

**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 in eyes
- Stomach pain
- Steady rise in pulse or blood pressure
- Redness in skin

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## 'It's a big tragedy': Rahul reaches out to Poonch shelling victims

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, MAY 24 (KNO)

Leader of Opposition (LoPO) in Lok Sabha and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday visited Poonch district to express solidarity with families affected by the recent cross-border shelling by Pakistan.



ing, Gandhi spent over an hour visiting shell-hit areas, speaking directly with bereaved families, and witnessing the damage firsthand.

Accompanied by Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President, Tariq Hameed Karra, senior leader G A Mir and other party leaders, Gandhi conducted door-to-door visits, interacting with residents whose homes were damaged and lives upended.

He visited Christ School, where he met students still grappling with the

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Islam preaches peace, brotherhood and unity: LG Sinha invokes 'Surah Nissa' teaching of Prophet (PBUH)

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 24 (KNO)

Invoking Surah-Nisa and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that Islam preaches peace, brotherhood and unity.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of a new guest house at Dargah Hazratbal here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency cited verses from Surah Nissa and emphasized that Islam teaches peace and togetherness. "Among the names



of Allah in the Quran is 'Arsalan'—meaning peace and security. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) repeatedly emphasized

that the path to Allah is peace. Jannat is called Darul Salam—the abode of peace. Jammu and Kashmir, too, has always been Darul Salam."

"Some people have left no stone turned to destroy this Darul Salam (J&K) and all of us know who they are. They need to be punished for their misdeeds," he added.

LG Sinha said that April 22, Pahalgam terror attack wounded the soul of India. "The victims were asked their religion before being killed. It was an attempt

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## J&K govt temporarily suspends 37 mobile towers in Baderwah over security reasons

**AGENCIES**  
JAMMU, MAY 24

Apprehending misuse of mobile data by anti-national elements and miscreants, Jammu and Kashmir Home Department has temporarily suspended mobile data services on 37 telecom towers in the Baderwah area of Doda district.

The suspension, as per the official order issued by the J&K Home Department, shall remain effective till May 27.

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## 55 JJM projects bring drinking water to 14,875 homes: Dr Jitendra Singh

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BILLAWAR(KATHUA), MAY 24

Two Army Brigades and mobile network in remote areas of Billawar region have been established, which would not only provide security to the local people but also ensure surveillance through mobile connectivity and ease of communication in far-flung areas.

This was disclosed here today by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh during a Public Durbar held by him.

The Public Durbar was



attended by senior officers of the district administration with representatives from all the engineering wings and health department, in the presence of elected representatives

including MLA Satish Sharma, DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh, DDC Members Vikram Singh, Narayan Dutt Tripathi and Neeru Rajput,

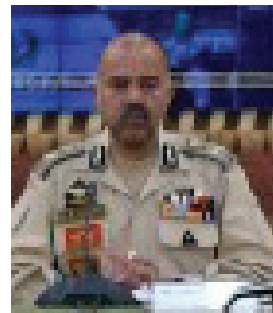
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## Dismantle terror network, ensure secure Amarnath Yatra: DGP Prabhat

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 24 (KNO)

Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat-IPS on Saturday directed the officers to intensify their efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem and make foolproof security arrangements for the upcoming 38-day Amarnath Yatra, slated to commence on July 3.

According to the details available with the news agency, DGP Prabhat chaired a joint meeting with officers from the



Police, CRPF, ITBP, Traffic Police, Railways, and various security and intelligence agencies at Police Control Room Kashmir to review the overall

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## LG Sinha lays foundation stone of Guest House at Dargah Hazratbal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 24 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday laid the foundation stone of Guest House at Holy Shrine Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to members of Jammu Kashmir Waqf Board and all the stakeholders. He said, in the past few years, the basic facilities for the pilgrims have seen tremendous improvement and the infrastructure development has eased the pil-



grimage to Hazratbal, a revered spiritual center.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the people to ensure that we rid the society of elements aiding and abetting terrorists, bring the terror elements hiding

among the public to justice and the infrastructure and other projects must be given a new impetus to meet the developmental needs of the people.

Paying homage to the innocent civilians

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Relief from heatwave expected in Kashmir

**AGENCIES**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 24

Kashmir can expect a welcome respite from heatwave starting Saturday, with temperatures being forecast to dip by 2-3°C, according to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar.

The day temperatures over the last week remained several degrees above normal across the valley.

On Friday, the summer capital Srinagar recorded a maximum of 33.2 degree Celsius, some 7.8 notches above normal. On Thursday, Srinagar recorded the third highest maximum temperature of 34.4°C after the 2nd highest of 35°C on May 31, 1956.

The Met department on Saturday predicted generally cloudy skies with intermittent rain and thundershowers across much of the Kashmir today, while parts of Jammu may also witness scattered rainfall, gusty winds, and isolated intense showers.

"We are expecting a fall in maximum temperatures beginning today (Saturday), providing much-needed relief from the recent heat. Thunderstorms and gusty winds are also likely in some areas," the Met Centre said.

The weather will remain relatively hot and dry on May 25

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## Statehood restoration prerogative of Parliament, not local gimmicks: LoP Sharma

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 24 (KNO)

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma Saturday said that restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is the prerogative of the Parliament and the Bharatiya Janata Party, not of regional parties like the National Conference or Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Sharma, who was on a visit to shelling-hit areas of Kupwara, as per the news agency, also hailed Operation Sindoor as a decisive strike. He also defended the Tiranga rallies against Congress criticism, and issued a stern warning to



Pakistan, asserting that any provocation would meet with unprecedented retaliation.

"Statehood Will Be Restored—But Not Through NC or PDP"

The Leader of Opposition stated that the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood lies solely in the hands of the

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## PM urges states to join hands for 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday stressed the need for centre and all the states to come together "like Team India" to accelerate the pace of development across the country.

"We have to increase the speed of development. If the Centre and all the States come together and work together like Team India, no goal is impossible," Chairing the 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog, PM Modi said.

Those who attended the meeting included Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandra Babu



Naidu, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of Odisha Mohan Charan Majhi, Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin, CM of Himachal

Pradesh Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami, Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav, and Telangana CM Revanth Reddy.

Also present were Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, JP Naddea, Nitin

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## HCol member, other delegation call on LG Sinha

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 24 (KNO)

A delegation of former Presidents of Coordination Committees of Urban Local Bodies of Kashmir led by Mohammed Iqbal Ahangar called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Saturday.

The members of the delegation put forth various issues pertaining to relief and rehabilitation of Pakistan shelling affected families, tourism sector, forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, and other public issues.

Ajaz Kazmi, Trade Union President, J&K Apni Party; representatives of All India Confederation of

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Search ops enter day 2 in Kishtwar

**AGENCIES**  
JAMMU, MAY 24

The search operation to hunt down terrorists on Saturday entered the second day following gunfight between security forces and terrorists in Chatroo area of Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir.

One Army soldier was martyred on Thursday when the exchange of fire erupted between security forces and terrorists in Singhpora area of Cha-

troo. "A massive search operation is being carried out by joint team of security forces as no fresh exchange of firing took place with terrorists," said an official.

He said the firing stopped on Thursday evening and no exchange of fire took place thereafter," he said.

They stated that search operation launched jointly by SOG of J&K Police, Army and paramilitary forces to track down the terrorists

hiding in the dense forest area is underway for the second consecutive day.

"Additional troops have been inducted, and operation is ongoing to neutralize the terrorists," said official.

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat also visited the Singhpora-Chatroo area where a major anti-terrorists operation is currently underway.

The DGP personally visited the dense

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## India slams Pakistan at UN over hypocrisy of sponsoring terror, speaking about protecting civilians

**AGENCIES**  
NEW YORK, MAY 24

India at the UN on Saturday slammed Pakistan over its hypocritical behaviour of sponsoring terrorist attacks in India and killing innocent civilians and, at the same time, speaking about protecting civilians.

India's Permanent Rep-



resentative to the United Nations, Ambassador P. Harish speaking at the UN

Security Council Open Debate on

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Waqf Board Chairperson thanks LG for support

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 24 (KNO)

Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, on Saturday expressed heartfelt gratitude to Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha during his visit to the Hazratbal Shrine, where he laid the foundation stone for a new guest house.

Calling the moment emotional and historic,

Dr. Andrabi addressing the gathering as per the news agency, said the initiative was made possible due to the consistent support and blessings of the LG Sinha.

"I want to thank LG Sahab for coming here today. When we started the Waqf Board in 2022, it was a difficult journey, but his guidance helped us take every step forward," she said.

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Enforcement team books erring traders in Chowki Choura



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 24

Sub Divisional Administration Chowki Choura, with support from the Food Supply & Consumer Affairs Department, Legal Metrology, Food Safety and Police Department, conducted a market checking drive today.

A wide range of shops—including sweet shops, dhabas, vegetable ven-

dors, and stocks—were inspected. Multiple establishments were booked for violations such as use of unverified weighing scales, improper food storage, and non-compliance with food safety standards.

Total 11 establishments were challaned and booked under different sections of relevant act for non-conformity to rules.

Expired items and rotten vegetables /fruits

were destroyed on spot.

The market checking team was led by SDM Chouki choura, Ankush Hans and AD Rural, Haroon Naik which includes Tehsildar CC, FSO, Inspector legal Metrology and police.

The administration remains committed to protecting consumer rights and public health. Regular checks will continue, and strict action will be taken against violators.

## J&K Forest Department pioneers DGPS adoption, ushering a new era of forest governance

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 24

In a landmark move towards integrating cutting-edge geospatial technology in forest governance, the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department organized a Hands-on Training cum Workshop on Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) here at the Forest Resource Management Centre (FRMC), Narwal, today. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from forest field staff of both Territorial and Non-Territorial divisions falling under the East Circle, Jammu.

The event was held under the guidance and presence of senior leadership from the department. The workshop was inaugurated and led by PCCF & Head of Forest Force (HoFF), J&K



Forest Department, Suresh Kumar Gupta, alongside other dignitaries including T. Rabi Kumar, PCCF & CEO J&K CAMPA, Chaturbhuj Behera, APCCF & Director JKFR, M.K. Kumar, CCF Jammu and other senior officers.

The dignitaries collectively stressed on the strategic importance of DGPS technology in modern forest management. Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Gupta highlighted that DGPS equipment enables

high-precision geospatial mapping with millimeter-level accuracy, which is indispensable for accurate demarcation of forest boundaries, detection and prevention of encroachments and effective resolution of land-related disputes and court cases.

The workshop was technically conducted by a specialized team from M/s MAPPA, a reputed geospatial solutions provider, under the leadership of Niten Patil, CEO, MAPPA.

The training included a detailed presentation on the functionality, field application and data acquisition techniques of DGPS devices, followed by a comprehensive hands-on field training session, allowing forest staff to practically engage with the technology on-ground.

This initiative marks a historic milestone for the J&K Forest Department, as it becomes the first and only department in the Union Territory to have

successfully procured and operationalized DGPS devices for its field operations. This adoption is set to revolutionize forest conservation, scientific demarcation and landscape-level planning.

By equipping its field personnel with advanced tools and knowledge, the department has reaffirmed its commitment to transparent, accountable and technology-driven governance of forest resources. The precision mapping enabled by DGPS will also significantly contribute to biodiversity protection, ecosystem integrity and legal safeguards for forest land.

The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks and a strong resolve from all participants to implement the learnings in their respective jurisdictions.

## IEC campaign conducted in Jammu district schools to promote 'Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan'

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 24

In a significant step towards fostering a drug-free society, a mega IEC campaign was conducted today at Government Higher Secondary School, Pargwal and Government GHSS Narari Bala under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

The campaign at Government Higher Secondary School Pargwal, Zone Jourian, was marked by the active participation of key stakeholders from the education, health, law enforcement and civil society sectors.

The school Principal Balbir Kumar Sudan delivered the keynote address, highlighting the urgent need to eliminate drug addiction from the social fabric. His presen-



tation focused on preventive strategies and community-based action to keep youth away from substance abuse.

Dr. Sandeep Raina from PHC Pargwal sensitised students and staff on the neurological and psychological impacts of drug use. SHO Pargwal, Amit Singh, along with Head Constable MM Khan, emphasised the role of community policing and parental vigilance in curbing this menace.

The program also fea-

tured a powerful address by Dev Raj, school teacher, who presented a detailed analysis of drug abuse trends, causes and counter-measures. Ram Rattan, ZICC Jourian, provided insights into the current scenario, citing NCRB data and government strategies under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from heads of institutions, teachers, parents and civil

society members from Cluster Pargwal, including Rajinder Singh, Complex Incharge MS Sajwal and several education officers from surrounding schools. A pledge was administered by Bandhna, reaffirming collective commitment against drug abuse.

Meanwhile, a mega awareness program was held at Government GHSS Narari Bala, starting with lighting of the ceremonial lamp and a welcome address by the school Principal Dr. Gharo Devi.

The program included expert lectures by representatives from the Medical, Police, Excise, Social Welfare and Education Departments. A thought-provoking video and a skit performed by students added emotional depth to the event.

## DC inaugurates Inter- Zonal District Level Chess, Kabaddi Tournament at Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MAY 24

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh inaugurated the Inter- Zonal District Level Chess and Kabaddi Tournament here today. The DC graced the event as the Chief Guest.

The tournament is being organised by the District Administration Doda in collaboration with the District Youth Services and Sports department (DYSSD).

As part of the event, the participants took a solemn pledge to promote Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (Get rid of drugs before they get rid of you), reinforcing the commitment to a drug-free and healthy lifestyle.

The opening ceremony saw the participation of Zonal Physical Education Officers, field staff, and more than 200 young athletes representing different educational zones of the district. The event was marked by enthusiasm and discipline, reflecting the values of teamwork,



sportsmanship, and camaraderie.

The tournament is set to host competitions in Kabaddi and Chess for U 14 and U17 boys and girls, providing them a platform to showcase their sports skills and interact with

each other.

The DC lauded the Youth Services and Sports Department for nurturing sports culture and talent at the grassroots level. He emphasized the vital role of sports in personality development, confidence

building, and leadership. Encouraging the young participants, he urged them to uphold the spirit of fair play and strive for excellence both on and off the field.

## GDC Ramkote organizes maiden J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides Pravesh Training Camp



JI NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, MAY 24

Government Degree College Ramkote successfully organized its maiden Pravesh training camp in collaboration with J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides Jammu, here today.

The J&K Bharat Scouts and Guide conducted the Pravesh Function with great enthusiasm and pride, marking the formal induction of new college students into the scouting movement. The Pravesh function, a significant milestone in the journey of every scout and guide, symbolizes the official initiation of young students into the values, discipline, and spirit of the scouting movement including the history, promise, law and other subjects of the training.

The officers from JKBSG, Haroon Malik SHQs, K.L. Sharma HQs Commissioner/ I C Rovers and Rang-

ers and Yash Pal District Organizing Commissioner, Samba were welcomed by the Principal of College Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, faculty Ranger Leader Dr. Vasundra Raj (HOD Sociology) and college students (Rangers).

The programme started with the keynote address by Haroon Malik SHQs JKBSG who emphasized the historical importance of scouting and guiding in developing character, leadership, and service to society. He encouraged the new entrants to uphold the ideals of the Bharat Scouts and Guides and contribute positively to their communities. The programme introduced the students with the motto, salute, sign, and syllabus etc of pravesh training to the students.

During the function JKBSG officials distributed certificates to all newly registered students, for-

mally recognizing their entry into the organization. The key highlight of the event was the presentation of a charter to Government Degree College, Ramkote, officially approving the establishment of a One Ranger Unit within the college. The establishment of the one new Ranger Unit is a proud moment, as it opens doors for more young women to participate in nation building activities by way of attending training camps for their holistic development.

As many as 35 students from BA semester 2nd and 4th participated in the event. The students enrolled are Janvi Devi, Nitakshi Sharma, Priyanka Devi, Richu Devi, Neha Devi, Tania Sharma, Rita Rani, Kajal Devi, Sulacthona Devi, Nenshe, Nisha Devi, Kriti Devi, Reeta Devi, Sakshi Devi, Taniya Sharma, Priyanka Devi,

Latasha Sharma, Priya Devi, Tanu Devi, Sulekha Devi, Minkashi Devi, Minkashi Devi, Minu Devi and Monika Devi

As a gesture of gratitude, the Principal presented mementos to the esteemed resource persons, honoring their valuable presence. The event was organized by Prof. Vasundra Raj and Prof Pankaj Nandan under the guidance of Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, Principal of the college. Refreshments were served to the students and guests. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Poonam Rani. The technical support was given by Sushil Singh and Ankush Kundral. The faculty who graced the occasion include Prof. Anu Sharma, Dr. Shakeeb Manzer, Dr. Anu Salaria, Dr. Sudhir Kumar, Dr. Mohd Rauf and Poonam Rani.

## CSIR-IIIM commits full technical support for promoting aromatic farming in Doda District

JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MAY 24

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh today chaired an important meeting in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex to review the measures for the promotion of lavender cultivation in the district and to assess the preparations for the proposed mega Lavender Festival.

The meeting was attended by Director CSIR-IIIM Dr. Zabeer Ahmed; Director Horticulture Jammu Chaman Lal Sharma; Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar Manhas; Chief Agriculture Officer Anjad Hussain Malik; Assistant Floriculture Officer Pawan Kumar, district officers from the Aroma Mission, Sericulture departments, along with scientists from the Aroma Mission.

During the meeting, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM, highlighted the significance of lavender as a high-value aromatic crop under the Aroma Mission. He shared strategic insights to improve lavender cul-



tivation and processing techniques, emphasizing the importance of introducing advanced farming practices, post-harvest management, and market linkages to maximize returns for farmers. He reiterated CSIR-IIIM's commitment to extending technical assistance and scientific innovation to promote aromatic farming in the region.

The Deputy Commissioner discussed key challenges faced by lavender farmers, particularly the limited availability of qual-

ity hybrid seeds. A detailed discussion was held to ensure the continuous and affordable supply of these seeds to farmers. He urged the expert team from the Aroma Mission, led by Nodal Scientist Suphala Gupta and Principal Scientist Sourabh Saran, to coordinate with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bhaderwah to provide technical and logistic support to farmers.

Scientists from the Aroma Mission shared valuable insights from their ongoing research and presented strategic plans

to further boost lavender cultivation in the district. They also outlined the blueprint for the upcoming mega Lavender Festival, which is aimed at promoting aromatic farming, increasing farmer incomes, and enhancing tourism potential in the region. The festival will feature stalls by various government departments, stage setups, exhibitions, and vibrant cultural performances to showcase the benefits of lavender farming.

Furthermore, the DC directed that 115 Krishi Udayamis across the district be mobilized to facilitate the distribution of hybrid lavender seeds at reasonable rates to interested farmers. He emphasized the importance of uplifting the local economy through aromatic plant cultivation and assured full administrative support to all stakeholders involved in the Lavender Mission.

## Electrifying Inter-School Zonal Level Football, Cricket Competitions light up Chowgan Ground Kishtwar



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MAY 24

In a vibrant celebration of youth energy and athleticism the Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar organized thrilling Inter School Zonal Level Competitions in the disciplines of Football and Cricket at the iconic Chowgan Ground Kishtwar.

The ground came alive with nonstop action echoing with the sounds of cheering students, determined athletes and spirited competition.

Under the banner of Zone Kishtwar an exciting Football tournament for

U/14 Boys was conducted. A total of 50 students participated in the event transforming Chowgan Ground into a high voltage arena of dazzling football, team coordination and passionate gameplay.

The matches kept the spectators on the edge of their seats creating an atmosphere that was both electric and inspiring.

Adding to the momentum, Zone Nagsemi held its U/17 Cricket Tournament for both Boys and Girls bringing together 120 budding cricketers in a dynamic contest of talent, skill, and strategy.

With teams competing

fiercely for glory, every ball bowled and every shot played reflected the dedication and growing sports culture among the youth of the region.

These grand sporting events were organized under the esteemed supervision of the District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Mr. Jaffer Haider Sheikh, whose continued efforts have been instrumental in promoting grassroots sports and nurturing young talent across the district. His leadership ensured flawless execution of the events and maximum participation from schools.

## Sakeena Itoo distributes Prosthetic Aids, Assistive Devices among specially-abled persons in D.H Pora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, MAY 24

Minister for Social Welfare, Education and Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today said that the welfare of all sections of society is at the heart of present government led by Omar Abdullah with inclusivity and equal opportunity for all members of society.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a large gathering of people after distributing prosthetic aids and assistive devices among specially-abled persons at DH Pora Constituency of Kulgam district.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sakeena reiterated the commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led Government towards the welfare of all sections of society.

She highlighted that the Government has already enhanced pensions under various social welfare schemes to provide greater support to the underprivi-



leged and marginalized sections of society.

While speaking on the growing threat of drug menace, Minister Sakeena said that drug addiction is a grave concern in society these days. She called upon all stakeholders that collective and coordinated efforts are the need of the day to eradicate this menace from society.

“Drug addiction is a big problem, it requires joint action from all stakeholders to safeguard our youth and future generation”, Sakeena stated.

The event witnessed participation from local residents, officials, and beneficiaries who expressed gratitude for the continued support and outreach by the Government.

## Bhaderwah: Public outreach, grievances redressal camp held to address VDG, community issues



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, MAY 24

A public outreach and grievances redressal camp was organized today at Malani, Manthla under the chairmanship of District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Dhanant Singh Kotwal and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sandeep Mehta.

The program witnessed active participation from Village Defence Group (VDG) members of adjoining panchayats, who presented a range of issues and concerns before the officials.

The event was attended by Additional SP Bhaderwah Vinod Sharma, ex-sarpanchs, prominent local leaders, and a large gathering of residents. The primary aim of the program was to strengthen coordination between law enforcement agencies and

the local community, and to address grassroots-level grievances effectively.

Key issues highlighted by the VDG members included the timely disbursement of honorarium, provision and maintenance of weapons, and the need for structured training and support. Officials assured that all grievances raised during the camp would be forwarded to the concerned departments for prompt and time-bound resolution.

The outreach initiative also served as a platform for enhancing trust and cooperation between the public and security agencies, especially in sensitive and remote areas. The DDC Chairman and SSP reiterated their commitment to improving public service delivery, ensuring local safety, and promoting responsive governance at the village level.

## Labour Department organises Interactive Meet at CTM Kathua

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, MAY 24

The Labour Department Jammu & Kashmir today organized an interactive session at Chenab Textile Mills (CTM), Kathua, focused on labour welfare, safety, and awareness of social security schemes. Labour Commissioner J&K Charandeep Singh was the Chief Guest.

During the programme, the Labour Commissioner held a detailed interaction with Insured Persons (IPs) under the J&K Employees State Insurance Scheme (JKESIS). Many workers shared their personal experiences on how they and their families have benefitted through the JKESIS scheme – a vital social security initiative providing medical and financial support to the working class.

Insurance Medical Officer Kathua, Dr. Neeru Khajuria, delivered a comprehensive presentation highlighting the features, benefits, and eligibility criteria

of the JKESIS scheme. She emphasized the importance of timely registration and awareness among workers to fully avail the scheme's advantages.

In addition, Roopali Jasrotia, Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), also gave a detailed presentation on various labour laws and welfare measures in place for the benefit of industrial workers.

As part of the event, Charandeep Singh, who is also the Director JKESIS, distributed medical reimbursement claims to several insured persons, reaffirming the department's commitment to delivering benefits at the grassroots level.

U. K. Patnayak, Executive President, CTM, presented an in-depth overview of CTM's operations, the facilities and benefits extended to its workers, and the proactive safety measures in place at the plant. He highlighted the industry's collaborative approach with the gov-

ernment for better worker welfare.

The Labour Commissioner also witnessed a mock safety drill conducted by CTM, demonstrating their preparedness and compliance with occupational safety standards.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 100 workers of CTM, making it a successful platform for awareness, interaction, and strengthening the bond between labour and the administration.

Charandeep Singh appreciated the management of CTM for their support in implementing social security schemes and maintaining high safety standards. He urged the industry to continue promoting a safe, respectful, and rights-based work culture.

The Labour Department reaffirmed its resolve to enhance the welfare and protection of workers across Jammu & Kashmir through effective implementation of labour laws and schemes like JKESIS.

## Reasi leads livestock growth with focus on grassroots impact

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, MAY 24

Reasi district has emerged as a model in livestock development by introducing wide ranging reforms and effective strategies aligned with the flagship schemes.

Through coordinated governance and strategic implementation, the district has achieved exceptional results across flagship schemes like the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), National Livestock Mission, and Mission Utkarsh.

Under Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik's administrative guidance, the Animal Husbandry Department has witnessed structural and functional reforms – with a focus on decentralization, data-backed planning, and inter-departmental synergy. This governance framework enabled the department to attain 95% fund utilization under HADP (2024-25) – one of the highest in the Union Territory.

Other notable achievements include the training of over 230 MAITRI and



A-Help workers, establishment of 34 Free Range Poultry Units, creation of 21 new dairy farms, and a 348% AI target overachievement under Mission Utkarsh. Revenue from departmental activities increased more than doubled this year, reflecting both impact and sustainability.

Veterinary infrastructure also saw significant upgrades, with the launch of Mobile Veterinary Units in Katra and Reasi, modernization of veterinary dispensaries, and the roll-out of free services like deworming, FMD vaccinations, and sex-sorted semen distribution. These initiatives brought critical

services closer to remote communities across the district.

Looking ahead, the administration has launched Vision Document 2047, a long-term plan to establish Reasi as a hub for livestock innovation – focusing on genetic improvement, increased milk productivity, and a full-scale poultry estate.

Reasi's inclusive and replicable development model continues to stand as an example of effective, people-centric governance in action under the visionary leadership of Deputy Commissioner and the execution by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer.

## DC Baramulla finalizes IEC campaign action plan for saturation of DAJGUA to empower tribal communities



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, MAY 24

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting here to finalize the detailed action plan for the upcoming IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) campaign for comprehensive implementation of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) and PM-JANMAN.

These flagship initiatives aim to empower tribal communities, including Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), by ensuring comprehensive awareness and delivery of government services at the grassroots level.

DC emphasized the importance of timely and efficient execution of campaign activities scheduled from 15th to 30th June 2025. He directed for the preparation and wide-spread distribution of IEC materials regarding 25 different schemes spread across 17 central ministries as part of DAJGUA in multiple tribal and regional languages to ensure effective outreach.

A key focus of the campaign will be Benefit Saturation Camps at village and habitation levels of tribal areas, providing essential services such as issuance of Aadhaar cards, ration cards, caste certificates, and Ayushman health cards directly to eligible tribal beneficiaries. Coordination with NGOs, Common Service Centers, and government departments was prioritized to

facilitate smooth service delivery.

During the meeting, DC instructed the Assistant Commissioner Development to prepare a detailed calendar outlining all campaign activities, deadlines, and responsibilities for seamless coordination among stakeholders. He also called for active involvement of youth and community leaders through engagement activities including Gram Sabhas, street plays, and awareness drives.

To ensure transparency and accountability, DC instructed for daily real-time reporting of campaign progress via geo-tagged photographs, attendance records, and event reports on a centralized dashboard managed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Further, DC announced that recognition and incentives would be awarded to the best-performing blocks, officials, and community leaders to encourage exemplary participation and leadership.

Minga Sherpa urged all departments, officials, NGOs, and community members to work in unison to successfully implement the campaigns and ensure the socio-economic upliftment of tribal communities across Baramulla district.

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner, Ghulam Rasool Mir; Joint Director Planning, Assistant Commissioner Development, SDM Gulmarg and other officers.

## DC Kulgam reviews implementation of HADP



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, MAY 24

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Saturday convened a meeting with officers from various line departments and bankers to review the implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

Meeting held threadbare discussions on different components of the scheme including seed processing units, bee rearing, precision farming,

value addition and farm mechanization to improve efficiency and productivity.

It also assessed the performance matrix, sanctioning and disbursement status of cases under HADP in the district.

Directions were passed to the concerned departments and banks to reach out to every farmer and farm family in the district and ensure full coverage of these schemes.

Progress against monthly targets of all the departments was also reviewed.

DC directed all concerned departments to follow up the cases of applicants individually so that the momentum of progress can be maintained.

Bankers were directed to ensure the credit linkage facility to each farmer whosoever applies under the scheme irrespective of their financial status.

The meeting was attended CAO, DSHO, CAHO, DHO, AD Fisheries, Handicraft & Handloom, DIC, LDM and other concerned.

## ADC Jammu reviews progress of work on Akhnoor-Poonch Highway project



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 24

Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu Rakesh Kumar today conducted a field visit to review the ongoing work on the Akhnoor-Poonch Highway project in the Akhnoor subdivision.

During the visit, the ADC reviewed various aspects of

the project and took stock of issues related to land acquisition and compensation. He interacted with affected landowners and local residents, and provided on-the-spot redressal in several compensation related cases, ensuring prompt resolution to facilitate smooth progress of work.

ADC Rakesh Kumar was accompanied by Assistant

Commissioner Revenue Dr. Rajesh Kumar, SDM Akhnoor Mukhter Ahmed, Tehsildar Akhnoor Naresh Kumar and other concerned officers.

The highway, being executed by the Border Roads Organisation, is a key infrastructure project aimed at enhancing regional connectivity and supporting strategic requirements.

## 'It's a big tragedy'...

tragic loss of their classmates, 12-year-old twins Zain Ali and Urwa Fatima, who were killed during the shelling. Offering words of comfort, Rahul urged the children to stay strong, study hard and maintain hope.

"Now, you have seen danger and a little bit of a frightening situation," Gandhi told the students. "But don't worry, everything will come back to normal. Your response should be to study and play hard and build strong friendships."

Speaking to reporters, the LoP described the situation as a "big tragedy", saying, "Many people have lost their lives. Civilian targets were directly hit. I have spoken to the affected families, their pain is unimaginable. They have asked me to take their voice to the national platform, and I will do so."

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Gandhi wrote, "Today I met the families of those who lost their lives in shelling by Pakistani troops in Poonch. Damaged houses, scattered belongings, moist eyes and painful stories of losing loved ones – these patriotic families bear the biggest burden of war with courage and dignity every time. Salute to their courage."

He added, "I stand strongly with the victim families – I will definitely raise their demands and issues at the national level."

During his visit, the Congress leader inspected a Gurudwara (Shri Guru Singh Sabha), a temple, a madrasa and a Christian missionary school, all of which sustained damage during the shelling. His outreach was seen as a gesture of empathy and inclusiveness, covering diverse communities affected by the violence.

Tariq Karra, on the occasion, said Rahul Gandhi is the first national leader to physically visit the affected families in Poonch. "The primary purpose of the visit was to share the pain of those who have lost their loved ones and to witness the scale of destruction," he said. "This is a visit of solidarity, not politics."

This is Gandhi's second visit to Jammu and Kashmir in a month. Earlier, on April 25, he visited Srinagar to meet those injured in the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists.

The Jammu and Kashmir government has announced an ex gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh and a government job for the next of kin of those killed in the shelling. KNO

## J&K govt temporarily...

"The directions were issued under the temporary suspension of Telecommunication Service Rules, 2024, which allows the authorities to take immediate action in situations deemed sensitive to national security and public peace," it said..

As per the order, the temporary telecom shutdown affects all mobile data services including 2G, 3G, 4G, 5G, and public Wi-Fi facilities.

"The services are likely being misused by 'anti-national elements and miscreants,' which could potentially lead to a deterioration of public order in the region," the order cited.

"In the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State/UT, and for maintaining public order, I am satisfied that the action taken by the authorized officer was necessary," read the order issued by the Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department.

The service providers and internet service providers however, are directed to ensure compliance with the order for the entire duration specified.

## 55 JJM projects...

former Municipal Chairman Basotra, BJP District President Gopal Krishan, Amrik Singh, Romi Khajuria, all the panches, sarpanches and former DDCs.

Dr Jitendra Singh further informed that one Armed Brigade had already been established at Sarthal and now another similar Armed Brigade has been set up in Rampur township of Billawar. This will not only provide round the clock army surveillance in the area but the Army personnel will also maintain regular liaison with the civil administration with the concerned Brigadier and the DM constantly being in touch with each other.

As for the Mobile network, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the far-flung areas, particularly areas beyond Lowang in the Bani area, were deprived of connectivity ever since independence and only yesterday evening, the first mobile phone call was made after the installation of the Mobile Tower and mobile network. This has not only come as a huge facility for the local residents including particularly students and youth, but this will also enable the armed forces to maintain round the clock real time surveillance, he said.

All these measures, taken as a result of the personal follow up on a day to day basis by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, have instilled a lot of confidence and sense of security among the local people.

Dr. Jitendra Singh further informed that the long pending demand of the widening of the Dhar Road has been taken up with impetus received from the Home and Defence Ministries in the wake of the recent armed conflict and very soon the BRO will hand over this road to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for widening.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that in the last summer, the main demand from this region was regarding the shortage of drinking water. He informed that this too has also been taken care of with 55 Jal Jiwan Mission (JJM) schemes approved for region of which nearly 70% work has been completed at a cost of Rs. 131.55 Crore. This, he said, has ensured drinking water supply to 14875 households.

Under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme, the Minister informed that another 1250 households in the Billawar town will be given the facility of drinking water supply at a cost of Rs.11.03 Crore.

Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that he has suggested a proposal for a Master Plan for Sukrala Mata which can be taken up at its next Board meeting. This could enable this entire area to attract a new genre of tourists like Mussoorie etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled his recent visit to International border and said, that nearly 2500 Family Bunker constructed along the Hiranagar sector over the last seven years have been found highly convenient and received appreciation from the local people that now

demands are received from other areas including the LoC for construction of similar family bunkers. He said, this could be accomplished because we had taken up the task of planning and constructing such family bunkers for nearly 10 years and we went ahead in a very meticulous manner. As a result, today, he said, these Family bunkers in the Hiranagar sector have emerged as a role model for the country to build bunkers elsewhere along the border.

Later, Dr Jitendra Singh held a Public Durbar, which lasted for nearly two hours. During his interaction, the Minister gave a patient hearing to individuals and sought to dispose of their grievances and demands on the spot by issuing the required instructions to the administration.

## Dismantle terror...

security arrangements for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra-2025.

The meeting was attended by Special DGP Coordination J&K S.J.M. Gillani-IPS, ADGP Hqrs J&K M.K. Sinha-IPS, ADGP CID J&K Nitish Kumar-IPS, IGsP of Kashmir & Jammu Zones, IG BSF Kashmir, IGP POS J&K, IG CRPF KOS, IG CRPF Srinagar, IGP Traffic J&K, IGP Railways J&K, IGP Security J&K, DisG of CKR, SKR, SSB Srinagar, IRP Kashmir, Armed Kashmir, Personnel HQ & ITBP, SSpP of PCR Kashmir, Anantnag, Kulgam, Ganderbal & APCR, and other senior officers.

The DGP stressed on the importance of proactive measures in mitigating risks and ensuring the safety and security of the Amarnath pilgrims, said an official.

He said the DGP issued directions for implementing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and also emphasized the importance of proactive measures in mitigating risks and ensuring the safety and security of the yatrīs. He also directed the field officers to intensify their efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem.

The DGP instructed the officers to bolster security measures and mitigate potential risks by deploying anti-sabotage teams along the yatra routes. He also directed the officers to enhance surveillance and threat detection capabilities by utilizing advanced technologies and real-time monitoring of both pilgrimage routes.

The official said that Inspector Generals of Police from Kashmir and Jammu zone briefed the chair on the proposed security arrangements for the conduct of Amarnath Yatra-2025.

The officers of CAPF and other SFs also briefed the chair, gave their feedback and emphasized the significance of effective coordination among the various forces.

The meeting ended with a resolve to ensure the highest level of preparedness and coordination for the smooth and successful conduct of the upcoming pilgrimage. KNO

## LG Sinha lays...

killed by Pakistan-Sponsored Terrorists in Pahalgam, the Lieutenant Governor said, Operation Sindoor avenged Pahalgam terror attack by punishing terror state Pakistan and firmly enforced India's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism.

He said, the brave soldiers of our armed forces have not only destroyed the terror factories deep inside Pakistan but have also drawn a new red line. Now any terror attack will be considered an 'act of war' and Pakistan will be given the harshest punishment for it, he further added.

"We need to strike hard at the terror ecosystem. The aides of terrorists should be identified and they should be given the same punishment as a terrorist for inflicting wounds on the soul of J&K.

After the terror attack in Pahalgam, the kind of protests that were seen on the J&K's streets against the terrorist country Pakistan were historic. The valley echoed with slogans against terrorism," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called for collective efforts to foster the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' and promote unity across the diverse communities. He said statements like the guests are spoiling the culture of J&K or demographic invasion are truly problematic and public should oppose such statements.

"I appeal to those in positions of responsibility in Jammu Kashmir to stop using the phrase like local and non-local. We all are Indians. Stop dividing Indians into local and outsiders. You should work to unite people so that a united society can take Jammu Kashmir to the greater heights of growth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor prayed that Prophet Muhammad, Baba Amarnath may shower their blessings and strengthen the love, peace and brotherhood in the society.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; members of J&K Waqf Board, senior officials, religious leaders, prominent citizens and people in large number were present. KNO

## Relief from...

and 26, with only the possibility of brief showers at isolated spots during the late afternoon. However, a more unstable weather pattern is forecast for May 27 to 31, with frequent spells of rain and thundershowers accompanied by gusty winds likely to affect scattered to many places across the region.

The advisory from the Met department also warns of sudden gusty winds and thunderstorms.

Due to heatwave, the education department on Thursday announced change of school timings from Monday.

The schools falling under Srinagar municipal limits will function from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm instead of 9 am. The other schools across Kashmir will function from 9 am to 3 pm instead of 9:30 am.

## Statehood restoration...

Parliament and the central leadership, particularly Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Statehood will come, we will bring it, but not at the request of the National Conference or the PDP," he said.

"NC and PDP's role is limited to subsidised LPG,

and pension," he said, urging the people of Kashmir not to be misled. He emphasized that neither party holds any significant presence or influence in Delhi, with only three MPs combined. "In Parliament, they are not even counted. Outside of Jammu and Kashmir, most people don't even know what the National Conference is."

He contrasted this with the BJP's political clout, claiming the party rules over 20 states. "Even if you add up their strength, we still have over 1,600 MPs more," he said. "So, there is no question of comparison."

Operation Sindoor and Tiranga Rallies: "Not Politics, But Patriotism"

Defending Operation Sindoor, which was hailed as a significant military success by the BJP, the Leader of Opposition dismissed Congress's criticism that the operation and subsequent Tiranga rallies were politicized. "The Tiranga is not a symbol of a political party; it represents the pride and honor of India. To carry it is an act of patriotism, not politics," he said.

He accused the Congress and what he termed the "evidence gang" of disrespecting national sentiment. "They asked for proof of surgical strikes, proof of air-strikes—now they're questioning Tiranga rallies. This is part of their DNA. If someone holding the Tiranga shouts slogans in favor of our army, is that politics? Congress should apologize."

On Pakistan: "We Are Worshipers of Peace, But Will Not Tolerate Threats"

Addressing recent threats from Pakistani leadership, including remarks that Pakistan might "shut down India's breath" in retaliation for water blockade measures, the Leader of Opposition issued a sharp warning. "We are peace-loving, but if provoked, the response will be such that Pakistan will not find a place on the world map," he said.

He recalled a historic moment involving former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who told then-U.S. President Bill Clinton that while Pakistan may have nuclear weapons, any misadventure would lead to its erasure. "That spirit of deterrence still lives in India today," he said.

Although he refrained from commenting on foreign policy directly—citing his role as a leader in a Union Territory—he emphasized India's growing global stature and military strength. "The Indian Army is the third-largest in the world, and India is the fastest-growing economy. Let there be no doubt about our capabilities."

Post-Operation Border Assessment and Civilian Impact

The Leader of Opposition also acknowledged the destruction caused in border areas following Operation. He detailed the damage to homes, cattle sheds, and local businesses, assuring that a senior delegation is touring the affected areas, to assess losses and offer support.

"Despite the destruction, people living near the LoC are proud that for the first time in world history, a strong military response followed a terrorist act at Pahalgam, claiming 26 lives. This has sent a clear message across the border," he said. KNO

## PM urges states...

Gadkari, Rammohan Naidu and HD Kumaraswamy. Emphasising the shared vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, PM Modi urged all States to align with the national goal. "We should have the aim of making each State Viksit, each city Viksit, each Nagar Palika Viksit, and each village Viksit. If we work on these lines, we will not have to wait till 2047 to become a developed nation," he said.

He underlined that development must translate into visible changes in the lives of citizens, saying, "Only when people feel the change, it strengthens the change and transforms the change into a movement. We have a great opportunity as a team to fulfil the aspirations of 140 Crore people."

Highlighting the need for inclusive growth, PM Modi called for greater participation of women in the workforce, adding that "We must make laws, policies so that they can be respectfully integrated in the workforce".

As India undergoes rapid urbanisation, he also stressed the importance of building "future ready cities," driven by growth, innovation, and sustainability.

The Prime Minister encouraged states to develop at least one world-class tourist destination, underscoring the importance of tourism as a growth engine.

This year's Governing Council Meeting focused on the theme 'Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat @2047', placing states at the centre of India's long-term development strategy.

## HCoI member...

SC/ST/OBC Organisations Baramulla, and a public delegation headed by Mohammad Faheem Reshi, Chairman, Greater Shah-e-Khaas, a social organisation also called on the Lieutenant Governor.

Er. Aijaz Hussain, Member, District Development Council, Khonmoh and Member Haj Committee of India called on Lieutenant Governor and briefed him on the measures undertaken by the Haj Committee of India for the smooth conduct of Haj pilgrimage. KNO

## Search ops...

forests and mountainous terrain, encouraged the deployed personnel, and issued directions to ensure that all terrorists involved are dealt strictly and brought to justice.

DGP Prabhat lauded the synergy among all security agencies and reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the Jammu and Kashmir Police to maintaining peace and order in the region through sustained and focused operations.

## India slams...

Addressing emerging threats, ensuring the safety of civilians, humanitarian and UN Personnel, journalists and media professionals and enhancing accountability mechanisms" said that for a nation that sponsors terrorism across its borders, to even participate in a discussion on protection of civilians is an affront to international community.

"India has experienced decades of Pakistan-sponsored terrorist attacks across our borders... For such

a nation to even participate in a discussion on the protection of civilians is an affront to the international community..." Ambassador Harish said while speaking under the agenda item "Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict

Demolishing Pakistan's arguments he said he was constrained to respond to the baseless allegations of the representative of Pakistan on a number of issues.

Referring to the Operation Sindoor launched by India against Pakistan in the wake of the killing of 26 innocent tourists at Pahalgam in Kashmir by Pakistani terrorists, Ambassador Harish said earlier this month the Pakistani army "deliberately shelled our border villages killing more than 20 civilians and injuring more than 80."

He said there was intentional targeting of places of worship including gurdwaras, temples and convents, as well as medical facilities.

"To preach at this body after such behaviour is grossly hypocritical..." Ambassador Harish said.

Earlier he also lashed out at Pakistan for spreading disinformation about the Indus Water Treaty and said Islamabad had violated the spirit of the Treaty by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India that seek to hold hostage the lives of civilians, religious harmony and economic prosperity.

"We are constrained to respond to the disinformation being carried out by the delegation of Pakistan with regard to the Indus Water Treaty. India has always acted in a responsible manner as an upper riparian state," Ambassador Harish said and added that in the last four decades more than 20,000 Indian lives had been lost in terror attacks, the most recent of which was the dastardly targeted terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam.

## Waqf Board...

Dr. Andrabi described the upcoming guest house as the board's "first step" towards development. "We feel honoured and capable today because of the love and support we have received. We may not be here tomorrow, but we are thankful for the opportunity to do something meaningful today," she added.

She further stated that the Waqf Board is determined to continue working for the welfare of the people and the development of religious places. "This project at Hazratbal is just the beginning," she said.

Notably, the foundation stone ceremony was attended by officials, religious leaders, and devotees at the shrine. KNO

## Islam preaches...

to destroy the soul of Kashmir," he added.

Any terrorist act against India will be considered as an act of war

He praised the Indian armed forces for swiftly avenging the barbaric act by destroying nine terror camps within just 23 minutes. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it clear any terrorist act against India will be considered as an act of war and a befitting reply will be given. This time terrorists have been taught a lesson as nine terror bases were decimated within a span of a few minutes," LG Sinha said.

"The entire Jammu and Kashmir stood united in grief and anger against the Pahalgam terror attack. The people of Kashmir rose in protest, expressing their outrage on the streets. This is the new face of Jammu and Kashmir—resolute, courageous, and intolerant to terror and its sponsors. Not only the country but the entire world saw how people of Kashmir expressed solidarity with the family members of the victims," LG Sinha said.

He said, "Terrorism cannot survive in this blessed land that houses Baba Amarnath and Mata Vaishno Devi."

Since independence, Pak has done everything to disturb the peace in J&K

LG Sinha did not mince words in blaming Pakistan for continuously sponsoring terrorism in the region. "Since independence, Pakistan has done everything to disturb the peace in J&K. From sending Kabalis in 1947 to the present day, terrorism has been their state policy," he said. "Their own people struggle for basic needs, while their leaders, despite holding a begging bowl, continue to fund terrorism in India."

He warned that India now treats every act of terrorism as an act of war. "The message is clear—terror will be met with a befitting response. The days of tolerance are over" LG Sinha, said as per KNO.

He appealed to the elderly, scholars, and civil society to play a greater role in isolating those who support terrorism. "Just as the people of Kashmir exposed the face of Pakistan on the streets, it is time to expose those among us who support terrorists and their actions. Their punishment should be equal to that of the terrorists."

Warns against divisive rhetoric, exploitative practices

LG Sinha also warned against divisive rhetoric and exploitative practices, subtly criticizing statements that provoke communal divisions. "It's unfortunate some people talked about state sponsored invasion. Such utterances also create problems."

Without naming anyone, he said, "People who hold important positions or have held important positions in the past should avoid issuing statements that divide people on communal lines. Their statements only empower disruptive elements."

Referring to his meeting with hoteliers prior to the Pahalgam terror attack, LG Sinha said, "I had told them selling a Rs 10,000 room for Rs 50,000 is not just unfair, it is unethical. Uparwala dekh raha hai, kab tak bardasht karay ga (God is watching how long He will tolerate)."

Highlighting the transformation Jammu and Kashmir witnessed under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, LG Sinha said, "The last five years have brought peace, development, and a surge in tourism. Youth were marching ahead on the path of prosperity. The Pahalgam attack aimed to derail this progress, but it will not succeed."

"Peace is essential for progress. Let us unite to eliminate terror and its supporters. Let us carry forward this mission for a better tomorrow. It's not only the duty of the security forces to eliminate terror, people too have to play their role; they cannot act as mute spectators," he added. KNO

## DDC Chairperson reviews RDSS implementation in Ramban

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, MAY 24

To review the implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in Ramban district, a high-level meeting was convened here today. The meeting was chaired by Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Dr. Shamshad Shan in the Conference Hall, Maitra.

The meeting was attended by DDC Councillors, Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal, Superintendent Engineer PDD, Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineers of STD, JPDCL and NTPC, District Incharge NTPC, AEEs, AGM SJ Transformers, RDSS contractors, and other concerned officials.

At the outset, the Chairperson reviewed the area-wise progress and achievements under RDSS. Officers briefed the house on the objectives of



the scheme, highlighting its focus on modernizing and strengthening the power infrastructure to ensure quality, reliable, and affordable electricity supply to the public.

Expressing concern over the slow pace of implementation, the Chairperson instructed the executing agencies to coordinate closely with DDC Councillors to expedite the progress of ongoing works. She underscored the urgency of completing the projects before the onset of the rainy season, which typically hampers developmental activities due

to adverse weather conditions.

The Chairperson also took note of the challenges affecting the execution of projects, including Right of Way (ROW) issues, delays in forest clearances, and insufficient fund releases. She directed the concerned departments to resolve these impediments on priority to avoid further delays.

The Chairperson emphasized the need to execute all RDSS works in a mission mode to improve the power scenario across Ramban district, thereby ensuring tangible benefits to the local population.

## Kishtwar gears up for Mission Yuva campaign: ADC reviews readiness with key stakeholders

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MAY 24

A meeting of all SBDUs and BHDs members was convened today by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pawan Kotwal in his office chamber to review the preparedness for Mission Yuva in the District.

The ADC briefed the stakeholders on the detailed rollout strategy for the campaign, which aims to engage youth across all panchayats.

He stressed the importance of interdepartmental coordination and directed that awareness camps be conducted at the panchayat level in collaboration with Yuva Doots and the District Employment & Counseling Centre.

The ADC instructed all BHD nodal officers (Sub-Divisional Magistrates - SDMs) to monitor the campaign's implementa-



tion and track application statuses in their jurisdictions through the Mission Yuva online portal. He also urged all SBDU and BHD members to regularly review progress in their respective areas via the portal.

Further, the ADC directed the AD Employment for Rural Development, FM DIC, concerned banks, and the DNO JKEDI to ensure that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for applicants are prepared free of cost using

AI-enabled tools available on the Mission Yuva App and Web Portal.

In conclusion, he directed the AD Employment Kishtwar to submit daily progress reports to his office to facilitate real-time monitoring and ensure the smooth execution of Mission Yuva across the district. The meeting was attended by LDM Harsh Rawal, Functional Manager DIC, EO Vinod Shanti besides other concerned staff.

## ACR visits bereaved family at Khanetar Village

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, MAY 24

Continuing the efforts of the District Administration to reach out to families affected by cross border incidents, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) today paid a visit to the residence of Shakeela Begum, a civilian who lost her life in recent cross border shelling in Village Khanetar. The visit was part of the administration's ongoing engagement with affected families and its commitment to stand with them during times of distress.

The ACR was accompanied by Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majid. The officers met with the grieving family members, expressed heartfelt sym-

pathies, and conveyed condolences on behalf of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal. They assured the family that the administration shares in their grief and will ensure all possible assistance and relief as per government norms. While the primary purpose of the visit was to offer condolences and express solidarity, the officers also took stock of the overall situation in the area.

They conducted a preliminary assessment of the damage caused by the shelling, which included inspecting affected households and nearby structures. The findings will contribute to a detailed report for initiating timely relief, compensation, and possible safety measures.

## Rajouri sets new benchmark for 'Catch the Rain' Campaign



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, MAY 24

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Jal Shakti Abhiyaan - 'Catch the Rain' campaign, a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at promoting water conservation and rainwater harvesting.

At the outset, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer Sandeep Kumar Sharma briefed the chair that the district has made significant progress under the campaign. He reported that 3,800 groundwater recharge and water conservation/harvesting structures have been successfully uploaded on the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) portal. This notable achievement has qualified the district for a national-level award.

Commending the efforts of all departments involved, the DDC emphasized the importance of ensuring the long-term

sustainability and quality of the assets created under the campaign. He directed the Jal Shakti, Rural Development, Forest and Agriculture Departments to ensure proper maintenance of these structures.

He also instructed the departments to thoroughly verify the data uploaded on the JSJB portal and make necessary corrections where required. The DDC stressed the importance of uploading only geo-tagged photographs to ensure accuracy and transparency in monitoring.

In addition, the DDC directed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to prioritize the desilting of Khuls under the MGN-REGA scheme to improve water flow and enhance groundwater recharge in the district.

The meeting was attended by the CPO Rajouri, Maqsood Ahmed, SE Hydraulic Circle Rajouri, ACD, Auqil Naveed, Block Development Officers (BDOs) and Executive Engineers of the Jal Shakti Department.

## CS chairs SLSC meet; approves Rs 75.80 cr AAP for Watershed Development under PMKSY

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAY 24

The State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) for the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) 2.0, which met here today under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, gave nod to Annual Action Plan worth Rs 75.80 crore for Watershed Development under PMKSY.

The meeting was convened to review implementation of the scheme besides assessing the Annual Action Plan for the year 2025-26.

Present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, Finance; Secretary, RDD; representatives from JSD, PWD, Revenue and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary exhorted upon the concerned to make the best use of this scheme for cre-

ation of durable assets in the water stressed areas. He called for community participation in such initiatives so that these could prove to be the most beneficial for them.

He assessed the progress registered in different districts being covered under this flagship scheme and stressed on prioritizing works which are most suitable for the particular areas. He directed the senior officers in the department to conduct frequent visits to the sites to take first hand appraisal of the works being executed under this scheme.

Principal Secretary, Finance and APD Departments, Shailendra Kumar, while speaking in the meeting, stressed on including other minor irrigation works in the DPRs so that the water reaches up to the last fields in these areas. He also suggested measures to make the



execution of works more transparent and beneficial for the public at large.

The meeting reviewed the progress and approved the centrally sponsored flagship programme aimed at enhancing the water conservation, climate resilience and sustainable agriculture in the UT.

While highlighting broad contours of the scheme, Secretary RD&PR Department, Aijaz Asad, informed that WDC-PMKSY is continuation

of the earlier Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), which had been subsumed into PMKSY in 2015-16.

He revealed that under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, several initiatives and infrastructure projects had been implemented to boost watershed-based development. Besides, physical and financial progress has been recorded across various districts, with special emphasis on construction of water harvesting structures, ponds and irrigation channels.

Additionally, the rainwater harvesting tanks and bunds for soil and moisture conservation, beautification and rejuvenation of water bodies including springs and streams also constitutes the actions being taken under this programme.

A significant highlight of the year has been the Watershed Yatra Cam-

paign 2025, launched on 5th February in Kathua district by the Union Cabinet Minister for Agriculture and the UT Minister for Rural Development. The campaign underscored the integrated watershed governance and community participation for which J&K secured the 2nd rank nationally for strategic planning and participatory implementation of WDC-PMKSY 2.0.

In alignment with the theme of public engagement, the Janbhagidhari Watershed Cup is set to recognize 2-3 districts demonstrating exceptional community involvement in project execution, the meeting was informed.

Moreover, it was divulged that as part of a new initiative under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, 300 springs have been allocated to J&K for rejuvenation as pilot projects. Further, under the national initia-

tive to rejuvenate 50,000 springs, 3,100 more have been tentatively assigned to the UT for which the final project guidelines are awaited from DoLR.

The SLSC also reviewed and approved the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for 2025-26 with a proposed budget of Rs 75.80 crore, focusing primarily on Natural Resource Management (Rs 42.70 crore), Production Systems (Rs 15.03 crore), Consolidation & Withdrawal Phase (Rs 2.15 Cr), Work done claims from AAP 2024-25 (Rs 8.14 crore) and Administrative Expenses of Rs 4.15 crore to be utilised over the ensuing financial year.

The committee also approved the revision of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to include the newly allocated 300 springs and asked for creation of DPR in consultation with the Jal Shakti Department.

## Mega Scholarship & Career Counselling event held at GDC Kishtwar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MAY 24

The Career Counselling and Guidance Cell, in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, organized a highly impactful Mega Scholarship and Career Counselling Event at Government Degree College (GDC), Kishtwar for 12th pass-out and graduate students. The event was held in association with the BGGI Group and Basharat Bin Shamas served as the key resource persons, providing expert insights into academic and career planning.

The session was convened and coordinated by Prof. Asma Javaid, who also delivered the welcome address. The event covered a range of crucial topics concerning students, including Admission guidance for study abroad programs and scholarship schemes, financial assistance for meritorious students, career opportunities after graduation, Postgraduate admissions



across various universities, Prospects in management courses.

Adnan Shabir, CEO of BGGI Group and Basharat Bin Shamas served as the key resource persons, providing expert insights into academic and career planning.

Principal GDC Kishtwar and Chief Guest of the event, Prof. Basharat Iqbal, addressed the students and commended the organizing team for their dedication to supporting students in their career development.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 250 students representing local schools and the host college. Faculty members including Prof. Waseem Rasheed, Dr. Usman, Prof. Ashfaq Ahmed Wani, Prof. Sanjay Rakwal, Dr. Shazia Tabasum, Prof. Sanjay, Dr. Hasan Jaleel, Dr. Arshad, and Prof. Burhan Saqid were also in attendance and actively contributed to the program.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Sonika Sen, Head of the Department of Sociology. A token of appreciation was also presented to the Chief Guest.

This successful initiative provided a valuable platform for students to explore academic opportunities and career pathways with the support of seasoned professionals.

## Nasha Mukh Bharat DIPR Cultural Unit promotes awareness among students at GHSS Akhnoor



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 24

Cultural Unit of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu organised a Cultural Awareness Programme themed 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' (Say No to Drugs) at Government Higher Secondary School Akhnoor.

The DIPR artists, through variety cultural presentations, raised awareness about the adverse effects of drug

abuse and encouraged the students to become ambassadors for a drug free society. The thematic songs and other presentations effectively highlighted the impact of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society in general.

The event was attended by both school staff and students. The students also presented a Nukkad Natak and delivered speeches, focusing on the theme.

The School Principal

Sunder Bala Sharma expressed her insights on the subject, highlighting its significance to the audience. She commended the Department of Information and Public Relations for organizing the programme designed to enhance awareness.

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

## District Employment & Counseling Centre hosts Mission YUVA awareness camps across Rajouri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, MAY 24

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, the District Employment & Counseling Centre (DE&CC) Rajouri, organized a series of Mission YUVA awareness camps to self-employment schemes among the local youth.

The camps were held at Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) Shahdra Sharief, Panchayat Ghar Majhoor, and Panchayat Ghar Rajdhani.

The Nodal Officer of BHD Thannamandi (Sub-Divisional Magistrate), Abid Shah, along with other BHD members, deliberated on the objectives and benefits of Mission YUVA. Deputy Director, DE&CC Mohammad Nawaz provided detailed information on the application process,

eligibility criteria, and the disbursement of benefits under the scheme.

A large number of participants, including potential entrepreneurs, attended the camps and engaged actively with the resource persons. Many youth were registered on the Mission YUVA portal during the camps, showcasing their enthusiasm to avail of the loan facility and embark on their entrepreneurial journey.

Member District Council (MDC) Thannamandi, Sh. Abdul Qayoom, also graced the occasion and encouraged the youth to seize the opportunities provided under the Mission YUVA initiative. The Block Manager NRLM and staff of the Rural Development Department were also present and extended their support to the participants at all three camps.

## EDITORIAL

## 'Fame Tour' – A Beacon of Hope for Kashmir's Ailing Tourism Sector

In the aftermath of the tragic Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, which claimed 26 innocent lives and shattered the hopes of a flourishing tourism season, Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector is grappling with one of its most significant crises in recent years. The heart-wrenching loss of lives, most of them tourists, not only triggered a sense of fear and insecurity but also dealt a heavy blow to the region's already fragile economy, with nearly 90 per cent of bookings being cancelled.

However, in a commendable display of resilience and unity, the stakeholders of Jammu and Kashmir's tourism industry, in collaboration with the Tourism Department, have decided to take proactive steps toward revival. The upcoming four-day 'Fame Tour', slated to begin on May 27, represents not just a marketing initiative but a bold confidence-building measure aimed at restoring trust, promoting safety, and rekindling the allure of the Valley's breathtaking beauty.

The initiative, spearheaded by the J&K Hoteliers Club under the leadership of Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya, has invited national tour operators, top hoteliers, and national media representatives to experience Kashmir firsthand. The delegation will travel to four of the region's most iconic destinations—Pahalgam, Srinagar, Sonamarg, and Gulmarg—to engage with local stakeholders and assess the ground realities.

This effort is not merely symbolic. It is a practical, people-oriented approach that involves every layer of the tourism ecosystem—from hoteliers and houseboat owners to ponywalas and transporters. It acknowledges the trauma the industry has suffered but chooses to respond not with despair, but with dialogue, discounts, and determination.

General Secretary of the Hoteliers Club, Tariq Ghani, has rightly emphasized the intent behind the initiative: to showcase normalcy, ensure transparency, and convey a strong message that Kashmir is ready to welcome the world once again. The inclusion of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the proceedings further elevates the significance of the event, underlining the administration's support and commitment to reviving the sector.

The 50 per cent discount on tourism packages announced for the period is not just a marketing strategy—it is a gesture of solidarity with the three lakh workers whose livelihoods hinge on a thriving tourism season. It is also a reassurance to visitors that their presence is welcomed and valued.

Importantly, the Fame Tour aligns with the broader spiritual and cultural fabric of the region, as stakeholders prepare to warmly welcome pilgrims of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025. This harmony between faith-based tourism and leisure travel could play a pivotal role in re-establishing Kashmir as a safe, inclusive, and rejuvenating destination.

While the scars of April's tragedy remain fresh, the decision to look ahead with hope and action deserves widespread appreciation. The success of the Fame Tour will not only help rebuild confidence in Kashmir's tourism but will also serve as a model for how crisis-hit destinations can respond with vision and unity.

Kashmir is more than a destination—it is a symbol of endurance, culture, and unmatched natural beauty. The world needs to be reminded of that. Let this be the beginning of a new chapter, one where tourism becomes a bridge of peace, prosperity, and renewed trust.

# Ramaphosa in the US: Diplomatic poise, domestic paradox

NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

South Africa's President and his team, including a considerable cohort of white South Africans, notably Afrikaners – were hosted at the Oval Office by President Trump, immediately following what was hailed as a remarkably successful diplomatic mission to Arab countries, where even Trump himself was bestowed the gift of one Air Force One flight by Qatar-an unprecedented endowment, the largest of its kind ever received by the United States.

In addition to Ramaphosa's delegation, there was an intriguing presence of an Afrikaner on Trump's side, Elon Musk. During the meeting, Ramaphosa exhibited enviable political maturity and dexterity, manoeuvring through the maze of Trump's diplomatic traps with subtlety while carefully avoiding incendiary pitfalls that could have compromised his nation's delicate balancing act.

During the meeting, Ramaphosa notably side-stepped fraught questions about the so-called "persecuted white Afrikaners," a narrative amplified by the likes of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who has recently sought to expand refugee programmes ostensibly designed to shield white South Africans. Trump, for his part, acknowledged South Africa's pivotal role in geopolitics. However, earlier this year he had dismissively branded BRICS as "dead"-a miscalculation that belies the intricate global recalibrations currently underway.

This Oval Office episode

unfolded as Israel prepares for a possible series of pre-emptive strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, an ominous prospect with potential ramifications extending well beyond West Asia. Meanwhile, South Africa continues to spearhead a genocide case against Israel at the ICC – a legal crusade emblematic of its self-appointed role as a global moral arbiter, a paradox that exposes its own unresolved historical and domestic contradictions.

To unpack the import of these events and declarations demands a journey through the turbulent and often tragic arc of South African history, the vicissitudes of its liberation movements, and the dissonant realities that confront the post-apartheid state. It compels one to confront the stark incongruities between high-flown rhetoric and tangible outcomes, between aspirational promises of freedom and the sobering arithmetic of socioeconomic decay.

The African National Congress (ANC), led for decades by icons such as Nelson Mandela, is frequently lionised for dismantling apartheid's edifice. Yet, as Ramaphosa himself implicitly acknowledged during the Oval Office encounter, the real challenge lies not in achieving political emancipation but in the herculean task of economic liberation – a task that has stubbornly eluded successive administrations. "What we want," Ramaphosa asserted with diplomatic prudence, "is to create an environment for investments to take place," signalling a con-

tinued reliance on foreign direct investment (FDI), predominantly controlled by white-owned corporations, particularly Afrikaner-dominated economic entities.

This reality is hardly surprising given South Africa's historical trajectory. The economic structures of apartheid were deliberately engineered to concentrate wealth and power within a narrow white minority, primarily Afrikaners and English-speaking elites. Post-1994, despite the political turnover, these economic bastions remained largely intact. As Patrick Bond, a political economist, noted, "the struggle against apartheid was fundamentally a struggle against the apartheid state, but the economic apparatus that undergirded it survived largely unscathed."

Mandela's magisterial legacy – his embrace of reconciliation and nation-building – undoubtedly a triumph in moral and political terms, has also been subject to trenchant criticism. His famous injunction that "we must build a society in which all South Africans, black and white, will be able to walk tall without any fear in their hearts" embodies a noble ideal.

Yet critics contend that this emphasis on social harmony, while indispensable in the post-conflict milieu, has ossified economic inequalities. It arguably deflected urgent demands for structural redistribution, land reform, and radical economic transformation that might have addressed the stark disparities entrenched by centuries

of colonial and apartheid-era dispossession.

The ANC's post-apartheid governance reveals a tragic ambivalence, caught between the demands of social justice and the pressures of neoliberal global capitalism.

This tension is evident in the contentious Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) policies, which, despite good intentions, have been criticised for creating a nouveau riche black elite often complicit with the very privilege and corruption the liberation struggle sought to dismantle, while the majority remain trapped in poverty, with unemployment near 30% and widespread informal settlements.

The ANC's political failures highlight a core post-colonial African dilemma: the gap between liberation as rhetoric and governance as reality. As Steve Biko of the Black Consciousness Movement warned, "The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed," yet after decades of freedom, we must question whose minds are truly free and what liberation millions of marginalised South Africans experience.

Ramaphosa's Oval Office discourse highlighted these tensions. When queried about South Africa's regulatory environment and the willingness of US companies like Tesla and Amazon to invest, he noted the necessity of creating a "conducive environment" for investment – implying a tacit acceptance of existing economic realities.

The example of Tesla's negotiation with China to

build a gigafactory, circumventing local partnership mandates, was evoked as a model of pragmatic economic diplomacy. Yet, this pragmatism stands in stark contrast with South Africa's fraught attempts at regulatory reform, particularly in the communications sector, where an "equity equivalent programme" is under consideration – echoing the very legacies of racialised economic control the nation ostensibly seeks to dismantle.

Moreover, the discourse around the so-called "Afrikaner genocide" – a deeply controversial and polarising claim – reflects broader social fractures in post-apartheid South Africa. While violent crime, including attacks on white farmers, is undeniably high, scholars and international observers largely reject framing these events as genocide. Yet this narrative resonates politically in some domestic and international circles, stoking racial fears and complicating nation-building.

Crime affects all communities, but incarceration rates reveal persistent racial and economic inequalities disproportionately impacting Black South Africans. The "white genocide" claim, especially against farmers, collapses under scrutiny: in 2024, eight farmers died amid 26,232 homicides, and no mass land confiscations have occurred since apartheid, exposing societal fracture rather than ethnic cleansing. Allegations of "crimes against whites" expose enduring tensions between diasporic Afrikaners and the post-

apartheid state, with such narratives serving as soft power tools that influence global perceptions and complicate South Africa's political development.

The juxtaposition of South Africa's efforts at international moral leadership, such as the genocide case against Israel at the ICC, with its unfinished reckoning with inequality and social justice, reveals a profound dissonance.

The post-apartheid state's self-image as a defender of human rights and international law is undermined by its inability to resolve fundamental domestic contradictions – a disjunction aptly captured by W.E.B. Du Bois's prescient observation that "the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the colour line," a problem that remains obstinately alive and unresolved in South Africa.

The tragic irony is that the very movements that liberated South Africa remain, in many respects, prisoners of their rhetorical legacy – a legacy of hope and liberation that too often masks a reality of governance marked by factionalism, corruption, and unfulfilled promises. Ramaphosa's skilful diplomacy in Washington, while commendable, is but one chapter in a longer, more fraught story.

The challenge ahead lies not only in maintaining political alliances or courting foreign investment but in confronting the ineradicable legacies of colonialism and apartheid with boldness and honesty.

(The writer is a Colombo based columnist. Views expressed are personal)

## Green revolution rooted in cooperation, consciousness and climate justice

BINOD ANAND

Imagine a future where every Indian village isn't just an agricultural base, but a living, breathing factory of green energy – where cow dung becomes currency, where climate action is as common as sowing seeds, and where our farmers are not just cultivators, but guardians of the Earth. With the visionary announcement by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah to institutionalise three new Multistate Cooperative Societies for cow dung management, carbon credit valuation and compressed biogas (CBG) production within the cooperative framework, India has moved beyond mere climate rhetoric. We are entering an era of grassroots-led green revolution, and this time, it is not about food alone, it is about energy, ecology, and equity.

This bold shift isn't just administrative, it is civilisational. It marks a new model for climate governance rooted in the soil of Bharat, powered by its villages, and held together by the time-tested values of Sahuarita (cooperation). For decades, the climate debate was dominated by distant capitals, high-level negotiations, and top-down frameworks. But India has flipped the script. Through the Cooperative Economic Framework, we are building a decentralised climate economy from the ground up, starting from Primary Agricultural Co-op Societies (PACS) and scaling to national-level apex cooperative institutions. This isn't just a new economic model, it is a new democratic environmentalism, where the

farmer becomes the financier of a greener future, and the village becomes the vanguard of net-zero ambition.

Every PACS has a potential climate command centre. These grassroots institutions, long associated, are now being repositioned as gateways to carbon markets and bio-energy hubs.

Imagine decentralised biogas sprouting in every block, feeding clean energy into the rural economy, generating carbon credits that can be monetised globally, and creating a new stream of income for farmers, especially in rain-fed, tribal, and hilly regions. From the cow shed to the carbon exchange, the entire value chain can now be organised, monitored, and scaled through the cooperative economic framework.

Integral to this transformation is the restructuring of rural resource cycles, especially around fodder management, water governance, and dead cattle economics. Millions of farmers struggle due to erratic fodder availability and mismanaged water resources, which in turn affect livestock productivity and rural resilience. Simultaneously, dead cattle markets, often a source of environmental decay and social tension, remain underutilised economic zones. By creating a multistate cooperative dedicated to integrated livestock resource management, India can formalise and monetise these neglected rural streams. Fodder banks, decentralised water recharge systems,



and organised carcass processing units can provide dignified employment, biofertilizers, organic leather, and feedstock for CBG plants. Such a cooperative would not only uplift rural livelihoods but create a closed-loop bio-economy – fueling agriculture, improving nutrition, restoring ecology, and generating revenue across multiple layers of rural society. It is not merely a reform – it is a rural renaissance waiting to be unlocked.

And the beauty of this approach lies in its inclusivity. The PACS-to-Apex structure ensures that no region is left behind – not the snow-bound villages of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, not the fragile communities of the Northeast, and certainly not the border settlements of Ladakh or Arunachal. In these places, traditional economic activities are constrained by geography, but the bioeconomy of cow dung and carbon offers a rare opportunity – one that aligns with the region's cultural values, ecological needs, and national priorities. When farmers in these areas gain the ability to gener-

ate income from climate stewardship, they are not just contributing to GDP – they are also strengthening national security. A prosperous border village is a stable border village. When livelihoods are secure, migration is reduced, local pride is restored, and external threats are diminished. The World Cooperation Economic Framework offers the architecture to take this model to scale. It ensures that financing, training, policy guidance, and market access do not remain siloed. It connects the micro to the macro. It allows the smallest PACS in a tribal hamlet to link with global climate finance and ESG funds. It transforms cow dung – a symbol of rural India's ignored potential – into a goldmine for clean energy, carbon credits, organic farming, and rural employment. Through this, India isn't just creating a circular economy – it is building a circular civilisation.

This is more than a Government scheme – it is a spiritual call to action. A call to revive our ancient ethos of living in harmony with nature now rearmoured with modern science, blockchain traceability, and global carbon accounting. It is a call to stand tall on the world stage – not as climate victims begging for compensation, but as climate victors offering solutions. This is our surgical strike – not through bullets, but through biogas, not with missiles, but with methane management, not by harming – but by healing the Earth through cooperation.

We are witnessing a new

economic independence movement – this time against carbon dependency and global climate injustice. As the world watches, India rises. And it rises not from the skyscrapers, but from its soil, its villages, and its unyielding cooperative spirit. From Sahkarita se Samridhhi to Sahkarita se Sanrakshan, the cooperative model is no longer just about managing credit – it is now India's frontline defence in the fight for global climate equity and national unity.

Let the world take note "When Bharat's villages rise, the Earth heals – and the Nation stands stronger". Let us remember that this journey is not just economic or environmental; it is deeply spiritual. This is the Vedic economics meeting of 21st-century governance. This is Yajna – a collective sacrifice and contribution, where every farmer, every cow, every drop of water, and every seed of cooperation becomes part of a sacred offering to protect the Earth and uplift the Nation.

Let the world understand this clearly, India's climate action is not born of compulsion, but of conviction rooted in consciousness. And as Bharat's villages rise once again in the light of Sahkarita, the prayers of our ancestor's echo in unison, May all be happy, may all be healthy, may all see auspiciousness, and may none suffer." This is the dharma of cooperation. This is the soul of India rising.

(The writer is the Secretary General, Confederation of NGOs of Rural India. Views expressed are personal)

# Feelings of frailty may signal early signs of ageing at 40: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Feeling lonely or older than your age at 40? According to a study, these negative perceptions about ageing could be early signs of frailty, even in your 40s.

Usually associated with older age, frailty is a recognised medical condition, marked by reduced strength, energy, and ability to recover from illness.

Pre-frailty is the reversible transition stage that comes before; however, experts say it's ill-defined and requires more understanding.

The research, published in the journal BMC Public Health, showed that it can begin much earlier with subtle psychological and social cues.

"Many people assume frailty is something that happens when we get much older," said lead author Tom Brennan from Flinders University's



Caring Futures Institute in Australia.

"But our research shows the psychological and behavioural warning signs can emerge decades earlier, in people in their 40s, 50s, and 60s. For example, feeling older than you are, might sound like a throwaway comment, but it turns out it can be a sign that something's not quite right," he added.

For the study, the researchers analysed data from 321 Australian adults aged 40 and over; 60 per cent of participants were classified as pre-frail, 35 per cent as non-frail, and

5 per cent as frail.

The analysis found that both pre-frail and frail individuals were more likely to report loneliness and negative attitudes toward aging, compared to non-frail participants.

"Loneliness was one of the strongest predictors of pre-frailty in our sample, highlighting that social isolation is a critical factor that can affect overall resilience, even in a relatively healthy and mobile population," Brennan said.

Another key finding was that pre-frail individuals commonly reported feeling older than their chron-

ological age, even when physical health markers were within expected ranges.

"Feeling older than you are, can be a meaningful psychological signal," said Brennan. "We need to emphasise the importance of fostering positive attitudes towards aging as this can have a huge impact on how people adjust to their later stages of life."

Brennan said the study highlights an important intervention point that could help to prevent the progression of frailty later in life.

# India, EU to find solutions for marine plastic litter, waste to green hydrogen

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

India and the European Union (EU) have launched two major research and innovation initiatives that focus on marine plastic litter and waste-to-green-hydrogen solutions.

The initiatives were launched under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), established in 2022 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen to strengthen the bilateral partnership on trade and technology.

With a joint investment of Rs 391 crore, the initiatives focus on two coordinated calls in the areas of Marine Plastic Litter (MPL) and Waste to Green Hydrogen (W2GH), co-funded by Horizon Europe – the EU's research and innovation framework programme – and the Indian government.

"Collaborative research



is the cornerstone of innovation. These initiatives will harness the strengths of both Indian and European researchers to develop solutions that address our shared environmental challenges", said Professor Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the government.

Highlighting the increasing momentum of the EU-India collaboration, Herve Delphin, EU Ambassador to India, remarked, "These research calls under the EU-India Trade and Tech-

nology Council demonstrate the dynamism of the EU India partnership, renewed by our leaders in Delhi last February".

"By tackling concrete issues like marine pollution and sustainable energy together, we're driving innovation, circular economy and energy efficiency. Development of cutting-edge technologies in these areas makes both economic and environmental sense. We are committed to a cleaner, more sustainable future that will benefit both the EU and

India," Delphin mentioned. Despite global efforts, marine pollution continues to threaten biodiversity, disrupt ecosystems, and impact human health.

Dr M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said "Marine pollution is a global concern that requires collective action. This joint call will enable us to develop advanced tools and strategies to protect our marine ecosystems."

The second coordinated call addresses the urgent need for sustainable energy solutions through the development of waste-to-green hydrogen technologies.

Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, said that "Advancing waste-to-hydrogen technologies is crucial for our energy transition goals. This collaboration will accelerate the development of sustainable hydrogen production methods."

# Fruit, Fluids, and Fasting: A Weekly Ritual for Better Health

A weekly fast consisting of fruits and hydrating liquids like herbal teas, coconut water, and fresh juices can offer a gentle, natural way to reset your system without going completely without food.

Fasting once a week enables a digestive reset as light, fiber-rich fruits are easy on the gut, helping reduce bloating, improve bowel movements, and ease digestive strain.

Fasting encourages the body's natural detox process – including autophagy, where cells clean out waste and repair themselves.

With no heavy meals to digest, your brain gets more energy. Many people report increased mental clarity and a lighter mood.

A lighter day once a week can help regulate insulin, lower calorie intake, and promote fat metabolism – all aiding sustainable weight man-



agement.

Improved hydration and reduced inflammatory foods can reflect in clearer skin and more restful sleep.

Who Can Try It This fasting method is generally safe for:

Healthy adults seeking a natural wellness habit

People looking to manage weight or digestion

Individuals wanting to break unhealthy food patterns

Those on a detox or spiritual wellness journey Who Should Avoid It (or Consult a Doctor First)

People with diabetes or blood sugar issues

Pregnant or breastfeeding women

Children and teenagers (unless medically advised)

Those with eating disorders or a history of disordered eating

Individuals with chronic illnesses or on medication Precautions to Consider Hydrate generously –

water, herbal teas, and coconut water are essential.

Don't overeat fruits – stick to low-sugar fruits like papaya, apples, watermelon, and berries.

Avoid strenuous exercise on fasting days. Light yoga or walking is ideal.

Break the fast gently the next day with a light, balanced meal.

Listen to your body – dizziness, nausea, or fatigue are signs to stop and consult a professional.

# Adopt cleanliness, check mosquito breeding sites to curb spread of dengue

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Adopting cleanliness, checking mosquito breeding sites, and spreading awareness are key measures to curb the spread of dengue, said Union Health Minister JP Nadda on National Dengue Day on Friday.

In a bid to promote awareness about dengue, the Ministry of Health had designated May 16 as 'National Dengue Day' in 2010. This year's theme is "Check, Clean, Cover: Steps to Defeat Dengue". "The theme emphasises the importance of regularly checking for mosquito breeding sites, cleaning surroundings, and covering water containers to prevent the spread of dengue," Nadda said in a post on social media platform X.

Calling dengue a "pressing public health challenge", he urged for active public participation to



"raise awareness and educate people about prevention and early diagnosis".

"With the active participation of communities, health workers, and local bodies, we can significantly reduce the spread of dengue and protect public health," the Union Minister said.

As per data from the National Centre for Vector-Borne Disease Control (NCVBDC) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW),

dengue cases in India have increased from 28,066 in 2010 to over 2.89 lakh in 2023.

In 2025 (as of March), India has already reported more than 16,000 cases, indicating a worrying early trend for the year. This massive and continuing rise highlights the urgency of strengthening our public health systems and response.

"Let us all take a pledge that by adopting cleanliness and spreading public

awareness, we will protect our family and society from a serious disease like dengue. Prevention is the only protection against dengue. Clean India, Healthy India – this is the foundation of a dengue-free India!" said Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel on X.

Ayush Minister Prataap Jadhav also urged people to "maintain cleanliness, do not allow water to accumulate, and wear full-sleeved clothes".

Dengue is caused by a virus spread by Aedes mosquitoes. These mosquitoes thrive in warm, humid climates.

Increasing climate changes are fuelling more breeding sites of dengue in India. States like Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh have started seeing regular outbreaks a sign that the traditional "dengue belt" is expanding.

# Amrutanjan Health Care's Q4 net profit falls over 21 pc, expenses rise

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Chennai-based pharma company, Amrutanjan Health Care Limited, on Thursday reported a decline in its net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 2025 (Q4 FY25), with profit dropping by approximately 21.16 per cent to Rs 15.17 crore, compared to Rs 19.24 crore in the previous quarter (Q3 FY25).

The company's revenue from operations in Q4 stood at Rs 135.41 crore, marking a 10.31 per cent increase from Rs 122.75 crore recorded in Q3, as per its stock exchange filing.

However, total expenses surged by 18.05 per cent, reaching Rs 119.37 crore in Q4, up from Rs 101.12 crore in the previous quarter.

The sharp rise in costs appears to have impacted the company's bottom line.



On year-on-year (YoY) basis, Amrutanjan Health Care's consolidated net profit showed a positive trend, rising by approximately 11.14 per cent from Rs 13.65 crore reported in the March 2024 quarter (Q4 FY24).

The company's Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend

of Rs 2.60 per equity share for the financial year 2024-25 (FY25).

This will apply to 2,89,10,630 shares of Re. 1 each, fully paid up.

"If approved at the upcoming Annual General Meeting, the dividend will be distributed to eligible shareholders within 30 days of the meeting," the

company said in its stock exchange filing.

In a key leadership change, the company announced that M Srinivasan will retire from his role as Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, effective May 31.

The company also informed the appointment of Gagan Preet Singh as his successor from June 1. The company affirmed that Singh is not debarred from holding office by any regulatory authority.

On the stock market, Amrutanjan Health Care shares closed nearly flat on Thursday, ending at Rs 715 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), down marginally by Rs 0.40 or 0.06 per cent.

Founded in 1893, Amrutanjan Health Care is known for its Ayurvedic pain relief products and has expanded into various segments such as women's hygiene, cough and cold remedies, and packaged fruit juice drinks.

# Dengue, chikungunya to become endemic in Europe, need proactive actions to mitigate: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

From sporadic outbreaks of Aedes-borne dengue and chikungunya, the European Union is transitioning towards an endemic state, according to a study, published in the Lancet Planetary Health journal.

The principal vectors of dengue virus and chikungunya virus are Aedes aegypti, the yellow fever mosquito, and Aedes albopictus, the Asian tiger mosquito.

In 2024, there were a total of 304 dengue cases in the European region -- a historic peak compared with the combined total of 275 cases in the previous 15 years.

The rising trend suggests the presence of tiger mosquitoes -- that transmit these viruses -- to farther north due to global warming, said the researchers in Sweden and Germany. The team cited that



from being mainly confined to tropical regions once, the virus' frequency and severity of outbreaks have increased since 2010. This is due to "rising temperatures".

"Climatic variables emerged as the strongest predictors of outbreak risk, even after accounting for health-care expenditure and imported case numbers," said the team including from Umea University (Sweden) and University of Heidelberg (Germany).

"Warmer summer temperatures were found to substantially elevate outbreak risk, particularly in urban and semi-urban

settings, whereas human travel and mobility were found to facilitate the spread of these two Aedes-borne diseases," they added.

The study is based on an analysis of the spread of the two diseases in Europe over the last 35 years.

According to European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control data, most outbreaks (95 per cent) took place between July and September of 2024, with 64 occurring in the third quarter of the year.

Urbanisation, which provides new habitats for Aedes vectors, also significantly affected outbreak risk, with urban and

semi-urban areas having a higher HR for outbreak events than rural areas, said the team.

"Our findings highlight that the EU is transitioning from sporadic outbreaks of Aedes-borne diseases towards an endemic state. The interval between vector establishment and local outbreaks has substantially shortened over the past three decades and is expected to decrease further," the researchers said.

The study underscored the urgent need for robust public health measures, including stringent vector control, enhanced entomological and disease surveillance, citizen science, and early warning systems.

"In the context of a warming climate, mitigating the transition to endemicity will require proactive, vigilant, and well-targeted public health interventions," the team said.

## Pakistan risks self-destruction without policy change, warns Ravinder Raina

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 24

Pakistan is running on the path of self-destruction and said if Pakistan does not change its policies, it will suffer badly, said Ravinder Raina.

Raina also made a scathing attack on Congress, advising its leader Rahul Gandhi to join the nation in celebrating the success of Operation Sindoor in hitting the roots of terrorism, instead of indulging in petty politics and backstabbing the nation. He also accused the Congress saying that the terrorism and separatism are the outcome of its wrong policies.

Ravinder Raina, BJP National Executive Member, accompanied by former Minister Choudhury Zulfiqar Ali was addressing a Press Conference at J&K BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. BJP Office Secretary Tilak Raj Gupta, Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, and Library Incharge Kulbhushan Mohtra were also present on the occasion.

Ravinder Raina praised the Indian armed forces and the Narendra Modi-led government for the success of Operation Sindoor, which he claimed forced Pakistan into submission. He condemned the April 22 terrorist attack on tour-



ists in Pahalgam, calling it a "dastardly act," and highlighted that Indian forces responded with strength by dismantling terrorist infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). He added that the Indian military also thwarted a Pakistani Army attack on Indian civilian areas, showcasing India's strength to the world.

The world witnessed a new doctrine under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership that India will no longer tolerate any act of terrorism. Operation Sindoor not only delivered a crushing blow to terror infrastructure but also shattered Pakistan's nuclear myth. Faced with India's decisive action, Pakistan was left pleading to the international community for peace.

PM Modi also made it clear that Operation Sindoor is not complete yet and any act of terror will be taken as an act of war.

India also salutes the bravery and the sacrifice of forces as well as the civilians who were affect-

ed or lost their lives.

Raina also welcomed the Central Government's decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, despite the agreement on a ceasefire. He stated that the Modi government has effectively cornered Pakistan, describing it as nothing less than a "surgical strike" on the neighboring country. He further congratulated the nation on this diplomatic victory under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi.

Raina criticized the Congress party, saying this is not the time for politics but a united fight against terrorism. He urged Congress to restrict political activities to election times and support the ongoing Tiranga Yatra, which he described as a movement driven by nationalism.

Raina targeted Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of questioning the government at a sensitive time and held Congress responsible for fostering terrorism and separatism in the past. He said the nation would never forgive Congress for its betrayal.

India enjoys friendly ties with almost all countries across the globe, but Islamabad never supported the peace initiatives by India and that is the reason Modi ji taught them what they understood well.

Operation Sindoor is just a trailer by our forces and Modi and we are capable of showing them the whole picture, he added.

Ch. Zulfiqar Ali said that Modi-government and Indian forces did what was actually needed. He said that to know the exact extent of damages and to connect with the affected people, the senior BJP leadership is visiting the shelling-affected people.

Pakistan's indiscriminate shelling on civilian areas makes it clear that it has no love for people and only wants the land of J&K, he said and also accused Pakistan of hitting the religious areas of all religions.

Pakistan also adversely hit the livelihood of the innocent civilians by targeting the unsuspecting tourists, Ali said.

Choudhary requested the Union government for more individual and community bunkers for the border residents and declare the damage caused by Pakistani shelling as a national emergency to ensure proper rehabilitation of the victims of cross-border shelling.

## AIBOA J&K & Ladakh holds General Body Meeting in Jammu, calls for focused devp, local recruitment

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 24

The All India Bank Officers' Association (AIBOA) Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh State Committee conducted its General Body Meeting in Jammu, where members discussed key regional issues, particularly the need for accelerated economic development and a special recruitment drive in the banking sector.

In the meeting, the Committee emphasized the urgent requirement for the Central Government to allocate and promptly release funds for the comprehensive development of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. Referred to as the "Switzerland of India" for its scenic beauty, agricultural productivity, and vibrant tourism potential, the region, according to the Committee, needs



strong infrastructural and economic support to realize its full potential. With a democratically elected government now in place, participants stressed that bureaucratic delays in releasing developmental funds should be avoided.

Another major issue raised was the need for a special recruitment drive in the banking sector. The Committee advocated for opening new bank branches in unbanked areas and emphasized recruiting local youth to better serve the region's unique linguistic and cultural

needs. It was further recommended that all bank branches be equipped with trained security personnel appointed through government channels.

The event was marked by the presence of several distinguished guests who shared their insights and support for the region's development goals. Notable attendees included:

• Com. S. Nagarajan, General Secretary, AIBOA (Chief Guest)

• Advocate Narrinder Kotwal, President, Bar Council of Jammu and Kashmir High Court

• Sh. Arun Gupta, President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu

• S. Charandeep Singh, Labour Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir

• Com. Arun Kumar Gupta, General Secretary, JPBEF

• Sh. Charanjev Joshi, Vice President, AIBOA

• Sh. Sourab Kumar

• Sh. Ashwani Saini

Speakers underscored the importance of the banking sector in driving socio-economic growth and reiterated their support for initiatives aimed at regional upliftment.

The meeting concluded with a unanimous resolution to continue advocating for policies that promote local employment and ensure equitable development across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

## Col Mahan reviews educational, health institutions in Basohli

JINews SERVICE  
BASOHLI, MAY 24

DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh conducted an extensive tour of several key institutions in Basohli, including DIET Basohli, JNV Basohli, and Government Degree College (GDC) Basohli, to assess infrastructure, available facilities, and ongoing services. He also inspected Sub District Hospital (SDH) Basohli to evaluate health-care provisions and engage directly with patients.

During his visit to SDH Basohli, patients raised a pressing concern regarding the non-availability of a dialysis unit in the region. Presently, critical patients are forced to travel nearly 100 kilometers to Kathua or Pathankot to avail dialysis services. Addition-



ally, it was found that the solar backup system and UPS installed for standby power are non-functional due to the absence of battery banks, hampering essential medical operations during outages.

Col Mahan Singh also noted the absence of a hearse vehicle for transporting deceased persons at SDH Basohli and the lack of an ambulance for 102 emergency services at the Trauma Hospital in Mahanpur. He assured that these gaps in emergency medical

logistics will be addressed on priority.

At DIET Basohli, the Incharge Principal brought to the DDC Chairman's attention the urgent need for a fully-equipped ICT Laboratory to facilitate modern training for teachers. Col Mahan Singh acknowledged the importance of this facility in enhancing educational outcomes and assured follow-up with the concerned departments.

During his interaction at Jawahar Navodaya Vidya-

laya (JNV) Basohli, Principal Ms. Archana Sharma highlighted the shortage of computer hardware and essential electronic gadgets, affecting students' access to digital learning tools.

At GDC Basohli, Dr. Anil Gupta underlined the lack of adequate classrooms and sportswear, which continue to impede both academic and extracurricular activities.

Col Mahan Singh expressed deep concern over these infrastructural and service-level shortcomings and reaffirmed his commitment to improving both educational and healthcare facilities in the region. He assured that all issues brought to his notice would be taken up with the concerned authorities for prompt redressal.

## Rekha highlights legacy of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar at 300th Birth Anniversary Workshop

JINews SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, MAY 24

BJP District Akhnoor organised a programme on 300th birth anniversary of Punyashlok Rani Ahilyabai Holkar. Event was graced by MLA Akhnoor Sh. Mohan Lal Bhagat BJP leader Rekha Mahajan as Keynote Speaker, District President Kuldeep Raj Sharma, DDC Bhushan Bral, Seh Prabhari Manmohan Singh.

Others Speakers include District Vice president Sonia Verma, Mahila morcha District President Rajni Sharma, District Secretary Makhni Verma, Monika Salaria, Amita Sharma. Event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local leaders, party workers, and prominent citizens to commemorate the 300th birth anniversary of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar, the legendary 18th-century queen of Indore.



Mohan Lal Bhagat emphasized the need to draw inspiration from historical figures like Rani Ahilyabai, especially in today's context of empowering women and promoting inclusive development. He also lauded the BJP's commitment to preserving and promoting the nation's cultural and historical heritage.

While speaking on the occasion, Rekha Mahajan paid rich tributes to Rani Ahilyabai Holkar, hailing her as a symbol of courage, good governance, and devotion to public welfare. She described the queen as a rare combination of administrative brilliance and spiritual wisdom, whose legacy continues to inspire generations across India. "Rani Ahilyabai Holkar was not just a ruler; she was a reformer, a philanthropist, and a visionary leader. In an era domi-

nated by male rulers, she emerged as a beacon of justice and compassion," she said, adding "It is our duty to remember such great personalities and imbibe their values in our lives, especially in public service and community leadership."

Speakers at the event shed light on various aspects of Ahilyabai Holkar's life, including her architectural contributions, administrative reforms, and deep-rooted sense of dharma. District President Kuldeep Sharma thanked large number of party workers and residents of Akhnoor who attended the workshop, making it a vibrant and engaging occasion. Proceeding of the workshop was conducted by District General Secretary Shakti Bhagat.

## GGF dispatches 2nd Consignment of Relief for Pak shelling victims of Rajouri & Poonch

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 24

Gandhi Global Family (GGF), in collaboration with several civil society organizations, today dispatched the second consignment of relief material for families affected by Pakistani shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Rajouri and Poonch districts. The consignment will be officially handed over to the respective District Administrations in Rajouri and Poonch.

The relief material was collectively arranged by Gandhi Global Family J&K, J&K Ex-Services League, Tawi Welfare Society, and Unnat NGO. It includes juices, biscuits, sports items for children,



sanitary pads for women, grocery kits and mosquito nets. This symbolic consignment was jointly handed over by prominent members of all supporting organizations, including Dr. S. P. Varma, Lt. Gen. Rakesh Sharma (Retd.), Neena Abrol and Dr. Alka Sharma, to Dr. Nitán Sharma, Regional

General Secretary, GGF Jammu. The event witnessed the presence of academicians such as Prof. Lalit Sen Sharma (Provost, Boys Hostel), Dr. Surinder Sharma (Warden), Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Dr. Satya Priya (Warden) and Dr. P. P. Singh. Also present were senior members of Gandhi Global Family, includ-

ing Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Dr. Robert Robin Gill, Summi Sahi Seth, Dr. Parvinder Kour, Joginder Kour, Punjit Kour, Manish Joshi, Er. Bhanu Pratap Singh, Amit Varma, Ved Verma, Ch. Muntaz Ahmed Kabir, Kirtan Singh, Raj Kumar, Naresh Maini and Er. Ankush Varma.

Dr. S. P. Varma expressed gratitude for the timely support extended by Mrs. Anu Radha Lal, President of GGF Women, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and her compassionate team for their generous contribution toward the affected families. He also urged more individuals and organizations to come forward and support those impacted along the LoC.

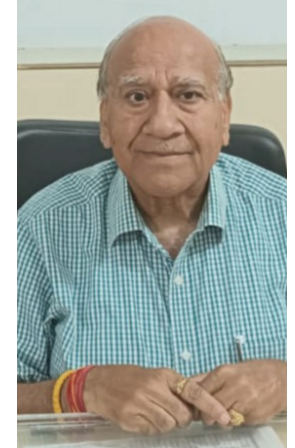
## Rattan Lal calls on CM Omar Abdullah, discusses political scenario of Jammu Region

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 24

Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to deliberate on the prevailing political scenario in the Jammu region and highlight pressing public issues.

During the meeting, the Provincial President apprised the Chief Minister that the people of the Jammu region are generally satisfied with the current dispensation. He stated that the entire cadre of the National Conference—ranging from ministers and party legislators to grassroots workers—has been actively present on the ground, working tirelessly to resolve public grievances and address emerging challenges.

Reflecting on the recent India-Pakistan border conflict, Rattan Lal Gupta emphasized that the people have observed the proactive approach of the government and the party. "From yourself to Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, and the rank and file of the party,



everyone stood firmly with the people during this time of crisis. They not only monitored the situation closely but also ensured the availability of essential services and relief support to the affected areas," he said.

The Provincial President also submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister regarding the tragic incident in Ramban district, where a sudden cloudburst caused significant damage. He expressed deep concern over the loss of three lives and the extensive destruction in the surrounding area of Ramban and Dharamkot area. He urged the Chief Minister to immediately

direct officials to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the losses. Gupta also emphasized the Chief Minister regarding deep concern of affected families of Operation Sindoor who have lost their nears and dears and huge loss of properties, he said appropriate compensations be given to them at the earliest so that their derailed lives be come normal.

The senior NC leader stressed the need for timely and adequate compensation to the affected families so they can rebuild their homes and lives without delay. He appealed to the Chief Minister to prioritize rehabilitation efforts and ensure that no affected family is left without support.

The Chief Minister asked the Provincial President to continue engaging with the grassroots level and ensure timely feedback from the ground reaches the government, so that people's concerns are addressed with greater efficiency and sensitivity. He also assured that all necessary measures will be taken to address the situation and provide relief to the victim.

## Police arrests 3 drug peddlers

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 24

In a series of successful anti-narcotics operations, police arrested 3 drug peddlers/smugglers in multiple operations in Anantnag and Sopore and recovered significant quantity of contraband substances from their possessions. A police party from Police Station Uttersoo, during routine naka checking, apprehended one individual identified as Wasim Ahmad Khan son of Gull Mohammad Khah, resident of Sunlgan. Upon search, 800 grams of a Charas-like substance was recovered from his possession. In another operation, a police team from PS Aishmuqam during naka checking at Logripora/Manzigam Road near Singhpora Crossing, apprehended one person identified as Jalal Din Bhat son of Ghulam Nabi Bhat resident of Salia Panchalpora. A staggering 12.9Kgs of raw Poppy buds was seized from his possession.

Similarly, during routine patrolling near Mughal Garden, Verinag, a police party from Police Post Verinag observed a suspicious individual carrying a nylon bag. Upon noticing the police, the suspect fled the scene, abandoning the bag.

## NSF celebrates 129th birth anniversary of Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 24

National Secular Forum (NSF), organized a program in University Campus, and on the Birth anniversary of Kartar Singh Sarabha who laid his life for the country. Amid slogans "Kartar Singh Sarabha Amar Raha" "Inqilaab Zindabad" "Bharat Mata ki jai", they paid tributes to Kartar Singh Sarabha and garlanded the portrait of the son of soil. Sh Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC and Former Member BCCI was the Chief Guest and Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary, JKNC presided over the function. Dr Sukhdev Singh State President NSF was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion,

Ankush Abrol appreciated the efforts of NSF members to come forward and organize these functions. He also said that the right tribute to Kartar Singh Sarabha would be to launch the struggle for restoration of full status of Jammu and Kashmir State.

Ankush also said that Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha is regarded as one of the most prominent faces in the independence movements against the Britishers.

He further said Bhagat Singh was inspired by Kartar Singh Sarabha. "On Bhagat Singh's arrest, a photo of Sarabha was recovered from him. He always carried this photo in his pocket.

On this occasion, Dr Vikas Sharma said that we all should take oath not to sit silent and continue our endeavor to

regain Jammu and Kashmir State. He said that J&K suffered immensely due to misadventures of the Centre. Dr Sharma urged the youth to come together on a single platform to push for this demand.

Dr Vikas also said that Kartar Singh Sarabha was an Indian revolutionary. He was 15-years old when he became a member of the Ghadar Party; he then became a leading luminary member and started fighting for the independence movement. He was one of the most active members of the movement. In November 1915 at Central Jail, Lahore, he was executed for his role in the movement. He was 19 years old.

Dr Sukhdev Singh threw light on the life of martyr Kartar Singh was born on

24 May 1896 in the village of Sarabha, located in Punjab. He was the only son born in a humble Sikh household and was raised by his grandfather after the early death of his father.

Vikshay Vashist, State Secretary NSF, also spoke on the occasion.

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

Among those who were present on the occasion included, Roshan Sharma, Innam Nasser, Ashwani Sharma, Ankush Sharm, Farhan Khan, Ajay Singh, Imtiaz Ahmed, Shoaib Mehmood, Arun Sharma, Aditya Sharma, Ashaf Ahmed, and others.

## Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India launches All-New CB750 Hornet and CB1000 Hornet SP

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, 24 MAY 2025:

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) today announced the launch of two powerful new additions to its premium portfolio - the CB750 Hornet and the CB1000 Hornet SP. Bookings for both the motorcycles are now open and their deliveries are set to commence from June 2025 onwards. The All-New Honda CB750 Hornet has been priced at Rs. 8,59,500 and the CB1000 Hornet SP has been priced at Rs. 12,35,900, ex-showroom Gurugram. The CB750 Hornet will be available across all BigWing Topline and BigWing dealerships while the CB1000 Hornet SP will be sold exclusively through BigWing Topline

dealerships in India.

Introducing the new premium motorcycles, Mr. Tsutsumu Otani, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, said, "The Indian premium motorcycle segment has shown tremendous growth over the years, especially among young and passionate riders looking for performance with style. With the launch of the CB750 Hornet and CB1000 Hornet SP, we aim to further strengthen our presence in the fun biking space. These motorcycles are a true representation of Honda's legacy of engineering excellence, aggressive design, and thrilling performance. We are confident these Hornets will strike a chord with riders who seek a dynamic and

sporty riding experience."

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Yogesh Mathur, Director, Sales and Marketing, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, said, "Hornet has always held a special place in the hearts of enthusiasts, and with the introduction of the CB750 and CB1000 Hornet SP, we are taking that legacy to the next level. These motorcycles combine cutting-edge technology, iconic design, and a commanding road presence, making them a compelling choice in their respective segments. The growing appetite for performance motorcycles in India excites us, and we believe these Hornets will resonate with every thrill-seeker out there. We look forward to a great response from the biking community."

## Arvind pays surprise visit to PHE Mechanical Medical Sub-Div II

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 24

In a decisive step toward strengthening transparency and ensuring prompt public service delivery, Arvind Gupta, MLA Jammu West, conducted an unannounced inspection of the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Medical Sub-Division II.

The surprise visit aimed to assess the on-ground functioning of the office and review ongoing operations concerning water supply infrastructure and mechanical services.

During the inspection, the MLA thoroughly examined office records, staff attendance, and grievance redressal protocols. He interacted with officials and staff members to gain firsthand insights into the



challenges faced in maintaining service efficiency.

Addressing the staff, Arvind emphasized the pivotal role of departmental offices in bridging the gap between governance and the common citizen. He reiterated that transparency, punctuality, and public-centric working should be the foundation of every government

office. "The public has every right to timely and efficient services. As public servants, we must rise to their expectations with dedication and integrity," he asserted.

The MLA also reviewed ongoing maintenance projects, discussed resource allocation, and took feedback from the field teams to understand the

operational needs and bottlenecks. He assured the department of his full support in resolving genuine issues but also made it clear that negligence or complacency in duties will not be tolerated.

Residents of Jammu West have been voicing concerns regarding irregularities in water supply and delayed redressal of complaints. Taking cognizance of these issues, Arvind has pledged a series of inspections and evaluations to ensure government machinery functions with renewed efficiency.

This visit underlines Arvind Gupta's unwavering commitment to good governance, and his active engagement continues to inspire confidence among citizens about a more responsive and accountable administration.

## Amit Hails Ethical AI as Key to e-Governance at Digital Uttar Pradesh Conclave

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW (UP), MAY 24

Amit Sharma, Secretary to the Government of Mizoram, Information & Communications Technology (ICT) and Cooperation Departments, mentioned Ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI) models as the pillars of eGovernance during Digital Uttar Pradesh Conclave organized by the Times of India group in UP, especially on the sidelines of big semiconductor hub coming in Noida city of the state.

Amit Sharma, Secretary ICT & Cooperation Mizoram also attend the Inaugural Session of Digital UP Conclave wherein Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Information Technology, Government of India was the Chief Guest and Brajesh Pathak, Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh was the Guest of Honour, who expressed their joy with pride and honour in mentioning that UP's image over the last decade or so has got totally overhauled from a



BIMARU state status to an IT-driven state.

Amit Sharma, who was a keynote speaker in the Panel Discussion on 'AI-Driven Governance: Building an Inclusive & Resilient Digital Economy' appreciated that the lead taken by Uttar Pradesh in launching UP AI Pragma Yojana but he expressed alongside that Ethical AI models should be adopted while implementing same so as to ensure its total success for the benefit of public in this biggest state of the nation.

Secretary ICT Mizoram Amit Sharma also shared in the Conclave that how-soever smart AI agents are launched with the usage

of large language models and usage of popular platforms like Chat GPT etc but AI can never replace the human intellect, as it is primarily meant to serve the cause of general public but at the same time, he accepted that there is a universal applicability of AI in all core sectors today, like Education, Health Care, Agriculture, Defence and even tertiary sectors and the scope of which is ever expanding, for which an exclusive 'India AI Mission' has been launched by the Government of India.

Amit Sharma, during his speech, also disclosed that Mizoram is also encouraging AI implementation in a big way and the latest example of same is the Bhashini model, for real-time conversion of vernacular language to English/Hindi languages and vice versa, for which an MoU shall be inked very soon in the near future and all possibilities are also being explored for AI-Certification of employees of Mizoram through virtual courses being offered by

top global giants in this domain.

During the UP Transformation Conclave, others who joined Amit in this all-important Panel talk included Kumar Vineet, Managing Director, UP Cooperative Sugar Factories Federation Ltd., Dr Arun Mohan Sherry, Director, Indian Institute of Information Technology, Lucknow, Dr Upasana Arora, Chairperson, CII Uttar Pradesh & MD, Yashoda Super Specialty Hospitals who echoed their views and this talk was moderated by Mohita Tewari, Principal Correspondent, The Times of India.

The organisers, eGov wing of Times of India expressed deep gratitude to ICT Secretary Mizoram Amit Sharma for coming all the way to join this all-important IT Conclave, especially when the state of UP is on the brink of re-writing a history by implementing several IT reforms including initiation of a Semiconductor Hub soon in the state.

## Dr. Rajeev Bhagat unveils Rs. 4.65 Cr School Devp Projects in Bishnah

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
BISHNAH, MAY 24

A significant stride towards bolstering educational infrastructure in the Bishnah Constituency was made today as Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, inaugurated new school buildings at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Arnia and Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Allah. In a forward-looking move, Dr. Bhagat also laid the foundation stone for a new double-story building at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Trewa. These projects, collectively costing an impressive Rs. 465.39 Lacs, underscore a concerted effort to enhance learning environments and provide modern facilities for students in the region.

The inauguration ceremonies and foundation stone laying event were graced by the presence of Block Development Officer, Arnia, Tehsildar Arnia, officials from the executing agency PWD (R&B) Sub Division Bishnah, Principals of Higher Secondary Schools, ZEO, Arnia, ex-sarpanches, ex-panches, and other prominent personalities



of the area. Their collective presence highlighted the community's strong support for educational advancement.

At Government Higher Secondary School, Arnia, Dr. Bhagat officially opened newly constructed facilities amounting to Rs. 49.65 Lacs. These vital additions, implemented under the central government's "SAMAGRA Shiksha" scheme, include a state-of-the-art Art/Craft room, a well-equipped Science Lab, two additional spacious classrooms, and a comprehensive library. These improvements are expected to significantly enrich the academic experience for students, fostering creativity, scientific inquiry, and a love for reading.

Following this, the delegation proceeded to Government Higher Secondary School, Allah, where new infrastructure worth Rs. 29.88 Lacs, also under the SAMAGRA Shiksha initiative, was inaugurated. This project saw the addition of three new rooms, an Art/Craft facility, a Science Lab, and a dedicated library, providing essential resources and an improved learning environment for the students of GHSS Allah.

The highlight of the day was the laying of the foundation stone for a grand new double-story building at Government Higher Secondary School, Trewa. This ambitious project, with a substantial allocation of Rs. 385.86 Lacs under the CAPEX Budget, will feature a sprawling 810 Sqm floor area and house 10 modern classrooms. This expansion is poised to address the growing demand for quality education in the area, offering ample space and improved amenities for the students of Trewa.

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, in his address, reiterated his unwavering commitment to strengthening the education sector across the region. He emphasized that these projects are not merely about constructing buildings but about investing in the future of the youth, providing them with the necessary tools and environment to excel academically and personally. The expanded and modernized facilities at these schools are set to bring about a positive transformation in the educational landscape of Bishnah, empowering students with better learning opportunities and contributing to the overall development of the community.

## PTTI Vijaypur organizes Lecture on Cyber Crime, Cyber Security

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
VIJAYPUR, MAY 24

Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI), Vijaypur organized a special guest lecture on cyber crime/cyber security for trainees and regular staff of the Institute. The lecture was attended by about (400) trainees presently undergoing various courses at the Institute besides staff members. On this occasion, Shri Ranjit Singh Sambyal-IPS, Principal PTTI Vijaypur in his inaugural address welcomed Shri Mohd Yaseen Kichloo-IPS, SSP CICE J&K Jammu for accepting the invitation to deliver the special lecture on the subject. Thereafter, the guest speaker delivered a comprehensive lecture and highlighted the importance of proper understanding of various forms of cyber crimes happening through mobile calls/SMSs/whatsapp etc. whereby the cyber scammers ask for updating of accounts, cards, document verifications, invite for investment schemes,



loans, etc. To overcome such frauds, the guest speaker laid stress upon for not sharing any sensitive information viz OTP, bank details & passwords etc. while using their mobile phones and not to click on any unknown link, photograph, SMS, spam e-mails, un-trusted websites etc on mobiles in order to avoid trapping in such scams. Lastly, the guest speaker also dis-

played some informative video clips and also demonstrated some essential physical tips and tricks to prevent these frauds. Besides trainees, the lecture was attended by staff members including Pawan Kumar Sharma-JKPS, Vice Principal, Asif Iqbal-SrPO, Davinder Gupta-DySP(Outdoor), Kushwant Singh-DySP(Admn) and NGOs of PTTI Vijaypur.

## NCC Cadets of Govt ITI Jammu organizes Tiranga Rally

**JNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 24

Under the spirited banner of Operation Sindhoor Tiranga, the NCC Cadets of Government ITI Jammu organized a vibrant and patriotic rally today, aimed at fostering national consciousness and raising awareness about the significant contributions of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) to the nation.

The event was organized under the dynamic leadership and supervision of ANO Lt. Sumit Chandel and Rajat Chandel (V.Instructor) and began with a ceremonial flag hoisting by Sh.Abdul Rashid Sheikh principal and Sh. Karan Singh, Supervisor, ITI Jammu. The rally, which proceeded through the bustling Shakti Nagar Bazar, culminated at the ITI Jammu campus, leaving a strong imprint of patriotism and discipline among the onlookers.

## Dharmarth Trust pays tributes to Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi on her death anniversary

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 24

The J&K Dharmarth Trust today paid heartfelt tributes to Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi, wife of Hon'ble Chairman Trustee Maharaja Dr. Karan Singh ji, on her death anniversary.

At the Trust's Srinagar office, Dr. P.S Pathania, President of the Trust, led the commemorative observance and paid floral tributes to the late Maharani. He highlighted her unwavering commitment to social upliftment and cultural preservation.

"Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi's contributions to our society are immeasurable. Her efforts in empowering women and promoting our rich cultural heritage have left an indelible mark on our community," Dr. Pathania said. "Her legacy serves as a beacon of inspiration, reminding us all of the importance of service, dedication, and



cultural pride."

Meanwhile, a similar programme was organised at Karaneshwar Temple, located within the premises of Shree Raghunath Ji Temple, Jammu.

On the occasion, Ashok Kumar Sharma (IPS Retd), Secretary of the Trust, performed a special Pooja and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Speaking during the ceremony, the Secretary reflected on the Maharani's enduring influence on the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "Though she has departed from this world, Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi has left a lasting

place in the hearts of the people," he said. "She will be remembered for generations for her significant role during the transformation of the state from feudalism to democracy. Her dedication to the welfare of women and her immense contributions to the promotion of Dogra, Kashmiri, and Ladakhi culture continue to inspire."

The Dharmarth Trust reaffirmed its commitment to upholding the values and ideals championed by Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi and vowed to carry forward her legacy of service and cultural enrichment.

## Red Ribbon Club celebrates Red Cross Day at GLDM Degree College, Hiranagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
HIRANAGAR, MAY 24

The Red Ribbon Club of Government GLDM Degree College, Hiranagar, successfully organized a Poster Making Competition on the theme "On the Side of Humanity", underscoring its commitment to fostering artistic expression, community engagement, and health awareness. The event was conducted in connection with the celebration of Red Cross Day, which is observed on the 5th of May every year.

The event was conducted under the directives of the DC Office, District Kathua, J&K in collaboration with the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), the J&K AIDS Control Society, and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). NACO, functioning under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, plays a pivotal role in formulating policies and implementing programs to combat HIV/AIDS nationwide.

Prof. Roopali Jamwal, Convener of the Red Ribbon Club, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the importance of RRC in colleges and its impact on youth engage-



ment in public health awareness. She praised the volunteers for their dedication in promoting such vital initiatives under the RRC banner.

More than 20 students participated in the competition, showcasing their creativity by depicting the causes, effects, and preventive measures related to HIV/AIDS. Their artwork served as a powerful medium for sensitizing the youth towards the significance of health education and social responsibility.

Prof. Jamwal emphasized that such events are crucial in shaping informed, responsible, and health-conscious citizens, ultimately contributing to the vision of a disease-free society.

Dr. Pragya Khanna, Prin-

icipal of GLDM Degree College, lauded the efforts of the Red Ribbon Club for consistently organizing impactful awareness programs. She commended the enthusiasm and active participation of students, which reflects the success of the Club's ongoing initiatives.

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Bharat Bhushan, a member of the RRC, who appreciated the volunteers and acknowledged the commendable involvement of all participants. Faculty members Prof. Namrata Choudhary and Prof. Amit Singh were also present at the event, adding to the academic significance and encouragement for the students.

## Major General AS Bevli, VSM, ADG JK&L Dte, Motivated Cadets Under Training by 1 J&K NCC Bn at NTA Nagrota



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NAGROTA, MAY 24

Major General AS Bevli, VSM, Additional Director General of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Directorate, conducted a visit today to the 1 J&K NCC Battalion presently undergoing Annual Training Camp, at the NCC Training Area (NTA) Nagrota. The primary objective of the visit was to motivate the young cadets undergoing the ongoing Annual Training Camp and to review the arrangements made for the cadets.

During his visit, Major General Bevli oversaw a range of ongoing training activities and engaged with the NCC cadets and their instructors.

He complimented the cadets for upholding exceptional standards of training, discipline, and for maintaining a robust sense of

motivation amongst themselves. The General Officer, conveyed his satisfaction with the overall execution of the training and management of the camp.

The Annual Training Camp, conducted under the auspices of the NCC Directorate JK & L, is meticulously designed to furnish cadets with a comprehensive understanding of military protocols, physical conditioning, and leadership skills. The camp emphasizes weapons training and aims to cultivate young cadets into responsible citizens and future leaders.

This visit underscores the JK & L Directorate's unwavering commitment for nurturing the potential of young individuals through rigorous, value-based training within the National Cadet Corps framework.

## Professors Sushil, Arya, Sharma of SKUAST-Jammu honored with prestigious MOBILIZATION fellow awards at Meghalaya

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 25

In a moment of immense pride for SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. S. K. Gupta, Prof. Vivak M Arya & Prof. Rakesh Sharma working under the leadership of Prof. B.N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu were bestowed with special recognition and fellow awards by the Society for Community Mobilization for Sustainable Development (MOBILIZATION) during the 12th National Seminar held in Meghalaya. The seminar, themed "Futuristic Agriculture: Technology, Sustainability and Beyond," witnessed the participation of leading agricultural experts from across India. Distinguished dignitaries gracing the occasion included: Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairperson, ASRB, New Delhi, Dr. Rajbir Singh, DDG (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, Dr. R. Roy Burman, ADG (AE), ICAR, Dr. V.K. Mishra, Director, ICAR-NEH, Meghalaya, Dr. Anupam Mishra, Vice Chancellor, CAU, Imphal, Dr. A.K. Karnatak, Vice Chancellor, MPUAT, Udaipur. Prof.



Gupta, currently serving as Director Research at SKUAST-Jammu, was conferred with a Special Recognition Award for his work in the field of agroforestry and silviculture. A distinguished expert in forestry with a specialization in silviculture and agroforestry, Prof. Gupta has made significant contributions to agri silvi-pastoral systems, particularly tailored for the Kandi region. He has successfully led numerous extramural research projects funded by both national and international agencies and is expert to many agencies like DST, DBT, NABARD.

Prof. Arya, a renowned scientist, was honored with a MOBILIZATION Fellow Award. Known for his impactful research

published in reputed journals including Elsevier, Springer, and Taylor & Francis, Prof. Arya is instrumental in promoting climate change awareness and natural resource management. Many of his students are studying in prestigious universities abroad viz. USA, Canada, Australia. His efforts span across research, training, and community engagement, benefitting farming communities throughout the Jammu province. Prof. Sharma was also awarded with the MOBILIZATION Fellowship Award. He is widely recognized for his academic contributions, quality publications, and the leadership of various research projects within the domain of agricultural extension and rural development.

## BJP holds meeting to discuss series of programmes in honour of Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 24 MAY 2025:

J&K BJP held a meeting at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu to deliberate upon a series of programmes to be organized in honour of the great Maratha queen, Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar.

The legendary ruler is remembered for her inclusive leadership, spiritual wisdom, social reform initiatives, and tireless commitment to public welfare.

The meeting was chaired by former minister Priya Sethi, and attended by programme co-convenors BJP Mahila Morcha President Sanjita Dogra, Amar Singh, Adv. Neha Mahajan, & Reema Padha, District Presidents Adv. Rajesh Gupta, & Naresh Singh Jasrotia, as well as Mandal Presidents and other senior party functionaries.

During the meeting,

detailed discussions were held regarding the structure, content, and outreach of the proposed programmes. These events are scheduled to be organized across various levels, with active involvement of the civil society,

women, youth, and cultural organizations.

While addressing the meeting, Priya Sethi described Ahilyabai Holkar as a timeless symbol of good governance, compassion, and justice. "Her reign is remembered for its

administrative excellence, peaceful coexistence, and significant contributions to infrastructure, including the renovation and construction of temples, dharamshalas, and water bodies across India," Sethi said.

She added that Ahilyabai's leadership was rooted in Indian cultural values, and her ideals of justice, inclusivity, and development continue to serve as guiding principles for modern governance. "The upcoming pro-

## ICG and Haldia Dock Complex conduct Marine Pollution Response Workshop to Strengthen Oil Spill Readiness



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 24

Indian Coast Guard (ICG), in collaboration with the Haldia Dock Complex (HDC), hosted a two-day Marine Pollution Response Seminar and Workshop from May 21-22, 2025. Held in Haldia, the event aimed

at enhancing preparedness, coordination, and rapid response capability among key stakeholders in managing oil spill incidents along the West Bengal coast.

The seminar, inaugurated by the ICG Commander (West Bengal), featured expert presentations by domain specialists from the

ICG and HDC at the Coast Guard Pollution Response Cell. A practical demonstration of pollution response equipment was held at the HDC, giving participants a hands-on understanding of the capabilities of state-of-the-art pollution response systems.

Stakeholders from across

the maritime and petrochemical sectors including Kolkata Port Trust, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. Haldia Refinery, Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Reliance Haldia Terminals, and others actively participated.

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**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, JAMMU**

**E-NOTICE INVITING BIDS FOR OUTSOURCING OF HUT AT KALSOTE UDHAMPUR**

**e-NIT No. 07 of 2025-26 Dated: 23/05/2025**

On behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K, e-tenders are invited from registered Individuals/Firms/Companies for outsourcing of Hut at Kalsote Udhampur for a period of 05 years extendable by another 5 years subject to satisfactory performance(as is where is basis)of the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu.

S.No	Name of the Asset	Minimum Franchise Fee	Franchise Period	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document
1	2 Hut at Kalsote Udhampur (01No)	3 Rs. 88,800/- annually with increase of 15% after every 3 years on bid amount of the Successful bidder.	4 05 years extendable by another 5 years subject to satisfactory performance	5 Rs. 10,000/- (Ten thousand only)	6 Rs.500/-

1. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 23/05/2025 1000 Hrs to 12/06/2025 1600 Hrs.

2. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 23/05/2025 1000 Hrs to 12/06/2025 1600 Hrs.

3. Bids of bidders shall be opened online in the office of Director Tourism, Jammu on 13/06/2025 at 1400 Hrs. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the tender document, bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

4. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> containing qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, conditions and other details.

Dy. Director Tourism,  
Jammu

No: DTJ/Est/T/13-14  
Dated:- 23-05-2025

DIP/J-1436/25  
Date: 24-5-25

## Indian Army provides Relief to Shelling affected Border Areas of Poonch

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, MAY 24

Continuing its outreach efforts, the Indian Army extended humanitarian assistance to families residing in border villages of Poonch District, impacted by enemy shelling under Operation Milap. Recognizing the hardships faced by civilians due to ongoing security operations and harsh terrain, the Indian Army organized relief distribution campaigns to supply essential medicines and ration kits to needy locals. The aid focused on providing immediate medical support, including first-aid supplies, common medicines, and consultations by Indian Army medical personnel. Alongside this, ration containing staples such as rice, wheat flour, pulses, sugar, salt, and cooking oil were distributed to ensure food security



for the affected families. This initiative underscores the Indian Army's commitment not only to national security but also to the welfare of civilians in conflict-prone and remote areas. Local villagers expressed gratitude for the timely support, which helped alleviate short-

ages and fostered a sense of safety and solidarity. The outreach reflects the Indian Army's broader approach of "winning hearts and minds" through civic action, especially in regions where access to government services is limited due to geographic and security challenges.

## Natrang artist Supria Gorka wins National Scholarship Award

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 24

Promising young Natrang artist Supria Gorka brought laurels for the UT of Jammu & Kashmir by winning the National Scholarship Award in the field of Theatre Acting. This award of National scholarship has been instituted by the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Supria is the only artist from J&K in all the categories of this competition to win this prestigious National Award. Supria was introduced to theatre by Balwant Thakur through a professional theatre training process with his play 'Rang Badalti Duniya' and later she was given the opportunity by Natrang to performed in the play "The Wizard



of OZ', 'Parampara', and 'Rehearsal' under the direction of Neeraj Kant. Director of Natrang, Padamashiri Balwant Thakur complimented both Kesar Parveen and Sham Lal Gorka, the mother and father of Supria Gorka for bringing pride and honour not only for Natrang but for the entire Jammu & Kashmir. Terming this very big for the reason that only one artist from the entire J&K could make it to that. This accomplish-

ment of hers will inspire many young artists of the region to achieve and excel in this field. Balwant Thakur further said that Natrang has played a very crucial role in introducing the art of theatre amongst youth through its various innovative initiatives and programmes. On the occasion he also complimented Sumeet Sharma the head of Children wing of Natrang for holding regular theatre workshops and training programmes and maintaining the tradition of regular children theatre in Jammu. The National Award to Supria is the result of such dedicated efforts and initiatives of Natrang. Under this award of National Scholarship, Supria will undergo intense theatre training under Balwant Thakur till she attains the age of 20.

## SSP Doda visits far-flung areas of Bhaderwah aiming to improve hinterland security grid



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BHADERWAH, MAY 24

SSP Doda Sh. Sandeep Mehta, JKPS along with other District officers including Addl. Superintendent of Police Bhaderwah Sh. Vinod Sharma SHO PS Bhaderwah Suresh Kumar carried out a public meeting with the locals of Panchayat Manthala, Bhaderwah here today. The meeting was attended by prominent local leaders including DDC Chairman Sh. Dhananter Singh, Ex. Serviceman president Sh. Raj Singh Charak, Sarpanches/Panches of the adjoining panchayats/villages falling in the area. It was highly appreciated by the locals for the steps

taken by SSP Doda Sh. Sandeep Mehta to directly listen to the grievances of locals in the area. While addressing the issues, the locals requested that regular training sessions may be imparted to VDG members to enhance their preparedness and response capabilities for the counter insurgencies and demanded to increase their honorarium in order to boost their morale. SSP Doda gave a patient hearing to each grievance and assured that the matters raised would be taken up with the higher authorities on priority. He also directed local police officials accompanying her to compile a detailed report and initiate neces-

sary follow-up actions. The visit received a positive response from the local communities, who expressed gratitude towards Doda Police for reaching out to them and acknowledging the efforts of VDGs. SSP Doda reaffirmed that the police department is committed to addressing the concerns of the locals as well as VDG members and will continue to strengthen coordination with grassroots security mechanisms. The SSP appreciated the VDG members' efforts in maintaining local security and encouraged continued collaboration. He also saw public Corporation in every sphere of policing in District Doda.

## BJP J&K delegation visits shelling affected villages in Karnah, Kupwara

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, 24 MAY 2025:

A senior delegation of J&K BJP visited several shelling-affected villages in the Karnah Tangdhar in Kupwara district to assess the on-ground situation and express solidarity with families affected by recent cross-border shelling from Pakistan.

The delegation included J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, Leader of Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly Sunil Sharma, J&K BJP General Secretary Dr. D.K. Manyal (MLA), and BJP Spokesperson R.S. Pathania (MLA). They were accompanied by District President Kupwara Rafiq Shah, senior leader Anwar Khan, local BJP district team members, and other senior party functionaries.

During the visit, the delegation toured various impacted areas including Dhani, Trungi, Chowkibal, Tarboni, Batpora, and other nearby villages in the Tangdhar sub division, that have faced the brunt of Pakistani shelling in recent days. The BJP leaders interacted extensively with local residents, especially those whose homes



and properties have been damaged or whose lives have been disrupted by the constant threat of shelling.

Sat Sharma assured the residents that all their grievances have been duly noted. He said, "The BJP stands shoulder to shoulder with the people living in border areas. We will prepare a comprehensive report to be submitted to the Government of India to ensure that relief, compensation, and long-term rehabilitation measures are implemented at the earliest." He further stressed the need for improved infrastructure and emergency response systems in these vulnerable regions.

Sunil Sharma, while interacting with locals, lauded their bravery and resilience, stating, "The people living on the borders of our nation are true patriots. Their courage

and unbreakable spirit in the face of adversity is no less than that of a soldier defending the nation."

Dr. Narinder Singh emphasized the party's commitment to the region, saying, "This visit is not symbolic. We are here to listen, record, and act. The BJP is dedicated to finding long-term solutions for the safety and development of border communities."

Dr. D.K. Manyal stated, "Immediate medical and psychological support is critical for families, especially children, exposed to trauma due to shelling. We will push for mobile health units and trauma counseling centers."

R.S. Pathania highlighted the policy framework required to support affected people. He stressed that the existing relief mechanism must be overhauled to respond swiftly and effectively in times of crisis."

## NCC Cadets Tour Army Aviation Squadron at Nagrota

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NAGROTA, MAY 24

A group of cadets from 1 J&K NCC Battalion visited the Indian Army Aviation Squadron (Repair & Overhaul) at Nagrota, offering them a rare and valuable opportunity to gain first-hand insight into the operational and technical aspects of Army Aviation. The visit commenced with a warm welcome by the Squadron personnel, followed by an engaging briefing session detailing the squadron's illustrious history, core mission, and its vital contributions to national defence. The cadets were introduced to the nuances of flight operations, aircraft maintenance protocols, and the essential role played by aviation units in modern military operations. The highlight of the visit was a



guided tour of the aircraft hangars, where cadets closely observed the aircraft and interacted with pilots and ground crew. These interactions provided deep insight into flight instrumentation, aviation safety, and the rigorous discipline and precision that underpin successful air operations. Throughout the visit, cadets displayed exceptional enthusiasm, discipline, and a thirst for knowledge. Their curiosity and engagement with the aviation professionals underscored

the significance of such military-civil interactions in nurturing future leaders of the armed forces. The visit concluded with a group photograph, symbolizing the camaraderie and mutual respect shared during the day. Such engagements serve not only to educate and inspire the youth but also to strengthen the bond between the Indian Armed Forces and future generations. The event was a resounding success and a memorable experience for all involved.

## Indian Army holds Interaction with Gujjar, Bakkarwals at Kesri Hill, Rajouri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, MAY 24

Gujjar and Bakkarwals are one of the most rustic ethnic groups of the Himalayas and are considered as one of the most historically rich tribes of the region due to their culture and ethnic traditions. These tribes comprise approximately 11% of the total population of Jammu & Kashmir. A large number of Gujjar and Bakkarwals follow nomadic lifestyle. Every year these Gujjar and Bakkarwals migrate to the higher reaches of Pir Panjal Ranges as part of their customary seasonal migratory practice. In continuation of efforts to maintain connect with these tribes and resolve their issues, Indian Army interacted with the Gujjar and Bakkarwals on 24 May 2025 at Kesri Hill as part



of Rajouri District. A total of 49 Gujjar and Bakkarwals attended the event. The interaction was aimed at understanding their problems and issues faced by the community during their migration to higher reaches, their basic requirements pertaining to documentation for migration, awareness about Forest Rights Act of 2006 and education of their children. The locals lauded the efforts

of Indian Army for organising such a unique event for Gujjar and Bakkarwals prior to migratory season and listening to various issues and problems faced by the community. This initiative of Indian Army will go a long way in further strengthening and cementing the already existing bond between the Awam and Indian Army and will benefit the Gujjar Bakkarwal community to a great extent.

## Ashok Koul chairs organizational meeting of Kathua BJP, focuses on grassroots work



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, 24 MAY 2025:

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP, chaired a meeting of BJP District Kathua at its District Office in Kathua.

The meeting served as a platform for detailed discussions on party activities, strategies, and the way forward in strengthening the party's base across all levels.

District President Updesh Andotra, Hiranagar Assembly MLA Adv. Vijay Sharma, Kathua Assembly MLA Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Vice President of District Development Council (DDC) Raghunandan Singh Bablu, senior leaders Gopal Mahajan, Prem Nath Dogra, Kuldeep, Ravinder Sharma, Gagan Sharma, and other prominent leaders were present in the meeting.

Ashok Koul addressed the gathering with a strong emphasis on organizational discipline and unity. He highlighted the BJP's status as the largest political party in the world and urged all workers to take pride in being associated with such a monumental political force.

He further motivated the cadre to continue working with dedication and in an organized manner to ensure the successful implementation of the party's vision and policies

at the grassroots level.

"The strength of any political party lies in its workers. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the party's ideology reaches every household. Our programs must be effectively communicated and implemented at the booth level to build a strong and responsive organization," Koul stated.

Updesh Andotra, on the behalf of senior leaders, district, mandal teams expressed the determination to work collectively for the continued growth and success of the BJP in the region.

Adv. Vijay Sharma assured the senior leadership of his commitment to the party's goals. He stated that the leadership's directives are being followed with utmost sincerity and that every possible step is being taken to bolster the party's presence from the booth to the state level.

Dr. Bharat Bhushan reaffirmed that consistent efforts are underway to expand the BJP's base and to connect with the masses more effectively, ensuring inclusivity and development for all.

A sapling was planted in the premises of the BJP District Office by Ashok Koul, symbolizing growth, sustainability, and the party's commitment to a greener future.

## JMC initiates devp of Green Spaces under NCAP



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAY 24

In a major step towards enhancing urban greenery and improving air quality under the National Clean Air Program (NCAP), Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, today conducted an extensive tour to various areas under the jurisdiction of Jammu Municipal corporation.

During the tour, the Commissioner visited the various area which include Narwal, Bathindi, Sunjwan, Greater Kailash, Bakshi Nagar (near Pawan Ice Cream), near BSF Paloura, near Super Specialty Hospital, and BC Road. The objective of the tour was to assess and

identify suitable spots for the development/creation of green spaces aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and public well-being.

The initiative is a significant step under NCAP to transform open spaces in urban areas into eco-friendly zones, thereby contributing to cleaner air and a healthier living environment for city residents.

Among others, Joint Commissioner, (H&S), Abdul Star, Joint Commissioner (Works) Firdous Ahmed Qazi, Executive Engineer, Project, Lokesh Gupta, Chief Transport Officer, Dharamveer Singh, and other senior officers accompanied the Commissioner during the tour.

## Sarthal Devi Management Council mourns untimely demise of Dr. Pardeep Trehan

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MAY 24

Sarthal Devi Management Council, Kishtwar, today mourned the untimely demise of Dr. Pardeep Trehan, husband of Rajkumari Dr. Jyotsana Singh and son-in-law of Dr. Karan Singh ji, former Sadr-e-

Riyasat of Jammu & Kashmir. Dr. Trehan passed away in New Delhi after a brief illness. In this regard, a condolence meeting was held at the Council's Office in Kishtwar under the chairmanship of Sanjeev Parihar, Vice Chairman of Sarthal Devi Management Council, Kishtwar.

# Yousmarg to be developed as next Gulmarg: Speaker Legislative Assembly

JNEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, MAY 24

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today said that special focus will be laid on developing the scenic tourist destination Yousmarg as the next Gulmarg.

He made these remarks while inaugurating a newly constructed Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Nagbal, in Charar-i-Sharief Constituency, built at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.88 crore.

Highlighting the government's vision, the Speaker stated that Yousmarg will be equipped with all modern tourist facilities including a gondola, all-weather connectivity, skiing and other recreational and basic amenities. He emphasised that this development of Yousmarg will significantly uplift the socio-economic conditions of the local population living in kandi area.

Speaking on the importance of the health sector, the Speaker noted that the newly inaugurated PHC will provide essential medical services to the residents of Nagbal and adjoining Kandi areas.



He said that the building, completed at a cost of Rs. 1.53 crore, will require an additional Rs. 35 lakh for construction of a boundary wall, landscaping and development of the approach road.

The Speaker said that the PHC is equipped to offer ECG, dental care, gynecology services, separate male and female wards and minor operation theatre facilities. He inspected various sections of the facility, including

the general wards, minor OT, dental unit, immunization area and took stock of availability of medicine at pharmacy section.

He remarked that the establishment of this health centre will minimize the need for residents to travel long distances to avail medical services in Srinagar or Charar-i-Sharief.

The Speaker also highlighted sanctioning of other PHC buildings across the constituency, including,

Kanir, Tilsara, Nowpora, Hushroo, Nilnag, Bonen, Watkalu, as well as the Sub-District Hospitals at Charar-i-Sharief, Pakherpora and Nagam, all of which are functional and catering to local healthcare needs.

"Work on PHC Challein Chhotnar and other health and educational projects will also be expedited and dedicated to the general public soon," he said.

The Speaker reiterated that, alongside overall

infrastructure development, particular attention will be given to improving the health and education sectors in Charar-i-Sharief.

"Under the Aspirational Plan for Surasyar and Pakherpora, additional funds shall be utilized on improvement of health and education sectors," Speaker said.

He further assured that all pending development projects including macadamization of all main and inner roads in Charar-i-Sharief will be completed on priority and dedicated to the public at the earliest.

During the visit, several public delegations met the Speaker and presented their demands and grievances. He gave them a patient hearing and assured that all genuine concerns will be taken up with the concerned authorities for prompt redressal. Among others, ADC Budgam Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, CEO Yousmarg Development Authority Bilal Khurshid, SDM Chadoora Primrose Bashir, CMO Budgam, Dr. Gulzar, Assistant Director Health, Dr Sabha and other senior officers and officials were also present on the occasion.

# RAMP awareness programme held at Bhaderwah

JNEWS SERVICE  
BHADERWAH, MAY 24

The District Industries Centre (DIC), under the guidance of General Manager S. Paramjeet Singh, organized a RAMP Awareness-cum-On-Spot Udyam Registration Camp at Community Hall, Bhaderwah. The event was part of the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme to support and empower Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Jammu & Kashmir.

The main goal of the programme was to raise awareness about various government schemes, promote Udyam registration, and support aspiring entrepreneurs. A large number of entrepreneurs participated, including many who



registered their enterprises on the spot with the help of representatives from different departments.

Officers from Handicrafts and Handlooms, JKEDI, JKTPO, and CSCs departments took part in the event. Key speakers Tarun Sudan, Jatinder Bharti, and Neeraj Sharma informed participants about the benefits of Udyam registration and guided them through the process.

General Manager S. Paramjeet Singh highlighted the importance of for-

mulating MSMEs to access financial support, market linkages, and other government assistance. He stated that connecting entrepreneurs with the MSME ecosystem is essential for building a strong and competitive business environment in the region.

The DIC thanked all participating departments and stakeholders and assured that such outreach activities would continue in other parts of the district to support local entrepreneurs.

# DM Reasi reviews NPA cases under SARFAESI Act to expedite resolution

JNEWS SERVICE  
REASI, MAY 24

In a significant step towards expediting the resolution of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and strengthening coordination between financial institutions and borrowers, the District Magistrate Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired a meeting today to review cases under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.

During the meeting, 5 NPA cases were discussed. District Magistrate emphasized the need for streamlining enforcement procedures and promoting mutual resolution of disputes. She stressed that recovery processes must adhere strictly to legal pro-



visions while upholding the principles of transparency, fairness, and sensitivity, especially in cases involving genuine financial hardship.

District Magistrate also urged banks to actively pursue NPA cases with their head offices and explore all feasible settlement options before initiating legal proceedings, which should remain a measure of last resort. Addressing borrow-

ers, the DM called for time-bound repayment plans to resolve outstanding dues and directed concerned officials to bring detailed case reports, along with borrowers, to the next scheduled review meeting.

The meeting was attended by ADC Rakesh Kumar, senior officials from various banks operating in the district and concerned borrowers.

# DC inspects progress of renovation works at Sports Stadium Doda

JNEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MAY 24

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh today conducted an inspection of the ongoing development and renovation works here at the Sports Stadium. The visit was aimed at assessing the pace and quality of the construction activities being undertaken to upgrade the stadium's infrastructure for the benefit of local youth and sports enthusiasts.

During the inspection, the DC reviewed the progress of the renovation of the sports ground and issued directions for ensuring a proper and regular water supply to maintain healthy grass cover on the stadium's playing surface. He stressed that a well-maintained turf is essential for promoting outdoor



sports and creating a safe environment for athletes. The DC also inspected the ongoing tile work in the seating area and instructed the executing agencies to maintain quality standards.

He further directed the officials from the PWD (R&B) Department and the contractor to expedite the pace of work and ensure that all pending tasks are completed within the stipulated timeframe. The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of the project in enhancing

the district's sports infrastructure, which will help nurture young talent and promote a culture of fitness and physical activity.

The DC emphasized the need for proper coordination among the executing agencies and called for close monitoring to avoid any delays. He reiterated the administration's commitment to developing modern sports facilities in the district and urged all stakeholders to work diligently towards achieving this goal.

# Power shutdown

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 24

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Company Bagh, Ware House, Jewel, Chand Nagar, Krishna Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 26 from 00:00 hours (Mid Night) to 04:00 Hous of 26 May.

Similarly, the power supply to Jakhole, Bakhta,

Chainpura, some industries feeding power from R/Stn No 1, IID Govindsar, Logate Industry, Sahar, Kumri Kathera, MES Janglote, Aegious Polyfilms and other adjoining areas will remain affected on May 25 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Billawar, Mandi, Dewal, Pranalla, Tandi, Macheedi, Bhaddu, Kudethar and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 26 and 28 from 7 am to 3 pm.

# SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu conducts water rescue exercise at Jia Pota Ghat on banks of river Chenab



JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAY 24

SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu, on the direction of Commandant Zahid Naseem Manhas, conducted a Water Rescue Exercise today in river Chenab near Jia Pota Ghat Akhnoor.

The event formed the part of ongoing 21 day disaster management training being imparted to Armed

Police personnel at SDRF 2nd Bn., HQ Jammu.

During the training, the Dy SP Dinesh Gupta briefed the trainees about the necessary precautions to be taken during the water rescue operation. The real time scenario helped to showcase different types of disasters that may occur during Monsoon season like flash flood/landslide etc.

All the trainees were

practically involved in the water rescue demonstration conducted by I/C Inspector Mohinder Parkash and SI Sudershan Singh. The team consisted of 15 SDRF personnel. Among others present were SDO Akhnoor Varinder Gupta; Dy. SP and SHO Akhnoor Inspector Sanjeev Chib and 2 personnel from Health Department.

## \*Defeat Dengue\*

"Each one can do one action for everyone"

Everyone besides personal protection can do a little action to protect Community

**Examples**

- filling a pit, which could stagnate water and breed mosquitoes,
- Emptying a pit with water logging,
- Spread awareness by word of mouth,
- Give a lecture in a School/Anganwadi Center/Urban slums regarding dengue awareness,
- Report a drinking water pipe leak stagnating water, to PHE by sharing it's Geo - tagged video,
- Report a Drain block, stagnating water to Municipal Corporation by sharing it's Geo - tagged video,
- Use of Social Medias i.e X (Formely Twitter), Instagram, Facebook & Whatsapp etc for Awareness of fellow community members & for Flagging the issues that need to be addressed.
- In the fridges with drip pan/defrost trays, dry and wipe these once in 7 days.
- Turn upside down any thrown away disposable glasses/bottles stagnating water during your morning/evening walks.

+Add your innovation+

➤ You can add your innovation by communicating it on e-mail id: [smlogist.jk1@gmail.com](mailto:smlogist.jk1@gmail.com), We will acknowledge it.

"Kindly do one action and add one innovation"

"Together we can do it"

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