

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
- Diarrhoea
- Persistent vomiting
- A rapid rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness on the skin

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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‘Operation Sindoor’ most decisive anti-terror action in past 30 years: Rajnath Singh in Srinagar

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15 (KNO)

Terming ‘Operation Sindoor’, as the most decisive anti-terror action in the past 30 years, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday warned Pakistan that it would have to “pay a heavy price” if it continues to support terrorism.

Addressing soldiers at Badami Bagh Cantonment here, Singh, according to the news agency said, “Pakistan has repeatedly backstabbed India. But this time, we have ripped apart their chest in response to the assault on our innocent citizens in Pahalgam.”

He reiterated that “talks



and terror” cannot go together and if talks are held any time these will focus on Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) and terrorism.

He warned Pakistan of dire consequences if any

terror attack takes place in India saying, “PM Modi has made India’s position unequivocal, any terror act will be considered an act of war.”

He reaffirmed India’s commitment to peace but

issued a stern warning: “India has never favoured war, but when it comes to giving a befitting reply, we do not hesitate. Our armed forces are respected across the world. We have ensured they are equipped with the latest technology and weaponry.”

LAUDS COURAGE, PRECISION OF ARMED FORCES

The Defence Minister lauded the courage, precision, and professionalism displayed by Indian soldiers during ‘Operation Sindoor’. “Under PM Modi’s leadership the forces carried out Operation Sindoor with “unmatched intensity and purpose.”

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LG lauds armed forces for punishing terror planners sitting in Pak

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15 (KNO)

Lauding armed forces for giving exemplary punishment to terror planners sitting in Pakistan, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday saluted the valour and courage of Indian armed forces and their might and strategic clarity with which they carried out “Operation Sindoor.”

“Nation is proud of our armed forces for scripting a historic victory saga of ‘Operation Sindoor’ with bravery and avenging Pahalgam terror attack, LG Sinha said, while addressing the soldiers at Badami Bagh Cantonment here.

‘Operation Sindoor’ has changed the course of the fight against terror in one focused and measured hit.



It has marked a decisive shift in our military doctrine and the entire nation is paying respect and gratitude to the armed forces. 9 major terror camps destroyed, 11 Pakistani air bases hit and high-profile terrorists were eliminated,” he said.

“Our brave armed forces have not only destroyed the terror factories within Pakistan, but

terrorists are now being hunted one by one,” the Lieutenant Governor said, pointing out that within a week six terrorists have been neutralised in South Kashmir in the joint operation with the Indian Army,” the Lieutenant Governor said, adding, “It is our resolve to rid J&K UT of terrorism.”

The Lieutenant Governor also reiterated that our

brave armed forces will continue to take action to ensure the safety of our citizens and peace and prosperity of the nation. He observed that the bravery of our soldiers in ‘Operation Sindoor’ is now a part of our great victory tradition.

He said, “Pakistan is a terrorist country and now we have also

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‘Shelling won’t break us’: LoC residents say they stay rooted in homeland

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15 (KNO)

After the guns fell silent along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, the government has begun assessing damages in border areas to initiate rebuilding efforts, with locals expressing full support to security forces.

“No matter how hard it gets or how close death comes, we will never stop supporting the security forces on the first line of defence,” said Suliman Ahmad Khan, a 60-year-old man from Poonch.

The residents along the LoC in areas including Poonch, Rajouri, Karnah, Uri and Gurez said that Pakistan has resorted to shelling civilian areas, causing massive damage to livestock, property,

and innocent lives. They said it will not break their morale as they continue to live on the first line of defence alongside security forces, no matter how difficult it gets.

“Whether we live or die, we will never leave this land, no matter how difficult it gets due to shelling,” Khan said. “We are people of the border, so we have to stay here and face the challenges. All we need is the government’s support, nothing else.”

Khan added, “I was in my house when there was massive shelling last Friday. I was staying here with my belongings, including livestock. I thought, ‘If I die here, I will die here; if I stay, I will live here.’”

He said locals

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Formulate plan to revive tourism in J&K: CM Omar tells officials



JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday directed the officials to formulate a plan for the revival of the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

While chairing a joint meeting of tourism stakeholders and the officers, the Chief Minister, according to the news agency,

assured the stakeholders that the government will put in all the efforts to put things back on track.

The meeting discussed concerns of the stakeholders in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead.

The Chief Minister in a post on X, wrote that his government is fully committed to support the tourism sector and will

consider the valuable suggestions of all.

Manzoor Wangnoo, Chairman of the Nigeen Lake Conservation Organisation (NLCO) said that a high-level positive meeting was held today in which the participants’ put forth their valuable suggestions for the revival of the tourism sector and also the wellbeing of the people associated with it.

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Before launching ‘Operation Sindoor’ India informed Pak: EAM Jaishankar

JINNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 15 (KNO)

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday said that before launching “Operation Sindoor” we had sent a message to Pakistan that India is striking at terrorist infrastructure and not at the military installations.

Talking to reporters here, Jaishankar, according to the news agency, said, “We had told them that their military has an option of standing out and not interfering but they chose not to take the good advice.”

He said, “They got hit as badly as they did on the morning of May 10, all have seen the satellite pictures. These images reveal how much damage we did and how little damage they did. These pictures tell what a hit they took. The



same people who were not ready to stand down on May 7 were willing to talk and stand on May 10. It’s very clear who wanted the cessation of firing.”

His comments came in response to claims by US President Donald Trump suggesting that Washington played a role in facilitating the ceasefire between the two countries.

Without directly naming the US President, Jaishankar clarified that

the decision to halt hostilities followed a pattern of events that pointed clearly to one side’s willingness to de-escalate.

On May 7, Indian forces carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan as a response to the Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead.

Referring to the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan, he said it will

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Heatwave conditions in J&K as day temperature rises

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15 (KNO)

The maximum temperatures rose in the twin capitals of Jammu and Kashmir with mercury settling in Srinagar at 30.0 degrees Celsius and 40.4 degrees Celsius in Jammu on Thursday.

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WB says its Rs 1500 crore J&K project has surpassed agreed targets in few areas

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15 (KNO)

The Rs 1500 crore World Bank funded Jhelum-Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) has

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DSEJ orders reopening of all schools from May-19

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15 (KNO)

The Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) Thursday ordered that all government and recognized private schools in Jammu division which were yet to reopen post ceasefire shall resume functioning from May-19-2025.

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India-Pakistan agree to continue CBMs to reduce alert levels

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15 (KNO)

India and Pakistan have agreed to continue confidence building measures (CBMs), including the ceasefire pact reached between the two nations on May 10, officials said on Thursday.

The Indian Army in a statement, issued to news agency, said that that further to the understanding between the two DGMOs

on 10th of May 2025, it has been decided to continue the confidence building measures so as to reduce the alertness level.

It added that as situation develops further, details shall be shared accordingly.

Both countries announced a ceasefire pact along the Line of Control and the International Border after the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of two

sides spoke to each other over hotline on May 10.

The two DGMO deliberated on various aspects of the understanding reached between the two sides on May 10 on stopping military actions and firings.

Indian Army, in a statement, had said talks between DGMO of India and Pakistan were held at 5:00 pm on Monday.

“Issues related to continuing the commitment

that both sides must not fire a single shot or initiate any aggressive and inimical action against each other were discussed. It was also agreed that both sides consider immediate measures to ensure troop reduction from the borders and forward areas,” it was given out in the statement.

The military confrontation had erupted between the two sides after

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Kashmir safe, time to support its economy: Civil Aviation Minister



JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR/JAMMU, MAY 15 (KNO)

Union Civil Aviation Minister, Ram Mohan Naidu

on Thursday appealed to people across the country to visit Kashmir again, saying it is time to support the valley’s economy.

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Three local JeM terrorists killed in Tral encounter

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15 (KNO)

Security forces on Tuesday killed three local terrorists affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) during an encounter in the Shukro Kella area of south Kashmir’s Shopian district.

An official told the news

agency that a joint team comprising police, Army and CRPF launched a search operation in the Nader area of Tral after receiving specific intelligence about terrorists’ presence. As the forces intensified their search, terrorists fired upon them, prompting a retaliatory gunfight, the official added.

“During the encounter, three terrorists were neutralised, and arms and ammunition were recovered from the site,” he said. The slain terrorists have been identified as Asif Ahmad Sheikh, son of Gh Mohammad Sheikh from Monghama Tral (active since April 2022); Aamir Nazir Wani, son of Nazir Ahmad Wani

from Khasipora Tral (active since April 2024); and Yawar Ahmad Bhat, son of Nazir Ahmad Bhat from Larow Tral (active since August 2024).

Speaking to reporters, IGP Kashmir V K Birdi, as per KNO, said security forces received specific inputs about terrorists’ presence in the area this morn-

ing. A cordon was established, leading to an encounter with the holed-up terrorists.

“During the operation, the terrorists were engaged, resulting in the death of three terrorists near the debris,” Birdi said. “This is part of an all-out effort to dismantle the terror

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DIC Ramban organises Awareness Camp at Dharmound

JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 15

District Industries Centre (DIC) Ramban, in line with the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, and under the guidance of the Director Industries & Commerce Jammu, today organized an awareness camp at village Dharmound in Block Batote.

The objective was to spread awareness about the implementation of Strategic Investment Plans (SIP) for Jammu & Kashmir under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme, along with other schemes being implemented by DIC Ramban.

The camp held under the supervision of GM DIC Ravinder Anand was commenced with a welcome address by Project Manager, Kuldeep Singh. During the session, participants were encouraged to register their business units on the Udyam portal (www.udyamregistration.gov.in) to formalize MSMEs in District Ramban.

The Project Manager also sensitized attendees about the procedure for applying under various schemes, explaining the benefits of enrollment with DIC. Educated unemployed youth were informed about the financial assistance and subsidies available under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) for establishing ventures in both manufacturing and service sectors.

Additionally, awareness about the PM Vishwakarma scheme was also created. The scheme generated interest among aspiring youth, many of whom expressed willingness to step forward and avail benefits under PMEGP through DIC Ramban.

The camp concluded with a vote of thanks from the Project Manager, who appreciated the public for their enthusiastic participation.

Medical Camp, yoga session organized at Shopian

JNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MAY 15

A free medical and awareness camp was organized today at Zari Center Babapora Chitragam, Shopian.

The camp was conducted by AWHC Wachi and AWHC Turkawangam in collaboration with JKRLM Shopian.

A total of 110 patients were attended to. The initiative aimed to promote health awareness and provide free consultations and treatment.

In continuation of the countdown to the 11th International Yoga Day, a Yoga session was also held at TRC Park Borihalan, Shopian.

The session focused on promoting holistic health and well-being through yoga, witnessing active participation from students and staff.

Javed Rana meets people of LoC villages; lauds their courage, commitment

JNEWS SERVICE
BALAKOTE, MAY 15

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today commended the unwavering courage of the people living along the Line of Control, who have consistently stood strong in safeguarding the nation's security.

The Minister visited villages along the Line of Control (LoC), for the third consecutive day, and met with the residents who have been severely affected by the ongoing hostilities.

During his visit, the Minister heard heart-wrenching stories of untold sufferings, loss of livelihood, livestock and homes.

The Minister expressed deep concern about the losses and also expressed concerns about psychological impact of these hostilities on children and elderly, who are



among the most vulnerable in these situations. He emphasized the need for immediate attention and support to mitigate the trauma and stress being experienced by the affected villagers.

While interacting with the people, Minister Rana directed the Sub-Divisional Administration to conduct frequent visits to the affected areas.

The administration has been tasked with assessing the extent of damages and ensuring that com-

pensation is provided to those who have suffered losses.

The Minister called upon the officers to demonstrate exemplary commitment in supporting the people living along the LoC and addressing their pressing needs. He instructed them to focus on providing relief and rehabilitation to the affected communities, while also undertaking long-term planning to ensure their safety and well-being.

DC Rajouri constitutes ward-wise teams for identification of sites for community bunkers in border towns

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAY 15

In view of the vulnerability of border areas to cross-border shelling and to ensure the safety and protection of the civilian population residing in towns near the Line of Control, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma has constituted ward-wise teams under respective Municipal Committees for identification of suitable land for the construction of community bunkers/underground shelters.

These teams have been directed to conduct extensive field visits across their respective wards to identify Government or community-owned land

that is feasible for the construction of bunkers. They will assess the suitability of land in terms of location, accessibility, safety, and size, while avoiding flood-prone or naturally vulnerable areas.

The teams have also been tasked to interact with local residents and take community inputs into consideration during the identification process. Additionally, consultations with religious heads and members of civil society shall be held to ensure wider participation and consensus in the selection process.

Each team is required to prepare a brief report supported with GPS coordinates, photographs, and

documentation regarding the land status. The reports are to be submitted to the office of the Deputy Commissioner within two days from the issuance of the order.

To ensure timely action, the Executive Officer of the respective Municipal Committee shall monitor daily progress. The overall coordination and compilation of data shall be supervised by the Additional Deputy Commissioner concerned and Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rajouri.

This proactive initiative reflects the administration's commitment to safeguarding civilian lives and enhancing preparedness in the border region during emergency situations.

DC Kulgam visits PHC Nihama, reviews facilities, staff availability

JNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MAY 15

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Nihama to take stock of the healthcare facilities and assess staff availability.

During the visit, DC inspected various sections of the health centre and reviewed the availability of essential medical services, equipment and manpower.

He interacted with both medical staff and patients to gauge the quality of healthcare being provided at the facility. Khan empha-



sized the importance of delivering timely and efficient medical care to the public, and stressed the need for ensuring patient-friendly services. He assured that all necessary measures will be taken to address any infrastructural or service-related gaps.

DC also instructed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure optimal utilization of available staff and to provide round-the-clock healthcare services.

DC was accompanied by ADC, Viqar Ahmad Giri; SDM D.H.Pora, Tehsildar and other officers.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch tours market area, engages with public

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 15

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today conducted an extensive tour of the local market areas to review public facilities and ensure smooth civic operations.

Beginning his visit from the historic Qila Market, the Deputy Commis-

sioner, accompanied by a team of senior officers, traversed the entire market stretch, interacting with traders, shopkeepers, and residents.

During the visit, Vikas Kundal took note of public grievances, sanitation conditions and traffic management in the area. He instructed the concerned departments to

address key issues such as encroachment, waste disposal, and infrastructure maintenance on a priority basis. Emphasizing responsive governance, the DC assured citizens that regular inspections and direct engagement will continue to strengthen service delivery and transparency in the district.

Power Shutdown

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 13

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out Branch cutting/ pruning of trees lying in the close vicinity of line, shutdown of 33KV Cheshma shahi Centaur Buchwara line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Buchwara and BB Cant. shall remain off while power supply to Nehru Park, Dalgate, Dal, CEN01 (Zabarwan) and adjoining areas besides BB Cant Tap Line will be affected from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 18 May, 2025.

Similarly to carry out Branch cutting/ pruning of trees lying in the close vicinity of these lines, the shutdown of 33KV Habbak Hazratbal line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Habak, Hazratbal shall remain off while power supply to Hazratbal, Umer Colony, Rangpora, BARC, Habak, KU, Nigeen, Kanitar, NIT, Hazratbal shrine and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 18 May, 2025.

Moreover to carry out branch cutting and necessary stabilization works, the shutdown of 33KV Uri line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Salamabad, Bandi, Mohura, Noorkah shall remain off while power supply

Also in this connection, the shutdown of 33KV GIS Nowshera BAMK line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at BAMK shall remain off while power supply to Raja Colony, BAMK Industries, Zadibal, Alamgari Bazar, Bota Kadal, Gilli Kadal and adjoining areas will be affected from 11:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 25 May, 2025.

Further to facilitate evacuation of power from GIS Harwan, the shutdown of 33KV Burzham Tap line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Burzham shall remain off while power supply to Danihama, Khimber, Chatterhama, Telbal, Burzham, Gassu, Shopperbagh, Rahbagh, Batpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 18, 20 & 22 May, 2025.

The shutdown of 33KV Malpora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Chandoosa, Malpora, Gantamulla, Sultanpora shall remain off while power supply

to Salamabad, Bandi, Mohura, Noorkah and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 24 & 27 May, 2025.

Also in this connection, the shutdown of 33KV Boniyar line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Boniyar, Nowshera shall remain off while power supply to Boniyar, Nowshera and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 19 & 22 May, 2025.

The shutdown of 33KV SIDCO line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Rohama, Chakloo, MID, Irrigation, Seer shall remain off while power supply to Rohama, Chakloo, MID, Irrigation, Seer and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 24 May, 2025.

The shutdown of 33KV Malpora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Chandoosa, Malpora, Gantamulla, Sultanpora shall remain off while power supply

to Salamabad, Bandi, Mohura, Noorkah and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 20 May, 2025.

Additionally to facilitate shifting of electrical utilities along the road, the shutdown of 33KV Badampora Wangipora Tap line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Batwina, Wangipora, Nowgam shall remain off while power supply to Batwina, Nowgam, Wangipora, Zazna, Ahan, Waskura, Kharbagh, Sumbal, Nesbal and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 17, 20 & 24 May, 2025.

Also in this connection, the shutdown of 33KV Badampora Army Hakbara line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Hakbara, Hajin, Madwan, Army shall remain off while power supply to Hajin, Preng, Madwan, Banyari, Hakbara, Chandergeer and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 17, 20 & 24 May, 2025.

Mission Director HADP visits various dairy projects in Marh block

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Secretary Agriculture Production Department J&K and Mission Director Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) Sandeep Kumar today visited villages of block Marh in Jammu to monitor the progress of milk producing societies and dairy projects established under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

The Mission director received a very warm welcome by president Patyalichak Dairy Cooperative Society, Gopal Dass Sharma who apprised the MD regarding functioning of the cooperative society including its milk collection and marketing operations.

During the interaction with member-farmers, the MD was informed that the society was established under Animal Husbandry department Jammu under HADP in the year 2023-2024 and was supported with necessary infrastructure and finance. He was further



informed that the society comprises of more than 50 dairy farmers and the average daily milk collection is approximately 5 quintals. The milk collected is supplied to JKMPCL after testing and profit is distributed among the members of the society, he was further informed.

On the second leg of the tour, the MD visited various Satellite Heifer units and Silage making units established under HADP in Marh block notably Karloop and Chatha Gujran villages. He interacted with owners enquiring about the status of these units and the grievances if

any being faced by them in running these units.

The tour concluded with visit to UZMA Self Help group and milk collection centre in village Lalyal. The MD was informed that the self help group exclusively comprises of women dairy farmers of the region with daily collection of 1500 lts of milk. The society prepares various dairy products like kaladi, ghee, curd, butter etc. which are sold in various retail stores in Jammu city. He was further informed that the department of Animal Husbandry Jammu was instrumental in support-

ing this dairy society by providing more than rupees 30 lakhs as incentive to it under HADP.

The visiting officer expressed satisfaction over the manner in which department of Animal Husbandry is implementing various developmental initiatives under HADP at grass root levels which is benefitting the dairy farmers through employment generation and income enhancement.

The MD was accompanied on the tour by Arvinder Singh Reen, Director Agriculture Jammu, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Joint Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr. Zahid Salim Chief Animal Husbandry officer Jammu, Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Livestock Development officer Jammu, Dr. Abhimanyu Koul, Technical officer to Mission Director HADP, Dr. Rajesh Kalha VAS Marh, Dr. Anjal Kumar VAS Gajansoo, Dr. Fareed VAS Kana Chak, Reena Sharma, BPM-NRLM, Marh besides other officials of Animal Husbandry and Agriculture Deptts Jammu.

Village Level Teams to assess damages in shelling affected areas of Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 15

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting with district officers to formulate a coordinated strategy for the assessment and verification of damages caused due to recent cross border shelling in the district. The meeting discussed the constitution of Village Level Committees (VLCs) for carrying out detailed, on ground assessment of affected structures across the border villages.

The meeting was attended in person by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Tehsildar Haveli,



and Headquarters Tehsildar. Sub Divisional Magistrates of Surankote and Mendhar, along with Tehsildars of Mandi, Mankote, Surankote and Balakote, joined the session virtually, ensuring representation from all affected areas and administrative subdivisions.

The Deputy Commissioner laid out the plan for constituting village level assessment teams that will include officials from the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RD&PR) Department, the Revenue Department, Animal and

Sheep Husbandry, the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, Public works department and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

These committees will visit the affected locations to verify and document the extent of damage to structures caused by the shelling. The damage will be classified into three categories, full damage, severe damage, and partial damage based on the physical condition of each structure. Moreover, the damages would be categorized as private property,

commercial and government owned, thereby ensuring a comprehensive profile of all losses sustained.

The Deputy Commissioner Poonch emphasized the need for a swift and transparent verification process to ensure timely assistance and rehabilitation of affected families. He directed all concerned departments to provide full cooperation to the committees and ensure accurate documentation, supported by photographic and written evidence. The administration will review the progress of this initiative in the coming days, with follow-up meetings scheduled to address emerging challenges and expedite the response efforts.

DLSA Shopian organises awareness programme at GHSS Hermain

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MAY 15

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian in collaboration with the Education Department today organized an awareness programme on Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities at Govt. Higher Secondary School Hermain, Shopian today.

The event was organized on the directions of Chairman DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary and guidance of Secretary DLSA Shopian, Mudasar Farooq.

The programme was attended by LADC Advocates, students, teachers & PLVs. All the participants actively engaged in comprehensive discussions to deepen their understanding of the NALSA Scheme 2024 and strategize its effective execution.

Assistant LADC, DLSA Shopian, Sajad Hussain Najar elaborated on the NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme 2024, outlining its objectives and the role of legal



services units in its execution.

Assistant LADC DLSA Shopian, Meenu Jan highlighted the significance of the NALSA Scheme 2024 in safeguarding the rights of children and individuals with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities. She emphasized the necessity of a collaborative approach to ensure the scheme's successful implementation.

Assistant LADC DLSA Shopian, Aamir Ayoub shed light on the significance of the NALSA

Scheme 2024 in safeguarding the individuals with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities. He emphasized the necessity of a collaborative approach to ensure the scheme's successful implementation.

All the participants actively participated in the discussions, sharing insights and experiences contributing to a broader understanding of the scheme's objectives and implementation.

Free Medical Camp, awareness on NALSA Helpline 15100 held at Ahata-e-Waqar, Chanapora

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, conducted a Medical Camp and awareness programme on NALSA Helpline 15100 at Ahata-e-Waqar, Chanapora.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar and under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

In his welcome address, Chairman of the Senior Citizens Council, Abdul Ganie Parry emphasized the significance of such initiatives in addressing the healthcare needs of the elderly besides raising awareness about their legal rights and entitlements.

He encouraged the senior citizens to actively participate in the programme and take full advantage of the services being offered, highlighting that their well-being



and dignity must remain a collective responsibility of the society.

Several speakers addressed the gathering and spoke about the importance of taking care of the physical and emotional well-being of elderly citizens.

A key part of the programme was the free medical camp, where elderly participants received general health check-ups, physiotherapy services, and support for common age-related issues. Vay Vandana Health Cards

were also distributed to help the elderly get continued access to healthcare services.

Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary interacted with the senior citizens and informed them about the NALSA Helpline 15100. He explained how this toll-free helpline can help people in need of free legal aid across the country.

The event was a thoughtful step towards supporting the health and legal awareness of senior citizens in the community.

DLSA Budgam organizes awareness programme on POSH Act at Al-Asma Educational Institute

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MAY 15

In order to sensitize authorities/managements, employees and adolescent groups with the provisions of the 'Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act)' District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam today organized an awareness programme at Al-Asma Educational Institute Budgam.

The programme was held under the supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman DLSA

Budgam and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam.

Deputy LADC, DLSA Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Wagay, a resource person on the occasion gave a brief introduction on the provisions of the said Act. He said the purpose of implementing the POSH Act is to prevent and protect the women from sexual harassment at the workplace and ensuring a safe working environment for them.

He also highlighted all important facts under different sections of the Act such as definition of sexual

harassment, composition of Internal Complaints Committee, complaint mechanism, steps for conduct of inquiry, report submission by Internal Complaint Committee, etc.,

Wagay also spoke about the duties as well as the powers of the Local & Internal Complaints Committee in a Govt. or public organization. He went on to explain the meaning of 'Sexual Harassment' with the help of case laws and examples.

The programme was attended by Officers, Officials and PLVs of DLSA Budgam.

Mission Director reviews HADP initiatives amid field visit to Marh

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Mission Director Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) Sandeep Kumar conducted a comprehensive tour of the Marh area to assess the on-ground progress of multiple agricultural initiatives under the flagship programme. He was accompanied by Director Agriculture Jammu Arvinder Singh Reen; Joint Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Jammu, Livestock Development Officer, SMS-DL, SDAO and field staff.

The visit aimed to evaluate the transformational impact of HADP initiatives designed to modernize agriculture and uplift the livelihoods of farmers across the district. The tour commenced with a briefing from Director



Agriculture Jammu, who presented an overview of ongoing developmental projects in the region.

During the field inspection, the Mission Director visited several key project sites with a strong emphasis on innovation, sustainability, and community engagement. A highlight of the tour was the inspection of a High-Tech Polyhouse under HADP of Beneficiary Kamla Devi of village Baba Talab, Gurha Singhu, enabling controlled-environment agriculture for improved crop yields while

minimizing risks from adverse weather conditions.

The delegation also visited the Commercial Vermicompost unit of Manmeet Singh of Village Chatha Gujan, a vital step towards encouraging organic farming and enhancing soil fertility through eco-friendly practices. Mission Director also visited Akhil Mushroom Farm to inspect Controlled Conditioned Cropping Unit of Bal Krishan of Gurha Singhu and Controlled Conditioned Cropping Unit of Rahul

Sharma of village Flora Nagbani, under HADP Project No. 10 (Promotion of Mushroom Cultivation). Sandeep Kumar reviewed its operations and underscored the potential of mushroom farming as a sustainable and profitable livelihood option for rural communities.

The tour also encompassed an evaluation of Dairy Development initiatives under HADP. The Mission Director interacted directly with dairy farmers in Village Marh and inspected operational units aimed at improving milk production and rural income.

Expressing his satisfaction with the progress, Sandeep Kumar stated that the programme is not only advancing scientific agriculture and improving farmers' incomes, but also emerging as a powerful driver of rural employment. He emphasized

that HADP is opening up new avenues in farming, agri-business, and allied sectors, particularly for youth and women, who are being actively encouraged and equipped with skills to adopt agriculture as a sustainable and dignified means of livelihood.

Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen highlighted the broader socio-economic impact of HADP, stating that the HADP is making a significant difference in the lives of our farmers. By focusing on sustainable and innovative agricultural practices, we are not only enhancing their income and livelihoods but also ensuring these benefits reach the most deserving sections of our rural community.

The positive feedback from farmers during this visit reinforces the value of these initiatives in empowering local agriculture.

DC Baramulla conducts administrative tour of Sub-division Sopore

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 15

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa conducted a visit to the Tehsil Office, Municipal Council Office and Sub-District Hospital Sopore to review their overall functioning, assess public service delivery and take stock of ongoing administrative activities.

During the visit, DC reviewed the overall performance of the tehsil office and checked the attendance of staff. He was briefed by the Tehsildar Sopore regarding the day-to-day functioning of the tehsil office.

After detailed assessment of the tehsil office, DC approved sanctioning of Rs.6 lakh for upgrading the facilities and strengthening service delivery at the tehsil office Sopore.

DC directed the con-



cerned authorities that all pending court cases must be disposed-off within stipulated time frame, and emphasized timely action on public grievances.

Additionally, he directed the concerned authorities to ensure the demolition of unsafe structures in the jurisdiction to safeguard public safety.

DC further instructed the Executive Engineer R&B to prepare DPRs for beautification of parking spaces, record room and other facilities in Sopore

town for effective service delivery.

Meanwhile, during his visit to the Municipal Committee Office Sopore, DC thoroughly checked the staff attendance, and reviewed the service delivery.

Speaking during the visit, DC said that the revenue department has already transferred 40 kanals of land for the construction of a sewage treatment plant which will be operationalised in a few weeks time to cater to the local waste manage-

ment needs.

He further stated that SDRF equipment, including machinery such as boats, life jackets, and other essential tools, will be stationed at Sopore to ensure a prompt response during emergencies.

Later, DC conducted a visit to Sub District Hospital Sopore to take stock of the healthcare facilities being provided to the patients. He also interacted with patients, attendants and inspected staff rosters to ensure optimal healthcare delivery.

At the SDH Sopore, DC also undertook the thorough assessment of Jan Aushadhi Kendra to review the service delivery and availability of medicine for the patients visiting the hospital.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by ADC Sopore and other officers and officials.

DC Poonch distributes relief among shelling victims

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 15

In a compassionate initiative, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today distributed relief material among the families affected by the cross border shelling. The distribution took place within the premises of the DC Office, where the victims were provided with essential items including warm blankets, ration kits, and other necessary household supplies. Alongside material aid, the Deputy Commissioner also extended immediate cash assistance to support the urgent needs of the affected families.

Demonstrating a proactive and people-centric approach, the district administration has been actively reaching out to vulnerable populations in shelling-prone areas.

15-day Dharti Aabha Abhiyan being launched in Kishtwar from June 15

Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh

The District Administration Kishtwar, under the aegis of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, is set to launch a comprehensive campaign titled "Dharti Aabha Abhiyan: Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camps."

The campaign will be conducted from 15th June 2025 to 30th June 2025 across various tribal villages in the district.

On-the-spot services including Aadhaar Card Enrollment and Updates, Ayushman Bharat Health Card Issuance, Caste Certificates, PM-KISAN Registration and Opening of Jan Dhan Accounts

A key focus area of the campaign is to raise awareness about Sickle Cell Disease, with provisions for on-site screening and testing as part of the Ministry's national initiative to combat the disease in tribal communities.

COURTESY: DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION KISHTWAR

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 15

The District Administration Kishtwar, under the aegis of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, is all set to launch a comprehensive campaign "Dharti Aabha Abhiyan: Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camps."

The campaign will be conducted from 15th June 2025 to 30th June 2025 across the tribal villages in the district.

The primary objective of this campaign is to ensure saturation-level delivery of key government entitlements and welfare schemes to the tribal population, particularly in remote and underserved areas.

During the campaign, dedicated camps will pro-

vide on-the-spot services including Aadhaar Card Enrollment and Updates, Ayushman Bharat Health Card Issuance, Caste Certificates, PM-KISAN Registration and Opening of Jan Dhan Accounts.

A key focus area of the campaign would be to raise awareness about Sickle Cell Disease, with provisions for on-site screening and testing as part of the Ministry's national initiative to combat the disease in tribal communities.

The initiative will emphasize access to safe and sustainable housing, Availability of clean

drinking water, improved sanitation and healthcare infrastructure, enhanced access to quality education and nutritional support, reliable electricity supply, including promotion of renewable energy sources, development of better road connectivity and telecommunications and Support for sustainable livelihood opportunities. The District Administration calls upon all stakeholders, including government departments, civil society organizations, and the tribal community, to actively participate in this transformative campaign aimed at inclusive development and empowerment of tribal populations in the region.

Dharti Aaba Abhiyan set to be unveiled across Tribal villages of Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MAY 15

In a major step towards ensuring sustainable development of tribal communities in the select villages of the district, the District Administration Shopian is set to implement the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan—a flagship initiative launched last year, in the tribal villages of the district.

This nationwide campaign seeks to empower

tribal villages by providing them with essential & basic service infrastructure support and bridge critical gaps in human and economic development.

In line with the program, District Administration Shopian shall be initiating a targeted strategy for the effective rollout of the campaign in the district, running from June, 15th to 30th aimed at saturating individual entitlements at the last mile level and to create awareness about DAJGUA.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender No:- 12-2025-26-ADEN-II-ASR		Date: 14.05.2025	
DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 05.06.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
13.05.2025/17:55 Hrs	22.05.2025	05.06.2025/15:00 Hrs	
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	
1.	12-2025-26-ADEN-II-ASR	Upgradation/Improvement of Goods shed at Bhagatnawala on ASR-KEMK section under ADEN-II/ASR.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
	1,76,99,892.88/-	2,38,500.00/-	60 Days
			06 Months
Similar nature of work - "Any civil work other than track work"			
Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			1432/25

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

‘Operation Sindoor’...

“You did not just defend – you attacked. And you attacked with full intensity when the need arose,” he told the soldiers.

THEY ASKED RELIGION BEFORE KILLING THEM, WE HIT THEM BACK ON BASIS OF THEIR KARMA

Referring to April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists, dead, Singh said, “The entire nation stood united in grief and anger. What was more heartening was how the people of Jammu and Kashmir took to the streets to condemn the terror attack. They sent a clear message: terrorism will not be tolerated,” he added.

Referring to the moral contrast between Indian soldiers and terrorists, Singh said, “They asked the religion of innocent civilians before shooting them. But we hit them back on the basis of their karma.”

“It was a dream of every soldier that we will reach every terrorist hideout and destroy them. Terrorists killed Indians based on their religion, we killed them for their deeds. It was our dharma to eliminate them. Our forces gave the right direction to their anger and took revenge for Pahalgam with great courage & discretion,” he added.

As Defence Minister, Singh said during all these years he has felt proud to “know brave forces better” and assured them of the nation’s unwavering support. “You have avenged the Pahalgam attack. You’ve made the nation proud,” he said.

Singh said that through the Pahalgam incident, an attempt was made to break the social unity of India but the armed forces gave them a a befitting reply.

INDIA CAN GO TO ANY EXTENT TO PROTECT ITS PEOPLE

The Defence Minister recalled Pakistan’s declaration about 21 years ago in front of the then Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee that terrorism will no longer be exported from its land. “Pakistan has been deceiving India, and it must stop sheltering anti-India and terrorist organisations & not allow its land to be used against India,” he said.

The Defence Minister said he had come to Srinagar “to feel the power of your energy, the power through which you destroyed enemy shelters with pinpoint precision.”

He praised the forces for maintaining their composure during the operation, saying, “Even in josh, you kept your hosh.”

Operation Sindoor, Singh said, has sent a loud and clear message to terror masterminds that they are not safe anywhere. “This operation has proven that India can go to any extent to protect its people. India has not succumbed to any nuclear blackmail and never will,” he added, in a clear message to Pakistan.

On the question of global nuclear security, Singh raised serious concerns, stating, “I want to ask the world – are nukes safe in Pakistan’s hands? The IAEA must take control of Pakistan’s nuclear arsenal before it’s too late.”

Taking a swipe at Pakistan’s economic woes, Singh said, “While Pakistan is begging the IMF for funds, India is contributing aid to IMF to help poor countries. That is the difference between the two nations.”

The Defence Minister praised the valour and dedication of the armed forces and reiterated the Government’s commitment to continue equipping the soldiers with advanced weapons & platforms and modern infrastructure. “Our Government has ensured that our forces are prepared for every situation. Many new generation equipment like modern rifles, missile defence shields, and drones are being rapidly manufactured in India itself.”

“Connectivity has been ensured along LoC and LAC like never before. The devotion and readiness with which our soldiers serve the country, the government is trying to serve you,” he said. KNO

LG lauds armed...

decided that there is no difference between this terrorist country and the mastermind of terrorism sitting there.”

“The world has seen that terrorism in J&K Union Territory is engineered and executed by Pakistan and our mighty forces have ensured that now we will enter deep into Pakistan’s heartland and kill the terrorists and we will also treat future acts of terror as an act of war,” he added.

Referring to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh’s speech, LG said, “Pakistan’s nuclear blackmail won’t work now and its nuclear weapons should be taken under the supervision of International Atomic Energy Agency.”

Rajnath Singh during his interaction with the soldiers at Badami Bagh Cantt Srinagar and Srinagar Air Base had called for IAEA supervision of Pakistan’s nuclear weapons.

The Defence Minister while addressing the soldiers at Badami Bagh Cantt had observed that Pakistan will pay a heavier price if it continues to support terrorism. KNO

‘Shelling won’t break...

even buried those who lost their lives in the shelling, all while the shelling was still ongoing.

Amarinder Singh, another local from the area, said they stayed in Poonch town during the difficult times of massive shelling, helping anyone in need of medicine or other essentials. “We were connected with around 40 people via social media, and that’s how we worked together. Not only did we look after our own homes, but we also took care of the homes of others who were injured in the shelling,” he said.

Similarly, another group of locals said they endured the heavy shelling, with their homes shaking during the blasts, but they never left their settlements. “Why would we leave? We live here, our lives are rooted here. Whether we live or die, we are not going anywhere,” said Jafar Khan, a shopkeeper from Karnah.

Mahjabeen, a 45-year-old woman, said her house was partially damaged during the shelling, but they didn’t leave. “We consider it our duty to stay here with our Army and police, that’s why we haven’t left,” she said.

“We had livestock, children, and elderly people who were bedridden, so how could we escape? We felt it was better to stay,” she added.

In Uri, a similar kind of courage was seen among the locals, with people saying that even those who are afraid may die, and those who aren’t may survive. “We are here to stay. What we need are more bunkers, and we’re thankful to the government for visiting us,” said Abdul Jabar, a resident.

Meanwhile, the government is conducting large-scale damage assessments in the affected areas and has initiated rebuilding efforts. KNO

Formulate plan...

He added that a suggestion was put forth regarding the daily workers associated with this sector. “Those who were earning their livelihood on a day-to-day basis are facing immense hardships at present. The chair was informed to look into their hardships and ensure that they will not be pushed to the wall,” he said.

The participants hoped that they would witness a boom in tourism activities again. “But the present situation is grim, there is a need to take care of all the persons like ponywalas and others who earn their livelihood on a day-to-day basis,” they added.

President of Hoteliers Club Kashmir, Mushtaq Chaya also stated that the valuable suggestions were given by the participants for the revival of the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Moreover, the participants also informed that the Secretary Tourism was asked to formulate a strategy and plan with the stakeholders to promote and revive the tourism sector again.

The Chief Minister asked the stakeholders to double their efforts to attract the tourists and ensure successful and smooth conduct of the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.

Pertinently, the people associated with the tourism sectors have faced huge losses following the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025 as the tourism activities have witnessed a decline. The bookings were cancelled and tourists present in the Valley left. KNO

Before launching...

remain suspended and won’t resume until cross-border terrorism is brought to a credible and permanent end.

Addressing questions related to ongoing India-US trade discussions, Jaishankar said that trade talks were independent of the ceasefire developments. “Negotiations have been ongoing. These are complex processes where nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. Any agreement must be beneficial to both sides. Until then, any conclusions would be premature,” he said.

He also reaffirmed that India’s policy on Pakistan remains unchanged, and any talks or resolutions would be conducted strictly on a bilateral basis. “This has been a consistent national position for years and there is no change in that,” he said, adding, “Talks with Pakistan will only be held on PoK and terrorism.”

“Pakistan has a list of terrorists, who need to be handed over. They have to shut down terrorist infrastructure, they know what to do,” he said. “New Delhi is prepared to discuss with Islamabad what is to be done on terrorism.”. KNO

India-Pakistan agree...

Pakistan launched drone and missile attacks on several military installations in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Rajasthan, following “Operation Sindoor” by India to destroy terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK) to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

Pakistan had also resorted to unprovoked firing and heavy artillery shelling on civilians areas along the LoC and IB in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Rajasthan. The unprovoked shelling was responded with effectiveness by the Indian Army.

After over three days of intense exchange of fire, India and Pakistan on May 10 reached an ‘understanding’ to immediately stop all firing and military action on land, air and sea. KNO

Kashmir safe, time...

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Naidu, as per the news agency, said the way people from across the country stood united after the Pahalgam attack, it is time to stand with Kashmir’s economy.

“We are here to revive Kashmir tourism. Flight operations have resumed. The people should visit here again. It is a safe place to visit,” he said.

The minister reviewed facilities at the Srinagar airport. “Flight operations at Srinagar airport have resumed. I met locals here who voiced that tourism should be revived. The government will take all necessary steps in this regard,” he said.

Meanwhile, in Jammu, the Civil Aviation Minister said the purpose of his visit was to appreciate the Airport staff and CISF, which have coordinated very well with the armed forces in protecting the airport and also lifting up the morale of the AAI and civil aviation.

“We were very worried when there were reports that a lot of drone activities are going on around Jammu airport. We were concerned about the infrastructure and the airport, but the way the people, right from the Director and others in the airport and CISF, have shown courage and handled the situation, I felt that I had to come and appreciate their efforts,” he said

The second purpose, Naidu said, was that they wanted to start the civil operations as they were going on before the attack. So we wanted to bring the normalcy in the aviation connectivity that we have done in both Srinagar and Jammu as well, he added.

The minister said the government is building a new terminal with 5000 square feet in Jammu, which is going to handle much more capacity than the existing building.

This is slated to be completed by June next year,”

he said. “I want this construction to happen very smoothly and on time. I have utilised the opportunity to review this construction as well.”

The Union Minister hailed the efforts of the armed forces, saying the whole nation is proud of them. “If anyone dares to attack India in the form terrorism, they are going to face its heat,” he said. KNO

Three local JeM...

ecosystem operating in the region. The swift action by security forces aims to keep the situation under control.”

An official said the elimination of these terrorists, along with the recovery of arms and ammunition, is a big blow to their operational capabilities in south Kashmir. He said the terrorists involved in multiple attacks over recent months were neutralised, and a large cache of arms was recovered from the site.

Notably, the houses of terrorists Asif and Aamir were demolished last month following the killing of 26 tourists in Pahalgam.

It is important to note that six terrorists have been killed in south Kashmir in the last 48 hours, including the three local JeM terrorists in the Shukro Keller encounter. KNO

Heatvave conditions...

According to the news agency, a significant rise in the day temperature was witnessed at multiple places in Jammu and Kashmir, with Srinagar, the summer capital of the region, recording a day temperature of 30.0 degrees Celsius.

Jammu was the hottest in the region at 40.4 degrees Celsius, reads data of the local Meteorological department (MeT).

Around 30 degrees Celsius temperature was recorded at three other places, including Batote, Banihal and Baderwah, the data reveals. Furthermore, Qazigund recorded a day temperature of 29.7 degrees Celsius, followed by Kokernag at 28.4 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded 27.9 degrees Celsius while Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 20.0 degrees Celsius. The mercury in Pahalgam settled at 24.5 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, told KNO that generally dry weather conditions are expected till May 18 evening with the possibility of rain, thundershower, gusty winds towards the evening at scattered places on Sunday.

He added that there is a possibility of light rain, thunder and gusty winds at scattered places on May 19, while generally dry weather is expected from May 20 to May 22 in the region.

Moreover, in its advisory, the MeT has said that a significant rise in day temperature is expected during the next three days, mainly in the Jammu division.

The farmers have been advised to continue farm operations till May 18 afternoon. KNO

WB says its Rs 1500 crore...

surpassed agreed targets in few areas, the multilateral financial institution said in its latest report on the project.

As per the news agency, in the latest “implementation status & results report” on the project, the World Bank has said that it has largely achieved its objective and surpassed its targets in some cases.

“JTRFP focuses on recovery and mitigating risks linked to floods in Jammu and Kashmir. The project has largely achieved this and, in some cases, has surpassed the agreed targets,” reads the report released on May 13.

In the report, the multilateral funding institution has described the overall implementation progress of the project as “moderately satisfactory”.

The noteworthy achievements under the project include 45 school buildings, five higher education buildings, one fire station, 112 km of road stretches, 10 bridges, 75- km of drainage network, 50 storm-water drainage pumping stations, critical medical equipment and supplies to 36 hospitals, augmenting 108-helpline with 112 critical care ambulances and commissioning of 30 oxygen generation plants covering all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The project was approved by the World Bank in June 2015. It became effective in April 2016 with a closing date of June 30, 2020. However, its deadline has been extended six times since 2020. KNO

DSEJ orders reopening...

According to the news agency, Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) have been instructed to ensure that all schools under their jurisdiction strictly follow the safety guidelines issued by the School Education Department and other relevant authorities

Heads of institutions have also been asked to ensure a smooth resumption of academic activities and maintain close coordination with local administration and law enforcement agencies to ensure the well-being of students and staff.

Earlier, educational institutions across Jammu, including the sensitive border districts reopened on Thursday.

The reopening of schools in Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch, and Udhampur marks a significant step toward restoring normalcy in the region after days of tension along the India-Pakistan border.

On May 13, schools in non-border districts including Doda, Kishtwar, Reasi, and Ramban resumed academics following a ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan that took place on May 10.

“The reopening of schools in the border districts is a relief for students, teachers and parents. After days of uncertainty, we are happy to see children back in classrooms,” said a spokesperson for the Directorate of School Education.

The sentiment was echoed by students, with many expressing excitement at resuming classes. KNO

DDC Reasi reviews functioning of Kissan Khidmat Ghars



JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 15

District Development Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the functioning of Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) in the district to enhance service delivery and ensure that farmers receive comprehensive support through these centers.

During the meeting, DDC Nidhi Malik directed officials to provide a detailed list of all services offered by KKGs to ensure transparency and better awareness among farmers. She emphasized the importance of clearly displaying available schemes, inputs, and technical advisories at each center.

DDC Reasi directed the officials to ensure that Krishi Udyamis are provided with seed and fertilizer licenses, enabling them to sell agricultural inputs and enhance their livelihoods. She further emphasized the need to explore the potential of integrating these Krishi Udyamis into the delivery of other farmer-centric services and schemes. By involving them more

actively, the administration aims to strengthen outreach efforts, improve awareness at the grassroots level, and increase the number of applications for various government initiatives—thereby ensuring that more farmers benefit from the available schemes and resources.

She instructed the concerned departments to organize a training program for all 75 Krishi Udyami to enhance their skills and ensure better implementation of the schemes at the grassroots level.

She also called for increased coordination among agriculture and allied departments to make the KKGs fully functional as single-window service centers for the farming community. Officials were urged to conduct regular outreach and ensure that all government schemes reach beneficiaries efficiently.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer and other concerned officers were present.

YSS B’la resumes Inter-School Zonal level competitions across multiple zones



JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 15

Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Baramulla today resumed its inter-school zonal level competitions across various educational zones, marking a vibrant revival of sports activities in the district.

The competitions were conducted today in YSS Zones of Dangerpora, Singpora Pattan, and Pattan.

In YSS Zone Dangerpora, an Inter-School Zonal Level Badminton Competition for U-14 and U-17 boys was successfully organized at Higher Secondary School Dangerpora. Around 70 students from various government and private institutions actively participated in the competition, showcasing commendable sportsmanship and enthusiasm.

Similarly, YSS Zone Singpora Pattan hosted the Inter-School Zonal

Level Badminton Competition for U-14 and U-17 girls at HSS Gund Khawaja Qasim. The event witnessed participation from 70 girl students representing different government and private schools, further promoting gender-inclusive participation in sports.

Meanwhile, YSS Zone Pattan conducted the Inter-School Zonal Level Badminton Competition for U-14 and U-17 boys at Sports Planet, Palhallan. A total of 80 students from diverse educational backgrounds took part in the event, making it a grand success.

DYSSO Baramulla appreciated the efforts of all zones in ensuring smooth conduct of competitions and reiterated the department’s commitment to providing a platform for young athletes to excel and grow through regular sporting activities.

DC Ganderbal visits Baltal Base Camp, reviews preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra



JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 15

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today visited Baltal Base Camp to inspect and take a first-hand appraisal of ongoing preparations for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra. During the visit, DC inspected key infrastructure projects including the Yatri Niwas Baltal, fencing work, upgradation of frisking points and other essential arrangements. On-spot instructions were issued to the concerned departments and executing agencies to expedite the completion of these works within a fixed timeline.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by Additional CEO SASSB, Director Information, SSP Ganderbal, ADC Ganderbal, and other officers. Later, the DC chaired a joint meeting with concerned officers and representatives of various service providers to finalize the rates for key services provided to the pilgrims, including ponies, pithus, dandies, palkis, and tents during the Yatra. The meeting, held at Sonamarg, aimed to ensure fair pricing and quality service delivery during the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 (SANJY) via Baltal route. A detailed discussion was held with stakeholders to prevent overcharging and enhance the over-

all experience for Yatriss. Representatives from different service groups actively participated in the meeting and assured full cooperation for the smooth and successful conduct of SANJY-2025. Kishore urged all stakeholders to strictly adhere to the approved rates and assured that necessary mechanisms would be in place to ensure compliance and facilitate a safe and comfortable pilgrimage. The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal; ADC Ganderbal, Syed Fahim Bihag; CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, DFO Sindh Forest Division, SDM Kangan, CMO Ganderbal, and other district and sectoral officers.

DC Reasi reviews implementation of Road Safety Action Plan

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 15

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a crucial meeting of the District Road Safety Committee aimed at strengthening road safety measures across the district. At the outset, the Superintendent Engineer PWD presented a detailed Road Safety Action Plan.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive division-wise review of the implementation of the plan alongside the concerned XENs. Key components such as the installation of crash barriers, road signage, identification of critical accident-prone locations, and the construction of parapets were extensively discussed.

DC Malik emphasized the need to address road encroachments on a priority basis. She directed the XENs to carry out thorough surveys and certify that roads and footpaths are free from



any encroachments. Special attention was given to pedestrian safety near educational institutions. The DC directed officials to prioritize the installation of zebra crossings outside schools and colleges. Further, the SE PWD was instructed to compile a comprehensive report on previous Road Safety Plans, detailing the targets achieved and pending work, supplemented with geo-tagged photographs for effective monitoring.

To strengthen accident analysis, DC Malik emphasized the formation of a multi-stakeholder team comprising engineering and police personnel. The team will be tasked with preparing an analytical report identifying accident causes and proposing actionable solutions. All XENs were instructed to conduct safety audits of roads under their jurisdiction, especially those previously left out and submit findings after thorough site inspections.

In addition, the DC directed SDMs to establish tehsil-wise Quick Response Teams trained as first responders in the event of accidents. The functioning and preparedness of the three SDRF teams present in the district were also reviewed, with instructions issued for them to maintain full readiness for emergency response. The DC also advised CEO and principals of colleges to regularly organize road safety awareness camps for students. A review of first aid training, issuance of challans, and driving license suspension measures was conducted. The ARTO was instructed to carry out sustained drives against traffic violations.

Finally, DC Malik directed that an agenda-wise Action Taken Report, along with photographic documentation, be submitted to the DC office for review and follow-up. The meeting was attended by SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh, ADDC Sukhdev Samyal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, SDMs, ACR Reasi, SE PWD, XENs, CEO MC, ARTO, and other senior officials. The session concluded with a collective resolve to enhance road safety infrastructure and awareness across the district.

District Administration Poonch launches "Report to Support" facility for Shelling-Affected Residents
JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 15

In a committed move to ensure no loss goes unreported and no affected family is left behind, the District Administration Poonch has launched a proactive initiative "Report to Support" to help shelling affected people. This campaign enables residents impacted by the recent cross border shelling to report damages to their property or livestock directly via WhatsApp for swift assessment and assistance. Tehsil-wise WhatsApp Contact Numbers for Submissions are • Tehsil Haveli: 9906198432 • Tehsil Mandi: 9622249091 • Tehsil Bala-kote: 7006458657 • Tehsil Mankote: 7006385343 • Tehsil Surankote: 7889810611 • Tehsil Mendhar: 9622347276. It's important to note that reporting through this medium does not replace the already on ground verification. Instead, this proactive approach empowers residents to inform the administration of their losses directly, ensuring no one goes unattended or overlooked.

MLA, DC discuss connectivity plan for HPP Sawalakote from Panchari side

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 15

Member Legislative Assembly Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta and Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai jointly chaired a meeting today to discuss a plan for road connectivity to the Sawalakote Power Project from the Panchari side. Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh among other Officers from the Civil Administration and NHPC attended the meeting held in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex. The meeting focused on the demands, including the construction of an access road from the Panchari side to enhance connectivity to the project site. Discussions also covered the scope of work, timelines and proposals



for utilizing NHPC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds to maximize community benefits. The MLA stressed the importance of prioritizing the local population in the developmental benefits arising from the project. He advocated for ensuring that infrastructure devel-

opment aligns with the needs of the community and provides employment opportunities for local youth. The District Administration assured full support in streamlining project execution, including addressing any clearance-related challenges.

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

To sensitise students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage them to play their part in its eradication from the society, District Administration Srinagar today organized an awareness programme on Drug De-Addiction at Government Women's College Nawakadal.

The event was held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat as part of an ongoing Drug Free Jammu and Kashmir initiative of the Government to educate school children, staff members, and local residents about the growing menace of drug addiction and the collective responsibility to curb it. During the event, infor-



mative sessions addressing the physical, mental, and social consequences of substance abuse were held to effectively sensitize the participants. The program witnessed active participation from college faculty, students, local community members and officials from various departments. The event featured active participation from Departmental Resource persons representing Social Welfare, Police,

Health, Education, Excise and SMC and others, all working together to raise awareness among students and the local population. Students contributed through speeches, skits, and discussions, further emphasizing the message. The participants present on the occasion emphasized the crucial role of education, awareness and community involvement in eradicating the menace of drugs from society.

Ramban gears up for Holistic Tribal Development through Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 15

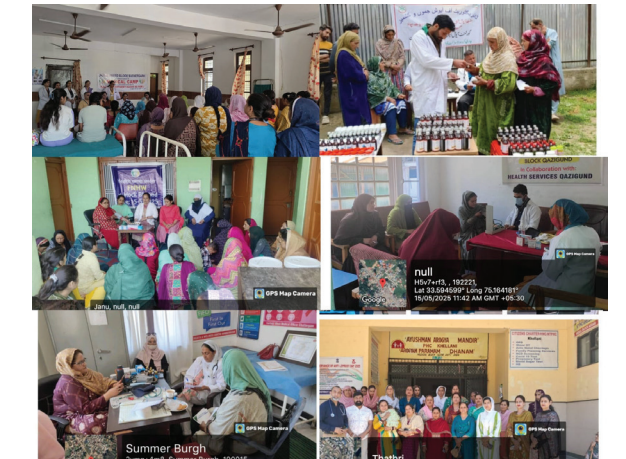
In a significant thrust towards inclusive and holistic development, the District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, is all set to conduct a district-wide awareness and benefit saturation campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan from June 15 to June 30, 2025.

The flagship initiative, launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on October 2, 2024, aims to saturate all tribal villages with essential government services and bridge existing development gaps. The campaign will cover all 11 notified tribal villages including Chachal, Bangara, Billawat, Chachwa, Dheeda, Somber, Narthy-

al, Mangot, Targam, Khari and Shagan located in 11 Panchayats across 7 blocks of the district. A strategic, data-driven approach has been adopted, beginning with a baseline gap analysis conducted under the supervision of the Rural Development Department. This analysis identified infrastructure shortfalls and key human development challenges, which will be addressed through targeted interventions during the campaign. A series of benefit saturation cum awareness camps will be organized to ensure that services from 17 government departments reach the last-mile beneficiaries. These camps will provide on-the-spot access to welfare schemes related to social security, skill development, housing, education, livelihood generation, financial inclusion, and

more. Special focus will be given to health services, particularly awareness and testing for sickle cell disease, alongside efforts to improve access to basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation, and road connectivity. Each camp will also function as a single-window service hub, enabling tribal residents to access schemes in real-time and raise developmental concerns. The campaign will also include mass mobilization and IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) drives to ensure maximum reach and participation. By directly engaging with tribal communities and delivering integrated services at their doorstep, the campaign represents a vital step in realizing the collective vision of an empowered and self-reliant tribal community.

JKRLM promotes health, hygiene among SHGs



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

In a significant initiative aimed at enhancing community well-being and healthcare accessibility, the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), in collaboration with the J&K Health Department, organised a series of free health check-up camps for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across UT of J&K. Under the leadership of Mission Director JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma, these health check-up camps were designed to provide comprehensive health assessments and screenings for members of Self-Help Groups associated with JKRLM, addressing the critical need for improved healthcare access within the community. The initiative spans various districts across Jammu and Kashmir, uniting healthcare professionals and JKRLM staff to deliver essential services directly to SHG members. The camps emphasized preventive care, including general health assessments, screenings for common ailments, and educational sessions on nutrition and hygiene.

Speaking about the significance of such collaborative efforts in promoting community health, Mission Director JKRLM Dr. Shubhra Sharma highlighted, "These camps, rolled out as part of JKRLM's broader mission to empower rural communities, provide essential medical screenings and consultations at no cost. Our goal is to ensure that every woman associated with the Mission has easy access to quality healthcare services." The Mission Director emphasized the importance of community engagement and proactive health initiatives in fostering a healthier society, noting the positive impact of such programs on overall community development. Dr. Shubhra Sharma, spearheading this initiative, underscored the importance of health as a cornerstone of economic and social empowerment, "Our Self-Help Groups play a vital role in the rural economy, and ensuring their health is a top priority. This collaboration with the Health Department reflects our commitment to holistic development", She Said.

DC Kulgam visits GHSS Nihama, interacts with students

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MAY 15

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Nihama to take first-hand assessment of the overall functioning of the institution. During the visit, DC took stock of the existing infrastructure, academic environment, and staff availability. He also interacted with the students and staff and highlighted the significance of dedication, discipline, and consistency in achieving academic and personal success. Khan urged students to remain focused on their



goals and to make optimal use of the educational opportunities available to them. Emphasizing the pivotal role of education in shaping a successful future, DC shared valuable insights on goal setting, time management and confidence building. He also appreciated the efforts of the teaching faculty and assured them of full support from the dis-

trict administration in addressing academic and infrastructural requirements. On the occasion, DC also inspected the ongoing construction work of a new building within the school premises. He instructed the Executive Engineer, R&B, to expedite the pace of work and ensure timely completion of the project to augment the existing infrastructure. DC was accompanied by ADC, Viqar Ahmad Giri; SDM D.H.Pora, Tehsilidar, ZEO and other officers.

NOTICE

I, Sajid Rashid Choudhary S/o Mohd Rashid Choudhary R/o Bathindi Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir-181152, have applied for re-registration of the vehicle bearing registration no. DLSCAN-1338. Now I am applying for the transfer of papers. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the concerned authority office in Jammu within seven days from the publication of this notice.

EDITORIAL

Education in the crossfire!

In the shadow of the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB), a different kind of frontline is being drawn – not between armies, but around the future of thousands of children. The recent spate of cross-border shelling in five districts of the Jammu region has once again exposed the precarious existence of education in conflict zones, where blackboards are replaced by bunkers and classrooms echo not with lessons, but with the thud of mortars. Over 800 schools lie within a 5-kilometre radius of the LoC and IB, catering to a staggering 50,000 to 60,000 students. These schools have been forced shut, their buildings either damaged or deemed unsafe. The scheduled reopening on May 19 remains uncertain, and with it, the education of an entire generation continues to hang in limbo. For parents, the fear is palpable and justified. The magnitude of this crisis goes far beyond physical infrastructure. It is a humanitarian issue, a developmental roadblock, and a violation of a child's right to education. For students growing up in these vulnerable border belts, schooling is already a disrupted experience – frequently interrupted by evacuations, lockdowns, and now, live shells. The psychological impact of such an unstable environment is immense and lasting. A geography lesson cannot compete with the geography of fear. To its credit, the School Education Department, in consultation with district administrations, is considering the option of conducting classes in relief camps. While this is a pragmatic short-term solution, it cannot become the new normal. Education in relief camps, however well-intentioned, is no substitute for structured, safe, and stable schooling. The challenges are formidable. In Poonch district alone, 14 schools have reported damages, including a girls' hostel. Across Jammu, Samba, Rajouri, Kathua, and Poonch, the disruption is widespread and chronic. Sanitization of shell-hit areas is underway, but the lingering fear and uncertainty will outlast the cleanup. It is time for the administration to go beyond reactive measures. The situation calls for a comprehensive border education resilience policy. This must include: Permanent Safe Zones for Learning: Establish fortified, strategically located education hubs outside the immediate danger zone, accessible to students from affected villages. Mobile Education Units: Deploy mobile classrooms and teaching teams that can adapt to shifting safety scenarios. Psychological Support Systems: Provide trauma counselling and emotional support for children affected by shelling and displacement. Robust Digital Infrastructure: Introduce hybrid or online learning where physical attendance is unsafe – ensuring continuity even amid crisis. Community Engagement: Build trust by involving local communities in decision-making processes about reopening and relocating schools. Let us not forget that education is not a privilege to be suspended during times of conflict; it is a right and a necessity – a shield against the cycle of violence, a ladder out of fear and poverty. Every shell that silences a classroom is an assault not just on infrastructure but on the idea of a peaceful, progressive future. The border children of Jammu region deserve better – not just promises of reopening dates, but concrete assurances of safety, continuity, and care. Until then, education remains yet another casualty in a war it never signed up for. Let education be the cease-fire that endures.

The high cost of war: Who really wins when young lives are lost?

SHIVAJI SARKAR

I am sick and tired of old men sending young innocent boys to die in their wars," said George McGovern, a US senator who was a voice against the Vietnam War.

That was indeed a sane voice for warring countries. It is not just young boys, but now girls as well and it has a terrible cost on a country in terms of monetary expense and well-being. So far, it is not a war between India and Pakistan. It is the warming-up process – and it, too, has a cost. Missiles, drones, aircraft, machine guns, rifles, or every bit used for the war has cost – including food for the warring men.

Most battleground materials are never collected and left there. It dumps costs on the people of the country that supports a war. A major loss since May 7 is the death of Rajouri's Additional Deputy Commissioner Raj Kumar Thapa in a Pakistan shelling. There have been at least 19 deaths of other civilians and many injured, apart from the losses along the border.

Pakistan specialises in low-cost manoeuvres but inflicts heavy losses on India through proxy wars, air space closure, and decoy unarmed or low-explosive drone attacks in swarms near Jaisalmer. It attracts heavy responses from India as it cannot risk not to combat.

The common joke is, "Decoy Rs 10 drones face million-dollar action." So how much India might have spent in the first three days of the assault since May 7 can be an approximation.

Thirty-two airports closed and many flights were cancelled. Suspension of commercial IPL



cricket is expensive. The BSE stock investors have lost Rs 13 lakh crore since May 6. The BSE lost 156 points – Rs 6 lakh crore – on May 6; gained 106 points on May 7; lost 412 points – nearly Rs 5 lakh crore – on May 8; and lost 880 points – about Rs 2 lakh crore – on May 9 as tension mounted.

Both currencies of India and Pakistan are under pressure. BrahMos missiles cost between \$2.5 to \$5.6 million. Smaller missiles cost less. Kamikaze drones cost \$500 each. The sorties are never flown alone.

Deployment, manning, logistics, and troop movements have separate costs. Precision bombardment with hi-tech drones costs Russia roughly \$350,000 per target struck.

The Kh-22 air-to-ground missile's target cost is said to be around \$1 million. During the low-intensity Kargil conflict, India reportedly spent Rs 14.6 billion per day while Pakistan spent close to Rs 3.7 billion per day.

According to an analysis by the UAE-based Foreign Affairs Forum, even a brief convention-

al war could cost India between Rs 1,460 crore and Rs 5,000 crore per day. A prolonged conflict could trigger massive economic disruptions, with estimated daily losses surpassing \$17.8 billion (Rs 1.34 lakh crore). The cost of the present conflict is so heavy that the Government is mulling recovering some of it from common citizens. It is considering doubling excise duty on petrol and diesel to Rs 4 from Rs 2 levied a fortnight back.

It is estimated to realise Rs 64,000 crore. This is over the 2025-2026 defence allocation of Rs 6.81 trillion (USD 78.3 billion), a 9.5 per cent rise over 2024-25. Of this, only 26.4 per cent is for new acquisitions.

Pakistan increases its 2025-26 military budget by 18 per cent to Pakistani Rs 6.8 lakh crore (\$80 billion). About 22 per cent is for new weapons. A report by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry highlights that ongoing India-Pakistan tensions have significantly limited trade between the two – making it minimal compared to India's trade with neighbours like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Following the Pulwama attack, Pakistan's exports to India plummeted from \$550 million to just \$480,000, while Indian exports – mainly pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and agricultural goods – totalled around \$1.2 billion.

The India-Pakistan conflict squeezes out 3 per cent of India's economic potential, according to an analysis done by the Mumbai-based think tank Strategic Foresight Group in 2004.

In a report titled Cost of Conflict, the group analysed military expenditures of the two countries to conclude that even low-intensity warfare could have "financial costs, human lives and policy losses." Each war – 1948, 1962, 1965, 1971, and 1999 Kargil – cost the nation enormously. Since 1947, each war brought claims of victory – but both sides paid in blood, broken trust, and lost chances for peace. Kashmir remains contested and borders tense. The borders didn't just divide land – they divided minds. Decades later, the quest is if either side truly won, or did both lose what mattered most? Let us take the crucial Peer Panjal Pass.

After tough battles and the loss of soldiers' lives, India won and returned it to Pakistan at the negotiating table. By 2003, India had raised its military budget from Rs 560 billion to Rs 653 billion, while Pakistan's increased slightly from Rs 158 billion to Rs 160 billion.

Parliament Attack Post the December 13th, 2001 terrorist attack on Parliament House, India spent \$600 million between December 2001 and January 2002, and Pakistan \$400 million on military preparedness.

According to the Strategic

Foresight Group, an Indian think tank, the total cost of the stand-off – driven by heightened tensions and the looming threat of nuclear conflict – exceeded \$3 billion in just a few months.

In the 1971 war, around 3,843 Indian soldiers and nearly 8,000 Pakistani soldiers lost their lives, with the conflict ending in India capturing over 93,000 Pakistani prisoners of war. While exact figures on civilian casualties and disappearances are unavailable, the Strategic Foresight Group estimates that the four wars between India and Pakistan directly affected at least one lakh families through human loss.

Pakistan reneges repeatedly on its commitment to peace. It foments a terror proxy war, imposing huge costs on India.

"Although there have been occasional moves toward confidence – building measures and, most recently, toward more open borders for trade, deep mistrust and suspicion mark this sibling rivalry," said a paper by the US-based Atlantic Council, which analysed the opportunity cost of an India - Pakistan conflict, arguing that war is the last thing the subcontinent needs.

The remedy is not simple. The common forum, SAARC, has been supine for a decade. Pakistan should be forced to the negotiating table before yet another flare-up.

A low-cost war suits Pakistan – but India must call the shots to save young lives, economic growth and the future of the Indian subcontinent. For now the war is paused and that is a sigh of relief but efforts must be made to make it permanent.

(The writer, a political analyst, writes on political issues. Views are personal)

Don't undermine oil self-reliance to fund fertiliser subsidy

UTTAM GUPTA

The Government should focus on curbing systemic inefficiencies in the fertiliser subsidy regime. Funding fertiliser subsidy by oil money undermines the Fund's core purpose of boosting domestic oil and gas capabilities, jeopardising long-term energy security for short-term fiscal optics.

For the first time, in the nearly five-decade history of implementing the Fertiliser Subsidy Scheme, the Union Government has decided to dip into the Oil Industry Development Fund (OIDF) to finance a portion of the subsidy requirement under the Scheme. The amount to be drawn from the OIDF is Rs 13,000 crore in the revised estimates (RE) for the financial year (FY) 2024-25 and Rs 24,600 crore in the Budget estimate (BE) for FY 2025-26.

In the backdrop of successive and steep increases in the international prices of crude oil and petroleum products since early 1973, and urgent need for achieving progressive self-reliance in petroleum – based industrial raw materials, in 1974, the then Government set up the OIDF by enacting the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974.

The Act provided for the levy of a cess/excise duty on crude oil (later its ambit was expanded to include natural gas) produced in the country and delivered to the refineries to be utilised for approved schemes in the fields of oil exploration and production, and the refining, marketing and distribution of petroleum products and research and development. In due course, the scope of the Fund was extended to cover other sectors such as the downstream processing of petroleum feedstocks.

Fertiliser subsidies are payments made to manufacturers or importers to cover the excess of the cost of production/import and distribution



(or cost of supply) over a low maximum retail price (MRP) they are directed by the Union Government to charge from the farmers.

The subsidy on each tonne of fertiliser produced (or imported) and sold is the difference between the cost of supply and MRP. Multiplied by the total quantity of fertiliser sold, it gives aggregate subsidy payments.

In the case of urea, MRP is under 'statutory' control. The excess cost of supply over MRP is reimbursed to the manufacturer as subsidy which varies from unit to unit depending on the cost. These reimbursements are made under the so-called New Pricing Scheme (NPS).

For non-urea fertilisers which are de jure decontrolled, the MRP is 'indirectly' controlled. The Government gives a 'uniform' subsidy on a per-nutrient basis to all manufacturers and importers under the Nutrient Based Scheme (NBS). The latter must deduct this from the cost to arrive at the MRP. All these exercises/determinations are made by the fertiliser ministry to arrive at the estimates of subsidy requirements under each category viz. urea and non-urea fertilisers.

During the last five years, the Centre's outgo on fertiliser subsidy has consistently remained well above Rs 100,000 crore – FY 2020-21: Rs 137,000 crore; FY 2021-22: Rs 162,000 crore; FY 2022-23: Rs 251,000 crore; FY 2023-24: Rs 195,000 crore; FY 2024-25: Rs 170,000 crore.

For FY 2024-25, while this is the revised estimate (RE) as given by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget for FY 2025-26 presented on February 1, 2025, she has taken approval for a further Rs 14,100 crore under the supplementary demands on March 10, 2025. That takes the total for the current FY to Rs 184,000 crore. For FY 2025-26, the BE is Rs 167,000 crore.

We also see a trend whereby the actual subsidy outgo during a FY is invariably higher than the BE. During FY 2022-23, the actual at Rs 251,000 crore was more than double the BE of Rs 105,000 crore. During FY 2023-24, the actual was Rs 195,000 crore against BE of Rs 175,000 crore. During FY 2024-25, the actual expenditure of Rs 184,000 crore exceeded the BE of Rs 164,000 crore by Rs 20,000 crore. The scenario during FY 2025-26 is unlikely to be different. How is the subsidy funded? Generally, the Government has been meeting the entire expenses on fertiliser subsidy from the Union Budget.

However, during 2008-09 when the bill exceeded Rs 100,000 crore (courtesy of the global financial crisis), it issued 'fertiliser bonds' to fertiliser manufacturers instead of subsidy receivables. Before FY 2020-21, it also took recourse to what in jargon was called 'extra-budgetary resources' or EBRs in short. The glamorous arrangement allowed fertiliser companies to take loans from

banks and financial institutions against subsidy dues from the Centre thereby enabling the latter to keep these liabilities off its balance sheet – thus rein in fiscal deficit (FD), albeit artificially.

Beginning the FY 2020-21, Sitharaman ended this practice by 'fully' funding the subsidy from budgetary allocation. Now, given the Modi-Government's pledge to pursue its fiscal consolidation drive vigorously (having achieved FD of 4.8 per cent of GDP during FY 2024-25, it has targeted a further reduction in FD to 4.4 per cent for FY 2025-26), it has started feeling the stress. This has prompted the mandarins in the finance ministry to take recourse to funds transfer from the OIDF for meeting a portion of the expenditure on fertiliser subsidy. Is such a transfer justified? Under the Oil Industry (Development) Act of 1974, the funds collected in the OIDF can only be utilised for approved schemes in the fields of oil exploration and production, the refining, marketing and distribution of petroleum products and research and development.

Fundamentally, these are like capital expenditures aimed at augmenting indigenous production capabilities – thereby furthering the objective of achieving self-reliance in oil and natural gas (NG). India is dependent on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its requirements of crude oil and 50 per cent of NG currently, so the need to pursue this objective at a greater pace cannot be overstated.

To transfer funds from the OIDF for meeting a portion of the expenditure on fertiliser subsidy not only militates against the objective but will also be counter-productive as the spend on fertiliser subsidy is in the nature of revenue expenditure; it will not lead to creation of capital assets.

The Government should not

ignore this negative fallout in its obsession to trim FD in the short term. Instead of adopting the disingenuous method of pruning FD – this is what transferring funds from a 'dedicated fund' is tantamount to – the Government should look for ways to reduce fertiliser subsidies. Indeed, it is possible to bring about substantial savings. To get a sense, let us look at the Economic Survey (ES) 2015-16. According to the ES, as much as 24 per cent of the subsidy is spent on inefficient producers, 41 per cent is diverted to non-agricultural uses including smuggling to neighbouring countries, and 24 per cent is consumed by larger, presumably richer farmers.

That leaves a tiny 11 per cent going to small and marginal farmers who constitute an overwhelming 86 per cent of the total number of farmers and should be eligible to get subsidy. By addressing these leakages/misuses, the Government can bring about a substantial reduction in subsidies.

In the last ten years, it has taken several administrative steps such as neem coating of urea, release of subsidy to manufacturers only on fertiliser sale to farmers etc. But, these have failed to make a dent as the root cause remains unaddressed.

This has to do with routing subsidy through manufacturers which enables them to sell at an artificially low MRP. This is an open invitation to dubious operators to divert the subsidised material for making illicit gains and no amount of tracking and policing can help in preventing it.

The way forward is to stop routing subsidies through fertiliser manufacturers; instead, give them directly to farmers using the DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mechanism.

(The writer is a policy analyst. Views are personal)

Study shows diabetes drug may help treat prostate cancer

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Certain drugs used to treat type 2 diabetes can also be used to treat prostate cancer, according to a study.

Researchers from the Medical University of Vienna in Austria identified similarities in the mechanisms of diabetes and cancer.

They showed that the protein PPAR γ (peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma) -- central to the regulation of metabolic processes -- can also influence the growth of prostate cancer cells.

But PPAR γ is already known to be a target of certain drugs including so-called thiazolidinediones such as pioglitazone, which are used to treat type 2 diabetes.

The findings "showed that the diabetes drug pioglitazone influences the activity of PPAR γ and thus inhibits the growth



of cell cultures and tissue samples from patient cohorts. They analysed how different activation states of the protein affect the cells.

Prostate cancer occurs when abnormal cells in the prostate gland grow out of control. Despite enormous medical advances in recent years, prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men, with an estimated 1.4 million diagnoses and 375,000 deaths worldwide in 2020.

The currently available treatment methods range from surgery and radiotherapy to medication. The identification of previously unknown molecular mechanisms could help to develop targeted therapies.

PPAR γ , as a potential regulator of tumour growth, is a promising option that will now be investigated in further studies, said the researchers.

behaviour and metabolism of tumour cells. Furthermore, initial results revealed that prostate cancer patients with diabetes who were treated with PPAR γ agonists had not relapsed at the time of data collection," explained Emine Atas from the Department of Biomedical Imaging and

Image-guided Therapy at the varsity.

The study, published in the journal Molecular Cancer, indicates that such drugs could slow down growth of prostate cancer cells, representing a promising approach for the treatment of prostate cancer.

The researchers exam-

Indian-origin researcher develops probiotic cocktail to help ward off dementia

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

An Indian-origin researcher in the US has developed a probiotic cocktail that will help prevent dementia -- a condition that affects memory, thinking, and the ability to perform daily activities of more than 57 million people worldwide.

The cocktail, developed by Hariom Yadav from the University of South Florida, is a unique blend of probiotics that can positively impact the microbiome -- the unseen community of microorganisms that live by the trillions in a person's gut.

While in healthy individuals, the microorganisms live harmoniously in their vast internal community, the gut also can become populated with certain bacteria and viruses.

This can cause disruptions throughout the body, ultimately triggering a progression over time that



contributes to dementia and Alzheimer's disease -- the most common cause of dementia.

The probiotic cocktail, detailed in the journal Scientific Reports, suggest that the concoction could become a novel therapy to help lower the risk of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

In the study, the team mixed the cocktail in mice's drinking water for 16 weeks and then subject-

ed them to a "water maze" test. The mice were given visual cues to help them swim to a hidden underwater platform.

The findings showed that the cocktail-drinking mice were consistently able to find the platform faster.

The cocktail also reduced the levels of proteins that can cause the build-up of sticky plaques in the brain. It appeared to lower levels of brain

inflammation and preserve tight junctions in the blood-brain barrier -- preventing leakage of harmful microorganisms into the brain.

The results suggest that this probiotics mixture could decrease the progression of cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease, the researchers said.

"Normally, people look at some single-strand probiotics. But we discovered that when they are put together as a consortia, they actually have more power for manipulating microbiomes, switching them from the bad side to the good side," Yadav said.

The probiotic cocktail serves to decrease inflammatory bacteria in the gut, effectively suppressing that population. Yadav and his team are currently working on commercialising the cocktail, in contact with various companies to potentially bring it to market.

Health inequities shortening lives by more than 30 years in poor countries: WHO

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Low social determinants of health are shortening the lives of people in poor countries by more than 30 years worldwide, according to a global report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday.

The WHO defines social determinants of health as conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age.

The report noted that beyond the health sector, factors such as lack of quality housing, education, and job opportunities can dramatically reduce healthy life expectancy.

It said that people in the country with the lowest life expectancy will, on average, live 33 years shorter than those born in the country with the highest life expectancy.

"Children born in poorer countries are 13 times more likely to die



before the age of 5 than in wealthier countries," the report said.

Women from disadvantaged groups are also more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes.

"Our world is an unequal one. Where we are born, grow, live, work and age significantly influence our health and well-being," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"Addressing the interlinked social determi-

nants" can help, he added. Further, the report showed that 3.8 billion people worldwide are deprived of adequate social protection coverage, such as child/paid sick leave benefits, with a direct and lasting impact on their health outcomes.

High debt burdens have been crippling the capacity of governments to invest in these services. As a result, the total value of interest payments made by the world's 75 poorest coun-

tries has increased four-fold in the last decade.

Worryingly, the report also cited "sufficient evidence to show that health inequities within countries are often widening".

Closing the gap and enhancing equity between the poorest and wealthiest sectors of the population within low- and middle-income countries can help save the lives of 1.8 million children annually, revealed modelling studies.

World's wealthiest 10pc contributing most to global warming than poorest 50pc: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Ten per cent of the world's richest individuals have a higher carbon footprint than the poorest 50 per cent, leading to climate extremes such as heat waves and droughts, according to a study on Wednesday.

The study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, that the world's wealthiest 10 per cent are responsible for two-thirds of observed global warming since 1990.

"Our study shows that extreme climate impacts are not just the result of abstract global emissions, instead we can directly link them to our lifestyle and investment choices, which in turn are linked to wealth," explains lead author Sarah Schongart, from the ETH Zurich in Switzerland.

"We found that wealthy emitters play a major role in driving climate



extremes, which provides strong support for climate policies that target the reduction of their emissions," she added.

An international team of researchers from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Australia assessed the contribution of the high-emitting groups within societies.

The findings showed that the top 1 per cent of the wealthiest individuals

globally contributed 26 times the global average to increases in monthly 1-in-100-year heat extremes globally and 17 times more to Amazon droughts.

The research sheds new light on the links between income-based emissions inequality and climate injustice, illustrating how the consumption and investments of wealthy individuals have had disproportionate impacts on

extreme weather events.

"If everyone had emitted like the bottom 50 per cent of the global population, the world would have seen minimal additional warming since 1990," says co-author Carl-Friedrich Schuessler, who leads the Integrated Climate Impacts Research Group at International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria.

The impacts are especially severe in vulnerable tropical regions like the Amazon, Southeast Asia, and southern Africa -- areas historically known to have contributed the least to global emissions.

The study also emphasises the importance of emissions embedded in financial investments, rather than just personal consumption.

The researchers argued that targeting the financial flows and portfolios of high-income individuals could yield substantial climate benefits.

CCRAS revives rare ayurvedic manuscripts to boost India's literary heritage

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), under the Ministry of Ayush, on Wednesday announced it has revived two rare and significant Ayurvedic manuscripts strengthening India's literary heritage in traditional medicine.

The manuscripts Dravyaratnakara Nighantu and Dravyanamakara Nighantu were unveiled during an event organised by the RRAP Central Ayurveda Research Institute in Mumbai.

"These texts are not just historical artefacts -- they are living knowledge systems that can transform contemporary healthcare approaches when studied and applied thoughtfully," said Prof. Vd. Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General, CCRAS, New Delhi.

Acharya emphasised the importance of such revivals in bridging India's



ancient wisdom with contemporary research frameworks. These critical editions are expected to serve as invaluable resources for students, researchers, academicians, and Ayurveda practitioners, further inspiring scholarly exploration and deeper engagement with India's classical medical literature.

Dravyaratnakara Nighantu was authored by Mudgala Pandita in 1480 AD. The previously unpublished lexicon consists of eighteen chapters offering in-depth knowledge of drug synonyms, therapeutic actions, and medicinal

properties. It was a widely referenced text in Maharashtra until the 19th century, and it draws from classical Nighantus like Dhanvantari and Raja Nighantu while documenting numerous novel medicinal substances from plant, mineral, and animal origins.

On the other hand, Dravyanamakara Nighantu, attributed to Bhisma Vaidya, serves as a stand-alone appendix to the Dhanvantari Nighantu.

The manuscripts focus exclusively on homonyms of drug and plant names -- a complex area of study

vital to Ayurveda. Encompassing 182 verses and two colophon verses, the text has been meticulously edited enhancing its utility for scholars of Rasashastra, Bhaishajya Kalpana, and classical Ayurvedic pharmacology.

The manuscripts were critically edited and translated by renowned manuscriptologist and veteran Ayurveda expert, Dr. Sadanand D. Kamat of Mumbai. Kamat is also known for his authoritative work on Saraswati Nighantu, Bhavaprakasha Nighantu, and Dhanvantari Nighantu

Here's how Ayurveda tourism is redefining wellness travel

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

From being merely an alternative remedy, Ayurveda is now offering transformative, personalised healing boosting tourism as well as redefining wellness travel. Best vacation packages

Ayurveda, which is India's 5,000-year-old system of healing rooted in ancient wisdom and sustainable living, is increasingly boosting tourism by offering an experience rich in healing, culture, sustainability, and self-discovery.

"This century, the world will witness the rise of Ayurveda not only as a system of healthcare but also as a system of prevention and wellness," Lakshman Shrivastava, Director, of Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital, was quoted as saying in a media report.

"Ayurveda was the only medical science to originally believe in prevention



as well as cure."

Shrivastava indicated a rise in wellness travel that seeks "authentic, natural healing" which Ayurveda offers through well-being through diet, detoxification, meditation, and personalised therapies.

Unlike, the typical spa getaway Ayurveda tourism promises long-term transformation for conditions ranging from autoimmune diseases to anxiety, and

digestive disorders.

"Ayurveda stands apart by nurturing long-term health across the physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions," Shrivastava said.

Further, he said that modern Ayurvedic centers are adapting to the needs of both patients, offering treatment as well as enriching "the guest experience".

The modern Ayurvedic

are offering a softer, more accessible version of traditional Ayurvedic therapies, "tailored to suit the modern traveller." Best vacation packages

Ayurveda tourism model not only preserves ecological balance but also protects India's cultural heritage.

"Our Vedic lifestyle -- from food to daily routines -- is deeply influenced by Ayurveda. So when guests experience Ayurveda, they're also experiencing India's soul," Shrivastava said

It also offers personalisation -- from a visit to an Ayurvedic doctor to a customised treatment, dietary plan, and daily routines. These are accompanied by workshops, yoga sessions, and guided meditations sessions

"Ayurveda is deeply experiential," notes Shrivastava. "It's a journey that changes how one lives, eats, breathes, and thinks."

Commissioner Secretary Visits Home for Aged & Infirm, Ambphalla, Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Shri Sanjeev Verma, IAS, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, accompanied by Mr. Nawaz Sharief, JKAS, District Social Welfare Officer, paid a visit to the Home for Aged & Infirm (Old Age Home) at Ambphalla, Jammu. The purpose of the visit was to gain first-hand insight into the functioning of the institution and to assess the overall living conditions and challenges, if any, faced by the residents.

The visiting dignitaries were warmly received by Shri I.D. Soni, President of the Home, along with the newly appointed Honorary Secretary Dr. Dinesh Gupta. They were joined



by Joint Secretary Shri Vijay Gupta and Committee Members S/Shri Pankaj Gupta, Sat Paul Sharma, R.C. Vaid and Sh. Vinod Kumar, Manager. The Committee briefed the Commissioner that the Home is operating smoothly without any major issues.

Commissioner Verma took a comprehensive tour of the facility and interacted personally with both male and female inmates. He expressed his satisfac-

tion with the overall condition of the Home under the dynamic leadership of Shri I.D.Soni, President and his entire team for the care being provided to the inmates. In his remarks, he recommended engaging the residents in meaningful activities to keep them mentally and physically active. He also encouraged the experienced and senior members of the Managing Committee to visit educational institu-

tions periodically to share their life experiences and wisdom, with students and faculty.

On this occasion, Commissioner Verma extended his best wishes to Dr. Dinesh Gupta on his new role as the Honorary Secretary of the Home. He lauded Dr. Gupta's exemplary record in public service and social work who has been awarded the prestigious President of India Gold Medal for Social Service. The Managing Committee expressed their gratitude to the Commissioner Secretary for sparing their valuable time and encouraging the Management of the Home for Aged & Infirm to uphold its mission of compassionate care and holistic welfare for the elderly and infirm.

Tiranga Rally, a tribute to the bravery of Indian Armed Forces: Rajni Sethi

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 15 MAY

The Tiranga, our national flag, is not just a piece of cloth but a symbol of India's pride, unity, and sovereignty. It represents the values, culture, and traditions of a nation where people of diverse religions and backgrounds coexist with harmony. Every Indian holds deep respect for the Tiranga, as it signifies the sacrifices made by countless brave souls for the country's freedom and security.

This was stated by Rajni Sethi, Spokesperson, J&K BJP.

Rajni Sethi said, "On 22nd April 2025, India witnessed a tragic terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, where 26 innocent tourists lost their lives. This inhumane act



of terror shook the entire nation. In response to this heinous crime, the Indian government decided to give a befitting reply to the terrorist organizations operating from across the border in Pakistan. With determination and grit, the Indian Army launched Operation Sindoor, aimed at destroying terrorist camps and eliminating threats to national security."

The operation achieved remarkable success. The Indian Army demolished nine terrorist camps, caused severe damage to eleven airspaces, and neu-

tralized over 100 terrorists. This operation showcased the unmatched courage, strategic brilliance, and dedication of our armed forces. The nation salutes their tireless efforts in safeguarding the country and ensuring that the sacrifices of the victims did not go in vain.

To honor the bravery and valor of our armed forces, the people of India have come together to organize Tiranga Rallies across the country, Sethi said.

"These rallies, scheduled from 13th May to 25th May 2025, are being held at various places in India, symbolizing national unity and collective strength against terrorism. Citizens from all walks of life are participating, holding the Tiranga high, expressing

solidarity with the armed forces, and sending a strong message that India stands united against terrorism", said Rajni Sethi.

The Tiranga Rally is not just an event but a movement that reflects the spirit of patriotism, respect for the armed forces, and a tribute to the martyrs. It is a reminder that every Indian is ready to stand firm for the nation's integrity and peace.

Operation Sindoor will continue until all terrorist networks are completely demolished. As responsible citizens, it is our duty to support and honor the efforts of our soldiers who risk their lives for our safety. Through this rally, we reaffirm our commitment to a united and strong India, where the Tiranga flies high with pride.

Massive Tiranga Yatra in Jammu displays unwavering support for Indian Armed Forces

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 15 MAY 2025.

In a powerful demonstration of patriotism and solidarity with the Indian Armed Forces, around ten thousand emotionally charged citizens took part in a massive "Tiranga Yatra" in Jammu today. The event was organized under the banner of 'Citizens for National Security'.

The Yatra commenced from JDA Parking at Indira Chowk and traversed through the city's bustling streets before culminating at the Press Club, Jammu. Waving the national flag and chanting slogans like Jai Hind, Vande Mataram, and Indian Army Zindabad, the participants expressed unflinching support for the nation's



soldiers.

Civil society members were led by Chief Guest Mahant Rameshwar Das Ji Maharaj, alongside prominent leaders including Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP; Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary & MLA; MP Jugal Kishore Sharma; MLAs Sham Lal Sharma, Yudhvir Sethi, Dr.

Devinder Kumar Manyal, Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, Arvind Gupta, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Dr. Rajiv, Mohan Lal, and Surinder Bhagat, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, former MLA Ashwani Sharma.

The event also witnessed participation from Arun Gupta, President

of the Chamber of Commerce; Rajesh Chibber, from PoJK; Army veterans, saints, members of various social and trade organizations, and BJP cadres.

Massive participation was witnessed from Jammu East, Jammu West, Jammu North, Jammu South and RS Pura areas. A large number of Kash-

miri Displaced were also present in the Yatra.

Sat Sharma, while addressing on the occasion, said that under the leadership of the country's illustrious Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has once again made it clear - we are not only tolerant, but also capable of delivering precise and strong strikes as and when required.

"Today, by joining the "Tiranga Yatra" organized by 'Citizens for National Security' in Jammu, I paid tribute to the indomitable courage, valour and patriotism of our brave soldiers. This Yatra is a symbol of our unwavering commitment towards the honour and glory of Mother India and national security", said Sat Sharma. He also thanked the

Civil Society for the massive rally and said that the rally depicted a scintillating bouquet comprising the people from all sects, all religions who roped in to honour the valour of Indian Armed Forces.

Arun Gupta, while addressing, lambasted Pakistan for its irresponsible actions and said that the strong Indian Forces busted the false narrative of 'Nuclear War'. He maintained that Indian forces enjoyed free hand in the Operation Sindoor but didn't target any Pakistani civilian.

Rajesh Chibber lauded the Indian forces for their valiance and stated that every Indian feels proud of the Indian Armed forces and the way they decimated their terrorists' centers across the borders.

Gurjar Desh Chairtable trust pays homage to Shaheed Zakir Hussain

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

In a show of solidarity with the family of Cross-Border Shelling victims, members of GDCT led by its Patron-in-Chief Haji Abdul Hamid Choudhary & accompanied by Chairman Arshad Ali Choudhary, General Secretary Er. M. Sadiq Azad, Financial Advisor Ch. Bashir Ahmed Noon, Sr. Trustees Ch. Shouket Javed, Advocate Aslam Khan & Ch. Mohammad Amin, visited the residence of Shaheed Zakir Hussain of village Kheri Jammu today on 15-05-2025 & expressed their deep shock & concern over the unfortunate loss of an innocent life due to shelling from across the border & injury to the other family members.

They expressed their heartfelt condolences with the grieved family, offered dua-e-maghfirah for the deceased & prayed to Almighty Allah to grant Jannat-ul-Firdous to the noble departed soul of Shaheed Zakir Hussain, prayed for early recovery of injured family members and also prayed to the Almighty to give enough strength & patience to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. The Members also ensured steadfast support from Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust, Jammu to the affected family in this hour of need.

JAC denounces MP Minister Vijay Shah's derogatory remarks against Col Sofia Qureshi

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Press Conference was organised by Joint Action Committee of SC/ST/OBC organizations regarding alleged derogatory, shameful and cheap remarks of Madhya Pradesh Minister Vijay Shah on Colonel Sofia Qureshi a decorated Indian Army Officer who was involved in Operation Sindoor's press briefing. As per the statement of Vijay Shah, "They (terrorists) killed our Hindu brothers by making them remove their clothes, PM Modi Ji responded by sending their (terrorists) sister in an Army Plane to strike them in their houses. They made our sisters widows, so Modi Ji sent the sisters of their community to strip them and teach them a lesson". The members of JAC strongly condemned the statement of Vijay Shah. The entire country has condemned the derogatory and shameful remarks of Vijay Shah.

While speaking on this occasion, Sham Lal Basson, President All J&K Dalit Chetna Manch said that the Indians are proud of Colonel Sofia Qureshi, an Indian Army Officer and Veomika Singh, Wing



Com-mander who made headlines when they conducted regular press briefings, sharing details of the "Op-eration Sindoor" launched by Indian Armed Forces to strike terrorists. Sham Lal Basson further said that this was made possible by the efforts of Kranti Jyoti Savitri Bai Phule and Fatima Sheikh who opened first girls school at Bidhewada Pune in Maharashtra on 1st January, 1848 and gave pen in the hands of girls otherwise doors of schools were closed for girls. Kranti Jyoti Savitri Bai Phule is first lady teacher and Fatima Sheikh first muslim lady teacher of this country.

Sh. Mohinder Bhagat, President All J&K Bhagat

Mahasabha strongly condemned the shameful statement of Vijay Shah. He said that the terrorists have no, caste no religion. They are enemies of human-ity. Vijay Shah should be dismissed and put behind the bars.

While briefing the media persons, Prof. Kali Dass condemned the derogatory and shameful statement of Vijay Shah who branded Colonel Sofia Qureshi as sister of terrorists. This is very unfortunate. She is notable for being the first women to lead an Indian contingent in a United Nations Peace Keeping Mission. The whole country knows that how FIR has been lodged against Vijay Shah. He should be punished under relevant

provisions of Bhartiya Nayay Sahinta. We fully hope that Govt. of Madhya Pradesh will dismiss Vijay Shah.

Those who addressed and attended press conference included Er. R.C. Bhasin, Prof. C.L. Shivgotra, Surjeet Singh Heer, K.K. Fotra, Raj Kumar Chalotra, Mohd Latif Qureshi, Swarna Devi, Parshotam Thapa, Bodh Raj Banalia, T.C. Sambyal, Des Raj Sangral, Kuldeep Raj (Fouji), Brij Mohan Mehra, Sanjay Kumar Thapa, Budh Kumar, Tarsem Loachan Mangat Kalsi, Shashi Kumar, Moti Ram Angral, Suraj Kumar, Raj Thapa, R.D. Thapa, Raj Kumar, Yog Raj, Sunita Devi, Muskan Rattan, Bhabli Devi, Romi Devi.

SCJS organizes program on Mother's Day and Buddha Purnima

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

The Senior Citizens' Joy Society (SCJS) organized a meaningful and spiritually enriching programme to mark Mother's Day and Buddha Purnima Jayanti during its weekly gathering. The event was held with great reverence, blending the celebration of maternal love with the teachings of Lord Buddha.

Chander Mohan Sharma opened the event by introducing the theme and conducting the proceedings with warmth and eloquence.

Ashok Gupta, President of SCJS, was invited to speak on the significance of Mother's Day. He also recited a heartfelt poem honoring the invaluable role of mothers in our lives, moving the audience with emotion and gratitude.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, Chairman of SCJS and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International, delivered a detailed and insightful address on Mother's Day. He spoke about its origins, global observance, cultural relevance, and its emotional and societal impact. He high-



lighted:

The Celebration: Mother's Day is observed globally, including in India, on the second Sunday of May - falling this year on 11th May.

Origins: Initiated in 1908 in the U.S. by Anna Jarvis and declared a holiday in 1914.

Significance: A day to honor unconditional maternal love, sacrifice, and the central role mothers play in families and society.

Dr. Jain emphasized the importance of expressing appreciation through gestures such as flowers, handmade gifts, prayers, and family time. He reflected on how this day reinforces values of gratitude, strengthens emotional bonds, and brings joy and mental well-being to mothers.

Shifting the focus to Buddha Purnima, Dr. Jain also delivered an illuminating talk on the life,

philosophy, and teachings of Lord Gautama Buddha. He explained that Buddha Purnima commemorates three major events in Buddha's life - his birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana - all believed to have occurred on the full moon day of Vaishakha.

He explained: Why It Is Celebrated: It's a day of reflection on Buddha's message of peace, non-violence, and the Middle Path.

Buddha's View on the Soul: Contrary to traditional beliefs, Buddha denied the concept of a permanent soul and instead introduced the idea of Anatta (non-self).

Can the Soul Become God?: Buddha focused on Nirvana - liberation through self-realization - rather than any aspiration of becoming divine.

The event highlighted that Buddha Jayanti

is not just a religious observance but a universal reminder of ethical living, compassion, and the path to inner peace.

Several distinguished members of SCJS actively participated, including Prof. Virender Gupta, Ashok Khajuria (Secretary), B. B. Sharma, H. C. Vaid, Narinder Wadhwa, Yesh Paul Sharma, Kulbir Khajuria, and Anju Bansal.

Mr. Kailash Hangar, former President of Mahajan Sabha, graced the occasion as a special invitee.

The gathering also briefly discussed the prevailing tense situation between India and Pakistan. Members unanimously appreciated India's responsible and timely response to Pakistan's provocations, commending the government's mature and strategic approach to safeguarding national interest. Mrs Anju Bansal Sand a patriotic Song on the occasion.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by the singing of the National Anthem, as is customary in SCJS gatherings.

GCW Udhampur organizes Symposium on Methods to be Adopted for Promoting Indian Classical Music

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 15

To create awareness among the students, the Department of Music under the aegis of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur organized a Symposium on the topic "Methods to be adopted for promoting Indian Classical Music" at the college campus here today.

The programme was organized under the supervision of Dr. Nalini Pathania, Principal, Government College for Women, Udhampur.

The Principal of the college was the chief guest on this occasion. In her keynote address, the chief guest appreciated the efforts of the department for organising such an informative programme



and also motivated the students with her motivational speech.

Earlier, the programme began with a formal welcome address by Dr. Shalu Jasrotia, HOD Music. She also threw light on the significance and importance of Music.

About 14 students participated in the symposium competition, in which Navisha, Ramzan, Siya, Tanya, Khushi, Manisha, Anshika, Chahat, Sonam, Manyata, Nitika,

Sheetal, Manika and Anjali expressed their views on the topic.

The participants enlightened the audience about the methods which can be used to promote Indian Classical Music, particularly in the remote areas. They also highlighted the main components of Indian classical Music.

The programme was coordinated by Assistant Professor of Music Mr. Yash Kumar and Assistant Professor of Music,

Dr. Sanjay Kumar.

The competition was judged by a panel of three experts consisting of Ms. Anita Sharma, Lecturer Music, Ms. Surinder Kaur Raina Lecturer Music and Ms. Karuna Majotra Lecturer Music.

The judges evaluated the participants on the basis of their content, presentation and overall impression. Manyata Kotwal Semester 2 secured the first position, Navisha Semester 2 secured the second position and Kushi Sharma Semester 2 secured the third position. Apart from this, Anisha and Ramzan Akhtar of Semester 2 were also given consolation prizes.

Among others, Ms. Manisha Kumari lecturer Music, other faculties and a large number of students were also present on the occasion.

HDFC Bank launches 'Biz+ Current Accounts' to Empower India's Growing MSME Enterprises

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank in Current Account deposits announced the launch of its new Biz+ Current Accounts, a reimagined suite of Current Account offerings designed to meet the evolving needs of Indian businesses. The range of accounts aims to empower businesses by bringing the entire Bank to the customer from day one. Each Biz+ Current Account comes equipped with core benefits including cash handling services, seamless digital banking platforms and dedicated Bank/Relationship Manager support along with bundled solutions that address the full spectrum of banking needs

for businesses. A standout highlight of the new offering for new to bank current account customers is the inclusion of comprehensive business and payment protection insurance coverage from day one for the first year. This helps business owners safeguard their enterprises against unforeseen risks. Speaking on the launch, Mr. Parag Rao, Country Head - Payments, Liability Products, Consumer Finance and Marketing, HDFC Bank, said "This is a strategic shift towards offering a value-based engagement from a transactional one, and addresses both business and personal banking needs. We are now delivering a more modular, scalable and business life stage-aligned proposition.

Our Biz+ Account range is designed to be adaptive—with Dynamic Multiplier Benefits that scale with business growth, removing friction." The Biz+ Current Account variants will offer bundled benefits under a One Bank approach and will be available across over 9,455 branches nationwide. Additionally, over 45 lakh existing customers will benefit from the new Biz+ Current Accounts offerings, thereby facilitating a more structured, value-driven banking experience. Through the Biz+ Account offerings, customers will have access to a simplified, structured and higher value bundled proposition including liability products, asset solutions, digital payments and business cards.

HDFC Bank launches 'Biz+ Current Accounts' to Empower India's Growing MSME Enterprises

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank in Current Account deposits announced the launch of its new Biz+ Current Accounts, a reimagined suite of Current Account offerings designed to meet the evolving needs of Indian businesses. The range of accounts aims to empower businesses by bringing the entire Bank to the customer from day one. Each Biz+ Current Account comes equipped with core benefits including cash handling services, seamless digital banking platforms and dedicated Bank/Relationship Manager support along with bundled solutions that address the full spectrum of banking needs for businesses. A

BJP leaders behave like traitors, trying to spoil communal harmony: Sahni

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has accused BJP of double standards, insulting a woman soldier and crossing all limits to spoil communal harmony and has demanded strict action at party and legal level.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that on one hand, the country's Defense Minister Rajnath Singh is openly praising the army by visiting Kashmir, while on the other hand, BJP leaders like Vijay Shah are openly insulting the army personnel and spreading hatred



by making statements that tear apart the fabric of Hindu Muslim brotherhood. Sahni said that insulting the army is tantamount to treason.

Sahni has demanded strict legal action along with dismissal of Shah from the party and the cabinet.

Sahni strongly criticized the BJP high command's silence on Vijay Shah's

comment and said that legal action against Shah has been taken on the orders of the honourable court. Sahni said that there is a race among BJP leaders to spoil the Hindu Muslim brotherhood and communal harmony and spread hatred, all limits are being crossed which is a danger signal for the country and mutual brotherhood.

BJP stands firm with victims of cross-border terror: Sat Sharma

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 15 MAY 2025

To express solidarity with those affected by cross-border terrorism, Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Sat Sharma (CA) announced that senior leaders of the party will soon be on an extensive tour across the Union Territory. The initiative is aimed at meeting the families of martyrs and civilians injured or displaced due to unprovoked shelling and mortar attacks from Pakistan.

Chairing and speaking at a meeting of senior BJP functionaries at the party headquarters, Sat Sharma CA stated that the BJP stands shoulder to shoulder with those who have suffered due to cross-border



hostilities. We remain committed to the spirit of service, support, and nationalism.

He said that as part of this outreach programme, BJP leaders will visit border villages and affected areas, particularly those recently targeted by Pakistani shelling. We want to assure these families that they are not alone. The entire nation stands with them, he said.

Sat Sharma CA shared that the tour of party leaders will cover the border districts. During their visit, BJP leaders will assess the conditions of the injured, interact with displaced families, and gather direct feedback to raise their issues at the highest levels for effective redressal.

Sat Sharma also shared details of his recent tour of Rajouri and Poonch, where he visited forward

areas and engaged with residents affected by ceasefire violations. He expressed deep concern over the hardships faced by civilians and lauded their courage and patriotism.

He said that the courage shown by our border residents is an inspiration to the nation. It is our moral duty to extend all necessary support to them.

The meeting was attended by senior BJP leaders including BJP Vice-President and MLA Yudhvir Sethi, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Veenu Khanna, Praduman Singh, Reema Padha, Rekha Mahajan, Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Balbir Ram Rattan, Jaideep Sambyal, and Ishant Mahajan.

Natrang celebrates 43rd Foundation Day: Unfolds historic accomplishments

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Natrang celebrated its 43rd Foundation day with big fun and fare here today at its studio theatre unfolding historic accomplishments. Joined by his senior colleagues, the founder of NATRANG Balwant Thakur transported audiences to an eventful journey of 42 years of Natrang unfolding mind blowing moments through professionally designed audio/visual presentations. He opened his first segment of speech entitled 'Had there not been Natrang' listing the major contribution of Natrang in bringing this region to the global spotlight. Had there not been Natrang, no one would have ever heard of Dogri Theatre, language and culture at the international arena. It was Natrang which took India to the 'Frankfurt International Theatre Festival, Germany and became the 1st Indian Theatre group to achieve that and also 'Dogri' etched that milestone of being the 1st Indian language to accomplish that. This is the cultural institution which gave a new cultural identity to this part of the world globally, 1000s tirelessly worked day and night to turn this into the most sought after cultural destination of India. With over record 7,500 events to its credit, Natrang created a history for having participated over 380

national/International cultural/theatre festivals. On the occasion he expressed his heartiest gratitude to everyone who contributed immensely for the growth and development of this brand called 'Natrang'. He further said that in last 42 years, through the selfless contribution of thousands of its associates, Natrang has brought the J&K theatre to the National and International limelight and its highly acclaimed plays which vibrated the theatre world and proudly travelled the whole length and breadth of the country and also crossed the boundaries of India as well and won appreciation in Russia, Germany, U.K., Singapore, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, South Africa, Mauritius, Central Asia and UAE and thus established a globally acknowledged brand called NATRANG. This organization has been highly instrumental in giving a new cultural and intellectual identity to this part of the country and revolutionized the cultural life of the place through its out of the world creative initiatives. In 2023 Natrang accomplished the country's most prestigious task of showcasing J&K before global audiences in the G20 conference and won world acclaim for outstanding performances.

While narrating the journey of 42 action packed years of Natrang, Balwant Thakur shared few inspiring movements which were



instrumental in maintaining the consistency of its continuous growth and development. Prior to the inception of Natrang in Jammu, this region never witnessed the presence of a professionally managed cultural institution. Despite having seen lots of ups and downs, Natrang never stopped working even in challenging times. There is not even a single day in 42 years when Natrang was not working. On the occasion he thanked his wife Deepika Thakur and daughters Aarushi and Gauri for supporting and strengthening his mission wholeheartedly. Fact remains that Natrang has been highly instrumental in giving a new flip to the cultural life of this region and shaped the career of many aspiring actors/directors and young professionals. Natrang pioneered in introducing Children Theatre, Theatre Camp, Weekly 'Sunday Theatre', 'Theatre Laboratory', 'Theatre Repertory', 'Script Bank', 'Documentation Centre' and 'Mega Productions' (Featur-

ing over 500 performers). Others who spoke on the occasion included Anil Tickoo, Neeraj Kant, Sanjeev Gupta, Arvind Anand, Subash Jamwal, Vikrant Sharma, Deepak Viridhi, Mohd. Yaseen, Meenakshi Bagat, Kananpreet Kaur, Pawan Verma and Aadesh Dhar.

Natrang was established on 15th May, 1983 with the presentation of two unique short plays 'Neeli Jheel' and 'Nanhen Kandhey Pair' directed by Balwant Thakur at Abhinav Theatre Jammu. The actors who featured in the first performance of Natrang included Vijay Atri, Aasha Arora, Arvind Anand, Mohan Singh, Prabodh Jamwal and Arun Sharma. In 42 years, the plays which vibrated the theatre scene of the country included 'Bawa Jitto' 'Ghumayee' 'Mahabhoj' 'Aap Hamare Hain Kaun' 'Chauraha' 'Poster' 'Mere Hisse Ki Dhoop Kahan Hai' 'Sainyan Bhaye Kotwal' 'Raktbeej' 'Comedy of Terrors' 'Suno Eh Kahani' 'Kan-

joos' 'Holi' 'Mind Games' 'Richard III' 'Choonna Hai Asmaan' 'Mata Ki Kahani', 'Gulab Gatha', 'Rangla Jammu' and 'Kaun Nachaye Naach' etc. Natrang has produced over two thousand actors and many have made their mark in films and TV world as well. Prominent among them include Bhanu Goswami, Anjali Abrol, Sunil Palwal, Harish Khanna, Neelu Dogra, Tajasvi Sharma, Ekta Kaul, Mansi Sharma, Vikram Sharma, Mridul Suri, Nariender Sachchar, Arvind Anand, Mohit Sharma, Pankush Verma, Ashok Verma, (Vrinda Gujral and Satyam Mehra, Child Artists). In addition to having Seven pass-outs of National School of Drama and Seven Masters in Dramatics, Natrang sent four for International studies which included Harish Khanna (London School of Acting and Speech), Aishesh Nijhawan (London International School of performing Arts) Aarushi Thakur (University of Leicester, UK & Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, London) and Vikram Sharma (Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute, Manhattan, New York USA). Out of over 7500 shows by Natrang in Forty two years, the credit of maximum number of participation is shared by Neeraj Kant, Anil Tickoo, Suresh Kumar,

Arvind Anand, Sanjeev Gupta, Vikrant Sharma, Sumeet Sharma, Pankaj Sharma, Juhi Singh, Sat Salarbi, Vijay Bhat, Dimple Sharma, Mohit Sharma, Mohd. Yaseen, Rahul Singh, Gaurav Jamwal, Pawan Verma, Subash Jamwal, Gauri Thakur and Sajra Qadir and in these years over forty actors of Natrang brought National/International honours and acclaims. From National scholarships to International fellowships, the recognition brought by Natrang artists gave a distinct identity and pride to Jammu theatre. Prominent honors included International fellowships to Balwant Thakur (Ford Foundation USA) Harish Khanna (British Council UK) Ashish Nijhawan (Inlaks), National Awards to Balwant Thakur (Padamshree, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Sanskriti Award, National Senior Fellowship, Gurushree Samaan, Abhinayak Samaan, World Theatre Day Honor), Anil Tickoo (Sangeet Natak Akademi Award & National Award Fellowship), Sanjeev Gupta, Sumeet Sharma, Ashish Nijhawan, Vikrant Sharma, Sunil Palwal (Sangeet Natak Akademi's Yuva Bismalla Khan Award) Deepika B. Thakur (National Fellowship) Neeraj Kant (National Fellowship) Mohd. Yaseen (National Fellowship and Scholarship), Rahul Singh (National Fellowship and

Scholarship), Brejesh Avtaar Sharma (National Fellowship) Sajra Qadir, Shivam Singh, Meenakshi Bhagat, Gopi Sharma, Kritika Bhalu, Rhythm Misher, Asma Gul, Vrinda Gujral (National Scholarships). Amongst others, Suraj Singh, (Music) Brij Mohan (Music) Suraj Ganjoo (Lights) Ankush Lakhnotra (Lights) Chander Shekhar (Publicity Design) contributed immensely to the growth of Natrang. In the year 2016, Natrang brought yet another laurel for the State of Jammu & Kashmir by presenting its cultural diversity at London where these performances were cherished by more than 50000 audience at the historic Trafalgar Square. Director Natrang, Balwant Thakur expressed that Natrang has a dream for Jammu and a mission to establish this place as an International destination of theatre. The Institution is all set to create an International level campus in Jammu housing an auditorium, two Studio Theatres, theatre residences, resource centre and an exclusive centre for children. On the occasion he thanked all those who contributed to the making of this historic revolutionary creative journey a history for 'Natrang' and hoped that all admirers and patrons of Natrang will continue to shower their blessings. Show must go on.

KU condoles demise of its employee Mohd Ayoub Wani

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

The University of Kashmir (KU) on Thursday held a condolence meeting to mourn the sudden demise of Mr. Mohd Ayoub Wani, who was presently posted as MTS at Centre for Capacity Building & Skill Development KU.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her condolence message, expressed deep sorrow over the loss and extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

"Mr. Ayoub was a sincere and hardworking employee. We stand in solidarity with his family during this difficult time and pray for eternal peace to the departed soul," she said.

Indian Army provides Medical Aid to Shelling-affected Civilians in Dalogra, Rajouri

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 15 MAY 2025

In the wake of the recent shelling during Operation Sindhoor, the Indian Army conducted a humanitarian relief outreach to support the residents of Dalogra and neighboring villages. The Indian Army unit organized a focused medical distribution program aimed at providing immediate relief to those affected by the hostilities. During the outreach, essential medicines were distributed, and prompt medical care was administered by the unit's dedicated medical team and unit Nursing Assistant (NA). The medical intervention successfully attended to 22 individuals from Dalogra, Bathuni, Thakrian, and surrounding areas, addressing injuries and providing



much-needed health support to civilians caught in the conflict. In addition to medical aid, the Indian Army also actively engaged with villagers to listen and address their grievances, fostering communication and restoring a sense of security and reassurance among the local population. This outreach is part

of the ongoing commitment of the Indian Army to ensure civilian welfare alongside operational success. The Indian Army reaffirms their dedication to safeguarding lives and serving the community in times of crisis, strengthening the bond between the armed forces and the people they protect.

Sanjeev Verma IAS visits Home for Aged & Infirm, Ambphalla, Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Sanjeev Verma, IAS, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, accompanied by Nawaz Sharief, JKAS, District Social Welfare Officer, paid a visit to the Home for Aged & Infirm (Old Age Home) at Ambphalla, Jammu. The purpose of the visit was to gain first-hand insight into the functioning of the institution and to assess the overall living conditions and challenges, if any, faced by the residents.

The visiting dignitaries were warmly received by I. D. Soni, President of the Home, along with the newly appointed Honorary Secretary Dr. Dinesh Gupta. They were joined by Joint Secretary Vijay Gupta and Committee Members Pankaj Gupta, Sat Paul Sharma, R. C. Vaid and Vinod Kumar, Manager. The Committee briefed the Commissioner that the Home is operating smoothly without any major issues.

Commissioner Verma



took a comprehensive tour of the facility and interacted personally with both male and female inmates. He expressed his satisfaction with the overall condition of the Home under the dynamic leadership of I. D. Soni, President and his entire team for the care being provided to the inmates. In his remarks, he recommended engaging the residents in meaningful activities to keep them mentally and physically active. He also encouraged the experienced and senior members of the Managing Committee to visit educational institutions periodically to share their life experiences and wisdom, with students

and faculty.

On this occasion, Commissioner Verma extended his best wishes to Dr. Dinesh Gupta on his new role as the Honorary Secretary of the Home. He lauded Dr. Gupta's exemplary record in public service and social work who has been awarded the prestigious President of India Gold Medal for Social Service. The Managing Committee expressed their gratitude to the Commissioner Secretary for sparing their valuable time and encouraging the Management of the Home for Aged & Infirm to uphold its mission of compassionate care and holistic welfare for the elderly and infirm.

BJP leaders behave like traitors, trying to spoil communal harmony: Sahni

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has accused BJP of double standards, insulting a woman soldier and crossing all limits to spoil communal harmony and has demanded strict action at party and legal level.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that on one hand, the country's Defense Minister Rajnath Singh is openly praising the army by visiting Kashmir, while on the other hand, BJP leaders like Vijay Shah are openly insulting the army personnel and spreading hatred by making statements that tear apart the fabric of Hindu Muslim brotherhood. Sahni said that



insulting the army is tantamount to treason.

Sahni has demanded strict legal action along with dismissal of Shah from the party and the cabinet.

Sahni strongly criticized the BJP high command's silence on Vijay Shah's comment and said that

legal action against Shah has been taken on the orders of the honourable court. Sahni said that there is a race among BJP leaders to spoil the Hindu Muslim brotherhood and communal harmony and spread hatred, all limits are being crossed which is a danger signal for the country and mutual brotherhood.

OBC leaders meet at Hiranagar to mobilize support for Caste Census, other issues

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

A significant meeting of OBC leaders was held at Hiranagar in District Kathua under the leadership of Head Master (Retd.) Sh. Raj Kumar Sabharwal. The event was organized with the aim of strengthening grassroots connections, particularly panchayat-wise and village-wise, to mobilize people around the crucial issues of caste census and educational upliftment through Article 15(5) of the Indian Constitution.

Prominent leaders present in the meeting included Sh. Madan Lal Chalotra, Chairman of the OBC Department, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC), Sh. Darshan Mehra, General Secretary of the OBC Department JKPCC, as well as other senior leaders and workers including Jouginder Kumar, Romesh Chander, Prem Kumar Verma, and others. The meeting was a show of unity and resolve by the OBC leadership to carry forward the message of justice, equity, and constitutional rights.

The central focus of the meeting was to lay out a clear and effective strategy to connect with people from every panchayat and village in the region. The leaders unanimously emphasized the demand for a caste-based census as an essential step toward equitable representation and resource allocation.



They strongly echoed the national voice raised by Shri Rahul Gandhi – the 'Jannayak' of today's India – who has consistently advocated for social justice and equal opportunity for all marginalized communities.

The leaders also stressed the implementation of Article 15(5) of the Constitution, which empowers the state to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, particularly in educational institutions. This Article, upheld by the Supreme Court, serves as a constitutional tool to strengthen the education system for OBCs and ensure that no student is left behind due to structural disadvantages. The participants resolved to build awareness about this provision among the masses, particularly the youth, to ensure they can access their rights.

Sh. Raj Kumar Sabharwal extended his wholehearted support to the cause and pledged to work actively at the grassroots level to ensure every OBC household is informed and empowered. He highlighted the role of educa-

tion in social transformation and committed to being a bridge between community aspirations and policy implementation.

Sh. Madan Lal Chalotra reaffirmed full support from the Jammu and Kashmir Congress Party and pledged that the OBC Department will leave no stone unturned to make this campaign a mass movement. He said, "Our struggle is for recognition, representation, and dignity. We will take this message to the last corner of J&K."

Sh. Darshan Mehra shared a detailed action plan to reach every individual in the region through panchayat-wise meetings, educational seminars, and grassroots mobilization efforts. He emphasized that the movement is not merely political but a fight for constitutional justice and the future of coming generations.

The meeting concluded with a collective pledge to strengthen the voice of OBCs in Jammu and Kashmir and to carry forward the vision of Rahul Gandhi with full determination and unity.

Diva International Foundation organizes Blood Donation Camp



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Diva International Foundation (A National NGO) Organised Blood Donation Camp in Collaboration with Border Security Force and Supported by Department of Blood Transfusion, Govt. Medical College and Hospital, Bakshi Nagar Jammu.

The Camp was Started with Inauguration in Presence of S. Amardeep Singh Sasan (CEO Diva International Foundation), Mr. Harbhabeek Dev Singh Sasan (Director Diva International Foundation), Ms. HarDivya Deep Kour Sasan (Director Diva International Foundation), Dr. Meena Sidhu, HOD, Department of Blood Transfusion,

GMC, Jammu, Staff, Volunteers and Prominent Personalities of GMC & H.

More than 50 Volunteers Donated the blood for Noble Cause and to Support Defense Forces.

Er. Ajay Bhagat Spoke on Occasion and Praised the Team of Diva International Foundation for this Programme.

S. Amardeep Singh Sasan thanked the Team of Govt. Medical College & Hospital, Jammu, Volunteers and Media Fraternity.

In the End of Programme, Medals and Certificates of Appreciation were distributed to All those whosoever participated in Programme and made this Noble Programme a Grand Success.

TKM announces, 'Mega Summer Celebration' across All Dealerships in North India

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Exciting Offers across Sales, Service, Used Cars, Accessories & More! Toyota is turning up the heat this season with the launch of its 'Mega Summer Celebration' – an initiative across all authorized Toyota dealerships in Northern Part of India. Be it a plan to buy a new car, servicing existing cars, explore certified used cars, or upgrade the vehicle accessories, it is the customer's moment to steal the deal! Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced the launch of its 'Mega Summer Celebration', featuring a host of Awesome offers. Staying true to its "Customer-First" philosophy, the campaign aims to deliver value for customers on purchase of New Toyota Cars, Toyota Car Service and Purchase of Used cars* during the summer months. The Mega Summer Celebration is available across NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh at Toyota's authorized dealerships, and will run from May to June 2025. Speaking on the campaign, Mr. Sabari Manohar, Vice President and Chief Representative - North Region, Sales-Service-Used Car, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "With

our 'Customer-First' philosophy, we remain committed to delivering best-in-class experiences to our valued customers. Based on customer insights, we have curated Awesome Summer Schemes on purchase of New Cars & Used cars from authorized Toyota dealerships. Our customized special service value packages will keep your car cool and road ready. We are confident that this campaign will elevate ownership satisfaction and reinforce the joy of driving a Toyota vehicle."

In addition to these offers, we encourage customers to take simple car care measures to maintain their vehicle's performance during the summer. These include, inspecting tyre and battery health, checking rubber components and replacing them if needed, using car covers or sunshades, and ensuring timely servicing. We also advise safe parking practices, such as avoiding areas near dry leaves, waste heaps, etc. For added comfort and convenience, it is recommended to keep essentials like drinking water, wet wipes, and an umbrella in the car while on the go. TKM wishes all its customers "Happy & Safe Drive this Summer" and look forward to welcoming them to its dealerships this season.

Indian Army's Humanitarian Efforts and Motivational Lecture at Model Academy Sagra in Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 15 MAY 2025

Showcasing their commitment to civilian welfare and community engagement, the Indian Army has been providing safety and sustenance to displaced families from Poonch, demonstrating their dedication to protecting and supporting vulnerable populations in times of need. Community Interaction By engaging with parents and students at Model Academy Sagra, the Indian Army fosters a sense of trust and cooperation with local communities. This interaction likely aimed to inspire and motivate the younger generation, emphasizing the



importance of education and community service. The Indian Army's initiatives in Sagra reflect their broader mission to promote peace, security, and national development.

Through their humanitarian efforts and community outreach programs, the Army strengthens its bond with the people it serves, ensuring a safer and more resilient society.

NMC urges immediate release of 2% DA, other employee benefits

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Stressing on the need for immediate release of pending instalment of 2% DA due since January, president of the National Mazdoor Conference (NMC), Subhash Shastri on Thursday

appealed to chief minister Omar Abdullah to announce the same instalment of DA to employees and pensioners at the earliest so that salaried class and pensioners get relief in view of increasing prices of essential commodities.

Addressing a meeting of

NMC workers here, Shastri stated that in view of the inbuilt provisions in the annual budget, there should not be any hitch for the state government, more so when others states have already released the 2% DA instalment since long. An early decision in this regard

would be genuine measure to provide some relief to them, he added.

Recalling recommendations of the central 7th pay commission, which was implemented in January 2016 by the NDA government, Shastri said it also had recommendations

that as soon as DA crosses more than 50%, the Centre is under an obligation to merge 50% DA into basic pay or pension.

He said now as the DA has already touched 55%, they request for early merger of 50% DA into basic pay/pension with ret-

rospective effect Grant of 20% interim relief in favour of both Centre and state government employees and pensioners till constitution of 8th pay Commission, release of salary of daily rated workers besides their immediate regularisation, enhancement in the

wages of daily wagers to Rs 18,000 per month, increase in medical allowance to Rs 1,000 per month and implementation of CAT decision with regards to removal of pay anomalies of clerical cadre were other demands highlighted in the meeting.

Rajan Babu Khajuria,

B.S. Jamwal, Surinder Kumar, Ramesh Sharma, Anil Gupta, Ram Singh, Sukhdev Singh, Rajnish Kapoor, Subash Sharma, Girdhari Lal, Swarn Bhagat, Vijay Bhagat, Girdhari Lal Bhagat and others were also present in the meeting.

'Shabash!': Army Chief lauds Troops for Operational Brilliance during Operation Sindoor

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 15 MAY 2025

In a stirring tribute to the valour and professionalism of Indian soldiers, General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), visited forward locations in Srinagar, Uri and Unchi Bassi, including the Dagger Division of Chinar Corps, to personally congratulate and motivate troops for their exceptional performance during Operation SINDOOR.

The visit was a heartfelt gesture of appreciation, focusing not on operational review but on saluting the courage and spirit of troops from all arms and services who played a pivotal role in decisively repelling Pakistani aerial and ground provocations. The COAS praised their collective grit, high morale, and seamless



coordination in countering multiple threat vectors.

Addressing the soldiers, General Dwivedi commended their valour, josh, and unwavering vigilance in dominating the Line of Control during intense engagements. He lauded their precise and bold actions that resulted in the destruction of terror camps in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (POJK) –

a key operational success of Operation SINDOOR.

The Army Chief also appreciated the humane role played by troops in providing relief and assistance to civilians affected by Pakistan's unprovoked and cowardly cross-LoC shelling, reaffirming the Indian Army's commitment to protecting not only the borders but also the lives of fellow citizens.

Indian Army conducts Medical Assistance, Civil Interaction at Jhullas and Salotri, Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, 15 MAY 2025

In a continued effort to support and uplift communities affected by cross-border shelling, Indian Army successfully conducted a medical assistance and civilian outreach program in the border villages of Jhullas and Salotri as part of "Operation Milap". The initiative, focused on delivering essential medical care, psychological support, and community interaction to residents severely impacted by the ongoing shelling incidents in the region. The medical team from the Indian Army, provided general health check-ups, distributed medicines, and offered counselling sessions to help civilians cope with trauma and stress. Special attention was given to vulnerable groups including the elderly, women, and children. Medical kits, hygiene essentials, and



emergency aid supplies were also distributed to the affected households. In addition to healthcare, the team engaged with local residents through interactive sessions to understand their immediate needs and provide reassurance and solidarity. The effort aimed to bridge the gap between the local populace and humanitarian aid services, fostering a spirit of trust and cooperation. Residents expressed gratitude for the timely assistance and

praised the efforts of the Indian Army for reaching out to the most affected during the time of crisis. The successful conduct of the program underscored the commitment of Indian Army to stand in solidarity with border communities and ensure that no life is left unattended in times of conflict. Indian Army remains dedicated to continuing its humanitarian initiatives in remote and conflict-affected areas across the region.

Honor Border Victims as Martyrs: Vibodh Gupta



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAY 15

The Shiv Mandir Committee Rajouri today organized a solemn tribute to honor those who lost their lives in the recent cross-border shelling in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch. The event was also organized to salute the unyielding spirit of the border residents and their commitment towards the unity and integrity of India.

Addressing the gathering, BJP J&K General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta paid rich tributes to the victims, describing them as bravehearts who laid down their lives in defense of the nation. "The people of Rajouri-Poonch are known for their unwavering patriotism and resilience. Time and again, they have stood strong and tall against separatist elements and cross-border terrorism sponsored by Pakistan," he said.

Vibodh further asserted that those who lost their lives in this ongoing warlike situation must be recognized as martyrs by the government. "The people of border areas have always given supreme and untold sacrifice to protect their nations from nefarious designs of the Pakistan and it is our moral responsibility to honor them with the dignity they deserve," he added.

Calling attention to the continued hardships faced by border residents, Vibodh demanded a comprehensive relief and rehabilitation package for the affected families. He emphasized the need for immediate government intervention to ensure

adequate compensation, support, and long-term rehabilitation for those who have lost their loved ones or property due to the shelling.

Vibodh also urged the administration to construct a large number of bunkers in vulnerable areas to safeguard civilian lives. He suggested that local residents must be trained in basic emergency response and civil defense to equip them to handle such hostile situations more effectively in the future.

While paying homage, Vibodh Gupta also remembered the late Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) of Rajouri, Shri Raj Kumar Thappa, who was martyred during one of the incidents. He recalled his dedication and service to the people, stating, "Late ADDC Thappa's contributions to the district were invaluable. The people of Rajouri will always remember his commitment and sacrifice."

Speaking on the occasion Radish Sharma said that the tribute event concluded with prayers for peace and stability along the borders. He told that people of Rajouri are always ready to defend their motherland. ABC also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the problems faced by border residents. He also lauded security forces for giving befitting reply to Pakistan. Sanjay Sharma ex-corporator in his address asked people to stay united and avoid forwarding random messages in social media as it cause panic among common people.

NSF celebrates birth anniversary of Shaheed Sukhdev

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

National Secular Forum (NSF), University Unit organized a programmed in Jammu University, and on the Birth anniversary of Shaheed Sukhdev who laid his life for the country. On the occasion, NSF activists raised slogans "Sukhdev Amar Raha" "Inqilaab Zindabad" "Bharat Mata ki jai", and they paid tributes to shaheed Sukhdev and garlanded the portraits of the son of soil.

Ankush Abrol, Jammu Provincial Joint Secretary, JKNC and Former Member BCCI was the Chief Guest while Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary JKNC presided over the function. Vikshay Vashist, State Secretary NSF was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occa-

sion Ankush Abrol appreciated the initiative taken by the NSF member to remember the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country.

He also said that Sukhdev Thapar was an Indian freedom fighter who fought against the British government for the freedom of India. He was a member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). He was executed along with Shivaram, Rajguru and Bhagat Singh on 23 March 1931. Sukhdev Thapar was born in Ludhiana, Punjab, British Raj on 15 May 1907 to Ramlal Thapar and Ralli Devi. He belonged to a Punjabi Khatri family of the Hindu community and he was brought up by his uncle Lala Achinram after the death of his father.

Speaking on the occa-

sion Dr. Vikas Sharma said that the real tributes to the martyrs would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction. He exhorted the youth to refrain from drugs and intoxicants.

Dr. Vikas Sharma recalled the planning capability, boldness and feeling of nationalism in martyr Sukhdev and stressed upon the youth to follow his ideas. He also stressed upon the youth to shun their self centered outlook and contribute in the development of the nation.

Vikshay Vashist, State Secretary NSF also addressed this occasion.

Gourav Partap Singh President University Unit delivered the welcome address; Abhishek Uppal Chairman Jammu District unit was delivering the vote of thanks.

Indian Army conducts Lecture on Women Empowerment at Batsiyala, Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, 15 MAY 2025

The Indian Army in its continued efforts to foster social awareness and community development, conducted an inspiring lecture on Women Empowerment at Batsiyala District Reasi on 15 May 25. The initiative aimed to educate and motivate local women and young girls to realize their potential and contribute meaningfully to society. The lecture covered key aspects of gender equality, education, skill development self-reliance and opportunities for women in various sectors including the armed forces. It



emphasized the importance of breaking social barriers and encouraged women to actively participate in nation building. Local women, students and community leader attended the session, engaging in interactive discussions and sharing personal experiences. The Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment to uplifting remote communities by

promoting education and empowerment programs. This initiative is part of Army's broader efforts to support women's rights, social development and awareness campaigns in remote and border areas. The Army remains dedicated to fostering inclusive growth and ensuring that women play an integral role in shaping a progressive society.

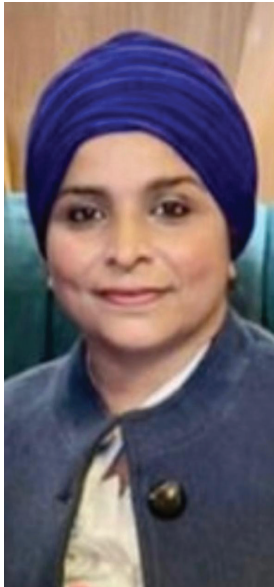
Neete to lead India's Women's Handball Team at World Masters Games

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU MAY 15

Neete Kaur, a seasoned athlete from Jammu and Kashmir, will captain the Indian Women's Handball Team at the upcoming World Masters Games in New Taipei City, Taiwan. The event, held every four years, is one of the largest international sporting gatherings for veteran athletes from 110 countries competing in 35 sports and 9 para-sports.

This marks a historic moment as Neete becomes the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir to take part in the World Masters Games. A fitness enthusiast, Neete Kaur follows a strict regimen involving strength training, aerobics, and yoga, and she champions a vegetarian lifestyle aligned with the Fit India Movement. Beyond the field, she leads "Queens Aerobics World," a fitness club offering both in-person and online classes, and serves as General Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Master Games Association.

India's contingent of 130 athletes, aged between 30 and 70+, will



compete across various sports including judo, swimming, football, karate, and table tennis. The team is being led by Chef de Mission Sh. Vinod Kumar, with George Varghese from Kerala acting as the handball coach and mission coordinator.

President of the J&K Master Games Association, Shri Ranjit Singh Chib, praised Neete's achievement and expressed hope that her journey will inspire more people in the region to engage in sports, proving that age is no barrier to athletic excellence.

Pakistan always killed our people and under Operation Sindoor Pak terror universities & camps were targeted by our valorous forces: Dr Darakhshan

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15

BJP National Executive Member & Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi today lambasted Pakistan and its supporters for exporting terror and hatred in our country. She was participating in the Tiranga Yatra held by Bharatiya Janata Party in Srinagar. Andrabi spoke to media persons and said that Terrorism cannot be tolerated anymore by a strong India under the leadership of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Operation Sin-



door was very successful and celebrating the power shown by Indian army is the basis of this Tiranga Rally. Every Indian is proud of the our armed forces, security forces and our

Prime Minister. This is for unity and the pride of the country; this is a message for the entire world. We showed that we have the greatest army and we can fight anyone and gain victo-

ry", said Andrabi. She said that Jammu Kashmir was the worst hit by Pak sponsored terror with the help of some local elements. "Pakistan always targeted our people and is the enemy of peace. It has been the official policy of Pakistan to derail our peace and prosperity initiatives. They played to fragmentize our society and they and their supporters are responsible for the killing of thousands of innocents for decades here. Under Operation Sindoor the terror universities & camps were accurately targeted by our valorous forces", said Andrabi.

Ajeet Bhagat condemns BJP leader remarks on Colonel Sofiya Qureshi

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHITWAR, MAY 15

Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Senior leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat said that we strongly condemn the statement made on Colonel Sofia Qureshi. He said that Colonel Sofia Qureshi is a matter of pride for the country. He said that it is a matter of shame for



MP Minister. He said in his statement that action should be taken against Madhya Pradesh State Minister Kunwar Vijay Shah for his Comment calling Colonel Sofiya Qureshi a Sister of terrorists who are pointing fingers at Colonel Qureshi. He said that we condemn the way of MP minister attitude. He said that action will be taken in this issue and the minister should be thrown out

of the party. He said that people who think in this way can never support the country. He said that making such a statement is serious and such people who do such things should be shown the way out of the country. He said that if the BJP was really doing the scene, then they should completely expel such a person from the party who raises questions by making such statements.

Ganesh Sharma's Art Works displayed at "Bordeaux Art Gallery" France, Paris

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Well known Eminent Senior contemporary internationally acclaimed Sculptor Ganesh Sharma's art works selected and displayed at prestigious International art exhibition "Art for the Sake of Art" organized by "Artists Magazine" France, Paris. The International art exhibition organized at very popular and prestigious internationally known "Bordeaux Art Gallery" School of Fine Arts around the world, France, Paris, with effect from 5th of May to 15th of May 2025, under the patronage of Dr. Michael Anthony and Dr. Idris Emmanuel.

Amongst the received entries from across the globe Ganesh Kumar Sharma's two art works selected and displayed with eminent artists from across the world. Sculptor Ganesh Sharma having 45 years' experience in art playing a pivotal role in spreading and promoting

artistic endeavors at State, National and International levels.

Sharma's artistic legacy extends beyond physical exhibitions with his active participations in Thousands International Online Art exhibitions.

Ganesh Kumar Sharma recipient of so many International Awards, Honors, Certificates and Honorary Doctorates reflects not just his talent but also the global impact of his art works.

It is to mention here that Ganesh Kumar Sharma, belongs to International border village Sanoora of Samba district and presently residing at Hiranagar of district Kathua.



Mega IEC campaign to be launched under DAJGUA in Baramulla

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 15

As part of the Government of India's flagship initiative, a Mega Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign is scheduled to be launched in District Baramulla under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) from June 15 to June 30, 2025.

The campaign aims to saturate the delivery of 25 welfare schemes across 17 Central Ministries in identified tribal villages of the district, ensuring last-mile delivery and inclusive development.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, has urged the public, especially members of the tribal communities, to actively participate in the campaign and take full advantage of



the benefits being offered under various schemes related to health, education, livelihoods, skill development, housing, and social welfare.

He emphasized that the campaign will involve intensive outreach activities, awareness drives, and on-the-spot service deliv-

ery in tribal areas, with the goal of bringing governance to the doorstep of every citizen.

The district administration has made all necessary arrangements to ensure the smooth execution of the campaign in coordination with line departments and local stakeholders.

Inaugural ceremony of ESDP program under RAMP by JKEDI held at Pulwama

J1 NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, MAY 15

Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Pulwama, Thursday launched an Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Pampore. The program was formally launched by Er. Aijaz Ahmad Wani, Superintendent ITI Pampore and Nafia Nazir, Range Officer (South Kashmir) JKEDI. Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer (DNO), JKEDI Pulwama, Waseem Afzal Naik (Course coordinator of the Program) & Arbin Hassan (Trainer of the Program) and faculty from ITI Pampore participated at the event.



Speaking on the occasion, Superintendent ITI praised the initiative and underlined the role and importance of entrepreneurship and vocational training for tackling unemployment and a self-reliant economy. Range Officer detailed the aims of the RAMP programme and identified the central role played by programmes like this one to promote grassroots-level entrepreneurship. The candidates

also interacted with Raiyees Manzoor, DNO JKEDI Pulwama, emphasizing the program's significance and the extent it can empower youths through systematic training and mentorship. The RAMP's ESDP aim is to impart necessary business development, financial planning, and market awareness skills to prospective entrepreneurs so they can start and succeed in their businesses.

Power shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Shahzadpur, Marh, Gajansoo and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 17 and 19 from 7 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Shant Nagar, Dhok Paloura, Patoli Chowk, PHE, EWS Colony, Roop Nagar some part of Muthi and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 17 from 7 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Lamberi, Bagnoti, Narian, Nowshera, Jaba Deeing Syal, Nonial, Manpur, Chowki-Jangher, Qila, Darhal, Rajpora Laroka and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 18 from 6 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Manoorgala, Kotranka, Budhal and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 18 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Balote, Dhore, Rehni and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 16 and 17 from 7 am to 11 am.

Executive Engineer, Electric Division-I, JPDCL, Parade Jammu has informed that the power supply to Surinsar and its adjoining areas will remain affected on May 16 to 26 from 8 am to 3 pm.

District-level workshop on SIP implementation under RAMP held at Shopian

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MAY 15

To promote awareness and implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) under the RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) programme, District Industries Centre (DIC), Shopian hosted a district-level workshop at Mini-Secretariat Shopian.

RAMP programme is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, supported by the World Bank.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders from across the MSME ecosystem of the district Shopian, including the General Manager, DIC, DDM NABARD, Lead Dis-

trict Manager (LDM), DPM National Rural Livelihood Mission, DNO Entrepreneurship Development Institute, representatives from the Department of Cooperatives, Handicrafts, Handloom and Industrial Association IE Aglar/ IE Gagren.

The primary objective of the workshop was to sensitize stakeholders on the strategic priorities outlined under the SIP, which aims to enhance the capacity, competitiveness, and resilience of MSMEs in the district.

In his keynote address, General Manager, DIC Shopian, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in driving sustainable growth for the MSME sector. The RAMP

programme, through the SIP framework offers a structured roadmap to bridge existing gaps in infrastructure, finance, and market access for our local entrepreneurs, he noted.

As the knowledge and implementation partner under RAMP, Experts from Grant Thornton Bharat LLP delivered a detailed presentation on the Strategic Investment Plan, outlining the main objectives, priority reform areas, and district-specific strategies for MSME development. The team highlighted the importance of institutional strengthening, access to finance, digital enablement, and market integration, with a focus on actionable steps tailored

for Shopian district.

DDM NABARD and LDM Shopian spoke about credit linkage, financial inclusion, and institutional support available for MSMEs. Meanwhile, DPM NRLM and representatives from Cooperatives, Handicrafts and Handloom outlined various schemes and initiatives designed to support artisans, weavers, SHGs, and rural entrepreneurs.

Interactive sessions provided a platform for open discussion, where representatives from Industrial Association IE Gagran/ IE Aglar and departmental representatives shared ideas, addressed challenges, and explored ways to leverage the RAMP initiative effectively.

DLSA Kishtwar hosts Awareness Programme on Rights of Disaster Victims

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 15

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kishtwar today organized an awareness programme under the guidance of Chairman Sudhir Kumar Khajuria, and the supervision of Secretary Slahuddin Ahmed, here at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI). The focus of the programme was on the Rights of Disaster Victims.

The initiative aimed to educate students and the general public about legal entitlements, support mechanisms and the role of legal aid during disasters.

The event was graced by the presence of Chief Legal Aid Defense Coun-



sel Naveed Khurshid, along with the staff of ITI and Para-Legal Volunteers (PLVs) associated with the DLSA.

The programme was led by Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel Saneer Singh, Vinay Shan and Sandeep Kumar, who

sensitized participants on the legal frameworks and welfare measures available to disaster victims under various laws and government schemes.

The speakers emphasized the importance of timely legal assistance for disaster-affected individuals and families.

They elaborated on how DLSA and the Legal Aid Defense Counsel System play a pivotal role in ensuring justice and support for vulnerable sections of society during emergencies.

The programme concluded with an interactive session, where participants raised queries and received guidance on available legal remedies and support structures.

2 Day Registration Camp for Shri Amarnath Yatra Service Providers successfully concludes at Mahore

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 15

A two-day registration camp for service providers for the Shri Amarnath Yatra concluded successfully at Dak Bungalow, Mahore today. The camp, held under the supervision of Assistant Labour Commissioner Reasi, Annie Vaid, aimed to register Pithuwalas, Ponywalas, and Palkiwalas, enabling them to offer their services during the upcoming pilgrimage.

Acknowledging the financial and logistical challenges faced by residents of Mahore in traveling to the Labour Department's office in Reasi, the department took the proactive step of setting up the camp locally. This effort aimed to provide easier access to the registration process and alleviate the burden of travel expenses for the service providers.

As part of the registration process, service providers were required to submit the documents like Police Verification Report, Animal Fitness Certificate (for Ponywalas), Aadhar Card, E-Shram Card, Bank Account Details, Blood Group Test Report

NATIONAL DENGUE DAY

16TH May, 2025

Theme: "Check, Clean, Cover: Steps to Defeat Dengue"

DENGUE	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	PREVENTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dengue is a viral disease. It is transmitted by the bite of Aedes mosquito. Dengue Fever is a severe, flu-like illness. Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) & Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) are more severe forms of disease, which may cause death if left untreated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High fever. Frontal headache. Pain behind the eyes which worsens with eye movement. Muscle and joint pains. Rashes on the body. Pain abdomen. Nausea and vomiting. Bleeding & low B.P in severe cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid water stagnation in & around the house. Change the water in air coolers, flower/plant pots, bird baths once a week. Discard junk items like coconut shells, tyres, disposable cups/bottles etc. Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids. Use mosquito repellents/ Anti mosquito creams. Do not wear clothes that expose arms and legs. Use mosquito nets while sleeping. Use netted screens for doors & windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person suspected of having Dengue should visit nearby Health Facility. The tests and treatment are available free of cost at Govt. Health Institutions. Don't take pain killers and any other medicines without consultation of Doctor. 		

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STATE MALARIOLOGIST/SPO NVBDCP, J&K,
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU

DIP/J-1155/25
Date: 15-5-25