mission at NIT Srinagar—to cultivate not just skilled engineers but thoughtful, socially responsible innovators. His interaction today will surely inspire a renewed sense of purpose among our students and faculty," Prof. Kanaujia added.

The session was organized by Prof. M. A. Shah, Dean of Alumni Affairs at NIT Srinagar, who delivered the welcome address.

"Prof. Verma's visit is not just an academic event—it is an emotional moment for generations of science lovers who grew up learning from his books," Prof. Shah said.

"His presence rekindles a deeper love for Physics and reminds us that the purpose of education is not just to clear exams, but to transform minds," he said.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman also praised the initiative, having a luminary like Prof. Verma on our campus is an inspiration for both students and faculty.

"His insights bridge the gap between textbook knowledge and real-world application. Events like these shape the ethos of an institute," he said.

Prof. Rehman said that Prof. Verma has redefined the way Physics is taught in India. His philosophy of education aligns with our vision at NIT Srinagar to create thinkers, innovators, and socially conscious technologists. We are honored to host him, he said.

The lecture drew a diverse and enthusiastic audience, including faculty members from the Physics Department, lecturers from higher secondary institutions, research scholars, and undergraduate engineering students.

Bioskool™ Teaching and DIY Kits launched as a Startup Support Initiative of CU Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

Bioskool™, an innovative idea dedicated to hands-on biology education, was formally launched today by the Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain. The launch marks a significant step in making biology more accessible to school students, blending education with engaging, practical learning experiences. With a strong focus on inclusivity, Bioskool™ aims to provide multilingual educational resources and interactive experiments designed to inspire young minds.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Jain emphasized the importance of fostering scientific curiosity and hands-on experimentation among students. "Bioskool™ is a commendable initiative that bridges the gap between traditional learning and practical application, ensuring that students develop a deeper understanding of life sciences," he stated. He also shared valuable insights and recommendations for enhancing Bioskool™'s website and products, offering constructive suggestions to further enrich



the platform's educational impact. The launch was done in the presence of Prof. Rakesh Jha, President Institution Innovation Council, Dr. Ashok Kumar, Head of the Department of Zoology, Dr. Narendra K. Bairwa, Head Centre for Molecular Biology.

Central University of Jammu, under the dynamic leadership of Vice chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain has taken several initiatives to promote entrepreneurship in Students and faculty alike. The implementation of National Innovation and Startup Policy 2019 of MHRD GoI through the Startup policy 2023 of CU Jammu, has been a phenomenal step in promoting entrepreneurial attitude in faculty and students.

In the interaction with the team, led by Prof.

Swarkar Sharma, Department of Zoology and M.Sc Biotechnology students: Md. Tausir Alam, Anushka Dobhal, Yatendra Pawar, Tripti Kumari, Aman Kant and Aditri Dixit, the team further shared Bioskool™'s mission of making complex scientific concepts in biology approachable and engaging with their 100 unique biology experiments for classes 2 - 12. With its unique blend of creativity, inclusivity, and rigorous scientific protocols, Bioskool™ is set to make a lasting impact in the field of biology education. The team informed that for wider reachout, after the launch the products will be available online on their portal www.bioskool.in, as well as on various online e-commerce platforms as DIY (Do-IT-Yourself) kits.

Karra chairs District Presidents' meeting, reviews organizational activities

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR MAY 6, 2025

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra on Tuesday chaired a meeting of District Presidents of Kashmir region and frontal organizations at Srinagar Party office in which organizational affairs and activities in all the districts were reviewed.

The meeting threadbare discussed the ongoing Nationwide Samvidhan Bachao Divas launched by AICC, while holding discussions on the decision of the Union Cabinet with respect to caste census in the country. The meeting expressed its gratitude to Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi for his tireless efforts and uncompromising fight to make it happen and also held threadbare discussion on various other issues especially current political and security situation obtaining in the aftermath of highly condemnable and ghastly Pahalgam carnage in which 26 innocent people were martyred.

On this occasion JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra received feedback



from DCC Presidents on organizational activities at district and block level in their respective districts while resolving to make the ongoing Samvidhan Bachao mission successful in all the districts besides ensuring mass public contact at grass root level.

On this occasion, JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra declared that one day workshop on caste census is being conducted both in Srinagar and Jammu shortly for which the preparations have already begun and emphasizes the District Presidents to ensure their participation along with the constituency representatives from their districts in the workshop so that awareness about the significance of caste census reaches every household across J&K, he urged.

Rahul Gandhi has been vigorously fighting the battle of caste census both in Parliament and outside and forced the Centre Govt to announce caste census, which is bound to put an end to discrimination, JKPCC President added.

Those who were present in the meeting included J&K Mahila President Shameema Raina, District Presidents Irfan Naqib (Srinagar), Iqbal Mir (Baramulla), Javed Ahmad Mir (Kupwara), Zaffar Farooq Salati (Anantnag), Abdul Rashid Lone (Kulgam), Umer Jaan (Pulwama), Er, Muzaffar Dar (Budgam), Sheikh Aijaz (Ganderbal) Mushtaq Ahmad Tantray (Bandipora), Reyaz Manhas (Shopian) Youth District Presidents included NoB IYC Manpreet Singh, Yasir Nissar Mundoo and others.

Mohini Ekadashi Vrat on May 08, Thursday: Rohit Shastri

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

The Ekadashi of the Shukla Paksha (bright fortnight) in the month of Vaishakh is known as Mohini Ekadashi. Regarding this fast, Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sans-than Trust, stated that the month of Vaishakh is considered highly sacred. During this month, one should remain pure by bathing regularly, practice self-restraint, and renounce negative traits like lust, anger, greed, attachment, ego, jealousy, and hatred while remembering the Lord.

Every year, there are generally 24 Ekadashis. However, in years with an extra lunar month (Adhik Maas or Mal Maas), the number increases to 26.

This year, Vaishakh Shukla Ekadashi begins at 10:20 AM on Wednesday,

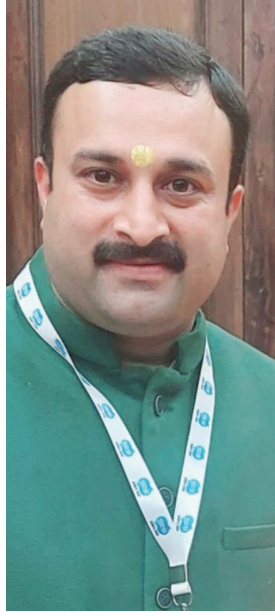
May 7, and ends at 12:30 PM on Thursday, May 8. Since the Ekadashi tithi is prevailing during sunrise on May 8, the fast will be observed on Thursday, May 8.

Significance of Ekadashi Vrat

The one who observes this fast learns the art of maintaining balance in life through discipline over the mind, senses, and conduct. Rising above material desires and sensual pleasures, the person walks the path of righteousness and ultimately attains liberation (moksha). This fast enhances one's intellect, popularity, and influential personality.

Rituals of Ekadashi Vrat: The fast begins from the Dashami (10th lunar day). Consume only sattvic (pure) food on this day.

On Ekadashi, after taking a morning bath, offer water to the Sun and take a vow to fast.



Husband and wife should jointly worship Lord Lakshmi-Narayan.

Set up idols or pictures of Lord Ganesha and Lakshmi-Narayan on a clean altar at home.

Purify the worship area with Ganga water or cow

urine. Perform Kalash Sthapana and worship all deities, the Navagrahas (nine planets), holy pilgrimages, Yoginis, and guardian deities of the town.

Offer prayers using the sixteen traditional steps (Shodashopachar): invocation, seat offering, washing of feet, offering water, sipping water, bathing, clothes, sandalwood paste, flowers, incense, lamp, food, fruits, sesame, donation, aarti, and concluding with sacred chants.

Recite the Vishnu Sahasranama or other Vedic mantras.

Chant "Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya" 108 times.

After worship, read or listen to the Ekadashi Vrat Katha. Conclude with the distribution of prasadam.

The fast may be observed either as a complete fast or with fruits (phalahaara). Devotees

may choose to consume fruits in the evening after the ritual. The fast is broken (paran) on Dwadashi (12th lunar day), by feeding a Brahmin or a needy person and offering charity and donations.

Special Precautions on Ekadashi:

Avoid tamasic food and intoxicants. Observe celibacy.

Do not cut hair, nails, or shave.

Do not wear leather items like belts or shoes during the puja.

Avoid black-colored clothes.

Do not hurt anyone emotionally, as it is considered a great sin.

— Mahant Rohit Shastri (Jyotishacharya)
President, Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sans-than Trust (Registered)
Contact: 9858293195, 7006711011, 9796293195
Email: rohitshastri.shastri@gmail.com

Surinder Kumar reviews devp works in ward-72 in Marh AC

JI NEWS SERVICE
MARH, MAY 6

MLA Marh Surinder Kumar today conducted a visit to Ward 72 of Jammu Municipal Corporation, falling under the Marh constituency. The visit was attended by Inspector Anoop Sharma, Supervisor Lucky, and prominent citizens of the ward, who accompanied the MLA during his review of the development works and sanitation arrangements.

During the visit, he reviewed the sanitation arrangements and development works in the ward and interacted with local citizens to understand their concerns. The MLA emphasized his commitment to ensuring every street and neighborhood in the ward is clean and developed. He stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness and undertaking development projects



to enhance the quality of life for residents.

MLA reviewed the sanitation arrangements and development works in the ward and interacted with local citizens to understand their concerns and issues. He emphasized his commitment to making every street and neighborhood clean and developed. The MLA's visit reflects his dedication to the development and welfare of the people in the Marh constituency. By focusing on cleanliness and development, he aims to improve the living standards of the residents and

make the ward a better place to live.

During his visit to Ward 72, MLA Surinder Kumar assured the residents of updated services, including enhanced waste management and cleanliness initiatives, upgrades to roads, streets, and public facilities and timely delivery of essential services, such as water supply and street lighting. The MLA's commitment to providing updated services aims to enhance the quality of life for residents and make the ward a more livable and sustainable community.

JMC seizes massive polythene in Rajiv Nagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

In a significant crackdown on the illegal storage and distribution of banned materials, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) seized approximately 40 metric tonnes (40,000 kg) of polythene from the Narwal area, specifically from a warehouse located along Rajiv Nagar Road, late Monday evening.

The operation was led by Corporation Commissioner Devansh Yadav, who was present at the site along with a dedicated team of municipal officials. A truck fully loaded with polythene was discovered parked at the warehouse, alongside a substantial quantity of polythene stored inside the premises. The team also uncovered a large stock of gutka packets during the raid.

Given the magnitude



of the seizure, police personnel and administrative officials were called to the scene to support the operation. The team carried out a thorough inspection of the premises, including registers and equipment found within the warehouse.

Commissioner Yadav stated that the seized polythene appears to be single-use plastic, which is banned. However, the material will be sent to the Pollution Control Commit-

tee for laboratory analysis to confirm its composition. "By appearance, it seems to be single-use polythene, but we will wait for lab results to confirm," he added.

He further mentioned that individuals present at the warehouse fled the scene upon seeing the JMC team. Investigations are now underway to identify the persons involved in the storage and intended distribution of the polythene. Authorities are also looking

into the origins of the consignment and its intended recipients.

"The police will investigate who owns the warehouse and to whom this polythene was being supplied. Strict action will be taken against those found responsible," Commissioner Yadav affirmed.

This action underscores JMC's commitment to enforcing environmental regulations and curbing the use of banned plastic materials within city limits.

Hakeem urges govt to safeguard shepherds' livelihood in Budgam forest zones

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 6

President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, on Tuesday expressed serious concern over the restrictions imposed on local shepherds in upper forest areas of Budgam district. These areas include popular tourist destinations such as Tosamaidan, Doodhpathri, and Yousmarg.

In a statement issued here, Hakeem Yaseen said that while combating terrorism is essential, it should not come at the expense of the livelihood of local shepherds, especially those from Gujjar, Bakerwal, and Chopan communities, who depend on these highland pastures for grazing cattle, sheep,



and goats.

"We support the government's efforts in fighting terrorism, but the needs and rights of our people must also be respected. These shepherds have been traditionally dependent on these pastures for generations, and denying them access threatens

their only source of income," he said. Hakeem Yaseen noted that although tourism has been restricted in these regions due to security concerns, locals should not be treated the same as visitors. Shepherds' seasonal migration to these meadows is vital to their economic survival, especially in a region already grappling with high unemployment, he said.

"Every summer, these communities move to these areas to sustain themselves. The fight against terror must not deprive poor families of their basic livelihood," Yaseen said.

The senior leader appealed to Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to intervene in the matter urgently.

"I request the leadership at all levels to intervene on humanitarian grounds. Immediate action must be taken to allow shepherds access to traditional grazing areas so they can continue earning a living. These communities deserve relief and support—not exclusion," he said.

Hakeem Yaseen urged the administration to review its current restrictions and adopt a more nuanced approach that distinguishes between counter-terror operations and essential economic activities of the local population.

DYSS Zone Gandhi Nagar organizes Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

The Department of Youth Services & Sports, zone Gandhi Nagar organized Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions U/17 yrs for Girls in the disciplines of Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Volleyball, Chess & Yoga at Guru Harkrishan Public School Nanak Nagar, Jammu under the Chairmanship of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jammu Sh. Sukhdev Raj Sharma and overall Supervision of Sh. Ram Murti, Zonal Physical Education Officer Gandhi Nagar.

On this occasion, Sh. Sukhdev Raj Sharma, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jammu was the Chief Guest & Smt. Rita Poply, Principal, Guru Harkrishan Public School Nanak Nagar, was the Guest of Honour. With the co-operation of field staff of zone Gandhi Nagar the said Competitions became successful.

Near about 565 Girls students / players from different Schools (Govt. / Pvt.) of zone Gandhi Nagar was participated in the said competitions.

Speaking on this occa-



sion Chief Guest Sh. Sukhdev Raj Sharma, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jammu, congratulated all the participants for taking part in sports activities at various levels and counted them the benefits of these sports events & also spoke pledge on Drug Free India along with ZPEO and field staff of zone Gandhi Nagar to make India Drug-Free.

In the end ZPEO Gandhi Nagar Sh. Ram Murti, proposed words of appreciation and thanks the chief guest for their valuable support and panegyrizing the staff for making their sincere efforts in making the said Competitions a great success and appreciated the participants and motivated them to partici-

pate in games and sports to maintain their fitness level.

All the deputed PEMs, PETs, REKs, NYC and other staff members of YS&S Department were present there. The competitions were conducted by the panel of experts Smt. Dalbir Kour (PEM), Sh. Rajesh Singh Rana (PEM), Sh. Sukhdev Singh (PEM), Smt. Guminderpreet Kour (PEM), Smt. Satvir Kour (PEM), Smt. Sushma Kotwal (PEM), Sh. Varinder Kumar (PEM), Smt. Shamo Devi (PET), Sh. Jagjeet Singh (PET), Smt. Parveen Kour (PET), Smt. Shefali (PET), Sh. Sanjay Khajuria (PET), Sh. Vishal Jamwal (PET) & Kamal Singh (PET) of the Department.

4th death anniversary of 108 Swami Chidhanand Saraswati observed



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

The fourth death anniversary of 108 Swami Chidhanand Saraswati Ji was observed with devotion and reverence on Tuesday at Har Ki Poudi Mandir complex, located in the sacred premises of Bahu Fort, Jammu. The commemorative ceremony was held under the spiritual leadership of 108 Swami Mahadev Saraswati Ji.

Swami Chidhanand Saraswati Ji had attained Mahasamadhi on May 6, 2021. On the same day, 108 Swami Mahadev Saraswati Ji was anointed as the Gaddi-Nasheen of Har Ki Poudi and the temple complex. Since then, all developmental works at Har Ki Poudi and the adjoining Bagh-e-Bahu Mandir complex have been carried out under his supervision.

Major developmental projects are currently underway, including the construction of Bheema-

Shankar Mandir, Yagya Shalla, and the beautification of existing temples. A Gowshala has also been established near the Mandir complex to support the care of cows.

Addressing the gathering, 108 Swami Mahadev Saraswati Ji stated that the construction and development work began soon after the demise of Swami Chidhanand Saraswati Ji and continues to this day. He highlighted that several new projects are in progress and more are planned for the future to enhance the spiritual and infrastructural landscape of the temple complex.

Former Mayor of Jammu Municipal Corporation, Chandher Mohan Gupta, also addressed the devotees and recalled that some of the ongoing projects were initiated during his tenure. He expressed his continued support for the development activities at Har Ki Poudi.

Sham Lal Basson, former

corporator of Bahu Fort, emphasized the importance of tourism for the economy of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He noted the increasing number of tourists visiting the area due to the continuous development of Har Ki Poudi and thanked all those contributing to its growth.

Prominent figures who visited Har Ki Poudi to pay their respects and seek blessings included Kewal Shastri, Rajeev Charak, Neeraj Anand, Lalit Sharma, trader T R Sharma, Sh Parveen Gupta (President, Fruit Mandi Complex), Retd Chief Engineer K K Arora, Narayan Jain, Retd SP P R Sharma, Om Parkash, Veena Bakshi, Sunny Sangoitra, Subash Chander, Hans Raj, and all members of the Har Ki Poudi management committee. Hundreds of devotees took blessings on this occasion. Langer Prashad was served to all the devotees.

Shiv Sena supports Himanshi, demands strict action against traitors



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

Along with teaching a strong lesson to the terrorists, strict legal action should be taken against the so-called nationalists who are engaged in destroying the fabric of unity and integrity of the country by dividing Hindus and Muslims and against those who troll and make insulting comments on martyr Lieutenant Vinay Narwal's wife Himanshi on social media, stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena UBT Jammu-Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that brutality vs brutality is supporting Pakistan's agenda. Some people are proving their nationalism by attacking Kashmiris. Whereas their behavior is anti-national and also an attack on mutual brotherhood, unity and integrity. At the same time, the

appeal by Himanshi (wife of Haryana's Lieutenant Vinay Narwal, who was martyred in the Pahalgam attack) for strict punishment for the culprits and maintaining mutual unity is also not being digested by some so-called nationalists. Strict legal action should be taken against those trolling her on social media.

He said that How can the sacrifice of local youth Adil Hussain of Pahalgam be forgotten, many other local people have provided every possible help including food, shelter and transport to the tourists during this tough time. Sahni said that the Pahalgam attack is proof of a huge security failure. Despite the passage of 2 weeks, we have not been able to reach the culprits of Pahalgam. At the same time, claims like terrorism will end after the removal of Article 370 have been exposed.

Arvind vows to renovate Mirpur Shaheedi Sthal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

MLA Jammu West Shri Arvind Gupta today visited the revered Mirpur Shaheedi Sthal, located in the heart of his constituency, and vowed to take immediate steps for its renovation and upliftment. The visit was marked by emotional moments of remembrance as the MLA paid homage to the martyrs of Mirpur who laid down their lives during the Pakistani invasion in 1947.

Speaking at the site, Arvind Gupta said that the Mirpur Shaheedi Sthal is not merely a monument, but a sacred ground symbolizing the unparalleled sacrifice and resilience of the people of Mirpur. "This is a place of pride and pain—a reminder of the brutalities faced by our people and their undying spirit in the face of adversity. It is our moral duty to preserve this heritage for future generations," he stated.

He assured that a comprehensive plan will be prepared for the renovation of the memorial, including restoration of



its structure, installation of proper lighting, beautification of the surroundings, and development of public amenities. Gupta also directed officials from the Smart City team to prepare a proposal that aligns with the cultural and emotional significance of the site.

"Mirpur Shaheedi Sthal must reflect the glory and legacy of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The memories of our martyrs must be preserved in a dignified manner," Gupta added. He emphasized that the memorial should serve as an educational and inspirational space for the younger generation to connect with their roots and understand the true meaning of sacrifice for the nation.

He was accompanied by Mandal President Kushant Prajapati, former Corporator Dinesh Gupta, and a delegation of senior citizens including C.P. Gupta, Amar Chamial, Dr. Krishan Dev, Vijay Gupta, Pankaj Gupta, Ved Prakash, BJP senior leader Atul Bakshi, along with members of the Smart City Team.

The senior citizens present welcomed the MLA's commitment and expressed hope that the long-pending demand for renovation of the memorial would finally be fulfilled.

Arvind Gupta concluded by reaffirming his dedication to the cause: "Our martyrs are the soul of our identity—honouring them is not an option, it is our responsibility."

BTSM celebrates 26th Foundation Day, reiterates demand for free Tibet

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch (BTSM) celebrated its 26th Foundation Day at Talab Tillo, Jammu today. During the event, BTSM activists cut a cake and pledged to fight wholeheartedly for the organisation's cause.

On this occasion, Dr. Vivek Sharma, State president BTSM, addressing the gathering, said that when the forum was established in Dharamshala on May 5, 1999, the independence of Tibet could not even be thought of at that time. At that time, the talk of Tibet's independence seemed impossible. Still, today I feel very proud to say that the demand for Tibet's independence has spread worldwide after rising from Dharamshala. The talk of Tibet is being heard worldwide, and Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch has done the work to carry out this work. He said that the journey of 26 years is a great achievement. Forum workers



need to know that Tibet was never a part of China, and China was never a natural friend of India. He alluded to BTSM plans to spread awareness of Tibet and promised to continue to work for the Tibetan cause. In conclusion, he stated that Tibet was once a free country and has never been part of China.

Further, he stated that the BTSM's 26-year tenure has been very positive. He expressed confidence that a day will come when Tibet and Kailash Mansarovar will be liberated through the platform's efforts, which will also enhance India's security.

Dr Rajesh Sharma, Vice President of BTSM(JKUT),

stated that the mission, which began in Dharamshala under the guidance of Hon'ble Indresh Ji, will continue to grow. This campaign will be intensified both in India and abroad. The initiative for Tibet's independence and the liberation of Kailash Mansarovar will reach people directly by forming local units of the forum and engaging in door-to-door outreach.

Among those present on this occasion were Mr Alok Mahajan, General Secretary, Jammu district Unit, Dr Kuldeep Sharma, Dr Rohit Sadotra, Mr Rakesh Sangra, Mr Vishal Sharma, and others.

ABRSM J&K anguishes over delay in conducting ATD, DPC of all cadeters in education department

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh Jammu and Kashmir, has expressed strong displeasure over the non-transfer of teachers for the last two years.

Rattan Sharma State President (ABRSM) highlighted that the government's failure to conduct the annual transfer drive which has led to widespread dissatisfaction among teaching staff across the Union Territory. According to Sharma, teachers posted in far-flung and difficult areas have been serving there continuously without rotation.

Rattan Sharma urged Sakina Itoo ji (Cabinet Minister of Education, Health

and Medical Education and Social Welfare) and worthy Commissioner Secretary to education to direct the authorities for immediately initiate the annual transfer process to ensure transparency and fairness in the system.

He also pointed out that the delay in transfers contradicts the principles of good governance and employee welfare. He said that the deployment orders of some influential officials are going viral on social media. ABRSM will continue to raise this issue at every appropriate platform until the government takes prompt action. He called for a clear and time-bound transfer drive to restore confidence among the teaching fraternity.

Sharma mentioned that

during the last round, fewer teachers were promoted as master than expected, causing disappointment among many eligible candidates. Now the Director School Education Jammu taking the process forward, it is imperative that the promotions be completed without further delay. As per the current need,

The teachers and Masters who have fulfilled all eligibility criteria for promotion should be prioritized. Timely promotions not only boost morale but also ensure better academic leadership in schools. The department must act swiftly and fairly to complete this process, maintaining transparency and addressing long-standing demands of the teaching community.

Kavinder urges participation in MHA Mock Drill, stresses unity for a strong India

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

Senior BJP Leader and Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta has urged the people of Jammu & Kashmir to remain vigilant and participate in the nationwide mock drills ordered by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on May 7, in the wake of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of innocent 26 Hindu tourists. He condemned the cowardly act of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and said that such acts will never succeed in breaking the unity and resolve of the Indian people.

In a statement issued to the press, Kavinder Gupta said, "The mock drills being conducted



are essential for assessing the preparedness of security agencies and ensuring public safety. People must not panic but understand that these drills are in the national interest. We must cooperate fully with authorities, follow advisories, and stay alert to any suspicious activities in our surroundings."

The senior BJP leader reiterated that the nation stands united in the fight against terrorism. "We must show the enemies of the nation that India is not afraid. Desh Hai Toh Hum Hain—our existence and freedom depend on the strength of our nation. Let us stand by our forces, our government, and every citizen working to protect

Bharat Mata," he asserted. Kavinder praised the efforts of security forces in swiftly responding to threats and emphasized the need for the public to remain cautious without spreading rumours or fear. He appealed to youth and civil society to come forward and help in maintaining communal harmony and security awareness.

"As responsible citizens, let's not just mourn—let us act. Stay cautious, report anything unusual, and strengthen the spirit of nationalism. Together, we will defeat the evil designs of our enemies," he said.

The senior BJP leader said that no force in the world can harm a united India and that these difficult times must become a reason for even greater national solidarity.

Police arrests 02 drug peddlers in Awantipora

J1 NEWS SERVICE
AWANTIPORA, MAY 6

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

During vehicular checking at Panzgam Railway Crossing, a Police party of Police Post Reshipora intercepted a vehicle (Tata

Sumo) bearing registration number JK13A-7136 with two persons on board. They have been identified as Parvaiz Ahmad Hajam son of Ab Rashid Hajam resident of Newa Pulwama and Anees Mohammad son of Gh Mohammad resident of Karimabad. During search, officers were able to recover 130 grams of Charas like substance from their possession. They have been arrested and the vehicle used in the

commission of crime has also been seized.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR Number 106/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Awantipora and investigation has been initiated.

Our consistent actions against drug peddlers should reassure the community members that we are making efforts to keep our society free from the scourge of drug menace.

SMVDU holds Kit and Certificate Distribution Ceremony for Soft Skills Training Program



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

The SMVDU Skill Hub Centre organized a Kit and Certificate Distribution Ceremony at the Central Workshop, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. The event was part of the Basic Soft Skills Training Program, run under the Skill Hub Center, in collaboration with BOSCH. Training kits were distributed to the newly enrolled candidates, while certificates were awarded to the participants of the previous batch who successfully completed the course. The ceremony was graced by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, who praised the program's positive impact on the local youth. Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs, emphasized the importance of skill development in today's job market. Dr. Y Anand, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering and Dr. Anurag, Head of the School of Languages appreciated the efforts of

the Skill Hub Centre and encouraged the youth to make full use of such opportunities. Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Associate Professor school of Mechanical Engineering and Coordinator of the Skill Hub Centre, highlighted the program's focus on equipping youth with essential soft skills to enhance employability and confidence. Additionally, the SMVDU Skill Hub Centre is expanding its efforts to empower youth through skill development. Under the PMKVY 4.0 scheme, two new training batches are currently running: Electrician Domestic Solutions and Assistant Carpenter. This expansion is a proud moment for SMVDU as we contribute to the nation's skill development mission, helping more youth gain valuable skills for a brighter future. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Er. Deepak Byotra, who acknowledged the support of all involved in making the event and training programs a success.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI HYDRAULIC DIVISION RAMBAN

E- NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT NO. 04 OF 2025-26 DATED 05-05-2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (Hydraulic) Division, Ramban invites tenders by e-tendering mode on item rate from Tankers owners / firms having GSTIN/ Govt. Registered Contractors for providing water supply through Water Tankers under the jurisdiction of Jal Shakti (Hydraulic) Division Ramban District Ramban.

S. No	Particulars	Number of Tankers of 12000 liters capacity to be provided	Cost of document/ tender fee (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.) to be uploaded online
01	Tanker Service for providing Water Supply to various areas under the jurisdiction of PHE Sub Division Ramban of Jal Shakti Hydraulic Division Ramban	02	500.00	10000.00
02	Tanker Service for providing Water Supply to various areas under the jurisdiction of PHE Sub Division Gool of Jal Shakti Hydraulic Division Ramban	01	500.00	5000.00
03	Tanker Service for providing Water Supply to various areas under the jurisdiction of PHE Sub Division Banihal of Jal Shakti Hydraulic Division Ramban	01	500.00	5000.00

- Date of Publishing 06-05-2025 10.00 Hrs.
- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 06-05-2025 (1000 Hrs to 13-05-2025 16.30 (Hrs)
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 06-05-2025 (1000) to 13-05-2025 16.30 (Hrs) The complete bidding process will be online.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 14-05-2025 (1400 Hrs) in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Hydraulic Division Ramban.
- The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/ Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-challan/Treasury Receipt to be deposited in **MH 0215- (Revenue Head)** in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (Hydraulic Division Ramban).
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Hydraulic Division Ramban and shall be communicated separately.
No. JS/Hyd/D/R/719-25
Dated: -05-05-2025

SD/
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (Hydraulic) Division
Ramban

DIP/J-889/25
Date: 6-5-25

Indian Army conducts Lecture on Drug Abuse and Narco Terrorism at Shikari, Reasi

JNEWS SERVICE
REASI, 06 MAY 2025

The session aimed to educate the local youth and community members about the harmful effects of drug addiction, its impact on society and ways to combat this growing menace. Army officials along with medical professionals, highlighted the physical, psychological and social consequences of drug abuse and encouraged the youth to adopt a healthy and disciplined lifestyle. The lecture was well received by the community with participants actively engaging in dis-



cussions and seeking guidance on rehabilitation measures and preventive strategies. The initiative also emphasized the role of families, educators and society in curbing drug abuse and ensuring a brighter future for the younger generation. The Indian Army

remains committed to social welfare initiatives, fostering awareness and empowering local communities through education and engagement programs. Such efforts reaffirm the Army's dedication to building a drug-free, healthy and prosperous society.

Bahujan Samaj Party JKUT welcomes Caste-Based Census Initiative

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

A meeting of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Jammu & Kashmir - Union Territory unit, was held today at the party headquarters in Narwal Pain, Satwari, Jammu. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Charanjeet Chagotra, Vice President of BSP-JK.

During the meeting, the party appreciated the Union Government's historic decision to conduct a caste-based census across the country. The BSP welcomed this move, emphasizing that the exercise must be conducted in a transparent and time-bound manner, with the final report published in the public domain for accountability and informed policy-making.

This is the first time since Independence that a caste-based census is being conducted, particularly recognizing the OBC (Other Backward Classes) population of the country. The BSP has been consistently demanding such a census since its inception. In contrast,



previous governments, particularly those led by the Congress party, have failed to acknowledge this need, thereby denying justice to SCs, STs, OBCs, and minorities.

The BSP cautioned the current Union Government not to repeat the past mistakes of misleading the OBC community. The party reaffirmed that it is closely monitoring the process and will not hesitate to expose any injustice or negligence.

The party recalled the relentless efforts of Manyawar Kanshi Ram Ji, who had earlier mobilized the OBC community for the "Jail Bharo Andolan" at Boat Club, New Delhi, demanding a caste-based census and 27% reservation for OBCs. Under the leadership of Bahen Kumari Mayawati

Ji (National President, Former CM & MP), BSP continues to uphold the principle of "Jiski Jitni Sankhya Bhari, Utni Uski Hissedari" – a fair share in accordance with population strength.

The BSP-JK reiterated its longstanding demand for 27% reservation for OBCs in the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory and pledged to continue its struggle for the rights and representation of the Bahujan Samaj, especially the OBC community in J&K. Prominent attendees of the meeting included Adv. Sashi Bhushan Thappa, S. Raja Singh, Tilak Raj Bhagat, Haji Mohd (Zone Coordinators), Tarsem Lal (District President, Jammu), Gurdev Singh, Ravi Dutt, Sagar Kumar, among others.

Bhalla organizes public outreach program, listens concerns, issues of public



Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Working President Raman Bhalla today organized a public outreach program in Bahu Fort area, where he listened to the concerns and issues of the local residents. The program aimed to strengthen the bond between the party and the people, particularly during challenging times. Bhalla assured the public that the Congress party stands by them through thick and thin. He emphasized the party's commitment to addressing their grievances and working towards their welfare.

Given the current tension on the borders between India and Pakistan, Bhalla urged the people to remain vigilant and alert. He emphasized the need for unity and preparedness in the face of such challenges. Bhalla organized a public outreach program to listen to the concerns of local residents. The Congress party assured the public of its commitment to addressing their grievances and working towards their welfare. Bhalla urged the people to remain ready and alert amidst that tension on the borders between India and Pakistan.

The public outreach program demonstrated the Congress party's dedication to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. By listening to their concerns and assuring them of support, Bhalla reinforced the party's commitment to serving the public and addressing their needs. The Congress party has consistently emphasized the need for a peaceful resolution to the issues in Jammu and Kashmir. While the party supports the government's efforts to root out terrorism, it also advocates for a comprehensive approach for establishing long lasting peace in region.

Bhalla said Congress party supports efforts to establish long-lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir. The party believes that addressing poverty, unemployment, and lack of opportunities, is crucial to achieving lasting peace. The party emphasizes the importance of respecting human rights and ensuring that no one is harassed unnecessarily. Overall, the Congress party's approach to peace in Jammu and Kashmir is centered on finding a sustainable and inclusive solution that addresses the complex issues in the region.

Inter-Zone District Level Tournament starts in Kathua

JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 06

The department of youth Services and Sports Kathua today organized inter zone district level tournament for u/14 & u/17 years boys and girls. Featuring competitions in kabaddi, Kho -Kho, Volleyball, Badminton, T. T, Chess, Rope skipping football, wrestling and Cricket. The inauguration ceremony was graced by the worthy deputy commissioner Kathua Sh. Rakesh Minhas (IAS) accompanied by Chief Education Officer Sh Mangat Ram Sharma who made his presence as the guest of honour. While addressing the gathering worthy deputy commissioner stressed upon to play the game with spirit of sportsmanship and also urged to keep away from the immense of drugs.



These events are held under the Aegis of Department of youth Services and Sports as a part of annual calendar of activities for the year 2025-26. All these activities are conducted under the leadership of

worthy Director General Youth Services and Sports J&K Sh. Rajinder Singh Tara (JKAS) and Under the guidance of Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu Sh Ved Prakash (JKAS) and Overall supervision of district Youth Services and Sports officer Kathua Sh Sunil Singh Sambyal. It is evident to mention here that these events are conducted at different venues viz:

- 1 Sports Stadium Kathua
- 2 Naaz Ground Billawar

3 Sports Stadium Hiranagar

Teams of 6 upper zones are playing at Naaz Ground Billawar while the teams of lower zones are competing at Sports Stadium Kathua. While Cricket matches are being played at Sports Stadium Hiranagar.

These competitions will run up to 15th of May. About 883 students competed today with great enthusiasm in the aforesaid events.

MoU between AIIMS, Viklang Samiti is beacon of hope for disabled: Suri

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

Raman Suri, Executive Member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), today said that the landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Vijaypur and Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), Jaipur is a transformative step toward empowering the disabled in Jammu & Kashmir. This agreement, aimed at providing prosthetic limbs and assistive devices free of cost, is a beacon of hope for thousands of differently-abled individuals in the region, offering them the opportunity to lead dignified and independent lives.

The MoU marks a significant expansion of prosthetic limb services in the state, which were previously limited to the Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, in collaboration with the Red Cross. With over 50,000 individuals in Jammu & Kashmir unable to walk due to disabilities, the lack of adequate facilities has long deprived many of access to life-changing prosthetic solutions. While the government has introduced several welfare measures for the disabled, serious efforts to restore their mobility have been limited. Raman Suri emphasized that this initiative addresses a critical gap in healthcare and rehabilitation services for the differently-abled.



"This MoU is a game-changer for the disabled in Jammu & Kashmir. For decades, the absence of widespread, accessible prosthetic facilities has left thousands without hope. The partnership between AIIMS Vijaypur and BMVSS, an organization with a stellar 50-year legacy of transforming lives through affordable and innovative assistive devices, will bring new life to those who have been marginalized by their disabilities," said Raman Suri.

The new facility at AIIMS Vijaypur will provide end-to-end services, including the manufacturing and fitting of prosthetic limbs and calipers on-site. This comprehensive approach will ensure that beneficiaries receive timely and high-quality support tailored to their needs.

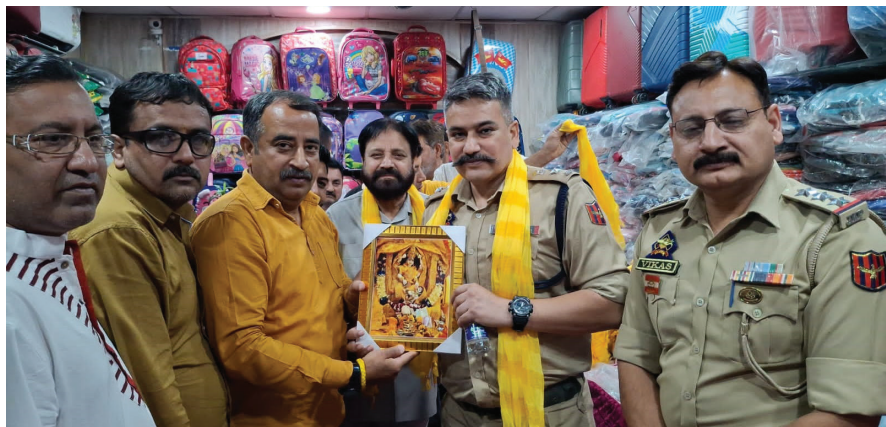
The initiative is particularly significant for residents of the state's border areas, where landmine injuries have left many individuals without limbs. Over the past two decades, the GMC Jammu centre has provided artificial limbs to several such victims, but the scale of the new AIIMS facility promises to benefit thousands more.

Raman Suri lauded BMVSS for its unparalleled contributions to the welfare of the disabled, noting that the organization's expertise and commitment will complement the government's vision of inclusive development. "The efforts of BMVSS have changed lives across India, and their collaboration with AIIMS Vijaypur will amplify their impact in Jammu & Kashmir. This initiative aligns with the BJP's commitment to ensuring that no citizen is left behind, regardless of their physical challenges," he added.

The provision of prosthetic limbs and assistive devices free of cost is a commendable step that will alleviate the financial burden on economically disadvantaged families. By enabling the disabled to walk again, this initiative will not only restore their mobility but also their confidence, dignity, and ability to contribute to society. Raman Suri expressed optimism that the success of this program will inspire further efforts to address the needs of the differently-abled across the country.

The BJP executive member extended his heartfelt gratitude to AIIMS Vijaypur, BMVSS, and all stakeholders involved in this noble endeavor. This MoU is a testament to the power of collaboration in driving meaningful change and underscores the government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of every citizen.

Grand Bagalamukhi Bhandara organized at Upper Gummat



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

Bagla Mukhi Jayanti was celebrated today under the chairmanship of National Conference Leaders Amit Gupta and Jugal Gupta, organized a grand Bagla Mukhi Bhandara at Upper Gummat. Which was inaugurated by Former Minister and Zonal President JKNC Babu Rampaul, who was chief guest and presided over by City SP Vivek Shekhar.

Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC and Former Member BCCI Ankush Abrol, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu Dis-

trict and Zonal Secretary JKNC and SHO Bus Stand Vikas Dogra were the guests of honor.

The religious and community event witnessed the presence of prominent political figures, Youth, Shopkeepers, marking a significant occasion of spiritual and social harmony.

Addressing the gathering, Babu Rampaul lauded the efforts of the organizers for fostering communal harmony and upholding the rich cultural traditions of the region. He highlighted the importance of such gatherings in strengthening societal bonds and promoting

interfaith unity.

Speaking on the occasion, Vivek Shekhar said that Bagalamukhi is one of the ten Mahavidyas (great wisdom Goddesses) in Hinduism. Bagalamukhi Devi smashes the devotee's misconceptions and delusions (or the devotee's enemies) with her cudgel. He is also known as Pitambara.

Other prominent present on the occasion include Rahul Mahajan, Mr Davinder Sharma, Adv Lovesh Bharat, Amit Gupta, Surinder, Ashwani, Rahul Gupta, Amit Sharma, Sunny Mahajan, Cheetan Singh, Hemraj and others.

Narinder donates Water Cooler to address water crisis, installed in Reasi

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 6

Shri Narinder Singh, Board Member of Movement Kalki and State President of Vishav Hindu Mahasabha, today donated and installed a water cooler at the crucial tri-junction connecting the villages of Vijaypur, Agar Ballian, and Nowabad in Reasi district.



This initiative comes at a time when the region is facing a severe shortage of drinking water, especially

impacting students and local residents. The water cooler has been strategically placed at the chowk where

hundreds of villagers and students pass through daily. Local residents have praised the effort, stating that the cooler will not only provide clean and cool drinking water but also serve as a symbol of community support and humanitarian values.

On the occasion, Shri Narinder Singh stated, "Water is the essence of life. It is our duty to serve those

in need. This may be a small step, but we hope it brings some relief to the people of this area."

This initiative by Movement Kalki and Vishav Hindu Mahasabha is being recognized as an inspiring step in the direction of public service and is encouraging other organizations to take up similar causes for community welfare.

DC Kathua chairs District Road Safety Committee meeting

J I NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 06

A meeting of the District Road Safety Committee was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas here at the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) Kathua, Basohli, Billawar and Hiranagar, representatives from Degree Colleges, BRO, Police, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and other concerned departments.

Detailed discussions were held regarding the corrective and safety measures at vulnerable spots. Emphasis was also laid on ensuring smooth plying of transport near congested locations and enhancing



commuter safety at critical points such as the Bus Stand and GMC Kathua.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the effective implementation of measures to make roads safer, to minimize

mishaps, injuries and fatalities. He stated that the district administration has developed a workable plan to enhance the overall road safety scenario, which requires the active cooperation of all stake-

holders. The DC asked enforcement departments to strictly follow traffic rules and contribute towards a smooth and congestion-free traffic environment. He directed the Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) and PMGSY to ensure regular maintenance of roads to help prevent accidents.

Stressing the importance of public awareness, the DC called for mass sensitization regarding traffic safety rules. He further instructed the stakeholder departments to take immediate steps to decongest city roads and facilitate smooth vehicle movement. Besides, he directed the MVA and traffic authorities to strictly enforce traffic laws and take stern action against violators.

736 Students participate in inter-school zone level tournaments in district Ramban

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 6

In a vibrant display of youth talent and sports enthusiasm, the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Ramban, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Choudhary and Supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Jagdish Raj Sharma, organized Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions across different zones of the district. The events witnessed spirited participation by 736 students from both government and private schools.

In Zone Batote, the competitions were conducted in Kho-Kho, Kabaddi and Badminton for U-14 and U-17 boys. The event was hosted at Government Boys Higher Secondary



School, Batote, and was inaugurated by the school Principal, Dev Raj Sharma. On the occasion, Zonal Physical Education Officer, Joginder Paul Gupta, presented a memento to the Principal as a token of appreciation. A total of 519 students from the zone participated, showcasing remarkable enthusiasm, skill, and sportsmanship throughout the competitions.

Similarly, the Inter-School Zonal Level Ath-

letic Meet and Wrestling competitions for U-14 and U-17 boys were organized at Government Degree College Gool Moila. The event drew a participation of 217 students, all of whom exhibited commendable athletic ability and dedication.

The field staff of both Zone Batote and Zone Gool played a crucial role in the successful execution of these sporting events, with their active involvement and commitment

being widely appreciated. The competitions not only highlighted the growing interest of students in physical education and competitive sports but also reflected the DYSS Department's consistent efforts to foster a healthy sporting culture in the district. Events like these provide young athletes with vital exposure and a platform to demonstrate their talents, helping pave the way for future sporting achievements.

DC Srinagar assesses ongoing TB control efforts, strides made towards TB elimination at the grassroots level

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 06

In order to assess ongoing Tuberculosis control efforts and to acknowledge the significant strides made towards TB elimination at the grassroots level, a comprehensive review meeting on National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) cum felicitation ceremony recognizing the achievements under the TB Free Panchayat initiative for the year 2024, was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

Speaking on the occasion, DC acknowledged the commendable efforts of the Health Department

and other stakeholders, appreciating the dedication shown by the teams at various levels.

Dr Bilal also sought a renewed commitment from all participants to sustain and accelerate the momentum towards TB elimination, ensuring continued collaboration and support at all levels of governance and healthcare delivery in Srinagar District.

DC further underscored that the achievement reflects the collaborative efforts of the District administration, Health, Panchayat level staff and



community health workers in combating Tuberculosis at the grassroots level.

On the occasion, a detailed and insightful presentation outlining the district's achievements and ongoing initiatives under NTEP was given by the District Tubercu-

losis Officer (DTO), Dr. Abdul Rouf. He informed the chair that all 21 Panchayats within Srinagar District have successfully attained the status of TB Free Panchayat under the Silver category for two consecutive years, marking a significant public health milestone.

Furthermore, the chair was apprised of the current diagnostic infrastructure and emphasized the critical need to strengthen it further. The demand was specifically requested to consider the provision of additional NAAT (Nucleic Acid Amplification Test) machines to the district to enhance the rate of upfront NAAT testing, enabling faster and more accurate TB diagnosis, which in turn would facilitate the initiation of timely treatment and contribute to the broader goal of TB elimination.

Later during the meeting, DC felicitated the senior Health functionaries, Block Development

Officers, Zonal Medical Officers and other health workers for achieving TB-free Panchayats status under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

The event was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; State TB Officer Kashmir, Dr. Adhfar Yasien; Assistant Director, TB DHS Kashmir, Dr. Saba Wani; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad; District Tuberculosis Officer, Dr Abdul Rouf; ZMOs of Batamaloo and Zadibal, Block Development Officers of Khonmoh, Harwan, Srinagar and Qamarwari blocks, Member IAPSM, Medical Officers of DTC, representative from BMO Hazratbal along with other health staff from NTEP Srinagar.

DM restricts use of VPNs in Doda district

J I NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 06

The District Administration Doda has prohibited the use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) in the interest of public safety, cyber security and overall integrity of digital governance in the District.

An order issued by District Magistrate Harvinder Singh stated that it has been brought to the notice that certain individuals and groups are misusing VPNs to circumvent lawful cyber restrictions and access prohibited applications, websites and digital content thereby posing a serious threat to public order, tranquility and national security.

The order further read, "In exercise of powers conferred upon me under Section 163 of the BNSS, 2023, do hereby order complete prohibition on the use of VPNs except those explicitly permitted by the government through official order within the territorial jurisdiction of district Doda, with immediate effect, until further orders."

This order shall apply on all individuals, institutions, Cyber Cafes and internet service providers (ISP) operating in the district. The SSP Doda shall ensure implementation of this order in letter and spirit.

Empowering Youth, Enabling Enterprises: JKTPPO, JKEDI launch ESDP in Samba under RAMP

J I NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAY 06

In a significant move to promote entrepreneurship and skill development across the Union Territory, the Managing Director Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) Sudershan Kumar, along with Director Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Khalid Jahangir, today formally inaugurated the first Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under the World Bank-funded RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) initiative at JKEDI in Samba district.

The Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program (ESDP) under the RAMP initiative has commenced on 5th May 2025 in the districts of Ramban, Reasi, Samba, Udhampur, Anantnag, Bandipora, Budgam, Kulgam, Kupwara, and Shopian. In the rest of the districts, the ESDP will be rolled out from 13th May 2025.

This programme is a part of a broader initiative being implemented across all districts of Jammu and Kash-



mir, with the objective of nurturing entrepreneurial spirit among the youth and providing them with tools to establish and manage sustainable business ventures.

While addressing the participants, MD JKTPPO, Sudershan Kumar extended his gratitude to JKEDI for successfully completing the first batch of the Management Development Programme (MDP) and initiating the ESDP simultaneously in all districts of J&K. He encouraged the aspiring entrepreneurs to become job providers and play a proactive role in making Jammu and Kashmir a thriving hub of entrepre-

neurship and innovation. Director JKEDI, Khalid Jahangir, provided an overview of the ESDP and highlighted the institute's pivotal role in promoting self-employment and building a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region. He reaffirmed JKEDI's commitment to empowering local youth through capacity-building initiatives and encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs to seize opportunities, offer innovative solutions, and adopt advanced technologies in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

The ESDP Batch-1 at the JKEDI Samba Centre has commenced with 35 partic-

ipants, including students from ITI Samba, Polytechnic College Samba, and Government Degree College (Commerce), Samba, with 12 female candidates. Under the RAMP initiative, a total budget of 1.5 crore has been allocated for 108 ESDP training programs, aiming to reach 3,240 beneficiaries across Jammu and Kashmir. Each training program is designed to build foundational business skills and entrepreneurial capacity. The four-week training includes modules on enterprise management, marketing strategies, business simulations, market surveys, and field visits, equipping participants with practical

knowledge and entrepreneurial competencies to launch and sustain their own businesses. JKEDI is the implementing agency for both ESDP and MDP in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme is a World Bank-supported initiative aimed at improving the performance of the MSME sector across India.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the RAMP programme is being implemented under the leadership of MD JKTPPO, Sudarshan Kumar and overall supervision of the Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. The programme focuses on strengthening institutions, enhancing market access, reducing regulatory burden, and facilitating financial access for MSMEs.

The inauguration of the ESDP at Samba signifies a milestone in the RAMP journey in J&K, as it seeks to empower youth, enhance employment opportunities, and build a robust foundation for inclusive economic growth in the region.

Arrangements for 3-day Historic Mounгри mela discussed at Udhampur

J I NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 6

The arrangement for the smooth conduct of 3 day historic Annual Shiv-Parvati Shrine Mounгри Mela scheduled from May 14, 2025 at Sar Dabber in Tehsil Mounгри were today discussed here at a meeting of District Officers and representatives of management committee of Lord Shiv-Parvati cave shrine Mounгри. The meeting was chaired by Member Legislative Assembly Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta alongside Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Threadbare discussions were held on the maintenance of roads, arrangements related to security, Sanitation, Healthcare, Transport, Drinking water and power supply, checking of rates, Ration supply, Cultural programme and sports etc.

Addressing the meeting, the DC directed the concerned officers to put in place all arrangements pertaining to their respective departments well in advance and in an effective manner, leaving no scope of any complaint from



any quarter. She directed the Police Department to ensure proper security arrangement & sensitization of surrounding areas during the mela days. The DC directed BDO Mounгри for deployment of adequate manpower and installation of dustbins to ensure proper sanitation at the Mela Site.

The meeting was informed that the 25th wrestling competition will also be organized on the third day of the mela, which is one of the main attractions of the 3-day event.

The government departments were directed to put up their respective stalls to sensitize the public regarding flagship government schemes with special emphasis on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and facilitation

centre for JK Samadhan Portal. It was also decided that the Information and Youth Services & Sports Departments, in coordination with the Education department, will organize a cultural programme and sports events at the venue.

The meeting was attended by DDC member, Jasvir Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan; Mela Officer, Tehsil Mounгри Arushi Sabharwal and other senior officers of the line departments, besides President J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association, Shiv Kumar Sharma; President Shiv Parvati Cave Shrine, Hans Raj Thakur; Dy Chief Warden Civil defence organization, Swatantra Dev Kotwal and prominent citizens.