

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 muscle pain
- Diarrhoea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Severe pain joints or muscles, back or chest
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Gol extends one-year service for IB Director

J I NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 20 (KNO)

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved a one-year extension in service for IPS officer Tapan Kumar Deka, as Director of the Intelligence Bureau.

According to the news agency, the extension will be effective beyond June 30, 2025, or until further orders, whichever comes first.

This extension is granted in relaxation of the provisions of FR 56 (d) and Rule 16 (IA) of

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'One World for Health' reflects India's vision: PM Modi

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday addressed the 78th session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva via video conferencing and said that this year's theme, 'One World for Health,' reflects India's vision for global health.

The future of a healthy world depends on inclusion, an integrated vision, and collaboration," the Prime Minister said, an official statement said.



Recalling his address at the 2023 World Health Assembly, where he had spoken about 'One Earth, One Health', Modi said, "The future of a healthy

world depends on inclusion, an integrated vision, and collaboration".

Emphasizing that inclusion is at the core of India's health reforms, Modi high-

lighted Ayushman Bharat, the world's largest health insurance scheme, which covers 580 million people and provides free treatment. The programme was recently expanded to cover all Indians above the age of 70 years.

He noted India's extensive network of thousands of health and wellness centres that facilitate early screening and detection of diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and hypertension. PM Modi also underlined the role of

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India won't tolerate terror that hides under nuclear blackmail: Foreign Secretary

J I NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 20 (KNO)

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Tuesday asked the members of the All-Party Delegation to tell the world that India won't tolerate terror that hides under nuclear blackmail.

According to the details available with the news agency the Foreign Secretary while briefing the three of the seven All-Party Delegation members, who are going to repre-



sent India's stand on the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead and "Operation Sindoor"

said, "No distinction will be made between the terrorists, their leaders and the government that sponsors them."

He told the delegation members that India's zero tolerance against the terrorism needs to be conveyed to the world.

During the meeting, officials said, the Foreign Secretary discussed all the important issues with the members of the delegation.

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Will ensure smooth, safe conduct of Amarnath Yatra, Mela Kheer Bhawani: CM

J I NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, MAY 20 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that the government is putting adequate measures to ensure safe and smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra and Mela Kheer Bhawani.

Speaking with reporters in Ganderbal, CM Omar, as per news agency, said that the administration is making adequate arrangements while security related measures are also being made to ensure smooth



conduct of Mela Kheer Bhawani and Amarnath Yatra.

He said that tourism has been hit badly, but currently the situation is not

such to revive the sector again. "Once the Amarnath Yatra concludes, the government will sit with stakeholders and take measures to revive tourism again," he said.

He added that tour operators from outside also want tourism to flourish here again. "Some groups have started arriving again. The revival measures will be taken once the yatra concludes," he said.

The Chief Minister visited his constituency

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Achieve goal of terror-free J&K: LG to security, intelligence agencies

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 20 (KNO)



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday called on the security and intelligence agencies to achieve the goal of 'Terror-Free J&K'.

Chairing the Unified

Headquarters (UHQ) meeting here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency discussed the key strategies and broader counter-terrorism approaches for security and intelligence agencies to achieve the goal of 'Terror-Free J&K'.

He congratulated armed forces, security agencies and J&K Police for 'Operation Sindoor' and successfully neutralising the terrorists in the past few days.

LG Sinha directed all the security agencies

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President grants powers to LG Ladakh under Factories Act, 1948

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 20 (KNO)

In a significant move, the President of India has empowered the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh to exercise the powers of the State Government under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 within the said Union Territory.

In a notification, a copy of which is in possession of news agency, the President has delegated powers to LG

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Govt orders transfer, posting of two IPS officers

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 20 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered the transfer and posting order for two IPS officers with immediate effect, aiming to streamline administrative operations.

According to government order, S.J.M Gillani, IPS (1994), currently serving as the Managing Director of J&K Police Housing Corporation and holding additional charge as the Commandant General of

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Modi-led Govt committed to safety, security of border communities: LoP Sharma

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 20 (KNO)

The Leader of Opposition and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Sunil Sharma on Tuesday visited the border areas for the fourth straight day to assess the damage caused by Pakistani shelling.

As per the news agency, Sharma was accompanied by several Party leaders and legislators including Sham Lal Sharma, Dr Narinder Singh and others.

They visited Geeta



Bhawan and Gurudwara Sahib in Poonch town to assess the damage caused by Pakistani shelling.

The leaders interacted with local residents, took

stock of the situation, and assured coordinated relief and rehabilitation efforts in collaboration with local authorities.

Pertinently, Sharma held a meeting with Poonch residents late Monday night.

After listening to their concerns, Sharma assured them of prompt support and essential supplies.

"The Narendra Modi government remains committed to ensuring the safety, security, and development of border communities, focusing on

infrastructure enhancement and sustained relief efforts," he said.

Meanwhile, as per a statement issued here, a senior delegation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) visited the shelling-affected areas of Poonch district to assess the ground situation and coordinate relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected population.

The delegation comprised Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, BJP

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With Indus treaty in abeyance, Tulbul project set to be revived for Kashmir benefit

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 20

After deciding to keep the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan in "abeyance", the Indian government is moving to revive the long-stalled Tulbul Navigation Project in Kashmir, a step that will benefit the Valley in terms of better availability of water and power.

The Tulbul Navigation Project, also called Wullar Barrage, is located at the

mouth of the Wullar Lake near Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Wullar is India's largest freshwater lake and a critical component of the basin of river Jhelum, whose total rights of use have been granted to Pakistan under the IWT of 1960.

The project, originally conceived in the early 1980s to build a barrage that will regulate water flow and help in power generation downstream,

has been stalled because of Pakistan's objections since 2016 when almost 90 per cent work had been completed.

Since the IWT has been kept in "abeyance", the Central government is exploring the possibility of handing over the project to a state-owned hydro-power company, which could resume construction from where it was left off, officials said. The Centre has already

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Police attach properties of 3 PaK & PoK based terror handlers in Sopore

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 20

J&K Police on Tuesday attached properties of three Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) based terror handlers in Sopore sub-district of north Kashmir

Police said in a non-kinetic operation, Sopore Police today attached 29 marlas of land belonging to Arshid Ahmad Teli of Nowpora Tujjar; Firdous Ahmad Dar alias Umar Dar and Nazir Ahmad Dar alias Shabir Illahi- both

residents of Harwan.

"The property attachment is linked to FIR No. 28/2008, registered at Police Station Sopore, under Sections 2/3 of the EMICO Act, Sections 120-B and 121 of the IPC, and Sections 7/25/27 of the Arms Act," a police statement said.

The action was executed under Sections 82 and 83 of the CrPC by Sopore Police in coordination with Revenue authorities, following due approval from the competent court.

Earlier the trio, who are based in Pakistan and PoK, had been declared Proclaimed Offenders by the Court.

Police said the attachment is aimed at building pressure on the absconding accused to appear before the Court and face the law.

This move marks yet another step in Sopore Police's continued efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem, ensure accountability, and uphold national security, police said.

Jammu ACB books then revenue officials, others for allotment of state land

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAY 20

The Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu team have registered a case against former revenue officials for allotment of state land.

The ACB spokesman here on Tuesday said that the ACB Jammu have registered a formal case under relevant sections against Ravinder Sharma, the then Tehsildar (S) Jammu, Mohammad Bashir the then Tehsildar Bahu, Jammu, Mohd Sarwar Lone the then Naib Tehsildar Bahu, Jammu and Mohd Rasheed Malik the

then Patwari Chowadhi, Jammu, beneficiaries and others, for allotment of state land in favour of Tara Singh of Deli Rakh Bandu, District Jammu, under the provision of the Govt. order No. 254/C dated 19.07.2014 without fulfilling the conditions of the Cabinet Order.

During the course of enquiry conducted into the matter, he said that it has surfaced that allotment order was issued by the then PRO, Jammu in favour of Tara Singh as refugee allottee under Cabinet Order No. 578-C and ownership rights have

been conferred upon the allottee on 19-07-2014 under the provision of Govt. order No. 254/C in violation of the said cabinet order, wherein it is clearly mentioned the allottee shall have to cultivate the land personally, within a period of six months from the date of the allotment, failing which he will forfeit his right to hold the land and it shall be allotted to some other displaced person.

Further, as per the Register Khasha Girdawari the land in question remained continuously entered

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Indian armed forces operated like expert surgeons: Rajnath Singh

J I NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, MAY 20 (KNO)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said the Indian armed forces "operated like expert surgeons" during "Operation Sindoor," targeting terrorist camps with precise strikes, similar to how a surgeon removes infected part, ensuring minimal impact beyond the intended areas.

He said the strikes brought down the operational network of the Pakistani army that supports terrorist activities.

Singh, according to the news agency was speaking at the 25th anniversary



function of Dr KNS Memorial Hospital (Mayo Medical Center) in Lucknow.

Addressing the gathering, he said the Indian forces operated with the focus and precision of surgeons, selecting only the intended targets.

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DLSA Srinagar raises awareness on NALSA scheme 2010 at Women's College Zakura

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 20

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, in collaboration with Srinagar Women's College Batpora, Zakura, Srinagar organized an awareness programme on NALSA (Legal Services to Disaster through Legal Services Authorities) scheme 2010, within the college premises, here.

The event was part of a broader initiative to inform the public about the legal rights and remedies available to disaster-affected individuals under this national scheme.

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 and Prof. Syed Ifat Ara, Principal of Srinagar Women's College.



In her welcome address, Prof. Syed Ifat Ara highlighted the importance of integrating legal awareness with higher education. She applauded the collaborative initiative and emphasized that such awareness

programmes are vital to building informed and empowered communities, especially in disaster-prone regions. She noted that bridging legal knowledge with academic spaces strengthens the social fabric by ensuring students and citizens are aware of the support systems available to them.

Her interactive session clarified various aspects of the scheme, including eligibility criteria, access points for legal aid, and the role of Legal Services Authorities in disaster response.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A session, allowing students and faculty to engage with the resource persons.

Panel Lawyer of DLSA Srinagar, Advocate Suhaila Ali served as the resource person for the event. She elaborated on the objectives and key provisions of the NALSA Scheme 2010, explaining how it ensures legal aid to victims of natural and man-made disasters. She emphasized the need for timely legal support in crisis situations and encouraged participants to disseminate the information within their communities.

The event was judged by Prof. Sandeep Kumari and Dr. Shivali Panjgotra, who praised the participants for their originality, clarity of message and artistic skills. Faculty members including Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Dr. Snobar, Ashok Kumar, Dr. Neeraj Bargartha, Anjali Devi and Sayma were also present and supported the smooth conduct of the event.

The awareness programme was held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, to raise awareness about the illicit impacts of the drugs on the individuals, their families and the society.

The event saw active participation from officials representing the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Departments of Education, Health, Excise, Social Welfare and other concerned. School staff and students also took part in the programme.

GDC Ramgarh hosts Poster Making Competition on Mental Healthcare

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MAY 20

Government Degree College Ramgarh organized a Poster Making Competition on the theme "Mental Healthcare Act, 2017" today under the purview of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The event was held under the guidance of the Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol.

The competition was meticulously organized by Priya Sharma, who played a key role in coordinating the event and encouraging student participation.

The objective of the competition was to raise awareness about mental health rights and to sensitize students on the significance of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, which ensures the protection and dignity of individuals with mental illness.



Students from different semesters took part in the event with great enthusiasm, showcasing their understanding through creative and impactful posters. Ashu Verma secured the first prize, while Chetna Sanotra and Amandeep Kaur won the second and third prizes respectively.

The event was judged by Prof. Sandeep Kumari and Dr. Shivali Panjgotra, who praised the participants for their originality, clarity of message and artistic skills. Faculty members including Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Dr. Snobar, Ashok Kumar, Dr. Neeraj Bargartha, Anjali Devi and Sayma were also present and supported the smooth conduct of the event.

Drug Free J&K initiative: Distt Admin Srinagar organizes awareness programme at Noorbagh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 20

Continuing its intensified Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns under the drugs free Jammu & Kashmir initiative, District Administration Srinagar today organized awareness programme at Shaheen Public School Noorbagh.

The awareness programme was held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, to raise awareness about the illicit impacts of the drugs on the individuals, their families and the society.

The event saw active participation from officials representing the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Departments of Education, Health, Excise, Social Welfare and other concerned. School staff and students also took part in the programme.

Floriculture Department conducts cleanliness drive in Udhampur, Reasi districts

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 20

The Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens conducted a comprehensive cleanliness drive across all parks in Udhampur and Reasi districts.

A total of 10 parks were covered under this initiative. With the onset of summer, a significant number of visitors frequent these parks, especially during the evening hours. Recognizing the importance of maintaining a clean and welcoming environment, the Department is giving top priority to cleanliness and sanitation across all its parks and gardens.

This cleanliness drive is not a one-time effort but part of a continuous process aimed at enhancing the overall experience for



visitors. The Department is committed to ensuring that these green spaces remain clean, hygienic and enjoyable for all.

Additionally, the Department is actively discouraging the use of plastic and related items

within the parks. Awareness efforts are underway to promote eco-friendly practices among visitors, ensuring the preservation of the natural beauty and ecological balance of these public spaces.

Agriculture Department Kashmir celebrates 'World Bee Day'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 20

Agriculture Department Kashmir today celebrated 'World Bee Day' by organising events across all district quarters of the Kashmir division, with the main function held at Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir Lalmandi Srinagar.

The celebrations commenced with the address by the Director Agriculture Kashmir, Mohammad Alyas Khateeb. He appreciated the painstaking efforts put in by the Bee Keepers, apiarists, technical experts and other stakeholders who continuously strive for the development of this sector.

He said that the region offers huge scope for the development of beekeeping as a vibrant agriculture cottage industry



and means of additional income for the financial security of the farming community. He said that under HADP a special project for the development of apiculture is being implemented by the department.

Speaking during the technical session Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Kashmir, Anil Gupta said that the 'World Bee Day' aims to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators and their contribution to

sustainable development. Pertinently this year the 'World Bee Day' is observed under the theme 'Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all.'

The departmental stall was showcased during the event. On the occasion, Joint Director Agriculture Extension Kashmir, Deputy Director (central), Scientist from SKUAST-K, senior officers of the department and beekeeper from Kashmir division were also present.

Govt Polytechnic Jammu conducts admission awareness Campaign in Bhalwal schools



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

Government Polytechnic College Jammu conducted an admission awareness programme in the schools of Bhalwal Zone inviting eligible youth for 3-year Diploma in Engineering/Non-Engineering Programmes.

On the orders of the Principal Er. Talet Mahmood, a group of faculty consisting of Er. Raj Shekhar (HoD Automobile), Mehmood Ahmed, Manjeet Singh, Vicky Sharma and Rakesh Kumar visited Government Higher Secondary School Bhalwal and Government Higher Secondary School Gharota (Zone Bhalwal) and informed the students

regarding courses/Scholarships offered in Government Polytechnic College Jammu. The team further motivated the students for taking admission in the technical courses offered in Government Polytechnics to improve their skill and employability.

Speaking on the occasion, Er Vicky Sharma said, "Polytechnic education offers practical skills, hands-on training, and faster employability. "Our awareness campaign will help students and parents make informed decisions about technical careers. Interested students are encouraged to take admission in Government Polytechnic College Jammu," he invited the students.

Chief Justice visits District Court Complex Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 20

Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, alongwith Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Administrative Judge for District Srinagar, today paid visit to the District Courts Srinagar. The visit marked a significant step toward strengthening the judiciary at the grassroots level and reinforcing the commitment of the High Court to ensure accessible and efficient justice delivery.

On the arrival at the District Court Complex, Srinagar, Chief Justice was warmly received by the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and other judicial officers.

Chief Justice was accompanied by Mohinder Kumar Sharma, Registrar General (Officiating) and Rajiv Gupta, Registrar Vigilance, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, who joined Chief Justice in inspecting the facilities and administrative arrangements at the court complex.

Justice Palli inspected the court facilities and interacted with the members of the District Judiciary, appreciating their efforts in maintaining the rule of law and ensuring



the timely dispensation of justice.

During the visit, the Chief Justice reviewed the infrastructure and administrative functioning of the courts. He emphasized the importance of creating a litigant-friendly environment, the use of technology in judicial proceedings, and the need for expeditious disposal of cases.

Addressing the judicial officers, the Chief Justice underlined the pivotal role of the district judiciary as the first interface between the judiciary and the public. He reiterated the importance of integrity, sensitivity, and efficiency in upholding public faith in the judiciary.

As part of the visit,

Chief Justice also participated in a plantation drive held within the court complex, symbolizing a commitment to environmental sustainability and green judicial infrastructure.

A sapling each was planted by Chief Justice and Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Administrative Judge for District Srinagar, in the premises of the District Court Complex, with several judicial officers and staff present to mark the occasion.

The visit concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the Principal District & Sessions Judge, who expressed gratitude for the Chief Justice's guidance and encouragement.

SBI RSETI organises Vegetable Nursery Management Training at Behri Neghal- Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 20

To promote self-employment and sustainable agriculture in rural areas, SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Ramban inaugurated a 12-day training programme on "Vegetable Nursery Management & Cultivation" at Pan-chayat Behri Neghal, Block Ramban.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Director SBI RSETI S. Harvinder Singh, along with SMS Agriculture Department Jyoti Prakash, JK Bank Associate Mangeet Singh and Lambardar Sanjay Singh. The ceremony began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing the start of this farmer-centric initiative.

Addressing the trainees, Director RSETI highlighted the significance of skill-based agricultural training in enhancing rural livelihoods, especially for women. He also introduced various government-sponsored self-employment and social



security schemes such as PMSBY, PMJJBY, APY, and the MUDRA Loan Scheme.

Subject Matter Specialist Jyoti Prakash elaborated on modern practices in nursery management, emphasizing eco-friendly disease control methods and integrating scientific knowledge with traditional farming. JK Bank's representative discussed financial assistance and credit schemes available to farmers, urging them to utilize

banking services for agricultural growth.

The Lambardar and trainees expressed gratitude to SBI RSETI Ramban for organizing the localized training. The 12-day course will cover nursery bed preparation, seed treatment, irrigation, pest management, and post-harvest techniques—empowering participants with practical skills to enhance productivity and income.

Secretary, DLSA Bandipora holds introductory/ review meetings with Panel Lawyers, LADCs & PLVs

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MAY 20

Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora, held three separate meetings with Panel Lawyers, Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs), and Adhikar Mitras (PLVs) to discuss key initiatives and challenges in providing legal aid services to the marginalized sections of society.

Meetings aimed to enhance prompt delivery of legal services to vulnerable people, ensure competent representation, improve case management and legal representation standards, strategize qualitative legal services in criminal matters and review effectiveness of Adhikar Mitras (PLVs) in delivering legal services in the most effective and time bound manner.

During the meeting, Secretary DLSA Bandipora empha-

sized LADCs and Panel Lawyers to regularly interact with legal aid beneficiaries for feedback and improvement, provide them diligent and effective representation in court, professional management of the legal aid system in criminal trials, timely and free legal aid to needy individuals, awareness of government schemes and benefits, support to aggrieved women and vulnerable individuals.

He also stressed Adhikar Mitras (PLVs) to provide legal assistance at police stations and educating individuals about their rights, conduct door-to-door awareness campaigns in far-flung areas, identify and support vulnerable individuals, including children who dropped out of school due to financial constraints, senior citizens in distress or abandoned by their children, mentally ill persons requiring medical attention.

10-day Entrepreneurship Programme under Tejaswini Scheme concludes at JKEDI Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Centre Jammu, successfully concluded a 10-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) under the Tejaswini Scheme of J&K Mission Youth.

The programme was conducted under the overall supervision of Khalid Jahangir, Director, JKEDI and was specifically designed to promote entrepreneurship among aspiring female entrepreneurs from District Jammu.

A total of 17 candidates had registered for the training programme, out of which 16 successfully completed the course. The participants were provided with comprehensive training on key business aspects, including business plan formulation, marketing strategies, financial and accounts management, record keeping and customer relationship management.

The training was facilitated by Ms. Monika Salara and Ms. Humera Nazir, while the Guest Lectures were delivered by officials from J&K Bank, District



Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC) Jammu, and the Labour Department, among others.

The programme was tailored for enterprise creation in the retail and service sectors, with a focus on ventures such as boutiques, dental clinics, cosmetics outlets, ready-made garments, electrical goods, and restaurants, across various areas of District Jammu.

A notable feature of the programme was an interactive session with a successful entrepreneur, which offered participants practical guidance, shared experiences, and inspiration to pursue their entrepreneurial aspirations with greater confidence.

On the concluding day of the programme, Dr. Vinod Sharma, Incharge Trainings, JKEDI, and Dr. Amit Sharma, Incharge Centre for Business Devel-

opment (CBD), JKEDI, interacted with the participants, offering valuable insights, practical suggestions, and encouragement to the aspiring entrepreneurs.

At the valedictory ceremony, Rajesh Kotwal, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Jammu, highlighted the critical role of entrepreneurship in fostering economic development and self-reliance. He commended the participants for their initiative and commitment. Mukhlis Ali, Assistant Director, DECC Jammu, also addressed the gathering and presented certificates of completion to the successful trainees.

The programme concluded on a positive note, with participants expressing enthusiasm to establish their own ventures and contribute meaningfully to the economic growth of the Union Territory.

SDM reviews implementation of "PARIKSHA 2.0" Initiative in Gool

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, MAY 20

Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Intiaz today convened a meeting with Principals and Headmasters of the government educational institutions from across Sub Division Gool to take a comprehensive review of academic initiative "PARIKSHA 2.0".

The meeting assessed the current academic performance of schools, identify existing challenges and devise effective strategies to improve educational outcomes in the region.

The SDM conducted a detailed analysis of academic trends and initiatives undertaken to enhance Class 10th and



12th board examination results in the upcoming session. He instructed the school heads to identify critical areas requiring immediate attention and to formulate a concrete, actionable road-map focused on academic excellence.

Emphasizing the importance of collaboration and accountability, the SDM urged all educational heads to prioritize

student-centric learning, ensure timely syllabus completion, and implement regular assessment practices to track progress.

The SDM reiterated the administration's commitment to fostering a robust educational ecosystem in Sub-Division Gool, aimed at raising academic standards and expanding future opportunities for students.

JMC intensifies efforts to make Jammu City Garbage-Free



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) is making continuous and determined efforts to transform Jammu into a completely garbage-free city in a sustainable manner. As part of this mission, the Corporation regularly organises awareness programs and activities to educate and engage citizens on waste management.

To further streamline waste management, the JMC has established a Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) Center at Bandhu Rakh.

The center caters to municipal wards in Zone III, in an effort to convert waste to wealth; wet waste collected from households, and fruit markets is brought

in for processing. At the MRF Center, efforts are being made to convert this organic waste into compost—supporting both environmental sustainability and effective waste disposal.

Under the guidance of Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, the Joint Commissioner (Health and Sanitation) and the Health Officer have been directed to intensify city-wide cleanliness efforts. Citizens are being urged to actively participate and take responsibility for keeping Jammu clean by following proper waste segregation and disposal practices.

JMC appeals to all residents to support this initiative and contribute towards making Jammu a model city for cleanliness and sustainability.

DC Budgam inspects progress on construction of New Tehsil Office, B.K. Pora

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MAY 20

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today visited the construction site of the Tehsil Office at B.K. Pora to review the progress of work.

The upcoming two-storey building is being constructed as a permanent, state of the art Tehsil Complex for residents of BK Pora.

At present, 55 percent of the work has been completed and the project is expected to be completed by the end of August 2025.

The building comprises a Public Facilitation Centre, waiting room for the public, office of the Tehsildar, Naib Tehsildar and revenue staff of the Tehsil besides meeting room, establishment rooms, revenue record room, etc.

During the visit, DC reviewed the ongoing



work and directed the concerned authorities to maintain pace and ensure quality standards.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that once operational, the new office will provide better access to administrative services and ease the difficulties faced by residents in availing routine services.

DC also said that work is progressing on other revenue offices in the district as well including the Nayabat Nagam, Nayabat

Kachwari, Additional NT Complex, Pakherpora, NT Office Soibugh. He highlighted the focus of district administration to complete all infrastructural projects in a timely manner to improve service delivery to the people.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by SDM Chadoora, CPO Budgam, Executive Engineer PHE Chadoora, Executive Engineer R&B Chadoora, Tehsildar B.K. Pora, and other concerned officers.

DC Kishtwar launches Skill Development Program for Project-Affected Families

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 20

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today inaugurated a comprehensive Skill Development Training Program for families affected by major hydroelectric projects including Rattle HEP, Pakal Dul HEP, Kiru HEP, Kwar and others.

The training is being offered at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), where the first batch of trainees began a Plumbing Training Course under the district's skill development training initiative. Over 20 youth from project-affected families have enrolled in the free, year-long training.

Speaking at the launch, the DC emphasized the administration's commitment to promote sustainable livelihoods, stating that it is a priority of both the Government and the



project authorities.

He stated that the initiative is aimed at empowering the youth of affected families with the skills they need to become self-reliant. "More trades will be introduced soon, based on the interests of local youth," he added.

He also mentioned that, as a part of this program, the administration will also roll out courses in cutting and tailoring, to be set up in the respective villages of the project-affected com-

munities and the initiative offers a comprehensive support system, including free meals, accommodation, stipends, and field exposure visits during the training period, besides toolkits of respective trade to be provided after Successful Completion of the Training.

Principal ITI Kishtwar Anoop Sharma, representatives from Power Projects besides other staff was present during the occasion.

GHSS Dradhu felicitates meritorious students, discusses developmental priorities



JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 20

Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Dradhu witnessed a momentous occasion as Block Development Officer Bhandarwah and Prabhari Officer of the school Yasir Wani, paid a special visit along with his team. The visit aimed to review key developmental issues concerning the school's infrastructure, academic growth, and overall student welfare.

A highlight of the day was the felicitation of the toppers of Class 10th and calls 12 (2024-25 session). The meritorious students were honoured with certificates and mementos

in recognition of their hard work and academic excellence. This gesture not only encouraged the achievers but also motivated their peers to strive for similar success.

The entire program was meticulously organized under the supervision of the Principal, Satish Kumar, whose dedication ensured the smooth conduct of the event. Teachers, students, and local dignitaries appreciated the initiative, marking the day as a step forward in the journey of educational excellence at GHSS Dradhu.

and strengthening subject-wise academic performance, particularly in core areas such as Science, Mathematics, and English. The visiting team assured full support in addressing infrastructural gaps and promoting a positive learning environment. Former Sarpanch Ashok Sharma also graced the event, showing his continued commitment to community and educational development.

A highlight of the day was the felicitation of the toppers of Class 10th and calls 12 (2024-25 session). The meritorious students were honoured with certificates and mementos

MD NRLM inaugurates one-day training prog. for SHG members at Anantnag



JJ NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, MAY 20

In a significant step towards strengthening rural financial inclusion, Mission Director (MD) Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), Dr. Shubra Sharma today inaugurated a one-day training programme for Self Help Group (SHG) members engaged as Banking Correspondents at Achabal Anantnag.

The training provided by J&K Bank officials aimed to empower SHG members with essential skills and knowledge to function as effective Banking Correspondents, facilitating doorstep banking services for rural communities.

Addressing the participants, MD NRLM emphasized the importance of financial empowerment

at the grassroots level. She stated that the engagement of SHG members as Banking Correspondents will play a pivotal role in bringing financial services to the doorsteps of the rural population.

This initiative is expected to not only boost the rural economy but also significantly contribute to holistic rural development, she added.

Dr Sharma further said the programme reflects NRLM's commitment to creating livelihood opportunities and enhancing financial literacy and access among rural women through capacity building and institutional support. The event witnessed active participation from SHG members from various clusters of the district, NRLM officials, local bankers, and community members.

DC Srinagar reviews implementation of Dharti Aaba Abhiyan

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 20

In order to review the implementation of Dharti Aaba Abhiyan in tribal villages of the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting at the meeting hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, DC discussed in detail the action plan for conduct of awareness campaign under Dharti Aaba Abhiyan scheduled from 15 June to 30th June, 2025 in tribal village Faqir Gujri of Srinagar district aimed at saturating all Government schemes and other beneficiary oriented programmes at the grassroots



level. On the occasion, DC asked the line departments to conduct house to house survey based on gap analysis to collect requisite data for successful implementation of Dharti Aaba Abhiyan in tribal villages of the district.

DC passed directions for constituting survey teams who will be visiting the households of the target population and submit reports by May 26, 2025.

During the meeting, DC underscored different dimensions of the centrally sponsored flagship scheme launched to uplift tribal communities and ensure their socio-economic development.

Besides Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Intiyaz Ul Aziz; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; the meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Programme Officer ICDS, Lead District Manager, Officers of Rural Development Department, Education and other concerned Officers.

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Notice No: 15-2025-26-ADEN-JRC		Date: 19.05.2025	
Sr.DEN-I/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.treps.gov.in with closing date- 10.06.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
16.05.2025	27.05.2025	10.06.2025/15:00 Hrs	
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	
1.	15-2025-26-ADEN-JRC	Construction of new office building for newly created post of ADEN/JUC at Jalandhar city under ADEN/JRC.	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
1,08,55,869.21/-	2,04,300.00/-	60 Days	12 Months
Similar nature of work - "Construction of building/quarters."			
Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			
1469/25			

Bali Bhagat slams Congress for undermining Op Sindoor

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat came down heavily on Congress leadership for questioning the Operation Sindoor, a decisive and bold counter-terrorism action by Indian Armed Forces deep inside Pakistan territory. The operation was launched as a befitting response to the barbaric Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 innocent civilians lost their lives at the hands of Pakistan-sponsored terrorists.

Reacting sharply to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's post on social media platform X, where he questioned the scale of the Indian forces' success and raised concerns over possible losses, Bali Bhagat said the Congress party has once again exposed its anti-national mindset and doublespeak on national security.

"Rahul Gandhi's remarks



are not just irresponsible—they are an insult to the bravery and sacrifices of our soldiers. At a time when the nation is standing united behind our Armed Forces, Congress chooses to play politics and create doubts," Bhagat said in a statement issued here today.

The senior BJP leader also lashed out at Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, who dismissed Operation Sindoor as a "chutput war" against Pakistan. Bhagat condemned the statement, calling it "deeply disrespectful to the magnitude of the mission and the sacrifices involved."

"Kharge ji is saying that Operation Sindoor is a small war. Are Rahul Gandhi and Kharge ji not able to understand that our Armed Forces entered Paki-

stan and struck nine terror sites there, eliminating over 100 terrorists? After Pakistan retaliated, their 11 airbases were decimated. Today, Pakistan is crying in pain, and you're calling it a small war? This is not just ignorance—it is betrayal of our soldiers' courage," he asserted.

He further said that while the entire country salutes the Armed Forces for their precision and bravery, the Congress party seems more interested in demoralizing the armed forces and playing into the hands of the enemy.

The former minister has called upon the people of the country to see through the Congress's duplicity and support the government and forces in their unrelenting fight against terrorism. "The time has come to draw a clear line between national interest and political opportunism. Congress must decide which side of the line it stands on," he added.

Rasam Pagdi & Bhandara held in honour of Mahant Shanti Giri Maharaj

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

A Rasam Pagdi and Bhandara ceremony was organized by the Shiv Mandir Committee Arma in the Kathua district to honor the memory and legacy of Shri Shanti Giri Maharaj. The event witnessed the presence of several eminent saints, including Mahant Rajesh Bittu Ji, Org General Secretary of Jammu-Kashmir Sant Samaj Nyas, Mahant Datt Giri Ji, and Mahant Rameshwar Giri Ji.

A Bhandara was organized in memory of Mahant Upendra Giri Ji, where devotees gathered to offer prayers and participate in the communal meal as a tribute to his legacy.

Mahant Rajesh Bittu Ji appreciated the local administration, particularly the Deputy Commissioner of Kathua and the local Tehsildar, for their support in making the event successful.

Addressing the gather-



ing, Mahant Datt Giri Ji emphasized the importance of such spiritual events in promoting unity and growth within temple committees. He assured that the legacy of Shanti Giri Maharaj in serving Sanatan Dharma would continue wholeheartedly.

Mahant Shanti Giri Ji Maharaj expressed his commitment to fulfilling all responsibilities given to him by the temple committee. He stated that he would work sincerely to advance the temple's development and uphold its values. Addressing the gathering, he extended

heartfelt thanks to all the saints and members of the Sadhu Samaj who attended the event. He emphasized the importance of unity and collective effort in promoting religious and spiritual growth. Mahant Ji assured everyone that he would continue to contribute actively to future initiatives and spiritual gatherings.

Sarpanch Hari Dutt Ji, President of the Shiv Mandir Committee, extended heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all the attendees and saints for their presence and support during the event.

Inter-Zone District Level Tournament continues in Kathua

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 20

The department of youth services and Sports Kathua conducted inter zone district level tournament for U14 and U17 years girls in the discipline of kabaddi, kho -kho, Volleyball, Badminton ,TT and chess at Sports Stadium Kathua and cricket U14 boys at sports stadium Hiranagar of lower six zones.

At Sports Stadium Kathua a vibrant display of talent and energy was witnessed as. 553 girls from six lower zones: kathua, Barnoti, Marheen, Lakhanpur, Hiranagar and Sallan participated in various events. The young athletes showcased commandable spirit and Sportsmanship, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for sports among school girls in the region.

Meanwhile in sports stadium Hiranagar, U14 years boys cricket com-

petition were held. In the final zone Marheen defeated zone Lakhanpur by 6 wickets.

Today's results at sports stadium kathua were

Volleyball U14 Girls Zone Sallan defeated zone Marheen by 2-0 sets while U17 girls category zone Lakhanpur defeated zone Hiranagar by 2-0 sets.

Kabaddi U14 zone Sallan defeated zone Kathua by 10 points.

Kabaddi U17 Hiranagar won its match from zone Lakhanpur by 11 points.

Kho-Kho U14 Barnoti Vs Lakhanpur Lakhanpur won by 9 points

While in U17 girls zone Sallan defeated zone Lakhanpur by 4 points

All the ongoing competitions are conducted under the overall supervision of district youth Services and Sports officer Kathua Sh Sunil Singh Sambyal.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Gol extends...

the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958.

The announcement was made in a notification from the Secretariat of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, signed by Manisha Saxena, Secretary Appointments Committee of the Cabinet & Establishment Officer. KNO

'One World for...

thousands of public pharmacies that provide high-quality medicines at significantly lower prices.

Highlighting the role of technology in improving health outcomes, Modi underscored India's digital initiatives like the digital platform that tracks the vaccination of pregnant women and children and the unique digital health identity system, which is helping integrate benefits, insurance, records, and information. Adding that with telemedicine, no one is too far from a doctor.

He highlighted India's free telemedicine service, which has enabled over 340 million consultations. Reflecting on the positive impact of India's health initiatives, he noted a significant decline in out-of-pocket expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure. Simultaneously, he emphasised that Government health expenditure has increased considerably.

"The health of the world depends on how well we care for the most vulnerable", underlined the Prime Minister, highlighting that the global south is particularly impacted by health challenges. He added that India's approach provides replicable, scalable, and sustainable models.

Modi expressed India's willingness to share its learning and best practices with the world, especially with the global south.

Looking ahead to the 11th International Day of Yoga in June, the Prime Minister encouraged global participation and highlighted this year's theme, 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health,' and extended an invitation to all countries, emphasizing India's role as the birthplace of Yoga.

He also extended his congratulations to the World Health Organization (WHO) and all member states on the successful negotiations of the INB treaty. He described it as a shared commitment to fighting future pandemics through greater global cooperation.

He emphasised the importance of building a healthy planet while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The Prime Minister invoked a timeless prayer from the Vedas and said how, thousands of years ago, India's sages prayed for a world where all would be healthy, happy, and free from disease. He expressed the hope that this vision would unite the world.

India won't tolerate...

"He (Foreign Secretary) also discussed the points which members are expected to discuss with the world leaders as well as diplomats of various nations," they added.

Pertinently, seven delegations are visiting the United States, Japan, Gulf nations and other important capitals of the world in coming days to present India's viewpoint on the recent skirmishes and India's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism. KNO

Will ensure smooth...

in Ganderbal where he inaugurated an old age home at Pandach, and also laid the foundation stone for a veterinary hospital. He also visited Kheer Bhawani temple to review arrangements for the upcoming mela.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated several development projects, laid foundation stones for various upcoming works and interacted with people to know their grievances.

The Chief Minister, who represents the Ganderbal constituency in the J&K Legislative Assembly, said it reflected "our government's commitment to improving basic amenities and the quality of life for all."

At Bakura, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Water Supply Scheme—a vital project that will ensure clean

and dependable drinking water in the area. The scheme has been completed under the JKIDFC programme. The scheme, with a revised cost of Rs 329.04 lakh, is a groundwater-based project.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated the Old Age Home at Pandach, constructed at a cost of Rs 499 lakh. The two-storey facility includes medical rooms, dining halls, and accommodation for elderly residents. The Chief Minister inspected the facility and toured different rooms including male and female wards, kitchen, and cardio section.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed his satisfaction over the facility, saying it is a significant step towards ensuring dignity and care for our senior citizens.

Similarly, at Safapora, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of the Science Block at Government College of Engineering & Technology (GCET) Safapora—a key addition to strengthen technical education of the institution. KNO

Achieve goal of...

for precise, intelligence-led operations to neutralise terrorists and dismantle support cells.

The Lieutenant Governor besides reviewing the current security scenario also took stock of the arrangements for the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra.

The meeting was attended by Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, GoC 15 Corps Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, GoC 16 Corps Lt Gen P K Mishra, GoC 9 Corps Lt Gen Rajan Sharawat, Air Vice Marshal Vikas Sharma, AOC J&K, Principal Secretary Home Chandraker Bharti, ADGP CID Nitish Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO SASB Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, senior officials of Armed Forces, CAPFs, J&K Police, Intelligence Agencies and civil administration.

LG Sinha while reviewing the security preparedness for Amarnath Yatra 2025, scheduled from July 3 to August 9, 2025 directed the senior officials of Armed Forces, CAPFs, Intelligence Agencies and J&K Police to take all necessary action to ensure safe and peaceful sacred pilgrimage—(KNO)

President grants...

Ladakh under the Factories Act, 1948. "In pursuance of clause (1) of article 239 of the Constitution, the President hereby directs that the Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory of Ladakh shall, subject to the control of the President and until further order, exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the State Government under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 (63 of 1948), within the said Union territory," reads the notification issued on Tuesday.

The Factories Act, 1948 has been enacted to safeguard worker welfare, regulate factory operations, and maintain labour standards.

It contains provisions on the health, safety, working hours, leave and welfare of workers; inspecting staff for factories; hazardous processes in factories; the employment of young persons (children and adolescents); and penalties for contravening the provisions of the Act. KNO

Govt orders...

Home Guards, Civil Defence, and SDRF, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Special Director General, Coordination, Police Headquarters (PHQ). He will continue to hold his additional charge as MD, J&K Police Housing Corporation.

Alok Kumar, IPS (1997), Director of J&K Fire and Emergency Services, will now also take on the responsibilities of Commandant General, Home Guards, Civil Defence, and SDRF, J&K, in addition to his current duties. KNO

Modi-led Govt committed...

National Secretary and MLA Dr. Narinder Singh, J&K BJP Vice President and MLA Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta, MLA Adv. Ranbir

Singh Pathania, and District President S. Gurdeep Singh Khalsa.

The BJP leaders held a detailed meeting with the district administration to review the relief measures being undertaken in response to the recent unprovoked shelling by Pakistani forces along the Line of Control (LoC). They emphasized the need for immediate relief, long-term rehabilitation, and infrastructure enhancement in the border areas to support the resilience of local communities.

The delegation also visited Geeta Bhawan and Gurudwara Sahib in Poonch town to assess the structural damage caused by the shelling. Interacting with affected families, the BJP leaders offered their solidarity and assured that their concerns would be taken up with the Central Government on priority.

Sunil Sharma, while speaking on the occasion, said, "The courage and resilience of the people of Poonch in the face of constant danger is deeply inspiring. The BJP stands firmly with our border residents and will ensure that no family is left behind in the rehabilitation process."

Dr. Narinder Singh, remarked, "Our priority is to ensure that essential supplies reach every household impacted by the shelling. The Government of India is committed to providing all necessary support to rebuild lives and restore normalcy."

Sham Lal Sharma, stated, "The hardships faced by residents due to enemy aggression must be met with swift and coordinated action. We urge the administration to accelerate relief operations and strengthen infrastructure in vulnerable areas."

Adv. Vibodh Gupta, J&K BJP General Secretary, noted "Border communities are the first line of defense for our nation. Their security, dignity, and well-being must be our top concern, and the BJP will continue to be their strongest voice."

Adv. Ranbir Singh Pathania, said "We have seen firsthand the devastation caused by this shelling. It is imperative that our response is not just reactive, but proactive, focusing on preparedness, safety, and sustainable development."

The BJP delegation reaffirmed that the Narendra Modi-led government is fully committed to the development and security of border regions. Emphasis was placed on long-term infrastructure upgradation, construction of reinforced bunkers, and improved emergency response mechanisms. KNO

With Indus treaty...

sought detailed inputs from the J&K administration to assess the current status and draw up a revival plan, they said.

"We intend to revive the Tulbul Navigation Project and other works stalled due to Pakistan's objections under the Indus water treaty," a senior government official said.

"We will assess the progress made nearly a decade ago and resume the remaining work, with all necessary preparations already underway."

Earlier, in 2010, an effort was made by the Jammu and Kashmir Government, particularly Minister Taj Mohiuddin, to revive the project.

Around two years later, terrorists lobbed a grenade at a bund constructed for the project. However, no one was injured.

"By 2016, nearly 90% work was completed on the redesigned project at a revised cost of significantly lower than the original 1980s estimate," Mohiuddin told UNI.

He claimed that the subsequent government abandoned the project mid-way. The former minister said the project should be taken to its logical conclusion.

After mooting the proposal in early 1980s to build the project, the Union government launched construction of a 439-foot-long and 40-foot-wide barrage in 1984 with a planned water storage capacity of 0.30 million acre-feet (MAF).

The idea was to ensure a steady downstream flow of water, especially during the dry autumn and winter months when levels in Jhelum drop sharply.

However, construction was halted in 1985 after Pakistan raised objections, arguing that the structure violated the Indus Waters Treaty.

By 1986, Islamabad had taken the matter to the Indus Waters Commission, and work was completely stopped in 1987.

According to its original design, the Tulbul barrage would "incidentally" help regulate water flow to major downstream hydropower projects in the border area of Uri in Baramulla district.

While three power projects at Uri operate at full capacity during summer, their power generation capacity plummets to below 20% in winter due to reduced water levels in the Jhelum river.

Experts say the Tulbul project could mitigate these seasonal fluctuations by maintaining a more consistent water discharge.

While Pakistan has consistently maintained that the Tulbul structure amounts to a storage facility, New Delhi however, argues that the structure is a "navigation lock" aimed at ensuring year-round water transport and regulation, which is allowed under Article 9 of the treaty.

The project was among the 8 subjects covered under the Composite Dialogue between India and Pakistan which went on for several years but the matter remained unresolved.

Jammu ACB books...

in the name of one Nazir Ahmad as Gair Muroosi. Moreover, as per the revenue record, allotted land in question was neither in possession of allottee Tara Singh nor entry of Girdawari has been found in the revenue record in the name of allottee, whereas, Power of Attorney pertaining to the land in question in favour of Javid Iqbal has been executed well before the conferment of ownership rights in favour of Tara Singh, he said.

In this way, he said that the then Tehsildar Settlement Jammu, along with the then Revenue Officers/Officials of Tehsil Bahu, Jammu, beneficiary Tara Singh, Nazir Ahmad, and attorney holder Javed Iqbal, conspired together in a well-orchestrated manner to illegally obtain state land.

"They subsequently sold the land-worth crores-causing significant loss to the state exchequer. Further investigation is going on," he added.

Indian armed...

"Our forces acted just like expert doctors or surgeons. A surgeon uses his instruments precisely where the disease lies, and the Indian forces have done the same — striking at the root of terrorism with unmatched precision," Singh said.

He said the operations were planned and executed with care to ensure that civilian areas were not affected. According to him, the Indian armed forces ensured that those responsible for spreading violence were targeted, while non-combatants remained unharmed.

Referring to the response from across the border, Singh said Pakistan attempted to retaliate after the Indian strikes.

He said Pakistan targeted Indian civilians and religious sites in its counteractions.

"Pakistan started trying to attack Indian soil, and attempts were made to target common citizens. Temples, gurdwaras and churches were targeted. The action taken by the Indian forces in response brought the Pakistani army to its knees," Singh said.

He said that India's response remained focused on neutralising terrorist hideouts. He stated that the Indian forces took full care to avoid civilian casualties in their retaliatory operations.

"Our soldiers made sure that while punishing the perpetrators, innocent lives were not affected," Singh said.

He also added that the intent was to hit only the locations where terrorist activities were being supported and planned.

The Defence Minister said that India's operations were limited to those directly involved in violence. He said the action sent a clear message regarding India's policy on cross-border terrorism.

He said the Indian armed forces acted with full responsibility to secure national interests and ensure the safety of Indian citizens. KNO

DLSA B'gam organizes awareness prog. at Central Jail Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MAY 20

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam organized an awareness programme on the 'SCLSC campaign in Jails of India for filing SLPs,' at Central Jail Srinagar, today.

The event was conducted under the supervision of O.P Bhagat, Chairman DLSA, Budgam and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam.

The objective of this campaign was to inform the inmates about the process and availability of filing special leave petitions (SLPs) through legal aid, and it also aimed to ensure access to justice for the inmates who remain unrepresented despite having viable legal remedies.

DLSA Budgam had deputed Legal aid defense Counsels as resources person for the said awareness session.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief LADC, Lateef Ahmad Khan said that the campaign is aimed to help the 'legally vulnerable' inmates, particularly those requiring urgent legal intervention aside from prisoners who have



not filed appeals against conviction and those who failed to secure bail despite serving more than half of their maximum punishment.

Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsels, Shahistah Gani and Fozia Shafi also spoke on the occasion and informed the inmates about the SCLSC campaign in jails of India for filing SLPs and educated them about the process & availability of filing special leave petitions (SLPs) through legal aid.

Legal aid defense counsels Budgam were deputed by DLSA Budgam to Central Jail in order to actively engage in promoting the campaign by conducting visit to central jail and by

informing the eligible convicts of their legal rights and in accessing legal aid to approach the Hon'ble Supreme Court to identify convicts who may be eligible for remission of sentence or premature release & sensitize them in availing the remedy of filing special leave petition (SLPs) similarly through legal Services for getting enoverated from their conviction.

The programme witnessed the active participation of Shahbaz Husain, Incharge Superintendent Central Jail Srinagar, officials of Prison Legal aid Clinic and PLVs existing at Central jail Srinagar, police personnels, jail inmates, PLVs of DLSA Budgam, etc.

Civil Defense Workshop held at Kupwara to boost response to emergencies

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, MAY 20

Zila Sainik Welfare Officer (ZSWO) Kupwara in collaboration with District Administration Kupwara organized a Civil Defense Workshop for volunteer ex-servicemen at Zila Sainik Welfare Office Kupwara.

The aim of the workshop was to enhance and to facilitate appropriate response to emergencies such as Armed Conflict, Warfare, Natural Disaster or similar exigencies by using the experience of volunteer ex-servicemen.

In this regard, a list of volunteer ex-servicemen has been prepared to facilitate the timely deployment and operationalization



of ex-servicemen security teams for watch and ward duties as and when required.

The aim is to ensure effective coordination with the District Administration Kupwara.

DDC Doda inaugurates Space, STEM Labs at GHSS Chilly- Bhallessa

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, MAY 20

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh today visited Chilly Bhallessa (Doda) and inaugurated the newly established Space Lab and STEM Lab at Government Higher Secondary School (HSS) Chilly. The inauguration was held in the presence of Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafiz, and Principal of the school Shafiq Banoo.

The DDC assessed the functioning of both labs and interacted with the students. A series of engaging events, including a debate competition and cultural performances, were presented by the students, showcasing their talents and enthusiasm.

While addressing the gathering, the DDC emphasized the transformative power of education in shaping individual lives and building a stronger society. He highlighted the significance of establishing modern educational infrastructure, such as the Space and STEM Labs, in



remote areas like Bhallessa to bridge the gap in access to quality education.

The DDC also announced that a well-equipped functional library will soon be established in the school, stocked with quality books to encourage reading habits among students. He urged students to cultivate the habit of reading to strengthen their cogni-

tive abilities and become informed, responsible citizens.

Additionally, the DDC Doda informed that one-month extra academic classes are conducted for students in the district who underperformed in the recent examinations. This initiative aims to support students in overcoming academic challenges and ensure that no learner is left behind.

DC Srinagar chairs District Level Committee meeting of NCORD

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 20

A meeting of District Level Committee on Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was Tuesday held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review and strengthen ongoing measures to combat drug abuse, its peddling and proper rehabilitation of drug victims in district.

The meeting deliberated on key issues, including stringent enforcement actions against drug peddlers, intensified awareness campaigns and enhanced treatment and rehabilitation facilities for those affected by substance abuse.

At the outset, DC took first hand appraisal from officers of all line departments and other stakeholders regarding the progress achieved in ongoing fight against the drug menace in order to curb it and tighten the noose against drug peddlers.

Dr Bilal emphasized for intensifying sustained IEC campaigns across the district to sensitize masses particularly youth about detrimental and harmful effects of drug abuse. He also laid stress on strengthening Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) at SMHS, SKIMS Bemina and at IMHAANS to provide better treatment facilities and proper rehabilitation of drug victims.

During the meeting, DC assessed the performance of private drug de-addiction centers and stressed their effective functioning as per the laid guidelines. He sought a detailed report on the performance of these centers.

He also called for early operationalization of the Drug De-addiction & Reha-



bilitation Centre at Sanath Nagar.

DC also underlined the need to keep proper vigil on private coaching centers and courier service agencies and asked Sub Divisional Magistrates to conduct surprise inspections of such institutions and establishments. He further asked them to conduct audits of the private coaching centers and proper regulation of courier services agencies in the district.

Dr Bilal emphasized the importance of a holistic approach involving prevention as well as education, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug victims back into the society, at the same time strict enforcement measures as a strong deterrent.

On the occasion, DC was given a brief regarding ongoing deterrent mea-

sures taken by the Police, Excise, Anti-narcotics and Drug Control department. He was also apprised about the patients visiting IPD and OPD sections of ATFs at SMHS, SKIMS Bemina and IMHAANS with present trending scenario of the drugs related patients.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Superintendent of Police, Umar Shah; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Lone; SDM, East, Zubair Ahmad; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur and District Social Welfare Officer Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, the meeting was attended by the Officers of Education, Excise, Drug Control Organization, Health, Post Office, Airport Heads of ATFs at SMHS, SKIMS Bemina & IMHAANS and other concerned Departments.

DC Reasi inaugurates District-Level Inter-Zonal Sports Competitions

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, MAY 20

The District Youth Services and Sports Department, Reasi, organized the District-Level Inter-Zonal Competitions for U 14 and U 17 boys and girls here at General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium.

The event was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, who lauded the organizers for promoting sports among the youth.

A total of 400 students from various zones of Reasi district participated in multiple disciplines, including Volleyball, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Table Tennis, Badminton, and Wrestling.

In her address, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of sports alongside academics. She encouraged students to actively participate in sports competitions and highlighted the role of sports in building character and fostering holistic development. She further added that sports not only improve physical and mental health but also instill key values such as discipline, responsibility, self-confidence, and mutual brotherhood.

The DC also extended



congratulations to the District Youth Services and Sports Department for successfully conducting the event and sustaining the spirit of sportsmanship among the youth in the region.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer Tarsem Singh informed that over from April 2025 to till now 30,000 student-athletes have participated in various intra-mural competitions, which took place within school premises across the district, in games such as Football,

Badminton, Volleyball, Chess, and Table Tennis. In addition, 4,000 students have participated in inter-school competitions from April 2025 till now.

Later, a pledge was taken by all participants to uphold the values of sportsmanship, integrity, and fair play, reaffirming their commitment to discipline, respect, and teamwork. Observer Harinder Singh, Sports Council Incharge Aejaz Ahmed Mir, Activity Incharge Kuldeep Kumar, and other officials of DYSS Reasi were also present.

DC visits Shopian town, inspects ongoing development works

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, MAY 20

To track the pace of ongoing developmental works in the town, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today visited various areas of Shopian town.

DC took first-hand stock of the progress of different developmental projects which are currently under execution in the district through Municipal Council, Shopian.

These projects and works which were visited include a new vending zone at the main town, footpath construction at Gagren and car parking at hospital road.

During the visit, Gupta emphasized the early

completion of the vending zone for proper/systematic rehabilitation of street vendors. This, he said, shall ease the congestion problem in the town. DC called for proper and effective utilization of available land resources for the sustainable development of the town. Arrangement of adequate facility of parking was also stressed and MC Shopian was asked to work towards that end.

Instructions were issued for early completion of the pathways development project and other beautification works in the town. DC was accompanied by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ACR, DIO, ARTO, Secretary MC, and other officers and officials.

World Bee Day celebrated at Udhampur to promote Pollinator Conservation



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAY 20

World Bee day was celebrated in Udhampur District with the theme "Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all". The theme highlights the vital role of bees and other pollinators in the Agrifood system, biodiversity and global food security.

Emphasis was given to the importance of bees and other pollinators for the environment, Agriculture and human well-being. Farmers were educated about pollinators' crucial role towards sustainable development of the planet earth and to raise aware-

ness about the threat they face in different locations of the District.

Chief Agriculture Officer Harbans Singh and apiculture Development Officer Pawan Talwar organised programme in meeting Hall of CAO Office Udhampur which was attended by children of India Kids public school. CAO informed that the world Bee day promotes efforts to protect and conserve bees and highlights their importance. He reiterated that the campaign aims to educate people about pollinators and the challenges they face such as habitat loss, climate change, pesticide use and disease.

Power Shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 20

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out urgent repair works on 33 KV Safakadal line necessitated damages caused due to the heavy wind storm during the intervening night of 18th and 19th, 2025, shutdown of 33KV Safakadal line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Safakadal & Wanganpora shall remain off while power supply to Safakadal, Wanganpora, Saidpora, Noorbagh, Chaidoab, Baghwanpora, Eidgah and adjoining areas besides BB Cant Tap Line will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 21 May, 2025.

Similarly to carry out Branch cutting works, the shutdown of 33KV Delina line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Delina, Jetty & Sopore-II shall remain off while power supply to Delina, Jetty, Kralhar, Sopore, Kanispora, Singhpora, BSF Singhpora, Migrant camp Khawaja Bagh, Railways Sopore-Baramulla, IE Sopore, Amargarh and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:30 AM to 03:30 PM on 22 May, 2025.

Further to facilitate stabilization of 33 KV Wanpoh Qazigund line and 33 KV Wanpoh Qaimoh line in view of upcoming SANJY-

2025, the shutdown of 33KV Wanpoh Qazigund line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Mirbazar, Vessu, Qazigund, Kund, Railway Station shall remain off while power supply to Mirbazar, Vessu, Akhran, Razloo, Panzath, YK Pora and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 22, 24, 26, 28 & 31 May, 2025.

Also in this connection, the shutdown of 33KV Wanpoh Qaimoh line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Qaimoh, Redwani shall remain off while power supply to Qaimoh, Matalhama, Rahpora, Khudwani, Redwani and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 25 & 27 May, 2025.

Meanwhile as per a separate shutdown schedule issued from the office of Chief Engineer KPDCL, in order to facilitate the work of erection of 33 KV Tapline to 2x1.6 MVA, 33/0.433 KV Substation ESIC Hospital Ompora Budgam, the shutdown of 33KV Budgam SIDCO line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at SIDCO, Railway Station, Budgam shall remain off while power supply to Ompora, SIDCO, NIFT, Housing Colony and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 24 & 26 May, 2025.

EDITORIAL

Time to act on illegal immigration

The Supreme Court's recent remarks should serve as a wake-up call to the Union Government and all stakeholders involved in national security and immigration policy. The observation by a bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and K Vinod Chandran that "India is not a dharamshala" is not merely rhetorical—it is a piercing reminder that a sovereign nation must act decisively to protect its borders and uphold the rule of law. India, with a population exceeding 140 crore, faces immense economic, social, and security challenges. The unchecked influx of illegal immigrants—be they Bangladeshi nationals, Rohingyas from Myanmar, former LTTE members from Sri Lanka, or others—only adds to these burdens. The issue is not rooted in a lack of compassion but in the principle of legal responsibility. A country simply cannot afford to function as a sanctuary for all who enter illegally, especially when some of them pose potential threats to national security. The apex court, while hearing a case involving a Sri Lankan national convicted under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, rightly questioned the petitioner's assumed right to stay in India after completing his sentence. The Constitution guarantees certain fundamental rights, but the right to settle in India is explicitly reserved for Indian citizens. Sympathy for humanitarian causes must not override the Constitution, national interest, or established immigration laws. Equally telling was the court's response to a plea involving the deportation of Rohingya refugees, where it pointed out that possessing a UNHCR identity card does not confer legal immunity under Indian law. The Foreigners Act, which governs such matters, must be applied uniformly and without political or ideological distortion. Illegal immigration is not a benign issue. It has been repeatedly linked to demographic imbalances, strain on public infrastructure, and even terror-related activities. In many cases, these immigrants manage to obtain false documentation, manipulate local systems, and integrate into vulnerable regions, particularly in the northeast and border states, which are already socio-politically sensitive. It is high time that the Union Government expedites its measures to identify, detain, and deport all illegal immigrants residing in India. This must include Bangladeshi infiltrators, Rohingya Muslims, and individuals from Myanmar and Sri Lanka who have entered or remained in the country unlawfully. Enforcement must be carried out systematically, in coordination with state governments, and without yielding to international pressure or domestic political calculations. India's generosity and openness have long been its strength. But these qualities cannot be mistaken for weakness. A nation that cannot enforce its borders or laws risks losing both sovereignty and security. The Supreme Court has spoken with clarity. The ball is now firmly in the government's court. It's time to act—not just for the sake of law and order, but for the future of India.



BY PIYUSH GOYAL

The Government e Marketplace (GeM) has rapidly emerged as a world leader in providing a transparent, inclusive and efficient platform for public procurement. It connects more than 1.6 lakh government buyers with 23 lakh sellers and service providers, becoming a key engine of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. In nine years since PM Modi launched the transformative digital initiative, GeM has revolutionized the way government buys goods and services by weeding out corruption and giving business opportunities to startups, MSMEs, women and businesses in small town.

The user-friendly platform is a true gem that has replaced the notorious Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals, which had opaque and uncompetitive systems that gave an unfair advantage to a privileged few. Befittingly, the Commerce and

Industry Ministry's new office, Vanija Bhawan, has been built on the land once occupied by this obsolete body.

Spectacular Growth - Since its inception in 2016, orders worth more than Rs 13.4 lakh crore have been transacted on the GeM portal. Public procurement at the platform rose to a record Rs 5.43 lakh crore in 2024-25. GeM aims to raise its annual business to Rs 7 lakh crore in the current fiscal. GeM has undoubtedly emerged as a technological behemoth in the public procurement landscape.

The magnitude of business transacted is likely to make GeM the world's largest public procurement portal, surpassing well-established institutions like South Korea's KONEPS, in the near future.

GeM has given greater opportunities to honest businesses, created jobs and supported India's economic growth. In this context, GeM's significance goes far beyond its phenomenal growth in financial terms, which itself would make any e-commerce giant jealous.

Engine of Equitable Growth - GeM serves as a critical engine of equitable growth in line with PM Modi's mission of sabka saath, sabka vikaas. It provides startups, small businesses and women-led enterprises an easy

path to showcase their products and services to government buyers without any intermediaries. By eliminating barriers to entry, the platform empowers small homegrown businesses to participate in e-tenders and expand their businesses.

Guided by the principle of inclusivity, GeM has incorporated various strategic initiatives to support the growth of small businesses. These include systems to help government buyers identify and select products and services offered by MSEs and women-led businesses.

Exceeding targets - Dedicated storefronts on GeM like "Start-up Runway" and "Womaniya" have effectively increased the visibility of these businesses as well as their share in public procurement. This has helped the government meet and exceed its goals of 25% procurement from Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and 3% from women-led businesses. Nearly 38% of the business transacted on GeM is awarded to MSEs, and procurement by women enterprises stands at nearly 4%.

As of April 2025, more than 30,000 Startups have conducted business worth over Rs 38,500 crore through GeM. Further, 1.81 Lakh Udyam-verified women entrepreneurs have secured orders worth nearly Rs

50,000 crore on GeM portal.

Big Savings - These changes have translated into savings ranging from 33% to 96% for certain order sizes. This remarkable reduction is a welcome change in line with the Modi government's mission to enhance Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living for the benefit of the common citizens of the country.

An independent evaluation by the World Bank shows that buyers on GeM save about 9.75% on the median price. This has led to huge savings of an estimated Rs 1,15,000 crore in public procurement using taxpayer money. GeM procurement helped state-run NTPC save Rs 2,000 crore using reverse auction in a Rs 20,000 crore contract. GeM has also helped transparent and cost-effective procurement of defence equipment, vaccines, drones and services like insurance.

In a major relief to small enterprises, GeM has significantly reduced its transaction charges recently. Orders exceeding Rs 10 lakh will incur lower transaction charge of 0.30%, while orders worth over Rs 10 Crore will incur a capped fee of Rs 3 lakh - a significant decrease from the previous Rs 72.50 lakh.

Technology, AI - With a robust technological infrastructure,

the platform is continuously evolving by offering new and easier ways to do business using technological solutions. GeM has deployed an AI-powered chatbot called "GeMAI" - a tool trained in conversational analytics and business intelligence. The smart chatbot is available in 8 vernacular languages and is equipped with latest technologies including voice command functionality to further enhance Ease of Doing Business on GeM portal.

GeM also offers financing products for MSE sellers. This gives collateral-free financing in less than 10 minutes for eligible purchase orders. The platform has introduced GeM Sahay 2.0, which serves as a single window to secure loans up to Rs 10 lakh. More initiatives and technological solutions are in the works to make the platform more inclusive and competitive.

The GeM portal stands as a pivotal engine in driving India's economic growth and development objectives of PM Modi. It will always run the extra mile to empower and uplift the marginalized sections of the society and promote entrepreneurship, while ensuring that taxpayer money is efficiently used to procure high-quality products at a competitive price

The growing mental health crisis among youth: A call for societal reform

MONICA B SOOD

There is a silence that is louder than any noise: the silence of a nation hanging by a thread, playing along with its day-to-day life highs and lows. Now that we confidently march through the 21st century with all its scientific and technological achievements, a more hidden and creeping crisis lies beneath. It is not also spoken about in boardrooms, aired on primetime headlines. But it is everywhere - in every classroom, every bedroom, and in the light emitted by millions of phone screens. The youth mental health crisis is more than a public health crisis. It is an accounting of our philosophy, our sociology, and our ethics.

To grasp the magnitude of this affliction, one must move beyond clinical definitions and statisti-

cal abstractions. Yes, the World Health Organisation has declared suicide the fourth leading cause of death among 15 to 29-year-olds.

Yes, global anxiety and depression rates among youth have doubled in the past decade. But such data, however alarming, remains inert unless animated by empathy and understanding. Numbers cannot cry, nor can they articulate the numbing void, the silent terror, the daily existential negotiation that many young individuals face in a world increasingly devoid of authentic connection.

But we have to ask, how far down our societal apparatus have we fallen? The solution to this riddle partly contains a paradox. Truly a generation never more connected and yet more radically isolated. What was deemed as the liberating nature of digital

spaces that enable democratised discourse, have instead become bastions of perfectionism and performative displays.

The professionally assembled illusion of success on social media has made real selfness questionable. Amidst such a rife atmosphere where young minds still moulding and breaking are perpetually being pitted against one another and their livelihoods, humanity itself, is compared, evaluated, and finally published under brand names.

Moreover, rather than a haven for exploration and self-expression, the educational system - if we still dare to call it so - has transformed into a pressure cooker in the same way.

In this world, simply ignorance is less feared than failure, and, numerically, excellence is judged,

not by the depth of understanding. The child evolves from seeker to performer, running on a treadmill built by someone else.

Finally, there is home - the sanctuary that should be. Parents, often unthinking agents of the same wider pressures, but well-intentioned nevertheless, become peddlers of the very anxieties they want to shield kids from. The expectations, the overscheduling, the whispered disappointment in anything short of "really awesome" - these are not blips; they are part of the fabric of society.

What then is to be done? Will we submit to despair, or can we muster the moral imagination to build a different road?

First, let us redefine mental health from a clinical response to a societal imperative. Instead, mental wellness should

be a pillar of educational policy - enshrined, not an afterthought. Syllabi need to find room for emotional intelligence, mindfulness, resilience, and compassionate communication alongside algebra and history.

Second, we must destigmatise vulnerability. To be emotionally fragile is not to be weak - it is to be human. Public discourse must elevate voices who speak of their struggles without shame. Let us replace pity with solidarity, and condescension with community. Third, we must invest - not merely in psychiatric infrastructure but in cultural transformation.

Create national frameworks that embed psychological counselling in every academic institution. Encourage peer-led support ecosystems. Mandate mental health days. Incentivise digital detoxi-

fication. Reimagine urban spaces to include green sanctuaries for quietude and contemplation.

Finally, we must listen. Not with the intent to reply, but to understand. Listen to the poetry, the pauses, the frustrations, the silences. The youth do not need saving - they need hearing. They do not seek sympathy - they seek space.

The mental health crisis is not merely a medical emergency; it is a civilisational crossroad. How we respond will define the moral tenor of our age. Let it not be said that we excelled in machines but failed our children. Let us, instead, craft a future where the mind is not a battlefield, but a garden. Let that be our most enduring legacy.

(The writer is CEO - Navjivan Health Service. Views expressed are personal)

Trump's Arabia gambit jolts BRICS: New trade pacts signal a shift in alliances

SHIVAJI SARKAR

President Donald Trump's Arabia visit has opened up challenges to BRICS, which ties between Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar in an Abrahamic Accord for officially recognising Israel. It has messages for India. Trump on May 16 announced that India has offered a trade deal that proposed almost "no tariffs" on US goods, as the South Asian nation seeks to avert higher import and export costs.

Is BRICS dead? Trump on February 14 issued a blunt warning to BRICS nations, threatening a 100 per cent tariff on all imports into the US if they proceed with launching a common currency. He said just hours before a scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, dismissing the economic bloc's relevance, declaring, "BRICS is dead."

BRICS is still kicking, but Trump's aggression for a unipolar dollarised world has thawed it a bit as Russia listens to him for a ceasefire with Ukraine and the US-China trade conflict settles for lower tariffs.

His agreements with Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Qatar add

further teeth to the anti-BRICS mission. Trump said, "I don't care, but BRICS was put there for a bad purpose, and most of those people don't want it. They don't even want to talk about it now. They're afraid to talk about it because I told them if they want to play games with the dollar, then they're going to be hit with a 100 per cent tariff."

New Delhi is looking to clinch a trade deal with the US within the 90-day pause announced by Trump on April 9, on so-called reciprocal tariffs for major trading partners. On May 8, the White House secured a trade agreement with the United Kingdom, two days after India inked a similar pact with it.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates all "wanted to showcase they were open for business, which they were able to do, and they wanted to get the US on side," Dina Esfandiary, Middle East lead for Bloomberg Economics, says. "They wanted to show that they were back in terms of being in America's graces," she said, adding that in return, Trump was able to get massive deals with head-

line figures. Gulf countries have been looking to revamp their ties with the US, moving away from a transactional oil-for-security understanding to stronger partnerships that are rooted in bilateral investments and shared visions. "It was a 'new dawn' in the US relationship with the Gulf, Jasmine El-Gamal, a Middle East analyst and former adviser to the Pentagon says.

Saudi Arabia did not get a formalised security deal with the US. That would be replacing the ally, Israel. It came closer to it. Last year, the two nations came close to finalising a landmark defence and trade pact - but the deal stalled over the Saudi insistence that Israel commit to a path toward Palestinian statehood. Trump now gave to Riyadh a handful of arms deals that may pave the way for a wider agreement. At a formal signing ceremony in a gilded ballroom at the Saudi capital's Royal Court, Trump and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman signed memoranda of understanding, letters of intent and other executive agreements spanning different Government agencies.

Saudi Arabia also committed \$600 billion in US invest-

ments, including an expansive defence partnership valued at nearly \$142 billion, which the US touts as the "largest defence sales agreement in history." Riyadh did not get a civilian nuclear programme as it insisted on enriching uranium domestically - raising concerns in the US and Israel over nuclear weapons proliferation.

The Saudis are being given massive business opportunities in Syria, as the US lifts sanctions. Trump's tea with Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa, a former jihadist who until recently had a \$10 million US bounty on his head, has opened up billions of dollars in opportunities. Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, have been keen to invest in Syria. The baits are enough to keep off BRICS, the US believes. The Saudis have been silent since they attended the last BRICS summit in October 2024. Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, says that talks with Trump, a first visit by the US President on this trip will "give new impetus to the existing strategic cooperation between the two countries."

They signed a host of deals during Trump's visit,

including a \$96 billion agreement for Qatar to acquire up to 210 American-made Boeing planes. Trump also accepted a Boeing 747-8 jet from the Qataris, to be used initially as Air Force One, a gift that is stated to influence the Trump administration. Qatar is the Gulf state with the most formalised security ties with Washington. It hosts the biggest US military installation in the Middle East, which the State Department describes as "indispensable" for US military operations in the region. It even helped the US in its Afghanistan operations.

The UAE's main target from Trump's trip was deeper investments in AI and technology, and while it achieved victories in that regard, the visit fell short of what Abu Dhabi really wanted: unrestricted access to advanced American microchips. Trump gave the UAE a partnership to build a massive data centre in Abu Dhabi to advance AI capabilities with 5 gigawatts of capacity - enough to power a major city. The complex would require 2.5 million chips, bigger than all major AI infra so far. The Arab states got business opportu-

nities in the US, Syria, and in their own countries.

They, however, could not replace the ally Israel and may have to protect it even against their will, a major US gain. The US is India's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade totalling some \$129 billion in 2024. India ran a \$45.7 billion surplus with the US last year, mainly in the form of pharmaceutical products, electrical machinery and jewellery. The Americans have got what they want with various kinds of arm-twisting methods in the region.

Finally, India may get its tariff relief as it extends more to the nutty US relations. India, however, is continuing with BRICS as Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs Manohar Lal visits Brazil to attend the BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting on May 19.

This visit underscores India's determination to actively collaborate with BRICS nations in building a robust, future-oriented, and sustainable energy sector.

(The writer a veteran journalist is a strategic analyst. Views expressed are personal)

Morepen Labs' Q4 net profit declines 29 pc as rising expenses weigh on margins

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Pharmaceuticals company Morepen Labs on Monday reported a decline of 29.3 per cent in its net profit (year-on-year) for the fourth quarter (Q4) of FY25, as rising expenses took a toll on the healthcare company's performance.

The net profit for Q4 stood at Rs 20.3 crore, down from Rs 28.7 crore in the same period last fiscal, according to its stock exchange filing.

The company's total revenue increased by 10.1 per cent, reaching Rs 465.8 crore in Q4, compared to Rs 423 crore in the year-ago period.

Despite this growth in revenue, operating costs surged, which led to a decline in profitability.

The company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) also saw a drop of 12.6 per cent,



standing at Rs 42.3 crore for the quarter, compared to Rs 48.4 crore in Q4 of FY24.

As a result, the margin for Q4 stood at 9.1 per cent, lower than the 11.4 per cent reported in the

same period last financial year.

Total expenditure for Morepen Labs in Q4 increased by nearly 15.5 per cent, reaching Rs 444.7 crore, up from Rs 385.1 crore in the corre-

sponding period last fiscal.

A significant factor contributing to this increase was the rise in the cost of material consumed, which surged by approximately 21.89 per cent, from Rs 220.2 crore to Rs 268.4 crore.

Employee benefits expenses also rose by about 19 per cent, reaching Rs 57 crore in Q4, compared to Rs 47.9 crore during the same period last financial year.

Additionally, depreciation and amortisation expenses saw a sharp increase of 71.56 per cent, rising from Rs 9.6 crore in Q4 FY24 to Rs 16.47 crore in Q4 FY25.

However, the Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend of Rs 0.20 per share for the financial year ended March 31.

However, the dividend is subject to approval by shareholders at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Just 5 min exposure to junk food ads can coax kids to consume more calories daily

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Just five minutes of advertising of junk foods -- essentially high in saturated fats, sugar, and/or salt (HFSS) -- is enough to coax children and adolescents to consume significantly more calories during the day, according to a study.

The study showed that 7-15-year-olds with just five minutes of ad exposure, regardless of the type of media advertising, can consume on average 130 kcals per day extra, which is equivalent to the calories in two slices of bread.

"Our findings offer crucial novel information on the extent, nature, and impact of unhealthy food marketing via different types of media on young people's eating behaviour," said lead author Professor Emma Boyland from the University of Liverpool in the UK. Latest Tollywood movies Best restaurants



near me

"Even short exposure to the marketing of foods high in fat, salt, and sugar can drive excess calorie consumption and potentially weight gain, particularly in young people who are more susceptible to advertising and whose eating patterns influence their lifelong health," Boyland added.

The study, based on a randomised crossover trial of 240 volunteers between the ages of 7 and 15 years,

is being presented at the European Congress on Obesity (ECO) in Malaga, Spain.

The analysis found that following exposure to HFSS food ads, children consumed more snacks (+58.4 kcals), more lunch (+72.5 kcals), and more food overall (snack and lunch combined +130.90 kcals) than after exposure to non-food ads.

"Our results show that unhealthy food marketing leads to sustained

increases in caloric intake in young people at a level sufficient to drive weight gain over time," Boyland said.

Unhealthy weight gain in adolescents may lead to a host of health issues, including obesity, hypertension, diabetes, and cancer.

The study will help in the design of urgent restrictive food marketing policies that can protect children's health, said the team.

Pedestrians, cyclists among over 330K deaths from road crashes in SE Asia in 2021: WHO

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Pedestrians and cyclists are among more than 330,000 deaths from road crashes in the Southeast Asia region in 2021, said the World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday, as part of the eighth UN Global Road Safety Week.

The UN Global Road Safety Week is marked biennially, starting on the third Monday of May. The theme this year is "Make walking and cycling safe", urging the world to make walking and cycling safe for everyone.

Saima Wazed, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia said that road traffic injuries are now the leading cause of death among young people aged 5 to 29 years, and they continue to be a pressing



public health concern in our WHO South-East Asia Region.

"In 2021 alone, our region accounted for more than 330,000 deaths from road crashes, representing 28 per cent of the global total," Wazed said.

"Vulnerable road users -- including pedestrians, cyclists, and operators of

two- and three-wheelers -- are up to 66 per cent of these fatalities," she added.

Wazed noted pedestrians and cyclists already account for more than one in four road traffic deaths. Besides saving lives, making roads safe is also crucial to boost health. Safe roads can not only improve community well-

being but also enhance environmental sustainability.

"Prioritising walking and cycling supports physical activity, which is a key modifiable risk factor for noncommunicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer. Walking and cycling also support mental well-being, helping to reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety," Wazed highlighted.

Globally, road traffic crashes claim the lives of nearly 1.2 million people and leave up to 50 million more with non-fatal injuries every year.

Wazed urged civil society, the private sector, and communities to push for people-centred mobility policies, safer road design, safe vehicles, and lower speed limits.

New wearable smart sensors to protect babies from overexposure to painkillers

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

US researchers have developed a wearable and "smart" lactation sensor to prevent babies from overexposure to the common painkiller acetaminophen.

Acetaminophen, commonly used for postpartum pain management, is also frequently given to babies to treat fever, leading to potential double-dosing through both direct administration and indirectly through breastfeeding.

The drug is the leading cause of acute liver failure in children and the most frequent reason for liver transplants in the US.

The acetaminophen sensor, developed by researchers at the University of Southern California in the US gets incorporated into an ordinary nursing pad and detects acetaminophen in breast milk. For nursing babies with



immature liver metabolism, the presence of acetaminophen in breast milk poses additional risks, said the team in the paper described in the scientific journal *Device*.

"Lactating mothers face unique health challenges, including nutritional deficiencies, the risk of developing mastitis -- a breast-tissue infection -- and the potential transfer of medications and other substances through their milk," said Maral Mousavi, Assistant Professor of Biomedical

Engineering, at the university.

While the currently available methods for measuring levels of acetaminophen or other ingredients in milk are costly, complex, and unavailable for routine use in the home, the team zeroed in on lactation pads -- worn inside a bra to absorb leaking milk.

The researchers took a simple lactation pad and built tiny microfluidic channels to guide milk to the sensing area. The pads collect milk naturally

released during the let-down reflex throughout the day. There, low-cost electrochemical sensors work, detecting and measuring important health markers in the milk.

The sensor then sends real-time readings to the user's smartphone via a compact, portable detector that works similarly to a glucometer, using electrical pulses to measure levels of acetaminophen.

With this information, users can make informed decisions -- such as choosing to pump and discard milk-containing medication -- ensuring safer feeding for their baby.

Researchers tested the accuracy of the sensor using human milk samples containing various levels of acetaminophen. They also verified that the sensor worked in the presence of antibiotics as well as throughout the changing composition of breast milk, from colostrum to mature milk.

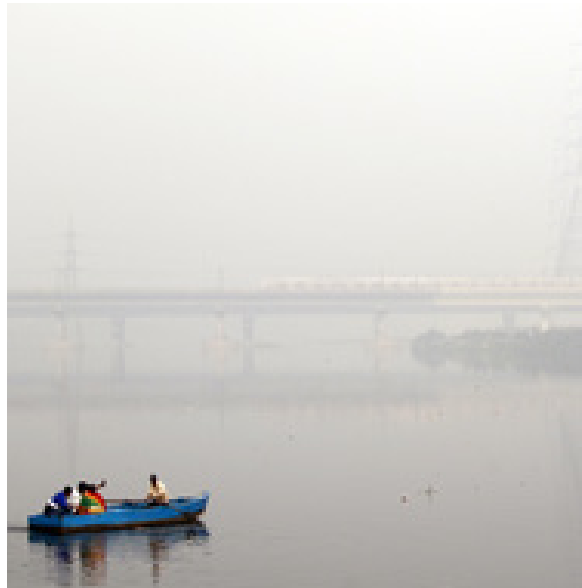
8,500 tonnes of antibiotics from human use contaminating rivers worldwide: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

About 8,500 tonnes of antibiotics -- nearly one-third of what people consume annually -- end up in river systems around the world each year, significantly promoting drug resistance and harming aquatic life, according to a study.

The study, led by researchers from McGill University in Canada is the first to estimate the scale of global river contamination from human antibiotics use.

"While the amounts of residues from individual antibiotics translate into only very small concentrations in most rivers, which makes them very difficult to detect, the chronic and cumulative environmental exposure to these substances can still pose a risk to human health and aquatic ecosystems," said lead author Heloisa Ehalt Macedo, a postdoctoral



fellow in geography at McGill.

For the study, published in the journal *PNAS Nexus*, the research team used a global model validated by field data from nearly 900 river locations.

They found that amoxicillin -- the world's most-used antibiotic -- is the most likely to be present at

risky levels. The risk was especially found in South-east Asia, where rising use and limited wastewater treatment amplify the problem.

While antibiotics are crucial for global health treatments, the "results indicate that there may be unintended effects on aquatic environments and

antibiotic resistance", said Bernhard Lehner, Professor in global hydrology at McGill's Department of Geography.

The research calls for mitigation and management strategies to avoid or reduce their implications, Lehner said.

Notably, the findings did not consider antibiotics from livestock or pharmaceutical factories, both of which are major contributors to environmental contamination.

"Our results show that antibiotic pollution in rivers arising from human consumption alone is a critical issue, which would likely be exacerbated by veterinary or industry sources of related compounds," said Jim Nicell, an environmental engineering professor at McGill.

The team called for monitoring programmes to detect antibiotics or other chemical contamination of waterways.

Scientists find molecule that blocks brain cell death in Parkinson's, Alzheimer's

AGENCIES
SYDNEY

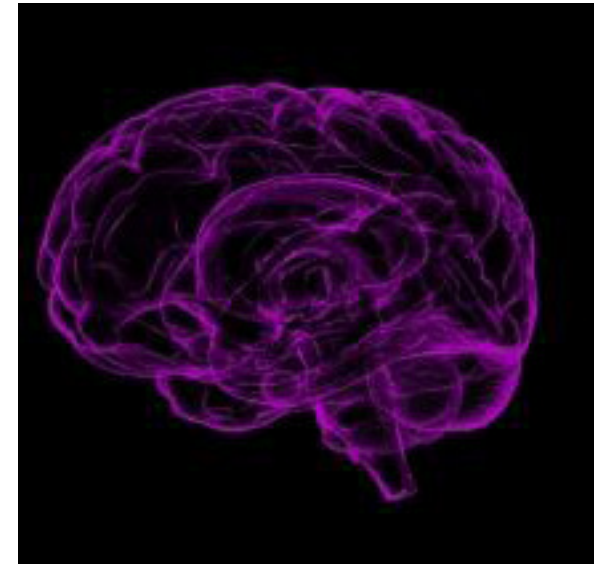
A team of Australian scientists has identified a small molecule that blocks cell death, an advance that could lead to new treatments for neurodegenerative conditions like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

The team from the Melbourne-based Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) aimed to find new chemicals that block cell death, which could help treat degenerative diseases in the future.

The findings offer hope for treatments that could slow or stop the progression of neurodegenerative diseases.

After screening over 100,000 chemical compounds, the team found a small molecule that targets a killer protein called BAX.

By interfering with a well-understood cell death protein, the molecule



effectively stopped cells from dying.

"We were thrilled to find a small molecule that targets a killer protein called BAX and stops it working," said Professor Guillaume Lessene from WEHI.

"While not the case in most cells, in neurons turning off BAX alone may be sufficient to limit cell

death," Lessene added.

While drugs that trigger cell death are transforming the treatment of certain cancers, the development of cell death blockers -- that could be similarly game-changing for neurodegenerative conditions -- has proven challenging.

The study demonstrates the potential to identify drugs that block cell death and may open a new avenue to find much-needed disease-modifying drugs for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, said the researchers.

MP Jugal, MLA Randhawa visit Chatta; assure devp of historic pond, vill infrastructure

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Jammu-Reasi Constituency, Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma, along with Shri Vikram Randhawa, Member of the Legislative Assembly from Bahu constituency, conducted an extensive visit to Village Chatta in Block Satwari of Bahu Assembly segment.

During the visit, the leaders interacted with the residents and listened to their grievances and developmental concerns. A major issue raised by the local populace was the development of the village pond (Talab), which holds cultural as well as ecological significance for the area.

Responding promptly, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma issued necessary direc-



tions to the SDM South Manu Hansa, BDO Satwari Sandeep Gupta, and other concerned officials present during the visit. He emphasized the urgent need to focus not only on the rejuvenation and beautification of the pond but also on holistic development of

the entire village.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Vikram Randhawa reiterated his commitment to addressing grassroots-level issues and assured that the matter would be taken up at all relevant forums to ensure timely action.

Also present during the visit were BJP District President Naresh Singh, Surjeet Singh, Kulveer Charak, Arun manmotra, Parkash Singh, Sanjeev Ji, Tarun Sharma, Amit Gupta, Farmaan, Anwar Ali, Raman, Gulshan, Ajay, Sanjeev, Arun, Tej Ram, Sunny and others prominent locals were present and extended their support for local development initiatives and pledged cooperation in mobilizing resources.

The visit underscored the leaders' resolve to bring about tangible improvements in rural infrastructure and ensure that government schemes effectively reach the last mile.

Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Local Awam at Dhanna and Bhata Dhurian, Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 20 MAY 2025

In an effort to address the healthcare needs of residents in the remote areas of Poonch, Indian Army carried out a Medical Patrol in the villages of Dhanna and Bhata Dhurian. This initiative aims to provide basic medicines to the underprivileged communities, fostering health and well-being. An Area Domination Patrol (ADP) move from Company Operating Base, Gajna to the villages of Dhanna and Bhata Dhurian undertaking the primary role of carrying out Area Domination. The Company Nursing Assistant was part of the ADP, provided the local populace of both these villages basic health check-ups



and distribution of essential medicines. The Indian Army is committed in ensuring that residents in these remote areas have access to quality healthcare, promoting a healthier and stronger community. This initiative aligns with the Indian Army's ongoing commitment to serve the nation beyond defence, exemplifying their dedica-

tion to the well-being of citizens. A total of 20 locals from both villages were attended to by the Battle Field Nursing Assistant (BFNA) during the move of the Patrol. The free medical supplies highlights the Army's ethos of solidarity and support, showcasing the positive impact that collaborative efforts can have on the health.

EC fixes June 8 for holding biennial election of Chamber of Commerce

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

Meeting of the Executive Committee was held today under the Presidency of Arun Gupta to decide fresh date for holding biennial Election of Chamber of Commerce and Industry which were deferred in view of undeclared war between our country and Pakistan. The Executive Committee noted that since the under current of rumour of revocation of ceasefire on 18 of May have been denied by our DGMO so there is no obstacles in holding Election. The Executive Committee unanimously fixed Sunday 8th June as the date for holding deferred biennial election.

Apara Ekadashi fast on Friday, May 23: Rohit Shastri

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

The Ekadashi of the Krishna Paksha (waning phase of the moon) in the month of Jyeshtha is known as Apara Ekadashi. Speaking about this fast, Mahant Rohit Shastri (Jyotishacharya), President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, stated that the month of Jyeshtha is considered highly sacred. During this month, one should maintain bodily purity through bathing and self-discipline, and control the senses while renouncing vices such as lust, anger, greed, attachment, ego, jealousy, and malice, and engage in constant remembrance of the Lord.

Every year, there are twenty-four Ekadashis. However, when an Adhik Maas (extra

lunar month) occurs, the number increases to twenty-six. Apara Ekadashi is also known as Jalkrida Ekadashi, Achala Ekadashi, and Bhadrakali Ekadashi.

This year, the Ekadashi Tithi of Krishna Paksha in the month of Jyeshtha begins at 01:12 AM on 23rd May 2025 and ends at 10:30 PM the same day. As per the sunrise-based tithi system, the fast will be observed on Friday, 23rd May. The Parana (ritual conclusion of the fast) should be performed on Saturday, 24th May, between 5:30 AM and 8:40 AM.

Significance of Apara Ekadashi Fast:

The devotee observing this fast must exercise control over their mind, senses, and behavior. This fast bestows happiness, prosperity, and



liberation from all kinds of troubles. It helps in overcoming enemies. Observing Ekadashi leads a person on the path of righteousness and toward salvation. One becomes wise, respected, and radiates a commanding and luminous personality.

Ritual Method of Observing Ekadashi Fast:

Ensure physical cleanliness and mental purity.

Both married and unmarried individuals

can observe this fast.

The rules of the fast begin on the Dashami (tenth day), with consumption of only sattvic (pure) food.

On Ekadashi, wake up early, bathe, offer water (Arghya) to the Sun, and take the vow (Sankalp) of the fast.

Couples should jointly worship Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Narayan.

In a clean space at home, set up an altar with idols or pictures of Lord Ganesha and Lakshmi-Narayan.

Purify the place with Ganga water or cow urine.

Install a Kalash (sacred pot), fill it with water, place a coconut on top, and invoke the presence of various deities, Navagrahas (nine planets), sacred pilgrimages, Yoginis, and guardian deities.

Perform Shodashopachara Puja (16-fold worship) including: Avahan (invocation), Asana (seating), Padya (washing feet), Arghya (offering), Achaman (sipping water), Snana (ritual bath), Vastra (clothes), Chandan (sandal paste), Pushpa (flowers), Dhoop (incense), Deep (lamp), Naivedya (food offering), Phal (fruits), Paan (betel leaf), Til (sesame), Dakshina (offering), and Aarti (ritual light).

Listen to or read the Ekadashi Vrat Katha (the story of the fast) and conclude with distribution of Prasad.

Mantra: "Om Namoh Bhagavate Vasudevaya" - Chant this mantra 108 times.

The fast can be observed either by complete abstinence from food or with limited fruit consumption (Phalahar).

In the evening, worship Lord Vishnu and then consume fruits. The fast should be broken (Parana) on Dwadashi Tithi, and one must feed a needy person or Brahmin and offer donations and gifts.

Special Rules for Ekadashi Fast:

Avoid tamasic food (impure or heavy food).

Observe celibacy.

Stay away from intoxicants.

Do not cut hair, beard, or nails.

Do not wear leather items (like belts or shoes).

Avoid wearing black clothes.

Do not hurt anyone's feelings, as it is considered a major form of violence.

Immoral actions not only affect the body but also cast a negative influence on one's future.

Indian Army organizes Drawing Competition for School Children Upper Karlah, Chenani, Udhampur



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR: 20 MAY 2025

As part of its continued outreach and welfare initiatives, the Indian Army organized a drawing competition for children at the Government Middle school at Upper Karlah, Chenani. The event aimed at encouraging creativity among young minds while fostering stronger bonds between the Armed Forces and the local community. Over 40 enthusiastic children from different age groups participated in the competition, expressing their imagination and patriotism through art. The themes ranged from "My Nature," and "Our Soldiers," to "India of My Dreams." The children showcased remarkable talent and originality,

leaving everyone thoroughly impressed. Army personnel interacted with the children and teachers, distributing art supplies and refreshments. Prizes were awarded to the top entries to motivate and recognize the young artists. Speaking on the occasion, the Army representative stated, "The Indian Army believes in nurturing the potential of our nation's future - its children. Through such initiatives, we aim to promote education, creativity, and a strong sense of national pride among the youth." This initiative is part of the Indian Army's broader efforts to build lasting relationships with local communities and contribute positively to the holistic development of remote and rural areas.

KVK Kishtwar concludes 15 Days Certificate Course on INM



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 16

KVK Kishtwar today concluded 15 days certificate course on Integrated Nutrient Management for agricultural input dealers and Krishi Udhymis at Kishtwar today. The course was conducted under the leadership of Dr BN Tripathi Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu and was coordinated by Dr Narinder Paul, Incharge KVK Kishtwar under the guidance of Dr Amrish Vaid, Director Extension SKUAST Jammu. 35 youth were trained during the programme.

15 days certificate on INM is pre-requisite for availing licence for the business of fertilizers and plant nutrients. Keeping view the key role inputs dealers in providing technological information to the farmers, this certi-

cate course is mandatory for the fertilizers dealer aspirants.

During the course, series of lectures, exposure visits, method demonstrations and practicals for enhancing knowledge and upgrading skills on soils and fertilizers of aspiring fertilizer inputs dealers and Krishi Udhymis were conducted by the experts from KVKs, SKUAST Jammu and Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department Kishtwar.

Kuldeep Kumar Koul, SMS SDL, Marwah was the resource person on the last day of the programme. He spoke on balanced fertilizers use for proper nutrient management of agricultural crops. He also highlighted the major deficiency symptoms of the nutrients in plants.

Dr Narinder Paul

Incharge KVK Kishtwar while speaking during the concluding programmes of the course informed that nutrients are very essential for growth and development of plants and obtaining economic beneficial yield. In the absence of proper nutrition, crop gets seriously affected which in turn affect the yield of the crop.

Kushal Chandel CAO Kishtwar while addressing the participants briefed about modalities of getting fertilizer licence. He advocated for guiding the client farmers on proper and judicious use of manures and fertilizers and for providing balanced nutrition to the crops. At the end of the programme, certificates were presented by the CAO Kishtwar to the participants.

Indian Army organizes Medical Camp for border villages of Uri

JI NEWS SERVICE
URI, 20 MAY 2025

In a significant move aimed at strengthening the well-being of the people residing along the border, the Indian Army has successfully organized a comprehensive medical camp for the border villages of Urusa, Chakra, Isham and Goalta following the recent ceasefire agreement.

The medical camp, which was set up under the aegis of the Chinar Corps' Dagger Division / Kalapahar Brigade was conducted on 20 May 2025 and offered free medical consultation, diagnostic services, and distribution of medicines to residents of the border villages. The initiative comes in the wake of the renewed peace and ceasefire agreement, aimed at ensuring stability and promoting the welfare of the local population, who have faced a challenging and uncertain environment due to the volatility along the border.

The medical camp saw the participation of numerous military doctors, paramedics, and health professionals, who provided essential healthcare services to over 450 people from the border



villages. A variety of medical conditions were treated, ranging from routine health check-ups, immunization for children, and specialized treatments for chronic ailments, to emergency medical care for those in need.

The medical camp also focused on spreading awareness about preventative healthcare, hygiene, and the importance of regular health check-ups. Additionally, the Indian Army made arrangements to provide essential medicines for common ailments and chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and respiratory issues, to ensure continuity of care for the villagers.

Local leaders and resi-

dents expressed their gratitude for the initiative, acknowledging the relief it brought to many who had been unable to access proper medical care due to the remoteness and previous security challenges in the region. This medical camp is part of a broader initiative by the Indian Army to engage with local communities and foster stronger bonds of trust and cooperation, particularly after the restoration of peace along the border.

The Indian Army remains dedicated to the peace and prosperity of border regions, ensuring that both security and essential services are delivered to those who need them most.

Dr. Randeep Singh completes DM in Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep Medicine at AIIMS Rishikesh

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

Dr. Randeep Singh, son of Paramjit Singh and Ravinder Kour from Bohri, Talab Tillo, Jammu, has brought immense pride to J&K by successfully completing his DM in Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine at AIIMS Rishikesh. He was awarded the DM degree by Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, J. P. Nadda during the convocation held on 15th April 2025 at AIIMS Rishikesh.

Dr. Singh completed his MBBS from GMC Jammu and pursued his post-graduation in Respiratory Medicine from GMC Srinagar, where he worked on his thesis titled "Role of Medical Thoracoscopy



in Undiagnosed Pleural Effusions."

His research contributions are noteworthy, with multiple publications in prestigious international journals, including European Respiratory Journal, CHEST, and British Medical Journal. Dr. Singh was also invited to present his research in interventional pulmonology at the European Respiratory Society (ERS) Congress 2024 in Vienna, Austria.

Indian Army organizes Lecture on Child Health (Ayushman Bharat) at Parori Gujjaran, Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, 20 MAY 2025

A lecture on Child Health under the Ayushman Bharat initiative was conducted by the Indian Army at Parori Gujjaran village on 20 May 2025. The event aimed to raise awareness among the local population about critical aspects of child healthcare and the benefits of government-led health initiatives. The session highlighted the need to enhance the capacity of the health administration to facilitate timely and effective decision-making. It also stressed the importance of strengthening the capabilities of ASHA workers and community health personnel, reinforcing the hub-and-spoke model for digital health



interventions, and ensuring continuous monitoring and assessment of health impacts to improve service delivery. The local residents actively engaged in the discussion and expressed their appreciation for the Indian Army's efforts in support-

ing community health and well-being. A total of 30 villagers attended the event, making it another meaningful step in the Army's ongoing initiatives to strengthen civil-military cooperation and promote positive perception among the local populace.

Cambridge announces results of its largest ever March series held in India

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

The International Education group at Cambridge University Press & Assessment (Cambridge) today announced the results of its March 2025 exam series in India to over 17,000 students at 420 schools nationwide. More students than ever are opting to take exams in the March series which aligns with the Indian academic calendar and supports progression pathways in India and beyond. Cambridge had earlier announced the introduction of Checkpoint series in March, starting in 2026, to better align with academic schedules and internationally benchmarked assessments.

The exam series saw nearly 85,000 entries, the largest ever March series held in India, marking an 11% increase on the pre-



vious year. Cambridge IGCSE witnessed a 12% jump from last year with over 62,000 entries, while Cambridge International AS & A Level saw an increase of 10% with over 20,000 entries. This growth reflects the greater flexibility and choice the March series offers learners in India – enabling them to meet admission deadlines for national universities and gain increased time to explore international opportunities. The growth also reflects the growing global demand for international education.

Congratulating the students on their meritorious results, Vinay Sharma, Senior Vice President, International

Education at Cambridge, said “We extend our sincere congratulations to all learners in India receiving their March exam results. These results are a testament to their diligence and the commitment of their educators, parents and schools. The continued rise in entries exemplifies how Cambridge remains distinctly positioned to offer students a premium, globally recognised curriculum—equipping them with the skills to thrive in a fast-changing world and opening doors to top universities in India and internationally.”

The Cambridge curriculum gives learners flexibility to choose from a wide range of subjects that aligns with their ac-

ademic interests and career aspirations. The most popular subjects for both Cambridge IGCSE and International AS & A Level remained Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry, underscoring a sustained affinity toward STEM subjects for Indian students. Cambridge IGCSE Biology is experiencing a surge in popularity, with entries up 16% compared to last year. This suggests a broadening interest within the STEM field and a growing recognition of the importance of biological sciences among students in India.

Exam entries also show an increased focus on developing future-ready skills, with Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives experiencing a remarkable 24% rise in entries. By engaging students with some of the most pressing issues facing the world today, Cambridge Global

Perspectives develops critical thinking, research, and collaborative problem-solving skills that are vital for success in a rapidly evolving global landscape. Economics and Business also continue to hold strong positions in Cambridge International AS & A Level, ranking 4th and 5th respectively, reflecting a keen interest in understanding the dynamics of the global economy.

More than 800 schools across India offer the Cambridge international curriculum, which is taught in over 10,000 schools in 160 countries. Cambridge introduced the March series in India to align with local admission deadlines, allowing students to receive their results in a timely manner. Students in India also have the option to take Cambridge exams in the June and November series.

Social worker Vijay Sachdeva provides wheelchair to a handicapped person



JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 20

Deoli Assembly's prominent social worker Vijay Sachdeva is a well-known name in the field of social service. Mr. Sachdeva has always been in the news for helping the weaker sections of the society. In this sequence, he has done a very commendable work by providing a wheelchair to a handicapped person. Balwant Sain, Hemant Kumar, Ram Avtar, Manish Keshwani, Jeetu, Bittu Ali ji also

cooperated in this noble work. Mr. Sachdeva says that human life is meaningful only when we help others. He said that I get happiness in helping the weaker sections of the society. Even before this, he has served the needy of the society in many forms. Today the country needs such people, who are always ready to fulfill their social responsibilities. Many other dignitaries were also present on this occasion, who praised this commendable work of Vijay Sachdeva.

Joint India–Nepal Mountaineering Triumph on Mt Kanchenjunga

JI NEWS SERVICE
KANCHENJUNGA, 20 MAY 2025

In a resounding testament to Indo-Nepal friendship and military camaraderie, a combined mountaineering team has successfully reached the 8,586 m summit of Mount Kanchenjunga, the world's third-highest peak on Monday.

Led by Colonel Sarfraz Singh of the Indian Army and Captain Prashant Khanka of the Nepali Army, the nine-member expedition comprised:

Indian Army Team : Col Sarfraz Singh and four soldiers.

Nepali Army Team : Capt Prashant Khanka and three soldiers.

The climbers negotiated severe high-altitude conditions, including sub-zero temperatures and gale-force winds, during their final push from Camp IV (=7,700 m) in the early hours of 19 May. All team members reached the summit safely, unfurling



the national flags of India and Nepal in a symbolic gesture of partnership before commencing a carefully phased descent. This joint achievement not only underscores the professional excellence, endurance and interoperability of both armies, but also reinforces decades of mutual trust that characterise India-Nepal defence cooperation. The mission's success follows rigorous joint training at the High-Altitude Warfare School, Gulmarg, and pre-expedition acclimatisation in the Sikkim Himalaya.

Key Highlights
Altitude achieved: 8,586 m (28,169 ft).
Summit time : 0740 hrs IST, 19 May 2025.

Route : South-West Ridge.

Safety : No injuries reported; descent to Base Camp expected by 22 May.

Senior leadership of both armies have conveyed their congratulations, noting that the feat will inspire greater collaboration in adventure sports, disaster-response exercises and people-to-people ties between the two nations.

Ex-servicemen are pillars of national security: Balbir Ram

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, has praised the Jammu and Kashmir government's decision to assign the responsibility of guarding vital and sensitive establishments to ex-servicemen, calling it a powerful step toward strengthening the Union Territory's security framework while honouring the nation's veterans.

“A soldier's duty never ends,” Balbir said, emphasizing that the spirit of service and patriotism remains deeply rooted in every former serviceman. By deploying ex-servicemen in critical security roles, the government is not only reinforcing the security grid but also pro-



viding these brave individuals another opportunity to serve the nation.

He highlighted the immense value veterans bring—discipline, experience, and unwavering commitment—qualities that make them ideal protectors of key infrastructure. This initiative recognizes their unmatched dedication and gives them a renewed sense of purpose, he added.

Balbir also noted the broader societal impact

of the move, stating that it would inspire younger generations by showing that service to the nation continues beyond the battlefield. This is a shining example of how patriotism and duty endure even in times of peace. It strengthens social cohesion and reinforces national unity.

He further pointed out that integrating ex-servicemen into civil security roles will build greater trust between civilians and the security establishment. Their presence boosts public confidence and symbolizes constant vigilance. This initiative respects their lifelong commitment to the country—uniformed or not.

“Ex-servicemen truly are the pillars of our national security,” Balbir said.

SDH Gandoh performs successful series of Surgeries



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, 20TH MAY 2025.

In a significant development, the dedicated surgical team of Sub District Hospital (SDH) Gandoh, led by Dr. Mudassar Ahmed Sofi (MS Surgery) and efficiently assisted by the OT staff, successfully performed a series of surgeries, reflecting a notable advancement in local healthcare services.

These procedures were carried out under the close guidance of BMO Gandoh, Dr. Farooq Saleem, and with the continuous support and supervision of Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Om Kumar. Their leadership has played a vital role in

strengthening the surgical infrastructure and ensuring quality care for patients in the region.

CMO Doda, Dr. Om Kumar, said, “This achievement reflects the dedication and professionalism of our dedicated medical teams. We are committed to strengthening healthcare services even in the far-flung areas of the district, and SDH Gandoh is setting a fine example.

BMO Gandoh Dr Farooq Saleem commended the entire team for their sincere efforts and commitment to delivering accessible and efficient medical care to the people of Gandoh and surrounding areas.

Yudhvir reviews ongoing devp works in Jammu-East Constituency



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi today convened a crucial meeting with the Engineering Wing of the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) to review the ongoing development works in various wards of the constituency.

The meeting witnessed a detailed discussion on the pace and quality of the development works being executed in Wards No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 19, and 71. In the meeting XEN Janak Arora, AEE Sahil Arora, AEE Sonalika Arora, JEE Sushil Magotra, and JEE Rakesh Kumar were present.

Yudhvir Sethi laid strong emphasis on expe-

editing the pace of ongoing development works without compromising on quality. He reiterated that timely and efficient execution of public works is the top priority for him, adding that the JMC's Engineering Wing is experienced and capable of delivering as per expectations.

The senior BJP leader directed the officials to ensure the completion of all ongoing works in the mentioned wards within the next 15 days. “Only after this phase is complete can we proceed to the next set of development works, which have already been identified for other areas in the constituency,” he stated.

Highlighting his commitment to civic develop-

ment, Yudhvir Sethi said, “It is my responsibility to address every civic issue faced by the residents of East Constituency. I have already assured the people that no ward or locality will be left behind in terms of development during my tenure.”

Yudhvir Sethi also made an appeal to the residents of the East Constituency to remain vigilant and actively monitor the development activities in their respective areas. “Public participation ensures transparency and accountability,” he noted.

The meeting concluded on a positive note with the Engineering Wing officials assuring timely action and adherence to quality standards in all development projects.

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

Bharti Airtel and Google, today, announced a partnership that brings a compelling Google One cloud storage subscription service for Airtel customers, helping address the mounting challenge of limited device storage. All postpaid and Wi-Fi customers will get access to six months of 100 GB Google One cloud storage at no extra cost. They will also be able to share this storage with up to five additional people.

The partnership aims to address the issue of growing data storage constraints faced by users by ensuring that customers have ample space to store their cherished photos, videos, documents and other digital content without the need to frequently delete files or resort to expensive physical storage expansions. Additionally, WhatsApp chats on Android are backed up to Google Account storage which will make device switching easier for customers. The cloud storage provision is compatible with both Android and iOS platforms, making it widely accessible to Air-

tel's diverse customer base.

Siddharth Sharma, Director Marketing and CEO - Connected Homes, Bharti Airtel, said, “With smartphones becoming the main device for managing both personal and professional information, storage has become a significant concern for users. We are pleased to collaborate with Google to address this issue by providing our customers with dependable, secure and user-friendly storage solutions. This partnership will present an opportunity for millions of our postpaid, Wi-Fi customers allowing them access to a further 100 GB of storage.”

Karen Teo, Vice President, Platforms & Devices Partnerships, APAC, Google, said, “We are excited to partner with Airtel to bring Google One to millions in India. Together, we will make it easier for our users to safely back up photos, videos and important files on their phones with more storage across Google Photos, Drive, Gmail and more.”

As an introductory offer, the 100 GB cloud storage will be available at no extra cost for the first six months

from the date of activation, enabling customers to back up their data and experience the convenience of cloud storage. To avail of this offer, customers will have to simply log on to the Airtel Thanks App and claim the benefit. After six months of 100 GB storage at no charge, a nominal fee of Rs 125 per month will be added to the customer's monthly bill. If a customer chooses not to continue the subscription, they can cease to be a Google One member.

With Google One storage, members can:

- Get 100 GB cloud storage to use across Google Photos, Drive and Gmail.
- Keep photos, files and WhatsApp chats safely backed up to the cloud in case of damage or when switching to a new phone.
- Avail of family sharing with up to five additional people at no extra cost.

With the addition of Google One, Airtel customers will now have an unrivalled wealth of digital subscription options at their fingertips, cementing Airtel's position as a frontrunner in providing a holistic and enriching digital lifestyle experience to its customers.

Indian Army launches Relief Operation in Mendhar, Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 20 MAY 2025

In the aftermath of recent ceasefire violations and cross-border shelling in the Mendhar sector of Poonch district, the Indian Army's launched a comprehensive door-to-door humanitarian relief operation to support affected civilians in border villages. Reaffirming its commitment to national service beyond the battlefield, Army personnel provided essential aid including food supplies, medicines, and medical assistance to families impacted by the disruption. Despite challenging terrain and the persistent threat of further hostilities, troops reached remote hamlets situated perilously close to the Line of Control (LoC). The relief mission, conducted in coordination with the



local civil administration, also encompassed health check-ups and psychological support particularly for the elderly, women, and children. Army medical teams ensured timely care for the injured and vulnerable, offering both treatment and comfort. Each household was personally visited by uniformed soldiers, who delivered not only supplies but also reassurance and com-

passion. Their presence brought a sense of safety and solidarity to communities living under stress. This initiative is part of the Army's broader effort to assist civilians in conflict affected regions across Jammu & Kashmir. Temporary medical camps have been established, and sustained monitoring of affected families is underway to ensure ongoing support.

All India Sangram Sena, J&K distributes clothes, essentials

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

The summer season is full swing and for past 21 years, Sangram Sena is Committed in providing clothes and essentials to those in need. This summer the Sena continued its tradition and distributed the following items to the under privileged children.

Clothes, School Bags, School uniforms, sweets, ration and stationery

The distribution took place at Kamini Khad Nagrota Jammu

We encouraged kind-hearted individuals to come forward and support the noble cause by donating similar items to help the poor and needy in the community.

The Sangram Sena team along with esteemed members and guests participated in the dis-



tribution event. Notable attendees included:

Rajesh Raina President All India Sangram Sena
Capt. GS Langeh, Gen Secy

Rajesh Banathia, Chief Organizer and Advisor
Keshav Kumar Sharma, Graphic K7

Brij Mohan, President All India Kashyap Mahasabha

Ravi Singh, sarpanch Kamini Nagrota and Advisor Sangram Sena

Ashok Kumar, Secy Sangram Sena
Kuldeep Singh, Presi-

dent Sangram Sena Youth Wing

Yuvraj Singh, Joint Secy Sangram Sena
Shiv Kapoor, Secy Sangram Sena

Neeraj Banathia, Executive member Sangram Sena

Bhupinder Singh, Executive member Sangram Sena.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who have contributed and participated in the effort to bring warmth and Joy to under privileged during this season.

Indian Army organizes Kaumi Ekta Meet at Navapachchi, Kishtwar



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR: 20 MAY 2025

In a dedicated effort to strengthen the bonds of unity in diversity, Indian Army organized a Kaumi Ekta Meet at village Navapachchi of Kishtwar, district of Jammu & Kashmir on 19 May 2025. This community centric event aimed at promoting spirit of togetherness among the community. The Kaumi Ekta Meet provided a

forum for discussion, cultural exchange and mutual understanding. Indian Army personnel engaged with the local community, emphasizing the significance of unity in the nation building process. 56 prominent society members from village Navapachchi and nearby areas attended the meeting. The event concluded with a collective pledge for communal harmony and a shared vision for a united India.

Kendriya Vidyalaya, CU Jammu felicitate students for their outstanding performance in CBSE Class 10 Exams

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

To honour the achievements of the students, a special felicitation ceremony was held today at the Central University of Jammu wherein Prof. Sh. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu & worthy Chairman Kendriya Vidyalaya, CU Jammu awarded mementoes and books to the toppers and high achievers.

Pertinent to mention here that in this session 31 students appeared in the 10th standard examinations and the school achieved 100% results. Bishu Thapa secured the highest score in the school with outstanding marks of 88.50%. The results have once again reaffirmed the school's commitment to academic distinction and holistic development of the



students. This was possible because of the commitment of the faculty of KV, CU Jammu and unwavering support and mentorship of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

Chairman Prof. Jain congratulated the students and said, "Your dedication, discipline, and perseverance have brought you to this proud moment. You are the torch bearers of excellence, and your achievements today will inspire others. My heartfelt congratulations to you, your parents, and your mentors."

Earlier, Dr Naresh

Kumar- Chairman Nominee welcomed Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain for gracing the felicitation ceremony and thanked for raising the bar of academic standards which in turn has helped in achieving the academic excellence. He also welcomed all the academic performers and the parents accompanying them.

I/C Principal, Mr. Ajeet Kumar Sharma, also lauded the students and staff, emphasizing the school's continuous pursuit of academic and moral excellence.

June 2025 Term-End Examinations of IGNOU pushed to June 12, 2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

The June 2025 Term-end Examinations of the IGNOU for various Academic Programmes offered by the University through ODL & Online Programmes (Pen & Paper & CBT Mode) which were earlier announced to commence from 2nd June 2025 have been rescheduled.

The university has issued a Notification to this effect stating that due to administrative & technical situations, the University

has rescheduled the June, 2025 TEE from 12th June, 2025 till 19th July, 2025.

The June 2025 examinations were earlier supposed to commence from 2nd June, 2025.

For the June 2025 Term End Examinations, Regional Centre Jammu has established 32 Examination Centres spread across the length and breadth of Jammu region having Examination Centres in all ten districts of the region with Examination Centre at each of the ten district

Headquarters so that the students do not have to travel longer distances for appearing in the exams in the prevailing heat weather conditions", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, Regional Centre Jammu.

There are no examinations on Sundays and Govt. Gazetted Holidays. The examinations are conducted on working days in two sessions every day. The morning session examination is conducted from 10AM to 2PM and the

evening session examination is conducted from 2PM to 5PM.

The revised date sheet is placed on IGNOU website www.ignou.ac.in which can be downloaded and saved for future reference. The admit cards (or hall tickets) for the June 2025 exams are expected to be released 10 to 15 days before the new exam commencement date. That means students can expect to download their hall tickets by the end of May 2025. IGNOU has also extend-

ed the assignment submission deadline for the June 2025 TEE. Students now have time until May 31, 2025, to submit their assignments, project reports, dissertations, and other required documents. This extension applies to students from all programmes including ODL, online, GOAL, and EVBB. Students are encouraged to make the most out of the additional time and ensure timely submission of all academic requirements.

Kavinder accuses Mehbooba Mufti of echoing Pakistani propaganda



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta has strongly condemned the statement made by PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti regarding Operation Sindoor. Terming her remarks as "irresponsible and anti-national," the BJP stalwart said that at a time when the entire nation and all major political parties are standing firmly behind the Central Government, Mehbooba Mufti is playing into the hands of Pakistan through her statements.

Reacting sharply, Kavinder Gupta said, "Behind all these statements, Mehbooba's intention seems to be only to support Pakistan. She probably believes that India should not have carried out Operation Sindoor to

eliminate terrorist threats emanating from across the border. This mindset is not only unfortunate but also dangerous."

He added, "When our brave soldiers carried out a successful mission to neutralize terrorists and safeguard our sovereignty, such statements by Mehbooba Mufti clearly reveal who is sympathizing with Pakistan and its terror machinery. Her comments are a direct insult to the sacrifice of our armed forces and to the families of those who laid down their lives for the country."

Speaking at the meeting held at Party Headquarters in Jammu, Kavinder further questioned Mehbooba's silence on Pakistan-sponsored terrorism that has claimed thousands of innocent lives in Jammu and Kashmir. "She did not raise her voice when Kashmiri Pan-

dits were forced to flee, or when school children and civilians were killed in terror attacks. But today, she has the audacity to question a well-executed counter-terror operation. This exposes her priorities and allegiances," he said.

The senior BJP leader urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to see through the "dangerous politics" being played by Mehbooba Mufti. "This is not dissent. This is betrayal. At a time when India is standing tall and united against terrorism, such statements are nothing but propaganda in favour of Pakistan."

Kavinder said that the people of India will never forgive or forget such anti-national utterances, and the nation stands united with its forces and leadership in the fight against terrorism.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI(PHE) MECH. DIVISION KATHUA NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e- NIT No. 18/JSPHEMK of 2025-26 dated: 19-05-2025

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua, on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered/ reputed firms.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Earnest Money	Estimated Cost	Bid Validity
1	2	3	4	5	6
Providing, installation, testing and commissioning of pumping machinery and electromechanical equipments including its other allied works at WSS Dhar Koti in Billawar.	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Kathua	Rs. 500.00 (Non-Refundable) In the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua & also mentioned the e-NT No. and date	2% (pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Kathua)	16.32 lac	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from **19-05-2025 (06:00PM) and uploaded from 19-05-2025 (6:00 PM) to 26-05-2025 (04:00 PM)**. he complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the tenderer shall be debarred from participating in tendering process for a period of 1 year.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division Kathua on **27-05-2025 at 01:00 P.M** or any other day convenient to the Ex. Engineer in the Office chambers of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division Kathua.
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the **Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division Kathua** during office hours and shall be communicated separately.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: JSPHEMK/542-45
Dated: 19-05-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division,
Kathua

DIP/J-1287/25
Date: 20-5-25

DDC Kathua passes resolution to safeguard empowerment of PRI System

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, MAY 20

The District Development Council (DDC) Kathua convened a crucial meeting at the District Headquarters Conference Hall under the chairmanship of Col Mahan Singh (Retd), Chairman DDC Kathua. The session witnessed active participation from Hon'ble Council Members, who unanimously raised serious concerns over recent developments threatening the autonomy and functionality of grassroots democratic institutions under the Panchayati Raj System.

In a strong and unified stance, the Council passed a resolution opposing the diversion of District Capex Budget funds—particularly those allocated for the Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) component (Tier-III). Members expressed deep concern that no Panchayat-level funds have been released in the current financial year, raising apprehensions about the possible redirection of these funds to other departments or bodies—a move the Council categorically condemned.

The Council under-



scored that while the tenures of the first two tiers of the PRI system have concluded, the third tier—represented by the DDC—remains the only active and effective tier. Over the past four years, the DDC has spearheaded substantial development initiatives across the region, averaging over 2,500 works annually, primarily benefiting rural populations. Members warned that such exemplary progress, which has directly contributed to all-round development and public satisfaction across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, now stands at risk due to budgetary constraints.

Further, the Council voiced strong opposition to the recent inclusion of the local MLA in the planning and deliberation process of the DDC's development agenda, asserting that such inter-

ference compromises the autonomy and purpose of the DDC as a grassroots governance body.

The DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh (Retd), supported by fellow members, urged the Government to refrain from any action that weakens or destabilizes the DDC institution. "The independence, purpose, and constitutional sanctity of the District Development Councils must be preserved. This institution should not be rendered ineffective or sidelined," the members affirmed.

The Council unanimously demanded the immediate release of the withheld Tier-III Capex Budget and reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to protecting the spirit and structure of decentralized governance enshrined in the Panchayati Raj framework.

DDC members present at the meeting included Raghunandan Singh (Vice-Chairperson, DDC Kathua), Bikram Singh, N.D. Tripathi, Tajinder Singh Goldy, Reeta Thakur, Dr. Shaveta Singh, Sushma Devi, Rimy Charak, Neeru Rajput, Sandeep Majotra, and Karan Atri.

GPC Jammu organizes Admission Awareness Campaign at GHSS Bhalwal & GHSS Gharota



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

Admission Awareness Campaign organized at GHSS Bhalwal and GHSS Gharota (Zone Bhalwal) by Faculty members of Government Polytechnic College Jammu. Under the guidance of Er. Talet Mahmood Principal Govt. Polytechnic College Jammu, Admission Awareness Programme organized in Bhalwal Zone. As per the instructions from College Authorities regarding Awareness for Admission to 3-year Diploma in Engineering/ Non - Engineering

Programme in Government Polytechnic College Jammu, Group -A members as per Order which Consists of Er. Raj Shekhar (H.O.D Automobile), Mr. Mehmood Ahmed, Mr. Manjeet Singh, Mr. Vicky Sharma and Mr. Rakesh Kumar today visited GHSS Bhalwal and GHSS Gharota (Zone Bhalwal) and aware the students regarding courses/Scholarships offered in Govt Polytechnic College Jammu. Further, motivated the students for taking admission in technical course offered in Government Polytechnics to improve their skill and

employability. speaking on the occasion, Er. Vicky Sharma Faculty Electrical Engineering Department said, "Polytechnic education offers practical skills, hands-on training, and faster employability. Our awareness campaign will help students and parents make informed decisions about technical careers." Interested students are encouraged to take admission in Government Polytechnic College Jammu. The college is committed to nurturing skilled professionals through industry-relevant training and academic excellence.

Indian Army organizes Blood Donation Camp at Saaj, Rajouri



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, 20 MAY 2025

A blood donation camp was successfully conducted at Saaj by Indian Army. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from both military personnel and civilian medical staff. The camp was organized with the support of five civilian doctors and four civilian nursing assistants, along with the Medical Officer (RMO) and Nursing Assistants (NA) of Indian Army. Approximately 60 individuals came forward to donate blood of various

blood groups, reflecting a strong spirit of solidarity and commitment to humanitarian service. The gesture was highly appreciated by the doctors from Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri, as the donated blood would significantly contribute to maintaining a steady blood supply for patients in need of emergency transfusions. The initiative stands as a testament to the Indian Army's dedication to the welfare of local communities and its unwavering commitment to nation-building efforts beyond the call of duty.

Congress holds 'Jai Hind Yatra' in Jammu, Seeks accountability over national security issues

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

Congress today took out an impressive 'Jai Hind Yatra' in Jammu city, which started from Congress headquarters Shaheed Chowk Jammu and culminated at Indira Chowk, after passing through Residency Road, Raghunath Mandir Chowk, Hari Market and Ranbir Market area.

The Yatra was led by JKPC Chief Shri Tariq Hameed Karra alongwith AICC General Secretary & CLP leader Ghulam Ahmed Mir besides Working President Tara Chand (Ex Dy.CM), Raman Bhalla, Ch. Lal Singh (Ex-MP), AICC Secretary Neeraj Kundan, several former ministers, legislators, DCC Presidents, PCC leaders, Frontal heads, Ex-Corporators and others including Mula Ram, Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney, Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma, Ved Mahajan, Th. Balbir Singh, Yash Pal Kundal, Rajnish Sharma, Smt. Gurbachan Kumari Rana, Smt. Indu Pawar, Th. Hari Singh Chib, Smt. Kanta Bhan, Dina Nath Bhagat, Krishan Chander Bhagat, Smt. Kanta Andotra, DCC Presidents Th. Manmohan Singh (Jammu Urban), Sdr. Gurdarshan Singh, Shashi Sharma, Amrit Bali, Suresh Dogra, Satish Sharma, Narinder Sharma, Balbir Singh, T.S. Tony, Thamosh Khokhar, Bhushan Dogra, Dwarka Choudhary, DCC Presidents Bupinder Singh Jamwal (Reasi), Sanjeev Sharma & Babal Gupta (Samba), Pankaj Dogra (Kathua), Vinod Khajura & Sumit Mangotra (Udhampur), Ajay Lakhotra (NSUD), Vijay Sharma (Seva Dal), Ch. Husain Ali Wafa (ST), Smt. Zahida Khan (Intellectual), Jatin Raina (Social Media), Sdr. Gajan Singh (Transport), Anirudh Sawhney (Youth), Bharat Priya (Kissan), Bhavishya Sudan (RTI), Neeraj Gupta, Sanjeev Panda, Rajiv Saraf, Rajveer Singh,



Kapil Singh, Sahil Sharma, Michael Wazir, Ricky Dalotra, Kamal Singh, Vijay Malhotra, Rama Kant Khajuria, Vijay Shastri, Virinder Singh Manhas, Pawan Dev Singh, Chander Shekhar, Ajay Kumar, Latish Sharma, Nageshwar Narian, Gurmeet Singh, Jatinder Bhagat, Jatinder Chib, Janak Raj Mehra, Vinay Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Sobit Sharma, Raj Kumar Sodhi, Pardeep Bhalla, Bodh Raj, Davinder Singh, Jasmeet Raina, Sonu Dogra, Vijay Khajuria, Mohan Lal Bhavagn, Prof. H.R. Sharma, Smt. Parveen Akhtar, Aniradha Sharma, Bodh Raj, Devinder Singh and others.

Earlier addressing a largely attended 'Jai Hind Sabha' in the presence of AICC General Secretary G.A.Mir, working Presidents, Ex-Ministers, Ex-Legislators, DCC Presidents and Frontal heads, JKPC President Tariq Hameed Karra questioned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the opposition demanded for an all party meeting and a special Parliamentary Session to discuss vital questions before the nation.

He also questioned the silence of Prime Minister and BJP leadership over the highly condemnable hate utterance of MP minister Vijay Shah targeting

a decorated Army officer, which speaks of the mindset of BJP. He welcomed the Hon'ble Supreme Court for taking serious notice of the ministers' utterances. He also condemned the utterances of Dy. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh who insulted the brave armed forces, but the silence of the Prime Minister speaks volumes of the BJP.

He said that the nation needs to be taken in to confidence over various questions right from Pehalgam carnage to the announcement of ceasefire by third country which has happened for the first time in the history of country. He questioned why the security was missing at a vulnerable place like 'Biesaran-Pehalgam' despite prior intelligence inputs and termed it a serious security lapse. The security of UT is under the Home Ministry directly, so the government must own the serious security lapse leading to the martyrdom of 28 persons. He said that the entire country stood behind the armed forces and the government including the entire opposition deferring all vital questions for the sake of nation.

He said that our armed forces bravely fought the PAK sponsored terrorism and furthered their glori-

ous record of valor and bravery in conducting operation 'Sindoor' but it is highly questionable that our Foreign Minister S.Jai Shankar has admitted that at the start of the operation the GOI informed the Pakistan about such operation, when our jawans were risking their lives to attack the targets.

Karra said that Leader of Opposition Shri Rahul Gandhi has rightly said that it was a crime against the nation for which the country wants an answer, as to how the lives of our jawans were put in to great risk.

He said that the ceasefire announcement by the US President came as a surprise to the entire nation, as to how a third country could do so when our forces were fighting a war against terrorism and terrorist state. He said that US President further claimed that he used trade to get the ceasefire between the two countries, which is again more serious and needs answers from the Prime Minister.

Emphasizing that J&K is an integral part of our country and all outstanding issues including illegal occupation of POJK is a bilateral issue especially after the 'Shimla Agreement' when the Pakistan was forced to sign a treaty

of Madhya Pradesh, even though Supreme Court has taken serious view in the matter of hate speech of the minister.

He said that it was Congress party which first announced full support to the nation and the armed forces for any action to give a befitting response to terrorism and Pakistan after the Pehalgam carnage. The very next day the LOP Shri Rahul Gandhi returned after leaving his US trip and the CWC under the Presidency of Shri Malikarjun Kharge declared full support to the government and the armed forces to deal with the situation.

The all party meetings held on the suggestion of the Congress party were not attended by the Prime Minister and instead he went to election state Bihar to address public rally. He questioned why the Prime Minister is silent on the important questions being raised by the defence experts, intellectuals and not chairing all party meet and holding special session of parliament to answer those questions of vital importance to the nation.

Working President Raman Bhalla in his brief address to the 'Jai Hin Sabha' said that country is proud of our armed forces and salutes their bravery and sacrifices for the nation and shall ever remain indebted to them for protecting and preserving the sovereignty and integrity of the country. He said that all district level 'Jai Hind Yatras' will be conducted to salute the brave armed forces.

He lashed out at the BJP for its cheap attempt to take political mileage out of the operation 'Sindoor' conducted by the armed forces who belong to the nation and not any political party and the credit goes to our forces. He said that the nation has the right to ask important questions to the government which emerged out of the situation.

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Pak Army 'lost its credibility' before their own nation, says Commander Poonch Brigade

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MAY 20 (KNO)

Indian Army on Tuesday said that Pakistan Army has "lost its credibility before their own nation" and its losses were not just in numbers, but in morale and initiative also.

Commander of Poonch Brigade, Brigadier Mudit Mahajan while addressing a news conference here, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Poonch Brigade was engaged in intense and continuous operations during Operation Sindoor. The Poonch Brigade was not a part, but the heart of Operation Sindoor."

Recalling May 7 night, when strikes were carried out at nine terrorist camps in Pakistan to avenge April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, Brigadier Mahajan said, "The Army struck with unmatched precision and purpose. Six of the nine critical terrorist targets struck were opposite Poonch, Rajouri, and Akhnour, and these were neutralised effectively that night," he added.



He said, "Only when the Pakistan Army escalated by indiscriminately targeting civilian areas did the Indian Army decisively shift to hitting their military targets. Pakistan Army losses were not just in numbers, but in morale and initiative. Today, they have lost their credibility before their own nation."

Brigadier Mahajan said that they have inputs about "imposing heavy numbers in fatal and non-fatal casualties" upon the enemy. "The numbers are only adding up with each passing day. Operation Sindoor is not over, it only remains suspended for the time being," he said. KNO

The Unprofessionalism of Pakistan Artillery has come to Fore

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, 20 MAY 2025

A 155mm Un Exploded Ordinance (UXO) was reported in the Mendhar Sector after the Cease Fire Violations. Indian Army's Bomb Disposal Team reached to destroy the same in-situ, only to find that the Artillery Shell was with a Plug instead of the Fuse. Fitting of a Fuse on an Artillery Shell is the Most Basic Training imparted to Gunners worldwide as part of their Basic Training. This UXO is an apt example of the extremely shallow training standards of the Pakistan Artillery & the false tall claims they resort in World Forums. Indian



Army is undertaking relentless operations to destroy these UXOs in various locations of Poonch, Krishna Ghati and Mendhar sector along with Jammu & Kashmir Police to provide safety to the Local Awam. The operations have been executed with strict adherence to safety protocols & minimum risk to human life and property.

GDC Kishtwar develops Vertical Garden using Recycled Bottles

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 20

In a shining example of innovation, teamwork, and environmental responsibility, the Department of Botany at Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar has established the institution's first-ever vertical garden – a sustainable project built entirely with recycled plastic bottles.

The initiative was made possible through the visionary support of Principal Prof. Basharat Iqbal and the leadership of Head of the Department of Botany, Prof. Satish Kumar, who has consistently encouraged green and student-led innovations on campus.

Under the dedicated supervision of Prof. Asma Javaid, the project came to



life with active participation from Semester VI students, who enthusiastically embraced each stage – collecting, preparing, and planting over 50 reused plastic bottles.

The garden now features a colorful collection of plants such as Salvia, Catharanthus, Dianthus, Geraniums and succulents, breathing new life into the campus environment.

The project reflects the remarkable commitment and collaboration of the faculty. Prof. Asma Javaid brought creativity and

hands-on leadership to the effort, while Dr. Deepak Chauhan, Dr. Hassan Jaleel, Dr. Arshad, and Dr. Opendar Surmal offered their expertise and tireless support throughout. Their collective efforts ensured the scientific, aesthetic, and educational success of the initiative.

The interdisciplinary spirit was further strengthened by Dr. Shazia Tabasum from the Department of Zoology, whose collaboration enriched the outcome.

Special acknowledge-

ment goes to Jahangeer Sheikh and Shahid Husain Giri, whose technical assistance and dedication were invaluable, as well as Talat Samreen and Rehan Kousar for their enthusiastic contributions.

Senior faculty members including Nain Kumar (Head, Department of Physics), Prof. Ajeet and Prof. Jai Deep also extended their support and appreciation, applauding the Botany Department's innovative mindset and commitment to sustainability.

This vertical garden stands as a proud symbol of faculty mentorship, student creativity and institutional leadership, marking a new chapter in GDC Kishtwar's journey toward eco-conscious education and campus greening.

Director Information JK reviews Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra arrangements

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 20

The Director Information, Jammu and Kashmir, Nitish Rajora today chaired a meeting of officers at the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Srinagar, to review the arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY).

At the outset, the Director took a detailed review of logistical arrangements, including the installation of public address systems (PAS), staff deployment, and the formulation of a comprehensive media and publicity plan.

He emphasized the need for robust staff deployment and seamless coordination across all designated locations.

Stressing the importance of early prepared-



ness, the Director instructed that foolproof arrangements be made in advance for the smooth installation and operation of PAS at all earmarked spots to ensure better convenience for the pilgrims.

He further directed that preparations related to installation of hoardings, banners, and other publicity materials be completed well in advance at all identified locations.

He issued strict instructions for effective coordination among the designated staff to ensure that all stations remain functional and operate smoothly until the culmination of the sacred pilgrimage.

The chair was briefed on the current status of arrangements, including the availability of staff and the installation of necessary equipment and machinery for the hassle-

free functioning of stations during the Yatra. Officers also apprised the Director of the facilities being put in place, in line with past practices.

The Director underscored the importance

of effective publicity campaigns to disseminate vital information about the Yatra. The meeting was attended by Joint Director Headquarters Vivek Puri, Joint Director Kashmir Syed Shahnawaz Ahmad Bukhari, Joint Director Jammu Deepak Dubey, Deputy Director Information PR, Deputy Director Central, concerned District Information Officers, and other officials.

Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan DC Kishtwar reviews preparedness for launch of IEC campaign

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAY 20

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the preparations for launch of Information Education and Communication campaign under Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan in the district.

The DC directed PO ICDS and District Social Welfare Officer to submit a detailed plan for conducting the IEC campaign across the 19 tribal Villages in the district.

He emphasized the need for a well-structured and integrated plan to ensure effective execution of the initiative aimed at uplifting tribal communities. The DDC directed



for the constitution of Village-Level Committees comprising male and female youth from tribal villages to actively lead the campaign and help line departments in identification of Institutional gaps.

These committees will play a pivotal role in spreading awareness and assisting in the smooth implementation of the Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan on Ground level.

The DC directed the line departments to identify

and address critical gaps in the delivery of services to tribal populations. Special emphasis was laid on generating mass awareness about the benefits of Centrally Sponsored Schemes meant for tribal population at the Sub-Division, Tehsil, and Block levels.

ADC Pawan Kotwal; ACR Idrees Lone; CEO KDA Kaiser Bhawani; SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ur Rahman and other officers from the line departments attended the meeting.

MP Mian Altaf chairs DISHA meeting at Kulgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MAY 20

Member of Parliament (MP), Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency, Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi, today chaired a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam.

The meeting was convened to review the implementation and progress of various centrally sponsored schemes and developmental projects in the district.

Chairperson, DDC Kulgam, M Afzal; MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami; MLA Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad Shah were present in the meeting while Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Ather Aamir; SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal, ADDC, ADC, JDP, ACD, Executive Engi-



neers, and other senior officers also attended the meeting.

During the session, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Ather Aamir Khan, presented a PowerPoint overview, highlighting achievements under flagship schemes such as MGNREGA, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), PMGSY, PMAY-G, and various social schemes and programmes.

It was informed that under MGNREGA, a total of 58,709 job cards have

been issued, generating 26.62 lakh man-days during the financial year 2024-25.

Under PMAY-G, against a target of 5,881 houses, 5,345 have been completed. Additionally, a total of 21,245 households were surveyed under PMAY-G Survey 2.0.

Reviewing the Jal Jeevan Mission, MP emphasized the need to achieve 100% household access to clean drinking water, urging officials to maintain quality standards in execution. Stressing the impor-

importance of infrastructure, he directed the concerned departments to ensure all unconnected habitations are linked through quality road networks under PMGSY. He also called for intensified public awareness campaigns to educate people about government welfare schemes.

MP assessed the staffing and equipment availability at the District Hospital and other vital departments to ensure seamless public service delivery. He reiterated that MGNREGA remains a critical instrument for rural employment generation.

Further, he laid emphasis on the scientific collection and disposal of waste.

During the meeting, MP Mian Altaf attentively listened to suggestions and demands raised by MLAs and officials, reaffirming his commitment to the holistic development and welfare of the district.

Cultural Unit DIPR Jammu convenes 'Nasha Mukh' Bharat awareness programme at GHSS Bhalwal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

Cultural Unit Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu, in collaboration with District Administration Jammu, convened a Cultural Awareness Programme titled 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' (Say No to Drugs) today at the Government Higher Secondary School Bhalwal.

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

Satish Sharma reviews Capex plan, Sports Department's development initiatives

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 20

Exhorting upon the officers to expedite implementation of the initiatives being undertaken in the sports sector, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today said that this is imperative for upgrading the sports infrastructure enabling youth create a niche for themselves at national and international level.

The Minister was reviewing the works plan for the department of Youth Services & Sports under the Capex sector for the year 2025-26.

Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Sarmand Hafiz, Director General Youth Services and Sports, Rajinder Singh Tara, Secretary JK Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul and other senior officers attended the meeting.

Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, presented a detailed brief about the developmental and the sports activities to be undertaken.

The Minister emphasized the need to accelerate implementation of ongoing



projects aimed at strengthening the sports infrastructure and promoting youth engagement across the region. He expressed concern over delays in certain schemes, instructing the officials to identify and address the bottlenecks hampering progress on any development initiative.

"The youth are at the core of our development strategy and sports play a vital role in their holistic growth. We are determined to ensure that all sports related initiatives are completed in a time bound and transparent manner," the Minister stated.

He reviewed the key projects including construction of new sports complexes, upgradation of playgrounds, talent identification programs and district level training camps.

He called for improved coordination among the stakeholder departments and timely release of funds to ensure smooth execu-

tion of vital works.

The Minister also advocated for enhancement of wages for National Youth Corps (NYCs) volunteers, acknowledging their critical contribution towards promoting sports and youth development at the grassroots level. "NYCs are the backbone of our field level implementation. It is imperative that their services are recognized through better remuneration and support," he asserted.

The Minister further directed the department to conduct regular performance audits and field visits to monitor on ground impact. He assured all necessary support from the government to create an enabling ecosystem for sports and youth empowerment.

The meeting also discussed the directions and the budget announcements and called for devising a mechanism for early completion of these besides the

recommendations being projected by the Legislators as well.

Apart from the budget review, the meeting also discussed the issue of Rehbar-e-Khel, hike in the honorarium of NYCs besides appointment of outstanding sports persons.

The meeting also discussed projects like Khel Gaon Youth Hostels, state of art cricket academies, major indoor sports, sports projects in the border, rural and tribal areas and the projects under peace and developmental initiatives as well.

The Minister emphasised that under peace and development initiatives and in view of the present scenario in the UT, sports activities should be undertaken on a holistic pattern by involving people and youth in particular. He said that the sports activities can lead to a reduction of the stress level thereby increasing the happiness index and overall health of the individuals.

Secretary, Sports Council, presented a detailed brief about the activities being undertaken by the Council besides the calendar of activities to be undertaken.

Agriculture Department Jammu celebrates World Bee Day with Progressive Beekeepers

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAY 20

The Department of Agriculture, Jammu, today celebrated World Bee Day with great fervour and commitment across the Jammu Division. The central event was organized here at the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo, under the global theme "Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all." The celebration highlighted the indispensable role of bees and other pollinators in sustaining ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity, and ensuring food security.

Several progressive farmers and beekeepers shared their experiences, including Babli Devi, Neelam Devi from Samba, Jeffi Kumari, Rajinder Baru and young entrepreneur Vasu Sharma, who spoke about his journey in organic honey production.

The event was presided over by Director Agriculture, Jammu, S. Arvin Singh Reen and was attended by Joint Director (Extension), Satish Sharma, Joint Director (Inputs), Dr. Ashwani Kumar and Joint Director (SLUB), S. Sohan Singh



among others.

The proceedings began with a welcome address by Assistant Entomologist, Apiculture Development Scheme Jammu Rajesh Verma. He provided an insightful overview of World Bee Day, emphasizing its importance in educating the participants about the vital role bees play in ecological balance and agricultural productivity.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director emphasized the ecological and economic significance of bees. He said, "Bees are not just pollinators; they are vital contributors to our food systems and biodiversity. Jammu has immense potential for commercial beekeeping, which can serve as a sus-

tainable income source for our farming community." He also highlighted initiatives like honey testing labs, diagnostic centres, and processing units set up in Jammu to enhance quality production and provide support to beekeepers.

The Director urged the public and farmers to engage in pollinator-friendly practices such as planting native flowering plants, minimizing pesticide use, supporting local honey producers, and spreading awareness about bee conservation.

The event also witnessed participation from senior officials including Deputy Director (Central), Sanjeev Rai Gupta, Deputy Director (Planning) Jammu, Priyanka Parihar, Agronomist (VIS) Jammu,

Vikas Padha, Deputy Director (Trainings), Karuna Nidhi, SMS RL, Madan Lal, SMS RL, Dharmesh Vaid, SMS RL, Sanjay Anand, Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu, Manohar Lal Sharma, DSCO Jammu, Nirmal Parkash, DSSO Jammu, Rakesh Sharma, PPO Jammu, Raju Mahajan, Agriculture Chemist Jammu, Vinod Sharma, MDO Jammu, Raghubir Singh Kochhar, Farmers, Beekeepers, Sectoral Heads, Section Officers and other staff members among others. The programme was hosted by the Apiculture Development Scheme Jammu and was seamlessly coordinated by AEA, Veena Wazir, who conducted the proceedings.