

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 vomit, urine or stool
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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PM chairs high-level meet on national security, tells ministries to stay alert

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 08 (KNO)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with secretaries of various ministries to review national preparedness and inter-ministerial coordination in the wake of recent developments concerning national security.

The Prime Minister, as per the details obtained by the news agency, stressed the importance of seamless coordination among ministries and agencies to ensure operational continuity and institutional resilience. He called for continued alertness, institutional synergy and clear communi-



cation across all levels of government.

The meeting was attended by the Cabinet Secretary, senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office, and Secretaries from major ministries, including Defence, Home Affairs, External Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Power, Health, and Telecom-

munications.

The PM reviewed planning and preparedness measures undertaken by various ministries to address the current situation. Secretaries were directed to conduct a comprehensive review of their respective ministries' functioning and ensure an uninterrupted operation of essential sys-

tems. Special emphasis was laid on readiness, emergency response, and internal communication protocols.

The ministries were instructed to strengthen their coordination with state authorities and ground-level institutions. A Whole of Government approach was

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Pak attempts to attack 15 places in North, Western India foiled



JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 08 (KNO)

India foiled Pakistan military's attempts to attack 15 places in Northern and Western India using missiles and drones, and destroyed a Pakistani air defence system in Lahore, offi-

cials said on Thursday.

Addressing a news conference here Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Yomika Singh, according to the news agency said, "The Pakistani military attempted last night to target Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot,

Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj. These attempts were neutralised by the Integrated Counter Unmanned Aircraft System (Grid and Air

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Schools, Colleges, Universities to remain closed on Friday, Saturday

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 08 (KNO)

Amid prevailing situation, authorities on Thursday said that schools, colleges and universities shall remain closed across Jammu and Kashmir on Friday and Saturday.

Speaking to the news agency Minister of

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All J&K hospitals fully prepared to handle border tensions: Official

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 08 (KNO)

In the wake of intense cross-border shelling that has resulted in over a dozen civilian deaths and

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India denies attacking Neelum hydropower plant in POK

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

India on Thursday termed as "a blatant lie" the Pakistani leadership's claim that Indian armed forces had attacked the Neelum-Jhelum hydropower plant in POK and warned that

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

>> 'OPERATION SINDOOR'

Pak global epicenter of terrorism, terrorists given state funerals: Foreign Secretary

■ Says Pak resorting to lies since its inception ■ India's retaliatory strikes targeted only terror infrastructure ■ Rejects joint probe proposal ■ IWT to remain abeyance till terror ends

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 08 (KNO)

Stating that Pakistan has a reputation of being a "centre of global terrorism," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Thursday said that terrorists killed during "Operation Sindoor" were given state funerals in the neighbouring country.

Addressing a joint briefing here, Misri, according to the news agency stated that Pakistan remains a "global epicenter of terrorism," and revealed that terrorists killed in "Operation Sindoor" were given state funerals by the Pakistani establishment, with Pakistani Army personnel and other officials seen attending their burials. He displayed a picture of the



funeral that he referred to.

Misri blamed Pakistan for escalating tensions in the region through its continued support to terrorism, citing the April 22 terror attack at Pahalgam in South Kashmir, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, as the origin of the latest flare-up.

Following the Pahalgam

terror attack the Indian Armed Forces on Wednesday launched 'Operation Sindoor', carrying out precision strikes on nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

He said India's retaliatory strikes under "Operation Sindoor" were non-escalatory and targeted only terror infra-

structure with surgical precision. "The escalation started with the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, which was claimed twice by The Resistance Front (TRF), a known proxy for Lashkar-e-Taiba. After realizing the gravity of the situation, they retracted. But their claim stands

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Armed forces demolished terror factories inside Pak: Lt Governor Sinha



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 08 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday said that the armed forces have accomplished the goal of demolishing terror factories inside Pakistan.

The Lt Governor, according to the news agency reviewed the security situation in the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir, which was attended by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; DGP, Nalin Prabhat; Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti; ADGP CID,

Nitish Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari; Divisional Commissioners, IGP, DIGs, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and other senior officers of administration and police department.

The Lieutenant Governor took stock of the situation and the preparedness in the various districts of the UT. The officials also briefed the Lieutenant Governor the actionable measures taken on the directions passed during the meetings on May 06 to

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Landslide-hit Sgr-Jmu NH remains closed

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 08 (KNO)

The landslide-hit Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed on Thursday with the administration stating that road clearance operations are underway.

The highway was closed for traffic following a cloudburst and subsequent mudslides at over five locations, severely impacting vehicular move-

ment and stranding commuters.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, told the news agency that immediate restoration of traffic movement on the highway is a top priority to ensure that stranded vehicles and passengers reach their destinations safely.

He said that adequate manpower and machinery

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Intense shelling: CM Omar orders relief, safe accommodation for border residents

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 08 (KNO)

After the intense shelling along the Line of Control (LoC), Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday directed to provide safe accommodation for all those affected in the border districts.

The Chief Minister, as reported by the news agency, chaired the meeting of Deputy Commissioners of border dis-



tricts of the region for the second straight day to assess the ground situation.

The meeting, held at Civil Secretariat Srinagar, was attended by Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir V K Bidhuri, Secretary Health and Medical Education

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

CS takes stock of arrangements for SANJY-2025

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 08 (KNO)

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday chaired a high level meeting of all the concerned departments attended by the senior functionaries of Civil Administration and Police to review the position of arrangements being made for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji-Yatra (SANJY) 2025.

Dulloo had department wise appraisal of the status of facilities to be created by them for safety, security and convenience of the pilgrims going to visit the holy cave during the yatra period.

The Chief Secretary took a detailed review of the facilities to be created for pilgrims



particularly in transit camps, lodgements and enroute Jammu-Srinagar National Highway besides on both the axis leading to holy cave from Baltal and Chandanwari.

He directed the concerned to suitably augment all the

requisite facilities to ensure smooth and safe conduct of the pilgrimage. He directed the line departments including the PWD, Jal Shakti, PDD, H&UDD, RDD, Tourism, Health, Forest, FCS&CA, Telecom, DMRR&R and others to ensure that the

works identified for them are completed well in advance.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned Divisional Commissioners to ensure proper coordination among the departments for timely execution of works on ground. He stressed on finalization of tenders for services like sanitation and others to be done before June so that the service providers are available much before the commencement of the yatra.

He also took detailed overview of the ongoing works, condition of tracks, infrastructure and that of other services like capacity of base camps, transit camps, lodgements, holding areas from

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MeT issues yellow alert for May 9-10 as light rains likely across J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 08 (KNO)

While the light rains lashed multiple areas across Kashmir, the weatherman here has issued a "yellow alert" for May 09 and 10, predicting brief spells of light rain, thundershower and gusty winds at scattered to fairly widespread places across Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the news agency, a two-day yellow alert has been issued by the MeT from May 09.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said partly to generally

cloudy with a spell of light to moderate rain, thundershower and gusty winds are expected at scattered to fairly widespread places.

The parts of Kashmir, including Srinagar - the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, were lashed by the light rains on Thursday, bringing down the temperature across the valley.

The MeT Director further predicted the possibility of a brief spell of light rain and thundershower at isolated places on May 12, adding that there is a forecast of generally dry weather conditions from May

13 to May 17.

Meanwhile, the MeT has called upon people to follow the administration and traffic advisory.

"Avoid boating, shikara riding in Dal Lake, Wular Lake and other water bodies during inclement weather and gusty winds," it said in the advisory, adding that intense showers at a few vulnerable places may lead to landslides and mudslides.

The MeT further said there is a forecast of a significant rise in day temperature from May 13 onwards, mainly in the Jammu division. KNO

Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan DIPR Cultural Unit organises thematic cultural awareness at GHSS Tikri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Cultural Unit of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu today conducted a Cultural Awareness Programme themed 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan' (Say No to Drugs) at the Government Higher Secondary School Tikri-Udhampur.

The aim of this initiative was to enhance awareness among the students regarding the detrimental effects of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free community. Artists from the Cultural Unit Jammu captivated the audience with thematic songs, effectively demonstrating the repercussions of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society at large.

The programme was



attended by both staff and students from the School. The students presented a Nukkad Natak and performed a song centered on the theme. The School Principal Monika Karluia expressed her insights on the subject, highlighting its significance to the audience. She commended the Department of Information

and Public Relations for organizing such a meaningful programme designed to enhance awareness.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

DC Reasi felicitates JK Board Class 10th and 12th Toppers

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 8

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik felicitated the district's top-performing students in the JK Board Class 10th and 12th examinations for the academic year 2024-25, here today. The felicitation ceremony was held in the Auditorium of the DC Office Complex, where students were honored for their outstanding academic achievements.

Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik congratulated the students on their success and commended their dedication.

Trophies were awarded to the meritorious students as a token of appreciation and encouragement.

The Class 12th toppers were Pranvi Sharma (Science stream), Khushdeep Kour (Commerce stream), and Hitakshi Sharma (Arts stream). In Class



10th, Kamakshi Sambhal of Gurukul Public School and Sakshi Devi of Government Higher Secondary School Reasi were recognized for their exceptional results in the private and government school categories, respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner praised the hard work and perseverance of the students, as well as the guidance provided by their teachers and the unwavering support of their families. She offered heartfelt congratulations to all the achievers and encouraged students to

pursue their goals fearlessly, continue learning with curiosity, and strive for excellence. She further emphasized that the administration remains committed to supporting every young achiever in Reasi.

The event concluded with enthusiastic applause and a deep sense of pride as parents, teachers, and officials celebrated the students' success. The ceremony stood as a powerful reminder of the transformative impact of education and the immense potential of the district's youth.

DC conducts on site inspection of restoration works on NH-44 in Ramban



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 08

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today visited several sites along the National Highway-44 (NH-44) damaged due to fresh mudslides.

Accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kulbir Singh, and SSP Traffic National Highway, Raja Adil Hamid, monitored the ongoing restoration work at Seri and other affected locations across the district.

The National Highway was closed for traffic after a fresh cloudburst today morning and subsequent mudslides at over five locations, severely impacting vehicular movement and stranding commuters.

Taking stock of the work in progress, the Deputy Commissioner said that restoration of traffic movement on NH-44 is the top priority to ensure that stranded vehicles and passengers reach their destinations safely. He informed that

adequate manpower and machinery have been pressed into service to expedite the clearance operations.

The Deputy Commissioner also informed that the cloudburst has significantly affected villages like Bagna, Maroge, Balihote, and Sincha. Assessment of damages and immediate restoration work will start soon in these areas to mitigate the impact on local residents.

Further, the district administration is providing all possible assistance, including food and other essential items, to stranded drivers and needy individuals.

The Deputy Commissioner has appealed to the public to remain patient, follow official traffic and weather advisories, and avoid unnecessary travel until the highway is fully restored and safe for movement. Rely on Information available on official handles of District Administration, District Police Ramban and Traffic Police, he added.

GMC Doda organises Blood Donation Camp to mark World Red Cross Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 8

A blood donation camp was today organised at Associated Hospital, Government Medical College Doda to mark World Red Cross Day.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh inaugurated the Camp in presence of the GMC Principal, Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Medical Superintendent, healthcare staff and other functionaries, who actively participated in the event.

The camp was organised to mark World Red Cross Day, celebrated worldwide to honor the humanitarian efforts of the Red Cross Movement.

This year's theme for World Red Cross Day emphasizes the value of humanity, highlighting the spirit of compassion and



selflessness.

The Deputy Commissioner lauded the Red Cross Society and the hospital administration for organizing the camp and stressed the importance of voluntary blood donation in saving lives. He expressed his gratitude to the volunteers for their invaluable contribution to society. He also acknowledged the vital role of healthcare professionals in organizing the camp and ensuring its success. The event witnessed active participation from volunteers, healthcare

workers, and members of the community, reflecting a strong commitment to social welfare and community health. The blood collected during the camp will be utilized to support patients requiring transfusions, thereby helping save lives.

The hospital administration extended their heartfelt thanks to all the donors and participants for their support and cooperation, emphasizing that every unit of blood donated can make a significant difference.

Mini-Super Bazar M-PACS -Maitra inaugurated at Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 08

The Cooperative Mini-Super Bazar M-PACS Maitra, established by the Cooperative Department, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, with a project cost of Rs. 95.42 lakh, was inaugurated here today for public service.

The state-of-the-art retail facility was jointly inaugurated by Chairperson, District Development Council Dr. Shamshad Shan and local Member Legislative Assembly Arjun Singh Raju. The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary; Senior Superintendent of Police, Kulbir Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak; Deputy Registrar Cooperatives Societies, Priyanka Sharma; along with prominent citizens, officers from various departments, and officials of the Cooperative Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairperson emphasized the significance of strengthening grassroots-level cooperative institutions to boost the local economy and create self-sustaining employment avenues. She lauded the department's efforts in executing the project efficiently and hoped that the Mini-Super Bazar would meet the essential commodity needs of the public at fair



prices.

The MLA congratulated the Cooperative Department and the district administration for completing this public-centric initiative. He stressed the importance of such cooperative ventures in enhancing market access for local producers and generating economic opportunities in rural and semi-urban areas.

The Deputy Commissioner advised the Cooperative Department and the managing staff to ensure quality services, transparency and people-friendly practices. He highlighted the potential of the Mini-Super Bazar to serve as a model for similar projects in other parts of the district. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to empowering cooperative institutions for inclusive development.

Earlier, the Deputy Registrar gave a detailed briefing of Cooperative Mini Super Bazar. She empha-

sized that Cooperative Mini super Bazar would also cater to the market needs of the farmers associated with production of organic products by giving them a platform to sell their produce to the customers. The Mini Super Bazar houses a special organic and local produce section for that purpose, so that the local farmers of the area can sell their produce at competitive prices instead of falling prey to distress selling at low prices. The project also offers good potential for employment generation for the youth of the area and can go a long way in enhancing the financial prospects of the society.

The newly inaugurated Mini-Super Bazar is expected to cater to a wide range of consumer needs, promoting fair trade practices, providing market linkage to local products and boosting cooperative-led retail in the region.

Satish Sharma visits cross border firing victims; assures support to displaced residents

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Service Sports, Satish Sharma, today visited Milan Di Khui, Kachrial, Thanger, Khour Camp, Khour Bazar, Nalriana, Nai Basti and RD Resort, where displaced residents from Gigrial, Garar, Sainth and adjoining zero-line villages have taken temporary shelter.

The Minister met with the affected families to take stock of their concerns besides assessing the on-ground situation.

Admiring the courage and resilience of the border residents, the Minister stated, "The spirit shown by the people in these areas under such trying circumstances is truly inspiring. The government stands firmly with them and will ensure that all necessary support is provided to them promptly."

During the visit, Satish Sharma issued instructions to the local administration to ensure uninterrupted provision of essential services including food supplies, healthcare, sanitation and temporary housing. He emphasized the need for a responsive



and humane approach in addressing the needs of the displaced population.

Satish Sharma assured them that the government under the dynamic leadership of Omar Abdullah is actively working on enhancing bunker infrastructure, restoring essential supplies and strength-

ening emergency communication systems to ensure their safety and well-being.

The visit highlighted the government's commitment not only to provide immediate relief but also to formulate long-term support mechanisms for those living in sensitive border areas.

Satish Sharma visits GMC Jammu; enquires about health of Cross Border shelling victims

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Service Sports, Satish Sharma, today visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu to meet and enquire about the health, well-being of civilians injured in the recent cross border firing incidents along the Line of Control (LoC). During the

visit, Sharma interacted with the injured and their families, assuring them of government's full support in ensuring the best possible medical care and rehabilitation. He directed the GMC administration and medical staff to provide all necessary assistance and maintain high standards of care for the injured.

"We stand firmly with every citizen affected by this cowardly act," said the

Minister. "The government is committed towards safeguarding the lives and dignity of our people living in border areas", he emphasized. The Minister was accompanied by senior officials from the Health Department and the District Administration, who briefed him on the ongoing treatment and the measures being taken to support the victims and their families.

District Administration Poonch disburses immediate relief, Ex Gratia from Red Cross Fund

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 08

The District Administration Poonch under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, has disbursed immediate relief and ex gratia assistance from the District Red Cross Fund to shelling affected individuals and their families.

An ex gratia amount of Rs. 6 lakh has been provided to the next of kin of the deceased, Rs. 50,000 to those who sustained serious injuries, and Rs.

20,000 to individuals with minor injuries. The relief has been extended in accordance with established norms to ensure timely support to the victims.

The Deputy Commissioner reaffirmed the administration's commitment to public welfare and assured that all necessary assistance will continue for those affected. The District Administration is actively monitoring the situation and taking all measures to safeguard the well being of the residents.

ACR reviews implementation of E-Waste Management Action Plan in Kishtwar District

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 8

Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Idrees Lone today convened a meeting to review the implementation of the E-Waste (Management) Action Plan in the District.

The meeting was attended by CMO Dr. Rajinder Kumar; Divisional Officer Pollution Control Committee Dr. Mohan Lal Sneh and representatives from major power projects such as Pakal Dul and Kwar HEP, among other Stakeholders.

Stress was laid on scientific disposal of electronic waste and strict adherence to the notified guidelines by the stakeholder departments.

The ACR underscored the need for generating



awareness among the general public, including shopkeepers, project workers, and other community members, about the hazards of improper e-waste disposal and the correct methods of handling it. The stakeholders

were asked to compile a comprehensive inventory of all e-waste generated within their respective domains and ensure its submission to authorized agencies only, avoiding any unauthorized disposal practices.

Empowering Local Enterprises: District-level RAMP Awareness Workshop held at Baramulla

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 8

Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), in collaboration with State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) Grant Thornton Bharat LLP and the District Industries Centre (DIC) Baramulla, conducted the district-level RAMP awareness workshop at the DIC office in Baramulla.

The event was presided over by General Manager, DIC Baramulla, Nighat Alam and witnessed enthusiastic participation from Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), local artisans, aspiring entrepreneurs, and representatives of various industrial associations.

Officials from key implementing agencies including District Industries Centre (DIC), J&K Entrepreneurship Development

Institute (JKEDI), Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Lead Bank, and other stakeholders were also present at the workshop.

JKTPO, the nodal agency for implementing RAMP in the Union Territory, is driving these workshops under the overall supervision of the Department of Industries and Commerce, J&K, to ensure inclusive outreach and capacity-building of local MSEs and entrepreneurs across districts.

The objective of the workshop was to spread awareness about the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) program and its benefits, schemes, and initiatives aimed at strengthening the MSME ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. Participants were informed about support mechanisms under RAMP such

as market linkages, digital financing, skilling, cluster development, and ease of doing business reforms.

During the workshop, the SPIU team delivered a detailed presentation on the RAMP program, outlining the implementation procedures for various interventions such as market access, skilling, credit facilitation, and cluster development.

The SPIU also addressed several queries raised by both the implementing agencies and participating MSMEs, ensuring greater clarity and alignment for effective execution of RAMP initiatives.

The workshop concluded with an interactive session where participants shared their queries and feedback, contributing to a better understanding of on-ground needs and challenges faced by local enterprises.

SDRF 2nd Battalion conducts Mock Drill at IIT Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

The SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu, in collaboration with Medical and Fire Services personnel, on Thursday conducted a Mock Drill Exercise here at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu.

The Mock Drill was conducted under the direction of Battalion Commandant Zahid Naseem Manhas.

A simulated scenario was created to show different types of Disasters that may occur due to enemy Air Raids, firing incidents & Structure Collapse etc.

The SDRF Team responded in the shortest possible time i.e 22 minutes and displayed a wonderful mock drill witnessed by about 400 students and staff members of IIT Jammu.

Questions were entertained by the demonstrators and supervisory officers to clear the doubts. Director HG Jammu /I/C DIG HG/CD & SDRF Mohammed Arshad, Sonia Haq Khan, AC (G) (Representative of Controller CD Jammu and officers of SDRF 2nd Bn. supervised the event.

Among others present on the occasion were Director IIT Jammu Professor Manoj Singh Gaur, Faculty members, Security Staff and Students of IIT Jammu.

The team consisted of 35 SDRF personnel, 06 Firemen and 02 medical department Personnel. Officers lauded the wonderful demonstration exhibited by the team and advised them to exhibit the same enthusiasm in real time scenario disaster response.

Red Cross Day: District Red Cross Committee organizes programme at GGHSS Amira Kadal

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

In connection with the celebration of World Red Cross Day-2025, an impressive function was organized by District Red Cross Committee at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Amira Kadal, here today.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Chairman District Red Cross Committee was the chief guest on the occasion.

Addressing the function, DC underlined the role of District Red Cross Society in offering help, care, and life-saving services to people in disasters. He also highlighted the role of Red Cross teams, volunteers in providing humanitarian aid and support during emergencies and everyday life.

Dr Bilal lauded the dedication, compassion,



courage of the District Red Cross team and other volunteers for working tirelessly by responding to the needy people during any calamity or exigent situation.

DC remarked that natural calamities have spared no one during any worst situations, but Red Cross staff and volunteers play pivotal role in saving and rehabilitation of people.

He also deliberated upon the background of the Red Cross Society and remembered international

Red Cross volunteers their contribution for the welfare and betterment of the society.

DC said that the society was formed long ago which benefited thousands of needy all over the world.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Adil Fareed; Chief Education Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Deputy CEO, ZMO Batamaloo, Principal GGHSS Amira Kadal, staff and others were present in the event.

DC inspects Patwar Khana at Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 8

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan conducted a detailed inspection of the Patwar Khana Kishtwar building today, emphasizing the need for immediate upgrades and cleanliness around the premises. During the visit, the DC directed the AEE MED to promptly prepare and submit estimates for the renovation of the first floor building of the Patwar Khana Kishtwar.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Municipal Council to undertake a comprehensive cleanliness drive,



including desilting of the adjacent drains, removal of debris, and proper disposal of waste material in the surroundings.

The DC was accompa-

nied by Tehsildar Kishtwar Nirbhay Sharma, AEE Mechanical Division Kishtwar Umar Mushtaq besides other concerned Officials.

DC Poonch enquires about wellbeing of injured civilians; Reviews provision of amenities at public shelter

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 08

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today visited Raja Sukhdev Singh District Hospital to inquire about the wellbeing of individuals injured in yesterday's cross border shelling.

During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the injured and expressed his heartfelt solidarity with the bereaved family members. He assured them of comprehensive support and assistance from the administration amid this challenging time.

In a directive to the medical staff, he emphasized the importance of providing the best possible treatment to the injured, ensuring they face no inconveniences in their recovery. He also visited the Blood Bank to review the availability of blood and directed staff



to ensure an adequate and uninterrupted supply to meet any emergency needs.

Later, Deputy Commissioner along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik and other district officers, visited Government Polytechnic College Sathra, the designated shelter camp for residents of Tehsil Mandi. The visit aimed to review the availability

of basic facilities such as food, clothing, medicines and water for the sheltered individuals. He directed the concerned Tehsildar to closely monitor the operations to avoid inconvenience to the people. All necessary facilities including food, power, water, and sanitation have been made available in all shelter camps to ensure the well-being and comfort of displaced residents.

DC Doda inspects progress of Work on GMC Teaching Hospital

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, APRIL 08

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh today inspected the ongoing construction work of the Government Medical College Teaching Hospital building. During his visit, the DC emphasized the need for the timely completion of the project to enhance healthcare infrastructure in the district.

During the inspection, he interacted with the GMC Principal, Executive Engineer (Xen) PWD R&B, and other staff members to assess the progress and address any challenges being faced in the construc-



tion process. He urged the concerned departments to expedite the work, ensuring that quality standards are strictly maintained.

Highlighting the importance of healthcare facili-

ties, DC Doda announced that, in coordination with the National Health Mission (NHM), a Critical Care Unit (CCU) will be established within the hospital building.

LMD Kulgam imposes Rs1.55 lakh penalty on Agrochemical entities for regulatory violations

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MAY 8

In a significant move towards safeguarding consumer rights and ensuring strict enforcement of regulatory standards, Legal Metrology Department (LMD),

Kulgam, has imposed a penalty amounting to 1.55 lakh on various agrochemical entities for violations of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 and other relevant provisions under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. The

enforcement drive was carried out on the instructions of Anuradha Gupta, Controller, Legal Metrology Department J&K. During routine market inspections conducted by the inspection team of the department, serious discrepancies

were detected with regard to mandatory declarations on packaged commodities, including agrochemical products. The violations primarily pertained to non-compliance with statutory requirements such as incorrect labeling, absence of

manufacturing details, and non-declaration of net quantity, among others.

Following the detection of these irregularities, cases were formally booked, and the concerned agrochemical entities subsequently approached the department

with applications seeking compounding of the offences. After following the due process of law, a penalty of Rs1.55 lakh was realised from the erring entities in accordance with the provisions of the Legal Metrology Act.

Red Cross Society observes 'World Red Cross Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

J&K branch of Indian Red Cross Society Thursday organized an event to commemorate 'World Red Cross Day 2025' in Red Cross House Srinagar.

Red Cross staffers and the volunteers were present on the occasion.

G.A. Qureshi, Hon. Treasurer IRCS J&K hoisted the Red Cross flag. Addressing the gathering, Qureshi spoke on this year's theme 'Keeping Humanity Alive' which captures the essence of what the Red Cross Movement stands

for-neutrality, compassion and unwavering support for those in need.

He urged the Red Crossers to be present for the people in their most difficult times, putting humanity first regardless of race, gender, nationality, reli-

gion or political beliefs.

"On this day, let us take pledge to alleviate human sufferings and wipe every tear. Today is an opportunity for us to unite in our persistent commitment to a common humanity. We also reaffirm the fundamental principles of the Red Cross movement, which are at the heart of everything we do to assist people in need and during troublesome times. Let us continue to work together and be a beacon of hope to those who are in despair and support to those who feel forgotten or deprived," he said.

He enjoined upon the Red Cross volunteers to remain in close contact with the respective Deputy Commissioners for providing prompt and effective assistance during emergencies and crisis situations.

DC Jammu chairs Monitoring Committee meeting for Ramnagar Eco Sensitive Zone

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya, who chairs the Monitoring Committee of the Eco-Sensitive Zone of Ramnagar Wildlife Sanctuary, chaired a meeting today to discuss the formulation of the Zonal Master Plan.

The consultancy work for drafting the Master Plan has been formally allotted following the completion of the Expression of Interest process. Submission deadlines were shared

with the agency, and the Committee directed for completing the plan within the scheduled time frame.

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Wildlife Warden Jammu and Member Secretary Vijay Kumar, wherein the Committee members from various departments, including Commissioner JMC Dr Devansh Yadav, AC Danish Rasool Mir, District Mining Officer Varinder Singh, I/c Range Officer Forests Virender Kumar besides others were present.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.iraps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.
Tender No. 251-Elect-T-03-2025-26 Name of Work Electrical work in connection with Upgrade and modification of existing RPF Barrack by providing 20 Bedded Female Barrack accommodation with store, kitchen, Gym, Entertainment Room, Parking at Anritsar and provision of Divangian, Toilet, entry path, 50 mtr COP and drinking water booth for divangians under ADEN-I/ASR and ADEN-II/ASR and provision of 02 no's 225KL RCC OH tanks in lieu of old abandoned steel overhead water storage tank with pumping pipes with pump house bore & pump at ASR under ADEN-II/ASR and Beas under ADEN-I/ASR. App. Cost. (in ₹) Rs. 22,54,218.28p Earnest Money (in ₹) Rs. 45,100.00p Completion period 6 Months Opening of tender 28.05.2025 after 15:00 Hrs. Website Particulars www.iraps.gov.in
No. 251-Elect/T, Notice No. 03-Elect/2025-26 Dated:- 07.05.2025 1370/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Notice
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.
Catalogue No. Auction Starts Name of Work
EAFZR-SLR25-66 26.05.2025 11:00 Hrs. Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 15708/R1, 12138/R1, 18238/R1, 20808/R1, 13006/R1, 11058/R1, 12926/R1 & 12904/R1.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.iraps.gov.in 1368/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PM chairs high-level...

underlined as key to addressing any emerging challenges.

The secretaries shared details of their planning and identified action points relevant to their respective sectors. The meeting also included discussions on enhancing civil defence mechanisms, tackling misinformation and fake news, and securing critical infrastructure. The overall focus remained on ensuring institutional preparedness, coordination, and national security.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh briefed opposition leaders on Operation Sindoor, the Indian military's response to the Pahalgam terror attack. He said that over 100 terrorists were killed in the operation, which remains ongoing. Rajnath said the Indian military is prepared to respond to any escalation but does not seek further military action unless provoked.

The government shared limited operational details, citing national security concerns. The opposition extended support to the government in counter-terrorism efforts.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said all parties expressed solidarity with the government and acknowledged the need for confidentiality in certain matters.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the all-party meeting was held in a cordial environment and commended the political leadership for maintaining unity and refraining from criticism during a sensitive time.

The government has maintained that it remains vigilant and prepared to protect national interests while ensuring internal coordination across agencies and ministries. KNO

Pak attempts to...

Defence systems).
Pertinently, the Pakistani attempt came after Indian armed forces early Wednesday carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan under "Operation Sindoor" and destroyed these sites.

"India's anti-terror response was focused, measured and non-escalatory and that Pakistani military establishments had not been targeted. Any attack on military targets in India will invite a suitable response," they said.

Colonel Qureshi and Wing Commander Singh said, "Today morning Indian armed forces targeted air defence radars and systems at a number of locations in Pakistan. Indian response has been in the same domain with the same intensity as Pakistan. It has been reliably learnt that an air defence system at Lahore has been neutralised."

They said, "Pakistan has increased the intensity of its unprovoked firing across the Line of Control using mortars and heavy calibre artillery in areas in Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Poonch, Mendhar and Rajouri sectors in Jammu and Kashmir. Innocent lives have been lost, due to Pakistani firing," they said.

"India was compelled to respond to bring mortar and artillery fire from Pakistan to a halt. Indian Armed Forces reiterate their commitment to non-escalation, provided it is respected by the Pakistani military," they added. KNO

Pak global epicenter...

documented," said Misri.
He highlighted that India's intention is not to escalate matters, and the armed forces are only responding to the escalation.

He also added that no military targets have been targeted and only terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan has been hit. "Now if there is an attempt at further escalation by Pakistan, it will be responded to in an appropriate domain and therefore the choices entirely that of Pakistan to make," Misri asserted.

He condemned Pakistan's attempts to whitewash its complicity in terrorism, noting how Islamabad had opposed the mention of the terror organisation The Resistance Force (TRF) in the United Nations Security Council statement regarding the Pahalgam terror attack.

PAK RESORTING TO LIES SINCE ITS INCEPTION

He dismissed Pakistan's claims that it had downed Indian jets. "The claims are baseless propaganda. These are a part of a long-standing pattern of misinformation. Pakistan has been resorting to falsehoods since its inception in 1947, including its denial of involvement in the invasion of Jammu and Kashmir before the United Nations. There is nothing surprising in it. After all, this is a country that started lying as soon as it was born. In 1947, when the Pakistani army claimed Jammu and Kashmir, they lied not to any random person but to the United Nations that we have nothing to do with it. So this journey started 75 years ago."

Referring to the recent statement of Pakistan foreign minister that there are no terrorists in the country, the Foreign Secretary said, "This is the same country where Osama bin Laden was found, and whom their leadership called a 'martyr'. Their ministers, past and present, including the Defence and Foreign Ministers, have publicly acknowledged their country's involvement in sponsoring terrorism," Misri said.

INDIVIDUALS ELIMINATED WERE ACTIVE TERRORISTS

Clarifying India's response to the Pahalgam attack, Misri asserted that the May 7 operation was precise and targeted only terror infrastructure. "No military installations were attacked. The aim was not to escalate tensions but to dismantle the infrastructure enabling cross-border terrorism," he said.

He also rebutted Pakistan's narrative that only civilians were killed, stating, "Individuals eliminated were active terrorists. Their funerals were attended by Pakistani Army soldiers. These were not civilians."

Misri added that India deliberately refrained from attacking any civilian or critical infrastructure. "Claims of damage to the Neelum-Jhelum Dam are baseless. It was never targeted. If this claim is used as a pretext to strike Indian infrastructure, Pakistan will be held fully responsible for the consequences."

'COMMUNALISATION ATTEMPT

Misri expressed concern over Pakistan's attempt to communalize the conflict, referring to the communal undertones in statements made by the Pakistani Army Chief and the religious profiling linked to the Pahalgam attack.

He reiterated that Indians of all faiths stand united against terrorism and condemned Pakistan's misuse of

religious sites to train terrorists. "The Pakistan Army even attacked a gurdwara in Poonch and killed three members of the Sikh community. This is unacceptable," he said.

NO JOINT PROBE

Responding to Pakistan's call for a joint investigation into the Pahalgam attack, Misri reminded that India had cooperated during the 2008 Mumbai attacks and the 2016 Pathankot attack, even allowing Pakistani officials access and sharing evidence. "Pakistan stonewalled all efforts and used the information to defend terrorists. We no longer trust Pakistan's intent," he said, as per KNO.

INDUS WATERS TREATY IN ABEYANCE UNTIL TERROR ENDS

Touching on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), the Foreign Secretary disclosed that India has put the treaty in abeyance until Pakistan ends its support for terrorism. "India has upheld the treaty's spirit for over six decades, even during war. But Pakistan has consistently violated it, refusing to engage in meaningful discussions on its modernization," he said, referring to the treaty's outdated reliance on 1950s-era engineering.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Highlighting the international response, Misri said that every major diplomatic mission around the world recognized and condemned the Pahalgam attack, with countries like the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar appreciating India's restraint and responsible conduct.

"India's Executive Director at the IMF will raise concerns about Pakistan's duplicity. Let those who choose to open their purses for Pakistan also open their eyes to its record," he added.

Misri warned that any attempt by Pakistan to escalate the situation will be met with a strong response. "We have made our position clear. Pakistan escalated first, and we have responded with maturity and clarity. Any further provocation will be dealt with appropriately," he said.

NO INFO ABOUT NSAs BEING IN CONTACT

Asked about reports of contact between the NSAs of India and Pakistan, the Foreign Secretary said, "I have no information with regard to contacts between the two National Security Advisors."

Replying to a query about India was considering severing diplomatic ties with Pakistan entirely, Misri emphasised that "nothing further from the decision already spelt out by the government." KNO

Armed forces demolished...

ensure Physical infrastructure, Public safety and Cyber security. The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials to be on alert and deal sternly with any attempts to disturb public order and take the strongest possible measures to prevent fake news and disinformation.

"I have full confidence in the ability of officials, Police and security forces to face any emergent situation. Seamless coordination among the Administration, Police and Armed Forces is the key in the present situation. Deputy Commissioners and SSPs must together visit the vulnerable areas and spend time with people on the ground and focus on their needs and be responsive," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed Divisional Commissioners to meet prominent citizens and ensure continuous public engagement. He said other district officers should also visit border areas and meet the citizens and ensure their safety, medicare etc.

"We have to take precautionary measures and be prepared for any exigency. Ensure effective execution of Evacuation plan and other SoPs. All basic facilities at shelter centres to be ensured," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that our armed forces have accomplished the goal of demolishing terror factories inside Pakistan and ensured that no one dares to indulge in this kind of misadventure in future.

"The adversary, however, is targeting civilians and on the night of 07-08 May 2025, attempted to engage a number of military targets in the country and the UT of Jammu Kashmir. These were neutralised. We need to be alert and Civil Administration, Defence and law enforcement authorities must work unitedly to tackle all the challenges on the ground," the Lieutenant Governor said. KNO

Landslide-hit Sgr-Jmu...

have been deployed to expedite the clearance operations.

The Deputy Commissioner also said that the cloudburst has significantly affected villages such as Bagna, Marog, Bahihote, and Sincha. Assessment of damages and immediate restoration work will begin soon in these areas to mitigate the impact on local residents.

Furthermore, the district administration is providing all possible assistance, including food and other essential items, to stranded drivers and others in need.

The Deputy Commissioner has appealed to the public to remain patient, follow official traffic and weather advisories, and avoid unnecessary travel until the highway is fully restored and safe for movement.

He also urged people to rely on information available through the official handles of the district administration, District Police Ramban and Traffic Police. KNO

Intense shelling: CM...

Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah and others.

The Chief Minister called for making immediate arrangements to provide safe accommodation for all those affected in border districts and ensuring uninterrupted essentials to the people.

In a post on X, the Office of Chief Minister, J&K, quoted Omar as saying that coordinated supply of food, drinking water, power and other essentials is being ensured on priority.

The ambulance services are being augmented to handle any medical emergencies effectively while adequate medical facilities and staff are being mobilised to provide timely care to those in need, the post reads. KNO

CS takes stock...

the concerned Deputy Commissioners. He impressed upon them to make sure that no such facility is established in disaster prone areas and measures like fire-safety audit and compliance with all the safety parameters

is done without any compromise.

The Chief Secretary exhorted the administration to increase the ambit of digital prepaid services for the ease of both the pilgrims and service-providers. He asked them to create necessary provisions for enabling most of the transactions are done through this hassle-free mechanism only.

Dulloo further took note of the roles and responsibilities of the Departments like Health, FCS&CA, Forest, Animal Husbandry, SDRF, Information, Transport, Fire & Emergency Services in the successful conduct of the pilgrimage. He directed them to make adequate arrangements of the services provided by each of them along with the backups for any of the unforeseen circumstances. He asked for showing exemplary coordination with each other to make this religious affair memorable for all of the pilgrims coming to undertake yatra this year.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor and CEO SASB made a detailed presentation on the requirements for successful conduct of this year's annual Amarnathjiyatra here. He also highlighted the roles of the government departments, Security forces and different service providers during this time.

He called on the concerned Deputy Commissioners to conspicuously earmark the disaster prone areas for avoiding pitching of tents/shops/langars there. He asked for ensuring every Yatri/ service provider is allowed on the yatra track only after ascertaining that the concerned is carrying valid RFID card besides employing effective crowd management and optimum frisking time at each access control gate.

He made out that during SANJY-2024, the holding capacity inside yatra camps established at different locations was over 58,000 and outside yatra area it was around 53,000 scattered over different districts right from Lakhampur to Ganderbal. He made out that this year the capacity would suitably be augmented with lodgement facilities to be created near relevant Railway Stations too.

Regarding registration of Labour and other service providers, it was given out that till 07.05.2025, a total of 5,134 ponies, 4,910 pony owners, 325 Pithus, 436 Palki-walas and 27 Hawkers had been registered by the twin Departments of Labour and Animal Husbandry here. It was added that all the ponies stands insured under National Livestock Mission for a sum of Rs. 50,000 per animal, covering both natural as well as accidental deaths.

With respect to the weather forecasting infrastructure for dissemination of timely information about weather updates it was revealed that automatic weather stations at appropriate locations would be made operational by 20th June.

Moreover, large sized LED display boards at Base Camps, SMS alert to Administration/Yatra officers, CAP alert by IMD in case of sudden development of potentially hazardous weather condition, Yatra specific web page, Doppler Weather Radar at Banihal top in addition to deployment of IMD officials at Baltal and Nunwan would also be made to make the yatra safe and secure for every pilgrim. KNO

Schools, Colleges, Universities...

Education, Sakina Itoo said, "Keeping in view the safety of students, all the private and government schools, colleges and universities shall remain closed on Friday and Saturday."

Registrar of KU also said, "We have decided to suspend the classwork for Friday. If there are any other changes, we will notify the students accordingly.".

All J&K hospitals...

injured approximately 100 others along the Line of Control (LoC), hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir are on high alert to manage any further escalation of the conflict.

An official from the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department informed the news agency that the health infrastructure is fully prepared to handle emergencies.

Eight districts—three in Kashmir and five in Jammu—bordering Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), are considered most vulnerable to injuries, and all necessary facilities have been activated to ensure timely treatment for the injured.

The government Medical College (GMC) Hospital Jammu, a leading healthcare institution in the region, said it is ready to manage medical emergencies arising from ongoing border tensions.

"We are equipped to respond to any situation. Mini ICUs with ventilators and monitors are operational, and we have sufficient stocks of medicines," said an official at GMC Jammu.

The hospital has prepared over 200 beds, with medical teams and logistical support staff on standby to provide 24/7 care, especially for those affected by shelling incidents. Authorities have also issued alerts to health facilities in border districts such as Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, and Samba, urging vigilance and preparedness. Similar instructions have been disseminated in districts across north Kashmir.

The shelling, which began early Wednesday, was reportedly a retaliatory strike by Indian forces targeting nine terror infrastructure sites in Pakistan and PoK. This military action was in response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, which resulted in 26 civilian deaths.

Poonch district has borne the brunt of Wednesday's shelling. Many homes have been damaged, and residents are relocating to safer areas.

Health authorities have assured the public that all necessary arrangements are in place to handle any emergencies. "From blood banks to trauma units, everything is ready. We have coordinated with district hospitals to ensure efficient patient management," officials said.

An official at GMC Rajouri said the hospital remains alert, as cases from road accidents and other emergencies continue daily. However, given the heightened shelling impact on Poonch and Rajouri, they are especially vigilant this time.

Hospitals also said adequate stocks of medicines and blood supplies are available across all blood banks. They have called on volunteers to step forward and donate blood voluntarily, to ensure sufficient reserves in case of emergencies.

Meanwhile, authorities continue to monitor the

border situation closely, as fears of further escalation persist. The Jammu and Kashmir administration has urged residents in vulnerable areas to follow safety advisories and cooperate with emergency services to ensure safety and preparedness. KNO

India denies...

if Islamabad is trying to make it a "pretext" for targeting Indian infrastructure then Pakistan will be entirely responsible for the consequences that will undoubtedly follow.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, briefing the media on Operation Sindoor, also denied any contact between the National Security Advisors of India and Pakistan, as has been claimed by the Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

He said that besides the directions that were issued on April 23 by the Cabinet Committee on Security - on cutting down ties with Pakistan - "There are no further steps under consideration at this point of time."

On the Pakistani claims that India had attacked the Neelum-Jhelum plant in Muzaffarabad, he said:

"This is an absolute and complete fabrication, and a blatant lie."

"India has targeted only and only terrorist infrastructure."

"I should note that if this kind of a claim is a pretext for targeting Indian infrastructure of a similar nature, Pakistan will be entirely responsible for the consequences that will undoubtedly follow."

FS Misri also said that one thing that has to be kept in mind is that the attack of 22nd April in Pahalgam "is the original escalation", and India only responded to it through Operation Sindoor.

He also mentioned the LeT -linked terror group, The Resistance Front, which claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack.

He said that India had provided information to the UN I267 Sanctions Monitoring Committee about the TRF. And, India will be meeting with the UN team again very soon and will be providing an update to the information that has been provided earlier. But what is interesting he said is that it is Pakistan that opposed the mention of the TRF in a media release of the UNSC

"This was after the fact that the TRF claimed responsibility for this attack, not once but twice -within a few hours after the incident on the April 22, and then again on the morning of April 23.

"And it is perhaps only after the full gravity of the incident was realised by its masters and handlers across the border that it was managed to back off from this claim. Obviously that retraction doesn't convince anybody," the FS added.

"Our intention has not been to escalate matters. We are only responding to the original escalations. And our response has been targeted, precise, controlled and measured. No military targets have been selected. Only terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan has been hit," he reiterated.

He termed Pakistan's calls for a joint investigation into the Pahalgam terror attack as "just delaying tactics".

"These are just stonewalling tactics."

He cited the cooperation with Pakistan with regard to investigations into the 2008 Mumbai attacks and the 2016 Pathankot attacks.

Despite India providing extensive information and evidence related to the involvement of Pakistani terrorists in both the attacks, Islamabad has consistently stonewalled all efforts to move the investigation along.

"And in fact, there is reason to believe that Pakistan uses the evidence that we provide only to cover its tracks, and in fact defend the terrorists who we are looking for, and obstruct the path of investigation," he added.

On the accusation by Pakistan that only civilians were killed in the May 7 strikes, he said that India carefully selected terrorist infrastructure, terrorist targets. Citing photos and videos of the funerals of the killed terrorists with the Pakistani army and ISI in attendance, he said in a jibe: "It's odd that the funerals of civilians are carried out with the coffins being draped in Pakistani flags, and state honors being accorded.

"As far as we are concerned, the individuals eliminated at these facilities were terrorists. Giving terrorists state funerals may be a practice in Pakistan. It doesn't seem to make much sense to us," the FS said.

Rejecting Pakistan's assertions that India had deliberately attacked religious sites, he said: "This is completely false. I have made it clear that the targets were terrorist infrastructure, terrorist facilities, and locations connected clearly with incidents of cross-border terrorism into India. And it is in fact Pakistan that is misusing religious sites as a cover to in fact radicalize, direct, and indoctrinate and train terrorists."

He said that yesterday, Pakistan launched a targeted attack on the Sikh community in Jammu and Kashmir, hitting a Gurdwara in Poonch and the homes of Sikh community members which came under attack. Three individuals were killed in that particular attack.

"In fact, since yesterday morning, a total of 16 civilians have been killed, and 59 others have been injured in the attacks by Pakistan."

"I would like to emphasize that the action (Operation Sindoor) was restrained; it was directed towards non-civilian, non-military targets; and confined to terrorist camps."

"And again, as we've been saying since yesterday, any further action by Pakistan, some of which we are seeing today is nothing but escalation by Pakistan now, once again, and will be responded to and is being responded to appropriately."

On the Indus Waters Treaty, and the disinformation that has been raised in this regard, he said that over the last year and a half to two years, India has been in communication with Pakistan and sent them several notices requesting for negotiations to discuss a modification of the treaty.

"However, as has been made clear earlier as well, Pakistan has not responded to our request to enter into negotiations for a reassessment of the obligations under the treaty.

"Pakistan's persistent refusal to respond to our request to enter into Government-to-Government negotiations on the modification of the treaty is in a sense itself a violation of the treaty. And, therefore, India has taken the step of putting the treaty in abeyance until Pakistan abjures irrevocably its support for cross-border terrorism."

Bharat's Defence Powered by Technology, Led by Vision, ready for any challenge: Ishant Gupta

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Advocate Ishant Gupta, State IT Head of BJP Jammu and Kashmir, emphasized that Bharat has once again proven its strength and resilience in the face of external threats. In the early hours of the night, Pakistan attempted a major aerial attack, targeting critical military bases in Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Ludhiana, and Bhuj. However, Bharat's Defence forces, utilizing the advanced S-400 air Defence system, which act as Sudarshan Chakra, successfully intercepted and destroyed all incoming drones and missiles, preventing them from reaching Bharat's soil. This action demonstrates the country's advanced technological capabilities in defending its sovereignty.



This attack follows Pakistan's reaction to "Operation SINDOOR", a strategic strike by Bharat targeting terror camps in response to the brutal killing of innocent civilians in Pahalgam. Bharat had made it clear that "Operation SINDOOR" was a limited, non-escalatory response aimed at dismantling terrorism. Nevertheless, Pakistan chose to escalate the situation by launching an aerial assault on Bharat's military installations, underscoring its persistent support for terror activities.

Ishant Gupta said that the successful use of the

S-400 system is a testament to Bharat's technological superiority in protecting its people and land. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bharat has emerged as a nation that responds decisively to any threat with both advanced technology and unyielding determination.

Gupta further added that, Bharat while always calling for peace, will not tolerate any further acts of aggression. Every provocation by Pakistan will be met with an appropriate and powerful response. The era of silence is over; Bharat will not allow any disturbance of its peace. The country will continue to respond with force and precision, ensuring that every act of aggression is met with strength and resolve.

Gupta praised the Indian Armed Forces for

their incredible bravery and professionalism in carrying out operations. "The Indian Army and Air Force truly deserve our full appreciation. Their courage and accuracy have made the country proud once again and have reassured every Indian that the nation is in safe hands," he said.

Gupta also extended his heartfelt solidarity with the families affected by the recent cross-border shelling along the Line of Control, especially in the Poonch area. He noted that the people of Jammu & Kashmir, along with the entire nation, stand united with the Armed Forces in ensuring peace and security. The pain and suffering caused by these acts of aggression are deeply felt, and Bharat's resolve to stand by the affected families remains unwavering.

Hari Singh Chib visits Block Pargwal Villages in Akhnoor amid Border Tensions

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Hari Singh Chib, Vice President of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC), today visited the Pargwal block villages in Akhnoor sector and interacted with the local residents and took stock of their concerns amid rising tensions along the Indo-Pak border.

During his visit, Hari Singh Chib interacted with the people and listened to their grievances. He assured them that the Congress Party remains deeply concerned about the welfare of the public, particularly in light of the current situation.

The senior Congress leader said "I have come here on the directions of Senior Congress leadership Sh Malikarjun Kharage sahib



ji, Sh Rahul Gandhi ji, Sh KC venugopal ji Dr Naseer Khan ji. Sh Karra sahib ji. In view of the growing tensions at the Indo-Pak border. The party is fully aware of the challenges faced by the people in border areas and is committed to extending all possible assistance to ensure their safety and well-being during these difficult times."

He also urged the people of Block Pargwal to stay united and stand in full support of the Indian Army during these challenging times. "Our strength lies in our unity. We must all

come together to support the brave soldiers who are guarding our borders and ensuring our safety. In times of adversity, our collective resilience and solidarity will ensure that we overcome every challenge that comes our way," he added.

Hari Singh Chib further emphasized that the Congress Party, under the visionary leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Party President Malikarjun Kharage, stands firm in its commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially those in border

areas, and will continue to support them in every possible way.

He assured the villagers that the Congress Party would advocate for the necessary steps to address their immediate needs and ensure that they receive all required assistance to cope with the prevailing security situation.

Among those who accompanied with the senior Congress leader included Nishav Manhas, Uttam Singh, Kashmir Singh, Yashpaul Singh Ex Sarpanch, Joginder Singh, Tarsem, Rashpal Chand, Bhadur Singh, Kamal Mahas, Swarn Singh Manhas, Balwan Singh, Paroshtam Singh, Jangh Bhadur, Tarun Vaid, Ramesh Singh, Karpal Singh, Dalbir Singh, Ashok Kumar, Rinku Singh and Mohan Lal.

BJP leaders visit GMC Jammu to assess condition of injured civilians amid cross-border shelling

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 08 MAY 2025:

Senior BJP leaders visited Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, to meet the injured and assess the medical response being provided, amid ongoing cross-border shelling.

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition, Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha), accompanied by other BJP leaders visited Government Medical College, Jammu to inquire about the well-being of the injured in the ongoing shelling from across the borders.

They were accompanied by BJP Jammu District President Rajesh Gupta, along with party leaders Ravikant, Kushant Prajapati, and others.

During the visit, the leaders interacted with doctors,



hospital staff, and family members of the injured civilians. They reviewed the medical facilities and inquired into the nature of injuries sustained in the shelling.

Expressing deep concern over the situation, Sat Sharma condemned the unprovoked shelling by Pakistan, labeling it a "cowardly act" deliberately targeting innocent civilians. The visit underlines the party's solidarity with the border residents and its unwaver-

ing commitment to national security and humanitarian response, he said.

"Many people have been injured and lives have been lost. It is not just the responsibility of the government, but also of civil administration and all political parties to ensure that the citizens of our country are protected from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity," said Sat Sharma. He further stressed the need to provide the best possible medical treatment

to the injured, assuring that BJP stands with the victims and their families.

Sunil Sharma reiterated the importance of strengthening emergency healthcare infrastructure. "Every life is precious. Our hospitals must be well-equipped and ready to handle a sudden influx of casualties. Immediate care and proper stabilization must be ensured, not just for civilians but also for our brave security personnel," he stated.

Jugal Kishore Sharma emphasized that the Modi government is committed to the safety and well-being of every citizen. He assured that all necessary steps are being taken to support those affected. He said that BJP would continue to work closely with local administration to facilitate relief, rehabilitation, and medical support for the victims.

Revenge incomplete until terrorism is eradicated, PoK is returned: Shiv Sena

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

The success of 'Operation Sindoor' has made every Indian proud, but the revenge is not yet completed, Pakistan continues its nefarious and cowardly acts by shelling civilians and religious places in the areas along the Jammu and Kashmir border. Along with the army's retaliatory action, the government also needs to take immediate steps on a war footing to improve bunkers and other infrastructure for the protection of the common people, stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena UBT Jammu and Kashmir unit.

While briefing the



media at the party's state central office here today, state chief Manish Sahni said that Pakistan is in panic due to the accurate and successful attacks of Operation Sindoor. Pakistan is indiscriminately bombing religious and residential areas in Uri, Keran, Poonch, Rajouri etc. of Jammu and Kashmir. His nefarious activities have caused heavy loss of life and property in Rajouri-Poonch sector. However, the Indian Army is giving a befitting reply.

Sahni has demanded to take appropriate steps with immediate effect for the safety of the people of the border areas affected by Pakistan's shelling, to provide relief from the atmosphere of fear and panic. Along with this, he has demanded to continue attacks on Pakistan till the complete elimination of terrorism and return of PoK to India.

On this occasion General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Vice president Balwant Singh were present.

2 Haj flights from Srinagar cancelled amid prevailing situation

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

The Jammu and Kashmir Haj Committee has announced the cancellation of two upcoming Haj flights scheduled to depart from Srinagar on May 9, citing the current prevailing situation.

According to a fresh notification issued by the Committee on Wednesday, Flight No. SG-5109 and Flight No. SG-5209 have been cancelled. The revised travel schedule for the affected pilgrims will be shared in due course.

The notification, signed by Dr. Shujaat Qureshi, Executive Officer of the Haj Committee, follows an earlier notice dated May 7 and urges the concerned pilgrims to stay in touch for further updates.

Authorities have advised pilgrims to remain patient as new arrangements are being made.

Ashok Koul, Yudhvir Sethi spearhead Blood Donation Camp in Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 08 MAY 2025:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir unit, successfully organized blood donation camps across Jammu, drawing active participation from party workers and the general public. The drive till today, witnessed the donation of blood by hundreds of individuals, while many committed themselves to donating in the near future.

The second day of the camp was formally inaugurated by Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP. The initiative was spearheaded by BJP Vice-President Yudhvir Sethi and MLA Jammu East, with active coordination from BJP District Jammu, under the leadership of District President Rajesh Gupta.

The camps were strategically held at two central locations—outside Brahmīn Sabha and outside Geeta Bhawan in Parade, Jammu—ensuring accessibility and convenience for donors, which resulted in collection of 105 units of blood in two days.

The event saw the presence of several senior BJP leaders including Anil Masoom, Raman Sharma,



Sanjay Mahe, Arun Sethi, Ajesh Sharma, Harvinder Singh, Anuradha Sharma, Preeti Sharma, and many others, who contributed to the camp's organization and outreach.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Koul emphasized the urgent need for creating a robust blood bank system in the region, especially in light of recurring cross-border tensions and shelling incidents that result in civilian injuries and casualties. He urged people, particularly BJP activists, to view blood donation as a critical social responsibility and a patriotic duty. "The current unrest along the border has created a stressful atmosphere for the resi-

dents. In such times, we must stand together and ensure that adequate medical support, particularly in the form of blood, is available to all those in need," he said.

He further reiterated that a BJP worker remains ever-ready to serve the nation, both in times of peace and in times of crisis, underscoring the party's unwavering commitment to public service.

Yudhvir Sethi, in his address, praised the enthusiastic participation of donors and highlighted the safety and medical benefits of donating blood. "Blood donation is a simple yet powerful act that saves lives. Modern medical practices ensure

the process is completely safe, and the human body replenishes lost fluids within a few days," he said. He also lauded the team of medical professionals and volunteers for their dedication and efficient management of the camps.

Meanwhile, BJP District South, under the leadership of District President Naresh Singh Jasrotia and in the presence of MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa, organized a similar blood donation camp at the Gandhi Nagar Hospital Blood Bank. The camp saw 68 individuals registering, out of which 9 successfully donated blood.

Widow & Orphans NGO distributes Ration Kits to 300 widows in Marh AC

JJ NEWS SERVICE
MARH, MAY 8

In a heartwarming display of social commitment, Widow & Orphans NGO, in collaboration with local authorities, distributed ration kits to approximately 300 widows in the Marh Assembly Constituency. This initiative underscores the organization's dedication to supporting the most vulnerable members of society. The NGO provided essential ration kits to 300 widows, ensuring they have access to basic necessities. The event reflects the organization's commitment to serving those in need and making a positive impact on the community. The initiative was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Widow & Orphans NGO and local authorities.

On this occasion, MLA Marh Surinder Kumar was Chief Guest who distributed ration kits in presence of Sheikh Anees Musa, Chairman, Widow & Orphans NGO, Junaid Ahmad, Coordinator, Widow & Orphans NGO besides team of dedicated members who worked tirelessly to make this initiative a success. Shakti Sharma, social worker and prominent community figure was also present on the occasion.

Sheikh Anees Musa,



Chairman speaking on the occasion said that primary objective of this initiative is to extend support to the weaker sections of society, particularly widows, and make their lives more manageable. By providing essential assistance, the NGO aims to empower these women and help them overcome challenges, added Musa. The event's theme, "Seva Hi Sankalp Hai" (Service is our resolve), reflects the organization's unwavering commitment to serving humanity and making a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

MLA Marh expressed heartfelt appreciation for the Widow & Orphans NGO's initiative in distributing ration kits to 300 widows in the Marh

Assembly Constituency. This noble cause demonstrates the organization's commitment to supporting vulnerable populations. The MLA urged affluent individuals to come forward and support orphans and widows, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in making a positive impact. By working together, the community can provide essential assistance and empower these individuals to lead more dignified lives. The MLA encouraged well-off individuals to contribute to the cause, highlighting the value of community support. The initiative aims to provide essential assistance to orphans and widows, promoting their well-being and dignity, added MLA.

Union Ministry of MSME invites Applications for National Awards 2024

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Union Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) invites applications from eligible MSMEs for the National MSME Awards 2024.

The Indian entrepreneurs are very creative to innovate new products and processes as well as provide innovative services to remain competitive in domestic and global market. To encourage such innovative efforts and promote their spirit in larger interest of qualitative development of MSME, the Ministry of MSME recognizes the contributions of these entrepreneurs for their outstanding performance and motivate and encourage them by conferring awards at the National Level.

Additionally, in order to motivate the State/ UT Government and Aspirational Districts for the development and growth of MSMEs in their area of jurisdiction, provision of rankings at the National level for the State/ UT Government and Aspirational Districts provision of rankings has also been made for the bankers for their excellence in the credit lending to Micro and Small Enterprises has also been made accordingly.

EDITORIAL

Honouring the Legacy of Maharana Pratap

EVERY year, Maharana Pratap Jayanti offers us a moment of reflection—a chance to honour not just a historical figure, but an enduring symbol of courage, resilience, and national pride. As we commemorate the birth anniversary of Maharana Pratap, the 16th-century Rajput king of Mewar, we are reminded of the values that defined his life: unyielding patriotism, fierce independence, and undaunted spirit in the face of overwhelming odds.

Born on May 9, 1540, Maharana Pratap emerged as one of the most valiant warriors in Indian history. His name evokes not just tales of sword and shield but also stories of integrity and sacrifice. Unlike many of his contemporaries who chose compromise, Maharana Pratap stood firm against the Mughal emperor Akbar's attempts to subjugate his kingdom. The Battle of Haldighati in 1576, though inconclusive in military terms, remains a landmark in the chronicles of resistance, showcasing the Rajput king's indomitable will and strategic brilliance.

But Maharana Pratap's legacy goes beyond warfare. His decision to live in exile, refusing to bow to foreign power, and his efforts to rebuild his kingdom from the forests and mountains exemplify leadership rooted in moral conviction. He ruled not for wealth or power, but for the dignity and sovereignty of his people.

In today's world, where moral clarity often gives way to expediency, Maharana Pratap stands as a beacon of principled leadership. His life urges us to ask difficult questions: What does it mean to serve one's country? What price are we willing to pay for our values? In an era where compromise is often seen as the only path forward, Maharana Pratap's legacy reminds us that resistance, when rooted in righteousness, can be just as noble.

Maharana Pratap Jayanti is not merely a ritual of garlanding statues or reciting heroic ballads. It is an opportunity to instil in future generations a sense of pride in our rich heritage and a responsibility to uphold the ideals for which our forebears fought. Schools, communities, and institutions must go beyond celebration and engage in meaningful conversations about history, identity, and values.

As we mark this day, let us remember that Maharana Pratap's real victory lies not just in the battles he fought, but in the ideals he left behind—ideals that continue to inspire millions across the nation. His sword may rest, but his spirit marches on.

PRAFULL GORADIA

While it is chivalrous of the Congress and other opposition parties to welcome the announcement of a caste census in the next round, it is more than likely that the 1931 Census was hitherto the last one where the mention of caste was included. An old gentleman long ago had told me that in 1941, the caste column was withdrawn to ensure that Muslims were not embarrassed. He revealed this to me before he passed away from this world.

Gradually thereafter, the Census went down in importance as a matter of public interest. People were interested in how much the population of India had increased. With the mention of caste, there is likely to be a revival in the interest in details hereafter. To ensure that all communities are treated equally, the Muslims will be asked to declare their caste, as will be Christians, or as before, the

Sikhs. The three broad divisions among the Muslims are: the Ashrafs, Ajlafs and Arzals. The last name would be like the Pasmandas. The Ashrafs would be the uppermost, either those who believe that their origins lie outside India, as well as those who converted to Islam from an upper Hindu caste, say Brahmins or Rajputs. The Ajlafs, such as Dhobis, Darzis and others are the second category. But then, there are many other distinctions, such as the Mughals, Pathans and others whose origins were in Uzbekistan. Pathans likely originated in Afghanistan. There are the Syeds, Shaikhs, Arab-origin Muslims, Iranian-origin Shia Muslims, Bohras,

Khojas, Ismailis, Sufiyas, Ahmadiyya, Memons (a Khoja subsect), Konkans, Moplah etc.

The electoral utility of the proposed caste census could be enormous. The contesting candidate could know instantly, the number of voters of the various castes existing in

his country, so that he or she can campaign to the local taste. Beyond the electoral utility, the political utility can also be substantial. Who deserves a reservation can be easily ascertained.

According to the courts, reservations are continued to the Dalits and some OBCs. Muslims are excluded from any reservation unless, of course, they switch over to Hinduism or Sikhism. A distinguished sociologist has said that Indian society is best analyzed by a detailed study of caste. Just as Dr Ram Manohar Lohia had said that in India, caste is class. In many ways, this gentleman was correct. For example, many a historian cannot resist the temptation of calling himself a "Brahmin Catholic". There are many Muslims who proudly claim they are "Rajput Muslims". Uncannily, this writer grew up much beyond his university years to conclude that the Muslim community is one of equals, and certainly free from the

scourge of casteism.

It took years thereafter that Muslims also had their sections. First, a Bohra trader told him that all Bohras were converted to Islam from having been Brahmins. In due course, the writer learnt that Khojas had their specific origin; they were Halai Lohanas, whereas Memons were Kutchi Lohanas.

Later, an Urdu teacher made it clear that he was a Mughul and had migrated from Uzbekistan. Afghans usually keep their surnames as Pathan, whereas the Mughals prefer either Mirza or Baig. There is no doubt that reservation is a phenomenon that fascinates the average Indian. The moment caste is declared in the census results, quite a several persons are likely to demand to be given reservation rights, for one or another excuse. The Government's answer to such people is likely to be a bureaucratic, "No, you are a Muslim and entitled led to be reservation". Do not believe that

several Arzals would not mind jumping the fence of religion. In India, particularly especially from the point of religious loyalties, things are undergoing a churn.

In the Nehruvian era, it was advantageous to belong to a minority community. However, at present, some perceive it to be an advantage to belong to the majority. Remember, in the medieval era, many a conversion took place for the temptation of a job or to escape persecution, i.e., to insure oneself against the worst. If the country is gearing itself up into a reform mode, it would be desirable to introduce compulsory voting. The elections would then reflect the true opinion of the entire electorate. Mind you, if some voter has an emergency around the voting time, he or she, within a month of either side of the voting date must explain the problem to obtain an exemption. In the absence of such an application, he or she should run the risk

of being struck off the electoral rolls, but with the opportunity of explaining his or her position on the electoral authorities. The intent would be to make them, and indeed everyone, realize that to vote is all-important. To look back at the early days after independence, minorities had a disproportionate influence over the results. The reason was the low voting rates of the majority. With the majority voting more dutifully, look at the dramatic changes in the national policy; not merely a change in the parties getting elected.

In any case, it is in the ultimate nature of democracy that everyone tries to vote. We should note that compulsory voting is the law in 22 of the world's democracies, including Australia, Belgium and several South American countries plus a couple of African ones.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, an author and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. The views are personal)

India's green wall: A bold push to halt desertification

B K SINGH

The idea of planting tree barriers or green walls to stop the spread of deserts has met with little success worldwide. In 2007, the African Union responded to the extending desertification of the Sahara Desert and resolved to build the green wall by planting trees for an 8,000 km long stretch passing through eleven countries — namely Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan — to be completed by 2030.

The idea of a wall slowly morphed into a more acceptable mosaic of forested lands, interspersed with farmland and grassland spread over 780 million hectares. The afforestation target is brought down to 100 million hectares, and yet the project has faced challenges like insufficient funding and coordination among the members and funding agencies. Eighteen per cent of the physical target is said to have been achieved so far.

In CoP 16, under the auspices of the United Nations' Convention to Combat Desertification, nearly 200 countries in December 2024 committed to prioritise land restoration and drought resilience, aiming to mitigate land degradation and ensure access to food, water, shelter, and economic opportunities for all.

In recent months, India also announced the plan to build a green wall approximately 1,400 km long across four states — Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The wall is also said to connect places from Mahatma Gandhi's birthplace in Porbandar in Gujarat to Rajghat in Delhi, where he was finally laid to rest. The wall will have some natural forests, and some plantations, interspersed with restored agricultural land, pastureland and water bodies all along the 1,400 km long wall. The Aravalli Hills have sheltered India's northern states from the Thar Desert and checked the marching of the desert over centuries. The hills have an impact on the climate of northwest India and beyond.

Mountain ranges generally guide monsoon clouds eastwards towards Shimla and Nainital, which helps in bringing monsoons to the Himalayan Region and recharge the catchments of the rivers. In winter months, the Aravalli Hills protect the alluvial valleys of the northern plains from westerlies originating from Central Asia. These hills have been plundered and gradually degraded.

Gradual deforestation, stone mining, and extension of urban



areas on the outskirts of Delhi have resulted in intensifying pollution, dust storms and causing an unprecedented rise in temperature in the Delhi NCR region and northern plain of the country. Delhi in the last two years has experienced floods, record-breaking cold waves, and summer temperatures up to 50° Celsius. Pollution due to smog in the Delhi NCR region between October and February has become an annual feature, leading to a surge in breath-related illnesses and human health hazards.

Drawing inspiration from the African Union's Great Green Wall, India has proposed to reforest 1.15 million hectares of area in the states of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat by 2027. While the length of the wall is 1,400 km, the average width is 5 km, largely covering foothills and buffer areas on either side of the Aravalli Hills.

ISRO's desertification and land degradation atlas shows that India has 97.85 million hectares of degraded lands, and states like Gujarat, Rajasthan and Delhi have more than 50 per cent degraded lands as compared to their geographical areas. The project is estimated to cost ₹ 7,500 crores, and 78 per

cent of it will be provided by the Centre and 20 per cent will be borne by the states.

The balance of 2 per cent would come from international funding. In response to the Paris Climate Accord of 2015, India has committed to afforest 26 million hectares of degraded lands by 2030 to create additional carbon sequestration potential of 2.5 to 3 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent, and the proposal of a green wall in four states is part of our larger environmental commitment to the UNCCC. India's forests have stored 7 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent, and in a span of the last ten years, we have only added 540 million tonnes.

In other words, we need to add additional potential of at least 2 gigatons by 2030. This appears to be quite far-fetched and indicates that we are not on course to fulfil this commitment in response to the Paris Accord. The nitty-gritty of handing over degraded lands to Forest Departments for afforestation is quite complex. A large chunk of degraded lands is under the purview of revenue administration, and states generally make available these lands for development projects. The political bosses always apprehend hand-

ing it over to the Forest Department, as sufficient land will not be left behind for taking up any other development project in future.

The lands of the Aravalli Hills are under the control of the Revenue Department, which is not mandated to conserve vegetation. Trees have been cleared, and the lands have been used for farmhouses, banquet halls, and commercial activities, and further hills are flattened to build access roads. In other words, the Aravalli Hills have been severely fragmented. There are numerous private holdings along the 1,400 km length of the proposed wall. The mode of operations — whether the private lands are to be acquired for the project for growing trees or the landowners will be compensated and encouraged to take up planting on their lands — is unclear.

Ever since we fixed the afforestation target of 26 million hectares of degraded lands, we have not broken it down to states and districts, and even the Central Government has not taken up any monitoring of the progress. There is no public document indicating the progress made in any state either. If we have added 540 million tonnes of space in our tree and forest

cover for carbon sequestration, we have done it through agroforestry. The fact is also corroborated by the Forest Survey of India's latest 2023 report, which has highlighted the success of agroforestry.

The project was originally conceived with the initiative of the Haryana Forest Department and is proposed to cover degraded lands in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bhiwani, Mahendragarh and Rewari districts of Haryana. In addition, the project also covers eleven districts of Rajasthan and three districts of Gujarat. Interstate coordination does not appear to be difficult, as all the states are ruled by Bharatiya Janata Party Governments. However, the coordination within the state — especially between the Revenue and Forest Departments, is going to be a challenge. If the planting of 1.15 million hectares is to be concluded by the 2027 rains, then we have only three monsoon seasons including the current one to complete the task.

If we are to succeed in completing the project on time, do each of the district-level forest officers in all four states know their annual targets, and are they prepared for the seedling stocks of native species in their nurseries? For planting during the 2025 monsoon, the area should be ready with pits/trenches or even tractor-ploughed, and at the same time, good quality seedlings should be available in the nursery.

Even for 2026 planting, the area should be demarcated by now, and seeds from genetically superior native species for growing healthy seedlings could have been procured.

Why should the calendar of nursery and planting operations be strictly adhered to? Because the planting should be carried out in the initial stages of the monsoon so that the plants receive sufficient backup showers to minimise mortality. In the warming world, the monsoon is not uniformly distributed in the season.

The plantations could be subjected to alternate flooding and drought, which can severely impact the success of the plantation. The implementing officers should take lessons from the performance of older plantations in the region and take appropriate measures to overcome the reasons for failures. The project has technical and administrative challenges, and I wish the states to implement it successfully.

(The writer is retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force), Karnataka. Views are personal)

Can't Afford Avocados? Try These 7 Healthy and Budget-Friendly Alternatives

Avocados have become a darling of the health world—and for good reason. They're rich in heart-healthy fats, fibre, potassium, and vitamins like E and B6. But their popularity comes at a cost: in many parts of the world, avocados are expensive, seasonal, and often imported, making them hard to afford for everyday meals.



However, you can still enjoy similar health benefits without making a hole in your pockets. Take a look at some affordable, nutritious, and accessible alternatives to avocados.

- 1. Mashed Banana**
Best for: Toast, smoothies, baking
Nutrition match: While lower in fat, bananas are loaded with potassium (even more than avocados) and offer natural energy.
- 2. Coconut (Fresh or Milk)**
Best for: Curries,

smoothies, desserts
Nutrition match: Contains medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs), which can be a quick source of energy.

- 3. Boiled Sweet Potato**
Best for: Toast topping, grain bowls, or mashing
Nutrition match: Offers fibre, vitamin A, potassium, and slow-digesting carbs—great for sustained energy.
- 4. Paneer**
Best for: Spreads, toast, salads
Nutrition match: Excel-

lent source of calcium and protein, especially for vegetarians. Also much cheaper than avocados in most regions.

- 5. Peanut Butter**
Best for: Toast, smoothies, dips
Nutrition match: Like avocados, peanut butter contains monounsaturated fats that are great for heart health.
Tip: Go for unsweetened, natural peanut butter to avoid added sugars and hydrogenated oils.

6. Hummus
Best for: Sandwiches, veggie dips, grain bowls

- Nutrition match: Offers protein, fibre, and iron—plus it's easy to make at home using chickpeas, tahini, and lemon.
- 7. Sunflower Seed Butter or Tahini**
Best for: Spreads, sauces, dressings
Nutrition match: Full of healthy fats, selenium, and plant protein—offering many of the same micronutrients found in avocados.

Study finds long Covid biomarkers in blood linked to respiratory problems

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

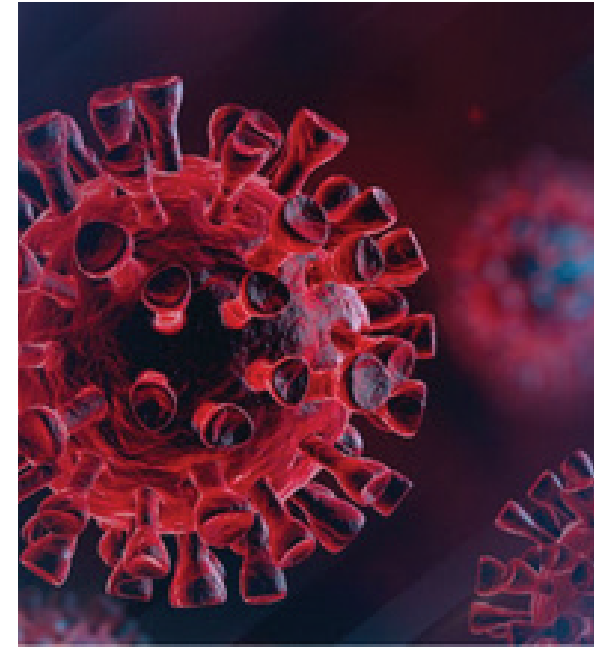
A team of Swedish researchers has identified biomarkers in the blood associated with symptoms of long Covid, particularly severe respiratory disorders.

Long Covid is a condition characterised by persistent symptoms including acute breathlessness and fatigue, after an infection caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

The team from Karolinska Institutet discovered a set of proteins in the blood of people with long Covid. The findings may pave the way for future diagnosis and treatment.

"The proteins were mainly found in patients with long Covid and severe respiratory problems," said Marcus Buggert, docent at the Department of Medicine, Karolinska Institutet.

"This is a biomarker pattern that we know to



be linked to inflammatory signal pathways involved in cell death and lung damage and that has also been observed in other patient groups with severe pulmonary disorders," he added.

For the study, the team analysed blood samples from 265 patients in Sweden and the UK, who contracted Covid when no vaccine was yet available. Using advanced techniques, the researchers measured thousands of proteins in the blood plasma, which they related to the patient's symptoms.

The results, published in the journal *Nature Immunology*, exposed the underlying biological processes that can cause certain patients to experience severe symptoms long after previous Covid-19. "By identifying the proteins that are elevated in affected patients, we're creating a platform from which to develop diagnostic tools and new targeted therapies," Dr. Buggert said. "This is especially important since there are no specific biomarkers and treatments for long Covid."

The team next aims to study lung and gastrointestinal tissue to understand what underpins this pattern.

This will likely enable them to locate the source of the identified proteins and find if there is any remaining inflammation or tissue damage in specific organs of patients with long Covid, they said.

Increasing urban vegetation can save over 1.1 mn lives from heat-related deaths: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Amid increasing global warming and heat-related deaths worldwide, a new study has shown that expanding urban vegetation cover by 30 per cent could save over one-third of all deaths caused due to heat, saving up to 1.16 million lives globally.

Researchers from Monash University in Australia showed that increasing vegetation levels by 10 per cent, 20 per cent, and 30 per cent would decrease the global population-weighted warm-season mean temperature by 0.08 degrees Celsius, 0.14 degrees Celsius, and 0.19 degrees Celsius, respectively. It can also prevent 0.86, 1.02, and 1.16 million deaths, respectively.

While increasing greenness has been proposed as a heat-related death mitigation strategy, "this is the first modelling study to estimate both the cool-



ing and modifying effects of greenness, providing a more comprehensive assessment of its benefits in mitigating heat-related mortality," said Professor Yuming Guo from the university.

The findings, published in the journal *The Lancet Planetary Health*, are based on a 20-year modelling study of the impact of increasing greenness in more than 11,000 urban areas from 2000 to 2019.

Urban areas in Southern Asia, Eastern Europe, and

Eastern Asia were found to have the greatest reduction in heat-related deaths.

"These findings indicate that preserving and expanding greenness might be potential strategies to lower temperature and mitigate the health impacts of heat exposure," Guo said.

Heat exposure is a major public health threat and is increasing due to climate change. Between 2000-2019, heat exposure was associated with 0.5 million deaths per year,

accounting for 0.91 per cent of global mortality.

According to Guo, estimates of heat-related deaths are projected to range from 2.5 per cent in North Europe to 16.7 per cent in South-East Asia during 2090-99, "under the most extreme global warming scenarios."

Studies show that greenness has a cooling effect on temperature, via shading surfaces, deflecting radiation from the sun, and evapotranspiration (evaporation from both the ground and plants) which promotes air convection.

This, in turn, cools the ambient temperature leading to a decrease in population heat exposure, thereby reducing the heat-related mortality burden.

In addition, greenness could also modify other related factors such as mental health, social engagement, physical activity, and air pollution, the researchers said.

Diabetes drug can effectively treat fatty liver: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Treating patients with semaglutide -- an anti-diabetic medication -- can halt and even reverse liver disease, according to a study. Researchers from the King's College London, UK, chose to investigate semaglutide as a potential treatment because this class of drug helps reduce fat and liver scarring for people with metabolic dysfunction associated steatohepatitis (MASH) -- a life-threatening form of liver disease.

MASH is a more severe form of Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), formerly known as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) -- a long-lasting liver condition caused by having too much fat in the liver.

It is closely linked with obesity as well as conditions such as type 2 diabetes and heart and circula-



tory disease.

In the trial conducted across 37 countries around the world, 800 participants were randomly assigned to receive a once-weekly injection of 2.4 milligrams of semaglutide or placebo, alongside lifestyle counselling.

The results, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, showed that after 72 weeks of treatment, 62.9 per cent of participants experienced a reduction in steatohepatitis (inflammation of the

liver with fat accumulation in the liver) versus 34.3 per cent for participants who took the placebo.

About 37 per cent of the semaglutide group also had improvements in their liver fibrosis versus 22.4 per cent in the placebo group.

"MASLD is a growing problem worldwide and this trial will provide real hope for patients with MASH. While these results must be treated with caution, the analysis shows semaglutide can be an

effective tool to treat this advanced liver disease," said Prof Philip Newsome, from King's College.

Researchers also found that people receiving semaglutide had improvements in liver enzymes and other blood measures of liver fibrosis, as well as 10.5 per cent weight loss.

However, gastrointestinal adverse events were more common in the semaglutide group, such as nausea, diarrhoea, constipation, and vomiting, the team said.

Study shows young adults not as happy as before

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

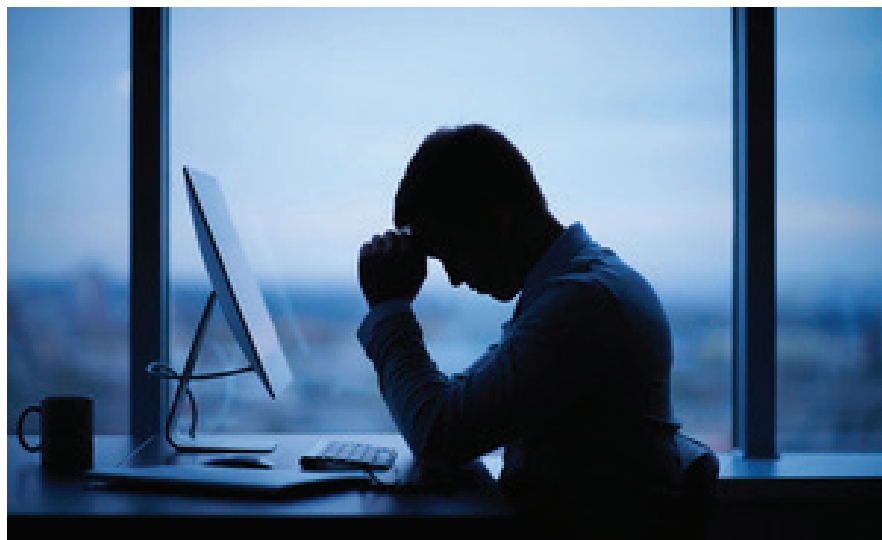
Young adults across the world between the ages of 18 and 29 are struggling, not only with happiness but also with their physical and mental health, according to a new study.

The study showed that young adults are struggling with perceptions of their own character, finding meaning in life, the quality of their relationships, and their financial security, Xinhua news agency reported.

The data, collected by Gallup primarily in 2023, was derived from self-reported surveys of more than 200,000 people in over 20 countries and published in the journal *Nature Mental Health*.

The study was one of a collection of papers based on the inaugural wave of data from the *Global Flourishing Study*, a collaboration between researchers at Harvard and Baylor University.

The study found that the participants had rela-



tively low measures of flourishing on average until age 50.

"It is a pretty stark picture," said lead author Tyler J. VanderWeele, of the study. The findings raise an important question, he said: "Are we sufficiently investing in the well-being of youth?"

The condition was found to be similar in a number of countries, including the UK, Brazil, and Australia. But the difference between younger

and older adults was largest in the US, *The New York Times* reported, citing the researchers.

"Young adulthood has long been considered a carefree time, a period of limitless opportunity and few obligations. But data from the flourishing study and elsewhere suggests that for many people, this notion is more fantasy than reality," said *The Times* in its report about the study.

"Study after study shows that social connection is

critical for happiness, and young people are spending less time with friends than they were a decade ago," Laurie Santos, a psychology professor at Yale and host of "The Happiness Lab" podcast, was quoted as saying.

"Plus, like folks of all ages, young people are facing a world with a whole host of global issues, from climate to the economy to political polarisation," Santos added.

Healthy Snacking Ideas for Weight Management

Snacking is a shared habit that is good and bad for us, depending on our food choices. Snacking, in moderation and emphasizing healthier choices, is a useful inclusion in an overall healthy eating pattern.

Crunchy Munchies

If you have a craving for something crunchy, try these snack suggestions:

- Fresh fruit with a spoonful of low-sodium nut butter
- Vegetables that are hummus- or tzatziki sauce-dipped, e.g., carrot and celery sticks, bell pepper slices, broccoli florets
- Roasted herb- and spice-seasoned chickpeas
- Air-popped popcorn or whole-grain crackers
- Unsalted nuts and seeds
- Rejuvenating Drinks

Eliminate sugary beverages and substitute them with healthier choices:

- Plain or sparkling water that is infused with citrus or slices of cucumber
- Low-fat dairy milk or unsweetened plant-based milk
- Unsweetened coffee or tea



- 100% fruit juice or low-sodium vegetable juice
- Easy, Healthy Snacks
- Some of the other healthy snack choices include:
- Whole-grain bread topped with nut butter or seeds
- Low-fat cheese or plain

- yogurt with fruit
- Fresh fruit salad with herbs or ginger
- Dried or unsweetened canned fruits
- Frozen fruit such as bananas or grapes
- Making Healthy Choices
- When you choose packaged snacks, make sure to

read the Nutrition Facts panel closely. Notice serving sizes, calories, added sugars, and sodium. If you pay attention to these items, you will be able to make informed decisions that are in your best interests and promote overall health and wellness.

Xiaomi India launches Xiaomi QLED FX Pro and 4K FX series with Fire TV built-in

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Xiaomi India, a global technology leader, continues to elevate the home entertainment experience with the launch of the Xiaomi QLED TV FX Pro and Xiaomi 4K TV FX series with Fire TV built-in. Designed to seamlessly integrate into daily routines while delivering an immersive viewing experience, the new TVs offer a balance of high-end audio-visual capabilities and intelligent smart home features—bringing smarter, faster, and more cinematic content experiences to Indian homes.

Commenting on the launch, Anuj Sharma, Chief Marketing Officer, Xiaomi India said, "At Xiaomi India, we understand that great visuals and sound are important for an exceptional home entertainment experi-

ence. But we also believe that true innovation lies in creating a connected, intelligent system that evolves with how people live and interact with content in 2025. The Xiaomi QLED TV FX Pro embodies this vision, combining stunning visuals, immersive audio, and cutting-edge features like Fire TV Built-In, Alexa voice assistant, and Picture-in-Picture mode to deliver a seamless, engaging entertainment ecosystem that enhances every moment. Alongside it, the Xiaomi Fire TV FX Series offers dependable, high-quality 4K entertainment for users who want great performance, and great design."

Dilip R. S., Director and Country Manager, Amazon Devices India said, "We're thrilled to expand our relationship with Xiaomi to launch the latest QLED TV FX Pro and 4K TV FX

series with Fire TV built-in. Together with Xiaomi, we look forward to delivering premium home entertainment experiences to customers. With Fire TV built-in, customers can enjoy access to a vast selection of streaming apps via the Amazon Appstore on their home screen, seamlessly switch between DTH channels and OTT apps, and enjoy connected smart home experiences via Alexa without interrupting their viewing experience. These TVs combine Xiaomi's years of knowledge and expertise in design and audiovisual features with our rich experience in content-forward and voice-first innovations that make streaming smoother, quicker, lag-free and with a plethora of content choices for our custom-



ers."

Whether it's an impromptu binge session, a weekend family film fest, or a date night at home, the Xiaomi QLED TV FX Pro brings the magic of the big screen right to your living room. With a 55-inch QLED display, it delivers lifelike colours, deeper contrast, exceptional brightness, and brilliant darks—drawing you into every scene. HDR10+ support ensures every frame is packed with stunning detail and dynamic

contrast, enhancing both bright and shadowy moments for a truly immersive experience. Whether you're watching a visually rich period drama or an edge-of-your-seat blockbuster, the Xiaomi QLED TV FX Pro creates a theatre-like ambience that turns any night into a special occasion.

Great sound completes great visuals, and the Xiaomi QLED TV FX Pro delivers both in perfect harmony. At its core is a custom-tuned audio architecture designed to bring cinematic realism into the living room. The 34W box speakers, powered by Dolby Audio, DTS:X, and DTS Virtual:X, ensure every sound—from the softest whisper to the loudest explosion—is heard with clarity, depth, and direction. Whether

you're immersed in a gripping drama, enjoying an immersive TV series, or listening to a podcast across the room, the sound adapts to every genre and space, delivering rich, room-filling audio that feels alive.

The all-new Xiaomi future proof Remote offers direct access to major streaming apps, intuitive playback controls, and an integrated Alexa voice button. With dedicated mute, number keys, and shortcut hotkeys, it's designed for instant, everyday convenience.

With a sleek, bezel-less design, the FX Pro complements modern home interiors. Inside, it's powered by a super fast quad-core A55 processor and 32GB storage, ensuring smooth multitasking and lag-free app performance. Multiple connectivity options—3 HDMI ports (including one with eARC), 2 USB ports,

Bluetooth, and Ethernet—make it the perfect hub for any living room setup.

The Xiaomi Fire TV FX Series is designed for those who want a smart, reliable 4K entertainment experience with thoughtful everyday features. Available in 43" and 55" sizes, the FX Series brings home brilliant 4K UHD picture quality and a premium metal bezel-less design. Whether it's a casual family sitcom session or an animated movie marathon, Dolby Audio and DTS Virtual:X ensure clear, immersive audio in every corner of the room. With Fire TV built-in, Universal voice search with Alexa, Picture in Picture technology, AirPlay 2, and support for over 12,000+ apps, the FX Series is a versatile choice for users seeking smart control, seamless content discovery, and high-quality viewing.

Mann, Kejriwal condole death of 4 people in Pak shelling at Poonch gurdwara

JI NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, MAY 8

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has condoled the death of four people in Pakistani shelling at Gurdwara Sahib in the Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir near the Line of Control. Expressing his grief, Mann said that Bhai Amrik Singh, Amarjit Singh, Ranjit Singh and Ruby Kaur lost their lives in the shelling by Pakistani troops at the sacred place where prayers are held for the wellbeing of all. Condemning the attack, he said innocent people were being targeted by Pakistan. Conveying condolences to the families of the victims, he said it was a painful moment for those who have lost their loved ones.

NC discusses tense border situation following Operation Sindoor & cross border firing by Pak Army

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU MAY 8

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference today discussed the prevailing tense situation along the Jammu and Kashmir borders following Operation Sindoor, launched in response to the recent Pahalgalam terror attack which claimed the lives of 26 innocent tourists. The Omar Abdullah-led government has always been proactive in responding to such situations and has remained committed to people's safety and communal harmony.

This was stated by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President while addressing a meeting of National Conference's Jammu District Urban, Rural A, and Rural B functionaries at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan.

The meeting commenced with the participants observing a moment of silence to mourn the untimely deaths of civilians in Poonch and offering prayers for the speedy recovery of those injured. The meeting also discussed the prevailing tense situation at the borders following Operation Sindoor.

The Provincial President said that the situation along the borders is very critical, marked by heightened tensions and uncertainty following the recent Operation Sindoor and cross-border firing.



He expressed deep concern over the safety and well-being of civilians living in the affected areas, highlighting the urgent need for immediate relief measures and continuous monitoring to prevent further escalation.

Rattan Lal Gupta asked party workers to remain connected with the people, extending all possible support and assistance to those in need. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining constant coordination with the local administration to ensure timely help and relief.

The Provincial President said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is working tirelessly to address the ongoing challenges, ensure the safety of civilians, and provide immediate relief to those affected. The Omar Abdullah led Govt already released contingency funds to each Deputy Commissioners to provide relief to the needy. He added that the gov-

ernment remains focused on maintaining peace, restoring normalcy, and strengthening communal harmony across the region.

Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President and Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Provincial Secretary appealed to the public not to pay heed to rumors and urged them to remain calm and vigilant. They emphasized the importance of verifying information through official sources and maintaining peace and unity, especially during times of heightened tension and uncertainty along the border areas.

Raghubir Singh, District President of Jammu Rural A, briefed the senior functionaries about the current ground situation at the border, highlighting the challenges faced by local residents due to ongoing tensions. He assured of the cadre's active presence on the ground and their commitment to supporting affected communities in

every possible way.

Chander Mohan Sharma, District President of Jammu Urban, appealed for unity and urged citizens to uphold peace and communal harmony during these difficult times. He emphasized that maintaining brotherhood and solidarity is essential to counter the divisive agenda of disruptive elements and to ensure the safety and well-being of all communities.

Among those who were present in the meeting included Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Jugal Mahajan Treasurer, Laxmi Datta Senior leader, Dilshad Malik, Rita Gupta Vice Presidents Central Zone, Waris Gill President Christian Cell, Subash Bhagat former corporator, S. Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, S. Nirmal Singh, S. Jatinder Singh Lucky and others.

Amid cross-border tensions in Arnia-Bishnah Dr. Gyaneshwar Sharma delivers uninterrupted healthcare services in border areas

JI NEWS SERVICE
ARNIA, MAY 8

Amid escalating recent terror-related incidents along the India-Pakistan border, the village of Kudwal in Jammu and Kashmir has become a focal point of fear and uncertainty. In these turbulent times, Dr. Gyaneshwar Sharma, Mid-Level Health Provider (MLHP) at the Kudwal Health and Wellness Centre, has emerged as a symbol of resilience and hope for the local community. Dr. Sharma has continued to deliver uninterrupted healthcare services, transforming the Health and Wellness



Centre - Ayushman Arogya Mandir into a vital support and relief station.

Under the leadership of Chief Medical Officer, Jammu and directions of Block Medical Officer, Bishnah Dr. Ghansham Singh, Dr. Gyaneshwar Sharma supported by ASHA workers and local residents, have ensured the timely distribution of

essential medicines, first aid, and hygiene supplies to families in need. Dr. Sharma emphasized the importance of unity and calm: "This is a crucial time for everyone - whether at home or at work - to remain calm, be patient, and follow the guidance of the district administration. Each district in Jammu and Kash-

mir has its own control room, and it is vital that people stay informed and act responsibly."

The Sarpanch of Kudwal, Mr. Raghubir Singh, praised Dr. Sharma's dedication and said "His service in these critical times has been a step forward for the people. He further urged the community to remain composed and cooperative." Dr. Sharma's unwavering commitment underscores the vital role of frontline health workers in conflict-prone areas - not only as medical professionals but also as compassionate leaders and pillars of the community.

GDC Thathri celebrates World Red Cross Day 2025

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

The Red Ribbon Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Thathri organized a vibrant series of events to commemorate World Red Cross Day 2025 under the theme "On the Side of Humanity." The celebrations, held from May 5 to May 8, 2025, took place under the able guidance and patronage of College Principal Dr. Javid Iqbal, who in his inaugural address lauded the selfless



contributions of Red Cross volunteers toward the betterment of humanity.

The event lineup included an awareness session,

essay writing, symposium, and painting competitions, attracting the participation of over 25 students who passionately expressed

their vision and dedication to serve society. The students shared thoughtful insights and reiterated their commitment to creating a better world.

Heads of various departments graced the occasion and highlighted the importance of celebrating World Red Cross Day. The events were successfully coordinated by Prof. Deepak Raj, Nodal Officer of the Red Ribbon Club, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to all contributors in his vote of thanks.

84 Bn CRPF provides relief assistance to Flood affected people of Kanga Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Entrusted with the responsibilities of Internal Security of the large and diverse country, India, CRPF is deployed across the length and breadth of the country. 84 Bn CRPF is deployed in J&K, with all of its Coys in Ramban. The Unit is securing a stretch of more than 40 km of NH 44, which is the major lifeline to the Kashmir valley.

On 06 May 25, on the direction of Commandant 84 Bn, a team of 84 Bn CRPF, led by Sh Deepak Shukla Asst Cdt and Insp/ GD Kumar Gaurav, visited



the remote village Kanga of Ramban District and provided the following relief materials to the flood affected families of Sh Jay Chand s/o Nand Ram and Sh Moul Raj s/o Nand Ram, residents of Kanga under PS Dharamkund Ramban: Atta: 40 kg, Rice 32 kg,

Potato: 17 kg, Onion: 12 kg, Pulses: 09 kg, Rajma: 07 kg, Sugar 10 kg, Tea Leaf: 2.5 kg, Fresh Vegetables: 16 kg, Blanket: 02, Bed Sheet: 02, Towel: 02, Fry Pan: 02, Kurti, Shirt, Pant, Slippers, Plastic Sheet, Utensil Items, School Bag, Study Materials, Kerosene

Oil, toiletry items, etc. Worthy to mention that the above families of Kanga, situated at a distance of 05 km walking track from road head, have lost their properties during the flood and landslide last week. They had approached 84 Bn CRPF to provide relief materials. The team of CRPF officials, with the above relief materials, walked for 05 km for one hour to reach the village and provide the relief materials.

The local residents expressed their gratitude

for providing the urgently required household items timely and compassionate approach of the CRPF. This initiative was undertaken to help the needy citizens of the local area to forge a strong bond and trust between the force and the community.

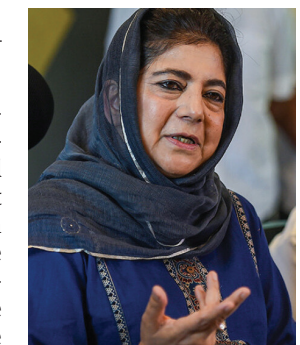
The 84 Bn CRPF has consistently been at the forefront of social initiatives, including organizing Free Medical Camps, blood donation drives, and environmental conservation programs. The force remains committed to its dual role of ensuring security and contributing to the welfare of the people in the AOR.

Mehbooba Mufti urges India, Pakistan to halt escalation, return to dialogue

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, MAY 8

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has called for immediate restraint and dialogue between India and Pakistan in the wake of the deadly escalation that has gripped the region. Responding to the recent attack in Pahalgalam and rising cross-border hostilities, Mufti warned that the situation was spiralling toward catastrophe.

Terming the loss of innocent lives, including women and children on both sides, as "stark and heartbreaking," Mufti said the conflict's human cost can no longer be ignored.



"The devastating attack in Pahalgalam has pushed India-Pakistan relations dangerously close to the edge of catastrophe," she said in a public statement.

Mufti stressed that continued military confrontation would only deepen suffering without yielding any long-term solutions. "It is painfully clear that

there can be no military solution, only more suffering," she said.

Urging both New Delhi and Islamabad to deescalate tensions, Mufti appealed directly to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to opt for diplomacy over confrontation. "I especially appeal to the Prime Minister of India to choose dialogue to end hostilities," she said.

She concluded her statement by asserting that peaceful coexistence and sustained engagement are the only viable paths forward. "Only through sincere and sustained efforts can we deescalate tensions and begin the hard work of restoring peace," she said.

Samsung unveils Vision AI for Neo QLED, OLED, QLED, The Frame TVs, Bringing Intelligent, Immersive, Adaptive Screens to Indian Consumers

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today announced the launch of its ultra-premium 2025 models of Neo QLED 8K, Neo QLED 4K, OLED, QLED TVs and The Frame lineup, bringing the revolutionary Samsung Vision AI technology to Indian consumers. At the heart of this launch is the new Samsung Vision AI that delivers an unparalleled home entertainment experience with next-generation AI capabilities. Staying true to its commitment to innovation, Samsung's latest range redefines how users interact with screens, turning them into intelligent companions that enrich everyday living. Samsung Vision AI - a cutting-edge technology framework - pairs AI-enhanced picture and sound for maximum performance with personalized experience. Samsung Vision AI is built on three pillars. AI Mode optimizes picture quality and sound in real time by using advanced deep-learning algorithms that adapt to both content and ambient surroundings, ensuring stunning visuals and immersive audio every time. AI Experience personalizes content discovery and settings by learning user preferences over time, delivering a

smarter, more intuitive interaction. Multi-Device Connectivity seamlessly connects the TV with smartphones, tablets, and other smart devices, enabling effortless content sharing, control, and continuity across the Samsung ecosystem. The role of the television in Indian homes has evolved - it's no longer just about watching content, but about enabling connected, intelligent lifestyles. With the introduction of Samsung Vision AI across our widest-ever premium lineup, we are delivering a future-ready TV experience that goes beyond stunning visuals. Samsung Vision AI ushers in a truly personalized, AI-powered screen experience, where the viewer is more important than what's being viewed. We are calling this shift 'It's Your Show' - an experience where users are in complete control, with the TV adapting to their unique preferences, habits, and ecosystem. Our new AI TV lineup breathes new life into every frame, setting a new benchmark for cinematic excellence at home. With this new era of AI-powered screens, we are confident of accelerating next-generation TV adoption and strengthening our leadership in India's premium television segment," said Viplesh Dang, Senior Director, Visual Display Business, Samsung India.



Samsung Vision AI represents a major leap in making screens smarter, more intuitive and deeply personal. It transforms televisions into adaptive hubs, responsive to their environment and user behaviours. They seamlessly blend into everyday life, making the TV an intelligent partner rather than just a display. Several features come together to redefine the big screen experience, Universal Gesture Control allows users to effortlessly navigate their Samsung Smart AI TV using simple hand movements, eliminating the need for a remote. This feature utilizes AI technology, and a connected Galaxy Watch to recognize gestures, allowing for intuitive control over various TV functions. AI Upscaling Pro elevates lower-resolution content to near-8K quality, ensuring every detail is crystal clear. Powered by Samsung's NQ8

AI Gen3 Processor, this feature sharpens images and enhances clarity, delivering a vivid and life-like viewing experience. Generative Wallpaper transforms idle screens into dynamic, personalized art canvases, creating visuals that match moods or occasions. Leveraging AI, this feature generates unique 4K images, allowing users to personalize their viewing experience with custom artwork. Multi-Device connectivity keeps users updated about their living environment with real-time alerts and energy monitoring. Integrated with SmartThings, it provides real-time summaries of the home's status and suggests necessary actions, enhancing peace of mind whether users are at home or away. Pet and Family Care Mode provides peace of mind by detecting unusual activities of pets or family members and by automatically

adjusting home settings for added comfort. Utilizing on-device AI, it can detect events such as a dog barking or a baby crying, alerting users when attention is needed. Leading the 2025 AI TV lineup is the flagship Neo QLED 8K QN950F, designed to deliver the pinnacle of TV innovation. Powered by the advanced NQ8 AI Gen3 Processor, which employs 768 AI neural networks, this TV brings breakthrough features to life. Ensuring an exceptional viewing experience with crisp details, regardless of the input source, it is encased in an ultra-slim, minimalist Infinity Air design. The Neo QLED 8K QN950F is an object of beauty and a technological prowess, offering a truly immersive and sophisticated cinematic visual display. The 8K AI Upscaling Pro feature intelligently analyzes and enhances any content to 8K quality, preserving details and textures with remarkable accuracy. The Glare-Free technology ensures distraction-free viewing even in brightly lit spaces, reducing reflections without compromising colour or contrast. Q-Symphony and Dolby Atmos combine to deliver a deeply immersive, multi-dimensional audio experience by perfectly synchronizing the TV speakers

with compatible Samsung soundbars. The ultra-fast 240Hz refresh rate ensures fluid motion and razor-sharp visuals, ideal for high-speed action, sports, and next-gen gaming. AI Mode intelligently optimizes picture and sound based on content type and surroundings, delivering a customized viewing experience. The Neo QLED 8K is available in sizes of 85, 75, and 65 inches. The QN90F, QN85F, QN80F and QN70F models headline the Neo QLED 4K lineup. The QN90F features Quantum Matrix Technology Plus with 128 Neural Networks, Motion Xcelerator 165Hz, Glare-Free viewing and a powerful 60W 4.2.2 channel speaker system with Dolby Atmos and Q-Symphony for a cinematic audio-visual experience and Samsung's signature Neo Slim design with Art Store and Generative Wallpaper support. Samsung's 2025 OLED TVs push performance further with NQ4 AI Gen3 Processor supported by 128 Neural Networks, Motion Xcelerator 165Hz, Glare-Free Viewing, and AI Motion Enhancer Pro for exceptional clarity in fast-moving scenes. These models support 100% Color Volume, are PANTONE Validated, and feature a minimalist Infinity One design with Attachable Slim One Connect to reduce clutter.

Kesri congratulates Indian Army and PM for their successful operation against terrorist camps in Pakistan



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Shiv Sena Hindustan, led by Jammu and Kashmir President Pt Rajesh Kesri, held a press conference in Jammu to commend the Indian Army and Prime Minister for their successful operation against terrorist camps in Pakistan. The operation, which lasted 25 minutes, targeted terrorist factories and infrastructure, dealing a significant blow to organizations like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen. The Indian Army's operation was a resounding success, destroying terrorist camps and infrastructure in Pakistan. The operation was a response to the Pahalgam attack, where terrorists killed innocent civilians. The operation targeted Masood Azhar's family members

and other high-value targets. Kesri congratulated the Indian Army and Prime Minister for their bravery and strategic planning. Shiv Sena Hindustan strongly condemned Pakistan's ceasefire violations and targeting of civilian areas in Poonch, resulting in injuries and fatalities. The organization demands that the Indian government take strong action in response. Kesri urged people living near the border to come together, share resources, and support each other in times of need. By doing so, the organization aims to reduce the burden on the government and foster a sense of community. Those who were present during press conference include Balbir Kumar, Balwant Fauji. The organization reaffirms its commitment to national security and unity.

Vikalp SMVDU celebrates Karwaan 4.0

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

KARWAAN 4.0, the eagerly anticipated annual event by VIKALP - A Students' Initiative, was conducted successfully with the intriguing theme "Undersea Wonders." The theme provided the tone for a colorful and engaging week that welcomed more than 100 children, filling every day with happiness, imagination, and purposeful interaction. The celebration started with a rousing Indoor Sports Day, during which the kids engaged in thrilling games and friendly contests that promoted both concentration and enjoyment. The playfulness was carried over to the following day with the Outdoor Sports Day, when the grounds resounded with running, cheering, and laughter as the kids engaged in races and group games. During midweek, the mood



changed from activity to creativity with the Art and Craft Day. Taking cue from the underwater theme, the kids emptied their imagination to craft sea creatures (shells), oceanic scenery (DIY aquarium), and vibrant crafts. Their innovation was not only apparent on canvas but also in the

happy mood they created. This was followed by the Cultural and Literary Day, a stunning display of talent and self-expression. The children boldly stepped out onto the stage to dance, sing and recite poetry. The week ended on the Final Day of May 4, which was further enhanced by the

visit of the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, who acknowledged the efforts of the organizing team as well as the children. His inspiring words and friendly interaction put smiles on all faces. The last day included closing performances, medal distribution, and reminiscing about the memorable journey of the last week. In all, KARWAAN 4.0 was a touching and meaningful experience. The presence of more than 100 children, their evident smiles, and the efficient management by committed student volunteers ensured that the event was a huge success. As promised by its theme, Undersea Wonders with Vikalp, the event provided a lovely, and enchanting experience - one that will be remembered in the hearts of everyone who participated in it.

BJP leaders visit border refugee camps, demand strengthened relief measures for displaced families

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 08 MAY 2025.

Amidst the continued cross-border shelling by Pakistan, senior BJP leaders paid a visit to the refugee camps established for residents of border areas forced to migrate for safety. The camps, set up at Degree College Mishriwala and Radha Swami Ashram in Kangra, are currently sheltering people from villages like Garhkhaal and Pargwal, which have been heavily targeted. Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition, Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha), Sham Lal Sharma, Vice-President, J&K BJP & MLA, Mohan Lal Bhagat, MLA Akhnoor, Suraj Singh, DDC Vice-Chairperson, accompanied by many other senior leaders of BJP and government officials



visiting the Refugee Camps. Addressing the media and residents at the camp, Sat Sharma expressed deep concern over the targeting of civilians by Pakistan. "As decisive retaliation to the brutal massacre of tourists in Pahalgam India effectively busted terrorists' locations. In frustration, Pakistan has resorted to cowardly shelling of civilian areas. In this hour of crisis, our priority is the safety and well-being of our citizens", said Sat Sharma. Sharma said that approximately 300 individuals from around 70 families

had been relocated to temporary shelters to protect them from the ongoing threat. He also called upon BJP workers to actively participate in relief and rescue operations, reaffirming the party's commitment to stand with the people during difficult times. Sunil Sharma echoed these sentiments and appealed to the administration to provide the best possible amenities to ease the hardships of the displaced. He underlined the need for maintaining consistent and adequate supplies like baby milk, medicines and

other essentials as well as sanitary conditions in the camps. Jugal Kishore Sharma commended the Indian armed forces for their effective response to the terrorist activities. "Under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our forces have shown the world the strength and resolve of Bharat. The dismantling of terrorist infrastructure is a clear message to those who threaten our peace," he said. Ravinder Raina, senior BJP leader visited Bajabai Camp and Kangri Camp in Nowshera Assembly Constituency and met the people shifted from LoC Meenaka Nahadev and Kalai Dubara (Seri) to these Camps and took stock of the arrangements made in these camps.

BSP delegation visits Suchetgarh, Kathua, Hiranagar, meets border residents

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 08

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Jammu and Kashmir President Darshan Rana along with party leadership today visited Border villages of Suchetgarh in Jammu district including Chakrohi, Nikowal, Gharana, Gharani, Kapoorpur and Jajowal and other villages and met with the Local people. Rana says Bahujan Samaj Party is fully standing with the border residents and if needed, party workers will always be ready to help the people. During his visit, senior party leaders Sardar Raja Singh, Tilak raj Bhagat, Tarsem Lal, Gurdev Singh and



Bishan Dass along with other party leaders were also present. During his visit, he visited various villages and held meetings with the people and also discussed with them the problems being faced by the people due to the tension between India and Pakistan. On this occasion, BSP President Darshan Rana said that after the Pahalgam attack, tension is continuously increasing

between the two countries. He said that whenever the situation between the two countries worsens, the people living on the border have to bear the most loss and people have to leave their homes and go to safer places. He said that the Bahujan Samaj Party is constantly monitoring the current situation and the party workers are constantly in touch with the people. He said

that this important issue is also being discussed with the administrative officials and the BSP is demanding that if people are sent to safer places, then every possible basic facility should be available to the people. Rana said that his party always stands with the people living on the border and the party's national president Mayawati has also issued instructions to the party workers that they should always stand with the people. DDC member Nagri Sandeep Majotra, Sunil Majotra and Surinder Kumar along with other party members Visit various Borders Villages on the direction of party President.

Dr D.K Manyal Visits Lodgement Centre Sidh Goriya Mandir, Swankha Amidst Cross-Border Tensions

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

In a significant outreach effort, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh and former Minister for Health and Medical Education, Jammu & Kashmir, visited the Lodgement Centre Sidh Goriya Mandir in Swankha today. His visit was marked by prayers for peace and community welfare as people from various villages including Abtal, Nanga, Dug, and surrounding areas gathered to meet him and share their concerns. The visit comes at a crucial time when border communities are facing heightened tensions due to unprovoked firing by Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) and IB. Villagers



expressed their apprehensions about safety, disrupted livelihoods, and the need for stronger security measures. Dr. Manyal assured the residents of his commitment to addressing their grievances and improving their living conditions amid ongoing cross-border challenges. Speaking to the com-

munity, Dr. Manyal stated, "The safety and welfare of our people are of utmost importance. We are actively working with security agencies to enhance protection measures and ensure swift responses during such incidents." He also emphasized the necessity for better facilities for those affected, including

healthcare support, emergency relief, and fortified shelters. The gathering at Sidh Goriya Mandir concluded with special prayers for peace and stability in the region. Community leaders and local residents appreciated Dr. Manyal's proactive approach, noting that his presence during these challenging times is a source of reassurance and strength. Dr. Manyal also took the opportunity to interact with community heads and party representatives to discuss long-term development plans for the border areas. His visit reflects a continued commitment to grassroots engagement and the welfare of border communities.

Jan visits border areas of Poonch following Cross-Border Firing

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 8

Ajaz Jan, MLA Haveli constituency, today conducted an extensive tour of the border areas in district Poonch to assess the aftermath of the recent cross-border firing by the Pakistan army. The attack, which occurred last night, tragically claimed the lives of 13 civilians and left more than 60 others injured.

During his visit, the MLA took stock of the current situation and met with the affected residents, particularly those from Sathra whose houses were damaged in the firing. In response, the MLA has relocated the dis-



placed families to the Government Polytechnic College for shelter and relief.

Ajaz Jan, a senior leader of the National Conference, has demanded that the government provide compensation of Rs 10 lakhs for the families of the deceased and Rs 1 lakh for those who have been injured in the firing. He further called on the

Tehsil Supply Officers of Poonch and Mandi to ensure an adequate and timely supply of rations for the affected people.

In a significant step toward restoring communication, the MLA confirmed that internet services in the Sabjiyan area have been fully restored. He also acknowledged the effective work of the Par-

ty's Block Committees in coordinating relief efforts.

The MLA informed that Fazal Hussain, former Sarpanch, and Ch. Shabir, former Sarpanch, have appointed for ground-level assistance and in arranging food and other essential needs for the affected families.

Furthermore, Azaj Jan instructed the Tehsildars of Mandi and Poonch to deploy Naib Tehsildars to assess the damages and assist in the ongoing relief work. He also spoke with the Health Minister to address any shortages in medical supplies and services.

The MLA commended the efforts of District Com-

missioner (DC) Poonch, SSP Poonch, and Additional SP Poonch for their swift response and efficient handling of the crisis, ensuring that necessary help reached the affected families in a timely manner.

The MLA Ajaz Jan praised Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his leadership and proactive approach to addressing the crisis, ensuring that all necessary resources are mobilized to support the affected families. He assured the people that he would continue to work closely with local administration and ensure that the affected families receive all necessary support and relief in the coming days.

Bharat Priya hails Indian Army for Op. Sindoor on Pak terrorist camps

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

Chairman, jkpsc kisan congress Bharat Priya has appreciated the Indian Army for the action taken on terrorist camps in Pakistan. He praised the Indian Army saying that it was a matter of pride. He said that the Indian Army had a reputation for not attacking anyone without a reason.

He said that India has only attacked terrorist camps and not civilian or military sites. He said that even before this Indian security forces were killing terrorists in different parts of the country, but this time

Hard punishment was required for what Pakistan did in Pahalgam. The Indian



expressed concern over the incidents of Pakistan targeting common citizens in Poonch district and said that the Government of India should take serious steps to protect the common people.

NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as Ruksana Bano instead of Ruksad Bano in my daughter's discharged and follow up card of SMGS Hospital Jammu. I am applying for correction of the same. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to concerned authorities within 7 days.

Ruksad Bano
D/o Mohd Amino
R/o Bari Rath Barai,
Bari Barahmana,
Jammu

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

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 8

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 Sambhal, 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 Gangyal Industrial Area Phase I, with best-in-class state-of-the-art facilities 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.

Congress delegation visits GMC Hospital, enquired, Poonch injured

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 08

A delegation of senior congress leaders led by Former Minister & Working President JKPC Shri Raman Bhalla, along with Chief Spokesperson Mr. Ravinder Sharma, Former MLC I/C PCC HQ Ved Mahajan, Chief Media Coordinator Neeraj Gupta today visited GMC Hospital Jammu to enquire about the injured persons of Pakistan firing in Poonch Dist. Yesterday.

They enquired about the condition of the injured from the Principal Medical College Jammu Dr. Ashutosh Gupta and other doctors present there and the available facilities for treatment. The injured persons expressed satisfaction over the kind of treatment and facilities for them for the doctors and staff.

The Principal revealed that they have all the required facilities for this advanced treatment and all injured were responding to the treatment except one patient who was referred outside to PGI.

The principal also revealed that volunteers are donating blood as per requirement, so far and sought the co-operation of all.



Shri Bhalla assured the hospital administration of all sorts of help in case of more need and already volunteers are rendering help and donating blood. The injured disclosed that so far they have not been given any financial aid by the administration.

The congress leaders appealed to the concerned administration to immediately provide financial aid to the injured, so that they don't suffer. An injured belonged to Bihar and was on duty in Civil Dept. in Poonch.

Speaking to waiting media persons at GMC hospital Shri Bhalla and Shri Sharma said that they had come to express sympathy and solidarity with the injured and send out a message that entire nation is together for dealing with the enemy. Congress party is fully with the armed

forces and the Govt. and the border people at this juncture.

They condemned Pakistan for targeting civilian population in Poonch, Rajouri, Uri, Kupwara etc. which shows her shameful and inhuman approach of Pakistan.

They said congress party is fully behind forces to go ahead, as per requirement and vacate the POK areas under illegal occupation of Pakistan. It is for the Govt and armed forces to decide. We shall remain shoulder to shoulder with our forces and the people at this juncture.

They disclosed that party shall take out a peaceful Tringa Yatra in Jammu City, tomorrow at 6.00 P.M. onwards to salute the armed forces for their bravery and in support our border population.

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer,
Seed Development Division, SFRI Complex, Janipur, Jammu- 180007
E-mail:- dfoused123@gmail.com, Tel:-& Fax: 01912953921

E-TENDERING

Notice Inviting Tender: e-NIT No. 03 of 2025-26 Dated:07.05.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor, Jammu & Kashmir State, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K UT Govt./Central Govt. Organizations having experience and knowledge of the work of nursery raising and maintenance of the plants involving the following items of works:-

Name of Work: 2nd year Maintenance of poly bagged plants raised during 2023-24(9"x6") in Sidhra

Nurseries(CAMPA)

T.S & A.A= Accorded
Status of Funds= Approved

S.N o.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Receiving /Opening Authority
1	<p>Maintenance of plants in poly bags of size 9" x 6"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resowing of seeds in failed polybags including cost of seed and labour as per the ordered quantity Care of new germination including shade/thatching whenever required Regular weeding in polybags including disposal of weeds Cleaning of weeds and unwanted growth on bunds and interspaces of plots and beds and all nursery area outside the plots containing poly bags and also in empty plots on daily basis including disposal of weeds in a way to keep them always free from any weeds/grasses for hygiene purposes. Irrigation of plants as per requirement from available irrigation facility including that by water tankers to be procured from market in case of shortage of water in irrigation source of nursery and also in case of fault in motor pumps. Cost of diesel/petrol/ for irrigating /Watering of plants in Nursery including cost of weedicides, Insecticides spray in case of disease outbreak and including any expenditure incurred on repair of the electrical/ mechanical motors/pumps/other nursery equipment which was hitherto in working order and was rendered unserviceable out of work due to use during the work of maintenance of plants. Cost of seed/cuttings/transplants required for sowing/resowing/ transplant in empty bags/mother beds Shifting and grading of polybags as per requirement as directed by supervisory staff. Dressing of bunds/boundaries of plots/paths including general nursery maintenance and use of chemical /physical/biological methods to keep the plants and nursery free from any sort of disease and insect and biotic/animal/bird attack. The bidder shall also liable to restore the nursery to original shape in case of any adverse natural calamity like excessive rains/flooding/hail storm etc. 	300000 PB Plants @ 2.66/- per plant till March 2026 Rs. 7.98 lacs	15960	A,B, C & D	Rs.600/-	Maintenance Work as detailed to be done on daily basis upto 12/03/2026 or till lifting of plants from nursery	Tender Opening Committee

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities,(B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

Position of funds: APPROVED
Position of AA/TS: ACCORDED

Publishing Date	07.05.2025
Download Start Date	07.05.2025 From 04:15 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	07.05.2025 From 06:00 PM
Bid submission End Date	16.05.2025 At 02.00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	17.05.2025 at 01:00 PM (in the office of DFO Seed Development Division, Forest Complex, J&K FRI, JANIPUR, Jammu).
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	17.05.2025 at 01:30 PM (in the office of DFO Seed Development Division, Forest Complex, J&K FRI, JANIPUR, Jammu).

Divisional Forest Officer
Seed Development Division,
J&K FRI, Jammu.

No. JKFR/J/F-181/2025-26/167-71

Dated. 07.05.2025

DIP/J-954/25
Date: 8-5-25

UP has good environment for investment and business: Yogi

AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, MAY 8

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday appealed to investors that world-class infrastructure and all basic facilities are available for investment in the crime-free state.

While addressing the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) conclave held here, the CM highlighted UP's remarkable progress in strengthening its economy and law and order over the past eight years.

"UP is now crime and mafia-free and the state police swiftly neutralises any threats," he said.

Calling on the association to chart out a comprehensive roadmap for setting up a Gems and Jewellery Park in the state, he said that today, UP offers a robust and secure business environment.

Assuring full government support to stakeholders in the gems and jewellery sector, Yogi expressed gratitude to IBJA for organising the conclave in Lucknow. He said that such events not only open new avenues for trade but also give momentum to the government's ongoing 'Aath Saal Bemisaal' campaign.

He highlighted the crucial role of the gems and jewellery industry in India's economy and said that the sector contributes around seven percent to the national GDP and generates significant revenue through import duties and



GST. He said that beyond economic growth, the industry also plays a vital role in job creation and enhancing India's global identity.

Reflecting on the transformation in UP's law and order situation, the CM recalled that just eight years ago, the state was plagued by unrest, riots and a general sense of insecurity, especially for traders and women, during festivals.

"But in 2017, the people placed their faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi and gave the BJP a clear mandate. Today, UP is not only riot-free but also mafia-free. Festivals of all communities are now celebrated peacefully," he said.

He said that this positive change in law and order has created a conducive atmosphere for business and investment. "UP now offers world-class infrastructure and all necessary amenities, making it a land of immense opportunities for entrepreneurs and investors," he said.

Yogi emphasised the urgent need to establish a dedicated Gems and Jewellery Park in UP, calling it vital for the state's eco-

conomic growth. He urged the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) to develop a comprehensive model incorporating design, technology, processing, packaging, supply chain management and export.

Highlighting UP's demographic advantage, he said that the state, with a population of 25 crore, serves a broader region catering to the needs of nearly 30 crore people in terms of trade, employment, healthcare and education. He stressed the importance of adopting a modern, forward-looking approach to fully leverage this vast market.

The CM assured traders of the government's steadfast support through enhanced security measures and open dialogue. He outlined significant strides taken under the 'Safe City' initiative, including reducing police response time from 25-30 minutes to just 7-8 minutes.

He said, "While UP had only one cyber police station in 2017, today, every district is equipped with cyber police stations and help desks. Besides, foren-

sic labs and dedicated police units have also been established across all districts, along with a state-level forensic institute set up last year."

Yogi encouraged businesses to use modern surveillance tools. He said the shift from traditional CCTV systems with DVRs to advanced cloud-based cameras, which have greatly enhanced crime detection and resolution.

"Today, UP Police can neutralise any criminal threat within minutes," he said.

Sharing data on the state's economic transformation, he revealed that UP's economy has grown from Rs 12.75 lakh crore in 2017 to Rs 30 lakh crore today, a 150 percent increase in just eight years.

"Per capita income has more than doubled from Rs 46,000 to Rs 1.10 lakh. UP, once considered a 'BIMARU' state, has risen from being the country's seventh-largest economy to the second-largest, now recognised as a powerful engine of national growth," he said.

The CM called on IBJA and business leaders to seize this unprecedented opportunity and scale new heights. He expressed confidence that the gems and jewellery sector would significantly contribute to economic development, employment generation and enhancing India's global reputation.

He said, "The state government stands firmly with you. Together, we will chart a new course for UP."

Anyone trying to take advantage of India's restraint will face quality action: Rajnath Singh

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

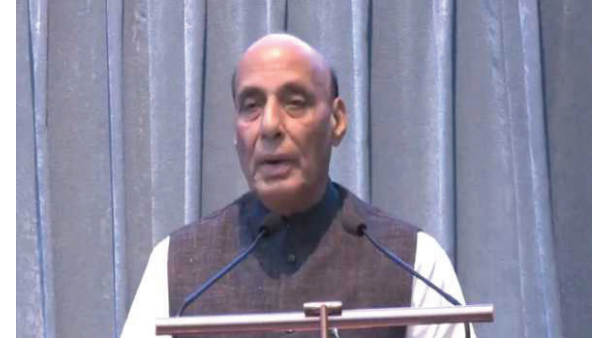
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said India has always played the role of a responsible nation exercising great restraint and it believes in resolving issues through dialogue, but anyone trying to take advantage of this restraint, will face 'quality action'.

Addressing the National Quality Conclave here, the Defence Minister assured the nation that no limit will become an obstacle for the Government in protecting India's sovereignty, a Defence Ministry statement said.

"We are fully prepared for such responsible responses in the future as well," he said.

Rajnath said, "Operation Sindoor was successfully executed because our formidable and professionally-trained Armed Forces were equipped with high-quality equipment".

He commended the precision with which the Armed Forces executed the operation without



harming any innocent person and with minimum collateral damage, terming it as unimaginable and a matter of great pride for the nation.

"In Operation Sindoor, nine terror camps were destroyed in Pakistan and PoK, and a good number of terrorists were killed. It shows the crucial role 'quality' plays in securing national interests," said the Minister.

Voicing the government's emphasis on the empowerment of the defence production sector since 2014, based on government's philosophy of Defence Sovereignty, Rajnath said,

"Defence Sovereignty means that until a country is capable and self-reliant in its defence needs, its independence cannot be considered complete.

"If we buy weapons and other defence equipment from abroad, we are outsourcing our security and leaving it at the mercy of someone else. Our government thought over it seriously and took a decisive step to achieve self-reliance. The expanding defence industrial ecosystem is providing an unprecedented strength to India".

While he acknowledged the efforts being made towards quality improvement, Rajnath stressed on the need to

focus on using tools such as artificial intelligence, internet of things, and machine learning for real-time quality monitoring in today's technology-driven era. He also called for updating standards and testing protocols to align with evolving global technologies. We need to focus on time-bound quality assurance clearances so that unwanted delays do not take place, he said.

Rajnath asserted that quality assessment agencies should always keep an eye on their deficiencies and work on overcoming them through modernisation and development of testing infrastructure. Continuous gap analysis in the field of niche technology will be an essential step, he added.

Organised by the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) under the aegis of Department of Defence Production, the conclave underscored the need to transition from legacy QA models to predictive, data-driven, and automated systems.

SC slams BJP MP Nishikant Dubey for scandalous remarks against CJI, Judiciary

AGENCIES

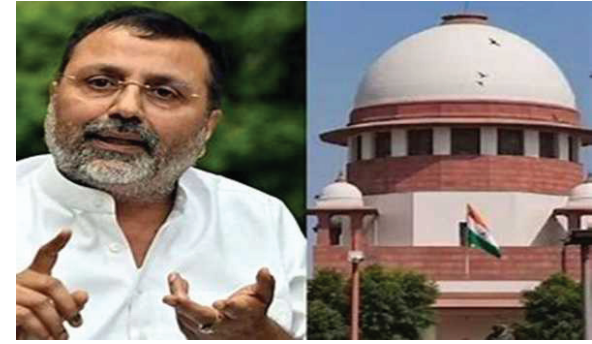
NEW DELHI, MAY 8

The Supreme Court has come down heavily on BJP MP Nishikant Dubey for his inflammatory and scandalous remarks directed at Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna and the judiciary over the handling of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

In a strongly worded order dated May 5, a bench comprising CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice P V Sanjay Kumar termed Dubey's comments a deliberate attempt to undermine the credibility of the judiciary and erode public confidence in the institution.

The Court noted with concern that Dubey's public statements including accusations that the Chief Justice is responsible for "all civil wars in India" and that the Supreme Court was "inciting religious conflicts" were reckless, defamatory and intended to scandalise the court.

"The statements no doubt tend to scandalise and lower the authority of the Supreme Court of India... and have the ten-



dency to interfere and obstruct the administration of justice," the bench observed.

Despite the gravity of the allegations, the Court refused to initiate contempt proceedings against Dubey, as sought by petitioner Advocate Vishal Tiwari, who had moved the top court urging action under Section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 and relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Rejecting the contempt plea, the bench remarked, "Courts are not as fragile as flowers to wither and wilt under such ludicrous statements."

However, it clarified that Dubey's remarks do not fall within the protective exceptions of Sections 3 and 4 of

the Contempt of Courts Act. "There is no civil war in India. The comments were highly irresponsible and reflect a penchant to attract attention by casting aspersions on the Supreme Court and its judges," the Court held.

The Court further criticised Dubey's ignorance regarding the role of constitutional courts, emphasising that such statements display a fundamental misunderstanding of the judiciary's responsibilities and powers.

In a strong condemnation of hate speech, the Court stated, "Any attempt to spread communal hatred or indulge in hate speech must be dealt with an iron hand. Hate speech cannot be tolerated as it leads to

the loss of dignity and self-worth of targeted groups and undermines the fabric of a multicultural society."

While exercising restraint in declining to proceed with contempt, the Court reiterated that the strength of the judiciary lies not in retaliation, but in transparency, accountability and the public's confidence.

"Judges must rely on the strength of their reasoning and the public's discernment to distinguish between legitimate critique and malicious attacks," it said.

Reaffirming the judiciary's role in a constitutional democracy, the Court highlighted that judicial review is a fundamental feature of the Constitution and that all three branches of government must operate within constitutional limits.

"Judgments are not immune from scrutiny or correction but must face appeal, review, and curative mechanisms," the bench added.

Another contempt plea against Dubey on the same issue remains pending before the apex court.

A daughter and a defender: Father-in-law salutes Colonel Sofiya

AGENCIES

BELAGAVI, MAY 8

Colonel Sofiya Qureshi's involvement in the ongoing Operation Sindoor has brought pride and honour not just to the armed forces, but also to her family and Belagavi. Her father-in-law, Ghousaab Babusab Bagewadi, says her service represents the growing strength and leadership of Indian women in uniform.

"She is our daughter, serving in the Army and doing exceptional work," Bagewadi told reporters. "We always encourage her to continue her good service, she's making us proud. I aspire to lead a life as honourable as hers."

Colonel Sofiya had visited the family six months ago and was expected to



return for Bakrid. Bagewadi said he only learned of her role in Operation Sindoor on Wednesday evening. "I wasn't home at the time, my friend told me when I returned. I was overwhelmed with happiness. I couldn't sleep all night, and media persons kept coming for interviews."

While he couldn't speak to her directly due to her ongoing briefings, Bagewadi said he spoke to his son, who assured him that Colonel Sofiya was safe and in good health.

"The community is showing us great respect. People are coming to congratulate us, offer prayers, and even presented me with a bouquet, saying our family has brought honour to the community."

Operation Sindoor involved a swift and high-risk counter-insurgency manoeuvre in sensitive zones in PoK and Pakistan.

Speaking with conviction and emotion, Bagewadi added: "Caste and religion are senseless divisions. What Pakistan does is meaningless, death

doesn't evade Pakistanis by the grace of Allah. They strike from behind, but we Indian Muslims fight from the front. That is why Allah grants us honour and dignity."

"If our daughters can show such strength, imagine the strength our sons possess," he said. "But our duty must always be to save lives. If I see a child drowning in a river, I won't stand by—I will jump in to save him. Our true identity is that we are Hindustanis. If we live by that, Allah will never let us go hungry."

In a symbol of communal harmony, Bagewadi revealed that the family has also been invited to attend temple jatras (festival). "That's the India we believe in, mutual respect, unity, and service," he said.

CJI forwards Inquiry Panel report on Justice Yashwant Varma to President, PM

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 8

In a significant development, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Thursday forwarded the report of a Supreme Court-appointed three-member inquiry committee probing serious allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The CJI also enclosed Justice Varma's written response to the allegations, adhering to principles of natural justice.

The confidential communication, made under the Supreme Court's in-house procedure, pertains to allegations surrounding the discovery of unaccounted cash following a fire incident at Justice Varma's official residence in Lutyens' Delhi on the night of March 14.

At the time, Justice Varma was serving as a judge of the Delhi High Court before being elevated to the Allahabad High Court.

"The Chief Justice of India, in terms of the in-house procedure, has written to the President of India

and the Prime Minister of India enclosing therewith a copy of the three-member committee report dated May 3 along with the letter / response dated May 6 received from Justice Yashwant Varma," the Supreme Court stated in a press release.

Crucially, the press note does not explicitly mention that the Chief Justice has recommended Justice Varma's removal. Sources say it was part of the confidential correspondence.

The inquiry committee was headed by Chief Justice

Sheel Nagu of the Punjab and Haryana High Court and included Chief Justice G S Sandhawalia of the Himachal Pradesh High Court and Justice Anu Sivaraman of the Karnataka High Court.

The panel conducted a detailed investigation, examining evidence and recording statements of over 50 individuals, including senior officials such as Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora and the Chief of Delhi Fire Services, both of whom were among the first responders on the night of the fire.

6 dead as helicopter crashes in Uttarakhand

AGENCIES

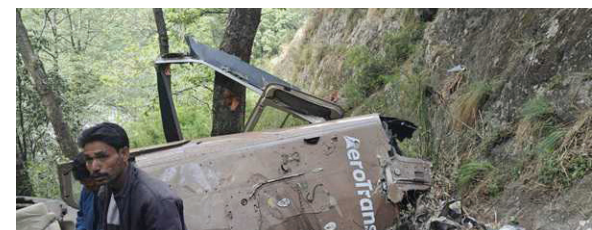
DEHRADUN (UTTARAKHAND), MAY 8

At least six people were killed and several others injured when a helicopter carrying pilgrims to the holy shrine of Gangotri Dham crashed in Uttarakhand on Thursday morning, an official said.

There were seven people on board, including the pilot. While six bodies have been recovered, one passenger is safe.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has expressed grief over the accident.

State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) Commandant Arpan Yaduvanshi



said a helicopter crash was reported in Gangnani area at around 8:50 am. A team led by chief constable Naveen Kumar was immediately dispatched from post Bhatwadi, while another team led by sub-inspector Pushkar Jeena left from post Ujeli.

The SDRF team reached the spot and found that the helicopter had fallen into a deep gorge, Yaduvanshi said. He said the team has started rescue work by setting up a base

at the spot and landing in the ditch.

According to information received from the State Disaster Management Authority, there were 7 people in the helicopter. These include one pilot and six passengers. The bodies of six people, including pilot Robin Singh, have been recovered, while one passenger is reportedly safe.

The helicopter belonged to Aero Trans Services Private Limited, sources said,

adding the registration number of the helicopter is VT OXF. The helicopter was on a flight from Sahasradhara helipad, Dehradun to Kharsali, helipad. From there they were supposed to go to Gangotri.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has expressed his grief over the incident.

Teams of SDRF and district administration have reached the spot immediately for relief and rescue work.

Dhama said the administration has been instructed to provide all possible assistance to the injured and investigate the accident. "I am in touch with the authorities and monitoring the situation," he said.

Inter-School Zonal Level U14/U17 tournaments begin across Bhagwah, Thathri and Bhatyas Zones

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 8

The Inter-School Zonal Level Tournaments for Under-14 and Under-17 Boys and Girls commenced today in Bhagwah, Thathri, and Bhatyas Zones.

The much-anticipated event aims to promote physical fitness, discipline, and team spirit among school students through structured sports competitions.

About 900 students from across various schools of three zones are taking part in the tournaments, competing in a wide range of events including Kabaddi, Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Yoga, Chess, Carrom, and Athletics. These events are designed not only to identify emerging sports talent at the grassroots level but



also to provide a platform for students to qualify for higher-level competitions.

The tournaments were officially inaugurated by the respective Zonal Physical Education Officers (ZPEOs) of Bhagwah, Thathri, and Bhatyas, who were present alongside staff members of the Youth Services and Sports Department. The inauguration ceremonies

were marked by enthusiastic participation from both students and sports officials, highlighting the spirit of camaraderie and healthy competition.

under the directions of the Director General Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Rajinder Singh Tara and District Youth Services and Sports Officer Doda, Pritam Singh. The zonal tournaments play a crucial

role in strengthening the foundation of the YSS Department's mission to foster youth engagement and holistic development through sports. The department has also ensured the presence of trained officials, proper sporting equipment, and first-aid support at all venues to ensure the smooth conduct of the games.

Horticulture Department Kathua organises exposure visit for Fruit Growers

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 08

The Department of Horticulture Kathua organised a one day Exposure visit for a group of 25 Farmers/Fruit Growers of Billawar and Lohai Malhar blocks under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), here today. Chief Horticulture Officer Ashwani Sharma flagged off the Exposure Visit to the Centre of Excellence for Fruits, SKUAST-Jammu - Udheywala, conducted under the direction of Director Horticulture Jammu C. L. Sharma.

The CHO interacted with the group of farmers and advised them to learn the latest horticulture techniques during the exposure visit and adopt the same in their fields for better returns.



During the Exposure visit, an Interactive Session was held for the visiting farmers which were chaired by Dean, Faculty of Horticulture and Forestry, SKUAST-J Prof. Vikas Tandon, alongside Division of Fruit Science Prof. Akash Sharma, and District Level -Subject Matter Specialist (Pomology) Kathua Sandeep Gupta.

Prof. Tandon, while addressing the Farmers, briefed about the activities being taken up at COE,

especially about the latest and elite cultivars of different Fruit plants being propagated at the centre. He further disclosed that the interested farmers can take these quality Fruit plants of high yielding varieties at genuine rates. Prof. Akash imparted in-depth knowledge about Scientific Orchard Management.

Sandeep Gupta while interacting with the participants, educated them about incentives available under various Schemes/

Programs presently under implementation viz. HADP, JKICP, MIDH, CAPEX and urged them to take maximum benefit from these Schemes/Programs.

A live demonstration about various propagation techniques was given to the Farmers during their visit to different Hi-tech Houses.

Sohan Lal Incharge HDO Billawar/Lohai Malhar accompanied the Farmers/Fruit Growers during the exposure visit.

Poonch Administration steps up restoration of Essential Services, Supplies

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 08

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal on Thursday convened a meeting to review the status of essential services and initiate measures to expedite the restoration of critical supply chain across this border district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the XENS of the Jal Shakti and Power Development Departments to ensure the restoration of water and electricity supply within two hours in all affected areas.

The Assistant Director Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) was asked to take immediate measures to ensure adequate and uninterrupted supply of ration, particularly in areas along the Line of Control (LoC). It



was informed that the district has sufficient stocks of food grains, petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG to meet the needs of the public. The Deputy Commissioner also instructed the concerned authorities to ensure sufficient cash flow in all ATMs to avoid any inconvenience to the people.

Further, the Deputy Commissioner directed to resume MGNREGA and PMAY works from tomorrow, as today's weather

conditions were not conducive.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department was instructed to remain on high alert 24x7 to respond to any exigencies. The Sheep and Animal Husbandry Department was directed to conduct mobile veterinary camps, particularly at Poshana, to provide medical care to livestock, with a special focus on the tribal population.

The Programme Officer ICDS was instructed to ensure timely supply of ration to all Anganwadi Centres and to make the same fully functional with immediate effect. The Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) was directed to monitor public transport operations, prevent overcharging, and ensure the smooth and uninterrupted movement of transport services across the district.

Additionally, all district officers have been directed to submit 100% employee attendance to ensure the smooth functioning of all government services during this period.

The District Administration is closely monitoring the situation and remains committed to ensuring the safety, welfare, and uninterrupted access to essential services for all citizens.

Kishtwar Ignites Youth Sports Spirit: Inter-School Zonal Tournament for U/14 Boys & Girls commences across Multiple Zones

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 8

The District Youth Services & Sports Department, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, kicked off the Inter-School Zonal Level Tournament for Under-14 Boys and Girls here today.

The multi-day tournament, organized across Kishtwar, Nagseni, Drabshalla, and Paddar Zones promises a spectacular showcase of young talent, discipline, and athletic excellence.

The grand inauguration took place here at the ITI Badminton Court and Chowgan Ground, where over 150 young athletes competed in Badminton,



Carrom, Kho-Kho, and Kabaddi. District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jaffer Haider Sheikh was the Chief Guest at the Inaugural Ceremony. He lauded the enthusiastic participation and commended the organizing team led by

ZPEO for their meticulous planning and spirited execution.

In Zone Nagseni the tournament featured Chess and Carrom at Bharatiya Vidya Mandir (BVM) with participation of 120 students from various schools, the

event reflected a high standard of intellectual engagement. ZPEO Suresh Chander Parihar ensured smooth conduct with the active support of his team.

Continuing the athletic excitement, Zone Drabshalla held U/14 Girls Kho-Kho matches, where 60 participants showcased exceptional teamwork and agility. The event emphasized inclusivity and the promotion of traditional games among girls.

The sporting celebrations extended to Zone Paddar with girls competing in Chess, Carrom, Badminton, and Rope Skipping. Fifty participants lit up the grounds with competitive zeal and discipline.

Reasi Administration celebrates World Red Cross Day with active community participation

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 8

The District Administration and District Red Cross Society Reasi celebrated World Red Cross Day today with great enthusiasm and active community participation under the theme "On the Side of Humanity." Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, who also serves as the Chairperson of the District Red Cross Society, was the chief guest on the occasion.

The programme began with the lighting of the lamp by the chief guest and other dignitaries. The celebration paid tribute to the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross movement. Students from various schools and colleges, along with volunteers, actively participated in the event. A symposium was held in which six students highlighted the importance, history, and humanitarian values of the Red Cross Society. The event also featured a dance performance by students.

Various officials including CEO, Tehsildar Pouni and prominent citizens like Vactch Pati Sharma were felicitated for their contributions to the Red Cross.



In recognition of academic excellence, the Deputy Commissioner awarded trophies to students who achieved outstanding results during the 2024-25 academic year in Classes 10 and 12.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of humanity, stating that every individual should help others in whatever capacity they can to fulfill their role as responsible citizens. She highlighted the significant role played by the Red Cross in providing humanitarian aid, disaster

relief, and health services both globally and locally. Applauding the efforts of volunteers, she urged all citizens to come forward and contribute to the noble cause of serving humanity.

The event also honored the generosity of those who support humanitarian efforts. Certificates of appreciation were distributed to officers and citizens who made significant contributions to the Red Cross Society in Reasi. A Red Cross Day pledge was solemnly taken by all attendees, reaffirming the commitment of students,

teachers, and officials to uphold the fundamental principles of the Red Cross.

A vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Kuldeep Khajuria, District Executive Secretary of the Red Cross.

Among those present were ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, Dy. DEO Rakesh Kumar, CEO Deepak Kumar, DSWO, Tehsildars, ALC, DIO (Information), district officers, officials, teachers, and students.

World Red Cross Day: DLSA, Ganderbal organizes blood donation camp

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 8

On the eve of World Red Cross Day, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, in collaboration with, District Hospital Ganderbal and RED DROP (NGO), successfully conducted a Blood Donation Camp at District Hospital Ganderbal.

The camp was organized under the inspiring theme 'Keeping Humanity Alive', emphasizing the importance of selfless service and community contribution.

The event was conducted under the leadership of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA, Ganderbal, along with the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal.

The event was aimed to promote the noble cause of blood donation, raising awareness about its significance, and encourage voluntary blood donations to meet the demand for blood in medical emergencies.

Secretary DLSA, Ganderbal, appreciated the dedication and generosity of all the donors, organizers, and volunteers who made this event a suc-



cess. Their selfless act will undoubtedly contribute to saving precious lives in our community, he said.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from

legal professionals, government employees, social activists, police personnel, and members of the public.

The occasion was fur-

ther enriched by the presence of Shabir Hussain Khan, known as the 'Blood Man of Kashmir,' and Bilkees Ara, known as the 'Blood Woman of Kashmir,' inspiring others with their unwavering commitment to this life-saving cause.

Their remarkable contributions, having donated hundreds of blood units over the years, have established them as beacons of service and compassion in the community.

Over 20 units of different blood groups were collected during the camp, marking a significant contribution to local healthcare needs and underscoring the community's generosity and willingness to donate blood.