

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Severe stomach pain
- Redness on the face
- Redness on the eyes
- Redness on the skin
- Redness on the tongue
- Redness on the throat
- Redness on the neck
- Redness on the chest
- Redness on the back
- Redness on the abdomen
- Redness on the legs
- Redness on the feet

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Pak's close ties with terror outfits could lead to nukes falling in hands of terrorists: Rajnath Singh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BHUJ (GUJARAT), MAY 16 (KNO)

In a strong message to the international community, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday cautioned that Pakistan's close ties with terror outfits pose a grave danger to global peace, warning that it would be no surprise if nuclear weapons in the neighbouring country fall into the hands of terrorists.

Addressing the air warriors at the air force station at Bhuj, Singh, according to the news agency accused the Pakistan



establishment of actively supporting terrorism and rebuilding terror infrastructure destroyed by Indian forces during 'Operation Sindoor,' India's military retaliation to the April 22 Pahalgam, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead.

"It has been proven beyond doubt that there is a strong nexus between Pakistan and terrorists. In such circumstances, if nuclear weapons fall into the hands of terrorists, no one should be surprised. It is not just a threat to India, CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Haj-2025: CM Omar urges centre to arrange addl flights, clear backlog

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 15 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday urged the Government of India to arrange additional Haj flights from Srinagar to address the backlog of pilgrims stranded due to recent flight disruptions.

"I have taken up with the Government of India the urgent need to arrange additional Haj flights from Srinagar to clear the backlog of 1,895 pilgrims caused by recent flight disruptions. Ensuring a smooth and timely pilgrimage for our pilgrims is the Government's priority," Omar Abdullah posted on X, as per the news agency.

The air travel disruptions caused by the recent tensions



tee, Dr Shujhat Qureshi, said that efforts were underway to accommodate those who were unable to fly earlier due to the disruptions. "For additional flights, we are waiting for approval from HCoI. We are expecting a schedule in the next 2-3 days", Dr Qureshi said.

According to official data, a total of 1,895 pilgrims have been impacted by the week-long disruption and are currently awaiting rebooking. The J&K Haj Committee is in active discussions with the concerned agencies to arrange special flights and clear the backlog at the earliest.

As per the data, of a total of 3622 pilgrims from J&K and 242 from Ladakh, 480 have CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Srinagar Airport records uptick in flights, passenger movement

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 16 (KNO)

Srinagar International Airport, Kashmir's only operational airport, is witnessing a gradual but steady revival, with increased flight operations and passenger traffic indicating growing confidence in the valley's connectivity.

According to data accessed by the CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Shrine Board offers free facilities to woo pilgrims to Mata Vaishno Devi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATRA (REAS), MAY 16

As the guns have fallen silent on the borders with ceasefire between India and Pakistan after CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Misappropriation of funds: ACB registers case against Teacher, Contractor, others

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday said to have registered a case against the then Teacher, Incharge Headmaster of CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Swift, coordinated operations led to elimination of six terrorists in last 48 hours in south Kashmir: Security forces

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 16 (KNO)

The security forces on Friday said that a swift and coordinated response by multiple security agencies following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack has resulted in the neutralisation of six terrorists over the past 48 hours in Shopian and Pulwama districts in south Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference in the Police District Awantipora of south Kashmir, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdi, said such operations are crucial after any terror strike and that the Pahalgam incident triggered an intensified and intelligence-led combing operation across south Kashmir.

"These operations were launched promptly based on



credible intelligence. Cooperation among security agencies and rapid follow-up actions ensured terrorists involved were quickly tracked down and neutralised," Birdi, as reported by the news agency, said.

"In the last 48 hours, we successfully conducted two operations—one in the Kelar area of Shopian and another in Tral, Pulwama—resulting in the elimination of six terrorists," he added.

The IGP reaffirmed the secu-

riety forces' resolve to dismantle the terror infrastructure in the region. "We are committed to ending the terror ecosystem here," he said, highlighting ongoing efforts in coordination with intelligence inputs.

The joint operations were carried out by teams from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, and CRPF, based on specific intelligence about terrorist movements in the respective areas. Arms, ammunition, and other incriminating materials were recovered from the encounter sites.

Birdi urged the public's cooperation, saying such operations are part of a broader strategy to establish a peaceful, terror-free environment in the valley. "Public support is vital for the success of these anti-terror efforts. CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

'Operation Sindoor': Amit Shah praises PM Modi's firm political will, IAF's unmatched striking capability



J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 16 (KNO)

Termining "Operation Sindoor" as a reflection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's firm political will, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday praised the Indian Air Force (IAF) for its unmatched striking capability.

After inaugurating an upgraded multi agency centre

in Delhi for intelligence sharing among various agencies, Shah, according to the news agency said, "Operation Sindoor is a unique symbol of Prime Minister Modi's firm political will, the precise intelligence of our agencies and the unmatched strike capability of our three armed forces."

Pertinently, the multi agency centre, under CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

MHA orders posting of 9 IAS, 3 IPS officers to J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 16 (KNO)

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) ordered the transfer of 9 IAS and 3 IPS officers from the AGMUT cadre to Jammu and Kashmir while 6 IAS officers from the Union Territory have also been transferred. However, the transfer of two IAS officers has also been retracted.

According to an order, a

copy of which lies with the news agency Ashish Chandra Verma (1994 batch) and Anil Kumar Singh (1995 batch) have been posted to Jammu & Kashmir from Delhi.

The other IAS officers include Naveen S L (2012 batch), Choudhary Mohamad Yasin (2015 batch), Shrikant Balasaheb Suse (2016), Shreya Singhal (2020), Mahima Madan (2021), CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

CM Omar Abdullah meets several delegations at his Raabita Office in Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 16 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday listened to grievances and issues of public at the Chief Minister's Outreach Office, Raabita in Srinagar.

The programme witnessed participation of several public delegations, representatives and individuals from diverse sectors who apprised the Chief Minister of various



pressing problems and concerns requiring his attention. Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani was also present during the outreach programme.

Among the prominent delegations was one representing the residents of Saderkoot Payeen, Ajas area Bandipora, seeking the Chief Minister's intervention for the expeditious disbursement of CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Omar, Mehbooba Mufti enter into verbal brawl

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 16 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Mehbooba Mufti on Friday entered into a verbal brawl on X, formerly Twitter.

The Chief Minister slammed Mehbooba over her remarks on Tulbul navigation barrage project, accusing her of "pleasing" some people across the border.

In response to a post by Mehbooba Mufti on X, CM Omar, as per the news agency, said that the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) has been one of the biggest historic betrayals of the interests of the people of J&K. "I have always opposed this treaty & I will continue to



do so," Omar said.

"Actually what is unfortunate is that with your blind lust to try to score cheap publicity points & please some people sitting across the border, you refuse to acknowledge that the IWT has been one of the biggest historic betrayals of the interests of the people of J&K," he said.

He added that he has always opposed this treaty and will continue to do so. "Opposing a blatantly unfair treaty is in no way, shape, size or form warmongering, it's about correcting a historic injustice that denied the people of J&K the right to use our water for ourselves," he said.

The PDP chief, in a response

to Omar Abdullah's post on X, termed the call for the revival of the Tulbul navigation project amid the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan as "deeply unfortunate".

"J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's call to revive the Tulbul Navigation Project amid ongoing tensions between India & Pakistan is deeply unfortunate. At a time when both countries have just stepped back from the brink of a full-fledged war—with Jammu and Kashmir bearing the brunt through the loss of innocent lives, widespread destruction and immense suffering such statements are not only irresponsible but also dangerously provocative," she said. CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Amarnath Yatra: Over 3.5L pilgrims registered online, Jammu based Yatri Niwas to get facelift

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

As the tension between India and Pakistan is normalising gradually and the shelling on the borders has stopped, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has geared up to welcome the pilgrims for this year's Shri Amarnath Yatra starting from July 3 and ending on August 9.

More than 3.5 lakh devotees from across the country have registered themselves

online for the yatra.

However, the Yatri Niwas with a capacity to accommodate 2000 pilgrims will get a facelift and be ready for the yatries by mid of June.

"Situation on borders is peaceful and normalcy has restored," officials said.

They said that very soon the repair work will begin at Bhagwati Nagar based Yatri Niwas—the base camp of Shri Amarnath Yatra at Jammu and the facility will be handed over to the Tourism Depart-

ment by June 20.

"The first batch of pilgrims from Jammu Yatri Niwas will leave for Shri Amarnath from twin routes—Pahalgam and Baltal— route on July 2," they added.

They further said that so far more than three and a half lakh devotees from across the country have registered online from April 14 for the Yatra.

"There is a great enthusiasm among the devotees CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

SKUAST-Jammu Celebrates National Lac-Insect Day with Focus on Sustainable Agri-Business Opportunities

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

In a bid to revive the once-thriving lac cultivation industry in Jammu, the Division of Entomology at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-J) organized a day-long event to mark National Lac-Insect Day (N-LiD), drawing over 100 farmers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and students.

The program highlighted the historical significance of lac cultivation in the region, which was a major economic activity before 1947, with natural lac exports to Sialkot for medicinal and jewelry-making purposes. "Lac was a crucial livelihood source for forest and sub-forest dwellers, especially in the Kan-di areas of



Jammu and Kashmir," said Dr. R.K. Gupta, Professor and Head of Entomology. "However, its cultivation has drastically declined, and we are now working to restore its prominence."

The event featured expert sessions by Dr. R.K. Bandral and Dr. Devinder Sharma (Professors of Entomology, SKUAST-J) and researcher Monika Attri, who demonstrated advanced cultivation techniques, pest management,

and value-added product development. Dr. Gupta presented research breakthroughs showing significant yield improvements through improved host plant management and selective breeding, positioning lac as a profitable alternative crop.

A technical symposium explored lac's diverse industrial applications—from food processing and pharmaceuticals to eco-friendly coatings—while

entrepreneurs shared market insights. Attendees also participated in field demonstrations at the university's research station, observing modern harvesting and processing methods.

In a key announcement, Monika Attri revealed plans to establish a Farmer-Producer Organization (FPO) for lac cultivators, backed by SKUAST-J's technical and market linkage support. Dr. Gupta empha-

sized the university's long-term vision, including a Lac Technology Business Incubator and district-level training programs to promote lac as a sustainable livelihood.

"Reviving lac cultivation isn't just about economics—it's about preserving an ecological heritage," Dr. Gupta said. "With structured efforts, we aim to make Jammu a hub for lac-based agri-business once again."

Arrangements for Mela Kheer Bhawani reviewed at Kulgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MAY 16

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a comprehensive meeting with officers to review and finalize the arrangements for the smooth conduct of Mela Kheer Bhawani at Manzgam and Mata Tripur Sundari, Khanbari, Devsar.

The meeting focused on key aspects including security arrangements, availability of essentials, accommodation facilities, traffic management, medical services, sanitation, and uninterrupted power and water supply.

DC emphasized the importance of ensuring that all necessary facilities are in place to enable devotees to perform religious rituals with ease and comfort. He directed officers from KPDC and Jal Shakti to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply at both locations during the Mela.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) was instructed to establish medical camps



at both sites. Executive Officers (EOs) were directed to ensure proper sanitation, while the ARTO and traffic authorities were asked to put in place a smooth and efficient traffic management plan.

Additionally, concerned departments were instructed to install solar lighting at the venues. The R&B Department was directed to make arrangements for spacious and waterproof tents to accommodate devotees.

Highlighting the need for coordinated efforts, the DC stressed the importance of close inter-departmental coordination to ensure the Mela is conducted smoothly and efficiently.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Viqar Ahmad Giri; ACR, Tehsildar, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and R&B, EOs, DSP-HQ and other officers besides the president and members of the management committee also participated in the meeting.

Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal holds meeting with Adhikar Mitras (PLVs)

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 16

A meeting to review the functioning of front offices, Village Legal Care & Support Centres and Legal Aid Clinics was today held in District Ganderbal.

The meeting, chaired by Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, also assessed the effectiveness of Adhikar Mitras or Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) in delivering legal services to the community.

During the meeting, Secretary, DLSA emphasized to ensure timely provision of free legal aid to every needy person, as and when required, to make sure that no person remains unaware of Government schemes and benefits.

He stressed the need to provide legal assistance to individuals at police stations and educate them about

their rights and offer full legal assistance to aggrieved women. Moreover, in filing complaints by the women under the POSH Act, and ensure they are aware of their rights and entitlements.

Secretary DLSA also emphasized to conduct door-to-door awareness campaigns in far-flung areas and to identify children who have dropped out of school due to financial constraints and facilitate their enrollment by taking up the matter with the education department.

Identify senior citizens living in distress or abandoned by their children and provide necessary support and also identify mentally ill persons requiring medical attention and facilitate access to medical care, he remarked.

All Adhikaar Mitras (PLVs) of District Ganderbal attended the meeting.

Awareness programme to sensitize stakeholders regarding POSH Act held at Court Complex Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 16

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized an awareness programme on the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace (POSH) Act at the ADR Centre, District Court Complex Srinagar.

The objective of the awareness programme was to sensitize the stakeholders, especially staff, legal professionals, and para legal volunteers, about the core aspects of the POSH Act, including preventive measures, complaint redressal mechanism, and the importance of a safe and inclusive workplace.

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.

The event was graced by Massarat Jabeen (PT&E

Magistrate Srinagar) Presiding Officer of the POSH Committee, and was attended by the members of the POSH Committee, staff members, Legal Aid Defense Counsels, and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar.

Massarat Jabeen, in her address, emphasized the significance of understanding and implementing the POSH Act at every institutional level. She elaborated on the legal provisions, mechanisms for redressal, and the responsibilities of employers and committee members in ensuring compliance with the Act.

She underscored the necessity of fostering a workplace culture that prioritizes dignity, respect, and zero tolerance toward harassment. Her speech inspired the participants to take a proactive stance in spreading awareness and ensuring effective implementation of the Act within their respective

spheres of influence. Sub-Judge/Secretary DLSA Srinagar, emphasized the participants about the importance of creating safe and secure work environments, particularly for women, and the role of the legal services authority in facilitating such awareness.

As part of the initiative, NALSA handbooks on the POSH Act were distributed among the participants. These handbooks serve as a vital resource for understanding the legal framework and practical implementation of the Act, enabling individuals to act as informed advocates for safer work environments.

The session proved to be informative and interactive, contributing meaningfully to the overall goal of empowering participants with the knowledge required to identify, address, and prevent sexual harassment at the workplace.

Inter School Zonal level Tournament for U14/17 Girls kicks off at GGHS Baderwah

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, MAY 16

The Inter School Zonal level Tournament for Under-14 /17 Girls began today at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHS) Baderwah with great excitement and energy, bringing together young talent from across the zone Baderwah. The tournament was inaugurated by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunil Kumar Bhutyal in presence of Executive Engineer PWD Rajinder Kumar Principal of the



host school Shafayat Ali, ZPEO Vijay Kumar, Lecturers, REKs NYCs, PEMS, PETs and sports lovers were also present at that time.

The tournament organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports would witness competitions in the disciplines of

Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball, Athletic, Carrom, Chess, Tug of War, Cricket, Yoga etc.

The tournament aims to promote sportsmanship, teamwork, and the empowerment of young girls through sports. The tournament will continue over for days

2nd National Lok Adalat on May-31 at Budgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MAY 16

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam is going to organize 2nd National Lok Adalat on 31 May, 2025 at Budgam and subordinate courts.

In this connection, all concerned Advocates as well as Persons/parties/Litigants who desire to get their cases settled through the said National Lok-Adalat may approach concerned courts for referring their aforementioned nature cases for their amicable settlement by or before 29 May, 2025.

Cases of Pre-litigation and Post-litigation nature shall be taken up for their mutual settlement in the said National Lok Adalat.

Pre-Litigation involves Commercial/Money Recovery cases and Labour and Employment disputes cases, electricity and water bills and other bill payment cases (excluding non-compoundable) if both the parties are ready for mutual settlement and Maintenance Cases.

Post-litigation cases include Criminal Com-

poundable Offences, NI Act cases, under section 138, Commercial/Money Recovery cases, Motor Accident Claim cases (MACT), Labour dispute cases, Disputes related to Public Utility services such as Electricity & water bills cases etc. (excluding non-compoundable) if both the parties are ready for mutual settlement, Matrimonial disputes (except divorce), Land Acquisition cases, Revenue cases and other civil cases (rent, elementary rights, injunction suits, specific performance suits etc.)

Besides Parties/Persons, whose cases/matters are not pending in any court but are desirable to settle their disputes at Pre-litigation stage can also approach office of the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Budgam personally or through email id: dlsabudgam2020@gmail.com by or before 29 May, 2025, so that their cases, claims/matters can be taken up in the said National Lok Adalat for their amicable settlement.

Comm Secy Cooperative participates in Mother's Day celebrations at SCPHS Tikri



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 16

Sainik Cooperative Public High School (SCPHS), Chanas Tikri today celebrated Mother's Day, marked by recognition, inspiration and the joyful spirit of community.

The event was graced by Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives, Babila Rakwal along with Preeti Sharma, Joint Registrar Cooperative Special and Nishtha Nayyar, Deputy

Registrar Cooperative Societies Udhampur.

Speaking on the occasion, Babila Rakwal commended the school's achievements, expressing her admiration for the talent of students, discipline, and school's holistic approach to education. She emphasized the importance of nurturing both academic and emotional intelligence in today's generation.

As part of the celebration, students showcased a

series of beautiful and emotional dance performances dedicated to mothers, leaving audience deeply moved. On the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary also awarded certificates among the students of Class 10th for securing more than 90% marks in their board exams. She also honoured the Pre-Primary section students of school with gold, silver and bronze medals for their success in olympiad competitions.

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAY 16

The District Administration Samba has geared up to implement focused developmental initiatives under the Dharti Aaba Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan in the tribal villages of Rakh Barotian and Bari.

The strategy for roll-out of the campaign was finalized by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma at a meeting held in the Administrative Complex the other day.

Keeping with the spirit of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsha Abhiyan, the District Administration Samba conducted an extensive public outreach camp today at the tribal village of Rakh Barotian in Block Vijaypur, reinforcing its commitment to addressing grassroots concerns through direct engagement.

Led by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, a multi-departmental team of officials directly engaged with the tribal residents to enable them to present their developmental aspirations.

The substantial turnout, comprising elders, youth, and community leaders, underscored the importance of such initiatives in bridging the gap between administration and underserved commu-



nities. "Our mission is to ensure that no community remains untouched by the benefits of development. The Abhiyan is aimed at ensuring that the tribal communities are provided the benefit of various welfare schemes and contribute to their standard of living," stated DC Sharma.

The villagers articulated several pressing needs including critical infrastructure development, particularly road connectivity, enhanced healthcare services, and development of the dairy industry. Educational infrastructure upgrades, including smart classroom facilities at the local middle school were also given a priority.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the administration's commitment to ensuring tribal welfare schemes reach every eligible household. "These are not just schemes on paper—they are entitlements that must translate into tangi-

ble benefits for deserving families," he remarked, instructing officials to conduct thorough verification of beneficiary lists.

In a notable focus on sustainable development, DC Sharma encouraged local youth to explore self-employment opportunities available through agro-allied initiatives and government schemes, highlighting the administration's dual approach of addressing immediate needs while fostering long-term economic resilience.

The outreach camp reflects the District Administration's progressive and inclusive governance model that prioritizes direct engagement, particularly with traditionally underserved communities, as the cornerstone of inclusive development.

The meeting was attended by district officers from various line departments such as Health, Education, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Jal Shakti among others.

DDC Reasi reviews performance of banking sector

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 16

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi, Nidhi Malik chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting today to assess the performance of the banking sector for the quarter ending March 2025.

During the meeting, the DDC reviewed key banking indicators including the Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio, priority sector lending, and agricultural advances.

The DDC appreciated the banks for their improved performance across various key parameters, including agricultural credit, priority sector lending, and credit support to weaker sections of society. She acknowledged these efforts as vital contributions towards inclusive growth and the overall welfare of the people. Expressing concern over the low CD ratio of certain banks in this quarter, she directed them to enhance their performance in the upcoming quarter.

The DDC emphasized the need to prioritize sectors such as agriculture, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), renewable energy, and support for



weaker sections of society. She also reviewed the implementation of various government-sponsored schemes and urged banks and line departments to strengthen coordination for timely disbursement of benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

The DDC took stock of Aadhaar seeding in bank accounts and directed banks to expedite the process for all left-out beneficiaries. She also called for increased awareness drives and deeper banking outreach, particularly in rural and aspirational areas like Thakrakote block, to enhance financial inclusion.

Furthermore, the DDC underscored the importance of scaling up enrollments under social security schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan

Jyoti Yojana (PMJJY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY). The meeting also included a review of the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) and its ongoing training programs aimed at skill development and employment generation.

The DDC urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively to improve banking performance and ensure that the benefits of financial schemes reach the last mile.

CPO Reasi Narinder Kumar, LDM SBI, Cluster Head J&K Bank, DSHO, CAHO and other district officers were present during the meeting.

GGM Science College Hosts Insightful Webinar on 'Media Literacy in the Age of Deepfakes'

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

The Department of English at GGM Science College, Jammu, successfully organised an insightful and thought-provoking webinar titled '*Media Literacy in the Age of Deepfakes*' on Friday, 16th May 2025. Conducted via Google Meet, the event was held under the esteemed patronage of Dr. (Prof.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the college, and the guidance of Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Head of the Department of English. It was specially curated for students enrolled in the Journalism skill course, with the objective of equipping them to navigate the rapidly evolving digital media landscape.

The keynote speaker for the webinar was Dr. Raviya Gupta, Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute

of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu. Dr. Gupta, a seasoned expert in media education and communication research, is affiliated with the FactShala University Network—a collaborative initiative supported by Internews, Google News Initiative, and DataLEADS, aimed at promoting news and information literacy among students.

In her session, Dr. Gupta shed light on the growing menace of deepfakes, misinformation, and AI-manipulated media, emphasizing the urgent need for media literacy in

today's information-saturated world. She stressed the importance of cultivating critical thinking, practicing rigorous fact-checking, and verifying sources, all of which are vital skills for emerging media professionals. Drawing from the Fact-Shala curriculum, she introduced engaging modules such as '*Super Searchers in the Time of AI*' and '*Critical Thinking & Media Literacy in the Age of Deepfakes*', which helped contextualize the topic through real-world case studies and interactive discussions.

Participants were actively engaged throughout the session, taking part in hands-on exercises designed to improve their ability to identify manipulated content and understand the broader implications of misinformation. The webinar fostered a collaborative learning environment, encouraging students to reflect on their media consumption habits and their role in promoting

truthful, ethical journalism.

Faculty and students alike lauded the initiative, recognising its relevance and educational value in the current digital era. The session underscored the college's dedication to fostering digital citizenship and up-holding the values of responsible journalism in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.

Catalogue No.: EAFZR-SLR25-70	Auction Start: 29/05/2025 at 11:00 Hrs.
Name of work: Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 13006/F1 & 14720/F1.	
Catalogue No.: EAFZR-SLR25-71	Auction Start: 30/05/2025 at 11:00 Hrs.
Name of work: Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14682/F1, 11906/R1, 15708/F1, 22446/F1, 14680/F1, 12030/F1, 14505/F1 & 14542/F1.	
Catalogue No.: EAFZR-SLR25-72	Auction Start: 02/06/2025 at 11:00 Hrs.
Name of work: Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14730/R1, 15015/F1, 19106/F1, 20424/F1, 14630/F1, 14730/F2, 14730/F1 & 04652/F1.	

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1441/2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Chief Medical Suptd. Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Expression of Interest on the prescribed form for the following work:-

1. Name of Work	Expression of interest from reputed, registered and licensed diagnostic centres for empanellment for providing Pathology diagnostic services for patients of Health Unit Ludhiana.
2. Completion period	Two years from the Date of starting.
3. App. Cost of the work	N.A
4. Earnest money	N.A
5. Cost of application form on cash/By post	N.A
6. Date and time availability & Place of procuring application form	Any working day from office of Chief Medical Suptd., N.Rly.Firozpur and can be had from the office of Chief Medical Suptd., N.Rly. Firozpur from 19.05.2025 to 11.06.2025 up to 11:00 Hrs.
7. Place of submission of bids	Chief Medical Suptd., N.Rly.Divisional Hospital, Firozpur.
8. Date and time of submission of application form	Up to 11:00 Hrs. on 11.06.2025. Opening of bids at 11:30 Hrs. on 11.06.2025.

No.: 15-Med/Lab Investigation Dated: 16.05.2025 1444/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

DLSA Srinagar to hold 2nd National Lok Adalat on May 31st

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 16

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar is going to hold 2nd National Lok Adalat of the year on 31st May 2025 at District Court Complex Srinagar.

During the Lok Adalat, both pre-Litigation and post Litigation Cases shall be taken up for amicable resolution. Pre -Litigation cases comprise Bank Recovery matters, Labour dispute cases, Electricity and Water bills (excluding non-Compoundable)

and other (Criminal Compoundable, Matrimonial, other civil disputes etc).

Among those Pending in Courts include Criminal Compoundable offence, NI Act cases under Section 138, Bank Recovery matters, MACT cases, Labour disputes cases, Electricity and Water bills (excluding non-Compoundable) etc.

DD Poonch visits Gurudwara Sahib, pays tribute to shelling victim S. Amarjit Singh



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 16

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal paid a heartfelt visit to Gurudwara Baithak Mahant Mohar Singh Ji, here near District Hospital today to participate in the 10th Day (Antim Ardas) ceremony held in memory of Late S. Amarjit Singh, who lost his life in the recent cross-border shelling.

The solemn ceremony, attended by members of the Sikh community and local residents, was convened to pay tribute to S. Amarjit Singh. The Deputy Commissioner offered condolences to the bereaved family and

stood in solidarity with the community.

"S. Amarjit Singh's sacrifice for the Nation would be remembered for a long time, he will always be known for his courage," said the Deputy Commissioner.

The Tehsildar Haveli also assured the bereaved family of all possible support from the administration and reaffirmed the district's commitment to peace and the safety of civilians.

The congregation at Gurudwara Sahib reflected the community's unity and strength, as prayers and tributes were offered in an atmosphere of deep respect and remembrance.

SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS-2025

For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Summer Special Express Trains as per schedule given below:-

Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Freq. quency	Day	Period
04088	New Delhi	15:50	Patna Jn	08:40	Daily		upto 10.07.2025
04087	Patna Jn	12:00	New Delhi	04:40	Daily		upto 11.07.2025
04064	New Delhi	09:30	Sheikhpura	05:00	Bi-weekly	Mon, Thu	upto 10.07.2025
04063	Sheikhpura	07:00	New Delhi	23:35	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04066	New Delhi	21:35	Saharsa Jn	22:00	Bi-weekly	Mon, Thu	upto 10.07.2025
04065	Saharsa Jn	23:55	New Delhi	23:30	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04022	New Delhi	14:00	Gorakhpur	05:00	Weekly	Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04021	Gorakhpur	07:00	New Delhi	23:10	Weekly	Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04081	New Delhi	23:45	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:40	Tri-weekly	Mon, Wed, Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04082	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:20	New Delhi	09:30	Tri-weekly	Tue, Thu, Sun	upto 13.07.2025
04012	Delhi Jn	19:30	Darbhanga Jn	20:30	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04011	Darbhanga Jn	22:00	Delhi Jn	22:40	Bi-weekly	Wed, Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04024	Delhi Jn	19:30	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Tri-weekly	Mon, Thu, Sat	upto 10.07.2025
04023	Varanasi Jn	18:35	Delhi Jn	08:50	Tri-weekly	Tue, Fri, Sun	upto 11.07.2025
04026	Delhi Jn	23:05	Raxaul Jn	19:00	Weekly	Thu	upto 10.07.2025
04025	Raxaul Jn	22:00	Delhi Jn	17:45	Weekly	Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04018	Anand Vihar (T)	09:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	06:00	Weekly	Thu	upto 29.05.2025
04017	Muzaffarpur Jn	07:30	Anand Vihar (T)	06:00	Weekly	Fri	upto 30.05.2025
04020	Anand Vihar (T)	19:30	Barauni Jn	18:00	Weekly	Sun	upto 06.07.2025
04019	Barauni Jn	20:00	Anand Vihar (T)	19:00	Weekly	Mon	upto 07.07.2025
04070	Anand Vihar (T)	00:20	Rajgir	19:50	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04069	Rajgir	23:30	New Delhi	19:00	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04096	Anand Vihar (T)	05:00	Jaynagar	12:00	Bi-weekly	Mon, Thu	upto 10.07.2025
04095	Jaynagar	17:00	Anand Vihar (T)	19:55	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04098	Anand Vihar (T)	05:00	Sitamari	02:30	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04097	Sitamari	03:45	Anand Vihar (T)	01:30	Bi-weekly	Wed, Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04030	Anand Vihar (T)	09:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	04:30	Bi-weekly	Saturday	on 17.05.2025
04029	Muzaffarpur Jn	06:15	Anand Vihar (T)	03:10	Bi-weekly	Sunday	on 18.05.2025
04094	Anand Vihar (T)	23:55	Jogbani	07:30	Weekly	Thu	upto 10.07.2025
04093	Jogbani	09:30	Anand Vihar (T)	16:00	Weekly	Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04207	Lucknow Jn	08:05	New Delhi	17:50	Weekly	Mon	upto 07.07.2025
04208	New Delhi	20:20	Lucknow Jn	06:00	Weekly	Mon	upto 07.07.2025
04213	Ayodhya Cantt	18:20	Anand Vihar (T)	06:00	Tri-weekly	Sun, Tue, Thu	upto 10.07.2025
04214	Anand Vihar (T)	09:00	Ayodhya Cantt	22:00	Tri-weekly	Mon, Wed, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04687	Banihal	18:40	Budgam	20:20	06 Days a week	Except Friday	upto 03.06.2025
04688	Budgam	08:35	Banihal	10:40	06 Days a week	Except Friday	upto 03.06.2025
04217	Varanasi Jn	06:25	Lucknow Jn	11:45	Daily		upto 30.06.2025
04218	Lucknow Jn	16:30	Varanasi Jn	21:50	Daily		upto 30.06.2025
04219	Shahganj Jn	22:35	Ayodhya Dham Jn	01:40	Daily		upto 10.07.2025
04220	Ayodhya Dham Jn	02:10	Shahganj Jn	04:40	Daily		upto 10.07.2025
02270	Lucknow Jn	14:15	Chhapra	21:30	Six day a week	Except Tuesdays	upto 11.07.2025
02269	Chhapra	23:00	Lucknow Jn	06:30	Six day a week	Sun	upto 11.07.2025
04604	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	18:15	Varanasi Jn	19:00	Weekly	Tue	upto 06.07.2025
04603	Varanasi Jn	05:30	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:25	Weekly	Tue	upto 08.07.2025
04206	Varanasi Jn	14:50	Chandigarh	07:45	Weekly	Sat	upto 05.07.2025
04205	Chandigarh	09:30	Varanasi Jn	01:20	Weekly	Sun	upto 06.07.2025
04518	Bhatinda Jn	20:50	Varanasi Jn	17:30	Bi-weekly	Mon, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04517	Varanasi Jn	20:40	Bhatinda Jn	17:00	Bi-weekly	Tue, Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04209	Lucknow Jn	20:45	Chandigarh	07:55	Tri-weekly	Mon, Wed, Fri	upto 09.07.2025
04210	Chandigarh	10:20	Lucknow Jn	21:30	Tri-weekly	Tue, Thu, Sat	upto 10.07.2025
04504	Chandigarh	23:35	Patna Jn	22:10	Weekly	Thu	upto 29.05.2025
04503	Patna Jn	22:45	Chandigarh	23:10	Weekly	Fri	upto 30.05.2025
04302	Yog N Rishikesh	15:20	Muzaffarpur Jn	13:00	Weekly	Tue	upto 15.07.2025
04301	Muzaffarpur Jn	15:00	Yog N Rishikesh	14:20	Weekly	Wed	upto 16.07.2025
04606	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:30	Guwahati	19:10	Weekly	Fri	upto 30.05.2025
04605	Guwahati	23:20	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	20:45	Weekly	Mon	upto 02.06.2025
04610	Jammu Tawi	06:20	Varanasi Jn	05:10	Weekly	Thu	upto 09.07.2025
04609	Varanasi Jn	09:00	Jammu Tawi	07:45	Weekly	Fri	upto 10.07.2025
04304	Yog N Rishikesh	15:20	Gorakhpur	06:20	Weekly	Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04303	Gorakhpur	09:00	Yog N Rishikesh	00:55	Weekly	Sun	upto 13.07.2025
04602	Firozpur Cantt Jn	15:10	Patna Jn	18:00	Bi-weekly	Wed, Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04601	Patna Jn	20:50	Firozpur Cantt Jn	23:55	Bi-weekly	Thu, Sun	upto 13.07.2025
04608	Amritsar Jn	20:10	Darbhanga Jn	02:30	Weekly	Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04607	Darbhanga Jn	04:00	Amritsar Jn	10:30	Weekly	Sun	upto 13.07.2025
04212	Sultanpur Jn	04:00	Lokmanya Tilak	14:00	Weekly	Mon	upto 23.06.2025
04211	Lokmanya Tilak	16:35	Sultanpur Jn	23:00	Weekly	Tue	upto 24.06.2025
05559	Raxaul Jn.	05:30	Udhna Jn.	12:35	Weekly	Sat	17.05.25 to 26.07.25
05560	Udhna Jn	15:35	Raxaul Jn.	00:15	Weekly	Sun	18.05.25 to 27.07.25
04058	New Delhi	19:30	Saharsa	19:50	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	20.05.25 to 11.07.25
04057	Saharsa	21:40	New Delhi	23:30	Bi-weekly	Wed, Sat	21.05.25 to 12.07.25
04072	Delhi Jn.	11:00	Darbhanga Jn.	13:30	Bi-weekly	Mon, Thu	19.05.25 to 10.07.25
04071	Darbhanga Jn.	15:00	Delhi Jn.	18:50	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	20.05.25 to 11.07.25

For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Pak's close ties with...

but to the entire world," he said. Rajnath Singh was on a visit to honour and congratulate the Indian Air Force for its swift and precise response during 'Operation Sindoor,' which was launched under the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack.

BHUJ: SYMBOL OF INDIA'S STRENGTH

Calling Bhuj a "witness to India's victories in 1965, 1971, and 2025," Singh praised the strategic importance of the air base and the bravery of India's air warriors. "The Indian Air Force not only dismantled the terror network within minutes but also struck deep into enemy territory without even crossing the border. Our aircrafts are capable of neutralising enemy targets from within Indian airspace," he stated.

He highlighted how "Operation Sindoor," named by PM Modi himself, sent a strong signal to the world about India's capabilities and determination to root out terrorism. "You entered their land and decimated their terror infrastructure. You have sent the message of a 'New India'—strong, decisive, and self-reliant—to the entire world," he said, commending IAF Chief and all personnel involved.

PAK'S TERROR FUNDING EXPOSED

The Defence Minister alleged that Pakistan is planning to divert a portion of the \$2.1 billion IMF aid it is set to receive, to rebuild terror infrastructure for groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

He claimed that Islamabad has earmarked Rs 14 crore for Jaish chief Masood Azhar, a UN-designated terrorist and mastermind of deadly attacks such as the 2019 Pulwama and 2016 Uri strikes. "Pakistan will use the tax money collected from its citizens to fund Masood Azhar and rebuild terror infrastructure in places like Muridke and Bahawalpur. This is a clear case of indirect terror financing, and if the IMF's aid is used for this purpose, it becomes complicit. The funds contributed by nations like India to the IMF must not be misused to promote terrorism," Singh warned.

Singh called upon the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reconsider its one-billion-dollar assistance to Islamabad and refrain from providing any support in future as well.

INDIA HAS PUT PAK ON PROBATION

He also expressed deep concern that Pakistan had started reviving terror training camps and logistical hubs dismantled by Indian forces. "This rebuilding effort must be seen as a deliberate provocation. India has put Pakistan on probation—we are watching its every move. Any misadventure will invite a heavy price," he said firmly.

He asserted that the current ceasefire means that India has kept Pakistan on probation on the basis of its behavior. If the behavior improves, it is fine; but if there is any disturbance, harshest punishment will be given, he said.

Singh stated that India's war against terrorism is now a central element of the National Defence Doctrine, and the government is committed to wiping out proxy and hybrid warfare.

"This is not the old Bharat anymore. Under the leadership of PM Modi, India has drawn a red line on terrorism. We do not tolerate, we retaliate. That is the New India," Singh declared.

IAF SPEARHEADED 'OPERATION SINDOOR'

The Defence Minister said that IAF spearheaded 'Operation Sindoor' "The IAF not only dominated the enemy, but decimated them," he added.

Singh highlighted that India's fighter aircraft are capable of striking every corner of Pakistan without crossing the border. "The world has witnessed how IAF destroyed terror camps and later Pakistan's airbases. IAF gave the proof that India's war policy and technology have changed. They conveyed the message of New India that we are not just dependent on weapons and platforms imported from abroad, but Made in India equipment have become a part of our military power. The weapons manufactured in India are also impenetrable," he said.

The Defence Minister said, "Pakistan has itself accepted the power of the 'BrahMos' missile. This Made in India missile showed Pakistan the light of day in the darkness of night."

He also lauded India's air defence system, in which Akash and other radar systems made by DRDO have played a tremendous role.

WORLD HAS SEEN TRAILER ONLY

Referring to the success of Operation Sindoor, Singh described it as "just a trailer," adding, "When the time comes, we will show the full movie to the world." He underlined India's transformation into a defence powerhouse, moving from a major arms importer to a growing arms exporter.

"Earlier we used to import weapons, today we manufacture our own arms and ammunition. This is a matter of national pride and a testament to the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

While extending heartfelt gratitude to the armed forces, Singh said, "Every child in India considers you their hero. On behalf of the nation, I thank you for your bravery and sacrifice. You have made every citizen believe that this New India does not remain silent—it gives a befitting reply."

Reinforcing the government's unwavering commitment to national security, the Defence Minister said, "For us, the new normal is simple—if anyone dares to target India, they will face the full might of our armed forces." . KNO

Haj-2025: CM Omar...

left from Delhi, 10 from Mumbai, 2 from Hyderabad and 1461 from Srinagar, with the rest of the numbers remaining pending. As per the officials, there were a few fresh cancellations as well.

The disruptions have triggered anxiety among intending pilgrims and their families. KNO

Swift, coordinated...

Sharing information can make a significant difference," he appealed.

Major General Dhananjay Joshi, GOC of the Army's Victor Force, said terrorists attempting to hide, whether in dense forests or within civilian residential areas, will be tracked and eliminated.

He said the two operations differed due to terrain: the Kelar operation was in a challenging, upper forested region, while the Tral operation was in a residential area where civilians were evacuated safely beforehand.

"We will not allow terrorists to find safe havens anywhere in the Valley. Our commitment is clear—we will pursue them wherever they hide," Major General Joshi said, adding that one of the six terrorists neutralised,

Shahid Kuttay, was involved in two major attacks, including an assault on a German tourist.

Regarding the Kelar operation, Joshi said, "On May 12, intelligence indicated a possible terrorist presence in the higher reaches of Kelar. On May 13, surveillance detected movement in the area. When challenged, the terrorists fired upon our troops, leading to a swift encounter and their neutralisation."

The second operation in Tral was launched based on specific inputs. "As our teams cordoned off the village, terrorists hiding in different houses opened fire. Despite the hostile situation, the forces managed to evacuate civilians safely," he added.

Shahid Kuttay, a high-profile terrorist involved in multiple attacks, including the assault on a German tourist, and terror funding activities, was among those eliminated.

CRPF Inspector General Mitesh said these successes would not be possible without the support of local residents. "Public cooperation and timely information are vital for such operations," he said. "Our goal is not only to neutralise terrorism but to establish enduring peace in the region." . KNO

'Operation Sindoor': Amit...

The Intelligence Bureau, was created in the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks with an aim to share timely inputs among various stakeholders involved in law enforcement.

Under "Operation Sindoor," India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead.

India and Pakistan agreed on May 10 to stop military actions. India has, however, made it clear it has merely paused its operation and its future actions will be guided by Pakistan's conduct. KNO

MHA orders posting...

Ananth Dwivedi (2021), and Rakesh Kumar (2021) have also been transferred.

IPS officers who have been transferred to Jammu and Kashmir include Sameer Sharma (2011 batch) from Lakshadweep, Sandeep Gupta (2015 batch) from Delhi and Rishi Kumar (2021 batch) also from Delhi.

IAS officers transferred from J&K include Pandurang K Pole (2004 batch), Vijay Kumar Bidhuri (2005 batch), Sanjiv M Gadkar (2013 batch), Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather (2013 batch), Pardeep Kumar (2013 batch), and Rahul Sharma (2013 batch) have been shifted to other states.

Meanwhile, the MHA cancelled the transfer of two IAS officers.

According to the latest order issued by the MHA, "In partial modification of MHA's order of even number dated 17.10.2024, the transfers of Saugat Biswas, IAS (AGMUT: 2006), from Arunachal Pradesh to Jammu & Kashmir, and Yasha Mudgal, IAS (AGMUT: 2007), from Jammu & Kashmir to Puducherry, are hereby cancelled."

The order further states that all other contents of the original order shall remain unchanged. KNO

CM Omar Abdullah...

compensation to Wular land dwellers affected by developmental works. Another delegation raised the matter of delayed release of withheld recommendations for Class IV posts, urging the CM for immediate redressal.

A deputation of Junior Anesthesia Assistants from the Health & Medical Education Department urged the finalization of the long-pending selection process.

In an important academic interaction, Professor Fayaz Ahmad Nika, Dean & Head of the School of Business at Central University of Kashmir, presented key findings from a study on the NRLM/UEED programmes, underlining their role in enhancing women's empowerment and employment generation in the Ganderbal district.

The Jehlum Riverside House Rehabilitation Union from Habba Kadal Ganpatyar submitted a memorandum seeking allotment of land at Rakhii Aarth for the permanent rehabilitation of landless families displaced along the Jehlum river.

Likewise, a delegation from the Local Youth Coordination Committee, Chattabal, requested the construction of a playground in their area, emphasizing the need for sports infrastructure.

A deputation from the Sangarmal Traders Welfare Association called for the resolution of multiple pending issues affecting traders at the Sangarmal Shopping Complex.

Representatives of both private and cooperative Kerosene Oil Dealers, under their president, appealed for the restoration of kerosene supplies—particularly for horticulturists and agriculturists operating power-driven machinery.

Mechanical engineering graduates and engineers highlighted the need for assured career progression.

The Tempo Travelers Association, Srinagar, sought a temporary waiver of EMI payments on vehicles in light of the ongoing financial stress on transport operators.

Ms. Khair-ul-Nisa, Principal Advisor to the World Trade Center Association in New York and World Trade Center India, held a high-level discussion on major investment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir and proposed the establishment of a World Trade Center in the region.

Academicians Prof. Hanief and Prof. Talat discussed the critical issue of NAAC accreditation for Islamia College and sought the government's support in strengthening institutional standards.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah gave a patient hearing to all deputations and assured sympathetic consideration of their demands.

He reiterated his government's unwavering commitment to participatory governance, inclusive development and responsive public administration.

"We remain committed to responsive governance and to addressing public concerns with sincerity and urgency," Omar Abdullah said. KNO

Omar, Mehbooba Mufti...

Mehbooba Mufti had said the people deserve peace as much as anyone else in the country. "Weaponising something as essential and life giving as water is not only inhumane but also risks internationalizing what should remain a bilateral matter," she wrote on X.

Earlier, CM Omar, in a post on X, had said, "The Wular lake in North Kashmir. The civil works you see in the video is the Tulbul Navigation Barrage. It was started in the early

1980s but had to be abandoned under pressure from Pakistan citing the Indus Water Treaty. Now that the IWT has been 'temporarily suspended' I wonder if we will be able to resume the project.

He added that it will give the advantage of allowing us to use the Jhelum for navigation. "It will also improve the power generation of downstream power projects, especially in winter."

Reacting to the accusations, the PDP chief has stated that Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah had reversed his stance when he was advocating for accession to Pakistan for over two decades after losing power.

"Time will reveal who seeks to appease whom. However, it's worth recalling that your esteemed grandfather Sheikh Sahab once advocated for accession to Pakistan for over two decades after losing power. But post being reinstated as Chief Minister he suddenly reversed his stance by aligning with India," Mehbooba said.

"In contrast the PDP has consistently upheld its convictions & commitments & unlike your party whose loyalties have shifted dramatically according to political expediency. We don't need to stoke tensions or adopt warmongering rhetoric to validate our dedication. Our actions speak for themselves."

Omar, however, responded that he will rise above the gutter she wants to take this conversation to by keeping the late Mufti Muhammad Sayeed and "North Pole South Pole" out of this.

"Is that really the best you can do? Taking cheap shots at a person you yourself have called Kashmir's tallest leader. I'll rise above the gutter you want to take this conversation to by keeping the late Mufti Sahib and "North Pole South Pole" out of this. You keep advocating the interests of anyone you want to & I'll keep advocating for the interests of the people of J&K to use our own rivers for our own benefit. I'm not going to stop the water, just use more of it for ourselves. Now I think I'll do some real work & you can keep posting," Omar said.

In the meantime, the Chief Minister shared a short media interaction with the PDP Chief in which she had stated that J&K has suffered due to the Indus Water Treaty. "Just leaving this out there because "consistency" is in such short supply," Omar wrote.

The former chief minister however accused Omar Abdullah of invoking IWT, terming it a reckless ploy to derail the ceasefire. "There's nothing patriotic about fueling instability," she said.

"PDP has consistently called for the return of power projects that NC handed over to NHPC on a platter at a pittance. Even in the PDP-BJP Agenda of Alliance, it was agreed that two projects would be returned to Jammu & Kashmir to compensate for losses from the Indus Waters Treaty. During my meeting with the Prime Minister in 2017 now misrepresented by Times Now the issue of compensation under the IWT was clearly discussed. But let me be clear - We never advocated scrapping the treaty. Such a move could heighten tensions and once again place J&K at the epicenter of conflict. Our resources like water must be used for life, not as weapons. You invoking IWT now is a reckless ploy to derail the ceasefire. There's nothing patriotic about fueling instability," Mehbooba said. KNO

Amarnath Yara: Over...

and despite all challenges they are ready to visit the cave shrine during the yatra," they stated.

The administration at the Divisional and the District levels has directed the concerned officers to expedite the preparations for the Yatra.

"Devotees will get all facilities from the entry gate at Lakanpur (J&K-Punjab Border) upto the holy cave of Shri Amarnath to facilitate their journey," said officials.

"The facelift work of Yatri Niwas has been allotted to the J&K Public Works Department and the repairs will begin very soon as the accommodation was being used for the stay of additional security personnel on duty in the aftermath of Indo-Pak tension," they added.

Director Tourism, Jammu, Vikas Gupta on Friday conducted a comprehensive inspection of Yatri Niwas and assessed the preparedness and infrastructural arrangements for the smooth facilitation of pilgrims.

He was accompanied by Aijaz Qaiser, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu.

The Director reviewed key facilities including accommodation, sanitation, uninterrupted power supply, potable water availability, hygiene standards, and overall management of the premises. The objective of the visit was to ensure seamless coordination among departments and timely completion of all essential works ahead of the Yatra.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards of quality, sanitation, and coordination to ensure a safe, comfortable, and well-managed environment for the yatri.

The Director reiterated the commitment of the Tourism Department to ensuring that all necessary infrastructure, services, and logistics are put in place well in advance, in close coordination with all concerned departments, for the smooth and successful conduct of the Shri Amarnath Yatra.

Meanwhile officials said that besides infrastructural arrangements and facilities, health of the pilgrims visiting the Yatri Niwas will also be taken care of for which a team of Jammu and Kashmir Health Department will be deputed round the clock on roster basis.

Meanwhile, he said that the pilgrims from outside the Jammu and Kashmir, can also avail the facility of postpaid numbers of various telecom service providers.

Notably, the pre-paid SIM cards from rest of the parts of the country are not functional in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Likewise every year, this time also travel prepaid SIM card service will be available from telecom operators," they said, "devotees will get all facilities under one-roof like registration, travel to scenic places of Jammu etc."

Two counters will also be set up in the Yatri Niwas by Jammu-Kashmir Road Transport Corporation, said official.

They stated that around 120 mobile toilets will also be installed at Yatri Niwas.

"The two-storied Yatri Niwas has a capacity to accommodate 2000 pilgrims and apart from this, a prefabricated shed has also been built in the courtyard to accommodate nearly 200 pilgrims in case of heavy rush," they said.

"Along with other arrangements, 24x7 water and electricity supply will be made available at the Yatri Niwas for the pilgrims," they said.

However, tight security arrangements will be made in and around the base camp for the safety of the devotees, they added.

Srinagar Airport...

news agency, on May 15, the airport handled a total of 44 flights—22 arrivals and 22 departures, carrying approximately 6,844 passengers, including 641 pilgrims heading for Hajj.

The airport's activity continued to rise on Friday, with reports of 40 flights - 20 arrivals and 20 departures - serving around 5,720 passengers.

A local visitor said, "It feels good to see the airport picking up pace again. Travel has become easier, and it encourages more people to visit Kashmir."

It is noteworthy that Srinagar Airport had experienced reduced flight operations and cancellations over the past week amid tensions between India and Pakistan. Now, the airport is gradually regaining normalcy. KNO

Misappropriation of funds: ACB...

Government Middle School, Jandrel, Zone Chassana, Contractor and others for misappropriation of funds.

A spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency, said that ACB has registered a case under FIR number 01/2025 in Police Station ACB Udampur under sections 5(i) (d) r/w 5 (2) of J&K P.C Act, Svt. 2006 and section 120-B RPC against a public servant Sajjad Hussain, then Teacher (Incharge Headmaster) of Govt. Middle School Jandrel, Zone Chassana, District Reasi, Abdul Aziz, Contractor and others and started investigation.

"An enquiry was conducted by ACB against above named Govt. Official after receipt of a report from Director School Education Jammu substantiating therein the allegations of misappropriation of funds and use of substandard material in school building of Middle School Jandrel, Zone Chassana," the statement reads.

It surfaced during the course of probe that funds to the tune of Rs 11.50 lakhs were released in favour of Sajjad Hussain, then Teacher (Incharge Headmaster) of Govt. Middle School Jandrel, Zone Chassana under SSA scheme for construction of School Building of Middle School Jandrel by then ZEO Chassana during the period 2016-17.

"The construction work was carried out by said Sajjad Hussain through contractor Abdul Aziz without observing codal formalities/norms meant for the purpose, besides withdrawal of funds etc," the statement added.

During spot visit by the Engineering Wing of ACB, many short comings were observed like cracks between slab and beams, non-execution of electric work, face lifting, cement flooring, and fixing of glass strips, door/window/shutter etc.

"Apart from, non-maintenance of cash book as well as payment made without following the codal procedure etc. are also observed as a result of which a loss to the tune of Rs 1,65,634.86 has been caused to Govt. exchequer," ACB spokesman said.

By acting in the manner, Sajjad Hussain, teacher (I/C Headmaster), by abuse of his official position and in league with contractor Abdul Aziz and others executed the sub-standard work of said school building, thereby conferred undue benefit to contractor and others and corresponding gain to himself, he said, adding that further investigation in the case is going on. KNO

Shrine Board...

escalated tension and normalcy has limped back, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has offered free facilities to wan the pilgrims from across the country to the sanctum sanctorum nestled here in Trikuta Hills of Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The pilgrims have started returning to the pilgrimage and to facilitate their journey from Katra to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, efforts are being made to provide free facilities," Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, told UNI.

"As devotees have started heading towards the base for performing the yatra gradually, witnessing an increase, the Shrine Board is providing all the facilities to them for their smooth and hassle-free journey," the CEO said.

"To enhance the number of pilgrims, the Shrine Board is providing several facilities to the pilgrims free of cost, starting from Katra including free Aarti Darshan and accommodation," Garg expressed.

He revealed that besides that, the Shrine Board has also set up food counters at various places en route Bhawan, at Banganga and as well as at Katra Railway Station.

The Shrine Board had also announced a free accommodation facility at the Katra-based Ashirwad Complex for the devotees, he said.

The CEO said, "Although numbers remain modest, with summer vacations and the tourism season ahead, we are expecting a heavy rush of pilgrims in the coming days."

Notably, on May 15, by 10 PM, as many as 5,423 devotees had left from Katra to the cave shrine, and during the period of escalated tension between India and Pakistan, 45,430 pilgrims offered prayers at the cave shrine from May 6 to 13.

On May 6, 12917 pilgrims visited the cave shrine, and on May 7, 12760 while on May 8, 8670 pilgrims, on May 9, 3962 pilgrims, on May 10, 1352 pilgrims, on May 11, 1303 pilgrims, on May 12, 168 pilgrims and on May 13, 2808 pilgrims visited the shrine.

However, expressing faith in the government and the Armed Forces, the devotees at Katra, have appealed to pilgrims across the country to visit the Bhawan and seek blessings of "Maa Bhagwati".

The helicopter service to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine has also resumed on Wednesday after remaining suspended for a week due to the military standoff between India and Pakistan, and the battery car service is also operational, he said.

The CEO also said, "The Shrine Board has implemented comprehensive security arrangements along the route from Katra to the Bhawan, under the supervision of police and CRPF, and the CCTV surveillance systems and Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) are operational."

"To ensure pilgrim safety and facilitate smooth yatra regulation, Shrine Board has operationalized the ICCC at Katra town," he further told UNI adding, "timely activation of the ICCC as this center enabled real-time monitoring, swift response to emergencies and effective coordination among security agencies through a network of 700 CCTV cameras with features like gesture recognition, face recognition, PTZ and such others as per operational requirements."

More than 3.5 lakh pilgrims during the navratras period in April, and more than 25 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance till mid-April at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine this year.

Satish Sharma conducts extensive tour of Chhamb constituency

J1 NEWS SERVICE
MAIRA MANDRIAN, (JAMMU)
MAY 16

Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Science and Technology, Satish Sharma today conducted an extensive tour of Chhamb constituency, during which he laid foundation stone of key infrastructure projects as well as inaugurated several public utility projects, reaffirming Government's commitment to the welfare of public.

During the visit, the Minister laid foundation stone for construction of Block Public Health Unit (BPHU), to be built at an estimated cost of Rs. 45.00 lacs, in the premises of PHC Maira Mandrian. This Unit shall cater to the increasing health demands of not only Maira Mandrian but adjoining areas of district Reasi as well.

The Minister inaugurated Community Hall built at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.76 lacs village Godhan of Kandi Panchayat. He also inaugurated GMS Payan built under District Capex Budget at an estimated cost of Rs.22.94 lacs.

The Minister on the occasion also made available open coolers for public use at Maira Mandrian Bus Stand, of Nardi Panchayat and Government Ayurvedic College,



Akhnoor.

These installations are aimed at enhancing public amenities by providing access to clean drinking water for travellers, students and the general public.

As part of his outreach efforts, Satish Sharma also addressed large public gatherings at Panchayat Godhan, Payan and PHC Maira Mandrian, where he directly engaged with residents and listened to their concerns and suggestions.

During his visit, he also interacted with several public delegations and community representatives at Khuga Morh, Govt Ayurvedic College and Maira Mandrian Bus

Stand. Key issues raised included improvements in local infrastructure, healthcare, education and water supply.

Satish Sharma issued immediate directions to departmental officials to take action on the issues raised, emphasizing the need for prompt and effective solutions, especially for matters requiring urgent attention.

He also paid obeisance at Gurudwara Nardi Balla, where he offered prayers for peace, unity and the prosperity of Jammu & Kashmir

The Minister was accompanied by district and sectoral officers from various government departments.

YSS Baramulla engages students across Sopore, Wagoora, Rohama & Pattan

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 16

Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Baramulla continues its robust sports calendar by successfully conducting inter-school zonal level competitions across various education zones of the district including Sopore, Wagoora, Rohama, and Pattan.

In YSS Zone Sopore, an inter-school zonal level Table Tennis competition for Under-14 and Under-17 boys was organized at Subhana Stadium Sopore. A total of 20 students from different institutions participated in the event, showcasing commendable skills and sportsmanship.

Meanwhile, YSS Zone Wagoora held an inter-school zonal level Yoga competition for Under-14 and Under-17 boys at Higher Secondary School Managam, witnessing enthusiastic participation from 32 students representing various government and private institutions. The event aimed to promote physical and mental well-being through the practice of Yoga.

Simultaneously, YSS



Zone Rohama organized an inter-school zonal level Badminton competition for Under-17 boys at High School Trappora, with 35 students taking part. In the Singles category, HS Saripora emerged as the winner while HS Reban secured the runner-up position. In the Doubles category, HSS Hadipora clinched the title and HSS Balhama finished as the runner-up. All winners and runners-up were awarded

appreciation certificates by the Head of Institution, HS Trappora.

Furthermore, YSS Zone Pattan, on the second day of its inter-school zonal level Badminton competition for Under-14 and Under-17 girls, witnessed overwhelming participation of 100 students from both government and private schools, highlighting the growing interest and engagement of girls in sports activities.

Mission YUVA: Awareness/Registration campaign launched at Baramulla

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 16

District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Baramulla today launched the Mission YUVA awareness-cum-registration campaign to support and guide aspiring entrepreneurs at the grassroots level.

The initiative aims to engage potential candidates identified during the January 2025 Baseline Survey and introduce them to the opportunities available under Mission YUVA.

The opening session focused on briefing YUVA Doots and Block Head Doots (BHDs) about recent updates. It was shared that the Mission YUVA mobile app and online portal are now live, allowing eligible

youth to apply directly for benefits.

In the second session, held at Panchayat Delina A, B, C, and D were guided through the application process. Ten individuals downloaded the app, with four completing their applications on the spot.

Mission YUVA is supported by a three-tier structure, including 174 YUVA Doots at the Panchayat level, BHDs at the block level, and a Single Business Development Unit (SBDU) at the district level.

The event saw participation from officials of DIC Baramulla, JKEDI, J&K Bank, the Agriculture Department, and DE&CC, along with field-level staff and YUVA Doots.

ADC inspects upcoming development projects in Bhandarwah town

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, MAY 16

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal on Friday conducted a comprehensive inspection of several ongoing projects in Bhandarwah town to assess the pace and quality of work.

During the visit, the ADC inspected the newly constructed building of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, which aims to enhance the infrastructure for girl education in the region. He appreciated the progress and emphasized immediate completion of pending works.

The ADC also visited the under-construction Tehsil Library building located near the ADC office. He stressed that the library, once completed, would serve as an important knowledge hub for students and the general public.

Another major stop was



the site of the Municipal Committee Hotel project at the new bus stand Bhandarwah. Reviewing the ongoing work, Bhutyal directed the executing agencies to ensure proper planning and quality standards.

He further visited the damaged ARE wall on Gatha Gwari Road and instructed the concerned officials to take immedi-

ate steps for its repair to ensure the safety of commuters. The inspection also covered the construction of five new classrooms at Government Higher Secondary School Boys Bhandarwah.

Executive Engineer R&B, Rajinder Kumar, and AEE Mushtaq Ahmed accompanied the ADC during the inspection tour.

2-Day Civil Defence Refresher Training concludes at 2nd Battalion Hdqtrs Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

In a significant initiative aimed at equipping Civil Defence wardens and volunteers with vital life-saving skills, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) 2nd Battalion, Jammu, successfully conducted a two-day capacity building refresher training course from May 15 to May 16, 2025.

During the course, the SDRF officers highlighted the critical role of Civil Defence personnel in disaster situations, emphasizing the importance of specialized techniques. The wardens and volunteers were lauded for their commendable efforts during the recent border crisis, and the need for continuous skill enhance-

ment was underscored in light of the prevailing security and disaster management scenario.

Commandant SDRF 2nd Battalion, Zahid Naseem Manhas, addressed the participants and instructed the training staff to ensure the highest standards of instruction. The comprehensive training module covered a range of topics including air raid precautions, emergency rescue methods, CPR, first aid, CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) precautions, fire-fighting and rescue techniques, as well as identification of various sirens used in emergencies.

All 72 trainees expressed appreciation for the practical and insightful sessions, noting a significant improvement in their

understanding and confidence in handling disaster situations.

The valedictory function was attended by all SDRF officers. Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal, representing the Controller Civil Defence Jammu, was also present at the closing ceremony and arranged refreshments for the participants.

A formal vote of thanks was presented by Chief Warden Civil Defence Jammu, Paramjit Kumar, who expressed gratitude to all officers, guests, and participants.

Among other dignitaries present were Dy. SP Gurvinder Kour, Dy. SP Manzor Hussain, Dy. SP Dinesh Gupta of SDRF 2nd Bn Jammu, and Deputy Chief Warden R. Vijay Magotra.

DDC Reasi reviews functioning of School Education Department



J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 16

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi, Nidhi Malik, convened a comprehensive review meeting with officers of the Education Department today to assess the overall functioning of the education sector in the district. The meeting focused on critical areas such as staff strength, school infrastructure, vocational education, student enrollment, and fund utilization.

The DDC asked the

School heads and Heads of Departments (HODs) to work actively to identify and enroll out-of-school children to bring all of them into the formal education system by the end of the year. She also stressed the importance of opening bank accounts of students for scholarship disbursement and directed the

department to coordinate with Tehsildars to expedite the process by helping students to obtain necessary documents.

Reviewing the academic performance for the 2024-25 session, DDC Malik observed that there is significant scope for improvement. She urged school principals to implement effective strategies to enhance academic outcomes and encouraged teachers to take active responsibility for ensuring quality education for every student.

To address the needs of students with disabilities, she instructed the Education Department to collaborate with the District Social Welfare Officer to provide mobility aids, such as wheelchairs, and to organize special motivation and support camps to promote inclusive education.

Shailendra Kumar visits Poonch, meets victims of cross border shelling

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 16

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar today visited Poonch district and met families affected by recent cross border shelling.

During the visit, Shailendra went to affected villages and personally met with families who have suffered due to shelling.

Expressing his solidarity, he assured them of the government's full support and directed the district administration to adopt a proactive, public centric approach to relief and rehabilitation.

As part of his visit, the



Principal Secretary also went to Mankote, where he met the bereaved family of a woman who lost her life in the shelling incident.

Offering condolences, the Principal Secretary assured them that the administration stands

shoulder to shoulder with affected families.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, during the visit, briefed the Principal Secretary on the relief and restoration works carried out in the affected areas.

The DC informed that

power and water supply have been fully restored, hospitals are functioning normally, and all essential services are running smoothly. Deputy Commissioner Poonch further informed the Principal Secretary that village level assessment teams have

already been constituted and are actively working on ground to identify and document losses.

He also informed that for the ease of the affected public, district administration has also launched 'Report to Support' initiative, under which Tehsil wise WhatsApp numbers have been issued for allowing residents to report damage or seek assistance directly and efficiently.

Shailendra appreciated the prompt and coordinated response of the district administration and stressed the importance of continuing relief measures in an efficient, and people focused manner.

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 16

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana today conducted an extensive tour of Line of Control (LoC) villages in Mankote Sector, including Uchhad and Jhulas, of Poonch district to meet people affected by recent cross-border shelling.

The Minister was accompanied by SDM Mendhar, Imran Kataria, and other senior officers of the Sub-Divisional Administration.

During his visit, the Minister assessed the extent of damage caused by shelling and met the affected families, expressing his deep-



est sympathies for their losses.

He directed the administration to expedite compensation disbursement to the affected families, ensuring timely support and relief.

The Minister also reviewed the damage to infrastructure and directed the administration

to prioritize restoration work. He emphasized the need for immediate action to address the humanitarian needs of those affected by the shelling.

Minister Rana assured the affected families of the government's support and commitment to their welfare.

EDITORIAL

Don't ignore the Pakistan threat!

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's strong and unambiguous remarks about Pakistan during his visit to Srinagar come at a critical juncture in South Asia's geopolitical landscape. His assertion that Pakistan is a rogue nation where nuclear weapons are unsafe is not merely political rhetoric – it is a necessary warning to the international community. In the backdrop of the recent conflict and India's assertive military response through Operation Sindoor, his concerns demand global attention and action. For decades, Pakistan has actively sponsored, harboured, and exported terrorism. Despite repeated assurances – including the hollow promises made during former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's peace outreach over two decades ago – Pakistan has persisted in using terrorism as state policy. Whether it is the Pahalgam attack or countless others before it, the objective remains the same: to destabilise India and fracture its unity. But the tide has turned. Operation Sindoor, as Singh rightly called it, is the most significant step in India's counter-terror strategy, reflecting a shift from restraint to resolute retaliation. Singh's remarks about nuclear safety are especially sobering. The world must seriously consider the danger of nuclear weapons being in the hands of an unstable, economically bankrupt, and ideologically compromised regime. Pakistan's history of irresponsible nuclear brinkmanship, coupled with its chronic internal instability, raises serious questions about the safety and security of its nuclear arsenal. Singh's demand that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) take charge of Pakistan's nuclear stockpile is not unwarranted – it is prudent, even essential, for global security. Moreover, Singh was correct in stating that India no longer bows to nuclear blackmail. The Indian response, post-Pahalgam, demonstrates that the deterrence balance has shifted. India is no longer willing to absorb attacks silently. Instead, it now views terrorism as an act of war – a policy explicitly defined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This clarity is vital. It sends a message not just to Pakistan but to every state and non-state actor: the cost of terrorism against India will be devastating. It is also important to highlight Singh's comment on the futility of negotiations under the shadow of terrorism. The principle that “terrorism and talks cannot go together” must remain a cornerstone of India's foreign policy. Any dialogue, if it must happen, must centre on Pakistan's dismantling of terrorist networks and a serious discussion on Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). Pakistan's downward spiral into economic ruin, illustrated by its repeated pleas for IMF bailouts, is emblematic of a failed state. A nation that invests more in nurturing terror than in nurturing its people is on the path to self-destruction. Singh's cutting remark that “wherever Pakistan stands, the line of beggars starts from there” is more than a jibe – it is a stark reflection of Pakistan's misplaced priorities. The international community must take a firm stance. It can no longer afford to ignore or appease Pakistan's dangerous policies. The safety of the region and the world hinges on ensuring that rogue nations do not have the luxury of playing with nuclear fire. India has shown it has the will, the strength, and the moral clarity to confront terrorism. Now, the world must back India's position with action, not just words. Defence Minister's statements are not just justified – they are overdue. It is time the world listens.

Digital empowerment of Haj Pilgrims from India



C.P.S. BAKSHI
JOINT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF
MINORITY AFFAIRS, GOI

In recent years, the Government of India has placed extraordinary emphasis on inclusive governance. Governance, that reaches every citizen, regardless of geography, background or belief. This is also clearly visible in its handling of the annual Haj pilgrimage. Far from a routine administrative exercise, it is a massive humanitarian, diplomatic, and logistical operation that spans nations and cultures. Guided by the ethos of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas the Government has turned Haj management into a model of 21st-century service delivery.

Every year, approximately 1.75 lakh pilgrims from India embark on the sacred Haj pilgrimage. Managing such a vast and sensitive operation, that spans across four months, through the Haj Committee of India, in close coordination with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) is a feat of

national coordination, diplomacy and service. The Government of India, through the Ministry of Minority Affairs, is ensuring that this spiritual journey is not only seamless but also dignified, inclusive, and technologically empowered. In its unflinching commitment to serving all communities without bias, the Government is transforming the Haj experience into one of the most advanced public service operations ever undertaken abroad.

The Haj Suvidha App was launched by the Government of India in 2024, to simplify and enhance the pilgrim experience, by offering real-time access to information such as accommodation, transport and flight details including details of State Haj Inspectors attached to each pilgrim as well as nearest healthcare and transportation facilities. The App also enables grievance submission and tracking, baggage tracking, emergency SOS features, spiritual content, and real-time notifications. The App was installed last year by more than 67,000 pilgrims, indicating a high rate of acceptance. Over 8000 grievances and more than 2000 SOSs were raised and responded to by the administrative setup established for the Hajis by the Indian Government in the KSA. The SOS and lost pilgrim features were most lauded for tracking and reaching out to

the lost pilgrims and providing emergency medical assistance to pilgrims in need.

The App's feedback-driven architecture allows continuous enhancements throughout the period of the pilgrimage. Insights derived from the App during Haj-2024 served as key inputs for formulating the Haj Policy and Guidelines for 2025. These data-backed decisions exemplify the Government of India's model of responsive governance for its citizens. Building upon this success in 2024, the Government has now launched Haj Suvidha App 2.0 covering the entire gamut of Haj and creating a truly end-to-end digital solution for the pilgrims.

Haj 2.0 embraces the entire Haj lifecycle from digital submission of pilgrim application, selection (Qurrah), publication of waitlists, payment integration, issuance of Adahi coupons, and cancellation and refund processes. The updated App offers smooth integration with banking networks, enabling pilgrims to make payments via UPI, debit/credit cards, and internet banking. Real-time flight schedules and electronic boarding passes are also provided to facilitate easier travel. The App has been augmented with pedometer feature, aimed at inculcating in the pilgrims, a habit of walking, so that they build the stamina

required for the arduous journey ahead. Real-time weather updates for aiding pilgrims have also been added, to help pilgrims withstand extreme climatic conditions as well as keeping them healthy and hydrated.

The Indian Haj Medical Contingent is rated as the best and provides world class medical services to the pilgrims through a network of field hospitals and dispensaries established during Haj at Makkah and Madinah. A network of ambulances provides emergency medical support. The e-health card and e-Hospital module of the Ministry of Health has been integrated with the App this year, leading to seamless admissions and treatment to the pilgrims. This shall also enhance the quality of data available to the doctors for treatment and providing optimum medical service to the pilgrims for Haj 2025.

The much-appreciated luggage tracking system of the App has been further upgraded with RFID based tagging which shall streamline the process of tracking missing luggage and ensure the highest level of service delivery.

Navigation of Haj rituals has been transformed by digital mapping of the Mashaer region, including Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifa. Camp sites are identified and tracked on the map to

guide pilgrims to their destination and minimize their risk of getting lost in the extreme heat of the desert. Features such as Namaz alarms, Qibla compass, and location-based mapping of hospitals, bus stops, service centers, and Indian mission offices significantly enrich the overall experience and convenience of the pilgrims.

A chatbot driven by AI has been included as a digital personal assistant to answer regular questions in a conversational tone, providing instant assistance and advice. This holistic set of features are indicative of the government's intention to not only leverage technology as a means of service delivery but also as a tool that empowers dignity, convenience, and enablement for everyone, including those on a spiritual path.

The Haj Suvidha App 2.0 is a path breaker in India's digital public infrastructure and stands as a testament to the vision of the Government of India to ensure that governance extends to every citizen in a meaningful way. Harnessing the power of technology, India is setting new international standards for pilgrim management, providing a seamless, secure, and spiritually enhancing experience for its citizens.

(The views expressed are personal)

Genome-edited crops can strengthen food and nutritional security

HARENDER RAJ GAUTAM

This has been made possible due to the CRISPR-Cas system of genome editing discovered in 2012 and it has emerged as the most potent technology for genetic improvement of various life forms and is already making waves in agriculture and allied sectors.

Keeping in view the vast potential of this technology, Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2020 for the development of the CRISPR – Cas1 genome-editing tool. In agriculture, it enables precise modifications in the genetic makeup of crops, accelerating the production of new crop varieties with improvement in different traits like yield, nutrition, resistance to abiotic and biotic stresses and lesser footprints of greenhouse gases.

India has taken the lead to become the first country in the world to develop genome – edited rice varieties which hold the potential for bringing revolutionary changes in agriculture in terms of food and nutritional security. With the advent of genome editing technology, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) initiated genome – editing research in 2018 to improve two major rice varieties – Samba Mahsuri and MTU 1010 under the National Agricultural Science Fund which resulted in the development of DRR Rice 100 (Kamla) and Pusa DST Rice 1

These varieties have the potential to have a 19 per cent increase in yield with savings of 7,500 million cubic meters of irrigation water, a 20 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and improved tolerance to drought, salinity, and climate stresses.

Out of these two, DRR Rice 100 (Kamla) variety has been developed by ICAR's Indian Institute of Rice Research, at Hyderabad and this variety



matures 20 days earlier and can yield up to 9 tons/hectare which is 30 per cent higher than the present varieties.

Due to its shorter duration, it helps save water and fertilisers and reduces methane gas emissions thus having less impact on climate change. The second genome – edited variety Pusa DST Rice 1 has been developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and this variety is especially suited to a vast tract of 6.72 million ha salt (saline and alkaline) affected soils.

These new varieties were developed using genome – editing technology based on CRISPR-Cas, which makes precise changes in the organism's genetic material without adding foreign DNA as in the case of genetically modified crops.

Hence, these are not genetically modified crops because no foreign DNA has been added to the original genome of the crop. Gene editing uses site – directed nucleases (SDNs) to make changes that may be either a small deletion, a substitution or the addition of several nucleotides. Such targeted edits in the genome of the rice variety result in new and desired

characteristics.

Globally, about 30 countries have accepted genome – edited crops as equivalent to conventionally bred crops and hence are not regulated as Genetically Modified Organisms for which there are apprehensions of health and environmental concerns.

The government of India has also taken initiatives in this direction and genome editing mediated by site – directed nucleases (SDNs) has been approved under India's biosafety regulations for general crops. In the 2023-24 budget, the Government of India allocated 500 crores for genome editing in crops.

ICAR has already initiated genome-editing research for several crops, including oilseeds and pulses.

CRISPR/Cas9 technology will have video applications in staple crops such as rice, wheat, maize, potato and soybeans which are the backbone of global food security, providing the primary source of calories for a large portion of the world's population.

Particularly, crops like rice, maize and wheat are staples of over 4,000 million people worldwide and cater to 60 per cent of the world's food energy

intake. These staple grain crops are particularly vulnerable to water scarcity, which poses a major challenge to food security.

CRISPR/Cas technology allows precise genetic modifications to improve drought tolerance by targeting genes that regulate water use efficiency and osmotic balance. A notable breakthrough in this area is the modification of the ZmHDT103 gene, which has been shown to improve drought tolerance in maize by enhancing the plant's ability to withstand water scarcity without compromising growth and yield under non-stress conditions. Another promising application of this technology has been to combat drought stress by engineering the TaRPK1 gene in wheat to enhance water absorption and develop plants with deeper root systems that are capable of accessing water from further soil layers.

CRISPR/Cas technology also offers new opportunities to enhance crop yield by directly targeting genes that regulate plant growth and development. For example, editing the OsAPL gene involved in nutrient transport has resulted in increased yield in rice. Further, photo-

synthetic efficiency has been enhanced by targeting genes OsSXX1 gene in rice involved in chlorophyll synthesis and light capture, which resulted in improved photosynthetic rates and increased grain yield. In rice, the technology has also been successfully used to edit the OsBADH2 gene, leading to enhanced aromatic qualities with increased production of compound 2-acetyl-1-pyrroline (2-AP) which imparts a desirable fragrance, thereby catering to consumer preferences.

CRISPR/Cas technology has also played a pivotal role in addressing nutritional deficiencies through crop biofortification. Biofortification aims to increase the content of essential nutrients in crops, thereby improving their nutritional value. The development of “Golden Rice,” which contains higher levels of beta-carotene, was accomplished by modifying genes involved in provitamin A biosynthesis. In rice and wheat, genes such as OsNAS have been edited to increase iron and zinc levels, addressing micronutrient deficiencies that often lead to anaemia and also impaired immune functions in the consum-

ers.

Similarly, in maize, targeting the PSY1, CrtI, and LCYB genes has boosted the biosynthesis of provitamin A, resulting in the creation of “Golden Maize”. In maize, by editing genes involved in lysine biosynthesis, lysine content was increased, thus addressing a common problem of inherent deficiency in cereal grains.

In potatoes, CRISPR/Cas9 has modified the glass gene responsible for granule-bound starch synthase, resulting in amylose-free starch that provides a smoother texture, which is highly valued in both culinary applications and industrial processes. This technology has been used to reduce antinutritional factors such as phytic acid in soybean by targeting the GmIPK1 gene, thus enhancing the bioavailability of iron and zinc and thereby improving the overall nutritional quality of the soybean.

Similarly, genome editing efforts in wheat, another vital crop in human nutrition, aim to enhance its nutritional profile by modifying the levels of amylose and gliadin well. Interestingly, genome-edited crops such as waxy corn, high-oleic soybeans, aminobutyric acid-rich tomatoes and now rice varieties are already commercially available. As genome editing technologies become more accessible and cost-effective, they hold significant promise for a wide array of benefits for farmers and consumers.

While, farmers will benefit from higher production, increased resistance to diseases, weeds, and pests, as well as more affordable seeds due to lower production costs; consumers will benefit from improved nutrition, enhanced food safety, and reduced food waste.

(The writer is former Professor and Head, Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry. Views are personal)

DC Kathua reviews implementation of PCPNDT Act

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 16

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas, chaired the District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting on the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act at the conference hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting focused on evaluating the implementation of the PCPNDT Act across the district, with detailed discussions on the registration of ultrasound centres, legal provisions concerning offences and penalties, and the district's monitoring mechanisms.

At the outset, Dr. Minhas appreciated the collective efforts of all stakeholders for their role in improving the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) at birth, which has now reached 936—surpassing both UT and the national average. He acknowledged the positive trend as a significant achievement for the district and emphasized the need to sustain and build upon this momentum.

He further stated that collective and targeted efforts are required to elevate the Child Sex Ratio in health blocks where the CSR at birth remains comparatively low. “We must identify these areas



and intensify awareness, enforcement, and community engagement to ensure equitable progress across all blocks,” he added.

Earlier, Chief Medical Officer Kathua, Dr. Vijay Raina, briefed the committee on the status of 16 ultrasound clinics in the district, including 13 private centres and 3 government-run facilities.

Dr. Minhas highlighted the vital role of the PCPNDT Act in safeguarding the girl child and called for strict enforcement through regular and random inspections of ultrasound clinics. He also emphasized the need

for innovative strategies, including decoy operations, to curb illegal sex determination practices and further improve the CSR in the district.

The DAC approved the registration of a new private ultrasound centre coming up near Dreamland Park in Kathua. Besides, the meeting also accorded approval for the renewal of the registration of three private Ultrasound centres.

The meeting was attended by Medical Superintendent Dr. Sangeeta Ajrawat, along with other DAC members and special invitees.

DDC Doda reviews performance of Rural Development Department



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 16

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh convened a review meeting today in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex to assess the progress and future plans of the Rural Development Department (RDD) for the financial year 2025-26.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development Manoj Kumar; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Musharrif Ali Haf; Chief Planning Officer Manesh Manhas; Block Development Officers (All); Assistant Executive Engineers (All) of the District.

Assistant Commissioner Development and Assistant Commissioner Panchayat presented detailed presentations on the ongoing schemes (MGNREGA,

PMAY-G, SBM-G) highlighting their achievements and challenges faced in the execution.

Reviewing the scheme wise performance, the DDC emphasized the importance of timeline implementation of Rural Development programs especially Rural Sanitation initiatives aimed at improving the cleanliness in the District and thereby improving living standard of the public.

Discussions covered crucial areas such as infrastructure development for Plastic Waste Management System, Solid Waste Management System (SWMS), CSC, Government Plants, Segregation Sheds, Soakage pits under SBM-G; Employment generation under MGNREGA. Emphasis was laid on Own Source Revenue (OSR) generation to make all Panchayats

Self Sustainable. The Chair directed the BDOs to collaborate with the concerned Departments to address bottlenecks hindering progress.

They were further directed to prepare innovative plans under Aspirational Block/Panchayat Development Plans and to complete Estimation on SECURE and start execution of works under MGNREGA for the FY 2025-26.

The Chair emphasised the completion of all pending houses under PMAY-G and to expedite recovery proceedings from the defaulters.

Furthermore, the DDC outlined new initiatives promoting sustainable development and enhancing agricultural productivity, emphasizing the use of technology and innovative practices.

Police arrests 02 drug peddlers in Srinagar, Awantipora; Contraband/ Psychotropic substances recovered

JI NEWS SERVICE
AWANTIPORA, MAY 16

In continuation of its relentless efforts to eradicate the drug menace from society, Police have arrested two drug peddlers in Srinagar & Awantipora and recovered contraband/psychotropic substances from their possession.

A police team of Police Station Nowhatta, at a checkpoint established at Syed Sahb Rajorkadal, arrested a drug peddler identified as Suhail Ahmad Shiekh son of Gh Rasool Shiekh resident of Qutbuddin Pora Aalikadal. During search, substantial quantity of contraband drugs (SpasmoProxvyon and Tapntadol) were recovered from his possession.

Meanwhile in Awantipora, a police party during naka checking, arrested a drug peddler identified as Adil Ahmad Bhat son of Farooq Ahmad Bhat resident of Latribal Pampore. During search, officers were able to recover 5 grams of brown sugar-like substance from his possession.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigations have been initiated.

J&K Police remain committed in its zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking and urges the general public to come forward with any information related to drug abuse or peddling in their areas. Together, we can build a safer and drug-free society.

BSP demands implementation of new industrial policy in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 15

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has demanded from the Government that the families of those who lost their lives due to Pakistani shelling should get financial help of Rs 20 lakh from the government and those who got injured should get financial help of Rs 5 lakh. Along with this, Bahujan Samaj Party has demanded that the border villages which are always under the grip of Pakistani shelling should be given the status of model villages and there should be better development and the people living there should get all kinds of facilities. Along with this, the party has Demanded that there is a need to establish a permanent border relief fund by the government



so that the victims can get compensation money from time to time when needed. Apart from this, the people living on the border should be given plots of five marlas at safe places. In a statement issued by the Jammu and Kashmir President of Bahujan Samaj Party the party demanded that steps should be taken as soon as possible to fulfill these demands. The BSP chief said that steps need to be taken to promote industry in Jammu and Kashmir, in which along with setting up new

industrial areas, special schemes should be started for setting up small scale industries for women. Apart from this, steps need to be taken to bring the youth forward towards the industrial sector to make them self-reliant. The BSP demanded that due to the lack of a new industrial policy in Jammu and Kashmir, investors are in a dilemma, in such a situation, the government needs to bring a new Industrial Policy so that the youth can get employment. While giving suggestions to the government, he said that industries should be established under the new industrial policy in the districts of Samba, Kathua, Pulwama and Baramulla of Jammu and Kashmir. Apart from this, new units should be made completely tax free for the First 5 years.

DC Ganderbal urges tribal population to actively participate in Janjatiya Service Delivery camps

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MAY 16

As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh and under the Government of India's flagship missions – Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) and the Dharti Aaba Abhiyan, District Administration Ganderbal will be organizing a special outreach campaign for tribal communities from 15th to 30th June 2025.

The campaign aims to ensure saturation of government welfare schemes in identified tribal villages through village-level service delivery camps, covering essential services such as; Aadhaar Card enrollment, Ration Card issuance, Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY) health

coverage, issuance of Caste Certificates, PM-KISAN registration, Jan Dhan account facilitation, and more.

These camps will be held across the tribal villages of District Ganderbal.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, in a public message, highlighted that this initiative represents a transformative step towards inclusive governance, last-mile delivery, and empowerment of tribal communities.

He also shared that developmental projects worth Rs.13 crore have already been submitted to the government for approval under various tribal welfare schemes.

In addition, line departments will soon carry out a comprehensive gap anal-

ysis in the identified tribal villages. Based on these findings, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) will be prepared and submitted to the concerned ministries to address critical needs under centrally sponsored schemes.

Deputy Commissioner has appealed to all eligible tribal beneficiaries to actively participate in the upcoming service delivery camps, avail themselves of the facilities being offered, and encourage widespread community participation to ensure no one is left out.

District Administration remains committed to building an inclusive, responsive, and empowered tribal Ganderbal through sustained outreach, development, and participatory governance.



Shakti Raj Parihar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Doda West and Shri Balwant Singh Mankotia, Member of Legislative Assembly from Chenani called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha.

The Members of Legislative Assembly put forth the issues related to welfare of families affected due to unprovoked firing by Pakistan, strengthening of VDGs and other important issues of their constituencies.

DC Udhampur interacts with CBSE, JK BOSE toppers



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 16

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, today interacted with the top-performing students of Class 12th CBSE and Class 10th JKBOSE, whose results were recently declared.

An impressive felicitation ceremony was organized by the District Administration, here in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, to honour the meritorious students. The DC congratulated the achievers for their exceptional academic performance and commended their dedication, perseverance and hard work.

While addressing the gathering, the DC appreciated both government and as well as private educational institutions for providing quality education and nurturing the talent of students. She also acknowledged the pivotal role of teachers and parents in supporting the students throughout their academic journey.

Meanwhile, the DC lauded the hard work and perseverance of the students along with the dedicated guidance of their teachers and the unwavering support of their families. She stated that the purpose of today's felicitation ceremony is to honour the students' achievements and to engage with them and encourage them in their future endeavours. She advised the students to choose the right company, maintain strong mental resilience and keep open communication with their parents as they step into the next phase of their lives. She further motivated them to remain persistent in the pursuit of their goals, make effective use of their time and stay focused on hard work.

The DC emphasized the importance of nurturing hobbies alongside academic pursuits to support emotional and mental well-being.

During the event, the toppers enthusiastically shared their experiences, study strategies and aspirations.

GDC Neeli Nallah Udhampur organizes HIV and STI awareness Activities

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

Red Ribbon Club Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, Udhampur with IQAC, organized HIV and STI awareness activities in collaboration with J&K Aids Control Society in which an awareness lecture was organized and a rally was conducted from the college premises adopting the village Neeli Nallah under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora, Princi-pal of the college. The whole program aimed to educate students about the causes, symptoms and prevention of HIV/AIDS. An awareness lecture was organized in which Dr. Sunil Tanoch, HOD Sociology, made aware the students as well

as the staff present, about this in-fec-tion. He enlightened that HIV and STIs are significant public health concerns worldwide. It attacks the body's immune system, making it difficult to fight off infections.

He further said that by educating ourselves and others, we can work towards a society that is better equipped to fight against this deadly disease. A rally was also organized from the college premises on 16th of May 2025 raising the slogans “Fight the Virus, Not the People” and “Prevention is Better than Cure”. It was accompanied by Dr. Sunil Tanoch along with Dr. Akhter Hussain, Dr. Mubariq Mahire, Dr. Muntazir Bhat and Dr. Sha-meema. The rally started

from the college premises and went to adopted village “Neeli Nallah” spreading awareness on HIV/AIDS and fighting stigma and discrimination against people living with this infection. The rally focused to create awareness among the local community and stakeholders about this deadly disease and to bridge the information gap in the adopted village, strengthen the community's understanding of HIV prevention, stigma reduction. These activities were con-vened and organized by Dr. Sunil Tanoch, HOD Sociology, Convenor of Red Ribbon Club. Others present in the program were Assistant Prof. Rekha Sharma and Assistant Prof. Shaista Yasmeen

JKPCC holds key meet to Finalize 'Samvidhan Bachao' Rally Plans

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

JKPCC President Sh Tariq Hameed Karra presided over a significant preparatory meeting with party leaders to discuss the necessary arrangements for the successful execution of the “Samvidhan Bachao” rallies, including the “Jai Hind Yatra & Sabha” throughout the region.

Although not officially part of the AICC Circular, our leaders and party workers took the self initiative to participate in this program.

Joined by esteemed party leaders, WP Raman Balla, AICC Secretary Neeraj Kundan, Mula Ram, Ch Lal Singh, Balwan Singh, Th Balbir Singh, Dr Manmohar Lal Sharma, Yashpal Kundal, I/C Ved Mahajan, Indu Pawar, Dina Nath Bhagat, Kanta Andotra, TS Tony, and other senior party leaders.

DC Kulgam chairs District Level Committee meet on DLC



JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MAY 16

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, who is also Chairman District Level Committee, chaired a meeting of officers of various departments on Friday to review the progress made in cases for change of land use.

At the outset, Chairman enquired about the status of NOCs being issued in favour of the applicants and applications received till date, besides their reporting and follow up status by the concerned departments.

During the meeting, 10 cases were put before the

committee, in which 08 cases were approved and 2 cases were rejected as per norms.

DC directed concerned members to ensure timely issuance of NOCs to the applicants after proper verification of documents and rules under land conversion.

The meeting was attended by ACR, FM DIC, D.F.O, CEO, Executive Engineers from NH-444, Jal Shakti, KPDC, R&B, PMGSY, Irrigation and Flood Control, CAO, CHO, Tehsildars of Kulgam/Devsar/ Quimoh, Tehsildar Hq, Eos of MC Kulgam, Devsar, District Officer PCC Kulgam and other Officials.

Tony leads field inspection with officials to address acute water crisis in Sanjay Nagar

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

Senior Congress leader and DDC Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, today conducted an extensive tour of Sanjay Nagar along with XEN Mechanical Wing of Jal Shakti Department Manoj Gupta, AEEs, JEEs, and XEN Sudhir Singh to assess and review the acute water scarcity being faced by residents of the area for the past one month.

During the inspection, the team also visited the Tube Well at Rani Talab Digiana, which supplies water to Sanjay Nagar and surrounding localities. Upon on-spot verification and technical review, it was observed that the water table in the area has significantly declined, resulting in reduced water



discharge and erratic supply to households.

Taking serious note of the situation, Tony, in coordination with the officials of the Jal Shakti Department, directed immediate remedial measures. It was unanimously decided that an additional pipe will be loaded to augment the supply system and ease the water shortage in the area. Moreover, the department was instructed to ensure timely water delivery until

the situation stabilizes.

In a move to ensure equitable distribution of resources, Tony stressed that illegal water connections will be identified and disconnected with immediate effect. Only those households with regularised and metered connections will be entitled to receive water supply. This decision, he said, aims to safeguard the rights of genuine consumers and prevent misuse of limited resources.

Tony highlighted that the NC-Congress Government is committed to providing clean drinking water to the masses. He recalled that the Kayani Talab Water Tube Well, which remained defunct for over ten years under BJP regime, was brought back into service under his efforts, and several other tube wells in the area have been put on fast track to remove water scarcity.

To further address the issue, Tony said he recently approached the concerned Jal Shakti Department Minister and apprised him of the alarming situation. He appreciated the Minister for issuing prompt directions to the department to take swift action in mitigating

the water crisis in Sanjay Nagar. Expressing concern over the worsening water scenario in the city, Tony also made a fervent appeal to the Minister to conduct a comprehensive review of Jammu's water infrastructure and strongly advocated for installation of an additional tube well in Sanjay Nagar or adjoining areas to permanently resolve the crisis.

Tony reaffirmed his commitment to standing with the people and continuing to raise pressing civic issues until meaningful solutions are implemented. Prominent citizens including S. Sujit Singh, Ch. Inderjeet, and several local residents accompanied Tony during the visit and appreciated the proactive approach taken by the senior Congress leader.

Youth Congress Nowshera donate blood for nation

JJ NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, MAY 16

Youth Congress Unit Nowshera Assembly led by President Ravinder Singh Chouhan organised a blood donation camp at SDH Nowshera today as per instructions of IYC National President Shri Udhay bhanu chib ji and J&K Incharge IYC Shri Maan Singh Rathore.

President Assembly Youth Congress Nowshera Ravinder Singh Chouhan organized a blood donation camp as part of ongoing mission of the youth Congress to donate for nation.

The event witnessed active participation from several senior leaders and youth leaders including DCC Vice President and Ex councilor Vijay Bakshi, JKPC Member Satpal Sharma, DCC General Sec-



retary and Spokesperson, General Secretary Bar Association Nowshera Adv Gourav Prashar, Dr Naresh Sharma, Inder Dass, Jagannath Sharma, Sudesh Sharma, Veesh Chibber, Chetan Bali, Navneet Bali, Arjun Singh, Paramjeet Singh, Kamaljeet Choudhary, Ex panch Sanjeev Kumar, Laksh Solan, Sanjeev Kumar, Deepak Raj, Kapil Choudhary among others.

A total of 20 units of blood were donated by

dedicated volunteers es9 for the injured people in Pak shelling undergoing treatment in different hospitals.

Shri Chouhan said that Youth Congress workers are ready to donate more blood, as & when required for the needy especially for the sake of nation. The call for this was given by IYC for blood donations from time to time in different areas from the day the situation on borders had become tense.

Executive Council of ICC Jammu holds its meeting to discuss important issues of present difficult times

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

The Executive Council of the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Jammu, convened under the leadership of Rahul Sahai, Chairman ICC Jammu to discuss the grave challenges faced by industry, trade, and civil society during these unprecedented times of conflict and instability in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting began with a solemn two-minute silence in memory of the brave security personnel, civilians, and all those who lost their lives in the barbaric attack in Pahalgam. The council members unanimously saluted the courage and determination of our Armed and Security Forces, and the strategic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for steering the country through this difficult phase and taking on to the culprits of heinous attack of Pahalgam.

The Council appreciated the proactive engagement of Hon'ble Lieuten-

ant Governor Manoj Sinha and Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, both of whom have remained in constant touch with industry, trade, and civil society stakeholders. Rahul Sahai informed that the Lieutenant Governor had assured full support and accessibility to the public during his pre-war meeting at Raj Bhawan. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, demonstrating remarkable commitment, travelled by road from Kashmir to Jammu during the conflict to meet civil society members and discuss necessary interventions. ICC shared vital recommendations for activation of key services such as the Information Department, Medical and Fire Services, Blood Donation camps, and support at Primary Health Centres. Council applauded acts of Both leaders who visited several affected border areas to assess ground realities.

The meeting detailed the devastating fallouts of the war, including: Damage to homes and

displacement of families in border areas.

Shutdown of businesses, grounding of flights, and stoppage of trains.

Panic-driven labour exodus leading to closure of establishments.

Collapse of tourism, near-zero business activity and income.

Banks threatening to block credit limits and classify loans as unsecured. Regular interest charges despite ongoing crisis. Late GST refunds and pending payments from government departments. No insurance cover for properties under if the "Act of War" clause applies.

In light of these challenges, the Council urged the Hon'ble Finance Minister of India to provide a special financial assistance package to Jammu & Kashmir. The Council also called upon the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and Hon'ble Chief Minister to consider the following crucial points for urgent action:

Labour Going from J&K Should Be Stopped Imme-



diately

Labour shortage due to mass exodus is affecting industries, hotels, and trading houses by up to 70%. The Council urged the administration to take Labour Confidence Building Measures immediately. Labour should be pacified through official engagement, brought back with free transportation, and safety assurances should be advertised in their home states. The Information Department should design flyers, set up toll-free numbers, and create communication channels to reassure the workforce.

Insurance Companies Not Covering Properties - A Big Concern

The Council expressed deep concern over insur-

ance companies refusing to cover property damages under the "Act of War" clause. It was resolved to immediately represent this matter to the Hon'ble Finance Minister, IRDAI, the Lieutenant Governor, and Chief Minister, requesting intervention to safeguard property and business interests. The issue of banks threatening to block CC limits, which could also freeze saving accounts, was flagged as alarming and requires immediate direction from the central authorities.

Way Forward - Sectoral Recommendations

Pending Funds: Representations will be sent to release GST refunds (20 crores stuck at Gandhi Nagar Treasury), turnover

incentives, and NCSS-related refunds.

Power Tariff Relief: Request for 50% rebate in minimum charges and no hike in tariffs during this crisis period and regular uninterrupted power supply should be ensured to already stressed industry.

MSME Support: we Propose 6-month interest reimbursements, protection of credit scores, region-specific RBI relaxations, and concessional working capital loans.

Tourism Revival: Recommendations early planning for Amarnath Yatra and Pooja holidays. Suggested roping in national influencers, halting hashtags like "Boycott Kashmir as it is also damaging Jammu," and promoting J&K tourism via national platforms.

Education: Demands timely CUET exams within J&K and nt outside Ut, as people cannot travel in these times, with the proposal to conduct other states' CUET exams here to promote J&K. Also, all higher education exams

and results must stay on schedule. Students of IIT, IIM, Central university etc should be called back.

Logistics: Highway operations must be 24x7 to control trucking costs. Military convoys should be routed through Mughal Road to ease commercial flow if possible.

Industrial Consultative Committee: Immediate formation of an inclusive committee with industry and trade representatives.

Payment Disbursement: Government departments must release all pending payments, especially under schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Etc.

Cybersecurity: With growing cyber threats, the government should audit vulnerable sites and form a dedicated Cyber Response Team.

Master Plan: Must be rolled out without delay.

Schools should only be open after 100% normalcy, otherwise online classes be considered.

Transportation: Full resumption of flights and trains was stressed.

Rumour Control: Urged the administration to take strong action against misinformation on social media, including filing FIRs.

Present Members of the Executive Council:

Samardev Charak (Education), Ashish Jain (Govt Supplies), Raj Dua (Industry), Anil Sharma (Industrial Estate Kathua, CA), Varun Mahajan (Flour Mills), Gajendra K Lodha (Sutlej Industries), Ali Jaffery (Tourism - Sky View by Emperian, FIL Industries, Shantanu Gupta (Law), Zeeshan Ahmed (Government Supplies), Kuldeep Gupta (Shanker Plywoods), Amarjeet Kukreja (Attar Singh & Sons, C&F), Niranjan Surana (New Industry NCSS)

The Indian Chamber of Commerce Jammu appeals for urgent attention and assistance at the highest levels to restore stability, revive industry, and safeguard livelihoods in Jammu & Kashmir.

RC Subramaniam pays obseciance, special Abhishek ceremony at Tirupathi Balaji Temple, Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU MAY 16

Today RC Subramaniam Supperident Balaji Temple Jammu, Sai Krishna Temple inspector, Ramesh Babu, Pandit Ji Amit Shukhla, Sachin Gupta. Secretary CTF, Vivek Gupta And Sanjay Sareen Today paid obseciance at Tirupati Balaji temple Jammu and participated in the special abhishek of Tirupati. prayed for the welfare of the country. Every Friday the ceremony of abhishek of Lord Venkateswar is performed.

Sachin Gupta expressed happiness over the temple said that it is a feeling of pleasure and proud that the Tirupati Balaji temple is established here for the people of Jammu. With this temple we are able to witness the culture of south India and this feeling is heavenly. He appealed people to visit the temple and pay obseciance here. He Said the dedication of Lord Ven-



kateswara temple would give a boost to spiritual tourism

He Said overwhelmed to share with you all my divine experience at Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple which is famous as Tirupati Balaji Temple located amid the scenic Shivalik forests in Majeen, situated in Jammu. I am requesting all Devotee, who are unable to visit Andhra Pradesh, can come here and offer

prayers to the Lord Venkateswara Swamy and seek blessings

On this occasion RC Subramaniam Supperident Balaji Temple also appealed transport commissioner to start the bus service for the temple so that devotees can come easily to the temple. He also emphasize to start the Bharat darshan bus service here so that tourists also came to know about the temple.

'Tiranga Rally' held in Udhampur to commend Armed Forces' victory in Operation 'Sindoor'

JJ NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, 16 MAY 2025:

A grand "Tiranga Rally" was organized in Udhampur by 'Citizens for National Security' to express solidarity with the nation and the armed forces, and to commend the decisive victory in Operation Sindoor, a mission launched by Indian security forces in retaliation to the vicious martyrdom of 26 innocent civilians in Pahalgam by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists after identifying them as Hindus.

The rally witnessed an overwhelming turnout of patriotic citizens, political leaders, religious figures, ex-servicemen, and youth. The event commenced with a solemn homage at the Shaheed Smarak, paying respects to the martyred soldiers. From there, the rally proceeded on foot, covering key locations including Town Hall, Gole Market, Ramnagar Chowk, Salathia Chowk, and finally culminated at Police Martyr Chowk, Domail.



Prominent leaders who participated included Ch. Vikram Randhawa, MLA, Balwant Singh Mankotia, MLA, Pawan Kumar Gupta, MLA, R.S. Pathania, MLA, Sunil Bhardwaj, MA, Arun Gupta, BJP District President and others. Others in attendance included dignitaries including religious leaders, retired defense personnel, NCC cadets, and enthusiastic citizens.

The streets resonated with powerful slogans like Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Vande Mataram, Indian Army

Zindabad, and Indian Armed Forces Zindabad, while the crowd danced energetically to patriotic tunes. The atmosphere was charged with national pride and emotional unity.

Vikram Randhawa, while addressing the rally, said, "From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, the entire nation stands united and proud of our brave soldiers. The barbaric attack on innocent civilians in Pahalgam deserved a strong response and our forces gave a befitting reply by destroying ter-

rorist bases across the border. This rally is an honor to their courage."

Balwant Singh Mankotia expressed pride on the Indian Armed Forces, who have given a befitting reply to the terrorists and their feeders from across the borders by taking bold and decisive action under 'Operation Sindoor'.

Pawan Gupta said that the whole nation salutes the courage, determination and patriotism of our brave soldiers. RS Pathania said that India has given a strong message to the enemy forces that our brave forces have full capacity to thrash any plan to attack the nation's peace.

Sunil Bhardwaj said that every Indian has an affinity for peace but not at the cost of lives of its civilians.

The rally concluded peacefully at Police Martyr Chowk, with renewed calls for unity and national resolve.

Jal Shakti Deptt elevates 22 AEEs as XENs

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 16

The Jal Shakti Department today elevated 22 Assistant Executive Engineers as Executive Engineers and adjusted them against various vacant posts.

An order was issued to this effect by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra today.

Jal Shakti Department under the charge of Minister Javed Ahmed Rana has recently seen massive elevations against vacant positions after the minister put special focus on the efficient cadre management of the Department.

Several SEs and XENs have already been elevated in the last two weeks to strengthen the positions at the higher level in the cadre of the Department.

Kavinder slams INDIA Bloc as 'Tukde-Tukde Alliance,' prays for peace at Bawe Wali Mata Temple amid Indo-Pak tensions

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, today launched a sharp attack on the crumbling opposition alliance, calling the INDIA bloc a "Tukde-Tukde alliance" driven by opportunism, not ideology. His remarks come in the wake of senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram's candid admission casting serious doubts on the unity and future of the INDIA alliance.

"Even their own leaders are now admitting what we have been saying all along – the so-called INDIA bloc is falling apart under its own contradictions. When Chidambaram says the alliance is 'frayed' and its future is 'not so bright', it only confirms that the bloc



was stitched together not to serve the people, but to protect political dynasties and individual interests," Gupta said while speaking to media persons after paying obeisance at Maa Bawe Wali Temple in Jammu.

Referring to Chidambaram's statement

acknowledging the formidable organizational strength of the BJP, Kavinder said, "It is a matter of pride that even senior Congress leaders are recognizing the BJP as an unmatched force backed by the trust of the people. Unlike the INDIA bloc, the BJP does not rely on back-

room deals or temporary friendships—we rely on the strength of our cadre and the vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'." Taking a dig at the alliance's internal contradictions, Kavinder said, "How can the public trust a coalition where parties are fighting each other in Kerala and Bengal but posing for photos together in Delhi? This is not an alliance of conviction—it is an alliance of confusion and convenience."

The senior BJP leader termed the INDIA bloc as a classic case of "kushti-dosti"—pretending to fight on the ground while secretly collaborating behind closed doors. "The public has already rejected this hy-pocrisy. The INDIA bloc

was always a tukde-tukde alliance—fragmented, dis-oriented, and directionless," he said.

The former deputy Chief Minister said that as India marches ahead under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decisive leadership, the people will continue to reject alliances born out of fear and self-preservation.

Earlier in the day, Kavinder Gupta paid obeisance at the revered Maa Bawe Wali Temple in Jammu. He offered prayers and expressed gratitude to the Goddess, whom he hailed as the eternal Saviour of Jammu, for protecting the region and its people during the recent India-Pakistan conflict. "It is by the divine grace of Maa Bawe Wali that Jammu has remained safe and resilient in the face of external threats," he said.

Railway Board approves new chord rail line between Karhi-Sagma

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 16

Taking a significant step towards strengthening rail infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh, the Railway Board has approved an important new rail line project under West Central Railway (WCR) zone. The proposed chord rail line is 5.31 km long between Karhi and Sagma, this new rail line project has been approved at a cost of Rs 165.20 crore. This is an important step in the development of railway projects aimed at increasing connectivity in the state.

The chord rail line between Karhi and Sagma (5.31 km) proposed under the umbrella work is important for rail connectivity as it aims to

increase the capacity of the lines, flyovers and bypass lines. Karhi station is a new station on the new line under construction Satna-Panna-Khajuraho, and Sagma station is located on the Satna-Manikpur Prayagraj double line route. At present, the line capacity utilisation of the Satna-Manikpur section is 120%, which is estimated to increase to 143% by the year 2027. Under the Lalitpur-Singrauli New Rail Project, work on the new line between Rewa-Singrauli is also in progress. The proposed bi-directional chord line between Karhi and Sagma will connect the Lalitpur-Singrauli new line to the existing Itarsi-Manikpur line. This will facilitate trains going from Manikpur-Panna and vice versa to run directly without going to Satna Junction station and thus there will be no need to change the engine at Satna, thereby saving time.

This rail link will promote regional trade, mobility and access to resources. The construction of the Karhi to Sagma chord rail line will strengthen the tourist connectivity of important states of Madhya Pradesh, Satna, Panna and Khajuraho. Satna and Panna are industrial cities, which have abundant cement and mineral industries, connecting many parts of Madhya Pradesh. The line is expected to help in freight movement, industrial development, tourism and improved passenger connectivity in the region.

MLA Marh chairs crucial meeting to ensure citizen safety

JI NEWS SERVICE
MARH, MAY 16

A significant meeting was held at the BDO Office in Marh Block, chaired by MLA Marh Surinder Kumar, to discuss measures to ensure citizen safety during shelling incidents from Pakistan. The meeting was attended by Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Marh, Block Development Officer, Marh, former Sarpanches. The meeting aimed to take proactive measures to ensure citizen safety and well-being in the face of potential shelling incidents. The construction of bunkers and distribution of medical kits demonstrate the government's commitment to protecting its citizens and providing them with necessary support during emergencies.

Speaking on the occasion, Surinder said administration has been directed to construct bunkers in every Panchayat to provide a safe shelter for citizens during emergency situations. Medical kits have been distributed to each Panchayat to ensure immediate availability of first aid. The meeting reflects the government's dedication to ensuring the safety and security of citizens in border areas. The decisions



taken will help mitigate the impact of shelling incidents and provide citizens with a sense of security and reassurance. In light of the escalating Indo-Pak tension on borders, the government has assured that concrete measures will be taken to deal with any adverse situation. This proactive approach aims to ensure the safety and security of citizens and maintain stability in the region, added Surinder.

MLA during meeting highlighted key measures including strengthening security forces and intelligence agencies to monitor and respond to potential threats, upgrading surveil-

lance systems to detect and deter any suspicious activity along the border. MLA asked for developing contingency plans and emergency response protocols to address any situation that may arise by taking measures to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens, including evacuation plans and emergency services. The government's commitment to dealing with adverse situations demonstrates its dedication to protecting its citizens and maintaining national security. By taking concrete measures, the government aims to mitigate risks and ensure stability in the region, added MLA.

Ahsan Pardesi inaugurates Kongposh Wazwan at Peer Bagh, Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR MAY 16

Ahsan Pardesi, Member of the Legislative Assembly from Lal Chowk and representative of the National Conference, today inaugurated Kongposh Wazwan—a distinguished new restaurant in Peer Bagh, Srinagar, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir—dedicated to celebrating and promoting authentic Kashmiri cuisine.

During the inauguration ceremony, MLA Pardesi commended the ongoing initiatives spearheaded by Chief Minister Janab Omar Abdullah, noting the state's commendable efforts to strengthen and empower the business community. Addressing the media, Mr. Pardesi underscored the government's unwavering commitment to supporting entrepreneurs, stating, "Even amidst prevailing circumstances, we are leaving no stone unturned to ensure the development and prosperity of the state."

The occasion also highlighted the outstanding role of Hockey J&K in the sporting development of the Kashmir Valley. MLA Pardesi assured President



of Hockey J&K Gurdeep Singh and Organizing Secretary of the International Hockey Championship Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani that the J&K Sports Council would extend comprehensive support, especially in the lead-up to the upcoming international hockey event. "Hockey is our national game, and Hockey J&K has consistently created valuable opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir," he remarked, adding, "Our administration remains fully dedicated to the advancement and welfare of our athletes."

Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani, Organizing Secretary of the International Hockey Championship, provided an update on the tournament originally scheduled for June 2025 at Srinagar's Polo Ground, announcing its rescheduling to

September 2025 in light of current circumstances. In a joint statement, President Gurdeep Singh and Organizing Secretary Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani affirmed, "We are committed to providing outstanding opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir so they can bring pride and recognition to the state and the nation." They further expressed optimism that the J&K Sports Council will maintain its tradition of steadfast support to athletes across the region.

Present at the inauguration alongside MLA Ahsan Pardesi were President of Hockey J&K Gurdeep Singh, Organizing Secretary Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani, internationally renowned hockey player Shakir Ahmed, and several other esteemed personalities from the local community.

DDC Jammu passes resolution to uphold independence of PRI System

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

A meeting of the District Development Council (DDC), Jammu, was convened at Tawi Mahal, Udheywala, under the chairmanship of Shri Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, Chairman DDC Jammu. The session witnessed active participation from Hon'ble Members of the Council, who unanimously voiced serious concerns over recent developments impacting the grassroots-level democratic institution.

During the meeting, the Council passed a strong resolution opposing the diversion of funds meant for the District Capex (Budget) - specifically the PRI (Panchayati Raj Institution) component (Tier-III). It was noted with concern that no Panchayat-level funds have been released in the current financial year, prompting suspicions that the Government may be redirecting these funds towards other departments or bodies—an action the Council strongly condemned.

The members highlighted that while the first two tiers of the PRI system have completed their tenure, the third tier, represented by the DDC, remains the only functional tier and has consistently delivered visible achievements across every corner

of the region over the past four years.

The Council also expressed strong resentment over the inclusion of the local MLA in the planning and discussion process of the DDC development plan, stating that it undermines the autonomy and purpose of the DDC as a grassroots institution.

Chairman Bharat Bhushan Bodhi, along with other members, urged the Government not to dilute or destabilize the institution of the DDC and to ensure that the three-tier PRI system remains fully functional across the country. "This institution should not be brought to a standstill. Its independence and constitutional mandate must be preserved," the members affirmed.

The Council unanimously demanded the immediate release of the withheld 3rd tier Capex Budget and reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding the spirit and structure of decentralized governance.

The DDC members who were present in the meeting included Suraj Singh (Vice-Chairperson DDC Jammu), Joginder Singh, Balbir Lal, Bhushan Kumar, Suresh Kumar, Shamim Begum, Vidhya Devi, Geetu Aulakh, Sharda Bhanu, Surekha Devi and Dharminder Kumar.

Indian Army conducts Civilian Outreach in Border areas at Khanetar, Haribudha and Salani, Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, 16 MAY 2025

In a continued effort to build trust and provide solace to communities affected by cross-border shelling, the Indian Army, under Operation MILAP, conducted a meaningful interaction with civilians residing in forward areas near the Line of Control.

The interaction aimed to address the concerns of residents impacted by frequent shelling and to reinforce the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to their safety and well-being. Senior Indian Army officers engaged with villagers, listened to their grievances, and assured them of continued support and assistance. As a gesture of solidarity and respect for local culture



and faith, the Indian Army also visited an under-construction Gurdwara that had sustained damage due to recent shelling. The visit was a poignant reminder of the resilience of the local populace and the Indian Army's efforts to stand with them not just in conflict, but also in preserving their heritage and places of worship. Operation MILAP is not just a mission it is a bridge

of peace, trust, and unity. Indian Army is here not just to defend the borders, but also to uphold the spirit of harmony and protect the cultural identity of every Indian citizen living along the LoC. The Indian Army also reiterated its commitment to humanitarian assistance and infrastructure support in coordination with local administration and civil society.

SDRF 2nd Bn Jammu organizes Capacity Building Refresher Training Course

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

In a significant initiative to acquaint the Civil Defence wardens/volunteers with vital life-saving skills, SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu organized two days capacity building refresher training course w. e. f. 15-05-2025 to 16-05-2025.

The officers of SDRF threw light on the role of Civil Defence wardens/volunteers during Disasters by using specialized techniques. They were appreciated for their role in recent past conflict in the coun-try. It was emphasized that each and every volunteer must be acquainted with the Civil Defence skills/techniques in view of recent conflict scenario.

Sh. Zahid Naseem Manhas-IPS, Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu addressed the trainees on the occasion and



instructed training staff that the participants must be provided best training and comfortable stay at SDRF Bn. Hqrs. During the training the topics of learning skills included Types of Sirens, Air raids & precautions, Emergency Rescue methods, CPR, First Aid, CBRN precautions & Fire fighting res-cue techniques were deliberated upon.

The training concluded on 16-05-2025. All the 72 trainees who participated in this capacity building training course appreciated the training module and described it as beneficial. All the officers of SDRF also joined the valedictory function.

Smt. Ansuya Jamwal-JKAS, ADC Jammu on the behalf of Controller Civil Defence Jammu remained present and arranged refreshment for trainees. Others who were present include Chief Warden Civil Defence Jammu Sh. Paramjit Kumar, who presented vote of thanks to all the guests/participants. Among others Smt. Gurbinder Kour, Dy.SP, Sh. Manzoor Hussain, Dy.SP & Dinesh Gupta, Dy. SP of SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu and Dy. Chief warden R Vijay Magotra were also presented on the occasion.

Akhnoor Sports Club pays tribute to brave soldiers martyred in Operation Sindoor



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

Akhnoor Sports Club, a non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to promoting sports activities in memory of Lieutenant Thakur Das Sharma, martyr of the 1965 Indo-Pak war, observed two minutes silence to pay tribute to the brave soldiers martyred in Operation Sindoor. The trib-

ute program was organized under the leadership of Akhnoor Sports Club President Dharam Pal Gupta. He said that the people of the country will always remember the martyred soldiers for the country.

On this occasion, Jugal Mahajan, Ashok Mangotra, Suresh Gupta, Ram Pal Sharma, Ramesh Kashyap, Pradeep Gupta, Raman Gupta etc. were present.

Arvind leads Tiranga Yatra to honour Bravehearts, celebrate success of Op Sindoor



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta today led a spirited Tiranga Yatra in Rehari (Ward No. 25), as a mark of respect and gratitude to the Indian Armed Forces for their recent successful surgical strike under Operation Sindoor in Pakistan. The event, organized with great enthusiasm, was a resounding expression of unity, patriotism, and collective resolve to stand by the nation's protectors.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from residents of all age groups, particularly senior citizens of the ward, whose presence added emotional depth and patriotic fervor to the celebration. Chanting slo-

gans of Bharat Mata Ki Jai and waving the national flag with pride, the people of Rehari reaffirmed their unflinching support to the armed forces and their dedication to national unity.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Arvind Gupta stated that the Tiranga Yatra symbolizes India's unwavering commitment to national security, integrity, and sovereignty. "The valor of our soldiers fills every Indian heart with pride. This Yatra is not just a walk of honor but a pledge to uphold the ideals and sacrifices that our Tricolor represents," he said.

MLA Arvind also praised the Modi Government for its decisive leadership and robust national security strategy. "Under Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's visionary leadership, India has shown the world that it will never compromise on its sovereignty or security," he emphasized.

He reiterated BJP's commitment to strengthening the spirit of nationalism at the grassroots and called upon citizens to remain ever vigilant and united in defending the values enshrined in the Constitution.

Tiranga Yatra concluded with the singing of the national anthem, leaving behind a renewed sense of patriotism and collective responsibility among the people.

The event was also attended by local BJP leaders, party workers, and numerous youth volunteers, making it a truly inclusive and memorable occasion.

Tejinder asks party cadre to work tirelessly to address public issues on ground



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

A meeting of the Officer bearers Jammu and Kashmir Youth National Conference (JKYNC) was held today at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, under the chairmanship of Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President, JKYNC.

In his address, Tejinder Singh strongly condemned the acts of terrorism and cross-border aggression and those who lost their lives in cross border firing in Poonch and border areas. The gathering observed a moment of silence to honor their memory. He lauded the Indian security forces for giving a befitting reply to Pakistan's provocations and praised their unwavering commitment in safeguarding the nation.

The Provincial President urged the Central Government to come forward and provide comprehensive support to the shelling affected families, including adequate compensation and rehabilitation

measures.

Expressing serious concern over the rising menace of drug addiction in Jammu and Kashmir, he stressed the urgent need for a coordinated effort involving law enforcement, civil society, and community leaders to curb the drug culture and protect the youth from its harmful consequences.

Tejinder Pal Singh asked the party cadre to remain focused, disciplined, and connected with the people at the grassroots level. He urged them to work tirelessly to address public issues, spread awareness about the party's vision, and stay away from distractions that hinder collective progress.

Tejinder Pal Singh further stated that under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the National Conference continues to work tirelessly for the progress and prosperity of the Union Territory. The party remains steadfast in its mission to ensure

peace, development, and opportunities for all, he added.

Nitish Gowsami Vice President Jammu Province YNC, Sahil Kerni District President Jammu Urban YNC and Hameed Choudhary reiterated the National Conference's commitment to fulfilling its poll promises, with a particular emphasis on job creation. They highlighted that the party has pledged to provide one lakh jobs to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, and that the process to implement this promise is already underway.

Among those who were present included: Muzaamil Malik, Jaseen Yashan, Majid Iqbal Naik, Fareed Choudhary, Bilal Malik, Ankush Angral, Vishal Dogra, Viraj Mahanoori, Rohit Dogra, Navi Sambyal, Jatin Sambyal, Deepak Sharma, Ashi Jamwal, Farman Mohd, Sanjeev Thappa, Raghbir Bhagat, Deepak Thappa, Sahil Banotra, Raghbir Bhagat, Dharamveer Chand and others.

NGO Goonj provides essential support to cross-border shelling effected people of Chhamb



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

Goonj Ekta Seva Samiti, under its visionary initiative Project Bharat Mata, has once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment to humanitarian service by extending crucial support to families affected by the cross-border shelling during Operation Sindoor. The relentless onslaught has caused severe damage to homes and infrastructure in the border areas, shattering the lives and livelihoods of countless individuals. Particularly devastating has been the destruction of livestock, which many families relied upon for sustenance and economic stability.

Recognizing the urgent need for assistance, Goonj Ekta Seva Samiti

has stepped forward and requested the general public to contribute to provide financial aid to affected families, ensuring they have the means to manage their expenses and survive this difficult period. This intervention not only helps them rebuild their lives but also reinstates their hope in community-led efforts aimed at rehabilitation and recovery.

In a crucial effort to assess damages and ensure effective compensation, Vinkal Sharma and his dedicated team visited several affected families, personally evaluating their losses and coordinating financial support. Among the many families they assisted was one headed by a widowed mother struggling to feed her three children and elderly mother-in-law. Their

intervention offered these families not just financial relief, but also a sense of reassurance and solidarity in these trying times. The team's hands-on approach has reinforced the spirit of collective responsibility, emphasizing the importance of community-driven support in alleviating suffering.

The success of this initiative is a testament to the tireless efforts of the entire team behind Project Bharat Mata, including esteemed members like retired Maj. Khushboo Patani and other team members who have worked relentlessly to bring relief to those in distress. Their commitment to service and unwavering determination to stand by affected communities serve as an inspiration for all.

Defence Minister Rajnath's J&K visit boosted morale of troops: Nitish



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

Nitish Mahajan, President BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal, Jammu, hailed the visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to J&K, describing it as a morale-boosting gesture for the brave soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces following the successful execution of Operation Sindoor.

While speaking to media persons during the Tiranga Rally in Jammu, Nitish Mahajan stated that the Defence Minister's presence on the ground, amidst jawans and officers, is a reflection of the government's unwavering commitment to stand with its forces in every situation—especially after the recent escalation along the Indo-Pak border. He also lauded the exemplary courage and determination of the Indian Armed Forces for giving a befitting reply to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, which was conducted deep inside Pakistani territory.

"Operation Sindoor was a shining example of

India's resolute response to cross-border aggression, and our soldiers displayed unmatched valour and professionalism. The Defence Minister's visit is not just symbolic—it's a message of gratitude and strength," he said.

He further added that the visit has significantly boosted the morale of the troops deployed in forward areas, who have been working tirelessly to defend the nation's sovereignty in extremely challenging conditions.

Nitish Mahajan also lauded the Defence Minister's remarks recognizing the bravery and sacrifices of the armed forces, and reaffirmed the BJP's commitment to the security and dignity of India's defenders.

"This government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has always placed national security and the welfare of our soldiers above everything else," he added.

AAP- J&K accuses BJP of double standards, insulting a women soldier, simultaneously holding a Tiranga Rally

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

The AAP J&K has accused BJP of double standards, insulting a woman Soldier, crossing all limits to spoil communal harmony & an attempt to destroy the positive atmosphere of enthusiasm and pride prevailing across the country over the success of "Operation Sindoor" carried out by the Indian Army against Pakistan and at the same time holding a Tiranga Rally, a tribute to the bravery of Indian Armed forces. The AAP leaders said that on one hand the country's Defense Minister is openly praising the Army by visiting Kashmir, while on the other hand BJP's Madhya Pradesh Minister Vijay Shah is openly insulting a brave woman officer, Colonel Sofia Qureshi by his derogatory & objectionable remarks. He has hurt the honor of woman power, the armed forces & our unity. His comments reflect a petty and disgusting mindset. How can a person holding a position of responsibility make such immoral and hateful remarks?

The AAP-J&K has strongly criticized the BJP high command's silence on Vijay Shah's comment; Prime Minister Narendra Modi & Defense Minister, Sh Raj Nath Singh must seek his resignation immediately & take strict action against the Minister if the BJP really respect Armed forces, before any court order so that the malicious intentions of the enemy fail and the country's communal harmony and unity are not disturbed.

Congress welcomes dozens of prominent political figures

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR MAY 16

Srinagar District Congress Committee on Friday welcomed dozens of prominent political and social activists from different areas into Partyfold terming the development as significant and a reflection of full faith and trust under the pro people policies and programmes of the Congress. Srinagar District Congress Committee President Irfan Naqib and JKPC Media Coordinator Dr. Audil Farooq Mir (Lasjan) welcomed the new entrants into partyfold and hoped that they will do their utmost to

further strengthen Congress in their respective areas and serve the public to the best of their ability. Those who joined the Party included M.Arif Sheikh, Fayaz Ahmad Wani, Mohd Ramzan, Gh.Qadir Zargar, Pervez Ahmad Parray, Nazir Ahmad Dar, G.M.Sheikh, Shabir Ahmad Sheikh, Jan Mohd Najar, Altaf Hussain Mir, Mushtaq Ahmad Najar, Tariq Ahmad Sofi, Mudasar Ahmad Mir, Gh.Nabi Ganai and others.

Speaking on the occasion, Irfan Naqib while congratulating the new entrants for joining the Party urged them to vigorously work for the betterment of the public given

the fact, they (public) have great expectations from the Congress for the fact, Congress has always respected public urges and aspirations. Naqib said Congress Party is emerging stronger in J&K under the leadership of JKPC President Tariq Hameed Karra, terming him (Karra) a strong leader with a vast knowledge on socio political scenario of the country who knows how to deal with challenges be it political or any other challenge confronting Party. On this occasion Naqib said there are some undesired and unwanted elements roaming unnecessary in various districts especially in North Kashmir since

Thursday aiming to create confusion under the garb of visiting shelling affected areas for their cheap publicity, besides attempting to be in the limelight. I want to tell them that Congress Party is a sea where such misadventures don't matter and advised them to focus on their political career, which is going to be diminished soon given their activities and actions, which are absolutely against the principles of Congress, Naqib added and laid strong emphasis on initiating strict disciplinary action against all those who are out to damage Congress to serve their vested interests, he asserted.



Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER REV. KISHTWAR (Election Authority for Cooperative Elections-2025)

Subject:-Holding of Elections to the Managing Committees of the Cooperative Societies of District Kishtwar-Appointment of Nodal Officer.

Notification

In pursuance to the Notification issued by the Registrar Cooperative Societies, J&K vide No. 23-RCS/SS of 2025, dated: 23-04-2025 for the conduct of Elections to the Managing Committees of the Cooperative Societies of District Kishtwar is notified as under information of all the concerned:

S.No.	Activity	Date
01	Preparation of Multipurpose Cooperative Society (MPCS) Roll-2025	19-05-2025
02	Filing of claims and Objections	20-05-2025 to 29-05-2025
03	Disposal of claims and Objection	30-05-2025 to 01-06-2025
04	Publication of Final Roll	02-06-2025

No:- EA/C/S/K/2025-26/53-62
D.Aid:- 15-05-2025

DIP/J-1186/25
Date: 16-5-25

M. Idrees Lone, (JKAS)
Assistant Commissioner Rev.
(Election Authority)
Kishtwar

District Kathua kicks off pending Inter Zone District Level Tournament



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 16

After the reopening of the schools in district Kathua, the department of youth Services and Sports Kathua kick started its journey again by conducting the pending tournament of inter zone district level tournament in six (6) zones of upper area of the district Kathua. Today competitions for U14 years boys organized at Naaz Ground Bil-

lawar where the budding athletes of upper zones showcased their talents in different sporting events. Today about 293 boys participated in the event. All these events are being conducted under the overall supervision of district youth Services and Sports officer Kathua Sh Sunil Singh Sambyal. Results
Badminton
Zone Bhaddu vs Zone Billawer
Zone Billawer won the

match by 2.0 set
Kabaddi
Zone Mahanpur vs Zone Bani
Zone Maanpur won the match by 2 points
Kho Kho
Zone Basohli vs Zone Bani
Zone Basohli won the match by 7 points
Volleyball
Zone Billawer vs Zone Bani
Zone Bani won the match by 2.0 set

IGNOU launches the much awaited BA (Hons.) in Home Science

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has introduced the much awaited BA (Hons.) in Home Science (BAFHSC), under its Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) from the upcoming July 2025 admission cycle. This program aims to provide students with a more in-depth understanding of the Home Science discipline. The BA Home Science program is designed to meet the demands of quality education and equip students with employable skills in the field.

The programme will be offered to the candidates who have qualified 10+2 in any discipline from a recognized board. The programme is being offered in ODL mode only. However, the study material will be available in both print as well as digital mode. IGNOU's FYUP offers a heap of possibilities for the learners. The programmes

launched earlier include Bachelor of Commerce (BCOMF), Bachelor of Arts (Economics), Bachelor of Arts (History), Bachelor of Arts (Political Science), Bachelor of Arts (Psychology), Bachelor of Arts (Public Administration), Bachelor of Arts (Sociology), Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology), Bachelor of Science (Biochemistry), Bachelor of Arts (English), Bachelor of Arts (Hindi), Bachelor of Arts (Sanskrit), Bachelor of Arts (Urdu), Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Arts (Facilities and Service Management), Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy), and Bachelor of Arts (Journalism and Digital Media) and more.

According to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, a four-year undergraduate degree will feature multiple entry and exit options. Upon completing one year, students will obtain a certificate, a diploma after two years, a bachelor's degree after three years, and an honours bachelor's degree

after four years.

The BAFHSC programme will take up discipline specific core topics like Fundamentals of Human Development, Fundamentals of Food and Nutrition, Resource management, Extension Education, Early Childhood Care and Education, Family Meal Management, etc. Admissions are open twice a year, in the July and January admission cycles, through the official SAMARTH portal of IGNOU <https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in> in the link of which is available on the National website of IGNOU www.ignou.ac.in.

In a press statement, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu, Dr. Sandeep Gupta stated that main objectives of the programme are to enhance knowledge, skill and competencies in the field of Home Science and that the aspiring students must enroll themselves when the admission link is thrown open for July 2025 admission cycle.

Karra, other Congress leaders visit border villages of Samba district



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

A comprehensive tour of border villages of district Samba was being carried out by PCC President Tariq Ahamed Kara and other senior leaders had been carried out today. Local dwellers of villages Nanga, Mangu Chak, Chasliana and Benglad explained their grievances which they have been facing particularly after heavy shelling by Pakistan last week. PCC President also visited the shattered bunkers on ground zero where locals explained about their experiences. After having a detailed discussion with effected, he raised his serious concern not about the worst condition of bunkers but also another promise of the government about recruitment rallies, five marlas plots at safer locations. He sincerely appreciated the courage and zeal of locals who were being forced to migrate or to spend relentless nights in damaged bunkers. He also demanded the open recruitment rallies for the border youth as committed by Rajnath Singh years ago but also the compensation for the deceased and livestock. Nowadays, people are ruminating about the difference between Modi's regime and the then Congress governments, he added. Working President Raman Bhalla also interacted with locals and assured the best support of party workers and volunteers of the party. He lambasted the central govt for not fulfilling the promises like five marlas plots and employment. District President Sanjeev Sharma alleged that most of the bunkers in the border area are too damaged to use. In one hand there is no power in the rare bunkers of the area which could be hardly used during shelling and in another hand the government is charging pretty high for the power of domestic use. AICC Secretary Neeraj Kundan and former Minister Yashpal Kundal also interacted with the people. Babal Gupta, Tirth Ram, Vinod Kumar, Subash Singh, Jagdeep Singh and others also participated in the tour.

Fayaz Ahmed Magray meets Chief Horticulture Officer Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 16

In a significant development aimed at strengthening community outreach in the horticulture sector, prominent social activist Fayaz Ahmed Magray met with the Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO) Doda to discuss various schemes and initiatives being run by the department.

During the meeting, Magray emphasized the need for public awareness about horticulture-related schemes that can benefit local farmers and growers. He assured that an awareness camp will be organized soon in Panchayat Ugad, where people will



and empowering farmers in the region. He praised the officer's dedication and expressed confidence that the collaboration will lead to greater awareness and enhanced livelihood opportunities for the rural population.

be informed about modern horticultural practices, government subsidies, and support programs.

Magray also commended the CHO for the department's commendable work in promoting horticulture

This joint initiative reflects a strong commitment to uplifting the horticulture sector and ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach every corner of the district.

Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn elected President of Cycling Association of J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU MAY 16

Annual General Body Meeting of Cycling Association of Jammu and Kashmir held today at Press Club, Jammu with the agenda to elect the new office bearers of the Association. The election was very smoothly conducted by Mrs. Anshuja Tak, Advocate who was appointed as Returning Officer by J&K Sports Council. Out of the Electoral College comprising of executive committee member, district unit and sports persons. 19 members were physically present and twelve members virtually participated in the election process. However the team of new office bearers was unanimously elected by

the electorate. Mrs Anshuja Tak announced the newly elected team as Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn (President), S. Balvinder Singh (Vice President), Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat (Vice President Kashmir), Om Parkash Sharma (General Secretary), S. Tajinder Singh (Treasurer), Rajesh Sharma (Joint Secretary, Jammu), Mohd Akbar Khan (Joint Secretary Kashmir). While congratulating the new elected Body of the Association, Mrs. Anshuja Tak, Advocate Returning Officer hoped that this new elected team will work for the physical and mental growth of the youth as well as for the betterment of the region and country. Earlier, S. Ravinder Singh Former President of the Association, while

delivering the welcome address introduced about the new team and wished that the election procedure will be processed as per the democratic period. Ravinder Singh thanks the LG administration, State Government, J&K Sports Council and Cycling Federation of India for their whole hearted support in the promotion of cycling sport in Jammu and Kashmir Union territory. Dr (Prof) Ashutosh Sharma former Sr. Vice President presented vote of thanks. Among others present in the election include S. Satvinder Singh Vicky from Cycling Federation of India as observer of CFI, S. Sarwant Singh Gill outgoing General Secretary, Ravi Salgotra, outgoing Treasurer.

BJP leadership conduct extensive tour of Samba and Kathua, assure strong long-term safety measures

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA/KATHUA, 16 MAY 2025:

A delegation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led by Sat Sharma (CA), President of J&K BJP, visited several villages along the international border in Samba and Kathua districts to review the ground situation after the Pakistani shelling. The visit was aimed at interacting with the local residents, understanding their issues, and ensuring strong long-term safety measures.

Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly, Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha), Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary and MLA, Sham Lal Sharma, Vice President, J&K BJP and MLA, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary and MLA, Chandan Prakash Ganga, MLA, RS Pathania, MLA, Keshav Dutt, Chairman DDC, Subash Bhagat DDC, Sarabjeet Singh Johal, Narayan Singh, Prabhari, Munish Khajuria, Jai Sharma, Rash-paul Verma, Anita Choudhary, Darshan Singh, Kulhushan Singh, Narinder Singh, Asha Rani, Nancy Singh and others accompanied the BJP President.

The BJP leaders visited several villages including Ramgarh, Abtal, Kungwala, Pangdour, and Rajpura in Samba district, as well



as Londi Morh, Londhi, Babia, and Chack Changa in Kathua district. During the tour, the delegation interacted with residents who shared their issues and apprehensions. The leaders also held a series of meetings with local BJP workers and prominent citizens.

Addressing the party workers and residents, Sat Sharma strongly lauded the strong resolve of residents who stood strong against Pakistan's continued ceasefire violations. He assured the people that BJP is committed to securing lasting peace in border areas and will take up the matter with the central government for a comprehensive and permanent solution. "Pakistan will not dare to repeat such actions for the next 90 years after the bold 90-hour operation by Indian forces. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it clear that no sacrifice will go in vain, and Operation Sindoor is a

testament to our national resolve," he stated.

Responding to the local residents' request to strengthen the Village Defense Groups (VDGs) and provide bunkers, Sat Sharma assured them that the party fully supports their genuine demands. He informed that the matter of constructing both individual and community bunkers has been taken up with the Union Home Ministry, which has assured that work will commence at the earliest to ensure safe shelters for residents during cross-border firing.

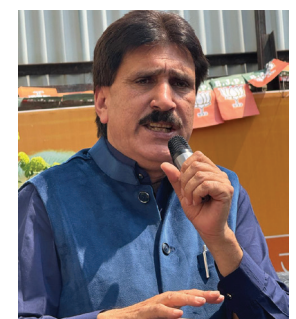
Sunil Sharma praised the unwavering support of the people for the Indian Forces. He emphasized that despite Pakistan's continued misadventures, the region has witnessed minimal disturbance, thanks to the vigilance and firm resolve of both the Indian Forces and the local residents.

Tiranga Rally roars across continents: Altaf Thakur Hails Global Patriotic Wave as Triumph of Operation Sindoor

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, 16 MAY 2025:

In a spirited tribute to India's rising global influence and unshakable national pride, senior BJP leader Altaf Thakur today hailed the Tiranga rallies held across the world under Operation Sindoor as a "historic and emotional moment for every Indian." From the streets of London to Times Square in New York, and from the shores of Sydney to the skyline of Dubai, the Indian Tricolour flew high, symbolizing unity, strength, and peace.

Notably, the patriotic wave was equally strong within Jammu and Kashmir. Rallies were held across the Valley, with a massive show of unity witnessed at Srinagar's iconic Lal Chowk Clock Tower. Altaf Thakur, accompanied by senior BJP leaders and hundreds of enthusiastic youth, led a spirited Tiranga March through the heart of the city, culminating at the historic tower. Tricolours fluttered high, slogans of unity echoed, and the atmosphere pulsed with



patriotic energy.

"The Tiranga didn't just fly—it roared across continents and in the heart of Kashmir," said Thakur. "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Operation Sindoor has evolved into a global wave of patriotism. The Indian diaspora—and now even the remotest corners of Kashmir—have proven that the spirit of Bharat lives strong."

Thakur underscored that the global and local response was not merely ceremonial—it was strategic. "This is a clear message to the world that India's spirit is resilient and unyielding. We stand united—across oceans, across ideologies, and beyond any propaganda." Responding to recent disinformation pushed

by Pakistan regarding damage to the Adampur Air Base, Thakur commended Prime Minister Modi's unannounced visit to the base in Punjab. He called it "a masterstroke that exposed falsehoods with facts."

"While Pakistan attempted to spread lies, Prime Minister Modi stood with our jawans, reviewed operational readiness, and proved that India does not bow to deceit. His presence alone crushed the false narrative," Thakur said.

The BJP leader also used the occasion to address the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. "Let this Tiranga movement inspire you. Let us reject division and embrace our identity as proud citizens of a strong and sovereign India," he urged.

As Operation Sindoor continues to gather momentum, Thakur's statement stands out as a call for unity, vigilance, and national resolve. "The world is not just seeing a rising India—it is witnessing a dignified, determined, and democratic India," he concluded.

Pawan Sharma urges IMF and Global Institutions to Reassess Financial Aid to Pakistan

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 16 MAY 2025:

Senior BJP leader and former State Secretary BJP J&K, Pawan Sharma, has strongly condemned the Government of Pakistan for announcing compensation to the families



of terrorists eliminated during India's counter-terror operations. He termed the move "a clear act of state-sponsored terrorism" and accused Pakistan's leadership, especially Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif, of openly encouraging extremist violence and threatening peace in the region.

Pawan Sharma further stated that Pakistan's decision to provide financial compensation to terrorists and their families is highly reprehensible. This move can be perceived as promoting terrorism and undermining global efforts to combat it. Many countries, including India, have long advocated for a more decisive approach to tackling terrorism. Providing financial support to terrorists can be viewed as a form of state sponsorship, which can have serious implications for regional and global security.

"Pakistan has once again exposed itself as a sanctuary for terror. By providing funds to the families of militants, it is not only glorifying violence but also making a mockery of international peace efforts," said Sharma.

He called upon the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other global financial institutions to re-evaluate ongoing and future bailout packages to Pakistan.

"The international community cannot allow its funds—meant for economic stabilization and humanitarian relief—to be diverted towards supporting terrorism. It is imperative that institutions like the IMF closely monitor the use of funds, and suspend all financial aid until Pakistan is held accountable for financing extremist activities," he said.

Sharma warned that such financial misuse undermines global counter-terrorism objectives and endangers regional peace, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir. He urged the Government of India to raise the issue at multilateral platforms and expose Pakistan's duplicity.

He concluded by reaffirming the BJP's full support to India's armed forces and its unyielding stance against terrorism, emphasizing that the nation will stand firm against any act that threatens its sovereignty and integrity.

DIPR artists promote awareness on dengue prevention through Nukkad Natak

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

To mark National Dengue Day, a Nukkad Natak (street play) was organized today at Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, by the artists of the Cultural Unit Jammu, Department of Information and Public Relations, in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu. The event was aimed at creating mass awareness causes of Dengue, preventive measures, and effective control strategies.

The impactful street play captured the attention of the gathered audience with its engaging performances and clear messaging on the importance of maintaining cleanliness, avoiding stagnant water and taking personal precautions to prevent the



spread of the dengue virus. Through humour, drama and educational storytelling, the artists successfully conveyed critical public health messages.

On the occasion, State Malariologist J&K, Dr. D. J. Raina emphasized the need for community participation in the fight against

dengue. He elaborated on the symptoms of the disease, the significance of early diagnosis, and the role of timely medical intervention. Dr. Raina also highlighted the continuous efforts of the Health Department in controlling vector-borne diseases and urged the public to stay

vigilant and informed.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the army personnel, locals, health officials and officials from the Information Department, making it a successful initiative towards health awareness and community mobilization.

Relief material provided to flood-affected families at Dharamkund camp

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 16

The District Administration Ramban, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, today provided relief material among the flood affected families here at Dharamkund camp.

Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Niamatullah Sheikh, today visited the relief camp established in Dharamkund to monitor relief efforts and oversee the distribution of essential supplies.

During the visit, ration kits and other necessary items were distributed among the flood-affected families to ensure their immediate food and survival needs were met. The AD FCS&CA also interacted with the victims, listened



to their grievances, and assured them of continued support from the district administration. Several issues raised by the affected families were redressed on the spot, showcasing

the administration's commitment to responsive governance.

Block Development Officer (BDO) Sangaldan, Anamol, along with other field staff and officials

from the concerned departments were also present.

The DC Ramban has issued directions to all concerned departments to stay vigilant and provide all possible assistance to the flood-hit population. He emphasized the importance of timely interventions and coordinated efforts to mitigate the impact of natural calamities.

The District Administration reiterated its commitment to standing by the people in times of crisis and ensuring that relief and rehabilitation measures reach every affected individual in a timely and efficient manner.

Justice Prevails: DCDRC B'la hands-over Rs 4.5 lac to earthquake-affected consumer in long-pending insurance case

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAY 16

In a significant development showcasing the commitment to consumer rights, the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDRC) Baramulla today handed over a cheque worth Rs 4,50,000 to the complainants as part of the compensation awarded in a long-drawn case titled Mohammad Maqbool Bhat and another v/s National Insurance Company.

The case, which dates back to the 2005 earthquake that devastated North Kashmir, was initially decided by the DCDRC Baramulla. The insurance company had challenged the Commission's verdict before the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Srinagar/Jammu. However, the State Com-



mission upheld the judgment passed by the DCDRC Baramulla, reinforcing the Commission's stand on fair compensation for the affected consumers.

Today, the DCDRC Baramulla, under the chairmanship of President DCDRC, Peerzada Qousar Hussain and Member Nayla Yaseen handed over the cheque for Rs 4.5 lac to the decree holders (complainants), representing a part of the total compensation

amount of over Rs 10 lac, which the insurance company has been directed to pay.

The event underscores the Commission's commitment to enforcing consumer rights and ensuring that justice, even if delayed, is ultimately delivered. The Commission reiterated that such verdicts reinforce public trust in consumer forums and act as a deterrent against unfair trade practices.

Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions reflects rising passion for sports among Doda Youth

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 16

In a vibrant celebration of sportsmanship and youth engagement, the Department of Youth Services & Sports Doda has successfully conducted a series of Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions across all zones of the district. The events witnessed enthusiastic participation, reflecting the growing passion for sports among young athletes.

These competitions were held under the guidance of District Development Commissioner Harvinder Singh, and District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Pritem Singh, who continues to inspire and empower youth through sporting initiatives.

Zone Thatthri took the lead by hosting competi-



tions in Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Chess, Carrom, Cricket, and Volleyball for U/14 and U/17 Boys and Girls. The event saw the spirited participation of 310 student-athletes, who showcased their talents and team spirit in high-energy matches that captivated spectators and officials alike.

Meanwhile, Zone Gundna organized thrilling competitions in Badminton, Volleyball, Kabaddi,

Kho-Kho, and Wrestling for U/14 and U/17 Boys at HSS Kandote. A total of 240 participants from various schools of the zone exhibited commendable sportsmanship, leaving a mark with their competitive spirit.

In Zone Doda, a series of events in Athletics, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Badminton, and Yoga for both U/14 and U/17 Boys and Girls were successfully concluded.

With a total of 165 participants, the competitions added vigor and grace to the zone's sporting atmosphere. Notably, the events highlighted the increasing involvement of girls in competitive sports, reflecting the department's commitment to inclusivity.

Zone Assar mirrored the enthusiasm of Zone Doda by organizing similar competitions for U/14 Boys, witnessing impressive coordination and competitive zeal. Additionally, Zones Bhadarwah and Bhalla are actively conducting Volleyball, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and Badminton events for U/14 and U/17 Girls in Bhadarwah, while Zone Bhalla hosts Cricket and Athletics, further enriching the district's vibrant sports culture.

Raabita reflects continued commitment of government to public welfare, responsive governance: Sakeena Itoo



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 16

In line with the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah's Public Outreach Programme Raabita, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo met scores of public delegations and individuals at Civil Secretariat here today.

During the interactions, the Minister patiently listened to a wide range of public grievances, developmental issues and other concerns raised by the visiting delegations.

These delegations, hailing from various districts

and constituencies, raised matters pertaining to road connectivity, healthcare facilities, water supply and social welfare schemes before the Minister and sought timely redressal of the same.

Interacting with the public delegations, Sakeena highlighted the continued commitment of our government to public welfare and responsive governance. "These Public Outreach engagements are essential for bridging gap between the government and the people", the Minister stated. She added that such engagements provide a unique platform to public

to raise their genuine issues and concerns with the government.

The Minister further reaffirmed the dedication of Government towards public welfare, adding that the public voices are being heard and acted upon during the present government.

Sakeena further assured the visiting delegations that their genuine concerns would be promptly taken up for immediate redressal.

Meanwhile, MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi also met the Minister and apprised her of various public issues pertaining to Pampore constituency.

SDM Assar inspects academic activities at GHS Bagger

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 16

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Assar Ashok Katoch today visited the Government High School (HS) Bagger to take stock of academic activities in the institution. During the visit, the SDM interacted with the school staff and students, gaining insights into the academic environment and addressing various issues faced by the institution.

The primary objective of the visit was to assess the functioning of the school, including its infrastructural and academic needs.

The SDM encouraged the students to strive for excellence in their studies and actively engage in extracurricular activities. He also lauded the dedication of the teaching staff and urged them to continue their efforts to improve the educational standards in the area.

DC Rajouri visits shelling affected areas, assures timely relief for victims, orders doorstep damage Assessment

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MAY 16

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today visited shelling affected areas and later chaired a crucial meeting to review the progress of the ongoing assessment of damages caused to residential houses.

To ensure comprehensive coverage, the Deputy Commissioner directed the involvement of officials from multiple departments, including the Revenue Department and the Rural Development Department (RDD), for effective identification and reporting of damage cases from every nook and corner of the district.

Emphasizing a people-centric approach, the Deputy Commissioner said that no genuine case should be left out and directed the deputed teams to carry out the assessment as per laid down norms in a time-bound manner. He further stated that field teams shall visit the doorsteps of affected households to assess the extent of damage and ensure timely



relief.

"The aim is to ensure that all affected families receive due support without any delays. Officials must act with sincerity, empathy, and urgency," the Deputy Commissioner added.

Earlier in the day, the Deputy Commissioner visited Panjgrain and other affected areas to take first-hand stock of the situation. He interacted with the

local population, listened to their grievances, and assured them that timely relief would be provided to all eligible victims.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Chander Prakash; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohammad Jahangir Khan, and other concerned district and sectoral officers.

Power shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Bishnah, Chak Hasla, Rehal Pandorian, Kheri, Nandpur, Ramgarh, Kamore, Rangoor, Abtal, Nanga, Shahpur and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 18 from 6 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Jakh, Jogpur, Sarore, Patli Industry and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 18 from 6 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Billawar, Mandi, Dewal, Pranalla, Tandi, Macheedi, Bhaddu, Kudethar and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 17, 19, 21 and 23 from 7 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Banihal, Ramsoo, Ukhral, Khari, Gund, Nowgam, Sherbibi, Pogal Paristan, Assar, Baggar, Marsoo, Thandapani, Siraj, Patnitop, Nathatop, Doordarshan, Gandola and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 18 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Bhalla, Bhaderwah, Dalian and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 18 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Dogra Hall, Rehari, Resham Ghar Colony, Bus Stand, Jewel, Hari Market, Raghunath Bazar, Jakeeth Mohalla, Kanak Mandi, Manda, New Plot, Sarwal, Part of Karan Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 18 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Keerain Industry, Gandyal, Ramnagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 17 and 20 from 7 am to 1 pm.