

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Severe stomach pain
- Redness on the skin
- Stomach pain
- Stomach pain
- Stomach pain
- Stomach pain

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## LG releases "Rubaroo" by former MLC Late Ramesh Arora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 22 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday released a collection of Hindi poetry "Rubaroo" penned by Late Ramesh Arora.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to former MLC and senior BJP Leader Shri Ramesh Arora and recalled his contribution to the literary world.

Family members of Ramesh Arora were

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Pak's game of state and non-state actors won't work anymore: PM

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BIKANER (RAJASTHAN), MAY 22 (KNO)

Asserting that Pakistan's game of state and non-state actors will not work anymore, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday warned Pakistan that if there is any terrorist attack on India it will get a befitting reply.

In his first public address here after "Operation Sindoor" that was launched in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror



attack, the Prime Minister, according to the news agency said, "Nuclear threats won't scare us, if there is a terrorist attack on India, it will get a befitting reply. The time and methods will also be decided by our army and the conditions will also be

ours." He reiterated, "We will not see the perpetrators of terror and the government patronising the terrorists separately. We will consider them as one."

The Prime Minister said that in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, "We destroyed nine biggest terror hide-outs in 22 minutes. The world has seen what happens when 'Sindoor' turns into 'barood' (gunpowder)."

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## J&K integral part of India, not open for any negotiation: MEA

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 22 (KNO)

Ruling out any third-party mediation, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said that if talks are to take place with Pakistan, these will only be held on the vacation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and the cessation of cross-border terrorism.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal during the weekly briefing in the national capital, according to the news agency said, "Jammu and Kashmir is an

integral part of India and not open for any negotiation. Any bilateral discussion will only be on the vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory by Pakistan."

"Any India-Pakistan engagement has to be bilateral," Jaiswal said, reaffirming that all issues must be resolved directly between the two countries.

He also reiterated that the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) will remain suspended until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably ends its support for ter-

rorism. "Water and blood cannot flow together. Trade and terror cannot go together," said Jaiswal.

On the issue of terrorism, the MEA spokesperson said, "India remains open to dialogue, but only on specific points such as the extradition of known terrorists. We are open to discussing the handing over of noted terrorists whose list was given to Pakistan some years ago."

He also dismissed claims that the United States played a mediating role in the recent

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## CM Omar Abdullah asks JKSSB to fast-track recruitment process

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the functioning of the Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), stressing the need to remove bottlenecks and ensuring time-bound and transparent recruitment process.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal



Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance,

Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department, Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives

Department, Secretary Law, Chairperson JKSSB and other senior officers.

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## No third-party intervention was involved in ending hostilities between India-Pak: Jaishankar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22 (KNO)

Asserting that the ceasefire agreement was directly negotiated between India and Pakistan, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar on Thursday made it explicitly clear that there was no third-party intervention involved in ending hostilities between the two countries earlier this month.

The External Affairs Minister in an interview



to a Dutch news channel, according to the news agency said, "The cessa-

tion of firing and the ceasefire agreement was directly negotiated between India and Pakistan. We made it very clear to the international community not only United States that if Pakistan wants to stop firing, their general should call our general and tell us. That's how it happened their DGMO called his counterpart here and an understanding was arrived at."

He said that not

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## School timing changed in Kashmir amid heatwave

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22 (KNO)

Minister of Education, Sakina Itoo Thursday said that the school timing has been changed in Kashmir region and will be implemented from Monday in view of the heat wave across Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the news agency, Itoo said, "I had instructed the School Education Department to change the school

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## CIK produces chargesheet against terrorist aide for facilitating SIM cards to active terrorists

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22 (KNO)

The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) on Thursday said to have produced a charge-sheet against a terrorist associate (Airtel Franchise) for issuing 'SIM Card Connection' to active terrorists.

"Police Station CIK produced charge sheet against one Mudaris Ahmad Sheikh S/O Bashir Ahmad Sheikh R/O Hanand

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## >> Heatwave sweeps J&K

## Srinagar hits 133-year May record at 34.4°C

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22 (KNO)

The intense heatwave has gripped Jammu and Kashmir, with Srinagar surpassing the previous records on Thursday as the station recorded the third highest-ever temperature in the month of May at 34.4 degrees Celsius.

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng, as per the news agency, shared that Srinagar recorded the season's highest day temperature today at 34.3 degree Celsius.



He informed that the station has recorded the third-highest-ever day temperature in the month of May in 133 years. The previous record

was 34.3 degrees Celsius recorded on May 28, 1971, he said.

J&K is presently witnessing an intense heatwave, while the administration

and doctors have issued advisories, appealing people to take adequate precautions.

Meanwhile, as per the details, Qazigund recorded the third highest temperature in the month of May since 1956 at 33.5 degrees Celsius. However, in May 2024, the temperature of 34.0 degrees Celsius was recorded, which stands as the all-time record, Keng said.

According to Keng, Kokernag recorded the all-time highest day temperature in the month

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## >> Kishtwar Encounter

## Soldier killed, Operation on

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MAY 22 (KNO)

A soldier was killed on Thursday in an ongoing gunfight between security forces and terrorists at Singhpora area of Chatroo in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said.

The operation was launched early Thursday morning following specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area. A joint team of the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and CRPF cordoned off the suspect-

ed location.

"As the joint forces approached a suspected hideout, the terrorists opened fire, leading to a heavy exchange," an official told the news agency. During the initial exchange, one soldier sustained critical injuries and later succumbed despite receiving immediate medical attention.

Confirming the casualty, the Indian Army's White Knight Corps said in a post on X (formerly Twitter): "During the ongoing operation, fierce gunfight is continuing. One of our

#Bravehearts sustained grievous injuries in the exchange of fire and has succumbed despite best medical efforts. Operation is in progress."

The Army has named the counter-terror operation as "Op Trashi." In an earlier update, White Knight Corps said, "Contact has been established with terrorists during a joint operation with @JmuKmrPolice in Chhatru, Kishtwar, this morning. Additional troops have been inducted, and operations are ongoing

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## Man impersonating as pony operator nabbed on Shri Mata Vaishno Devi track

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 22

In a significant development towards maintaining the sanctity and security of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage, Police have apprehended one person on Thursday for impersonating a registered pony carrier and illegally operating on the track without proper authorization in Katra town of Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Police said that during routine patrolling on the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi

track under the jurisdiction of Police Post Banganga, the team, upon reaching near Bathing Ghat, stopped a person engaged in pony carrier activities for verification of credentials.

Upon inquiry, the individual identified himself as Parveen Kumar of Targah, Jammu, and presented a pony card bearing registration number 200417.

However, upon checking the pony card, it was found that the photograph on the card did not match the person carry-

ing it, said police adding that the individual was then asked to produce a valid ID proof and upon presenting his Aadhaar card, his true identity was revealed as Kuldeep Raj of Katyal, Tehsil Chowki Choura, District Jammu.

"The individual was found to be impersonating another person using a forged and unauthorized pony card and was operating without any legitimate permission to ply on the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi track," said

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## Not a single word on terrorism, Pak: LoP Sharma slams NC resolutions

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22 (KNO)

Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, launched an attack on the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), accusing the party of ignoring the Pahalgam terrorist attack and the sacrifices made by Indian security forces during Operation Sindoor.

Speaking in a 5-minute video statement, Sharma, as per the news agency said, "For the first time, not only India but the entire world has seen such a response to a terrorist incident. The courage shown by our forces



during Operation Vermilion is unmatched."

He added that it was surprising that the JKNC, in its Executive Committee meeting, passed seven resolutions but did not mention the army or the security forces even once.

"There is no appreciation, no recognition of

the bravery of our forces. The sacrifice they made for Jammu and Kashmir, for the unity and integrity of India, has not been acknowledged by the National Conference," Sharma said.

He questioned why the resolutions did not include any reference to terrorism or Pakistan. "Pakistan-sponsored terrorists killed 26 innocent people. Yet there is no mention of Pakistan, no mention of terrorism. What kind of sympathy is this?" he asked.

Sharma said the JKNC was more focused on demanding the restoration of Article 370 and statehood instead of

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## >> Kashmir's tourism in crisis 90% bookings cancelled after Pahalgam terror attack

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22 (KNO)

A month-long slump in tourism activities across Jammu and Kashmir has affected the people associated with the sector badly, with the stakeholders saying it has now become difficult for them to even manage the daily expenses.

The tourism activities started declining soon after 26 innocent people, mostly tourists, were killed by the terrorists in Baisaran area of Pahalgam on April 22, 2025.

The houseboat owners, tour operators, Shikara owners and cab driv-

ers are expecting revival of the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to the news agency, Gowhar Ahmad, a houseboat owner from Dal Lake Srinagar, said that since the attack in Pahalgam, their bookings have been severely affected.

"The Dal Lake is deserted, as the usual bustle of tourists is surely missed. Our houseboats are almost empty, with about 90 per cent of our bookings cancelled; there are no new bookings even for ordinary days," he said.

Ahmad added, "We are hopeful that the middle

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## 17 Major water harvesting structures to be developed across rural blocks of Budgam: DDC Labroo

J1 NEWS DESK  
BUDGAM, MAY 22

To kick-start the implementation of the 'Catch the Rain' initiative in the district, a meeting was held today under the chairmanship of the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo, here.

Meeting decided that 17 new major water harvesting structures/ tanks/ springs shall be developed in the rural blocks of the district with one such water harvesting structure in each of the rural blocks to enhance water sources and tap the rain water to augment the overall water availability in the district.

DDC outlined the implementation strategy for these works which focus on water conservation through rainwater harvesting and related measures.



He emphasized the need for constructing one large rainwater harvesting plant in each Block to ensure effective water conservation.

He stressed the importance of timely completion of DPRs of all water harvesting plants while ensuring their long-term sustainability.

Officers were directed to ensure proper implemen-

tation and maintenance of the rainwater harvesting systems, and to resolve any field-level issues that may be causing delays.

DDC also directed the Ex. Engineer PHE of both the divisions and Ex. Engineer Irrigation to ensure that the water harvesting structures so built are technically sound for its further use either for potable water or irrigation

purposes.

It was decided that all the necessary paperwork, DPR formulation & site selection is completed by next week for its timely submission for sanctioning of the project.

DDC directed concerned officers to complete the pending tasks without delay and continue their efforts to improve infrastructure and services in the rural areas of the district.

Besides CPO, ACD, Executive Engineer REW Budgam, all Block Development Officers (BDOs), Programme Officer IWMP with technical staff, representatives of Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Budgam/Chadoora, Irrigation Division Ompora, and the Incharge of DPMU Budgam were present in the meeting.

## LMD books 63 Dry Fruit Sellers for Regulatory Violations amid UT wide enforcement drive

J1 NEWS DESK  
JAMMU, MAY 22

In response to increasing consumer complaints and to ensure adherence to fair trade practices, the Legal Metrology Department (LMD), Jammu & Kashmir, launched a comprehensive enforcement drive on May 21, 2025, targeting traders and distributors of dry fruits across all districts of J&K. The crackdown focused on addressing issues of short weight and the absence of mandatory declarations on product packaging.

Under the leadership and close supervision of Controller Legal Metrology Department J&K Anuradha Gupta, special enforcement teams were constituted to conduct surprise inspections across all districts of Jammu and



Kashmir.

During the UT wide drive, a total of 244 traders were inspected, out of which 63 traders were booked for violations. These included supplying underweight packaged dry fruits and failing to display mandatory labeling information, including net weight, MRP, date of packaging, and manufacturer details, as required under Rule 6 of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.

"This drive underscores our commitment to ensur-

ing that only those packages which are exact in terms of net quantity, and which strictly adhere to Legal Metrology guidelines, are made available to consumers. Such drives will continue in future as well," said Anuradha Gupta Controller Legal Metrology Department J&K

The Department has issued strict advisory to all dry fruit sellers, warning them against selling non-compliant packaged commodities. Violators will face stringent legal action under the provisions of the

Legal Metrology Act.

In addition, consumers have particularly been advised to carefully check the net weight and labeling on packaged goods before making a purchase as public awareness and vigilance play a crucial role. Being informed about one's rights and responsibilities as a consumer is essential for avoiding exploitation and ensuring fair trade.

Consumers are urged to report any discrepancies in packaged goods. Complaints can be lodged through the LMD toll-free helpline: 1800-180-7114 or via official social media handles. The Department remains active on platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to promptly address public grievances and raise consumer awareness.

## DC Reasi chairs District Rent Assessment Committee Meeting

J1 NEWS DESK  
REASI, MAY 22

A meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) was convened today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik to deliberate on rent assessment proposals for buildings currently occupied by various government departments across the district.

The Committee reviewed 14 rent assessment cases involving properties utilized by departments including Health, Food Supplies, Police, Handicrafts, and others. Each case was thoroughly examined, taking into account administrative requirements, infrastructure conditions, and supporting documentation.

Out of the 14 cases presented, 9 were approved,



while 5 were deferred due to incomplete documentation and other procedural shortcomings. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned district officers and the Public Works Department (PWD) to address the deficiencies promptly.

The DC emphasized the importance of verifying all necessary details before renting private buildings for government use to avoid potential civil disputes. She further advised that district officers conduct independent assess-

ments prior to finalizing any rental arrangements and forwarding applications to rent assessment committee. Additionally, she urged officials to prioritize the use of vacant government-owned buildings for official purposes, with rented accommodations to be considered only as a last resort.

The meeting was attended by ADC Rakesh Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, SE PWD, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer and other concerned officials.

## Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan: Distt Admin Pulwama begins school outreach initiative

J1 NEWS DESK  
PULWAMA, MAY 22

Continuing its intensified Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, District Administration Pulwama in collaboration with District Social Welfare Office Pulwama today started a dedicated school outreach initiative.

The outreach is aimed at sensitising young students about the ill effects of drug abuse and nurturing a culture of awareness, resilience and positive change among the youth.

Awareness sessions were held simultaneously in various government and private schools across different zones of the district, with active participation from students, teachers, school heads, and officials



from departments including Education, Health, and Social Welfare.

Resource persons engaged students through interactive lectures and real-life case discussions highlighting the psychological and social consequences of drug abuse. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of preventive education, developing a positive mindset, and the role of

youth in acting as change-makers within their peer groups and families.

Medical experts from the Health Department explained the early signs of addiction and the importance of timely intervention, while school counsellors and educators encouraged students to adopt healthy coping mechanisms; stay focused on their goals and seek help whenever needed.

Students enthusiastically participated in discussions and took a collective pledge to lead a drug-free life and to spread the message within their communities.

The outreach initiative is a crucial component of the district's broader strategy to extend the reach of the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan to every segment of society. With a large number of awareness activities already conducted at the Panchayat and Municipal levels, the school campaign marks a significant step towards reaching youth in building a drug-free Pulwama.

The campaign will continue in the coming days with more educational institutions being covered, ensuring that the message of prevention, awareness, and support reaches every student in the district.

## B'la abuzz with sporting spirit: 1600 Students enthrall zones in massive Inter-School Sports Fest

J1 NEWS DESK  
BARAMULLA, MAY 22

In continuation to the inter-school zonal level sports activities being held across district Baramulla, Youth Services and Sports Baramulla today successfully conducted a wide range of sports events across multiple zones.

A total of 1356 students from various government and private institutions actively participated in sporting disciplines viz. Badminton, Kho-Kho and Volleyball.

The competitions were held across eleven educational zones of the district, namely Fatehgarh, Nehalpora, Sopore, Pattan, Dangi-wacha, Rohama, Chandoosa, Singpora Kalan, Singpora Pattan, Wagoora and Chandanwari. Each zone conducted age-category-based events for both boys and girls, showcasing the sporting enthusiasm among school children.

At HSS Fatehgarh, 70 under-14 and under-17 girls displayed their agility in Volleyball and Kho-Kho. Zone Nehalpora saw 62 under-14 and under-17 boys compete in Badminton at HSS Nehalpora, while Subhana Stadium



Sopore hosted 270 boys across both age groups in a spirited display of athleticism.

Zone Pattan's Sports Planet Palhallan drew in 280 participants—180 boys and 100 girls—in Volleyball. Meanwhile, HSS Dangi-wacha witnessed 72 girls vie for victory in Badminton, followed by Zone Rohama's 38 participants in the under-17 girls category at HSS Rohama. HSS Chandoosa hosted 112 girls in the under-14 Kho-Kho tournament, a spectacle of speed and coordination.

Singpora Kalan and Wagoora conducted Bad-

minton events for girls and boys respectively, with 50 and 90 participants. Zone Singpora Pattan at HS Malmooch drew an impressive crowd of 250 boys for Kho-Kho, underlining the growing popularity of traditional sports in the region. Lastly, HSS Bijhama & BMS Bijhama (Zone Chandanwari) saw 312 students—both boys and girls—actively participate in Badminton, Volleyball, Kho Kho Competitions.

The grand event was marked by excellent coordination and smooth conduct across venues.

## CS seeks fortnightly updates about completion of JK highways

J1 NEWS DESK  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held a detailed meeting with NHAI, NHIDCL, Beacon and Project SAMPARK and sought reports from the executing agencies to furnish fortnightly reports about both the physical and financial progress registered in each project.

The meeting was attended by ACS, Forests; Principal Secretary, Finance and APD; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, R&B; Deputy Commissioners; Chief Engineers of PWD, representatives from NHAI, BRO, NHIDCL and other concerned officers.

The meeting took stock of progress made, so far, in completion of different National Highway projects across the length and breadth of the UT.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary maintained that these projects are being monitored at highest level for effective implementation. He asked for furnishing the weekly reports to the PWD and biweekly to his office for regular monitoring of these vital projects for completion on time.

He enjoined upon



these agencies to ensure that those responsible for delays should also be pointed out in these reports as the lackadaisical approach on anybody's part would be viewed seriously and action initiated against the non-performers.

Dulloo asked for working in double shifts wherever necessary and assured of all possible assistance on part of the district and divisional administration.

The Chief Secretary directed the Department of Mining to ensure that short term permits for mining of material to complete these highways are used exclusively for this purpose. He asked for marking all the vehicles carrying such material with RFID tags so that their monitoring becomes easy and efficient to curb its illegal use.

The Chief Secretary had a project wise appraisal of progress made, so Shubham far. He enquired about the possible date

of completion of work on each phase of these projects along with the current scenario of physical progress registered in each of them.

Principal Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, while speaking in the meeting, impressed upon the concerned Deputy Commissioners to assist the agencies in identification of blocks for regular supply of the mining material required for completion of these vital road projects.

He asked these agencies to deploy more men and machinery in these sites and add as many working hours as possible to meet the set deadlines. He made out that only regular monitoring of the projects would fructify into their completion on time.

Some of the reviewed projects of NHAI included different phases of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, work on the tunnel being constructed on Ring Road Jammu, Ram-

ban-Banihal section of NH-44, Marog-Digdol and Digdol-Khuni MakeNallah tunnels, Makarkot-Sher bibi viaduct and different phases of Ring Road Srinagar.

The road projects of NHIDCL included completion of Zojila Tunnel, Jammu-Akhnoor Road, Chenani-Sudhmahadev Road, Goha-Khellani, Khellani-Khanabal Highway and Singhpora-Vailoo tunnel.

The projects executed by BRO under project Beacon and Sampark which came up for discussion included Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Highway, Rafiabab-Kupwara-Tangdhar Highway, Surankot-Narbal Highway, Khanabal-Baltal Highway, Akhnoor-Poonch Highway, Shopian-Surankot, Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankot, Budhal-Mahore-Gul Road along with others.

The assessed R&B projects included construction of Flyover Sanat Nagar, Srinagar-Budgam-Pulwama-Shopian-Kulgam-Qazigund (NH-444) road, construction of by-passes for three main towns of Pulwama, Kulgam and Shopian besides other road safety and strengthening works currently going on in different parts of the UT.

## Walkathon held to raise awareness on Hypertension in Kupwara

J1 NEWS DESK  
KUPWARA, MAY 22

A Walkathon aimed at raising awareness about hypertension and promoting a healthy lifestyle was organized today in Kupwara.

The marathon was flagged-off by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad, from the D.C Office Complex Kupwara.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from school children, healthcare workers, and members of the general public. Chief Medical Officer Kupwara, Dr. Ramzan; Chief Education Officer, Mehraj-u-Din Shah; Medical Superintendent SDH Kupwara, Liaison Officer Youth Services & Sports Kupwara and other concerned officials were also present at the flag-off ceremony.

Participants carried placards with messages encouraging blood pressure control and healthy living. The marathon started from the DC office and passed through General Bus Stand Kupwara and Lolab Bypass, and finally concluded at Zangli Park.

On the occasion, ADC, CMO, CEO and other medical experts underscored the importance of hypertension awareness and advocated for proactive measures to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The event was part of an ongoing campaign to engage the community in public health initiatives and foster better awareness around non-communicable diseases like hypertension.

## International Day for Biological Diversity 2025: Rana calls for community driven conservation, biodiversity management in J&K

**JI NEWS DESK**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, today exhorted the people to contribute vigorously towards preserving the natural habitats, reducing pollution and promoting sustainable living to ensure a thriving planet for future generations.

He called for community driven conservation and biodiversity management in J&K, ensuring harmony with nature and sustainable development.

The Minister stated this while speaking as chief guest during an event organised by the J&K Biodiversity Council at Tagore Memorial Hall Srinagar. The event was held to mark celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity, 2025 under the theme "Harmony with

Nature and Sustainable Development", that featured exhibitions, documentary screening and felicitation of competition winners.

Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda, also attended the event as the guest of honour.

Javed Rana emphasised the government's commitment to conserve the rich biodiversity of the region through community-based conservation initiatives, scientific research and inter-departmental collaboration. He lauded the Council's efforts in engaging youth and educational



institutions to become future stewards of biodiversity.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) and Chairman, JKUTBC,

Suresh Kumar Gupta, termed IDB 2025 an opportunity to reconnect with nature and renew commitments towards conservation. He stressed

the importance of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and community-driven efforts in sustaining ecosystems, assuring continued institutional support at the grassroots level.

Chaturbhuj Behera, Member Secretary, JKUTBC, in his welcome address, underscored the need to integrate biodiversity concerns with planning and education. He highlighted the importance of local action aligned with global sustainability goals.

The event featured an exhibition of student paintings, posters and biodiversity documentation organized by JKUTBC, J&K Forest Department and local eco-clubs. A forest publication highlighting J&K's rich biodiversity was also released, along with the felicitation

of winners from inter-school and inter-college competitions.

The celebration drew enthusiastic participation from the students, teachers, forest officials, researchers and NGOs, all united in their commitment to environmental awareness and action.

Conservator of Forests, Research Circle Jammu, Pradeep Wahule, expressed heartfelt thanks on behalf of the J&K Biodiversity Council, acknowledging the valuable contributions of the Department of Forest, JKFR, SKUAST-K, University of Kashmir and various schools.

The J&K Biodiversity Council reaffirms its commitment towards promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the region, working towards a future where humans live in harmony with nature.

## DC Budgam reviews progress of works under District Mineral Fund

**JI NEWS DESK**  
BUDGAM, MAY 22

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting of District Mineral Fund (DMF) and reviewed the status of works approved under Pradhan Mantri Kshetra Kalyan Yojna (PMKKKY) in the district.

DC reviewed in detail the status of works approved under DMF in the areas with high priority and other priority sectors.

Series of developmental works are approved which cover vital sectors including health, education, power development, and jal shakti, all aiming at strengthening public infrastructure and improving service delivery across the district.

Key works approved under the health sector include the provision of hotline connectivity at CHC Kremshore, CHC Chattergam, PHC Soibugh, PHC Ompora, PHC Khag and CHC Pakherpora, of which Hotline at CHC Pakherpora stands completed.

In addition, procurement of critical medical equipment such as digital X-ray cassettes, biochemistry analysers, deep freezers, plasma expressers, autoclaves and microscopes has been sanctioned and allotted for procurement for District Hospital Budgam.

Under the Jal Shakti department, the procurement of water tankers of 9000 ltr and 6000 ltr capacities will address water supply needs in the district.

In the Education sector, the approved works including construction of a toilet facility at Primary School Gopalpora is nearing completion and provision of electricity at Government schools in Khan Mohalla Kuzwera and Dounkal Bagh Sail are also under progress.

The Power Development Department (KPDCL) has been allotted a buffer stock of 15 (100 KVA) transformers which will be dedicated to the public in the upcoming week. This will strengthen power infrastructure and ensure timely replacements during exigencies.

The DC, while reviewing the status of approved works, emphasized that all the projects are completed well on time. He directed the concerned departments to ensure immediate allotment of tenders if pending and initiate procurement processes, with strict adherence to timelines.

He stressed that there must be no delays at any stage of execution and that timely completion of these works is critical to ensuring outcomes on the ground on time.

The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Budgam, CEO, CMO, CPO, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, KPDC, REW, MS Budgam and other concerned officials of the committee.

## DC inspects academic activities after reopening of schools in Poonch

**JI NEWS DESK**  
POONCH, MAY 22

As the educational institutions in the district reopened after several days of closure due to cross border shelling, the Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal visited various schools today to assess the situation and ensure that academic activities are resumed smoothly.

During the visit to Government Boys Higher Secondary School here, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with students and staff, reviewed school facilities, and checked the attendance of students and staff availability. He also visited the ICT lab and multiple classrooms, engaging directly with students to understand their experiences and boost their morale.

The DC appreciated Ahsan Ul Haq, a student of Class 10, for his remarkable achievement of winning a bronze medal in the 68th National School Games in the discipline of Boxing. He congratulated the student for bringing pride to the school and the district, and



encouraged others to excel in both academics and co-curricular activities.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of maintaining a supportive learning environment. He also assured that the district administration remains committed to addressing the needs of

schools and ensuring students have access to quality education.

The visit reflects the district administration's continued support for education and its commitment to ensuring a safe, encouraging, and positive learning environment for all students.

## Div Com Jammu reviews arrangements for Mela Kheer Bhawani 2025



**JI NEWS DESK**  
JAMMU, MAY 22

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for smooth conduct of annual Mela Kheer Bhawani Mela flagged off from Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Ramban, Udhampur, Commissioner JMC, Relief and Rehab Commissioner(M) J&K, SSP Jammu, SSP Security, SSP Traffic, HODs and senior officials of JKSRTC, Tourism, Health, NHAI, Joint Director Information,

community leaders and other concerned.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner held threadbare discussion on different arrangements to be ensured by concerned departments. The JKRTC was directed for arranging buses and coordinating the Journey.

The Deputy Commissioner Jammu was directed to deploy a Magistrate to oversee the arrangements here, while Tourism department was asked to install tents for the devotees.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed for deploying Fire tender at

the Venue and Ambulance and health staff for the journey. Jammu Municipal Corporation was asked to provide water tankers and Mobile toilets, while ensuring sanitation at the venue.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban was asked to make proper arrangements at Chanderkote, where the convoy of pilgrims will halt.

The Divisional Commissioner impressed on community leaders and directed the officers deployed for the flagging off of Annual Meal Kheer Bhawani for timely commencing of the Annual pilgrimage.

## DDMA B'la conducts comprehensive Mock Drill to enhance disaster preparedness

**JI NEWS DESK**  
BARAMULLA, MAY 22

In an effort to bolster disaster preparedness among students, civil society members, and various stakeholders, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Baramulla today conducted a comprehensive mock drill and emergency preparedness exercise at Government Degree College Baramulla.

The exercise aimed to sensitize the public, especially youth, about the importance of swift and coordinated response mechanisms during disaster situations. Various key departments and emergency response units participated in the event, showcasing their critical roles in managing and mitigating disaster impacts.

During the exercise, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Civil Defence Baramulla held a series of demonstrations focused on disaster



preparedness, rescue operations, and mitigation strategies, highlighting the importance of quick response techniques, evacuation procedures, and community involvement during times of disasters.

Meanwhile, officials of

the Health Department provided insights into managing health emergencies, with a special focus on administering first aid, triaging patients, and setting up emergency medical camps in the wake of disasters.

Fire and Emergency

life-saving skills.

The event was also attended by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Baramulla, Deputy Controller SDRF, Principal of Government Degree College Baramulla, Consultant DDMA, and other officers and officials.

## DC Ganderbal for timely completion of preparations for SANJY-2025

**JI NEWS DESK**  
GANDERBAL, MAY 22

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today presided over a significant preparatory meeting at the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Ganderbal, for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 (SANJY).

The meeting focused on reviewing the progress of ongoing works of various departments involved in the arrangements for the Yatra via Baltal route.

A comprehensive review of department-wise action plans, covering key aspects such as sanitation, flood protection measures, lighting arrangements, mobile network connectivity, issuance of RFID cards, registration of service providers and infrastructure development was held.

Heads of departments presented detailed updates on the progress of work and



preparations underway.

DC stressed the importance of timely completion of works well before the commencement of the yatra to ensure a seamless SANJY-2025.

Labour Department

was directed to accelerate the registration process of service providers involved in Yatra-related activities.

Telecom companies were instructed to ensure complete network connectivity by the end of

CEO SDA, SDM Kangan, Executive Engineers from various departments, Divisional Forest Officer Sindh Forest Division, and senior officers from line departments involved in the Yatra arrangements.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Syed Fahim Bihagi; ACP,

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
E-TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.						
Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-T-04-2025-26	Electrical work in c/w Renovation of Control Office of DRM office chambers Firozpur along with misc. work-related to control office & Renovation of drawing branch & Track planning cell at divisional office Firozpur & Construction of 02 new Type IV spl. quarters at Firozpur.	Rs. 47,73,798.35p	Rs. 95,500.00p	6 Months	12.06.2025 after 15:00 Hrs	www.ireps.gov.in
No. 251-Elect/T. Notice No. 04-Elect/2025-26 Dated: 22.05.2025						
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						
1502/25						

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## Pak's game of state...

PM Modi said, "Not blood but sindoor runs in Modi's veins," he said, adding, "Pakistan will have to pay a heavy price for every terrorist attack."

He said India's response to the terror attack was not a game of vengeance but a "new form of justice" and there will be no trade or talk with Pakistan, there will be talk only about Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Lauding the armed forces for carrying out Operation Sindoor, he said "Our government gave free hand to all three-armed forces. Together they created such a trap that Pakistan was forced to go down on its knees".

PM Modi said, "Pakistan can never win a direct fight against India. Whenever there is a direct fight, Pakistan has to face defeat again and again. That is why Pakistan has made terrorism a weapon to fight against India," he said.

"Today, from the land of Rajasthan, I want to say to the countrymen that those who had set out to erase sindoor have been wiped out. Those who shed the blood of Hindustan have paid for every drop of it. Those who were proud of their weapons are now buried under a pile of rubble," he said.

Referring to the 2016 surgical strikes and the Balakote air strike, PM Modi said earlier India carried out attacks by entering into their houses but now the attack was directly on their chest.

He said Pakistan used to spread terror, kill innocent people and create an atmosphere of fear in India.

"Now, Modi, the servant of 'Maah Bhatti', is standing here with his head held high. Modi's mind remains cool but his blood is hot," he said.

He said there will be no trade or talk with Pakistan, there will be talk only about Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

"And if Pakistan continues to export terrorists, it will have to beg for every penny. Pakistan will not get India's rightful share of water. Playing with the blood of Indians will cost Pakistan dearly. This is India's resolve and no power in the world can shake us from this resolve," he said.

PM Modi also spoke about the all-party delegations being sent abroad to highlight India's resolve to confront state-sponsored terrorism emanating from Pakistan and assert its right to self-defence following Operation Sindoor.

"To expose the truth, our all party delegations are reaching all over the world. The real face of Pakistan will be shown to the whole world," he said.

Pertinently India launched "Operation Sindoor" on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

From May 8 to 10, India and Pakistan remained engaged in skirmishes. However, both the countries reached an understanding on May 10 to end the military confrontation. KNO

## J&amp;K integral part...

cessation of hostilities after 'Operation Sindoor', a military response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam. "There was no third-party mediation, including the US. No country has any role in bilateral issues with Pakistan," the MEA spokesperson added. KNO

## LG releases "Rubaroo"...

also present on the occasion at Raj Bhavan. KNO

## CM Omar Abdullah...

Chairperson JKSSB Indu Kanwal Chib presented a comprehensive report on recruitment activities undertaken since 2019, including department-wise details of posts that have been advertised, are under examination, and are in the final stages of selection.

She highlighted the progress made as well as pending challenges across departments.

It was informed that several posts remain unadvertised due to delay in submitting of indent by departments and in some cases requiring revision of recruitment rules to reflect current job requirements.

The Board has proposed that all future recruitment examinations shall be conducted under CCTV surveillance to ensure fairness and transparency.

The meeting also reviewed the status of Class IV recruitment, where delays were flagged as a major concern.

The Chief Minister directed the Board to expedite the selection process and address all procedural bottlenecks.

He also called for improving the facilities in Service Selection Board and strengthening the Board's legal and administrative frameworks.

Emphasizing the government's commitment to transparent governance, the Chief Minister said that Government would do everything possible to ensure fair and transparent recruitment process and to improve efficiency across all departments to enhance public trust, institutional efficiency and to fill up vacant posts which would also result in giving jobs to the qualified youth of J&K. KNO

## No third-party intervention...

only the United States, many countries were asking India to end firing "but our stand was very clear that Pakistan should come forward and ask for it," he added.

The Minister pointed a direct finger at Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir for what he called his "hard-line and extremist" outlook, linking it to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead.

"This was not just a terror attack. This was an attempt to strike at the heart of Kashmir's economy and harmony. Religion was deliberately used to create division and fear," Jaishankar said, underscoring that the Pakistan Army leadership is driven by an "extreme religious outlook," which, according to him, directly influences actions on the ground.

The victims were targeted in front of their family members after ascertaining their faith. "It was a barbaric assault aimed at crippling Kashmir's flourishing tourism sector and create a communal discord," he added.

Responding to a question whether India and Pakistan could forge a new friendship, particularly in light of China's growing influence and desire for regional stability, Jaishankar said, "You don't choose between security and economic prosperity. Today, many in the world are realizing that you must be prepared for both," he remarked.

He also offered a broader strategic perspective, reflecting on the historical conditioning of Western powers who had become used to a relatively peaceful post-WWII world. "We have had to deal with difficult neighbours—China and Pakistan. We have faced continuous terrorism from across the border. The world is only now experiencing a reality we've long endured," he said, adding, "India has always approached its regional challenges with a sense of realism. It has been a harsh and nasty world for us. Europeans were insulated for decades. But today, the global community is going through its own reality check." KNO

## School timing changed...

timing in view of the heat wave."

"I have been informed by the parents that their wards feel dizzy in the morning assembly," she said.

It was further said, "The school timing has been changed and I have directed the concerned team that morning assembly shall not be conducted in the open field."

"As far as summer vacations are concerned, we will have to wait for the appropriate timing for it," she said.

In the meantime Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) issued an official order with regard to the change in school timing for Kashmir division with effect from May-26.

DSEK in an order said that the schools within Srinagar municipal limits shall have a school time of 8:30 Am to 2:30 Pm in all government and private schools.

It also said that the educational institutes outside municipal limits of Srinagar and other areas of Kashmir province shall have a timing of 9:00 Am to 3:00 pm.

"The order and instructions shall be adhered to strictly by all the concerned institutions. Any deviation in this regard shall be viewed seriously." DSEK said. KNO

## CIK produces chargesheet...

Chawalgam Kulgam vendor of Airtel company, before the Hon'ble Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Kulgam in case FIR No. 18/2020 U/S 420, 468, 471 IPC of Police Station CIK Srinagar for issuing 'SIM Card Connection' against a non existing person which was actually used by a terrorist," a spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

Police Station CIK had received an information through reliable sources that the procurement of SIM card connections from various Telecom Service Providers by terrorists / members of proscribed organizations / Over Ground Workers (OGWs), is made in a pre-planned criminal conspiracy, with the active connivance of their sympathizers and, in several instances, with the complicity of 'Franchise/Point of Sale (POS)' through fraudulent and dishonest means, the statement reads.

Accordingly, police said that on 09.10.2020, a case under FIR number 18/2020 U/S 13 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, read with section 420, 468, 471 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code was registered at Police Station CIK Srinagar for a thorough probe.

"During the course of investigation, it has revealed that the accused was a vendor of 'Airtel Telecom Service', running his shop under the name and style of "MICRO WORLD" at Kulgam. It was established that the accused had manipulated and forged a genuine electoral Identity Card and used the same to issue a SIM card against a non-existent person. The accused as a vendor had also mentioned fictitious and deficient particulars/details in the Customer Application Form (CAF) with an objective to issue the SIM card against a non-existent person and pass on the SIM card to a terrorist for his use," the statement reads.

The investigation has established that the subscriber of the SIM card shown in the Customer Application Form was not found existing on ground and the SIM card had actually been issued to a terrorist, it added.

"An appeal is made to the general public especially youth of Kashmir valley to adhere to the advisories in this regard and take every precaution to ensure that their documents are not misused for obtaining SIM cards fraudulently. People are also advised not to share their SIM card with anyone, howsoever, close the person may be," the statement added. KNO

## Srinagar hits 133-year...

of May since 1978 at 33.3 degrees Celsius. The previous all-time highest temperature was recorded on 15 May 2001 at 32.6 degrees Celsius.

Moreover, Pahalgam recorded a maximum temperature of 27.8 degrees Celsius while Kupwara and Gulmarg recorded 31.6 and 25.4 degrees Celsius, respectively.

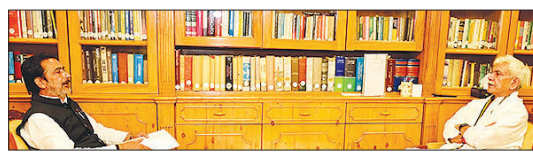
Jammu region also witnessed a rise in the temperature. The data reveals that, except Batote, the mercury in different stations of the winter capital settled above 30 degrees Celsius.

Notably, Director Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad has predicted an isolated heat wave in J&K, saying that generally hot & dry weather is expected with the possibility of a brief spell of light rain at isolated places mainly towards late afternoon till May 26.

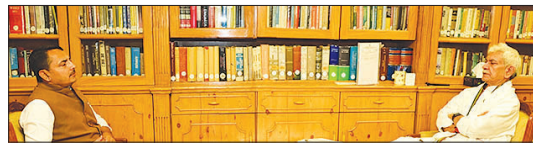
Ahmad said that from May 27 to 31, the weather would remain generally hot & dry with the possibility of a brief spell of light rain and thundershower at scattered places.

The MeT in its advisory said that a rise in maximum temperature by 1-2 degrees Celsius is expected with the possibility of a heatwave at scattered places of Kashmir division till May 23 and fall by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius thereafter.

A rise in maximum temperature is expected by 2-3 degrees Celsius, with the possibility of a heatwave over Jammu division till May 26. "Possibility of thunder, gusty winds at isolated places towards late afternoon can't be ruled out," according to the advisory. KNO



Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Member of Legislative Assembly from Dooru, and General Secretary All India Congress Committee (AICC), called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and put forth various important matters pertaining to the tourism sector in Kashmir region.



Ranbir Singh Pathania, Member of Legislative Assembly from Udhampur East called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and apprised him of the issues related to welfare of Pakistan shelling affected families and other important issues of his constituency.

## Soldier killed...

to neutralise the terrorists."

Sources said that three to four terrorists, believed to be affiliated with the Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit, are trapped in the area.

Additional reinforcements have been deployed, and a tight cordon has been established to prevent their escape.

The encounter comes on the heels of back-to-back anti-terror operations in South Kashmir.

Just days ago, three terrorists were killed in a gunfight in Nader Tral area of Pulwama. The operation followed another in Shopian's Keller Shukroo forest, where three Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists were killed and a cache of arms and ammunition was recovered. KNO

## Man impersonating...

police, adding that his actions amount to serious offences under the law.

A case under relevant sections has been registered at Police Station Katra, and further investigation is underway.

The whole operation was led by SHO P S Katra, Inspector Khyatimaan Khajuria, under the supervision of SDPO Katra Dr Bhisim Dubey and SP Katra Vipran Chandran.

## Not a single...

standing with the nation during a time of crisis. "They are talking about special status. What special status? There is no such thing in the Indian Constitution. The Supreme Court never mentioned 'special status' in its verdict either," he said.

According to him, bringing up Article 370 again is an insult to the Constitution and the Supreme Court's decision. "370 is history. It has been buried. It's not coming back," he said.

Sharma also criticized the timing of JKNC's political demands. "Is this the right time to talk about statehood? You (JKNC) should be visiting the border areas, Arnia, Hiranagar, Akhnoor and other areas. You should be meeting people in Rajouri, Poonch, Tangdhar. If you cannot provide relief, at least ask the Indian government for help," he said.

He claimed that the JKNC, which has ruled J&K for three generations, never cared about the people. "You are concerned about protocol, not people. You want statehood, you want status. But you are silent on the suffering of the people, silent on terrorism, silent on Pakistan," Sharma said.

He said matters of foreign affairs and national security belong to the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister, not to a state-level party. "A constitutional state like Jammu and Kashmir should not be interfering in foreign policy. The central government has a clear and firm policy," he said. KNO

## 90% bookings cancelled...

of June and the month of July will bring better days and bookings will resume. We are facing huge losses.

He said that during this time of year, their households used to be fully occupied, but this year, they are nearly empty. Currently, there are only about five per cent of tourists in the valley, Ahmad added.

Zahid Ahmad, a tour and travel operator, said the Pahalgam attack has cast a long shadow over the operations. "Clients who were supposed to visit Kashmir have cancelled their bookings, and there are no fresh bookings at this time," he said, adding that restoring confidence among tourists will take time and coordinated efforts.

Ghulam Mohammad, a Shikara owner, said each day he waits for tourists. "But nobody comes," he lamented. "The lake is quiet, and so is my livelihood. We yearn for the days when laughter and joy filled these waters."

Mohammad said earlier they didn't even have time for lunch. Now, we sit idle, longing for the days when we had people to ferry in our shikaras, he said.

Zubair Ahmad, a cab driver, said that earlier, they used to get at least two trips to Pahalgam or Gulmarg every two days. "But since the attack, there's hardly any work. Tourists are scared, and most days, we sit idle. It's becoming difficult to even manage our daily expenses," he said.

He added, "We have loans and EMIs hanging over our heads, and now we are worried about how to pay them. For the past month, we have been in depression, waiting for tourists while our vehicles remain parked at the stands."

The hoteliers said the tourism activities have been badly affected. "We have hardly been attending guests since the Pahalgam attack. We expect an improvement in the situation and revival of tourism activities at the shortest possible time so that the stakeholders could have a sigh of relief," a hotelier said. KNO

## GDC Paloura observes Int'l Yoga Day with Theme: "Yoga for One Earth, One Health"



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU MAY 22

In line with the global celebrations of International Yoga Day 2025, Government Degree College (GDC) Paloura organized an impactful awareness programme on the theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health", under the able guidance of Dr. Kulvinder Kour, Principal of the college.

The event was coordinated by Prof. Kusha Sharma, Associate NCC Officer (ANO), 2 J&K Girls Battalion, who also delivered an insightful PowerPoint presentation. The session emphasized how yoga, beyond being a physical exercise, promotes holistic well-being – uniting body, mind, and spirit. Prof. Sharma highlighted how the 2025 theme encourages a shift from "well-being for me" to well-being for all life", emphasizing harmony between human health and planetary health.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Dr. Kulvinder

Kour emphasized yoga's transformative power. "Yoga's magic lies in its holistic approach. Physically, it strengthens immunity and relieves chronic ailments. Mentally, it calms anxiety and improves focus. Emotionally, it nurtures self-awareness and inner balance," she remarked, while encouraging students and faculty to incorporate yoga into their daily lives.

The event was graced by faculty members Prof. Geetanjali Multani, Prof. Shivani Sharma, Prof. Vijay Kumari, Prof. Neha Bhagat, Prof. Amit Bhalla, Prof. Usha Rani, Prof. Chinmei Sharma, Mr. Vikram Singh Jamwal (PTI), and Prof. Ikhtlaq Ahmed, who also shared their reflections on the significance of yoga in personal and community wellness.

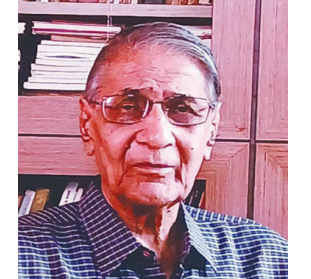
The programme concluded with a collective pledge to adopt yoga not only as a wellness tool but as a way of living harmoniously with the environment.

## A Documentary film on Ved Rahi screened

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 22

Dogri Sanstha Jammu in collaboration with Verma Video Vision screened a documentary film on the life and works of eminent Dogri writer and filmmaker Ved Rahi at Kunwar Viyogi Auditorium, Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar, Jammu where in Brij Mohan Sharma (IFS), Principal Secretary, Department of Culture was the Chief Guest. On this occasion Padmashri prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu presided over the function whereas Harvinder Kour (JKAS), Secretary J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and Dr. Naseeb Singh Manhas, Member Sahitya Akademi Advisory Board of Film Archives were the special guests. The documentary film, produced by Sahitya Akademi New Delhi is written by Late J.P.Saraf well-known by his pen name Chhatrapal, directed by Sudeep Kumar Verma and music is composed by Kuldeep Sapru whereas Des Raj was cinematographer and editor.

It is pertinent to mention here that Ved Rahi, who has enriched Dogri literature as a poet, short story writer and novelist got prestigious Sahitya Akademi award for his collection of short stories AALE in 1983. He has much talked about novels like GARBHJOON, ANANT and LALDED to his credit that have been translated in many languages. He has written dialogues and screenplay for many Hindi feature films including YEH RAAT PHIR NA AAYEGI, AAP AAYE BAHAR AAYEE, PAVITRA PAAPI, BE-IMAN, PREM PARBAT, CHARAS, KALI GHATA etc. He has written and directed VEER SAVARKAR, a biopic on the life of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. He has also directed many serials which include immense-



ly popular mythological serial MEERABAI and GUL GULSHAN GULFAM for Doordarshan.

Brij Mohan Sharma, the chief guest while recalling the colossal contributions made by Ved Rahi in Dogri literature and in film making said that he is a living legend. Sahitya Akademi has done a commendable job by documenting his life and works in the form of a documentary that will inspire many to follow his footsteps. He wished to have more such dedicated and devoted litterateurs in mother tongue Dogri.

Earlier while welcoming the august gathering Prof. Lalit Magotra said that Ved Rahi is pride of not only Dogras but entire UT of J & K. He has penned down such a quality literature in mother tongue dogri as a poet, short story writer and novelist that we may feel proud of. He is in fact a living legend and a role model to many. Harvinder Kour while speaking on the occasion said that stalwarts like Ved Rahi are an asset to any community who give new dimensions to their creative works thus carving a niche not only for themselves but also bring laurels to their motherland. Dr. Naseeb Singh Manhas also recalled his association with Ved Rahi and said that his literature is matchless. He further added that as a film writer and director also he proved his worth in tinsel city. Pawan Verma conducted the proceedings. A number of litterateurs, literature and Dogri lovers attended the function.

## DC Srinagar felicitates JKBOSE class 10th, 12th toppers

**JI NEWS DESK**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

To encourage and honour the hard work of meritorious students and boost the morale of students, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat felicitated the district's top-performing students in the JK Board of School Education (JKBOSE) Class 10th and 12th examinations for the academic year 2024-25. The felicitation ceremony was organized by the District Administration Srinagar under Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Office at Kothibagh Higher Secondary School to honour the meritorious students for their outstanding academic achievements.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar who was the chief guest on the occasion felicitated the students who had qualified JK Board Class 10th and 12th examinations with meritorious performance. Dr. Bilal congratulated the students on their success and commended their dedication. He also lauded the guidance provided by their teachers and the unwavering support of their families.



He said the exceptional performance is a testament of hard work, dedication and academic ability of these students and is a proud moment not just for them but also for District Administration Srinagar and the community as a whole. He expressed hope that the success achieved by the students would inspire other students also to work hard to excel in their studies and future academic careers.

Besides, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar and District Social Welfare Officer, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Deputy Chief Education Officer, Principal Kothibagh HS School, Staff and Students of the school were present on the occasion.

Administration Srinagar and the community as a whole. He expressed hope that the success achieved by the students would inspire other students also to work hard to excel in their studies and future academic careers.

Besides, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar and District Social Welfare Officer, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, Deputy Chief Education Officer, Principal Kothibagh HS School, Staff and Students of the school were present on the occasion.

## Department of Floriculture Jammu organises one-day training programme for farmers

**JI NEWS DESK**  
JAMMU, MAY 22

The Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Jammu, under the guidance of Director General Vivek Sharma successfully conducted a one-day training programme for farmers of District Jammu at SKUAST-Jammu.

Addressing the participants, the Director General reiterated the department's commitment to promoting Floriculture as a viable avenue for employment and livelihood generation. "Our vision is to position floriculture as a thriving enterprise across Jammu, empowering growers through modern techniques and support systems," she stated.

The training, led by eminent faculty from SKUAST-Jammu including Dr. Vikas Tandon, Dr. Sheetal Dogra, Dr. Rakesh Sharma and Dr. Nomita provided practical insights into the commercial cultivation of key floricultural crops such as marigold, gladiolus, and chrysanthemum. Around 40 farmers benefited from the hands-on session.



A field visit to a Hi-tech Polyhouse was also organized, where Dr. R.K. Pandey emphasized the advantages of year-round cultivation under controlled environments to tap into off-season markets.

Deputy Director (Nodal Officer CSS), Sunil Singh offered guidance on the implementation of polyhouse structures, micro-irrigation, nursery techniques, and the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants.

An interactive discussion led by Joint Director Floriculture Jammu, Vikrant Sharma allowed farmers to voice their concerns and learn more about government support schemes. The programme also saw participation of Joint Director (P&S); Gurnet Kour, Assistant Floriculture Officer In-charge CSS; Shoukat Ali and other officers from the department. The initiative was well-received, marking a significant step toward enhancing floriculture practices and farmer empowerment in the region.

## Int'l Year of Cooperatives 2025 Theme based Quiz Competition organised at GGHSS Kishtwar

**JI NEWS DESK**  
KISHTWAR, MAY 22

As part of the series of activities being held to mark International Year of Cooperatives 2025, a quiz competition was today organized here at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, under the Supervision of Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal.

The primary objective of the event was to educate and sensitize students about the principles, values, and importance of the cooperative movement, particularly its role in promoting socio-economic development.

The program began with a welcome address and an insightful presentation by Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies Amit Sharma, who provided a

detailed overview of the Cooperative Department and its functions.

The quiz competition featured five teams and covered a wide range of topics including Cooperatives, Indian History, Polity, and Geography.

The participants demonstrated remarkable awareness and understanding of the subjects, reflecting their academic diligence and interest.

To recognize and encourage the efforts of the students, all participants were felicitated with prizes and certificates.

The awards were distributed by the Principal Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kishtwar, along with the Assistant Registrar Kishtwar and other dignitaries from the school and Cooperative Department.



## Drugs Free J&K Initiative

## Distt admin Srinagar sensitizes masses about harmful effects of drug abuse

**JI NEWS DESK**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

To sensitize masses about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraging them to eradicate menace of drugs from the society, District Administration Srinagar today organized an awareness programme on Drug De-Addiction at Woodlands House School Sonwar.

The event was held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, as a part of an ongoing Drug Free Jammu and Kashmir initiative of the Government to educate students, staff members, and local residents about the growing menace of drug addiction and the collective responsibility to curb it. During the event, informative sessions addressing the physical, mental, and social consequences of substance abuse were held



to effectively sensitize the participants.

The program witnessed active participation from students, local community members, and officials from various departments.

The event featured active participation from Departmental Resource persons representing Social Welfare, Police, Health, Education, Excise and SMC, others, all working together to raise awareness among students and the staff. Students contributed through speeches, skits, and discussions, further emphasizing the message.

Participants present on the occasion emphasized the crucial role of education, awareness, and community involvement in eradicating the menace of drugs from society.

Participants present on the occasion emphasized the crucial role of education, awareness, and community involvement in eradicating the menace of drugs from society.

## DIC Ramban conducts awareness Camp at Panchayat Maitra-B

**JI NEWS DESK**  
RAMBAN, MAY 22

In line with the directions of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, and under the guidance of the Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu, the District Industries Centre (DIC) Ramban organized an awareness camp at Panchayat Maitra-B.

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

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



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

Additionally, participants were made aware about the PM Vishwakarma scheme. The scheme generated interest among aspiring youth, many of whom expressed willingness to step forward and avail benefits under PMEGP through DIC Ramban.

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

## Ramban Forest Division celebrates International Day of Biodiversity with plantation drives



**JI NEWS DESK**  
RAMBAN, MAY 22

The Forest Division Ramban marked the International Day of Biodiversity 2025 by conducting a series of plantation drives aimed at strengthening the bond between people and the natural world. The events were held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, and were led by Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ankit Sinha.

Major plantations were conducted at Nagarvatika Kunda and the Forest Range Office Complex Ramban, with the plantation of medicinal plants. The efforts highlighted the

significance of conserving biodiversity through the protection and propagation of native medicinal flora.

Other plantation drives were carried out across Kunda, Ramban, Gool and Banihal, where Range Officer Vinod Kumar Sharma mobilized the local people towards active participation. These initiatives aimed to foster ecological awareness and underline the importance of biodiversity conservation at the grassroots level.

The Forest Division reaffirmed its commitment to promoting sustainable environmental practices and preserving the region's rich biodiversity for future generations.

## DC Reasi discusses infrastructure development, land compensation issues

**JI NEWS DESK**  
REASI, MAY 22

A meeting was convened today under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik to finalize compensation rates for land acquired under the Collector's Land Acquisition program in the district.

During the meeting, ACR Nitin Verma, presented two land acquisition cases for consideration.

After detailed discussions and a thorough examination of all relevant aspects, the compensation rates for the concerned land acquisitions were finalized, ensuring transparency and fairness in the process.

In addition to land compensation, the Deputy Commissioner also addressed different developmental issues.

While discussing infrastructure concerns, she resolved the long-pending issue related to the Kanthi PWD road and instructed the SDM Katra to identify forest land where



development activity has occurred.

Regarding the impacts of expressway construction, the DC issued firm instructions to the concerned authorities, directing them to ensure that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) takes immediate and appropriate action concerning residential structures that have developed cracks due to excavation and land-cutting activities. She emphasized that the safety and well-being of affected residents is paramount and that NHAI would be held accountable for any resulting damages. She also instructed SDMs to

obtain reports from XENs on whether adequate road safety measures were implemented during construction.

Additionally, the DC directed that land for the Agriculture Mandi in Reasi be prioritized so that farmers can benefit from improved agricultural infrastructure. She also instructed the authorities to take strict action against those found burning waste, emphasizing that challans must be issued to violators.

The meeting was attended by ADC Rakesh Kumar, SDM Katra, SDM Dharmari, SDM Mahore, and other concerned officers.

## Mega Career Counselling Programme organised at GHSS Girls Samba



**JI NEWS DESK**  
SAMBA, MAY 22

A Mega Career Counselling Programme was organized today here at Capt. Dhruv Singh Memorial Government Girls Model Higher Secondary School to felicitate students who excelled in Class 10th and 12th exams and guide them in choosing academic and career paths after passing Matric and Higher Secondary.

The programme was

attended by Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma, who appreciated the efforts of students and motivated them to explore diverse career opportunities with clarity and confidence.

During the programme, 9 meritorious students were felicitated with mementos by the Deputy Commissioner. Students enthusiastically participated in interactive counselling sessions and received guidance from subject

experts and officers.

The event was attended by ADC Jagdish Singh; ALC Himani; Chief Education Officer Kewal Krishan; District officer JKEDI; the School Principal, Lecturers from the School Education Department, Faculty from Polytechnic College Samba and ITI Samba, along with around 200 students from nearby schools.

The programme concluded with the distribution of refreshments among all participants.

## Civil Defence training Camps organised at Rajouri, Thanamandi

**JI NEWS DESK**  
RAJOURI, MAY 22

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, a series of Civil Defence training and awareness camps were organised today in different parts of the District Rajouri to enhance disaster preparedness among the public and Ex-Servicemen from border areas.

A dedicated training/awareness camp was held at the Zila Sainik Board under the supervision of Deputy Controller Civil Defence, Jabeen Lone. The camp witnessed active participation from Ex-Servicemen residing in various border regions, who were equipped with essential knowledge and practical skills in basic civil defence techniques. The programme aimed to empower

them to act effectively in times of emergencies.

As part of the ongoing training drive, another awareness camp was organised at Municipality Hall Thanamandi. The camp focused on spreading awareness about disaster management, first response actions, and the importance of community preparedness.

The week-long civil defence initiative has seen enthusiastic participation from the general public and aims to build a culture of safety and resilience across the district.

The District Administration Rajouri, under the leadership of DC remains committed to strengthening grassroots-level disaster response mechanisms through regular training and public engagement activities.

## EDITORIAL

## Political opportunism or genuine concern?

Exactly one month after the horrific Baisaran attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 innocent lives, including that of a young Kashmiri, the National Conference (NC) convened a meeting of its Central Working Committee. In timing and tone, the meeting has raised a pressing question: Was it a genuine expression of grief and resolve—or a calculated display of political opportunism? The NC passed seven resolutions, ranging from condemnation of violence and tribute to martyrs to the reaffirmation of its longstanding demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and Statehood. The meeting also touched upon broader issues—Indo-Pak peace, the harassment of Kashmiri citizens across the country, and grievances regarding administrative inefficiencies. On paper, it all sounds like a robust and well-rounded response. But the question lingers: why now? The timing is impossible to ignore. Held on the exact one-month anniversary of the Pahalgam killings, the meeting's symbolism seems too neat to be purely coincidental. To its credit, the NC has struck several right notes. The condemnation of violence, both within the Union Territory and across the border, and the emphasis on peace and dialogue are much-needed messages in these polarized times. Their call for immediate restoration of Statehood is consistent with their political ideology and widely supported among large sections of the population. The concerns raised about the targeting of Kashmiris outside the region are both valid and urgent, and the call for accountability is timely. However, critics would argue that much of what was said has been said before—and often. The resolutions read more like a reiteration of manifesto points rather than a responsive roadmap to the specific trauma inflicted on April 22. The tribute to the victims, while solemn, seemed sandwiched between political affirmations, giving rise to the perception that grief was being politicized. The Working Committee's statement that the Government of India must not squander the "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" extended by the people of Jammu and Kashmir reflects both optimism and an implicit warning. But is the NC prepared to lead by example? Are they ready to deliver not just political rhetoric but tangible relief and reform in the lives of ordinary citizens? There is a growing fatigue among the people—exhausted by cycles of violence, frustrated with political grandstanding, and desperate for lasting peace. They expect more than resolutions and ceremonial silence. They demand accountability, transparency, and action. In the end, whether the NC's meeting was an act of opportunism or genuine concern will be judged not by the resolutions it passed, but by the results it delivers. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have offered their mandate. It is now up to the leadership to prove that this meeting was not just a political performance—but the beginning of meaningful progress.

## How terror stilled the dreams of Kashmiri women

TRIPTISHINGHAL SOMANI

Pahalgam, often called "the valley of shepherds," rests gently in the cradle of the Himalayas. With its snow-fed Lidder River, dense pine forests, and sprawling meadows, it's easy to see why this corner of Kashmir is called "paradise on Earth." Each spring, travelers from across the world arrive to ride ponies into the hills, sip hot kahwa by the riverside, and breathe in the crisp mountain air. It is a place where time slows down and serenity fills every breath.

This year, the arrival of spring brought more than blooming flowers—it brought hope. After years of pandemic lockdowns and political tensions, Kashmir's tourist season was finally stirring back to life. Markets began buzzing again, homestays reopened their doors, and visitors started returning.

For many local women, this revival wasn't just economic—it was deeply personal. Tourism had become a path to indepen-

dence. Women were stepping out of their homes and into new roles: hosting travelers in homestays, selling traditional crafts, running food stalls, leading nature walks, and offering embroidery workshops to curious tourists. Slowly, silently, they were stitching together lives of dignity.

Then came April 22, 2025. On that day, in broad daylight, five armed militants attacked a group of people in Pahalgam, opening fire with chilling precision. It was sudden, merciless. Twenty-six people lost their lives, and more than twenty others were injured. It was the deadliest terror attack India had witnessed in recent years, and its impact reverberated far beyond the blood-stained valley.

National headlines captured the horror of the moment—but what happened in the days that followed, especially to the women of Kashmir, was barely mentioned. Tourists began cancelling in droves. According to a recent LocalCircles survey,

more than 62 families across India abandoned their travel plans to Kashmir. Travel agencies were flooded with calls for refunds. Hotels and guesthouses stood empty. The laughter, the click of cameras, the joyful hum of a region trying to heal—all of it vanished overnight. And once again, silence returned to the valley. But this silence was not just the absence of visitors. For countless women, it meant the loss of their only source of income. It meant doors closing—on opportunity, on movement, on possibility. Rubena, who runs a modest kahwa stall near Aru Valley, spoke through tears: "We had just started recovering from COVID-19. April was supposed to be our busiest time. And now, we are back to nothing."

In Anantnag, artisan Shabnam echoed the pain: "We had tourists who returned every year, who remembered our names. Now, they're afraid to come. And just like that, we are invisible again."

Studies in recent years have

shown that tourism in Kashmir offered women more than jobs—it gave them confidence, skills, and a space in the public sphere. In a place long scarred by conflict, these acts—selling tea, guiding a walk, teaching embroidery—were radical steps forward.

Every kahwa poured, every shawl stitched, was a quiet act of resilience.

Now, with fear in the air again, families are reluctant to let women step outside. Daughters are told to stay home. Homestays once proudly run by women stand deserted. Kahwa stalls are shuttered. Craft workshops lie still. The energy that was just beginning to return has gone cold again.

And this is where the true damage of terror lies—not just in lives lost, but in dreams interrupted. In the retreat of women from the spaces they had only just begun to inhabit. In the silence that replaces the sound of ambition. Kashmir's instability doesn't just make headlines; it crushes livelihoods.

And while the world debates security and geopolitics, it is the women—without safety nets or alternative employment—who bear the brunt of the fallout. Every cycle of violence sets them back years. When we speak of Kashmir, let us not reduce it to borders and political disputes.

Let us also see the human cost—especially for those whose stories rarely reach the surface. It's not just about danger. It's about lost dignity, interrupted growth, and deferred dreams. Pahalgam has always symbolised peace. But if we allow violence to keep defining this region, we are not just losing a tourist destination—we are losing the women who dared to hope. We are letting fear win over freedom, silence over voice, and darkness over the promise of spring. And that, truly, would be the greatest loss of all.

**(The writer is an associate member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Views expressed are personal)**

## Be part of the plan: India's bold vision for biodiversity conservation

VIVEK SAXENA

As we approach the International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22, the 2025 theme, "Be Part of the Plan," resonates deeply with India's ongoing efforts to safeguard its extraordinary natural heritage. As one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries, India is home to over 45,000 plant species and 91,000 animal species, many of which are endemic. This rich biodiversity underpins our ecological stability, cultural identity, and economic prosperity. Drawing from my experience as PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden of Haryana and former IUCN Country Representative, I am proud to share how India aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to lead global conservation efforts.

Adopted at COP15 under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the GBF sets four global goals and 23 targets to be met by 2030. India played a pivotal role in shaping this framework and

is now integrating it into our National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). Our priorities—sustainable agriculture, water security, climate resilience, and disaster risk reduction—are seamlessly woven into this plan, with a strong focus on the 30x30 target (protecting 30% of terrestrial and marine areas), equitable genetic resource access, and enhanced biodiversity financing.

### A Unified Conservation Strategy

India's strength lies in its "whole-of-Government and whole-of-society" approach. We are converging sectoral schemes like MGNREGA, the National Mission for Clean Ganga, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, the National Bamboo Mission, and PM Kusum with biodiversity goals. In Haryana, the Aravalli Green Wall Project is a testament to this synergy. By uniting the Forest Department, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj Institutions, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) support, we are restoring degraded Araval-

li landscapes with native flora, enhancing water recharge, and boosting carbon sequestration.

### Preserving Agro-Biodiversity and Empowering Communities

Our agricultural legacy, with over 160 cultivated species and thousands of climate-resilient landraces, is a treasure we are determined to protect. Through the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, and Plant Genetic Resources Conservation, we are safeguarding indigenous varieties and traditional farming systems. State Biodiversity Boards and over 2.7 lakh Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the Panchayat level are documenting this knowledge in People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs). With over 2.9 lakh PBRs, India leads the world in community-based biodiversity documentation.

In states like Maharashtra, Kerala, and Odisha, BMCs are driving conservation reserves, sacred grove restoration, and

marine biodiversity monitoring by local fisherfolk and coastal communities. This grassroots momentum embodies the spirit of "Be Part of the Plan."

### Restoring Ecosystems for a Sustainable Future

To meet the GBF's Target 2—restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030—India is scaling up forest landscape restoration, wetland rejuvenation, and coral reef revival. The Namami Gange Programme is a global benchmark, integrating fish diversity monitoring, turtle nesting conservation, and riverine ecosystem restoration. The National Wetland Mission and MISHTI scheme for mangrove plantations further protect ecologically sensitive habitats, ensuring community participation and climate resilience.

### Reviving Wildlife and Engaging Youth

Our flagship species recovery programs—Project Tiger, cheetah reintroduction in Kuno National Park, vulture conservation in Pinjore (Haryana),

and blackbuck protection in Gujarat and Haryana—demonstrate targeted action. The expansion of Protected Areas, Eco-Sensitive Zones, and Conservation Reserves balances conservation with community livelihoods.

The youth are our future stewards, and the National Green Corps (NGC) Eco-Clubs, active in over 1 lakh schools, are proof of this. These clubs lead plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns, and biodiversity documentation. Digital platforms like iNaturalist India and the India Biodiversity Portal empower citizens to contribute to science and climate action.

### Innovative Financing and Global Leadership

India is pioneering biodiversity financing with Green Bonds, Payment for Ecosystem Services, and CSR partnerships. The National CAMPA Authority directs funds toward restoring degraded ecosystems, while the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism ensures communities benefit from biological resource use. Glob-

ally, India leads the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and shares expertise in community forestry, medicinal plant conservation, and biodiversity law with Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

### Call to Collective Action

"Be Part of the Plan" is more than a slogan—it is a responsibility. Whether you are a policymaker crafting biodiversity-friendly laws, a student planting trees, a farmer cultivating indigenous seeds, or a forest officer patrolling a sanctuary, every action counts. As India links biodiversity conservation with climate action, health, and sustainable development, we set a global example. This International Day for Biological Diversity is a moment to commit—a collective pledge to protect our planet's living legacy. Will you join us?

**(The writer is IFS, is the PCCF & Chief Wildlife Warden of Haryana and a former IUCN Country Representative. Views expressed are personal)**

## India's semifinal victory in the fight against terrorism

ASHOK KUMAR

In a bold reaffirmation of India's commitment to counter cross-border terrorism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi established a 'new normal' through Operation Sindoor as a strong response to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. This operation, which featured deep and precise strikes on terror camps located not only in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) but also well within Pakistan's heartland, was unprecedented. It showcased India's strong willpower, operational maturity, and ability to deliver high-precision strikes with minimal collateral damage. India's air defence capabilities were proven effective in neutralising advanced and coordinated drone threats. The successful hits on strategic air bases of Pakistan underscored India's operational readiness and deterrent strength.

Yet, as PM Modi remarked, "We will keep taking decisive steps," which subtly foreshadowed that a full-scale final confrontation is inevitable. Although the exact

timeline remains uncertain, decisive engagement appears to be a necessary milestone toward realising the vision of Viksit Bharat—a developed, secure, and globally respected India. Therefore, India needs a multidimensional and proactive strategy to prepare for the final stage of this prolonged conflict.

### Diplomatic Front

Despite the operational success, the global diplomatic response did not meet our expectations. China, predictably, stood by its long-time ally Pakistan. The United States, while posturing as the champion of global peace, took a balanced, almost ambivalent stance, attempting to preserve its strategic interests on both sides. The European Union, meanwhile, continued to misinterpret the conflict through a limited prism of the Kashmir issue, failing to grasp the larger menace posed by Pakistan, which is the epicentre of terrorism the world over.

The short-duration conflict has made it amply clear that India was not just fighting Pakistan; rather, it appears to be a

broader coalition of actors who perceive India's growing assertiveness as a threat to their geopolitical agendas. This apprehension reached new heights after Operation Sindoor, where India's swift, coordinated and targeted strike incapacitated multiple Pakistani military installations, including airbases, radars, drone depots, and air defence systems.

Western powers must reassess their assumptions. While China continues to back Pakistan both economically and militarily, India remains the most stable and democratic partner capable of upholding a rules-based global order in the Indo-Pacific region. The United States, in particular, must recognise that strengthening India is strategically aligned with its interest in counterbalancing Chinese expansionism. However, the American response so far indicates a hesitancy to decisively back India—opting instead to maintain a superficial equilibrium between India and Pakistan. This approach is neither sustainable nor strategic. More importantly, India has to make efforts to

shift the prevailing global narrative. The world must be reminded that the Indo-Pak conflict is not simply a territorial dispute over Kashmir—it is fundamentally a battle against state-sponsored terrorism. Pakistan remains a breeding ground for radical Islamic ideologies that have manifested in global tragedies such as the 9/11 attacks, London bombings, Madrid train attacks, and the Charlie Hebdo massacre. These events are enough evidence that the terror ecosystem nurtured by Pakistan's military intelligence, especially the ISI, has global ramifications.

India must proactively convey to the West that Kashmir has been an integral part of the Indian civilisation for thousands of years. Unlike Pakistan, which was founded on a rigid two-nation theory, India is a vibrant, pluralistic, and multi-polar democracy that cannot be confined within communal or sectarian boundaries. This historical and cultural context must be highlighted consistently in global forums to counter Pakistan's manipulative propaganda. We need to

actively counter-propaganda to reshape the Western perspective on the Kashmir issue.

### External Security/Military Front

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam incident and the latest escalation with Pakistan, there is no scope for complacency. The emerging battlefield is not limited to traditional warfare—technological superiority is now decisive. China's rapid advances in military tech, artificial intelligence, and unmanned systems must alert us to the urgency of preparedness. There is no room for laxity. Constant feedback loops from ground-level intelligence, robust cybersecurity infrastructure, and rapid response mechanisms must become the norm.

To effectively counter the growing China-Turkey-Pakistan nexus, India must ensure that it retains a decisive edge in armaments and warfare doctrine. Superior technology, robust logistics, and interoperability across forces are non-negotiable. This preparation must take place with the knowledge that while Pakistan

appears on the back foot, its backing from China gives it a dangerous strategic cushion.

The Border Security Force (BSF) currently fulfils its peacetime mandate well, leveraging its familiarity with the terrain and local intelligence. However, it must now evolve into a battle-ready force capable of handling wartime contingencies. This includes enhanced access to artillery support, drone and counter-drone technology, as well as electronic warfare capabilities. Training modules should be updated, and regular joint exercises with the Indian Army must become a routine to ensure coordination during high-stress scenarios.

### Internal Security Front

Internal security presents equally pressing challenges. One of the most serious is illegal immigration, particularly from Bangladesh. In 2016, then Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju stated that "as per available inputs, there are around 20 million illegal Bangladeshi migrants staying in India." This mass influx not

only strains local resources but has also begun altering demographic compositions in sensitive border states—posing both security and social threat. Implementing the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is imperative. However, it must be done transparently and fairly, shielded from political agendas and vote-bank compulsions. Handling illegal immigration with an iron hand is the need of the hour so that demographic changes can be stopped.

To maintain national harmony, India has to take strong steps against anti-national elements who are out to exploit societal divisions. India is under constant assault from psychological and information warfare, much of it orchestrated by hostile actors across the border. These campaigns are designed to sow discord, spread fake narratives, and erode the nation's trust in its institutions. Social media has emerged as the frontline for such attacks and combating them requires a blend of technological vigilance and legal framework. We must consistently reinforce values of

unity, national pride and patriotism. Fake news, hate speech and misinformation must be countered strongly.

### In Conclusion

As India stands at a pivotal moment in its security journey, Operation Sindoor must be recognised not as a finale, but as a resounding declaration of intent. It represents India's capability, resolve, and strategic acumen. However, the road to a decisive final confrontation will demand far more—visionary diplomacy, state-of-the-art military readiness, iron-clad internal unity, and above all, an unflinching political will. This is no longer just a regional struggle—it is a defining moment for India's role as a global power. The semifinal has been decisively won. Now, the time has come to prepare—strategically, diplomatically, and militarily—for the final. Victory will pave the way for a truly Viksit Bharat.

**(The writer is a retired DGP, Uttarakhand. He is currently serving as Vice Chancellor of Haryana Sports University. Views expressed are personal)**

## Deputations call on Satish Sharma; seek prompt grievance resolution

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

Several deputations from various areas today called on Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Service and Sports, Satish Sharma, seeking prompt redress of long pending grievances related to public services and employment.

A deputation from Basohli raised the urgent demand for starting a bus service from Basohli to Chamba. The delegation highlighted lack of direct transportation between the two regions, which is causing inconvenience to residents especially the students, daily commuters and patients requiring medical assistance in nearby towns. They urged the Minister to take prompt action to improve regional connectivity through public transport.



Another deputation of NHM ERCPCOVID Warriors met the Minister, requesting their reinstatement into service. The delegation, comprising frontline health workers who played a vital

role during the COVID-19 pandemic, expressed disappointment over their disengagement and appealed for a fair policy to absorb them back into the health system, recognizing their dedicated service during critical times.

A deputation of the Radio Taxi Union also submitted a memorandum to the Minister. They voiced concerns regarding operational challenges, regulatory issues and competition from unregulated service providers. The

Union urged the Minister to streamline the regulations and provide necessary support to sustain the livelihood of drivers.

MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar, called on the Minister and discussed a wide range of development and civic issues concerning his constituency. He emphasized the need for infrastructure development, improved public amenities and attention to employment and youth engagement programs in the Hazratbal region.

Another deputation of RMSA subject specific teachers demanded rehiring of their services.

Satish Sharma assured all the delegations that their concerns would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action.

## Impartial Journalism is the Need of the Hour for National Interest: Jitan Ram Manjhi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

Voice of Media, an organization connected with more than 4.7 lakh journalists across 52 countries, has made a significant positive impact in resolving issues faced by journalists. The initiative, started by 20 editors, is now expanding nationwide. The organization is actively working on key issues such as housing, health, insurance, education for journalists' children and post-retirement support. The Union Minister praised these efforts.

The media plays a critical role in ensuring justice for grassroots citizens, and impartial journalism is crucial for the national interest in today's era, said Union Minister for MSMEs Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi.

He was addressing the National Convention of the International Journalists' Organization, jointly organized by Voice of Media and VOM International Forum. The two-day convention was chaired by the Founder President of Voice of Media, Mr. Sandeep Kale. Prominent dignitaries including Member of Parliament Bhau Saheb Wakchaure, National Organizer Ashok Wankhede, and Deshonnati Editor Prakash Pohare were present.

During the event, the Union Minister conducted



the appointment, award distribution, and ID card handover ceremony for state presidents and secretaries across the nation. An oath was administered to the participating journalists. Ten key resolutions were passed during the convention, which were read out by International Secretary General Divya Bhosale.

On the second day, in the first session, a training workshop was conducted for journalists. Coach, psychologist, and counselor Urja Patil provided detailed guidance on organization-building skills, using interactive games to emphasize the importance of teamwork.

On this occasion, Parliament Bhushan Award was conferred on MP Bhau Saheb Wakchaure, Vikas Purush Award to MLA Sameer Kunawar, Udyog Ratna Award to Anagha Sameer Saraf of Aditya Anagha Multi-State Credit

Cooperative Society, Vikas Ratna Award to Dr. Punjab Khansole, Samaj Ratna Award to Venkatesh Joshi, and a special award to Mr. Pardhi.

Additionally, the National Core Team was formed, including Anil Mhaske (Maharashtra), Deepak Sharma (Madhya Pradesh), Prem Pathak (Uttar Pradesh), Vikas Sharma (Himachal Pradesh), Bansilal Panchal (Haryana), Akshit Mahajan (Jammu & Kashmir), Suman Ganguly (West Bengal), Swapna Dutta (Assam), Max Khia (Nagaland), Karmalang Kariya (Meghalaya), and Balaji (Tamil Nadu).

The two-day national convention witnessed enthusiastic participation of state presidents and general secretaries from across India. This event has served as a powerful step toward ushering in a new era of journalism and freedom of expression.

## Police held PCPG meetings in Kulgam

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, MAY 22

To address the grievances of general public and to identify issues and collaboratively develop solutions that improve police community partnerships, improve public safety by strengthening trust; police in Kulgam on the directions of SSP Kulgam; held PCPG (Police Community Partnership Group Meetings) at Police Station Qazigund, Police Station Behibagh and Police Post Nehama.

The meetings were chaired by respective jurisdictional officers and were attended by respectable citizens including; Market associations, Auqaf Bodies, Chowkidars, Numberdars, youth and other representatives of said areas.

Various participants while speaking on this occasion, appreciated the process of organising such events by police department in which an opportunity is being provided to highlight the prevailing issues of the society like; drug abuse, domestic violence, speedy justice, electricity deficiency and water scarcity and seeks their redressal for the betterment of all. The officers present at the meet gave a patient hearing to their issues and assured them that their issues which are pertaining to other departments will be taken up immediately with the concerned officers for appropriate action besides issues related to Police would be resolved on priority.

While addressing the participants, chairing officers urged upon in strengthening the Police public relations and also cooperate in eradicating all types of crime from the society so that a peaceful and crime free atmosphere is created in the area. The officers have also requested upon providing the information to police about smuggling of drugs and other illegal activities if any noticed for initiating appropriate action against the offenders.

## YSS Kathua holds Inter-Zone District Level Competitions of Football and Cricket



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, MAY 22

The department of youth services and Sports Kathua conducted football and cricket competition for U17 years boys at Govt HSS Chandwan and Sports stadium Hiranagar respectively. Today morning DYSSO Kathua Sh Sunil Singh Sambhal along with Activity Incharge S. Dharminder Singh visited sports stadium Hiranagar and interacted with the players. Today cricket final was played between kathua and Bhaddu, winning the toss kathua choose to bat first. In it's allotted 15 overs kathua scored 140 runs at the loss of 9 wickets. Jaskaran scored 46 runs in 23 balls with one six and six four he also took 5 wickets in 3 overs conceding just only 18 runs. In reply Bhaddu

team was all out for 84 runs. In this way kathua won the match with huge margin of 56 runs.

On the other hand football final was played between Hiranagar Vs Marheen where Hiranagar remained victorious by 4-0 goals.

District Youth Services and Sports officer Kathua Sh Sunil Singh Sambhal distributed the trophy to the winners and runner team of cricket. Others present on the occasion were venue incharge, ZPEO Hiranagar Sh Yog Raj Sharma under whose close monitoring all these matches were held and the officials of YSS department. While at football ground of HSS Chandwan, Principal Sh. Om Prakash Sharma awarded the winner/runner trophy to the contesting teams.

## J&K AIDS Control Society conducts Community Based Screening Camp at Vill-Dinde Kalan



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 22

Today, JKSPYM, under its Targeted Intervention (TI) project for People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) - in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS), Department of Health and Medical Education, under the aegis of the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India - conducted a Community-Based Screening (CBS) Camp at village Dinde Kalan near RS Pura Jammu. The camp focused on reaching

hidden and hard-to-reach High-Risk Groups (HRGs) residing outside designated TI areas. With an aim to expand coverage and HIV screening, the initiative targeted new populations and uncovered locations.

Participants were sensitised on crucial health topics including HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST), and Hepatitis. The team also distributed Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) material spreading awareness among both the general and high-risk population.

## CLP Leader G. A. Mir meets Chief Minister

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

In the aftermath of Pahalgam carnage, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) Leader & AICC General Secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir on Thursday met J&K Chief Minister Omer Abdullah in Srinagar and held discussions on key issues especially the current security situation.

Apart from various other pressing issues concerning the public, Mir laid emphasis over revival of tourism in Kashmir, which has received severe setbacks after the inhuman, ghastly and highly condemnable terrorist attack in Bisanar Pahalgam in which 26 innocent tourists and a local were killed, last month.

During the meeting with Chief Minister, Ghulam Ahmad Mir expressed grave concern over the closure of tourist spots especially Betab Valley & Aru in Pahalgam, Achabal, Veerinag, Kokernag



in Anantnag & Sinthan and various other important tourist destinations across Kashmir province leading to an acute financial distress confronting people, who are directly or indirectly connected with tourism especially hoteliers, transporters, pony wallas, tourists' guides, shopkeepers and various other categories depending on tourism industry.

Mir laid strong emphasis over reopening of tourist spots ensuring that the tourism sector is

restored & stakeholders get benefitted and earn their livelihood. Tourism is a backbone of Kashmir's economy, so there is an urgent need to boost the tourism which will be possible by reopening the tourist spots.

Chief Minister Omer Abdullah expressed same concern and assured him (Mir) that the Govt will soon be taking measures to reopen the tourist spots and address the genuine concerns of the stakeholders and general public.

## Union Minister Manohar Lal takes landmark step towards inclusive governance

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

In a Landmark Move Towards Inclusive Development drawing inspiration from the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and reaffirming the commitment to equal opportunities for all citizens under the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, the Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Manohar Lal has taken a landmark step towards inclusive governance.

In alignment with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, the Directorate of Estates has issued an Office Memorandum to ensure fair access to central government residential accommodations for persons with disabilities.

## KVK Kishtwar holds Monthly Officers Workshop at Kishtwar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MAY 22

KVK Kishtwar in collaboration with the Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department Kishtwar organized monthly officers workshop today at CAO Office Kishtwar. District, Zonal and block level officers of agriculture and allied departments. Dr Narinder Paul, Incharge KVK Kishtwar, Kushal Chandel, Chief Agriculture Officer, Kishtwar, Dheeraj Singh, SDAO Paddar, Kuldeep Kumar Koul SMS SDL, Marwah coordinated the workshop. Workshop was conducted under the guidance of Dr Amrish Vaid, Director Extension SKUAS Jammu.

Programme started with the inputs of feedback from the extension functionaries regarding the status of sowing of crops during the ongoing kharif season followed by the discussion of the monthly message of the



Directorate of Extension SKUAS Jammu regarding various agriculture and crop production practices to be followed during the next month.

Dr Narinder Paul stressed upon farmers registration in the National Mission on Natural Farming and their trainings cum awareness programme for smooth implementation of the programme. He called for involvement and proffering guiding the Krishi Sakhis in the Natural farming Programme.

Kushal Chandel CAO Kishtwar called for collection of soil samples from all the Natural Farming Clusters of the District followed

by their testing to record the nutrient and Organic Carbon status of the soils to be brought under the Natural farming Practices.

Officers from the field discussed various field problems pertaining to low germination in pea and maize, attack of cut worm in maize crop, requirement of additional maize seed, marginal and small holdings as major constraint in Natural farming Programme, farmers issues pertaining to PM Fasal Bima Yojana on which the deliberations were held. Programme ended with the vote of thanks by Kuldeep Kumar Koul, SMS SDL, Kishtwar.

## CII J&K Startup Panel Explores Mutual Collaboration Opportunities with IIT Jammu to Boost Innovation and Startup Ecosystem in J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 22

A delegation from the CII J&K Startup Panel, led by Convener Mr. Shivang Mahajan along with members Mr. Ayush Sawhney and Mr. Abhishek Sachdeva, visited IIT Jammu to discuss opportunities for fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. The team met with Mr. Lakhvinder Singh, Head of Incubation at IIT Jammu's Innovation & Incubation Center (I3C), and Mr.

Akash Sharma, Manager, IC3 IIT, Jammu to explore the institute's startup support ecosystem, particularly in Robotics, 3D Printing, and Automation. Discussions centered on enhancing industry-academia partnerships to accelerate startup growth in J&K.

Following the meeting, the IIT Faculties and Students gave CII delegation a tour of their state of the art facilities including Robotics and 3D printing lab. They demonstrated drones being

manufactured and other innovations being done at their Center. Gaining insights into cutting-edge research and student-led innovations.

IIT Faculties are quite optimistic to enter into MOU and arrangements with CII J&K for mutual collaboration and asked if our industry experts could guide their startups and they are willing to draft specific management and executive development courses for the CII members.

## Indian Army celebrates National Anti-Terrorism Day at Poonch, Rajouri & Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, RAJOURI & REASI: 22 MAY 2025

Keeping in view of Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens and with the aim of motivating the future of the nation, the school children, about important societal issues, educating them about importance of peaceful living and co-existence in the society, Indian Army celebrated 'National Anti-Terrorism Day' at Chakan, Samote, Sabra, Ichini in Poonch Rajouri and Reasi District. The event was organised to raise awareness about the dangers of terrorism and violence. During this event, representative of Indian Army gave speech about the harmful effects of terrorism



and violence on society, highlighting the suffering it causes and its negative impact on national interest. A total strength of 67 locals, 228 Students, and 15 Teachers attended the event. This event helped to educate and spread the awareness of Patriotic Values and Ingredients of Nation Building, Concept of Good Citizenship, Emotional Connection with the Country and Duties of Citizens amongst the local

populace and Students. Representative of Indian Army reminded students and local populace about destructive impact of terrorism on humanity and the need to promote peace, harmony and national unity. The Students and Teachers appreciated the initiative taken by Indian Army for the welfare of local populace, students and the society. This endeavour by the Indian Army to reach out

to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between Jawan and Awam. The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between Indian Army and the people of this region. It showcased Indian Army's commitment towards service to the nation.

## Rahul Bhau wins Turban Tying Competition ahead of Bhau Biradri Bi-Annual Congregation

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KHOHARA KALEETH, MAY 22

In a vibrant display of tradition and cultural pride, the Turban Tying Competition—a prelude to the much-anticipated Bi-Annual Congregation of the Bhau Biradri—was successfully held today at Dev Asthan, Kohara Kaleeth. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the youth, celebrating the elegance and symbolism of the traditional turban within Dogra and Rajput heritage.

Rahul Bhau emerged as the winner of the competition, impressing the judges with his technique, style, and understanding of the cultural significance behind turban tying. Rakesh Singh Bhau secured the runner-up position, while Deepak



Singh clinched the third prize, each showcasing exemplary skills and reverence for tradition. Shri Narinder Singh Bhau, President of the All India Bhau Rajput Sabha (AIBRS), congratulated the winners and expressed joy over the youth's enthusiastic participation, noting that such events play a vital role in connecting the younger generation with their cultural roots.

### Upcoming Congregation on 25th May 2025  
The community now turns its focus toward the grand Bi-Annual Congregation scheduled for Sunday, 25th May

2025, from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Dev Asthan, Kohara Kaleeth (Tehsil Khour). With over a lakh devotees expected to attend, preparations are in full swing.

Key Highlights of the Event:

\* Felicitation Ceremony: Students scoring 85% and above in their board exams (10th and 12th) will be honored (based on verified mark sheets).

\* Honoring Heroes: Ex-servicemen and serving officials from the Bhau Biradri will be recognized for their contribution to the nation and the community.

\* Cultural Showcase: Renowned Dogri artists Salathia Brothers and Varsha Jamwal will perform traditional Dogri songs, celebrating the rich Dogra heritage.

### Travel & Stay Information

Devotees and attendees from outside the region are encouraged to arrive in Kohara by the evening of 24th May, as special lodging arrangements and assistance will be available to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience. Organizers will also provide guidance regarding local facilities, parking, and darshan timings.

For accommodation support, general inquiries, or participation-related details, please contact the AIBRS Organizing Committee at: 9419615154, 9797696091, 9419610705

## Integrated Command & Control Centre operational at Vaishno Devi Shrine

J1 NEWS SERVICE

KATRA, MAY 22

As per the directives of the Hon'ble Chairman (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has operationalised the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra to enhance pilgrim safety and security. This state-of-the-art facility utilizes a network of 700 CCTV cameras equipped with advanced features like gesture, face recognition and PTZ, enabling real-time monitoring for efficient decision-making and swift response mechanism in the Shrine area.

A joint inspection of the ICCC was conducted today by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Sarah Rizvi, DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range alongwith Addl. Chief Executive Offi-



cer, SMVDSB; SSP, Reasi; Commandant, CRPF; Jt. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; SP, Katra; Tehsildar, SMVDSB and officers from Army, intelligence agencies, local administration and Shrine Board. The inspection was followed by a comprehensive security review meeting to discuss and strengthen various security measures brought out in the joint security review conducted last year.

Notably, the ICCC will enhance pilgrim safety

and security by leveraging advanced technologies like surveillance systems, data analytics and communication networks. A joint team from the Shrine Board and security agencies is now conducting real-time monitoring of key areas including ingress points, movement of pilgrims and service providers and critical infrastructure on the track, ensuring a seamless and safe experience for prompt emergency response and improved situational awareness.

The security review meeting stressed for action on diverse fronts and crucial decisions were taken for hassle free pilgrimage including the issuance of fresh UHF cards to pithoo and ponywallas and installation of readers to prevent impersonation and ensure their legitimate presence on the track.

The meeting also involved an in-depth discussion on identified threats with a focus on devising effective countermeasures to mitigate

potential risks. Furthermore, measures were discussed to plug unauthorized ingress points in the Shrine area, thereby strengthening the overall security apparatus for a safer environment for pilgrims. The concerned quarters were directed to undertake the numbering of private shops along the track, facilitating easy identification and reference for security agencies. Emphasis was laid on early activation of the integrated hotline system to enable seamless communication amongst the stakeholders for swift response to emergencies and further strengthening the security infrastructure.

The meeting also explored deployment of additional security personnel, area domination and the use of drones and other advanced technologies to monitor the Shrine and surrounding areas.

The CEO reiterated the importance of effectively utilizing advanced security equipments crucial for maintaining robust security measures provided to security agencies. These equipments include X-Ray Baggage Scanners, Door Frame Metal Detectors, Hand-Held Metal Detectors and Under Vehicle Search Mirrors / Scanners recently procured and installed by the Board in the Shrine area.

The meeting took a stern view of the begging menace in Katra, deeming it a nuisance to pilgrims and a potential security threat. Directions were given to concerned quarters to strictly curb the practice with a focus on rescuing and rehabilitating minors by sending them to shelter homes, thereby ensuring a safer and more dignified environment for pilgrims visiting from across India and abroad.

## CVPPPL organizes Drawing Competition on "Hygiene and Sanitation"



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 22

As per directives of Govt. of India & guidance of Ramesh Mukhiya, Managing Director-CVPPPL, Swachhata Pakhwada 2025 is being observed in CVPPPL from 16th May 2025 to 31st May 2025. In order to create awareness among common people specially school going children. As part of this Swachhata Pakhwada, a Drawing Competition Program was organized at V.K Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu on 22.05.2025 by

CVPPPL, Corporate Office, Jammu. Drawing competition was organized in the school on the topic of "Hygiene and Sanitation". A total of 30 students of the said school from class 3rd to 8th participated in the drawing competition. Stationery materials were provided by CVPPPL to the students for the drawing competition. The winners and participants of the competition were felicitated with prizes by Smt Deepa, Group Senior Manager (HR), CVPPPL and Vandana Saini, Principal (V. K. Sarvodaya Vidyalay).

## DYSS Inter-Zone District Level Competitions cum Trials begin at various Venues in Tehsil Akhnoor



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, MAY 22

The Inter-Zone District Level Competitions and Selection Trials in the disciplines of Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Volleyball, and Cricket for Under-14 and Under-17 Boys and Girls commenced today across multiple venues in Tehsil Akhnoor.

The three-day event is being organized by the District Youth Services and Sports Office (DYSSO) Jammu under the aegis of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K UT. The competitions were formally inaugurated at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Sohal and Ghari Ground Jourian.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by DYSSO Jammu Sukhdev Raj Sharma, Principal GHSS

Sohal Sushma Thakur and hosted by Zonal Physical Education Officers Sh. Ashok Kumar, Smt. Usha Fotadar, and Smt. Nirmal Kumari. The ZPEO Akhnoor welcomed the participants and briefed the gathering about the aims and scale of the event.

In his address, DYSSO Jammu highlighted the significance of sports in youth development, stating, "These Inter-Zone Competitions are a testament to the vibrant sports culture in Jammu. We are thrilled to witness the enthusiasm and talent of our young players."

The competitions feature student-players from the Sports Zones of Akhnoor, Jourian, Khour, and Chowki Choura of Jammu District.

On the opening day,

approximately 160 players representing 12 teams participated in Cricket (U-17 Boys) and Kho-Kho (U-14 and U-17 Boys) events. The primary objective of these competitions is to identify and select promising players for the upcoming Competitions.

Participants showcased commendable performances marked by enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and discipline. A dedicated panel of departmental experts, convenors, and technical officials ensured smooth and fair conduct of the matches.

The competitions will continue over the next two days, further spotlighting the dedication and sports talent of student players from the region.

## 648th Parkash Utsav of Guru Ravidass celebrated at Kattal Batal

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NAGROTA, MAY 22

The 648th Parkash Utsav of Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj was celebrated with great religious enthusiasm and devotion at Kattal Batal, Nagrota. The grand religious congregation witnessed the participation of devotees from various parts of the region.

Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri Maharaj graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and delivered a spiritual discourse that left the gathering inspired. Vijay Lochan, Chairman of JKNC SC Cell, was the Guest of Honour.

The programme was meticulously organized under the leadership of Rattan Lal, President of Guru Ravidass Sabha, Kattal Batal. The premises of the Sabha were beautifully decorated, and devotional songs and bhajans filled the air, creating a spiritual ambience.

During the programme, Shri Shri 108 Swami Gurdeep Giri Maharaj honoured Vijay Lochan for his selfless service towards the general public.

Addressing the gathering, Swami Gurdeep Giri Maharaj said that Guru Ravidass Ji's teachings of equality, love, and devo-



tion are timeless and continue to guide humanity toward a just and compassionate society.

Gurdeep Giri Maharaj urged the followers to walk on the path of righteousness and service as laid down by the revered Guru Ji. "The message of Guru Ravidass Ji transcends caste and creed and is a beacon of light for all mankind," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Vijay Lochan lauded the efforts of the Guru Ravidass Sabha in promoting social harmony and spreading the teachings of the great saint. He reiterated that the present Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led government is deeply

committed to the welfare and upliftment of marginalized and weaker sections of society. He assured the gathering that every effort will be made to resolve the issues being faced by these communities, particularly in terms of education, employment, and social justice.

The event concluded with a community langar, served to all devotees, signifying unity and brotherhood.

Among those who were present on this occasion included: Sham Lal, Rtd Master Baldev Raj, Panch Lal Chand, Kuldeep Raj, Dogra, Raman Thappa and others.

## GPC Jammu conducts Admission Awareness Campaign in GGHS Aghore, GHS Raipur, GHS Kheri in Bhalwal Zone

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 22

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 Raj Shekhar (HoD Automobile), Mehmoed Ahmed, Manjeet Singh, Vicky Sharma and Rakesh Kumar visited Government Girls High School Aghore, Government High School Raipur and Government High School Kheri (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.

## Dr. Narinder Singh inspects development works, inaugurates 'Shiva Eye Care Centre' in Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 22 MAY 2025.

Reaffirming the commitment of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) towards public welfare and infrastructural development, Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary and Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from R.S. Pura - Jammu South Assembly constituency, conducted a comprehensive inspection of ongoing development works worth 1.2 crore in the Green Avenue locality of Ward No. 58.

The visit was aimed at ensuring quality control, timely execution, and transparency in public works, as part of the government's broader objective to strengthen grassroots development. During the inspection, Dr.



Singh interacted with local residents and stakeholders to gather firsthand feedback about the progress of various civic projects and addressed their concerns related to amenities and services.

He was accompanied by a team of senior BJP leaders including District President Naresh Singh Jasrotia, senior leader Vinay Gupta, Mandal President Sohan Kattal, and former

Councillors Paramjit Singh and Tirath Kaur, along with other prominent local functionaries. The delegation reviewed various ongoing construction and maintenance works such as road upgradation, drainage systems, a bridge linking Ward 56 with 58, and community infrastructure aimed at improving the living standards in the area.

Speaking on the occasion,

Dr. Singh emphasized the importance of regular monitoring of developmental projects to ensure they meet the required standards and are completed within the stipulated timeframes. He reiterated the BJP government's dedication to improving civic amenities and delivering on promises made to the people.

Later in the day, Dr. Narinder Singh inaugurated the 'Shiva Eye Care Centre' located in Sector D of Sainik Colony. The modern facility is equipped to offer advanced eye treatment and diagnostic services at affordable rates, catering to the needs of a wide cross-section of society.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of BJP District

President Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Mandal President Ajay Partap Singh, former Councillor Narinder Bunt, party leader Ravi Bakshi, and several other respected figures from the community.

Dr. Singh extended his heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Jha, the owner of the Centre, on the launch of this much-needed health facility.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Singh praised the initiative and urged the management to maintain high standards of professionalism and patient care. He expressed confidence that the eye care Centre would serve not only the residents of Sainik Colony but also patients from surrounding areas, thereby strengthening the local healthcare infrastructure.

## Inter-Zonal District Level U14 & U17 Girls Competitions organized by DYSS Reasi



J I NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, MAY 22

The Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), Reasi today organised the Inter-Zonal District Level U14 and U17 Girls Competitions at the General Zorawar Singh Stadium, Reasi.

As many as 300 talented student-athletes from different zones of District Reasi—including Chassana, Mahore, Arnas, Reasi,

and Pouni—participated in events such as Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Yoga, Chess and Table Tennis.

Chief Education Officer Reasi, Deepak Gupta graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He was welcomed by District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Reasi Tarsem Singh. Tarsem Singh highlighted that the participating girls, selected from different zones, represent the district's growing

talent and will be competing with Great Spirit and sportsmanship.

CEO commended the efforts of DYSS Reasi in promoting sports among young girls. He emphasized the role of sports in holistic development and encouraged students to pursue excellence both in academics and athletics. He also appreciated the discipline, enthusiasm, and dedication shown by the participants.

The tournament served as a platform to foster healthy competition, build confidence, and strengthen camaraderie among the youth of Reasi district.

The matches were officiated by the expert deputed by the DYSSO Office Reasi.

## Indian Forces played decisive role in foiling Pakistan-facilitated terror plot: Kavinder Slams Pakistan for aiding terrorism on J&K soil

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 22

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today lauded the Border Security Force (BSF) for its resolute action in foiling a massive infiltration attempt by 45-50 terrorists along the International Border in Samba district amid the Operation Sindoor on May 8. He condemned Pakistan for attempting to push terrorists into Indian territory under the cover of ceasefire violations.

"The valour and preparedness shown by the BSF during Operation Sindoor is exemplary. Their swift and strategic response not only thwarted a major terror bid but



also delivered a strong message to Pakistan and its terror proxies," Kavinder said in a statement issued today.

The senior BJP leader praised the BSF's precise and heavy retaliation, which led to the destruction of enemy posts and significant losses to infil-

trating terrorists. "The terrorists were not only detected in time but were also driven back effectively by the unmatched courage of our jawans. This is the India of today—alert, decisive, and ready to crush terrorism at its roots," he said.

Coming down heavily on Pakistan, Kavinder said that Pakistan has exposed globally for violating the sanctity of the ceasefire. "Pakistan must realise that India will not tolerate any act of aggression. The response during Operation Sindoor and

the subsequent retaliation across the border have shown our intent clearly. We will hit back ten times harder if provoked," he warned.

Kavinder appreciated the efforts of the Indian Army and BSF in the broader scope of Operation Sindoor, launched in the aftermath of the barbaric Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 innocent civilians. He saluted the bravery of India's armed forces and reiterating the BJP's unwavering support for their actions. "Every citizen of the nation stands behind our soldiers. We are proud of their courage, sacrifice, and unshakable commitment to keeping our motherland safe," he added.

## Vi enhances IR packs for summer holiday travel – Enjoy Double Data, free Incoming Calls, Baggage Protection and more

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 22ND MAY, 2025

A recent report released by Ministry of Civil Aviation recorded carrying 64.5 million passengers on international routes between January and November 2024, marking an 11.4% increase in comparison to same period in 2023.

To address the needs of Indian Travellers increasingly seeking global destinations during Indian summer season coinciding with academic holidays, leading telecom operator Vi has enhanced three International Roaming (IR) Postpaid Plans designed to offer More benefits, More convenience, and More value

exclusively this travel season. These Plans are revised with the onset of the summer holiday season, when outbound travel from India typically sees a sharp rise.

These three revised Postpaid IR Packs by Vi offer unmatched value through Double Data and Unlimited Incoming Calls & more, designed to suit the travel needs of short term as well as long duration travel.

With the Double Data, a limited period offer, Vi Customers travelling overseas can now do more of everything they need on the go like navigate through foreign cities using maps, make uninterrupted video calls, stream entertainment, share photos,

or catch up on work emails, all without worrying about running out of data.

Vi Customers can also schedule their roaming pack activation up to 60 days in advance, eliminating last-minute anxiety. For added convenience, IR packs can be activated anytime via the Vi app or website, allowing users to select their travel destination, duration, and preferred plan with just a few taps.

To support users while travelling abroad, Vi offers round-the-clock international roaming assistance. Dedicated customer support is available 24x7, ensuring that help is always accessible, whether it is network related queries or

service assistance.

To further safeguard the travel experience, Vi continues its partnership with Blue Ribbon Bags to offer baggage protection on all Postpaid IR packs. For a nominal charge of Rs 99, users are eligible for compensation of up to Rs 19,800 per bag if their checked-in luggage is delayed or lost beyond 96 hours of filing a complaint. This feature brings additional peace of mind during international journeys.

With its upgraded IR proposition, Vi has created a truly customer-first international roaming experience, offering more data, dedicated support, reliable connectivity, and added travel security.

## TRIFED organizes workshop on Tribal welfare in J&K



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 22

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), in collaboration with the Department of Tribal Affairs and Jammu & Kashmir State Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKSRLM) today organised a one day workshop at the Convention Center, Jammu on 22 May 2025, aiming to promote awareness and implementation of tribal welfare schemes in the Union Territory.

The workshop was conducted under the chairmanship of Managing Director, TRIFED, Hirdesh Kumar.

Among others present were Prasanna Ramaswamy G, Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Jammu & Kashmir; Shubhra Sharma, Mission Director, JKSRML; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, District Development Commis-

sioner Jammu; Sher Singh, Additional Development Commissioner, Jammu; Director, National Institute for Small Business Development (NIESBUD); officials from TRIFED Head Office, New Delhi; TRIFED Regional Office, Chandigarh and DPM, BPM and SPMs of SRLM, J&K besides the nodal officers and representatives from DPM, BPM, SPMs of SRLM of all 20 districts of J&K.

The Managing Director, TRIFED, provided detailed insights of the flagship schemes and activities i.e., Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP for MFP), Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK), Infrastructure development and Retail Marketing activity being implemented by TRIFED on behalf of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA). He highlighted the potential of livelihood generation in Tribal communities in

all the districts of Jammu & Kashmir. He asked the senior officials and other stakeholders involved in tribal development for their active participation in implementing all the activities in the UT.

He stressed upon operationalisation of 100 already established VDVKS in 8 districts of J&K, creation of 100 more VDVKS in rest of the 12 districts of J&K, opening of Tribes India Outlet in Jammu, saturation of DAJGUA and conduct of Tribal Artisan empanelment Mela (TAeM) in Jammu & Srinagar.

Senior officials of TRIFED Head Office subsequently elaborated on various components of the schemes, implementation modalities and sanctioning process.

Poonam Sinha, Director, NIESBUD, highlighted the crucial role of NIESBUD/Ministry of Skill

Development & Entrepreneurship (MoSDE) in skill development and capacity building of VDVKS, outlining the modalities for empowering the tribal stakeholders in the Union Territory.

Besides, the Nodal Officers from various districts under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DAJGUA) updated the gathering on initiatives being taken in their respective districts.

The workshop marked a significant step towards fostering inclusive growth and empowerment of tribal communities in Jammu & Kashmir. TRIFED in partnership with state agencies, remains committed towards supporting the socio-economic upliftment of tribal populations through sustained implementation of its schemes and initiatives.

## Civil Society leads Grand Tiranga Rally in Jourian, sends strong message against terrorism

J I NEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, MAY 22

A grand Tiranga Rally was organized in Mandal Jourian under the Akhnoor Assembly Constituency by the Civil Society and the Saints', aiming to promote unity and send a stern message against terrorism. The rally commenced from the Shaheed Sthal (Martyrs' Memorial) and proceeded through the main market, eventually culminating back at the starting point. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of local citizens, as well as several dignitaries, who all came together to express their patriotic fervor.

The atmosphere resonated with powerful chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Indian Army Zindabad," creating a vibrant and nationalistic mood throughout the area.

During the rally, prominent figures including Mahant Keshav Das Shastri, Brahmakumari Volunteer Sunita, BJP District President Kuldeep Sharma, and MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal Bhagat addressed the gathering. They emphasized that India is now taking



decisive steps against terrorism. They stated that the Government of India and its capable armed forces have made it clear—not just to Pakistan but to the entire world—that any act of terrorism will be met with a fitting response, even if it means striking deep inside enemy territory.

Mandal President Neeraj Shastri, in his address, praised the valor and determination of India's Army, Navy, and Air Force under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He asserted that any attempt to disrupt the peace and integrity of India will be met with severe consequences, and terrorists should realize the cost of even thinking about executing sinister

plans on Indian soil.

Among the many dignitaries present on the occasion were Pandit Sham Shastri, former Vice-Chairman of Kissan Advisory Board Daljeet Singh, BJP National Executive Member of Kissan Morcha and Akhnoor District Co-incharge Manmohan Singh, General Secretary Raki Gupta, Rakesh Bhagat, DDC Member Bhushan Bral, former BDC Neha Rajput, District General Secretary Shakti Bhagat, District Vice President Manga Ram, senior leaders Pritam, Subhash, Mangal, Gullu Ram, Pradeep Chaudhary, former Municipal Committee Chairman Madan Lal, Sham Chaudhary, Daler Singh, and several other eminent personalities.

## Police arrest two impersonators for extorting money in Awantipora

J I NEWS SERVICE  
AWANTIPORA, MAY 22

In a swift and decisive action, Police in Awantipora have arrested two individuals who were posing as being closely connected to authorities and extorting money from the public.

The arrests came after a complaint was lodged by Mushtaq Ahmad Dar, son of Gh Rasool Dar, a resident of Naristan, who reported that the accused were fraudulently presenting themselves as close of the police and demanding money under false promises.

The accused have been identified as Jaliya Parveen, daughter of Mohd Amin Rather, a resident of Monghal, Anantnag, and Bilal Ahmad Rah, son of Gh Ahmad Rah, a resident of Chanapora, Srinagar. They allegedly targeted suspects called for questioning, exploiting fear of legal action to extract payments.

Their illegal activities surfaced after multiple victims came forward, reporting coercion and threats. Acting promptly on the complaint, Police Station Tral registered FIR No. 62/2025 under relevant sections of the law. Both accused have been taken into custody.

## Dry Fruit Association Kupwara calls on Dy CM



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

The Dry Fruit Association Kupwara today called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, highlighting various issues regarding declining condition and severe challenges being faced by the walnut industry in Kashmir.

The Association led by its President, Haji Bhadur Khan, raised various issues like GST on walnuts, research and innovation in producing new high quality walnuts, lack of market infrastructure and permission to construct the second story in the complex.

The Deputy Chief Minister gave a patient hearing

to the delegation, assuring that all their genuine grievances and issues will be resolved in a phased manner. He assured the delegation that technical support will be provided to the farmers for developing high-yielding and disease-resistant walnut varieties.

He asserted that Omar Abdullah government is committed to safeguard the interests of walnut growers and promote the consumption of locally grown walnuts. He assured the Association that government will take every possible step to support the walnut industry as it is livelihood for thousands of farmers in Kashmir.

## DC reviews functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars in Doda

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MAY 22

To enhance grassroots agricultural services, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh today convened a comprehensive review meeting to assess the functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) in the district. The meeting, held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, focused on evaluating service delivery, inter-departmental coordination, and infrastructure development of KKGs.

The session was attended by key officials including the Project Officer ICDS, who also serves as GM District Industries Centre Doda S. Parmjeet Singh, Chief Agriculture Officer (Nodal Officer KKGs) Amjad Hussain Malik, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Sericulture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Assistant Directors of Fisheries and Floriculture, District Lead Bank Manager, AD Planning, NABARD Manager, Incharge KKGs from all blocks, and Krishi Udyami representatives.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the need to strengthen service delivery in remote areas, ensure timely dissemination of agricultural schemes, facilitate access to KCC loans, crop insurance and agricultural subsidies. He stressed the importance of real-time monitoring, digital record maintenance, and provisioning of IT equipment



to improve efficiency at KKGs. The Chief Agriculture Officer presented a detailed overview of the KKG setup status. DC Doda also reviewed issues and grievances raised by the Krishi udayamis during the meeting such as infrastructure gaps, registration of farmers under HADP, issuance of fertilizers and pesticides licenses, availability of fertilizers, and the need for Aadhaar centres, commission on sale of seeds, and provision of electronic gadgets. He assured to resolve the issue and grievances in stipulated time

The DDC interacted directly with Krishi Udyami and KKG Incharges, listened to their concerns, and assured timely redressal of issues. He directed the officers to expedite the issuance of fertilizer licenses, ensure training for Krishi Udyamis across all 17 blocks, and improve coordination among agriculture and allied departments. He also emphasized raising awareness through IEC campaigns and ensur-

ing that KKGs function as single-window service centres for farmers. He instructed concerned departments to ensure timely dispatch of necessary equipment for KKG setup and provide essential agricultural goods to Krishi Udyamis. Further, the DC instructed that committees be formed under designated chairpersons for better monitoring of KKG operations and Krishi Udyamis. He also called for better coordination with NABARD to ensure financial support. The proposal to establish Aadhaar centres in KKGs was discussed, and the DC assured steps will be taken for their establishment. He also suggested that the NIC team be deployed at KKGs to facilitate video conferencing and the smooth functioning of digital services. Concluding the meeting, the DC called upon all agricultural stakeholders to work collectively for the development of the country, emphasizing that agriculture is the backbone of India's economy.

## Police solve theft case in Budgam; 03 accused arrested

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, MAY 22

Police in Budgam have successfully solved a theft case by arresting three accused persons and recovering stolen property from their possession.

Police Station Chadoora received a written complaint from Manzoor Ahmad Chopan, son of Habib-ul-lah Chopan, resident of Bonen Chadoora, regarding the theft of tyres, batteries, and other vehicle parts from Bonen and adjoining areas during

the intervening night of 12th/13th May 2025.

Acting swiftly on the complaint, a case vide FIR No. 86/2025 under Section 303(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) was registered at Police Station Chadoora, and investigation was initiated. The crime scene was thoroughly examined using both technical and conventional investigative methods.

During the course of investigation, credible leads led to the identification of suspects, and three individuals

were detained for questioning. The accused were identified as Aijaz Ahmad Doyi, son of Abdul Rashid Doyi, Bilal Ahmad Khatana, son of Bashir Ahmad Khatana and Mohammad Iqbal Bani, son of Ghulam Mohammad Bani all residents of Bonen Chadoora.

Upon sustained questioning, the trio confessed their involvement in the thefts. On their disclosure, multiple raids were conducted at various locations, leading to the recovery of 09 tyres, 02 vehicle

## BJP pays rich tributes to Shri Bhagwat Swarup Ji, performs Hawan on his 100th birth anniversary

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 22 MAY 2025:

On the occasion of 100th birth anniversary of Shri Bhagwat Swarup ji, who served selflessly for more than six decades in various positions, especially as Organization Secretary in Praja Parishad, Bharatiya Jana Sangh and BJP, Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir paid rich tributes to him at the party Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

A Hawan was also performed on the occasion, praying to the Almighty for the Moksha to the great soul and for the peace and prosperity in the region.

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha), Dr. Nirmal Singh, and Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Ministers, Sham Lal Sharma, Vice-President and MLA, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal,



General Secretary and MLA, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, and Mohan Lal, MLAs, Priya Sethi, former Minister, Adv. Chander Mohan Sharma, senior leader and other senior leaders paid tributes to the great soul on the occasion.

Goutam Mengi, Shiv Kumar Gupta, Ashok Braru, Naresh Kattal, Govind Sareen, were among the prominent social personalities to attend the tribute programme.

The event was coordinated and managed by Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, State Incharge, Department of Nanaji Deshmukh

Library, BJP. He narrated inspirational anecdotes from Shri Bhagwat Swarup ji's life, highlighting his tireless commitment to organizational development and nationalist causes.

Sat Sharma, while paying tributes to Bhagwat Swarup ji, said that today, the BJP is observing the 100th birth anniversary of a legendary hero who lived for others and not for himself. He dedicated his whole life to the welfare of the party. Coming from Punjab, served as the organizational secretary of Praja Parishad, Bharatiya Janata Party, and Pracha-

rak, he consistently served the nation and the society with utmost passion. We all must learn selfless service from his life. The life of Swarupji will serve as a beacon to all, he said.

Ashok Koul shared the life history and the important instances from the life of Bhagwat Swarup ji. He shared the close association of Bhagwat ji with Pt. Prem Nath Dogra and the contributions of Bhagwat ji in all the major agitations including 'Ek Pradhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Samvidhan' in the Jammu region, which resulted into the abolition of Permit System. Bhagwat ji devoted his life for the service of the society and Nation with the sole purpose of uniting people to strengthen the Nationalist forces, he added.

Dr. Nirmal Singh termed Bhagwat ji as an ideal 'Swayam Sewak'. Bhagwat ji served at various posts which he served with pure dedication. He lived his life as a mission for the welfare

of the nation, society and the acquaintances.

Kavinder Gupta shared old memories and said that Bhagwat ji served his all responsibilities with pure dedication earning his name in history. Bhagwat ji served exemplarily in the troubled and difficult times.

Chander Mohan Sharma said that Bhagwat ji dedicatedly worked for the society during his entire life. He said that Bhagwat ji had secured a niche in others' hearts with his love and care for every individual.

Shiv Kumar Gupta and Ashok Braru threw light on the excellent relation of Bhagwat ji with all the acquaintances. They also highlighted the emphasis of Bhagwat ji on keeping closer relations within the functionaries of organization.

The programme concluded with the distribution of Prasad among the attendees.

## Yudhvir reaffirms BJP's commitment to public welfare Holds public grievances camp

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 22

BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi today reaffirmed the party's unwavering commitment to public welfare, asserting that the BJP remains steadfast in addressing people's concerns at the grassroots level.

He was speaking while holding a grievances redressal camp at the Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan Kacchi Chawni Jammu.

The camp witnessed a huge rush of people from across Jammu city who came to the party office to discuss their issues with senior BJP leaders.

Various deputations, including individual persons—most of whom were women—visited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other development-related topics, as well as personal issues.

Yudhvir Sethi patiently heard the grievances and assured the people of prompt action by coordinating with the concerned departments and officials. He resolved most of their issues instantaneously by talking to the authorities concerned on the phone.

The senior BJP leader reiterated that the BJP, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is dedicated to ensuring inclu-



sive development and resolving public issues in a time-bound manner. "Our

doors are always open for the people. These grievance camps are an impor-

tant medium to connect directly with the citizens and understand their real

problems," he said. The MLA further emphasized that the BJP is not merely a political organization but a people's movement focused on nation-building. He also assured the public that he will take up the rest of their issues with the concerned authorities and get them resolved soon.

Sethi urged party workers to continue serving the people with dedication and be proactive in resolving public issues.

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION JAMMU

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term)

MHDJ/e-NIT 53 of 2025-26

Dated: 21.05.2025  
Due : 28.05.2025

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Estt	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	Repair, maintenance and servicing of 25 Nos. Air conditioning units of various labs, HODs' Rooms and Auditorium area of 1.5/2 TR capacity each at Govt. SMGS Hospital, Jammu.	Principal GMC & Associated Hospital Jammu	1.715 LACS	Rs4000.00 in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR valid for 12 months pledged to the Executive Engineer MH Division Jammu	Rs 200.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal.	10 days	Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure "C" similar nature of work

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE [www.iktenders.gov.in](http://www.iktenders.gov.in).

Sd/-  
(Er. Vishal Mahajan)  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospital Division  
Jammu

DIP/J-1369/25 Date: 22-5-25

## ABRSM delegation calls on Director School Education, Jammu; submits charter of demands

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 22

Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh delegation led by State President Rattan Sharma met with Director School Education Jammu in his office to discuss some important issues pertaining to teaching community.

The important issues discussed with worthy Director School Education Jammu was conduct of DPC's of District Cadre posts, Annual Transfer Drive of Teacher's which is pending from last two years and Regularisation of In-Charge Teacher's pending since 2018.

However, while putting forth the demands of Teaching community before worthy Director sir regarding conduct of DPC of various state cadre and District Cadre posts which has been kept on hold from last so many years due to unknown reasons. Although Director School Education conducted



DPC of Teacher's to Master's in the month of June 2024 which is very less as compared to vacant posts of Master's in various districts. This has not only led to frustration among eligible employees but also resulted in a large number of vacant posts in schools, which is severely affecting the academic needs of students. Filling of these posts through DPC will not only uplift the morale of staff but also meet the current shortage in schools.

Moreover, Director School Education Jammu in his previous orders issued during 2021, 2024 and 2025 have ordered for conduct of DPC of District Cadre posts but till date DPC is only on the papers and

nothing concrete has been done in this regard. Due to delay in DPC of district Cadre posts, regularization of more than 150 Laboratory Assistants of various districts of Jammu division who were promoted as In-Charge Teacher's in the year 2018 is still pending. After a gap of 6 years all In-charge Teacher's are eagerly waiting for their regularization but nothing concrete has been done till even after multiple representations to Worthy Commissioner Secretary Education, Worthy Director School Education by ABRSM and by concerned In-Charge Teacher's.

Meanwhile, delegation members also express deep concern over delay in Annual Transfer Drive

pending since couple of years. The annual transfer drive, which is a crucial mechanism for balancing staff deployment and addressing personal and professional needs of Teacher's, has not been conducted for the past two years. It is pertinent to mention here that earlier Department of education started Annual Transfer Drive (ATD) to transfer Teacher's as per Transfer Policy formulated by the department. In the 2023 ATD was started and many Teacher's got Transferred after serving for so many years in far flung areas. Whole Teaching community appreciated the step taken by the LG Administration but now from last two years many Teacher's who are working in far flung areas particularly in Zone-III, Zone-IV and Zone-V from last 6 years or more than 6 years are waiting for their Transfer to suitable place as per Transfer policy but till date no such proposal from Government side has been

issued. Everyone deserves to be transferred after serving so many years in far flung areas not only on humanitarian grounds but as per Transfer Policy of the government. A timely and transparent transfer drive is essential to ensure equitable posting and optimal utilization of human resource.

After giving patient hearing to the delegation members worthy Director School Education Jammu assured conduct of DPC of district Cadre posts in next month. Regarding ATD (Annual Transfer Drive), Worthy Director apprised members that transfer drive will be started only after the directions of Hon'ble Education Minister Mrs Sakina ittoo ji.

The other members of delegation include Rahul Sharma (State Joint Secretary) Rakesh ji (State Executive member), Ved ji (Gen. Secretary District Jammu), Tarsem ji (Media Incharge District Jammu) and Vipin ji.

## BJP Minority Morcha holds grand tiranga rally at Achbal, Anantnag

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
ANANTNAG, MAY 22

The BJP Minority Morcha organized a grand and spirited Tiranga Rally today at Achbal, Anantnag, as part of its ongoing efforts to promote national unity, patriotism, and inclusivity across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The rally was led by Ranjot Singh Nalwa, President BJP Minority Morcha J&K UT, along with Sheikh Bashir, Incharge BJP Minority Morcha J&K UT, and Bhat Imtiyaz, General Secretary BJP Minority Morcha J&K UT. The event witnessed an enthusiastic participation of party workers, local youth, senior citizens, and members of the minority community who came together to uphold the values of the Indian Constitution and reaffirm their commitment to the unity and integrity of the nation. Carrying the Tiranga (National Flag) with pride, participants



marched through the streets of Achbal, raising slogans in praise of Bharat Mata and the Indian armed forces. The rally sent a strong message of peace, brotherhood, and patriotism from the heart of South Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Ranjot Singh Nalwa said, "The Tiranga is not just a symbol of our independence but a representation of our shared dreams, diversity, and strength."

The BJP under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji is committed to the empowerment and integration of all communities, especially the minorities."

Sheikh Bashir emphasized that the Minority Morcha will continue to engage with all communities at the grassroots level to strengthen the democratic fabric of Jammu & Kashmir, while Bhat Imtiyaz thanked the local administration and police for their support in ensuring the peaceful conduct of the rally.

The event concluded with the chanting of the national anthem and distribution of sweets among the participants. The rally served as a symbol of national pride and the resolve of the BJP Minority Morcha to work towards an inclusive, secure, and progressive Jammu & Kashmir.

## Mission Director Poshan inaugurates Inauguration Training for Poshan Supervisors

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 22

Mission Director Poshan Jammu and Kashmir Kishori Lal Sharma today inaugurated the training programme for newly recruited Supervisors here in the presence of Joint Director Vinod Behnal, Programme Officer Jammu, Pankaj Anand and Deputy Director Dr Malvika Sharma.

The 10 day training programme for newly recruited supervisors encompasses the guidelines of Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 along with introduction to the schemes being implemented by the department viz Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Ladli Beti, Supplementary Nutrition Programme, Early Childhood care and education, Growth Monitoring & home visits and so on.

The batch of 106 newly recruited supervisors hail from all the district of union territory and this comprehensive training will prepare them for their future supervisory role of functioning of Anganwadi centre in their respective zones. The Supervisors guide and monitor the Anganwadi workers' activities in the Anganwadi centres while ensuring that all the schemes are implemented accurately.

Speaking on the occasion, Mission Director Poshan welcomed the new recruits to the department and exhorted them to be focused in their approach of learning about the department schemes and policies and their implementation in the field. He further asked the Supervisors to act as a strong bridge between Beneficiaries in the Anganwadi Centres and department for par excellence in achievement of growth, health and preschool education parameters.

The Joint Director and District Programme Officer Jammu also addressed the gathering, encouraging the participants to make the most of the training.

## Bajnath Paprola Railway Station Transformed under Amrit Bharat Scheme, inaugurated by Prime Minister



**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
BAIJNATH PAPROLA (HP), MAY 22

In a landmark moment for Himachal Pradesh, the historic Bajnath Paprola Railway Station has been redeveloped and inaugurated under the Government of India's Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The inauguration was carried out today by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking a significant milestone not only for the region but as part of a nationwide infrastructure upgrade.

The Bajnath Paprola station is one of 103 railway stations across 18 states of India that have been redeveloped under

this ambitious scheme, aimed at modernizing railway infrastructure while preserving cultural heritage.

The newly redeveloped station features separate entry and exit points, divyangjan-friendly (accessible) infrastructure, expanded parking areas, improved waiting rooms, drinking water facilities, and landscaped green zones. These enhancements are designed to provide passengers with a safer, smoother, and more comfortable travel experience.

What makes this transformation especially commendable is the effort by the Indian Railways administration to retain

the station's traditional architectural character while integrating modern amenities. The station now stands not just as a transit point, but as a symbol of Himachal's cultural legacy and evolving development.

Speaking at the occasion, Northern Railway General Manager Shri Ashok Kumar Verma said: "Through the Amrit Bharat Scheme, we are upgrading small and medium stations by blending modern passenger amenities with local culture and heritage. Stations are no longer just stops—they are gateways to regional identity and pride."

He further added that

alongside Bajnath Paprola, Saharanpur and Bijnor stations have also been redeveloped under the same scheme. A special exhibition honoring India's brave soldiers has also been set up at Bajnath Paprola station, adding a patriotic dimension to the station's modern outlook.

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme has emerged as a nationwide mission to modernize India's railway infrastructure while staying rooted in the cultural fabric of each region. With this transformative vision, the Indian Railways continues to pave the way for a cleaner, faster, accessible, and culturally rich travel experience for all citizens.

## Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Gujjar, Bakkarwals at Kuniyan, Khanetar Region, Poonch

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH: 22 MAY 2025

As part of its continuous efforts to support remote communities, the Indian Army successfully carried out a comprehensive medical patrol in the Kuniyan, Khanetar region of Poonch, focusing on the Gujjar and Bakkarwal populations. This initiative brought critical medical assistance to areas otherwise cut off from essential healthcare services. This outreach is an integral part of the Indian Army's broader mission to improve the quality of life for communities in remote and underserved areas. By focusing on the needs of these isolated villages, the Indian Army ensures that even the most marginalized populations have access to basic healthcare, reinforcing its unwavering commitment to their well-being, irrespective of their geographic location. The primary goal of



the medical patrol was to offer immediate medical care, which included routine health check-ups, treatment for common ailments, and the distribution of vital medications. Additionally, the Indian Army's team of medical professionals provided crucial preventive healthcare services, including immunizations and awareness programs on hygiene,

nutrition, and disease prevention. The response from the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities has been overwhelmingly positive. Beyond its medical benefits, the initiative has fostered greater trust and cooperation between the Indian Army and local residents, strengthening the bond between the two and reinforcing a shared sense of solidarity.

## Lecture cum Demonstration on Dining Etiquettes and Social Graces conducted at NCC Training Academy, Nagrota

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
NAGROTA : 22 MAY 2025

As part of the Academy's continued emphasis on holistic cadet development, Mrs. Gurpreet Bevlí conducted an exclusively educative session on Social Graces and Dining Etiquette.

A distinguished mentor known for her profound understanding of social protocol and refined social conduct, Mrs. Bevlí shared her invaluable insights into the nuances of formal etiquette, polished table manners, and gracious interpersonal behavior. Her session was designed to instill in cadets the sophistication and decorum expected of future leaders and ambassadors of the nation.

This initiative sought to cultivate an appreciation for civility, cultural refinement, and respectful engagement—virtues that complement the discipline, resilience, and patriotism ingrained through NCC



training. Col Saurabh Saxena, Commanding Officer of 1 J & K Battalion NCC, along with the faculty, expressed sincere appreciation for Mrs. Bevlí's enlightening session, believing it will serve as a transformative experience for the cadets in their personal and professional journeys.

Her visit reaffirms the NCC's unwavering com-

mitment to nurturing not only courageous and capable cadets but also socially adept and culturally aware individuals—poised to represent Kashmir in particular as also our great nation, India with elegance, dignity, and integrity on every platform.

It was an enlightening lecture demonstration, which will last in everyone's memory forever.

## BJP cadre is true strength of party: Balbir Ram

**J I NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 22

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) believes that its greatest strength lies in its dedicated cadre of workers. The party is an ideology-based organization where positions are not attained through individual influence, but through hard work and loyalty.

Speaking during a discussion on the expansion of the BJP with senior party activists, spokesperson and former Vice Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, emphasized this point.

Balbir stated that in the BJP, any individual who works sincerely and remains committed to the organization, can rise to the highest positions within it. He added that the uniqueness of the BJP is that leadership is not imposed but emerges



from the tireless efforts and grassroots connection of its workers. Leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have themselves risen from the ranks of workers to the top leadership, proving that with continuous dedication and commitment to the organization, even the impossible can be achieved.

The BJP's organizational structure is among the largest democratic setups in the world, with its backbone being the workers

spread across every village. From the booth level to the national executive, active participation of workers at every level strengthens the party.

Balbir further said that the BJP is an open platform for all those who are driven by the spirit of national service and want to see the country become progressive and strong.

The party's history and present are testimony to the fact that it is driven not by dynastic politics, but by the value of hard work.

This is the fundamental difference between the BJP and other parties.

The BJP continuously focuses on the training of its workers, organizational development, and leadership building. This is why the BJP today is not just a political party, but a mass movement.

Joining Balbir in this discussion were senior party activists Ashwani Sharma, Rachhpal Verma, Daljit Singh Chib, Surinder Bhagat, and Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal.

## GDC Ramgarh launches Admission, NEP 2020 awareness drive for session 2025-26

J1 NEWS DESK  
SAMBA, MAY 22

The Government Degree College Ramgarh has launched a comprehensive Admission and NEP 2020 Awareness Drive for the academic session 2025-26 here under the guidance of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol. The initiative is aimed at informing and guiding students, especially those who have recently completed their 12th grade, about the new academic framework under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the various course options available to them.

As part of this drive, the college faculty, including Dr. Snobar, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Ashok Kumar and Prof. Brham Dutt, conducted extensive outreach programs at several



Higher Secondary Schools including GHSS Ramgarh, GHSS Nandpur, GHSS Gho Brahmana, Ajanta HSS Gho, MIER HSS Koulpur, GHSS Vijaypur, Minerva HSS Ramgarh and The Path Seeker HSS Ramgarh.

During these visits, they interacted with students, discussed the importance of making conscious academic choices, and conducted counseling sessions to help students understand the benefits of NEP-aligned education.

The initiative received overwhelming support from school principals and teaching staff, who played a significant role in ensuring the success of the campaign. Informative pamphlets highlighting the college's academic offerings and NEP 2020 updates were distributed among the students.

The Government Degree College Ramgarh is currently accepting admissions for the 2025-26 session under the

NEP-aligned Humanities stream. Major subjects offered are Education, Hindi, Political Science, and Sociology, along with additional options such as Computer Application, Economics, English, Environmental Science (E.V.S), Dogri, Punjabi and Statistics.

The college offers modern facilities to ensure a well rounded educational experience including smart and air-conditioned classrooms, a computer lab, library, sports infrastructure, browsing center, NSS, gym, Wi-Fi, CCTV surveillance, and transport services. Honours courses are available in the fourth year, and the college also facilitates lateral entry for eligible polytechnic students directly into the second year (third semester) of study.

## Door to door awareness programme on NALSA scheme-2010 held at Pulwama

J1 NEWS DESK  
PULWAMA, MAY 22

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Pulwama in collaboration with TLSC Pampore organized a door to door awareness programme on 'Legal Services to Disaster Victims through Legal Services Authorities scheme 2010' at Ladhu Pampore

The programme was organized under the Chairmanship of Malik Shabir Ahmad, Chairman DLSA (Pr.District & Sessions Judge), Pulwama and under the supervision of Mudasar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Pulwama.

Team from TLSC Pampore interacted with the downtrodden, tribal people and weaker sections of the society, and raised awareness about various government schemes available for them



especially free legal aid and latest NALSA schemes especially for downtrodden people.

A similar awareness programme was also orga-

nized by TLSC Tral at Guru Nanak School Tral in which a handsome gathering of students, faculty members, and PLVs of DLSA Pulwama participated.

## DIPR Shopian organises IEC Campaign on drug abuse at GHSS Sedow

J1 NEWS DESK  
SHOPIAN, MAY 22

As part of Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Shopian, in collaboration with the Education Department today organised an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Sedow, Shopian.

Skit/ dramatic performances by students and artists, poetry session, nukkad natak and expert sessions were held to educate students and the community about the perils of drug abuse, promoting a drug-free lifestyle.

## Relief Commissioner (M) reviews civic amenities, renovation works at Mini Jagti Township, Nagrota

J1 NEWS DESK  
JAMMU, MAY 22

Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Dr. Arvind Karwani today reviewed the status of essential services and inspected the ongoing development works in the migrant camps at Mini Jagti Township and Nagrota.

The Deputy Commissioner (Relief), Assistant Commissioner (Relief), Camp Commandants of Relief Organization and senior officers from Jal Shakti, PWD(R&B), JKPDCL, Jammu Municipal Corporation and other line departments were also present.

Dr. Karwani emphasised upon the importance of adhering to the directions issued by the General Administration Department in January this year,



wherein responsibilities of Transit Migrant Camps at Jammu and Kashmir have been assigned to various Government Departments viz. Public Works (R&B) Department, Jal Shakti Department, Power Development Department, Housing & Urban Development Department, Department of Youth Services & Sports, Department of Floriculture, Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED), Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) and Department of Rural Development and

Panchayati Raj. It has further been ordered that the concerned departments shall nominate an officer, not below the rank of Executive Engineer for liaising/coordinating the execution/maintenance of works/projects pertaining to their department with the Relief Organization (M), J&K.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation was asked to examine the demand for additional requirement of manpower to further improve day to day sanitation facility viz. collection, transportation and disposal

of garbage and refuse in the migrant camps. The Jal Shakti Department was asked to explore the installation of Bore Wells at Jagti to augment the water supply at Jagti Mini Township. The PW(R&B) Department, was asked to expedite the completion of ongoing repair and renovation works and expedite submission of detailed project report of the comprehensive repair/renovation works of all migrant camps at Jammu, regarding which estimation stands already completed, so that required projection of funds is made timely to take up these works during the current financial year. The Executive Engineer Power Development Corporation was asked to explore deployment of additional linemen at migrant camp Jagti.

Dr. Karwani inspected the construction work of the Community Hall being constructed at Jagti at an estimated cost of 6.5 Cr and impressed upon the engineers to ensure that the work is completed within the stipulated timeline. He later inspected several flats to check the repair/renovation works and directed engineers to ensure quality work.

Later Dr. Karwani, accompanied by Principal Excise Training Institute Nagrota, Tehsildar Nagrota, SDPO Nagrota and other officers also reviewed arrangements at the venue of departure of Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra-2025 and issued instructions to the concerned departments to ensure water, sanitation, power, seating and other arrangements at the venue for the yatris.

## DC Kulgam reviews power sector, RDSS projects

J1 NEWS DESK  
KULGAM, MAY 22

In order to assess the progress of ongoing works under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), a meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan at the mini-secretariat Kulgam.

During the meeting, Chief Manager Power Grid briefed the DC on the status of ongoing projects in the district.

It was informed that the RDSS, with a project cost of Rs 113 crore, aims to strengthen the power distribution infrastructure in the district by installing 618 new distribution transformers and 330 km of LT Aerial Bundled

Cables (ABC) and 450 km of HT reconductor Circuit kmts.

It was further appraised the initiative is designed to reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses in Kulgam.

Through a power-point presentation it was given out that 57% progress has been made in installation of HT/LT electric poles while 62% in cabling and 10% in conductor laying has been completed against the work allotted which ultimately leads to accumulative physical progress of 36%.

DC expressed dissatisfaction with the delayed supply of distribution transformers and directed the delivery process to

ensure timely completion of the project.

He instructed to mobilize men and machinery to ensure completion of projects well in time besides proper coordination between different departments.

The DC emphasized the importance of completing the works within the stipulated timeline to enhance the reliability and efficiency of the power distribution system in the district.

The meeting was also attended by ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; CPO Zahid Sajad; Senior G M PGC, S E KPDCL Circle Bijbehara, Executive Engineers of KPDCL, STD Bijbehara, NH444 Sgr, Project Division Sgr, Project Wing (PGCIL) Tehsildars, AEEs and JEs and other Officers.

## Director Agriculture Jammu conducts 2 day extensive visit to Banihal-Ramban

J1 NEWS DESK  
JAMMU, MAY 22

Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen undertook a two-day extensive tour of District Ramban, focusing on the implementation and progress of various ongoing agricultural initiatives and schemes.

During the visit, the Director convened a detailed review meeting at the Chief Agriculture Office, Ramban, where he assessed the status of several central and UT-sponsored schemes including HADP, JKICP, CSS, and NABARD. He also reviewed the progress of various flagship programmes under SHCS, PMFBY, KCC, PM Kisan and RKVY.

Chief Agriculture Officer Vinay Kumar Jandyal briefed the Director Agriculture about the status of works going on on the field. The meeting was attended by Sub-Divisional Officer Ayaz Rishi, Sub-Divisional Officer Gool Naveen Kumar, ASCO Jamshed Ahmad, SMS-DL, other senior officers and field staff of District Ramban.

The Director inspected



structure in the district, including the Mushroom Unit and Honey Processing Plant at DCTC and visited the Integrated Farming System (IFS) Model established by progressive farmer Zubair Ahmad Sohail at Chenab Valley Farm, Village Chamalwas, Banihal. Commending the initiative, he urged farmers to embrace Integrated Farming for sustainable income generation.

Further, the Director inspected a Low-Cost Polyhouse of beneficiary Abdul Rashid Khan in Panchayat Karwah, Zone Banihal, highlighting the importance of protected cultivation. At a well-attended farmers' gathering in Banihal, he elaborated on various components of HADP, encouraging farmers to utilize the Kisan SATHI Dashboard to apply for government schemes related to plantation, protected cultivation, water harvesting, drip irrigation, custom hiring centers, farm machinery, processing units, and nursery establishment.

On the second day, the Director visited the SM Farm Tethar, Banihal, to assess on-ground farm activities. While interacting with farmers and beekeepers, he issued instructions to field functionaries to provide immediate technical support to address the challenges faced by farmers. Emphasizing the potential of apiculture in the region, especially following the GI tagging of Sulai honey, Director Agriculture called for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Apiculture in Ramban.

Later, the Director inspected the Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG), Banihal, and interacted with Krishi Udyamis, reaffirming the Department's commitment to handholding entrepreneurs in agriculture.

The meeting reviewed schemes including Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Ladli Beti Scheme and Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana. The DC stressed timely application processing and awareness campaigns for better outreach.

The status of pension for widows, elderly and differently-abled persons was reviewed thoroughly. On the State Marriage Assistance Scheme, the DC directed timely application processing and enhanced public awareness.

The DC further assessed the functioning of the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW) and the impact of its inter-

## DC Jammu reviews Social Welfare initiatives, emphasises outreach and timely assistance

J1 NEWS DESK  
JAMMU, MAY 22

"No eligible beneficiary should remain unaware of their entitlements. We must reach every household and ensure welfare schemes translate into ground reality," said Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, while chairing a review meeting of the Social Welfare Department.

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ventions on the ground. Sub Divisional Magistrates were directed to monitor Anganwadi centres, ensure inclusion of all eligible beneficiaries, facilitate registration under the Ladli Beti Scheme and engage with the public to raise awareness about available schemes.

The DC emphasised outreach to those unaware of their entitlements. He stressed strict legal action in cases of violence against women, ensuring empathy and dignity is maintained.

Priority was laid on health check-ups, tests and awareness drives, particularly in remote areas lacking medical access. Identification and support of talented female athletes and performers was high-

lighted, with directions to link them to relevant government schemes for growth and recognition.

Schemes such as the National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) and the Central Scheme for Assistance to Civilian Victims of Terrorist, Communal and Naxal Violence were discussed for their support to affected families.

The DC also issued instructions to monitor NGOs and prioritise rescue and education of street children.

The meeting was attended by PO ICDS Pankaj Anand, CPO Uttam Singh, District Coordinator Mission Shakti Shagun Manchanda, TSWOs and others.

## Rs.33k fine imposed on erring FBOs under FS&SA at Handwara

J1 NEWS DESK  
KUPWARA, MAY 22

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, who is also Adjudicating officer Handwara today imposed a fine of Rs.33,000 on various erring Food Business operators (FBOs) for violations of Food Safety and Standard Act (FS&SA) 2006. The fine was imposed on the erring traders (for miss branded and sub standard food) during the proceeding of cases related to the FS&SA Act 2006 which were listed before the Adjudicating officer.

The Adjudicating officer warned them to abide by the legal regulations adding that non-compliance of Food Safety and Standards Act-2006 and rules there under by the food business operators will be dealt with more strictness in coming time.