

Srinagar **SATURDAY** MAY 03 2025 05 Dhu al-Qadah 1446 Issue No: 104 Volume: 15

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# **Unity Key Strength of India Besides Its Military Power: PM Narendra Modi**

HT News Network/KNO

AMARAVATI, MAY 02: After getting full support from NDA allies for his government's response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 people, mostly tourists dead, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that India's strength today is not just in its weapons but also in its unity.

Addressing a rally in Amaravati, PM Modi, according to the news agency–), said, "Unity is a key strength of India besides its military strength."

Minutes before the Prime Minister's address, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan referred to the Pahalgam terror attack and voiced their open support to the Prime Minister in his

actions against Pakistan and terrorism.

SC grants interim protection to Srinagar

family facing deportation amid Pahalgam fallout

"Today, our strength is not just weapons but also our unity. (Aaj humari taqat humare hathiyaar hi nahi hai... humari ekta bhi hai). Ekta malls are being built throughout the country," said, PM Modi.

**Multifarious activities** 

Ganderbal

against drug abuse held in educational institutions in

P|07

"India has tested a new DRDO missile. We are boosting our defence sector by spending more on the defence sector. We laid the foundation stne of DRDO's Missile Test Range at Nagayalanka. The Navdurga Testing Range being built in Nagayalanka will empower the nation's defence power, just like Goddess Durga," he added.

Pertinently, after the Pahalgam terror attack PM Modi led Government has downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan. The Indus Water Treaty has been put in abeyance, while Pak nationals and TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### **Bye-elections in J&K:ECI set to complete** voter revision exercise in Budgam, Nagrota seats Electoral roll to be unveiled on Monday

### HT News Network/UNI

SRINAGAR, MAY 02: The authorities are set to complete the special summary revision of electoral rolls in Budgam and Nagrota seats, which are lying vacant in Jammu & Kashmir Assembly for more than six months now.

Official sources told news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that voter revision exercise would be completed



in these segments on May 5 (Monday) with publication of the final electoral roll. "The conclusion of the exercise would set the ball rolling for

the announcement of the schedule for electoral exercise by the Election Commission of India," they said, adding that it will take into account the situation in Jammu and Kashmir following the Pahalgam attack before announcing the schedule for the upcoming polls.

Both these seats fell vacant in October last year. Omar Abdullah vacated the Budgam seat on October 21, while the TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### HT News Network/UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 2 (UNI) In a significant order, the Supreme Court on Friday granted interim protection to a Srinagar-based family facing the risk of deportation to Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack that occurred on April 22.

A bench comprising justices Surya Kant and NK Singh directed the authorities not to take any coercive action, including deportation, against the family until a decision is made after verifying their claims of Indian nation-



ality. The family, which includes a married couple and their four children, contended that they are Indian citizens and possess valid government identification such as Aadhaar cards, PAN TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### **Pahalgam attack** will be avenged: LoP Sharma

**HT News Network/UNI** 



SRINAGAR, MAY 02: Stating that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi April 22 Pahalgam attack will be avenged, Leader of Opposition and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Sunil Sharma on Friday said that the perpetrators will be hunted down and taught a lesson.

Sharma, according to the news agency-said, "Everyone is aware that PM Modi fulfills his promise. But, we will have to wait for the revenge of the Pahalgam attack. Those responsible will be hunted down.'

Sharma also said that the country under the leadership of PM Modi has witnessed a change.

"The time has gone when the other countries would dare to undermine Bharat. It is Modi's Bharat and those responsible will be brought to justice," he said. "Bharat continues to follow TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Lightning kills Kulgam man, cloudburst triggers flash flood in Ramban, Jammu-Srinagar Highway closed

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 02 A man died after a lightning struck him in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, while flash floods triggered by a cloud burst in Ramban District led to the closure of Jammu-Srinagar National



**Dal Lake boat capsizes** near Duck Park; one rescued, one still missing

HT News Network

### Hope Pakistan cooperates with India to ensure Pahalgam terrorists are hunted down: US VP Vance

### HT News Network/UNI

WASHINGTON/NEW DEL-HI, MAY 2 (UNI) Backing India's stance that the Pahalgam terrorist attack was overseen by handlers in Pakistan,



Trump administration is worried about the breakout of tensions between India and Pakistan, he said:

"Sure, I am worried about anytime you see a hotspot breaking out, especially between two nuclear powers. "We've obviously been in close contact with our friends in India and Pakistan. "Our hope is that India responds to this terrorist attack in a way that doesn't

Highway yet again, officials and reports said on Friday.

According to the details available with the news agency-a 37-year-old auto driver, Tariq Ahmad Padder, of Gansorgam, Kulgam, died after being struck by lightning TURN ON.....PAGE 02

SRINAGAR, MAY 02: A boat capsized in Dal Lake near Duck Park on Friday afternoon, after which authorities launched a rescue operation that was halted late in the evening TURN ON.....PAGE 02

the US Vice President JD Vance has asked Islamabad to cooperate with New Delhi and ensure that the terrorists are hunted down and dealt with. Vance also said that the US is in touch with both Pakistan



regional conflict.

that New Delhi's response to

the April 22 terrorist attack

does not lead to a broader

Asked by Fox News if the

TURN ON ..... PAGE 02

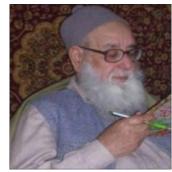
### Moulana Mubarki laid to rest in Srinagar hundreds attend funeral prayers

Ayub Mubaraki leads Namaaz-e-Janaza at Jama Masjid; Mirwaiz, Grand Mufti, others attend

#### HT News Network

#### SRINAGAR, MAY 02: An out-

pouring of grief was witnessed in Srinagar on Friday as thousands of people gathered at the historic Jama Masjid Srinagar to attend the funeral of Maulana Mubarak Mubarki, a prominent Islamic scholar, preacher and President of Bazm-e-Tawheed, who passed away on



Friday.The funeral prayers (Namaz-e-Janaza) were led by his son, Ayub Mubarki, in the Masjid's courtyard, where people from across the Valley, including scholars, students, followers and common citizens offered their last respects. As per the details available

with the news agency-, emotions ran high as people

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### Pak troops resort to cross border shelling for 8th consecutive night, get befitting reply

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 02: Pakistani troops continued unprovoked firing in five districts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir for eight consecutive night on Thursday, officials said.

Jammu based defence spokesman, according to the news agency-said, "During the night of May 1-2, 2025, Pakistani Army posts resorted to unprovoked small arms fire from posts across the LoC opposite Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Naushera, and Akhnoor areas of J&K." "Indian Army

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### **RTI clarifies no limit on student half-fare** concession on JKRTC, Smart City buses

Students denied benefit asked to lodge complaint directly with corporation

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 02: A recent RightToInformation(RTI)replyhas clarified longstanding confusion regarding the student half-fare concession on Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) and Smart City buses across the union territory.

Social activist Shahid Shafi from Chakoora Pulwama had sought clarity after reports, supported by some drivers and district General



Managers, that only five students perbus could avail of the concession. The RTI response, accessed by the news agency-, from the JKRTC,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### DC Pulwama felicitates tent-dwelling tribal girl for scoring over 92% in Class 12 exams without coaching 'Meeting IAS officer made me feel I'm one step closer to achieving goal'

### HT News Network

PULWAMA, MAY 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom, on Friday felicitated Shabnum Sadiq, a tribal girl from the remote Paner area of Tral, for her remarkable academic achievement in the Class 12 examinations. Despite living in a polythene tent amid challenging conditions, Shabnum secured an impressive 463 marks-over92%-without any coaching or external help.

Hailing from a marginalised tribal TURN ON ..... PAGE 02



Only 9 Out of 32 Students Pass **Class 12 Exams at Govt Girls Hr** Sec School town Baramulla; **Faculty Blames Chronic Absenteeism** 

### UMAR RASHID

BARAMULLA: 2 MAY : In a concerning development, only 9 out of 32 students managed to pass the Class 12 board examinations at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Old Town, Baramulla, reflecting a dismal pass per

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

### **Srinagar court dismisses** obscenity plea against **Gulmarg fashion show**

### HT News Network/UNI

SRINAGAR, MAY 2 (UNI) A Court in Srinagar has dismissed a complaint alleging that the designer duo Shivan & Narresh, ELLE India's Editor-in-Chief, and unnamed models, committed obscenity during a fashion show held at the famous ski resort of Gulmarg.

The controversy stems from a skiwear fashion show held on March 7 in snowy Gulmarg that triggered massive outrage in Kashmir, with political and religious leaders condemning the event as "obscene" and demanding accountability. The organisers later tendered an unconditional apology for the fashion show.

After the outrage, a complainant was filed in a Srinagar court by Aadil Nazir Khan, a leader of the Awami Ittehad





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### **CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....**

### РМ

diplomats in India have been sent back. Amid growing indications of tough action against the Pahalgam terror attack perpetrators, PM Modi has given complete operational freedom to the armed forces to decide on the mode, targets and timing of response to Pakistan.

During the past ten days PM Modi has chaired two back to back meetings of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and has passed strict directions to eliminate terror and its supporters-

### LOP

values of humanity even after witnessing the attacks like Uri, Pulwama and Pahalgam. India has never compromised with these values and witnessed the growth. However, some people who are not happy with this growth are trying to destabilize the peace and killing innocents," he said.

He added that PM Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have already promised that the Pahalgam terror attack will be avenged. "India stands at the top and follows the values of humanity in letter and spirit," he said.

Sharma also remembered Adi Shankaracharya and greeted the people on the occasion of Shankaracharya Jayanti-

### SC

cards, voter IDs, and Indian passports. Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the Pahalgam attack, prompting the Indian government to suspend visa services for Pakistani nationals and mandate that all Pakistani citizens leave the country by April 27.

Despite this, the petitioner-family family alleged that they were detained unjustly, even though one of them had long surrendered his Pakistani passport and settled in India

Advocate Nanda Kishore, representing the family, informed the Court that while one family member works in Bangalore, the rest are settled in Srinagar.

The bench emphasized the need for proper verification of the family's documents before any action is taken.

"Besides the human element, there are issues which need to be verified. Since the factual plea requires verification, we dispose of the matter without expressing anything on merits, with a direction to authorities to verify the documents and any other relevant facts brought to their notice."

The court instructed that an appropriate decision be taken by the authorities at the earliest, while refraining from prescribing a fixed timeline. The bench made it clear that if the family is not satisfied with the outcome, they may approach the Jammu and Kashmir High Court for further relief.

"This order shall not be treated as a

"Please check the status of roads before starting your journey," a traffic official said.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic National Highway (Ramban), Raja Adil Hamid said that restoration work is underway to clear the debris and resume traffic.

He said most of the vehicles have already been cleared, while some stranded ones have been halted at safer locations. "Our priority will be to clear traffic going uphill," he said.

Pertinently, flashfloods last month had washed away significant portion of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and the restoration work is on

**GUSTY WINDS WREAK HAVOC** 

Meanwhile, the gusty winds followed by the moderate rainfall wreaked havoc in several areas as the reports about the uprooting of a tree was received from SKICC here, leading to the massive traffic jam along the route.

Moreover, the reports were received that a tree uprooted near SKICC this afternoon amidst the gusty winds, causing huge traffic jam along the route.

Furthermore, two flights were also diverted due to the windstorm today.

According to an official, IndiGo flights 6E896/2305 (Delhi-Srinagar-Delhi) and 6E214 (Mumbai-Srinagar-Ixj) were unable to land at Srinagar International Airport due to windstorms and have been diverted to Chandigarh and Delhi, respectively.

Moreover, as predicted by the local Meteorological department, (MeT), rains lashed several central and southern areas of Kashmir this afternoon.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is a possibility of brief spell showers at isolated to scattered places with thunder and gusty winds till May 05-

### DAL

due to poor visibility and fading light. While one person was rescued earlier in the day, efforts to locate the second individual have so far been unsuccessful. The rescue teams plan to resume their search with the first light on Saturday morning.

Officials told the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the incident occurred during gusty winds when two fishermen in the lake were caught off guard. Their boat was overwhelmed by the sudden weather change and capsized near Duck Park.

"The two fishermen jumped into the water in an attempt to save themselves. One of them, identified as Abdul Majeed Khosa, son of Mohammad Sultan Khosa from Rainawari, Srinagar, was rescued immediately. Despite continuous efforts, the second person, Taufeeq Ahmad Chopan (24), son of Ghulam Mohammad Chopan, a resident of Chopan Mohalla, Rainawari remains missing," an official said.

The rescue operation involved teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) along with divers and rescue boats deployed to thoroughly scan the area. However, as darkness set in, the operation was suspended due to limited underwater visibility and poor lighting conditions. An SDRF official said that despite extensive search efforts using specialised equipment, there were no signs of the missing person. "The rescue teams will resume the search at first light tomorrow (Saturday) morning to ensure all efforts are exhausted in locating the individual," the official said-

### **MUBARKI**

thronged the venue to bid farewell to the man they revered as a scholar, guide, and humble servant of faith.

Among those present were prominent Islamic scholars and clergy, including Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir, Nasir-ul-Islam, Allama Sheikh Al-Kindi, Moulana Abdul Majeed Dar, and Moulana Akharni, among others.

Their participation reflected the deep respect Maulana Mubarki commanded in religious circles.

Moreover, Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr. Umar Farooq, Chairman of the Muttahida Majlise-Ulema, also attended the funeral and expressed heartfelt condolences.

Recalling his recent visit to the ailing cleric, Mirwaiz said despite his frailty, he recognised him instantly and spoke with affection and clarity.

"His passing is a personal loss to me and a great misfortune for Kashmir's religious landscape," said Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir.

In the meanwhile, the first part of the funeral was held at 4:00 PM at Jama Masjid, followed by a second prayer and burial at his residence in Sanat Nagar, Srinagar.

Moreover, Maulana Mubarki was known for his profound Islamic knowledge, compassionate preaching, and decades of service as Khateeb of Bazar Masjid Srinagar.

His speeches, rooted in unity, humility, and service to society, left an indelible mark on generations of Kashmiris.

Additionally, condolences and tributes continue to pour in from across the region, with religious bodies, scholars, and members of the public describing his death as an irreparable loss to Kashmir's religious and spiritual traditions-

### PAK

responded in a calibrated and proportionate manner," he added.

Pertinently, the most recent cross-border shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) began on April 23, 2025, with unprovoked firing from Pakistan reported in the Tattapani sector of Poonch.

This marked the start of a series of ceasefire violations by Pakistani forces, escalating tensions following the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, which killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

Since then, shelling and small-arms fire have continued intermittently, with notable incidents reported across multiple sectors, including Naushera, Sunderbani, Akhnoor, Kupwara, Baramulla, and the Pargwal sector along the International Border, occurring over several consecutive nights up to last night.

It may be recalled that during a hotline conversation on April 30, 2025, between the **Directors General of Military Operations** (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan, India issued a stern warning to Pakistan, reiterating that such unprovoked actions violate the 2003

for mobility aids like wheelchairs and tricycles-

### **DC PULWAMA**

HT - NEWS

community and facing daily hardships such as long walks to school and extreme weather, Shabnum's determination has made her a symbol of hope for underprivileged students, especially girls. Her story has earned praise from officials, educators and civil society members across the region.

During the felicitation, DC Pulwama, as reported by the news agency- said her success highlights the hidden potential within remote and disadvantaged communities. "Shabnum has set a powerful example. Despite lacking resources, she has achieved excellence through sheer hard work and dedication," he said

Shabnum, who aspires to become an IAS officer, expressed her desire to contribute to the development of her area, which still faces infrastructural challenges like poor road connectivity and inadequate educational facilities. "I want to clear the UPSC exams to bring positive change to our community so that no child has to struggle the way I did," she told KNO.

She shared that meeting the Deputy Commissioner, an IAS officer himself, made her feel even more motivated and closer to her goal. "I will work hard and do my best to crack the UPSC exam and serve my people," she added.

**Recognising her exceptional achievement** and determination, the Deputy Commissioner presented her with a cash prize of Rs 50,000. He assured continuous support for her future endeavours and reiterated the district administration's commitment to improving educational standards in tribal areas.

Dr Qayoom acknowledged the connectivity and infrastructure issues faced by residents of Paner. He assured them that their concerns regarding road construction and infrastructure development would be addressed as a priority-

### PASS

centage of just 28%. This comes in stark contrast to the impressive results achieved by students from other government and private schools in the district, including those from far-flung and economically weaker areas who passed with flying colours.

According to school authorities, the low pass percentage is largely due to poor attendance and lack of classroom participation by students. "Most of the students remained absent during regular classwork. Despite our dedication and timely delivery of lectures, the absence of students severely hampered their preparation," said one of the lecturers.

The school currently has 14 sanctioned lecturer posts, but 4 are lying vacant-including subjects such as Education, Biotechnology, History, and Economics. Faculty members claim they've been trying to manage these gaps with the help of other available staff members to ensure students aren't left behind. "We even go the extra mile to cover subjects beyond our assigned roles just for the sake of our students, but it becomes futile when they don't attend classes," another teacher added. Principal and faculty members further expressed frustration over the poor infrastructure, revealing that the school operates with only three classrooms and an incomplete building under renovation. "We urge the concerned authorities to expedite the completion of the second building. With better facilities, we can provide a more conducive learning environment," a senior teacher said. Despite having a team of experienced, well-qualified, and committed educators, the school continues to struggle with basic infrastructure and student engagement. The situation calls for urgent attention from education authorities, parents, and the community to improve attendance, fill vacant posts, and upgrade infrastructure to ensure that students of the school also shine in future examinations.

two models wearing skimpy clothes or swim wear in the broader scheme of the event do not attract the penal offence of obscenity so far as facts disclosed in the complaint pertain, hence cognizance cannot be taken of such offence.

The court also cited lack of requisite government sanction for pursuing charges under Section 299 BNS which proscribes deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs.

"As the complainant has not placed on record sanction of appropriate government, thus the bar for taking cognizance of such offence operates. The complainant can renew, if law permits so, his complaint with respect to offence under section 299 BNS only after obtaining the sanction from the appropriate government as stipulated in the section 217 BNSS, 2023. At this stage in the absence of such sanction, this court cannot proceed to take cognizance of such offence," the court order issued on April 30 read.

On the complaint of consumption of alcohol at the event, the court said the local law bars taking cognizance of complaints made by private individuals.

"In view of above discussion this Court deems it fit not to proceed further in the complaint and is, accordingly, disposed of as such," the order read.

### J&K students enrolled in Iran Universities can directly transfer tuition fees via UCO Bank

#### HT News Network

Srinagar, May 02: The parents, who have enrolled their wards in different educational institutions in Iran, can now directly transfer the student tuition fee through UCO Bank.

According to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Ministry has officially approved the transfer of student tuition fees to Iran through UCO Bank. "This important development now enables students to legally and securely send their tuition fees to Iranian universities using the official banking channel provided by UCO Bank," said officials.

This breakthrough is the result of two years of continuous efforts and coordination vith the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New Delhi, the officials said.

"During the past over two years, we worked diligently to address the legal, financial and diplomatic aspects of the process. Our sincere gratitude goes to the Ambassador of Iran, whose guidance, support and active involvement played a vital role in facilitating communication with the relevant authorities and obtaining the necessary approvals," the officials said.

"With this new channel in place, students and their families can now avoid unofficial or risky methods of fee transfer. The process through UCO Bank ensures transparency, legal compliance, and peace of mind for all parties involved." "We remain committed to supporting students in their educational journey and will continue to work towards simplifying and improving procedures that affect their academic progress," the officials said—(KNO)

precedent as it is in the peculiar facts and circumstances of this case," the Court added.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Union government, suggested that the family approach the relevant authorities for redress.

However, the petitioner's counsel maintained that the entire family had been arrested despite being Indian citizens.

The court closed the matter, leaving it to the authorities to verify the family's claims. Until such verification is completed and a final decision made, no deportation or other coercive action shall be undertaken against them.

### ECI

Nagrota seat became vacant on October 31 following the demise of BJP MLA Devinder Singh Rana.

As per Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a bye-election to fill any vacancy must be conducted within six months from the date the seat was vacated.

However, the poll-body couldn't hold the exercise within the six-month deadline.

As of now, National Conference appears to have a strong position in the Budgam seat, benefiting from a weak and fragmented opposition in Kashmir. On the other hand, the BJP is expected to secure the Nagrota seat without significant obstacles.

In the 2014 and 2024 assembly polls, these seats were respectively won by NC and BJP-

### KULGAM

in his native village. He was rushed to District Hospital Kulgam where doctors declared him "brought dead."

The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway was once again closed for vehicular movement after a landslide occurred at Chamba Seri in Ramban area. "It occurred soon after the area near the highway was hit by the cloudburst, leading to the flash floods again," said an official.

The commuters have been advised not to travel until the road is cleared.

### US

lead to a broader regional conflict.

"And we hope frankly that Pakistan, to the extent that they are responsible, cooperates with India to make sure that the terrorists, sometimes operating in their territory, are hunted down and dealt with.

"That's how we hope this unfolds; we are obviously in close contact. We'll see what happens."

The US VP's statement comes after the US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth spoke with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday and reiterated full support of the US government in India's fight against terrorism.

"US stands in solidarity with India and supports India's right to defend itself," a Defence Ministry statement quoted him as saying.

During the conversation, Rajnath told Pete Hegseth that Pakistan has a history of supporting, training and funding terrorist organisations

"Pakistan has been exposed as a rogue state, fuelling global terrorism, and destabilising the region. The world can no longer turn a blind eye to terrorism," Rajnath said.

He added that it is important for the global community to explicitly and unequivocally condemn and call out such heinous acts of terrorism.

Notably, 26 tourists were killed in the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Following the dastardly act, India took stringent measures against Pakistan, including holding the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, closing the Integrated Check Post Attari, asking all Pakistani nationals to leave India, downsizing the Pakistani HC staff as well as its own in Islamabad. Pakistan has also replied in kind, suspending the 1972 Shimla Agreement, stopping use of its airspace by Indian aircraft, among other measures.

ceasefire agreement and will not be tolerated

The Indian DGMO emphasized the need for Pakistan to adhere to bilateral commitments and cease all hostile activities along the LoC and IB-

### **SMART CITY**

clearly states that there is no rule limiting the number of students eligible for a half-fare on a single bus. "The only requirement is a valid college or school identity card: no additional paperwork or permissions are necessary," it said.

Contrary to circulating rumours, students are not assigned reserved or fixed seats. The concession applies universally to any seat, provided the student presents a valid ID, the response added.

Since the scheme's introduction in June 2017, JKRTC has issued directives instructing bus staff and managers to honour the half-fare concession without restrictions.

The department also clarified that students who are denied their benefit can file a complaint directly with the General Manager (Operations) at JKRTC, M A Road, Srinagar.

Interestingly, records show no official grievances in the past three years, which might indicate either a lack of awareness among students or a reluctance to report issues.

The department reassured that every genuine student presenting a valid ID is entitled to the half-fare, regardless of how many other students are travelling on the same bus. Passengers facing denial of the benefit or being charged full fare are advised to note the details of the bus, such as route number, date and time, and report the incident to the GM (Operations).

The scheme also extends concessions to categories like differently-abled persons, war widows, and HIV/AIDS patients, each with specific documentation guidelines. For example, children up to three years old are exempt from fare calculations, while children aged three to twelve are charged half the fare. Fifty per cent of the seats in all state-registered stage carriage vehicles are reserved for women and persons with disabilities, with provisions allowing other passengers to occupy these seats if vacant, and no fare is charged

### GULMARG

Party, who alleged that the fashion event featured obscene content, insulted religious sentiments, and involved public consumption of alcohol.Khan, represented by advocates Hasnain Khawja and Naveed Bukhtiyar, claimed the fashion show was "offensive and explicitly sexualized," especially since it took place during the holy month of Ramadan. He sought prosecution under Sections 296 and 299 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and Section 50-A of the J&K Excise Act.

The Srinagar court later issued a precognizance notice to the accused named in the complaint.

The accused, through their legal counsels, filed detailed responses before the court and rebutted the charges, submitting event permissions and alcohol service licences issued by local authorities.

They also placed on record before the court copies of permission for serving liquor issued by Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive) Kashmir Division.

Special mobile magistrate, Srinagar, railway magistrate, Kashmir Faizan-I-Nazar said

### **Drug Control team cracks** down on violations along **Baltal route**

#### **HT News Network**

Ganderbal, May 02: In view of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, the Drugs Control Department of Ganderbal district intensified inspections of pharmacies and medical establishments along the Baltal axis through Sonamarg, a critical route for yatra pilgrims. According to officials, the inspection drive was carried out on April 26 under the supervision of Dr. Shibeer Ahmad Bhat, Assistant Controller Drugs for Ganderbal and Bandipora. According to the news agency–Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the team inspected 20 medical shops in the area, out of which four were found flouting mandatory drug regulations and were consequently sealed on the spot under Section 22(d) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Following this, a review inspection was conducted on May 1, where it was observed that the sealed shops had brought their operations into compliance. However, the license of one pharmacy in Kangan was suspended for three days due to continued non-adherence to guidelines.Speaking to KNO, an official said that pharmacies en route the yatra must uphold high standards of compliance. "Medical shops were directed to ensure availability of emergency medicines, staff must follow proper dress code, and signboards with license details and contact numbers should be displayed visibly," he said. In a related development, the department also inspected the PHC Sonamarg, where six samples were taken from the drugstore for lab testing and analysis to ensure quality assurance in public healthcare services.





# **Div Com Kashmir reviews progress under Special Summary Revision for 27-AC Budgam**

### **HT News Network**

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Budgam, May 02: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, who is also the Electoral Roll Observer, today chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved under the Special Summary Revision (SSR)-2025 of Electoral Rolls for 27-AC Budgam. The meeting was held at the Conference Hall, Budgam, where Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo, who is also the District Election Officer (DEO), briefed the chair about the progress and status of work with regard to the SSR of Photo Electoral Rolls in the

constituency. At the outset, the ERO of 27-AC Budgam provided a detailed review of the progress achieved under SSR as of date, and also highlighted the number of fresh applications received, as well as the number of claims, objections, and rejections so far. On the occasion, the ERO also briefed the chair that the Special Summary Revision commenced on 8th April and ended on 24th April, and will be



published on 5th May 2025 accordingly for the 27-AC Budgam.

Div Com emphasised upon the concerned Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and Assistant **Electoral Registration Officers** (AEROs) to conduct revisions strictly according to the guidelines of the ECI and as per the notified schedule.

Div Com stressed on intensifying SVEEP activities and ensuring timely disposal of claims and objections.

ERO and AEROs were directed to cross-check the completed summary revision with a focus on 100 percent enrolment of eligible voters, including the addition of new voters and deletion of duplicate voters, within the set timeline.

He emphasised that the successful conduct of all SVEEP programmes in 27-AC Budgam must focus on achieving maximum registration of all eligible voters in the constituency.

ACR/ERO for 27-AC Budgam, Dy. Election Officer, AEROs, and representatives of various political parties were present in the meeting.

### **DDC Chairperson Kulgam** expresses grief over loss of life in cloudburst at Gownsargam

HT News Network

KULGAM, MAY 02: Chairperson of the District Development Council Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parray, expressed profound grief over the death of Tariq Ahmad Paddar, Son of Mohd Subhan Padar in a cloudburst at Gownsargam village of the district. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the departed soul. He urged the District Administration and concerned authorities to provide immediate compensation and rehabilitation support to the affected family.

### Multifarious activities against drug abuse held in educational institutions in Ganderbal

**HT News Network** 

GANDERBAL, MAY 02: In a determined effort to curb substance abuse and raise awareness among the youth , multifarious activities under the "Nasha Mukt J&K" campaign against drug abuse were held today in various educational institutions of district Ganderbal. Several educational institutions were actively engaged under the campaign's banner, aiming to maximize outreach to the most vulnerable and impressionable age group to create a drugfree district by fostering awareness, community participation, and support for rehabilitation. Energetic student rallies echoed through streets, inside classrooms and auditoriums, vibrant postermaking competitions, debates, and thought-provoking awareness sessions were organized, each one a testament to the youth's

future. In the rallies, teachers, volunteers, and officials from various departments joined hands to ensure that the message of a drug-free society reach every corner of the district. While in the institutions, students enthusiastically participated in debates,

commitment to a healthier

**Remarkable improvement of Government School in Board Results** Dr. Itoo highlights measures for Quality Education in Government Schools

### **HT News Network**

Srinagar, May 02: Following the announcement of Class 12 examination results, it has become evident that teaching standards in government schools are progressing rapidly. There has been a significant and positive shift not only in innovative achievements but also in academic outcomes. A recent example of this is the exceptional performance by students from the Valley in a national-level innovation competition, besides, remarkable performance of government school students by securing more than 100 merit positions in the Class 12 results. Sharing the details, Director of School Education Kashmir, Dr. G. N. Itoo, stated that while the Class 12 results are encouraging with no school having a pass percentage close to zero, the performance in Class 10 exams is equally commendable with 438 schools achieving over 90% pass percentage

He further added that 219 schools recorded a 100% pass rate, which is extremely encouraging.

Expressing satisfaction over the success, Dr. Itoo said these achievements are the result of the students' hard

**Celebrating Excellence: Dir Education** felicitates Sehrish Jahangir



work, the dedicated role of teachers, and the growing trust of parents in government schools.

Director affirmed his full confidence in the overall success rate of students in both Class 10 and 12 examinations, emphasizing that these statistics indicate a significant improvement in the quality of education. He credited this progress to initiatives like the establishment of various laboratory facilities, ICT labs, implementation of the National Education Policy(NEP) 2020, and the provision of education aligned with modern-day requirements.

Dr. Itoo attributed this success to the collective efforts of teachers, school heads, and parents, stating that these achievements are the result of their consistent dedication.He extended heartfelt congratulations to the successful students and assured that the government and the Department of Education will continue to ensure modern educational facilities are made accessible to students in every corner of Jammu and Kashmir.It is worth noting that this year, 39,768 students appeared for the Class 10 exams, out of which 31,010 passed, bringing the overall pass percentage to 77.97%. He extended heartfelt congratulations to the successful students and assured that the government and the Department of Education will continue to ensure modern educational facilities are made accessible to students in every corner of Jammu and Kashmir.It is worth noting that this year, 39,768 students appeared for the Class 10 exams, out of which 31,010 passed, bringing the overall pass percentage to 77.97%.

### Altaf Bukhari slams irrational eligibility rule in marriage assistance scheme

Says, mandatory 8th-grade education requirement is illogical

**JKBOSE Lodges FIR Over Fake 12th Class Results Website** 

**HT News Network** 

Srinagar, May 2 (KNS): The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has formally lodged an FIR after a fake website link showing fabricated results for Class 12 went viral on social media, causing confusion and distress among students. According to officials, unidentified individuals created a fraudulent website mimicking the official JKBOSE portal. The fake link, which falsely displayed what it claimed to be the Class 12 results, quickly circulated online, prompting widespread panic among students and parents. Confirming the develop-

ment, Secretary JKBOSE talking to Kashmir News

poster-making competitions, and awareness talks, voicing their commitment towards building a healthier and drug-free future. The resource persons from various departments emphasized the importance of the campaign against drug abuse. Parents and guardians were urged to remain vigilant for early warning signs.

Furthermore, the campaign also emphasized rehabilitation and support for those already affected, reminding the community that compassion and solidarity are key to recovery.



FIR ÕÕ

Service, said an FIR has been registered against the perpetrators. "We have taken serious note of the incident and lodged a formal complaint with the police. Strict action will be taken against those responsible for creating and circulating the fake website," the official said. The board has urged students and guardians to rely only on the official JKBOSE website for any updates. The cyber wing of the police is now investigating the source of the fake link and attempting to identify those behind the fraudulent activity.

### HT News Network

Kulgam, May 02: A felicitation ceremony was held at Higher Secondary School Bugam, Kulgam to honor outstanding academic achievers. The highlight of the event was the recognition of Sehrish Jahangir, a 12th class student of the institution, who secured 2nd position in the Science stream across the Union Territory of Jammu and

Kashmir. The ceremony was graced by the Director of School Education, Kashmir, Dr. G. N. Itoo, who felicitated Sehrish Jahangir for her exceptional performance. Dr Itoo also congratulated the students, their parents, and teachers for their hard work and success in the Class 10th and 12th examinations for which results were declared



ment.On this occasion, by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE).In his address, Dr Itoo stated that the Department of Education has implemented the National Education Policy 2020 and undertaken several initiatives to modernize school education, among which the establishment of ICT laboratories is particularly noteworthy. He added that aligning the education system with contemporary demands remains a top priority of the state governance.

Chief Education Officer Kulgam, Mohammad Shabir, welcomed the Director and expressed that his presence had greatly encouraged successful students, teachers, and field officers across the district. He also briefed the Director on the overall educational landscape of the district and mentioned that educational services are being advanced in full accordance with the Director's guid-

#### **HT News Network**

Srinagar, May 2: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has expressed concern over a flawed rule which states that anyone seeking to benefit from the government's marriage assistance scheme must have attained education up to at least the 8th standard.

He has termed this eligibility criterion an "illogical and irrational" guideline and urged the authorities to revisit it to better serve the interests of girls from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Pertinently, under this scheme, the government provides a one-time financial assistance of Rs 75,000 to eligible unmarried girls before their marriage.

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari wrote on his X handle: "Making educational qualification up to 8th class as a mandatory eligibility criterion for the Marriage Assistance Scheme for girls from economically weaker sections is completely



illogical."He further said, "I have been informed that many applications are being rejected by the Social Welfare Department simply because the applicants-underprivileged girls-are unable to produce a certificate confirming they have passed the 8th grade. This is utterly illogical."

"I urge the government to revisit this flawed guideline. The 8th pass eligibility criterion is defeating the purpose of what is otherwise a helpful and commendable scheme," the post further reads.

### **Div Com visits Hajj House Bemina; inspects arrangements** for Hajj-25; directs meticulous service delivery

#### **HT News Network**

Srinagar, May 02: Ahead of the commencement of Hajj-25, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today visited Hajj House Bemina to take first hand appraisal of arrangements & basic amenities laid out by various departments.

Intending pilgrims would start leaving for the pilgrimage from Sunday, May 04, 2025.

During the visit, Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Bilal Mohi ud din Bhat. Other officers present during the visit includ-



ed Director, Airport Authority of India, Srinagar International Airport, Regional Director of BCAS, representatives

from Health, PHE, KPDCL, Information, Hajj Committee, SMC, JK Police, Customs, Emigration, SpiceJet, and various

#### banks.

On the occasion, Div Com took comprehensive inspection of services and infrastructure, including forex counters set up by banks, luggage screening machines, e-bracelet counters, and boarding facilities.

Div Com also reviewed the cleanliness of lodging rooms and the availability of basic amenities, such as water and uninterrupted electricity supply. On the occasion, Officers from the Hajj Committee briefed the Div Com on the extensive measures taken to ensure comprehensive arrangements for security, traffic management, sanitation, and other essential services.





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TODAY Voice To The Voiceles

## **EDITORIAL**

### Remove the flaw from SMAS so as to make it implementable on ground

The special marriage assistance scheme (SMAS) launched by the government in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir has hit a roadblock due to a serious flaw in the same. It is due to this flaw the people especially those who were supposed to benefit from the scheme sharply criticized the same. The people at helm seem to be living in a world of illusion and reality seems to be a distant away from them.

The SMAS was launched to provide financial assistance to the girls of the Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) for their marriage. Under this scheme financial assistance of Rs. 75,000 is provided to the girls of the lower strata of the society so that they get married. The scheme was welcomed by the people with the hope that the poor girls would be able to get married from the amount sanctioned under the scheme. However, a condition set out by the social welfare department has put the entire scheme under a cloud.

The people are very disappointed about the condition and they demand immediate rollback of the same. The condition is that the girl applying under the scheme should have at least passed the eighth standard. Since the scheme has been launched for the girls of AAY category the people in general believe that not many girls of the category are able to receive education under the middle class. Most of the people opine that given this condition not many girls would be able to avail the benefits under this scheme.

In the contemporary Kashmiri society a lot of money is incurred on a marriage and as such the SMAS was expected to come as a huge relief for the girls belonging to the AAY category. The social welfare department needs to make the necessary correction so that the SMAS is implemented in letter and spirit and more and more girls avail the benefits out of the scheme. In such a scenario the scheme would be a welfare measure for the people belonging to the lower strata of the society.

One fails to understand the mantra behind the setting of the condition that a girl should have at least passed the eight standard examination. If the scheme was aimed to provide relief to the poor girls then why was such an out of mind condition set by the social welfare department? The government should come out with the necessary corrigendum in this regard so that the girls benefit out of the scheme.

# A bloodbath in Paradise The deadliest and heart-wrenching terrorist attack in Pahalgam that shook humanity

### The blood of innocents stained the Valleys of Pahalgam

**HT-EDIT** 

### BY FAROOQ AHMAD KHAN

he mountains of Pahalgam, once a symbol of serenity and beauty, now echo with the screams of the innocent. The pristine valleys, where laughter once mingled with the whispers of pine trees, are today stained with blood. On the serene morning of April 22nd, the picturesque valleys of Pahalgam, a jewel in Jammu and Kashmir's crown, turned into a slaughterhouse. A place where aura of joy and happiness once echoed amidst snow-capped peaks and gushing streams now reverberated with gunfire, screams, and the deafening silence of death. A place where lovers whispered promises, where families created memories, where honeymooners began their journey of togetherness was turned into a slaughterhouse. Twenty-eight innocent souls were brutally massacred. Among them tourists who had come seeking joy, locals who had welcomed them with warmth, children who had laughed just moments before, husbands who had held their wives' hands, fathers who had carried their little ones on their shoulders and as they strolled through the meadows, collapsed in a pool of blood. The little girl, her frock stained crimson, kept shaking him, begging him to wake up. But he never will. Innocent souls, were brutally massacred in a terror attack so savage that it has left the entire nation gasping for breath, drowning in an ocean of tears. A day that will forever be etched in horror, terrorism struck with its ugliest fangs, tearing apart families, dreams, and the very fabric of humanity. This day will forever remain etched in the memory of our nation as a dark and soul-crushing day.

A big chunk of priceless lives were snatched away in the blink of an eye, murdered in cold blood by heartless, faceless cowards who deserve not to be called humans though human in form but far from humanity and would certainly be wild beasts. The victims were not soldiers in battle, not combatants of war but were ordinary men, women, their only crime being the desire to bask in the serenity of nature in kashmir. Alongside



them died a few local Kashmiris who were merely standing in service with the guests of their homeland. What kind of monster looks into the eyes of a smiling child, a newlywed couple, an elderly father, and still pulls the ugly trigger of his ugly gun?

The heavens must have wept on this day, and the earth must have shuddered as the sacred soil of Pahalgam, one of the most beloved tourist places in Jammu and Kashmir, was stained with the innocent blood ruthlessly gunned down in a barbaric terrorist attack.They had come to rejoice in the breathtaking beauty of Kashmir. They never knew that their smiles were momentary and moments away from being eternally silenced.

What kind of heart does it take to fire upon an unarmed couple taking photos of snow-kissed meadows? What twisted mind finds courage in slaughtering children and women in cold blood? I ask this question to myself? The answer is simple, no heart, no soul, and no religion can justify what happened in Pahalgam. This is something beyond imaginations and only beast instinct can do this.

The videos surfacing on social media are too horrific and even unwatchable reflecting the ugliest face of evil. Even the coldest stonehearted man would break down in tears witnessing the lifeless bodies, the cries of mothers, the trembling hands of orphaned children and widows, and the haunting silence of a place that just yesterday was bursting with laughter. she weeps alone, shattered beyond comprehension, her dreams burned alive. What was to be the beginning of their love story became its tragic end. A Navy officer, Lieutenant Vinay Narwal a proud servant of the nation, who had promised his parents an unforgettable vacation, brought his beloved wife on vacation only for terror to take them all. His lifeless body now lies wrapped in the tricolor, his family wiped out in an instant. Can there be a greater cruelty than this? How does one comprehend such senseless violence? Mothers lost sons, wives witnessed husbands slain before their eyes, fathers and brothers were taken away mercilessly. These weren't just statistics; they were lives, each with stories abruptly ended by this cowardly.

Srinagar, Saturday

03-May-2025

### Terrorists have no religion and only a beastly instinct to kill

Let us be clear that terrorism has no faith, no ideology, no justification, no morality, no soul and knows no God. It is the act of wild beasts driven by unfathomable hatred, predators with no conscience. These cowards are wild beasts, drunk on hatred, devoid of conscience and cannot face our brave soldiers, instead prey on the unarmed and innocents. They do not represent any religion, for the greatest religion is humanity and they have none and are far away from that blessing. They attacked unarmed civilians, women, children, elders simply because of their absolute moral decay.

In the face of this unspeakable tragedy, the people of Jammu and Kashport unions, private school bodies, and government officials, scholars, students all observed a complete shutdown, suspending their work and uniting in grief and protest. They protested not for politics, but for humanity because terrorism does not discriminate, it kills without reason, and so, the grief is universal. Solidarity was not just shown but it was lived, breathed, and felt in every corner of the Valley.

### Justice will come, and It will be merciless.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi who leads the world's largest democracy, and he knows the language these monsters understand. They will be crushed, erased, made an example of, so that no mother, no wife, no child ever suffers like this again. We have faith that these terrorists will be hunted down, no matter how far they run or how deep they hide. They will be made to pay for their sins.

To the families of the victims, No words can heal your pain. But know this that a billion hearts weep with you. Our bleeding hearts weep with you. Your pain is now the pain of an entire nation. We stand with you hand in hand, heart to heart. Your loved ones did not die in vain. Their blood will water the roots of a fiercer, stronger India, one that will never bow to terror.

To the terrorists, You have killed innocents, but you will never kill our spirit. Kashmir will rise. India will rise and when justice comes, it will be merciless and you will succumb .your days are numbered. Your terror cannot silence our unity. Your hatred cannot overpower our humanity. You tried to burn our hopes but from the ashes, a fire will rise, a fire of justice. We are angry, we are grieving, but we are neither broken nor defeated.

Let this be the last time. They came here with great dreams but unfortunately left in coffins. May their souls find peace, and may this land never again bear witness to such a tragedy. Let no mother ever again cry over the bullet-ridden body of her child. Let no person ever again return from Kashmir in a coffin. Let this soil, sacred and beautiful, bloom again with peace not blood.

With deepest grief and unshakable resolve.

One newlywed couple, hand in hand, dreaming of a future together had come to celebrate the beginning of a new life. The husband was shot dead in front of his wife's eyes. Now mir Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian have stood together in one voice to condemn this in the strongest possible words. Traders' federations, religious leaders, bar associations, transwounded yet hopeful land of Kashmir The writer is a humble teacher, mentor for IAS/KAS aspirants and can be mailed @khanfarooq786786@gmail.com.

# Finally, caste census in the country: representation or revival?

#### PRIYANKA SAURABH

India was divided into castes, but no sincere effort was ever made to unite it. The Constitution gave everyone the right to equality, but the foundation of equal opportunity rests on recognizing caste inequality. On this basis, when the demand for a caste census is gaining momentum today, the question arises: is this a tool for social justice or an exercise to divide society into more sections?

The last comprehensive caste census in India was in 1931. After that, in the process of nationbuilding after independence, an ideal was put forward-a 'casteless society.' This ideal had its attraction, but in practice it was a kind of silence. From 1951 to 2011, in every census, only Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) were counted; the rest of the castes remained 'invisible.' But if the policy is based on reservation schemes for classes, then why not have data? Is it possible to have equitable distribution without information?

Bihar's caste-based survey created a new wave. The initiative of Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav forced other states to think. On one hand, the caste census was described as the foundation of social justice, while on the other hand, some sections called it a tool of social division. Many political parties are supporting this demand, especially those whose politics is based on the deprived sections. But the role of the central government has been hesitant. The Center says that this is a very complex process, and it can create social tensions.

There are many strong arguments being given in support of the caste census. If we do not know which castes are in what economic and social status, then the schemes will continue to run on mere estimates. Whether it is to re-evaluate reservations or to set targets for social schemes, accurate data is required. The population of Other Backward Classes (OBC) is considered to be 40-50% in many states, while they get 27% reservation. If there is correct data, the policy can be more equitable.

The main argument of those opposing it is that the caste census will further strengthen caste identity in society. This will threaten social unity, and political parties will start garnering votes only by playing the caste card. Some sections fear that if the correct figures are revealed, their 'inherent rights' For decades, India has counted only the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, while other castes have remained invisible in policymaking. Caste census is not just a count but the foundation of social justice. Without accurate data, reservations, schemes, and resource distribution will be incomplete. Those protesting fear that their privileges may be challenged. But this count is a tool to ensure visibility and participation of the deprived, not to divide society. When policy is based on caste, there must be data too.

may be taken away–for example, the upper castes feel that if reservation increases in proportion to the number of OBCs or Dalits, then opportunities for them will be reduced further.

When Bihar conducted its caste

survey, the central government kept its distance from it. Demands were also raised in states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, but consensus could not be reached. It was argued many times that this subject comes under the jurisdiction of the Center, and it should be done at the national level. The Supreme Court did not directly ban the caste-based census in 2021 but said that it is a matter of policy and governments should decide at their discretion.

For the deprived communities, a caste census is not just a count; it is a question of their visibility. If a class in the society is economically, educationally, and politically backward, then first of all, it is necessary to know where it is. How much? Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar had said, "If you want to make reforms, first know the facts." Caste figures are also such facts. These figures are not only necessary for deciding reservations but also for policies like education, health, housing, and self-employment.

It is surprising that there is little serious debate in the mainstream media on a topic as deep as the caste census. The intellectual class that considers itself progressive either rejects it by calling it 'regressive' or remains silent. Actually, the problem is not that caste is being counted. The problem is that those who are worried about their 'privilege' are uncomfortable with this count.

Now the biggest question – suppose a caste census is con-

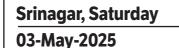
ducted and the data of all castes is revealed. What will happen then? Will the governments change the reservation policy based on this data? Will it be possible to give more shares to a caste if its number is found to be higher? Or will the data be suppressed, as happened with the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) of 2011? The data of the SECC conducted in 2011 is still incomplete in the public domain. Governments came and went, but no one released it with complete transparency.

Caste is a social reality that cannot be ignored. The powers that talk of a casteless society look at caste in giving election tickets, forming cabinets, and appointing officers—then why fear the data? Caste census will neither bring about social breakdown nor weaken the foundation of society provided it is used for equitable policy-making. Those who already have more are afraid. Those who are deprived only want confirmation of their presence.

After all, this country belongs to all castes—so why not count every-one?

Writer is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist

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**HT-OPED** 

# **Beyond Tourism: Why Kashmir must** diversify or risk economic collapse

#### MUNTASHIR KIFAYAT HUSSAIN kameer9906@gmail.com

**ODA** 

or decades, the breathtaking beauty of Jammu and Kashmir has been the lifeblood of our economy. Tourists from around the globe have flocked to our valleys, stayed in our hotels, bought our handicrafts, and become the backbone of our livelihood. Tourism has become the primary source of income for thousands of families, providing jobs to hoteliers, drivers, guides, artisans, shopkeepers, and many others.

However, today we must ask ourselves a crucial and uncomfortable question: Are we relying too heavily on a fragile pillar?

#### A Vulnerable Economic Model

Whenever political unrest, security challenges, or natural calamities strike, tourism is the first sector to collapse. We have witnessed this repeatedly - empty hotels, idle taxis, shuttered markets, and disappointed visitors. The economic consequences are immediate and devastating. Young people who have taken loans to build guesthouses or purchase tourist vehicles often find themselves buried under debt, with no stable source of income to repay it.

A region's economy cannot afford to be this sensitive to disruption. Tourism, while important, is seasonal and highly vulnerable. It cannot be the only engine pulling our society forward. Over-dependence on one sector creates economic fragility, stifles innovation, and reduces our ability to respond to crises. It is high time that we diversify our economic foundations.

### A Call to the Youth

This article is a sincere appeal to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir the torchbearers of tomorrow. We cannot afford to remain trapped in

outdated models of livelihood. The world around us is transforming rapidly with technology, automation, and a shift towards knowledge-based economies. We must equip ourselves with skills that are future-ready, resilient, and capable of generating consistent income, regardless of political or environmental conditions.

Our land is fertile not just in beauty but in opportunity. We have immense potential in agriculture, horticulture, apiculture (beekeeping), floriculture, medicinal plants, and food processing. These are industries that have global demand and local relevance. Our apples, walnuts, saffron, and honey are among the best in the world – yet we export most of them without value addition. Imagine if our youth learned how to process, package, brand, and market these products both nationally and internationally.

#### Unlocking the Power of Skill Development

The time has come to make "skill" the most valuable currency in Kashmir. From rural youth to urban graduates, everyone should have access to skill development centres offering practical training in a wide range of domains: tailoring, carpentry, solar installation, computer repair, app development, digital marketing, content creation, cybersecurity, graphic design, machine operation, organic farming, dairy processing, and more.

These aren't just skills; they are survival tools in a rapidly changing economy. A skilled young person is not a burden on society but a builder of the economy. Whether as a freelancer, artisan, entrepreneur, or technician, skilled individuals can shape their own destiny.

In fact, it is essential that we transition from a job-seeking mindset to a job-creating mindset. Let us



build a culture of local entrepreneurship where young Kashmiris are not just looking for employment but creating employment for others.

#### The Role of Technology

One of the greatest enablers in this transformation is technology. Digital platforms can open up opportunities for online education, e-commerce, telemedicine, remote work, and financial inclusion. A young Kashmiri woman sitting in Baramulla can now learn coding online and work remotely for a company in Bengaluru or even California. A craftsman from Budgam can sell his handmade carpets on platforms like Etsy or Amazon. The only requirement is digital literacy and connectivity.

We must bridge the digital divide and ensure that even the remotest villages have access to affordable internet, smartphones, and computer labs. Government, private institutions, NGOs, and civil society must work together to create a digitally empowered Kashmir.

**Reforming Education** 

Another pillar of a self-reliant future is education. Currently, many of our brightest students are forced to leave the Valley in search of better colleges, coaching centres, and exposure. This is not just a financial burden on families - it also represents a brain drain. Our region loses some of its finest minds every year to other states and countries.

If we can build luxurious hotels and malls for tourists, can we not invest in world-class educational institutions for our own children? Why can't Srinagar or Anantnag be home to a state-of-the-art science university or an international-level research institute?

We must invest in quality faculty, modern infrastructure, innovation labs, libraries, and research funding. But beyond that, we must also overhaul our outdated syllabus. Our children must be taught problem-solving, entrepreneurship, critical thinking, environmental awareness, and digital fluency -

not just rote learning for exams. Education must become relevant to the real world, connected to local needs, and empowering for

#### the learner.

#### **Reviving Traditional Crafts with** Modern Vision

Kashmir has a rich heritage of art and craft - from Pashmina weaving and Sozni embroidery to wood carving and papier-mâché. These crafts are not just cultural treasures; they are potential income sources. However, many artisans are giving up due to poor wages, lack of marketing, and middlemen exploitation.

We need to modernise this sector without losing its soul. That means digital marketing, design innovation, better branding, and fair trade practices. Government and private investors should collaborate to create craft villages, e-commerce training programs, and international trade expos for Kashmiri products.

#### Harnessing the Power of Returnees

Thousands of Kashmiris have gone out into the world and achieved great success in medicine, engineering, academia, technology, and business. Many of them wish to give back - to return and contribute to the land that raised them. We must create an ecosystem that welcomes them back - through startup support, consultancy platforms, investment incentives, and policy support.

Let our successful diaspora become mentors, guides, and investors for the next generation. Let us build a Kashmir where success doesn't mean escape but return.

Women as Economic Leaders No progress can be complete without the empowerment of women. In many areas of Kashmir, women remain underrepresented in business, technology, and public leadership. This must change. Women must be encouraged, trained, and supported to start their own businesses, learn

new skills, and take leadership roles in their communities.

Microfinance, SHGs (self-help groups), women-led cooperatives, and digital platforms can be tools of transformation. A skilled woman is a multiplier - she uplifts not only herself but her family and her community.

#### Sustainable Development - The Only Way Forward

As we envision a new Kashmir, we must ensure that our growth is sustainable. We must not trade nature for short-term gains. Whether in tourism, industry, or agriculture, environmental responsibility must be a core principle. Solar energy, water conservation, organic farming, and eco-tourism are not luxuries - they are necessities.

Let Kashmir become a model for green development - where progress doesn't mean pollution, and prosperity doesn't mean exploitation.

#### **Conclusion: Time to Rise**

Tourism is a blessing, but it cannot be our only identity. Real development happens when people become self-reliant, skilled, and confident in their ability to shape the future. Let us create an economy that survives every political storm, every lockdown, every disruption - because it is rooted in diversity, innovation, and knowledge.

The valley of Kashmir has always stood tall in the face of adversity. Now is the time for our dreams to rise even higher - bold, inclusive, and unstoppable.

Let us move from uncertainty to self-reliance, from dependency to dignity, from fragility to strength. Let us build a Kashmir that is not just a place of beauty, but a symbol of brilliance, resilience, and progress.

Laborers: The Backbone Pahalgam horror: A cruel

# of National Development



SAHIL MANZOOR sahilmanzoor411990@gmail. com

aborers are the backbone of any nation. They bravely face challenges and contribute tirelessly toward achieving developmental goals. Their dedication and hard work leave no stone unturned in marking great achievements for the country.

#### Development and the Role of Workers

Development is the collective dream of every citizen. Various sectors contribute to a nation's progress and generate employment, offering comprehensive facilities to its people and visiting tourists alike. Whether directly or indirectly, laborers are central to empowering major sectors such as tourism, agriculture, horticulture, transport (both land and air), science and technology, and healthcare. Advanced machinery, modern infrastructure, and efficient services in these sectors are the

result of the persistent efforts of workers, who simplify our lives and help us overcome everyday challenges.

tions form the silent founda-

tion upon which societies

Workers' Rights and May Day

Laborers play an immense

role in the overall develop-

ment of a country. Recog-

nizing their contributions,

India has observed May 1st

as Labour Day since 1923. On

this day, seminars, rallies,

and awareness programs

on laborers' struggles and

achievements. Educational

institutions organize semi-

ers face in today's world.

**Government Initiatives and** 

the Way Forward

the working class.

function and flourish.

Observance

Everything we use-big or Marriage assistance for small-has passed through daughters of laborers after the hands of dedicated laborfulfilling necessary formaliers. Their unseen contributies.

instance:

their education.

MGNREGA, which guarantees 100 days of employment to rural households.

Scholarship schemes for

laborers' children to support

While these initiatives are commendable, more supportive schemes are needed. Suggestions include:

Loans at subsidized interest rates. Job reservations for quali-

fied children of laborers. AAY ration cards and

domestic gas at special subsidized rates. Festival bonuses to help

are conducted across the country to highlight labor workers purchase essential rights and acknowledge the items and enjoy festivities immense sacrifices made by with dignity.

Compensation and policy Writers and media professupport for families of laborsionals use print and elecers who lose their lives while tronic platforms to shed light on duty.

#### Conclusion

Laborers are the unsung nars and discussions to raise heroes of our society. It awareness among students is our moral responsibilabout the challenges labority to respect their work, safeguard their rights, and support their well-being. Through strong policies, awareness campaigns, and The government has public appreciation, we must implemented several continue to honor the labor schemes to support and force that propels our nation uplift the labor class. For forward.

#### BY MS NAZKI

nother dark shadow has fallen over the Valley. The recent terror attack in Pahalgam was not merely an act of violence – it was a brutal assault on the very spirit of humanity. In a place renowned for its breathtaking beauty and serene charm, sudden gunfire shattered peace, turning moments of joy into tragedy, laughter into screams, and serenity into sorrow.

Families, children, and elderly tourists - ordinary lessly to rebuild peace and collective morale. harmony in the region.

target. The victims brought organizations, and religious in tragedy, Kashmir's heart

# assault on humanity !



goodwill and dreams - and groups. The government remained generous.

paid for it with their lives. people who had come seek- scars of conflict. But in recent up to safeguard visitors and ing nature's comfort – were years, there had been signs of restore public confidence. caught in a heartless ambush. hope. Tourists were returning, Some were injured. Others and with them, life was return- in solidarity with the victims resist those who seek to divide never returned. This was more ing to the streets, markets, - offering prayers, support, us, and together build a future than terrorism; it was a direct and mountains. Shikarawa- and a powerful message: terblow to the ideals of compas- las, pony riders, hotel owners, rorism will not divide us. The sion, peace, and coexistence. and artisans were beginning international community, allowed to deepen the wounds It was a shameless attempt to dream again. This attack too, reacted with outrage and to stain the spirit of Kashmir, didn't just take lives - it struck called for justice. Around the and to sabotage the collective at the very heartbeat of Kashefforts of those working tire- mir's recovering economy and

Once again, Kashmir is in The attack stands as one the headlines – not for its response came from the unity. Let us honor those lost of the most inhuman crimes beauty, but for violence. Yet people of Pahalgam them- not just with words, but with imaginable – targeting inno- the majority of Kashmiris selves. Locals rushed to help unwavering commitment to a cent guests who had come yearn only for peace, progonly to admire the valley's ress, and dignity. They too first aid, and comforting has no place. Terrorism has splendor. No ideology, no are victims, for every act of the wounded. In the face of religion, no political grievance terror damages their future. horror, the Valley's timeless and no destiny – but humancan ever justify such savagery. This tragedy drew swift and tradition of "Mehman Nawazi" ity does. And it will always rise Tourism, a symbol of unity unified condemnation from and shared humanity, was the across political parties, social guests – shone through. Even

vowed decisive action, and Kashmir has long borne the security has been ramped reminder that the battle

terror has no place in civil society. – hospitality and kindness to above hate.

This brutal attack is a stark against terror must be fought with unity, empathy, and Nationwide, people stood unshakable resolve. We must rooted in peace, not fear. Political games must not be or delay justice.

The Pahalgam attack was world, voices rose to declare: a crime against all humanity. Yet, while terror seeks to paralyze us with fear, we must But the most profound respond with courage and donating blood, offering future where such bloodshed no religion, no justification,

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# **Over 300 Tribal Farmers Benefit from SKUAST-K's Seed Distribution Programme at KVK Kupwara**

#### DR.AB QAYOOM

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Kupwara, May, 02: On the directions of Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganie, Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), a Seed Distribution-cum-Awareness Programme was organised today at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kupwara for the tribal farmers of the district. The programme, held under the dynamic leadership of Director Extension Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, was part of the ICAR Tribal Sub-Planfunded project 'Outreach of Technology and Distribution of Farming Tools for ST and Low-Income Farmers'. The initiative aimed to empower tribal and marginalized farmers through

technological interventions and improved farming practices.On this occasion, More than 300 farmers from various areas of Kupwara participated in the programme. During which Quality maize and potato seeds were distributed among the farmers, many of whom expressed their gratitude to SKUAST-K for this unprecedented support. "This is the first time in my life we have received such good support from any agricultural authority," said a 75-year-old farmer on the occasion. The event was graced by MLA Kupwara, Mir Fayaz Ahmad, as Chief Guest. In his address, he appreciated the large turnout of tribal farmers and lauded the university's outreach efforts. Recalling his contributions in strengthening



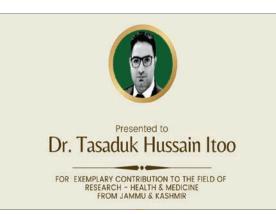
KVK Kupwara during his tenure as the sanctioning of a footbridge for Member of Parliament, he announced the KVK premises to improve farm-

er accessibility. He also pledged personal support for agricultural activities in the district and proposed organizing similar initiatives across all blocks of Kupwara in collaboration with SKUAST-K.Speaking on the occasion, Director Extension Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth emphasized the importance of natural farming and urged farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices as per SKUAST-Kguidelines. She assured the farming community of continuous technological support and capacity-building initiatives.Prof. Kaiser Mohi-ud-Din Malik, Head KVK Kupwara, expressed his gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Director Extension, the Chief Guest, and participating farmers for making the programme a success. The event

proceedings were conducted by Dr. Raies Ahmad Bhat.Prominent officials and faculty present included Prof. Amal Saxena (Director Education, SKUAST-K), Prof. Liyaqat Choudhary (Incharge COD Cell KVK DOE), Prof. Javid Ahmad Magloo (Head KVK Pulwama and Project Investigator), Prof. Javid Ahmad Bhat (Head, Division of Soil Science, Wadura), and Prof. Khursheed Ahmad Dar (Division of Agronomy, FOA Wadura), besides the teaching and non-teaching staff of KVK Kupwara.The programme marked a significant step in bridging the gap between agricultural research institutions and grassroots tribal farming communities, promising enhanced livelihood opportunities for the farmers of the region.

### Kashmiri medico honored with Bharat Seva Puraskar

**HT News Network** 



Srinagar :Kashmiri doctor and columnist Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo has been honored with the prestigious Bharat Seva Puraskar 2025 by Bharat Seva Society for his outstanding contributions to healthcare, medicine and research.

This esteemed award recognizes Dr. Itoo's efforts in advancing healthcare, promoting health awareness, academic leadership, dedicated medical writing, research and improving the well-being of communities through his exceptional work in medicine and public health. Currently serving as a doctor at Narayana Health, Dr Itoo besides having affiliations with leading medical organizations, also holds the distinguished title of Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation(IDF Fellow, Belgium). The Bharat Seva Purskar 2025 consists of a certificate and citation acknowledging Dr. Itoo's achievements in the health and medicine and research. The Bharat Seva Society congratulates Dr. Itoo on this well-deserved recognition and wishes him continued success in his future endeavours.

### <u>IMPORTANT</u>NOTICE

It is for general information that my below mentioned have registered name without caste in school records of G.D. Goenka Public School Srinagar . Now I want to correct it in school records.

The name is Ahmad Yamin instead of this Ahma Yamin Jaan Rather, Class L.K.G . In this regard if anybody have any objection may kindly contact the concern office of the said school within 7 days. After completion of time no objection will be entertained

Shabir Ahmad Rather Dara Harwan Srinagar

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE** It is for general information that my below

wards have registered names without caste in schoo records of G.D. Goenka Public School Srinagar . Now I wan to correct it in school records.

The names are 1. Rayed Jaan instead of this Rayed Jaan Rather, Class 8th 2. Rayef Jaan instead of this Raye Jaan Rather, 3rd Class.

In this regard if anybody have any objection may kindly contact the concern office of the said school within 7 days. After completion of time no objection will be

ntertained

John Mohammad Rather Dara Harwan Srinagai

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

My name has been wrongly written as ABDUL MAJEED MIR on my aadhar card bearing Adhaar card no 795463251477 while my corrected name is AB MAJID MIR which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Aadhar authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

> Name....AB MAJID MIR R/O KALANTRA PAYEEN TEHSIL.....KREERI

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is inform to all general public notic to all general public through the medium of notice that i nisar ahmad malik s/o Ab rehaman malik R/o mirchimar that my son namely firdous ali malik is born on 19-02-2017 now i want to obtain DoB certificate he she the contect of bdo singpora with in period of seven days

YOURS FAITH FULLY

### **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMI OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI**

(Executive Magistrate 1st Class) Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA )/ chokedar has submitted case file pertainingto Birth of MUNEEB AHMAD DAR & AISHA MEHRAJ S/O MEHRAJ UD DIN DAR R/O SALOOSA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 16/11 /2016 & 8/11/2018 and event has been shown to be occured at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate 1st Class KREERI

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, Mohsin Nazir Bhat, have lost my wallet, which contains some important documents and cards. I traveled from Sanatnagar to Dangerpora. The wallet contains a SIM card with the number 9877186880, along with my Aadhaar card, PAN card, and ATM cards.

If anyone finds it or has any information, please contact me. You will be considered fortunate for helping.

My contact number is: 6006277265



### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I Ghulam Qadir Bhat S/O Abdul Jabbar Bhat Father's of Iqbal Qadir Bhat R/o Kenyal Tehsil Tarathpora I have applied for DOB Certificate of my son's Namely Jabal Qadir Bhat Dob 04/05/2016 in this record if anybody has any kind of objection He/she may contact concerned authority within 7 days no objection will be entertained after the date of expire.

**IQBAL QADIR BHAT** S/O GHULAM QADIR BHAT R/o KENYAL TEHSIL TARATHPORA DIST KUPWARA DOB 04/05/2016

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform that the name and date of birth of my son. Mohammad Zuhaib Shah, son of Javid Ahmad Shah, a resident of Saloosa, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, have been incorrectly recorded on his Aadhaar Card 416154659869. This error occurred due to unknown reasons. The correct date of birth is 11-05-2012.

I have also applied for a correction in his school records. If anyone has any objections regarding this matter, they may submit their objections to the concerned authority, Assistant Collector Kreeri, within a period of seven days. After that period, no objections will be entertained.



**OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI** (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA has submitted case file pertaining )/ chokedar to death of GHULAM MOHI UD DIN THOKER S/O ABDUL GANI THOKER R/O KALANTRA BALA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of death as 16/02 /2023 and event has been shown to be occured at Home for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate 1st Class KREERI

NISAR AHMAD MALIH S/O AB REHMAN MALIK R/O MIRCHIMAR

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my daughter's Name and dob has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, 534112099840as name and DOB 09/07/2016 irfat Bano while his correct name and DOB IS, Aaliya Qayoom DOB 23/05/2016 now I have applied for the correction. If any-body having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection concerned authority /UIDAI office within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Name: AALIYA QAYOOM DOB , 23/05/2016 D/O ABDUL OAYOOM JEENDER R/O: Khanpora satkoji TEHSIL ZACHALDARA DIST KUPWARA

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA NOTICE INVITING TENDERS										
Single Cover System ENIT NO. 05 OF R&B /CHADOORA/ 385-93 of 2025-26 DATED: 01/05/2025										
	ENTEND. US OF R&B / CHADOORA/ 385-93 OF 2025-26 DATED: 01/05/2025 SINGLE COVER SYSTEM									
	For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and									
	eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-									
SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost o T/Doo (In Ri		Earnest Money (In Rupees}	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contactor		
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		
1	Construction of Middle School at Zaloowa.	44.49	1100.	00	88980/-	120	PAB 2024-25	A/B		
	The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying of terms and conditions of contract and other de as per schedule of dates given below:-			aded from	n the departm					
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	ate of Issue of Tender Notice			01/05/2025					
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents		01/05/2025							
3 4	Bid submission Start Date Bid Submission End Date			01/05/2025 08/05/2025 upto 4.00 PM.						
4	Bid Submission End Date	a Submission End Date			· · · ·					
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids			08/05/2025 at 4.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora						
	Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority). Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for beyond bid validity. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released to the successful completion of the COntractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT. 50% of the normal deposits (Deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after virtual completion of the work and balance 50% after completion of DLP. All tother terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).									
	DIPK-1054/25     Executive Engineer       Dated: 02/05/2025     R&B Division Chadoora									

ماملهمندر جدانصدرین پواری خلفه سےرپورٹ عنب کی کی-مطابق	ید بن حن پسرغلام <sup>ح</sup> ن کمارعمر <b>23</b> پیشهز ریتعلیم
ر پورٹ پٹواری وڈیتر صرفیکیٹ محمد عباس ڈارولد محمد ابراھیم ڈارسا ئندرکھ سال	4 نِهْ بِيرْحْنُ بِسرْعُمْر 22 بِيشْدَرْ يَتْعَلَيْهِمْ
د کلی پوره مور <b>نه 24-10-31</b> کو <b>فوت</b> ہو چکا ہے متوفی محمد عباس میں بحیہ دیر میں ماہتا ہوتی ہیں چھر دیر دیا ہے مال	5 مجمل حن پسر عمر 18 پیشہ زیر تعلیم
دٔ ارمز کور بیشه سیمز دوری کرتا تھامتوف بیچھےمندر جدذیل وارثان جائز تھ پڑھا	6 نوید شن پسر عمر 17 پیشه زیر تعلیم
چھوڑ گھیا رشتہ بمراہ متوقی 1.افروزہ بیگم ہیوہ ، <b>40</b> سال گھریلوکام	7 سمير ډحن دختر عمر 15 پيشه زيرتغليم
۲۰، برورو یه بوده ب <b>طل میل مروده م</b> <b>۲</b> پرویز اتحد پسر <b>15</b> سال زیریغلیم ,	ی مایاندآمدنی درائع وغیر متلغ <b>120000</b> رو پیه تک میں
ع,در جامعه چگر ۲۵ تاک ریز می	ث أجراء کرنے میں اگر کمی بھی شخص یااشخاص کو کی آ
	ن ساہل/ ساہلہ/ ساہلان کے <b>حق میں س</b> یڑفکیٹ مذکورہ اجراء
	مدریااعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دن کے اندراندر دفتر ھذامیں
5 منتظرعين پسر <b>88</b> سال//	ختتام میعاً د <i>کو</i> تی بھی عذریا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا <sup>۔</sup>
	نائب تحصيلد آرماگام
اس طور کنبه کُل ( <b>66</b> )افراد پر متعل مطابق ریورٹ پٹواری مندرجہ دارثان جائز کی در اس کہ ذہب دار ایز نہیں	,
کےعلاوہ اورکو ٹی وارثان جائز نہیں ہے سرتیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں ایکٹر شخص ایثناف سر برجر کرکہ ایک میں میں میں ایک ایک ایک	زنیابتزچلڈارہ
ا اگر محی شخص یااشخاص بو گو کو کو با عزاض ہووہ اپناعزر یااعتراض ساتھ ایک کی بید میشر کی سیال نہ نہ کہ بیک کی بید ایم ہونی قرار	
دن کے اندر پیش کرے معاد گزرنے کے بعد <i>کوکو</i> نی عزر یااعتراض قبول اینیں ہوگا	منجانب: شاه زیب احمد میر وسائمه احدو شاہدہ احداد لادان بکہ ہینہ
ین،رو نائب تحصیلدار	عبدالاحدمير ساكن بهني يوره
)/ <u>-</u>	هاربمراداگاهي هرخاص و عام
	حمایا تا ہے کہ سائل/ ساہلہ نے ایک درخواست بمراد آر بی بر ذریب میں مند بریں مدرجہ ہیں رز میں کا کریں پر
ازنيابتپهلگام	ہوئی ہے جوکہ دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے سائل/ ساہلہ کا پچھا یہ بیاں
عنوان درخواست منجانب سموره اشرف دختر محمد اشرف گنائی بسا بمنها ڈ و	چھلے بندرہ سالوں سے سکسل طور رہائش کرتا چلا آرہا ہے مار منتقل ہے
پہلگام ضلع انتت ناگ بمراد نسبت (RBA) سرگفیکیٹ	یل پرستمل ہے الاسمہ بابا مہ عر <b>10</b> مذہب ی
بحصول ليگل هير سر ڻفکٺ	مبدالاحدمیر ولداحد میر عمر <b>46 پیشه مز</b> دوری اینه بهگرد. به مالاع <b>۲۵</b> منه که ما کا
	ائشة بيكم زوجه عبدالاحد عمر <b>43 ب</b> يشة گھريلوكام 19 ن برياج باغ 20 شن يقلير
ماملەمندر جەالصدرمیں کاغزات درخوست سامز کز کوردفتر ھزامیں زیر سماعت ہیں اس سلسے میں ریورٹ پٹواری طالب سے پا گیاجس سے عیاں ہو تا	3 شاه زیب احمد پسرعمر <b>26 پی</b> نیه زیرتعلیم ۱۹ از ختاع ۱۹۹۹ میزود یقعله
ما ملت بین ال سے بی رو چرت چواری طالب سا کتا ہوا کے سیال ہوتا ہے کہ درخوست دہندہ عرصہ دراز سے دھہمز کو رمیں سکونت رکھتا / رکھتی ہے	4 سائمه دخترعم <b>24</b> پیشهز ریتعلیم عادان مذهبی <b>24</b> بینه زیرتعلیم
ہے کہ دو دوست دہمدہ مرمند درار سے دستر کو دیں کو مت دستار دی ہے۔ سائلہ کے تمدید کی سالانہ آمدانی میلی <b>ح 7500</b> سائلہ دھ مزکو رکو رکامت قل باشدہ	5 شاہدہ دختر عمر <b>12</b> پیشہ زیرتعلیم میں بر زیر نظر عمر <b>12</b> پیشہ زیرتعلیم
	ں اورکو ئی فر دنہیں ہے کنبہ کی ماہانہ آمدنی <b>6666</b> دکھائی صرحت میں میں شروع کی میں نہ رک نہ کا ماہ
سب 1مجمد اشرف ولدغلام حن گنانی <b>53</b> سال مز دوری	بھی شخص یاا شخاص کو اس سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں کو ئی اساس کی دور دور فقتہ در ملکہ پیشر کی ہیں دیں
2نازیدبانو زوجه محمداشرف تکنانی <b>45</b> سال تھریلوکام	وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر دفتر ھذا میں پیش کریں میعاد کی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا
<u>تاریخ د در به در رف کام محال کرد.</u> 3بزاراحمد پسر 29 سال مزدوری آمدانی 7000	۵۰۵ فرال۵۰۵ بون.بون. ائب تحصیلدارزچلڈارہ
4. اقراء جان زوجه بېزارا تمد تکنانی <b>55</b> سال کهریکوکام,	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
	اطلاععام
6مسرت اختر دختر محمد اشرف على طريق	
	لاع دی جاتی ہےکہ سحول رکاڈ مین میری تاریخ پیدایسً
	، جب کہ میری اصلی تاریخ پیدایسً 2012 / 08 / 12
السطوركنبه كافراد پر شمل مطابق رپورٹ پخواری مندر جدوارثان جائز	لی کرانی مطلوب2012 /03 /12 مطابق ادھار کاڈ
کے علاوہ اور کو کی وارثان جائز نہیں ہے ڈینڈ نے سر ٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث	یء.رہوتو وہ سات یوم کےاندراندرگورمیٹ سکول ولر ہامہ 🚽
اجراء کرنے میں اگریس شخص یااشخاص بو کو کی عزر پااعتراض ہوو ،ایناعزر	ن پیس کرے بعاداز معادتو ی <i>ی ع</i> رر قبول نہن ہوگا
یا عتراض ساقھ دن کےاندر پیش کرے معاد گزرنے کے بعد کو کوئی غرریا	المستهر
اعتراض قبول نيں ہوگا	ن دختر طاریق احمد گوجر گورسی
نائب تحصيلدار	ولرهامه تحصيل سلر پهلگام

اس کےعلاوہ کنبہ کی ماہانہ آمدنی ذرائع وَغیرہ مبلغ سیرفکیٹ زیربحث اجراء کرنے میں اگریسی وجوپات مندرجہ بحق ساہل/ ساہلہ/ ساہلان کے حق رے میں کوئی عذر یااعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دن پیش کریں بعداختنام میعاد کوئی کھی عذریااعترا نائب تحصيلداره مضمون د رخواست منجانب : شاه زیب احمد میر وسا عبدالاحدمير ساكن بهني يو اشتهار بمراداگاهی طلع حياجا تايےكەسائل/ ے سپڑفکیٹ دی ہوتی ہے جو کہ دفتر *هذ*ا م**ی**ں ز دیہہ جذا میں کچھلے بندرہ سالوں سے جبکہ سائل کا کنبہ بزیل پرستمل ہے 1عبدالاحدمير ولداحدميرعمر46 پيش 2 عائشة بيكم زوجه عبدالاحدعم 43 پ 3 شاه زيب احمد پسرعمر 26 پيش 4 سائمه دخترعم 24 پیشه ز 5 شايده دخترعمر21 پيشەزيا اس کےعلاوہ کنبیہ میں اورکو ٹی فر دنہیں ہے کنبیہ کج قئي پےلہذاا گرکسی بھی شخص یااشخاص کو اس سر ٹی عذر پااعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دن کے اندراندر دفن نے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں نائب تحصيلدارزج اطلاععا ہرخاص وعام کواطلاع دی جاتی ہےکہ سکول رکاڈ اَزَاج ہویں بے جب کہ میر ی اصلٰی تاریخ پیدایس ہےاب اس کی دنتگی کرانی مطلوب2012 /30 ہے سمحسی کوکویلی عزر ہوتو وہ سات یوم کے اندر کے دفتر مین پیس کرے بعاداز معادکو المشتهر بازلهطاريق دختر طاريق احم ساكنولرهامه تحصيل 

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## Javid Dar assesses functioning of Sheep Breeding Farm Khimber Also inspects newly imported Texel Breed from Australia

### HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 02: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today visited Sheep Breeding Farm (SBF) Khimber here to assess the functioning of the facility and inspect the newly introduced Texel sheep breed imported from Australia.

MLA Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar; Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, Rafiq Ahmad and other senior officers of the department also accompanied the Minister during the visit.

While inspecting the facility, the Minister said, "The Texel sheep breed will emerge as a revolutionary force in the livestock industry in J&K. Its introduction offers tremendous potential for transforming sheep rearing practices, enhancing productivity, and ultimately improving the livelihoods of our farming community.'

He directed the concerned officers to organize awareness camps to educate farmers on the benefits and management practices associated with the Texel breed. He highlighted that the awareness camps will serve as vital platforms to disseminate



technical know-how and improve department for their efforts in successful completion of the importation adoption of scientific sheep husprocess of Texel Sheep. The Minister also appreciated the

During the visit, Director Sheep Hus-

bandry informed the Minister on the introduction of around 450 highquality Texel sheep: including 338 ewes and 112 rams-imported from Australia under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). He added that the initiative is aimed at addressing the J&K's substantial mutton demand of approximately 310 lakh kilograms annually.He also informed that the Texel breed will be reared under intensive farming conditions at SBF Khimber, adding that the breeding lines will be scientifically maintained to preserve pedigree records. He also briefed the Minister that the firstgeneration (F1) progeny will serve a dual purpose of establishing breedbased farms by distributing male and female Texel sheep to farmers in isolated clusters for further propagation and upgrading local sheep breeds by distributing superiorquality Texel rams to local farmers for breeding, with requisite approvals from the Scientific Advisory Committee of SKUAST.

Pertinently, the Minister's visit highlights the government's efforts towards strengthening the livestock sector through innovation, scientific management, and farmer-centric interventions.

### **Dementia & its variants: National Midterm CME-2025 inaugurated at GMC Srinagar**

### HT News Network

Srinagar, May 02: The Indian Association for Geriatric Mental Health(IAGMH) in collaboration with Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar inaugurated the two-day National Midterm CME-2025 on "Dementia&ItsVariants: RecentAdvances and Innovation" today.

The conference aims to bring together leading mental health professionals to deliberate on evolving clinical practices, research, and innovation in dementia care.

The event has drawn a significant gathering of national delegates including Founding president IAGMH-Dr S.CTiwari, President IAGMH-Dr Alka Subramanyam, Vice president - Dr Sandeep Grover, senior psy-



chiatrists in the valley, Dr Arshid Hussain, Dr Abdul Majid, Dr Zaid wani, faculty members, and mental health experts from across the country.

The inaugural session was presided over by Prof. Dr. Iffat Hassan, Principal / Dean GMC Srinagar who while speaking on the occasion said that this conference highlights the importance of addressing dementia and its variants in the context

of an aging population and provides a platform for mental

bandry practices.

health professionals to share their expertise, experiences, and insights on the latest developments in dementia care.

As our population ages, the prevalence of dementia is expected to rise significantly, making it one of the most pressing public health challenges of our time. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Maqbool, Organising Chairperson and Head of the Department, Government Psychiatric Diseases Hospital (IMHANS), also shared his insights on the importance of addressing dementia and its variants.

Dr. Alka Subramanyam highlighted the need for a specialized unit in Geriatric Mental Health and proposed starting fellowship programs in Geriatric Psychiatry in Kashmir.

Dr. Junaid Nabi, Organising Secretary and Incharge Geriatric Unit at IMHANS, emphasized the rising prevalence of dementia in India and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He advocated for adopting a convergence model in geriatric mental health care, focusing on a rights-based approach to treatment and support services for the elderly.

### Kupwara admn bids farewell to outgoing **Dy. DEO Abdul Hamid**

### **HT News Network**

KUPWARA, MAY 2: District administration Kupwara today bade a warm farewell to the outgoing Deputy District Election Officer, Abdul Hamid, in a ceremony held here.

While acknowledging Hamid's dedicated service, Deputy Commissioner, Ayushi Sudan praised his commitment to upholding democratic processes and his efficient handling of electoral responsibilities in the district. She expressed appreciation for his professionalism and collaborative spirit during the tenure in district.

ACR Kupwara, Mumtaz Ahmad, and staff of Election Office were present at the occasion and shared their



experiences working with outgoing Officer, wishing him success in his future assignments.

The event concluded with the presentation of a memento as a token of appreciation for his contributions to the district administration. While acknowledging Hamid's dedicated service, Deputy Commissioner, Ayushi Sudan praised his commitment to upholding democratic processes and his efficient handling of electoral responsibilities in the district. She expressed appreciation for his professionalism and collaborative spirit during the tenure in district.

### **Magam Residents Protest Over Incomplete Bridge, Seek** Accountability



### DC Kupwara reviews progress under JK Samadhan Portal

**HT News Network** 

KUPWARA, MAY 2: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara,



### **Chairman DLSA Budgam holds** meeting of Judicial Officers,

### **HT News Network**

Budgam 02: Following directions of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, JK Legal Services Authority, a meeting of Judicial Officers of District Budgam was held under the chairmanship of O.P Bhagat, Pr. District & Sessions Judge and Chair-



Magam, May 2 : Residents of Magam in Central Kashmir's Budgam district staged a strong protest on Friday, questioning the delay in completion of a key bridge project inaugurated by Union Minister Smriti Irani in 2021. The bridge, launched with much promise and public attention, remains halfconstructed even after years. Locals described it as a "broken symbol of forgotten promises," pointing to the slow pace of development despite over 50 percent of the work already being completed. Talking to Media a group of protesting locals said, "Why is Magam always ignored? Why are our voices never heard? The concerned department cites a lack of funds, but if half of the bridge is already built, why has the rest stalled?" The locals also raised concerns about flood protection measures, stating that after the 2014 floods, only partial dredging of the river was done. "Only 50% dredging has been carried out. Materials to fix the damaged bunds are lying here, but no work is being done. Our children are living in homes at risk of landslides. Where will we go if disaster strikes again?" one local asked.

Frustration was also voiced over the administrative apathy. "Whenever we approach any office, we're just told to go somewhere else. No one listens. We're simply being passed from one department to another," they said. The protesters urged the administration to intervene immediately. "We demand answers. Where are the funds? Why is the material lying unused? Magam deserves better," they said.

Ayushi Sudan Friday convened a review meeting of all concerned officers and other stakeholders to assess the progress of the registration process under the JK Samadhan Portal.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of timely and efficient registration of grievances, which can be accessed and resolved through the portal. In her address, the DC highlighted the critical role of the portal in facilitating citizens' access to government services and resolving disputes. She urged all the concerned departments to ensure maximum outreach and participation in the portal's registration process. CSCVLEs directed to ensure cent

percent registration of the tar-

geted population within the stiupulated time frame.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of registration in various tehsils and sub-divisions of the district, with a special focus on identifying areas where registration was lagging behind.

Meanwhile, timelines were fixed for different departments to ensure cent percent registration of the people.

The meeting was attended by ACD Kupwara, CEO, CMO, BDOs, DPM-NRLM, District Manager CSC and VLEs.

man, District Legal Services Authority, (DLSA) Budgam, here. Yahaya Firdous, Additional District and Session Judge Budgam, Imran Hussain Wani Sub-Judge/Chief Judicial Magistrate Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak Sub Judge/Secretary District Legal Services Authority Budgam, Easar ul Nabi Shah Special Mobile Magistrate Budgam and Tasneem Kawoosa Munsiff/JMIC Budgam attended the meeting in person while Iqbal Rafiq Vakeel Sub judge, Chadoora, Nazia Hassan Munsiff/JMIC Budgam, Rabiya Snober Gulzar Munsiff Magam, Aiman Aiman Munsiff/JMIC Char-i-Sharif and owfeel Ahmad Mir Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Beerwah attended the meeting virtually. During the meeting, Chairman DLSA stressed upon all

Judicial officers to identify the maximum number of pending court cases for their amicable settlement in the upcoming National Lok Adalat scheduled on 10th of May, 2025.

He emphasized upon all officers to focus on old cases and identify these cases for the said National Lok Adalat. He also stressed to identify Civil Suits, Matrimonial disputes, 138 NI Act cases etc, where there is an element of settlement for the said National Lok Adalat so that the cases of more and more litigants can be amicably resolved.

### Mr. Gh Nabi Wani Retires After 35 Years of Exemplary Service at BHS Gushi

### **HT News Network**

Srinagar:-Mr. Gh Nabi Wani – an erudite educationist and an intellectual par excellence - bids adieu to the Department of Education after rendering an illustrious service spanning over three and a half decades at Boys High School Gushi.

A paragon of resilience and an enduring source of inspiration for posterity - particularly the student fraternity - Mr. Wani has triumphed over physical adversity, having undergone both knee and hip joint replacements, yet remained unwavering in his pursuit of academic excellence. There exist those who anticipate your downfall...

There exist those who expect your surrender... Yet you stand undeterred – leaving them in a perpetual state of anticipation...

The wisest among us often cloak themselves in humility, their discernment unswayed by the blinding gleam of egotism. Thirty-one prospects. Thirty-one destinies - the architects of tomorrow. It is a sentiment bordering on the surreal, to believe that fragments of their lives are inextricably linked to my own. All that they become is part of my becoming, and all that I am, they have helped to shape.



As your official tenure culminates with your superannuation on the 30th of April, 2025, I find it imperative to articulate my profound appreciation for your visionary stewardship and extraordinary accomplishments. Your unwavering dedication, sagacious counsel, and relentless pursuit of scholastic advancement have significantly elevated the intellectual landscape particularly enriching the Wani Dynasty and the broader student community.

Your tenacity, forbearance, and steadfast belief have illuminated our paths. May Allah, the Most Gracious, continue to bestow His divine guidance and blessings upon you in all your future pursuits. A deep sense of gratitude is extended to all stakeholders – notably the school staff led by Mr. Mubashir Saleem and Mr. Javeed Ahmad Wani, under the dynamic leadership of Headmistress Mtr. Basant Kour Ji – for orchestrating a truly magnificent superannuation celebration in honour of Mr. Gh Nabi Wani at BHS Gushi. Special recognition is also due from the Wani Dynasty - spearheaded by Dr. Abdul Majeed Wani, Owner and Managing Director of Quality Health Care Hospital - to the entire organising committee, esteemed colleagues, devoted students, and all well-wishers whose collective efforts culminated in this memorable occasion.

Heartfelt thanks are also extended to the media fraternity – notably Mr. Yehya Sultan (ETV), Touseef Hamdani (Wings TV), and Faizan Quarashi – for their gracious presence and full-day coverage during the conduct of the said program, thereby capturing and amplifying the essence of this historic event.





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### Chairman, Secretary, DLSA Shopian visit fire victims of **Peer Mohalla**

HT News Network

Shopian, May 02: In a compassionate outreach to families affected by the recent devastating fire in Peer Mohalla, Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhury, Chairman DSLA Shopian along with Mudasar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Shopian today visited the affected area to assess the damages.

During the visit, the Chairman DLSA Shopian assured the victims that necessary steps would be taken to expedite compensation through insurance companies.

He further directed SHO Shopian to expedite the investigation and determine the cause of the fire. Accompanying the delegation were Mohammad Waseem Mirza, Munsiff and Rafie Ahmad Ganie, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel who provided legal guidance and assistance to the distressed families, reinforcing the DLSA's commitment to upholding justice and welfare in times of crisis.

**Toyota Launches Exclusive Edition of Innova HyCross** ZX(O), Available in Limited Units from May to July 2025

HT News Network

SRINAGAR: Trusted by over a lakh customers nationwide, the Toyota Innova HyCross continues to stand out for its blend of elegance and efficiency. Now, Toyota Kirloskar Motor is set to release a special Exclusive Edition of the Innova HyCross ZX(O)—available in limited quantity and only for a short window from May to July 2025. The edition will come in two striking shades: Super White and Pearl White.

Mr. Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President of Sales, Service, and Used Car Business at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said the Exclusive Edition is a response to evolving customer aspirations. "The Innova HyCross has consistently been appreciated for combining SUV-like styling with MPV-level spaciousness. This new variant adds more value and convenience, offering a refined experience for families seeking comfort and reliability."

Since its launch in November 2022, the Innova HyCross has become a favorite among Indian buyers. Built on Toyota's New Global Architecture (TNGA) and featuring the 5th Gen Self-Charging Strong Hybrid Electric System, it pairs a 2.0-litre 4-cylinder gasoline engine with an e-drive sequential shift, delivering 186 PS of power along with best-in-segment fuel efficiency. Its hybrid system allows the car to operate in electric mode for up to 60% of the time, offering both dynamic performance and eco-friendliness.

The vehicle also boasts high-end features such as Powered Ottoman Second Row Seats, Front Ventilated Seats, Dual Zone AC, Panoramic Sunroof, and Toyota Safety Sense  ${}^{\rm TM}$  , along with a connected infotainment suite. With these upgrades, the Exclusive Edition aims to redefine comfort and style in the premium MPV segment.(KNT)

# **Mission Director JJM J&K reviews progress of** Water Supply schemes in Rajouri district

Emphasises effective financial management to avoid cost escalation of projects

**HT News Network** 

RAJOURI, MAY 01: As part of the government's ongoing commitment to grassroots governance and responsive administration, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted a public outreach camp at Panchayat Chowkian and Panchayat Kalsian in Nowshera division.

The outreach programme aimed to foster direct communication with the people and resolve their issues promptly. During the interactive session, the locals

raised several concerns including the need for macadamization of roads, staff shortage in government institutions, inadequate healthcare infrastructure, water scarcity and establishment of a Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Panchayat Chowkian.

Other highlighted issues included the need for additional border bunkers and Angan-



wadi centres, repair of dilapidated Government Middle School (GMS) Chowkian, low voltage problem and upgradation of GMS

Jhanghar and GMS Sarya. The Deputy Chief Minister assured the public that their genuine issues would be addressed in a time bound manner. He directed the concerned departments to initiate prompt redressal measures.

While reviewing implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the Dy CM expressed concern over the slow pace of work. He instructed the officers to expedite project completion so that the benefits reach the people at the earliest.

Regarding the electricity issues, he directed the Power Development Department to take necessary corrective steps to ensure

uninterrupted power supply. On the occasion, the Dy CM also distributed labour cards among the eligible beneficiaries, reaffirming the government's commitment to welfare and inclusivity. ADC Nowshera, PO ICDS, Executive Engineers PDD Rajouri, PWD (R&B) Rajouri, PMGSY Rajouri and REW, ACP, CAHO, ALC, AD FCS&CA were present in the camp.

### **JKEDI hosts Entrepreneurship Orientation Program for students of MIET College**

### **HT News Network**

JAMMU, MAY 02: In a step towards strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem, the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Friday organized an Entrepreneurship and Startup Orientation Program in collaboration with the Model Institute of Engineering and Technology(MIET)here.The program was aimed at sensitizing the participating students about the opportunities and support mechanisms available under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27. The program majorly focused on educating the students regarding the role of entrepreneurship and innovation in shaping their career.



Around 40 students parincentives available for budticipated in the orientation ding entrepreneurs. programme, held at JKEDI Speaking on the occasion, Director JKEDI Khalid Jah-

dents to think innovatively,

Bari Brahamana campus, featuring interactive sesangir emphasized the sions on startup ideation, importance of entreprebusiness plan modeling, and neurship and startup the support of the governawareness programmes in ment under the J&K Startup nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit among youth. Policy 2024-27. The experts from JKEDI pro-He stressed that these programs shall help the stu-

vided valuable insights into the various schemes and

understand the basics of entrepreneurship, and explore the path of becoming job creators rather than job seekers.

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students and faculty members along with other officials of the institute. This initiative is a part of JKEDI's broader efforts to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit among the youth in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, contributing to the economic development of the region by creating new opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship. The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students and faculty members along with other officials of the institute. This initiative is a part of JKEDI's.

### **Secretary DLSA Ganderbal** chairs meeting of LADCs

### HT News Network

Ganderbal, May 02: The Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, today chaired a meeting of Legal Aid Defense Counsels in his office chamber.

The meeting was attended by all Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) and aimed to discuss strategies for improvement and provision of qualitative and competent legal services in criminal matters to all eligible persons and strategies for legal research & implementation of calendar of activities.

During the meeting, the Secretary emphasized the importance of managing and implementing the legal aid system in a professional manner in criminal trials. He stressed upon the Legal Aid Defense Counsels to ensure that the legal aid services are delivered in an efficient and effective manner, upholding the principles of justice and fairness.

The meeting provided a platform for the Legal Aid Defense Counsels to discuss challenges and share best practices in providing legal aid services to the marginalized sections of society and conduct a legal research for effective implementation of schemes devised by NALSA.

The Secretary's guidance and directions are expected to further strengthen the legal aid system in the district, ensuring that justice is accessible to all.

# DC, SSP interact with Civil Society

## DC reviews working of FCS&CA

### **International Labour Day GDC Ramgarh hosts Lecture** on Workers' Rights

### HT News Network

SAMBA, MAY 2: In a thoughtful initiative aimed at raising awareness about the significance of labour rights and honouring the contribution of workers, Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized a lecture to mark the International Labour Day 2025.

The event was held under the leadership of Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, who highlighted the importance of acknowledging the efforts of workers across sectors and the need to uphold their rights and dignity in a fair and just society.

The programme was initiated by Head of the Department of Political Science Priya Sharma, with introduction to the significance of International Labour Day. In her address, she shed light on the historical struggles of workers worldwide, the emergence of labour laws, and the ongoing challenges faced by the labour force in India. She emphasized the importance of educating students about labour rights, legal frameworks such as the Minimum Wages Act, the Industrial Disputes Act, and various Social Security Schemes designed to protect workers' welfare.

A detailed and interactive lecture was delivered, focusing on the fundamental rights of workers, working conditions, social protections, and the role of labour unions. The lecture also addressed contemporary issues such as informal labour, economic challenges, and gender disparity in the workforce.

The programme also featured discussions on the role of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Indian Constitution in securing the rights and welfare of workers. Real-life examples and relevant case studies were shared to give students a better understanding of the ground realities and the legal remedies available for workers.

The event was coordinated by the Department of Political Science with active support from faculty members including Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Dr. Snobar, Ashok Kumar, Prof. Brham Dutt, Dr. Neeraj Bargotra, Dr. Susheel Kumar, Priya Sharma and Ms. Sayema. The session concluded with an engaging interaction between students and faculty.

### members at Poonch

### **HT News Network**

POONCH, MAY 02: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal and Senior Superintendent of Police Shafakat Hussain convened a meeting with civil society members and religious leaders to address local developmental issues. The gathering aimed to gather feedback and coordinate efforts for the betterment of the district.

Key attendees included DDC Members, ADC, ACR, DSWO/ DIO, Tehsildar Haveli, ARTO, Former MLC, and the BDC Members, along with prom-

inent civil society members



and religious leaders. Participants shared their concerns regarding the need for unity and communal harmony, reaffirming their commitment to support the administration. Deputy Commissioner Vikas

Kundal listened attentively

to all issues raised, assuring attendees that their concerns would be prioritized. He emphasized the administration's commitment to the district's development and the necessity of cooperation to foster communal har-

mony.

**Department in Poonch** 

### HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 2: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a review meeting here today to assess the working of the Food Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs Department. Assistant Director FCS&CA Adil Shabir and all Tehsil Supply Officers (TSOs) of the district attended the meeting.At the outset, the Assistant Director FCS&CA gave a detailed presentation regarding the functioning of the department. He said that the district has ample stocks of essential commodities including wheat, rice, LPG, petrol and diesel. A thorough discussion ensued and the DDCreviewedthestatusofe-KYC/e-Shram/ NFSA/Non-NFSA&PMFSS schemes focusing on three categories of Non-Priority Households (NPHH), Priority Households



(PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). He reviewed the current status and issues faced by the TSOs from various zones in the district. The DDC reviewed E-KYC reports from each zone and asked the TSOs to complete the E-KYC registration in their jurisdictions. He also discussed issues related to online transactions, instructing officers to only provide ration through online mode.

# **NITI Aayog Releases Report on "Enhancing Competitiveness of MSMEs in India**"

### HT News Network

New Delhi May 2 (KNS): NITI Aayog today released the report on 'Enhancing MSMEs Competitiveness in India', prepared by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Institute for Competitiveness (IFC). The report presents a detailed blueprint for unlocking the immense potential of India's Micro, Small  $and {\it Medium Enterprises} ({\it MSMEs}) through$ systemic reforms in financing, skilling, innovation and market access.

The report delves into the key challenges affecting the competitiveness of MSMEs in India. Using firm-level data and the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), it provides recommendations to foster sustainable integration and enhance their incorporation into global value chains. It focuses on four important sectors - textiles manufacturing and apparel, chemical prod-



ucts, automotive and food processing while highlighting the sector-specific challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed to unlock the potential of MSMEs in India. The report examines current national and state policies, highlighting gaps in implementation and limited awareness among MSMEs.

One of the important findings of the report

is the notable improvement in MSMEs' access to formal credit. Between 2020 and 2024, the share of micro and small enterprises accessing credit through scheduled banks rose from 14% to 20%, while medium enterprises saw an increase from 4% to 9%. Despite these improvements, the report reveals that a substantial credit gap remains. Only 19% of MSME credit demand was met formally by FY21, leaving an estimated ?80 lakh crore unmet. The Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) has expanded significantly, but still faces significant limitations. To bridge the credit gap and unlock inclusive, scalable finance for MSMEs, the report calls for a revamped CGTMSE, supported by institutional collaboration and more targeted services. The report also highlights the pressing issue of skill shortages within the MSME sector. A large portion of the workforce lacks formal vocational or technical training, which hampers productivity and limits the ability of MSMEs to scale effectively. Many MSMEs also fail to invest sufficiently in research and development (R&D), quality improvement, or innovation, making it difficult to stay competitive in national and global markets. The report further points out that MSMEs face barriers in adopting modern technologies due to unreliable electricity supply, weak internet connectivity and high implementation costs. Despite state government schemes designed to support technological advancement in MSMEs, many enterprises are either unaware of them or unable to access them. In its analysis of clusters, the report finds that upgrading outdated technologies and improving marketing and branding capabilities are critical to improving competitiveness.

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# DC Reasi reviews performance of Health department, lays emphasis on maternal, neonatal Healthcare

### HT News Network

REASI, MAY 02: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Health Department to assess the status of ongoing health programmes and initiatives in the district.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Kohli, provided an overview of the department's functioning in the district including Maternal and neonatal healthcare, Family Planning and immunisation and a briefing on the 100-Day TB Elimination Campaign.

The Deputy Commissioner laid special emphasis on Maternal and neonatal Healthcare and instructed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to furnish detailed data on institutional deliveries and home births. She emphasized the need to minimize home deliveries, highlighting the risks these pose to both mothers and newborns. The DC Reasi urged health officials to ensure that all deliveries take place in registered healthcare institutions,



where proper medical support is available, to enhance the overall safety and outcomes of childbirth in the district. For improving child healthcare, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized on the significance of the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK). She directed the CMO to ensure early detection and prevention of diseases among children, so that timely treatment and support can be provided to them.

It was informed that the district has improved many parameters like ANC registration touching 91% in the first trimester of 2024-25 in comparison to last year's 80%, institutional deliveries reaching 91% during 2024-25, BCG Vaccines rate recorded at 108% and considerable improvement in PPIUCD insertion. The Deputy Commissioner stressed that the hilly, inaccessible, remote areas of Mahore, Reasi & Pouni, where people still resort to home deliveries need to be given special attention. She asked for conducting Block wise monthly review of implementation of each Programme. She further directed the officials to compile monthly health data and furnish the same to her office.

HT -JAMMU

The meeting also included a briefing on the 100-Day TB Elimination Campaign, a focused initiative to raise community awareness around TB prevention and treatment. The meeting also included a briefing on the 100-Day TB Elimination Campaign, a focused initiative to raise community awareness around TB preven-

### 75 Teaching, Non-Teaching Staff get Time-bound promotion

**HT News Network** 

JAMMU, MAY 02: The Directorate of School Education Jammu has given time-bound promotion to 75 employees across various cadres in the education department. The officials promoted include 68 Masters; 5 Senior Assistants and 2 Librarians.

The time-bound promotion cases were examined and approved by the duly constituted promotion committee headed by the Director School Education, Jammu, with the Joint Director (SE), Personnel Officer, FA/CAO and AAO as committee members. The committee meticulously reviewed and sanctioned all 75 cases as per the norms and eligibility criteria.

"These promotions are part of the department's routine exercise to ensure timely career progression and to maintain high morale among staff" DSEJ officials said.

### **Rogi Kalyan Samiti reviews** patient care services in Govt **Hospital Gandhi Nagar**

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 02: The Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu hosted a meeting of Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS), a patient welfare committee, to discuss and implement initiatives aimed at improving Patient care services.

The meeting was chaired by MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa (Chairman of the committee) and attended by Chief Medical Officer Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh; Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr, Balvinder Singh and the members from other departments like PWD, PDD PHE, AYUSH, Information, ICDS, eminent members – Dr. Sunita Puri, Rahul, EX-corporator, Akhill along-with staff of Government Hospital Gandhinagar Dr. Sanjeev, Dr. Poonam Manyal and Dr. Ruchita Mahajan.

The meeting focused on the quality improvement initiatives, patient amenities such as improving hospital infrastructure & providing support to patients who are admitted without any attendants.

They discussed different patient safety protocols, implementation of staff dress code & the ways to overcome the shortage of staff in different departments of the hospital. This was followed by discussion on agenda points framed for the meeting of the RKS. It was noted that the Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu is situated in the heart of the city catering to nearby urban & rural population & strengthening of health care facilities in this hospital is must to fulfill the needs of the general public. The Chairman took a detailed tour of the hospital campus including Pediatrics ward, OPD Block, Blood Bank, Maternity Ward, MICU & interacted with patients, their attendants and elicited the patient response for working of staff of Govt Hospital Gandhinagar. He directed the staff to work with Zeal and enthusiasm in the interest of patient care and also admired the efforts of staff in providing patient care.

### **Inter-School Zonal Level Tournament** held at Ghat

### **HT News Network**

DODA MAY 02: An Inter-School Zonal Level Sports Competition was today organised at Ghat under the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and the guidance of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Pritam Singh. The Zonal Physical Education Office coordinated the tournament featuring spirited contests in Volleyball, Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho.

The event drew enthusiastic participation from 162 students representing different schools of the Ghat Zone. The young athletes showcased remarkable talent, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the competition, making the event a vibrant celebration of youth and

physical fitness. Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Ghat Dinesh Kumar was the chief guest. He lauded the participants for their dedication and energy. PEL and I/C ZPEO Surinder Kumar served as the Nodal Officer and played a crucial role in organizing and overseeing the event. The successful execution of the tournament was made possible by the collective efforts of all PEMs, PETs, and REKs. A special vote of thanks was extended to the Block Medical Officer, Ghat, for deploying medical staff and ensuring first aid support on-site. The organizers also expressed sincere gratitude to the Diamond Youth Club Ghat for providing a free ambulance service, further contributing to the safety and smooth conduct of the event. The tournament not only promoted healthy competition but also reinforced the importance of sports and physical education among school students.

### **Deputy Chief Minister inspects progress on** construction works in Dak Bungalow Nowshera

### HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 2: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary, today visited the PWD Dak Bunglow in Nowshera to inspect the progress on construction works being executed there.

The visit aimed to evaluate the progress on ongoing developmental works, especially conference hall at PWD Dak Bunglow Nowshera.

During his visit, the Deputy Chief Minister was apprised that the estimated cost of the project is



Rs 249 Lakh and it will be completed by December 2025.

The Dy CM inspected the quality of construction works and

directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of progress while maintaining high standards in work execution. Highlighting the significance of

infrastructure development, he directed the officials to ensure strict adherence to deadlines besides addressing any bottlenecks hindering the timely completion of projects.

'Quality should not be compromised at any cost, as these projects are pivotal for overall development of the region and well-being of the people," Surinder Choudhary remarked.



RAMBAN, MAY 02: In a determined effort to combat the menace of drug abuse, the District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, intensified its anti-drug campaign under the nationwide Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan and Nasha Mukt Jammu and



journeys.

DC interacts with toppers of

**Board exams at Poonch** 

#### **HT News Network**

POONCH, MAY 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Vikas Kundal today interacted with top scorers of class 12 and class 10 Board exams, the results of which were recently declared.

The students with 95% marks met with DC at his office. He congratulated the students for their exceptional academic achievements and praised their dedication and hardwork.

The DC lauded the government schools in providing quality education and nurturing the potential of students, even in the face of various challenges. He acknowledged the efforts of teachers and parents who supported the students throughout their academic In Class 10th exams, the toppers included Shabana Mirze from GHSS Girls Surankote, who scored 491 marks (98.2%); Tabassam Latief Paswal, also from GHSS Girls Surankote, with 485 marks (97%) and Arzoo Asif Manhas from GHS Jaranwali Gali, who achieved 483 marks (96.6%).

The Class 12th toppers include Mohammad Motayoub from GHSS Fatehpur with 478 marks (95.6%); Iqra Qureshi from GHSS Girls Surankote with 477 marks (95.4%); and Vanshika Bali from GHSS Girls Poonch, with 476 marks (95.2%). District Education and Planning Officer (DEPO) Mukhtar Manhas announced that a formal felicitation ceremony will be held soon to honor these outstanding students.

#### Kashmir initiative.

A series of awareness activities were organized across various educational institutions in the district to sensitize students and the community about the harmful effects of drug and substance abuse.

These initiatives are part of a sustained campaign initiated by DC Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary to eradicate drug abuse and build a safer, healthier future for the youth of Ramban. In Gool, the girl students of the Government Model Higher Secondary School led from the front by conducting sensitization drives within their community. Their active participation and

leadership underlined the role of youth especially young women in driving social change.

At the PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Tethar, students actively participated in anti-drug pledge ceremonies and awareness programs aimed at promoting a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

Similarly, the PM Shri Government High School Chakka also held awareness events under the same campaign, where students took part in discussions and activities emphasizing the importance of staying away from drugs.

In a notable grassroots effort, the students of the Government High School Shagan staged a Nukkad Natak (street play) highlighting the devastating impact of drug addiction. The performance received appreciation for its impactful message and creativity.Meanwhile, students at Kaskoot, Bankoot and various other schools took a pledge to observe the Anti-Tobacco campaign and joined the Nasha Mukt Bharat campaign, reaffirming their commitment to an addiction-free lifestyle.

### **District Social Welfare Department** (SANKALP) HEW signs MoU with **GDC Ramgarh to empower Women Affinity Group**

#### **HT News Network**

SAMBA, MAY 2: To empower young women through skill development and other schemes & facilities. Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the District Social Welfare Department(SANKALP-HEW).The MoU was signed by the College Principal Dr. Meeru Abrol, and District Social Welfare Officer (Nodal Officer, SANKALP HEW) Nawaz Sharief. Also present at the event were Associate Professor Dr. Aditi Khajuria and Associate Professor Dr. Snobar, along with District Mission Coordinator Social Welfare Department Dr. Ruchi Thakur & Gender Specialist, SANKALP, HEW, Social Welfare Department Mansi Abrol.As part of this collaboration, Hub for Empowerment of Woman (HEW) has been established in the College, offering a dedicated platform to women students pursuing higher education & various other fields.

### ADC reviews working of school Education Department in Bhadarwah, Bhalla Zones

#### HT News Network

BHADERWAH, MAY 2: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Bhutyal today chaired a meeting with key stakeholders of the Education Department of Bhadar wah and Bhalla zones to review academic activities in the schools and execution of different schemes. The meeting was attended by the Chief Education Officer, ZEOs of Bhaderwah and Bhalla, ZPEOs of both zones, and Principals from all GHSSs of the Sub Division. The meeting focused on mea-

sures to improve quality of education and assessment of developmental projects related to school infrastructure, student enrollment, and resource allocation.

The ADC directed the officials to ensure timely completion of ongoing infrastructure works, such as classroom repairs, drinking water facilities and sanitation improvements as

per quality standards. A major area of focus during the meeting was the growing concern of drug abuse among students and youth. The ADC instructed school heads to collaborate with civil society, par-



ents, and local law enforcement to create awareness and implement preventive strategies. He also suggested organizing antidrug campaigns, counselling sessions, active participation of students in sports activities and moral education programs to steer students toward a healthy lifestyle and responsible behavior. Promoting social harmony and a safe learning environment was also discussed. The ADC asked for imbibing inclusiveness and values of unity, tolerance, and discipline among the students. The Principals were urged to take proactive steps in address-

ing grievances of students and ensure that teachers maintain a positive, engaging environment in classrooms. The meeting concluded with directions to ensure transparency in educational programmes, effective use of ICT labs and smart classrooms, and regular teacher performance evaluations. Promoting social harmony and a safe learning environment was also discussed. The ADC asked for imbibing inclusiveness and values of unity, tolerance, and discipline among the students. The Principals were urged to take proactive steps in addressing grievances of students.



03-May-2025



# PM dedicates Vizhinjam seaport to nation, says it will reduce reliance on foreign ports

**HT-NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL** 

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AGENCIES

THIRUVANANTHAPURM, MAY 2 (UNI)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Rs 8,900 crore Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala -- India's first mega transshipment container terminal that will significantly strengthen India's position in global trade, sharpen down reliance on foreign ports.

nificant advancement in role in maritime trade, the nation. "India's coastal with multiple nations. states and our port cities the PM said.

ships.

75% of India's transship- developed India". ment operations were the country.

that once flowed outside waterways policy. the country will now and Vizhinjam's people.

before the colonial rule, global GDP.

capacity and the economic sectors. activity of its port cities.



Noting that Kerala stated that his government logistics efficiency and cut played a significant role in has also reformed regulathis maritime strength and tions concerning Indian economic growth, he high-seafarers, yielding signifi-The seaport is a sig- lighted Kerala's historical cant results. He pointed out that in

economy.

He stressed that the situ-

and over the past 10 years,

operational efficiency.

India's maritime infra- emphasizing that through structure," Modi said while the Arabian Sea, India seafarers was below 1.25 dedicating the seaport to maintained trade links lakh. Today, this figure has He noted that ships

will become key centres of from Kerala carried goods now ranks among the top growth for a Viksit Bharat," to various countries, three countries globally making it a vital hub for in terms of seafarer num-The Prime Minister global commerce. "Today, bers. remarked that the capac- the Government of India ity of the transshipment is committed to further decade ago, ships faced hub will triple in the strengthening this chancoming years, enabling the nel of economic power", ing unloading operations. smooth arrival of some of he added and asserted. the world's largest cargo "India's coastal states and Modi noted that this slowport cities will become key down affected businesses, He pointed out that centers for the growth of a industries, and the overall

"The port economy previously conducted at reaches its full potential ation has now transformed foreign ports, leading to when infrastructure and significant revenue loss for ease of doing business are India's major ports have promoted together", said reduced ship turn-around Emphasizing that this the Prime Minister, stat- time by 30%, improving situation is now set to ing that over the past 10 change, he asserted that years, this has been the India's money will now blueprint of the govern- to enhanced port efficienserve India and the funds ment of India's port and

He highlighted that the in shorter durations, generate new economic government has acceler- strengthening the nation's opportunities for Kerala ated efforts for industrial logistics and trade capaactivities and holistic bilities. Modi remarked that development of states.

He noted that under PM India witnessed centuries Gati Shakti, waterways, of prosperity, emphasis- railways, highways, and ing that at one point, India airways are being rapidly held a major share in the integrated for seamless the past 10 years, India has targets to strengthen its connectivity. He added He highlighted that that these reforms in ease other nations during to greater investment in fold. that era was its maritime ports and infrastructure

The Prime Minister among the global top 30 significantly boost the ies at the event.

ing on the Logistics Perhe pointed out that India erating a large number of is now among the top 20 employment and entrecountries in global ship- preneurship opportunities building.

The Prime Minister further remarked that after is achieved when infrastrengthening the coun- structure is built, trade try's basic infrastructure, expands, and basic needs the focus has now shifted of the common people are towards India's strategic met", stressed the Prime position in global trade.

He announced the launch of Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision, which outlines India's maritime 2014, the number of Indian strategy to achieve the goal of a developed India.

He recalled the G-20 surged beyond 3.25 lakh. Summit, where India col-He emphasized that India laborated with several major countries to establish the India-Middle Eastdor, highlighting Kerala's Highlighting that a critical role in this corridor, emphasizing that the long waiting times at state will greatly benefit ports, significantly delayfrom this initiative.

Underscoring the critical role of the private sector in elevating India's maritime industry to new heights, Shri Modi said that under Public-Private Partnerships, thousands of crores have been invested over the past 10 years. The Prime Minister

highlighted that India is advancing towards the He remarked that due establishment of a shipbuilding and repair cluster cy, India is now handling in Kochi. He emphasized greater cargo volumes that once completed, this cluster will create numer-Kerala's local talent and "India's maritime sucyouth with a platform for cess is a result of a decadegrowth.

The Prime Minister cussions on humanity, serlong vision and effort", exclaimed the Prime Minshipbuilding capabilities. doubled the capacity of

its ports and expanded its He noted that this year's what set India apart from of doing business have led National Waterways eight- Union Budget introduced Pinarayi Vijayan, Union He noted that today, the construction of large George Kurien were prestwo Indian ports are ships in India, which will ent among other dignitar-

ports, while India's rank- manufacturing sector. He emphasized that this formance Index has also initiative will have direct improved. Additionally, benefits for MSMEs, gen-

> across the country. "True development

Minister, remarking that the people of Kerala have witnessed rapid progress over the past 10 years, not just in port infrastructure, but also in highways, railways, and airports. Reiterating that the wel-

fare of fishermen remains a top priority, the Prime Minister noted that under Blue Revolution and Prad-Europe Economic Corri- han Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, projects worth hundreds of crores have been sanctioned for Kerala.

Underlining that Kerala has always been a land of harmony and tolerance, Modi highlighted that centuries ago, Saint Thomas Church, one of the oldest churches in the world, was established here.

He acknowledged the recent moment of grief that has touched people across the world when Pope Francis passed away a few days ago, leaving behind a profound legacy.

He shared his personal experiences, expressing his gratitude for having ous new employment had multiple opportuniopportunities, providing ties to meet Pope Francis. He noted that he received special warmth from him and cherished their dis-

further stated that India vice, and peace, which will ister, underlining that over is now setting ambitious continue to inspire him. Governor of Kerala

Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Chief Minister a new policy to promote ministers Suresh Prabhu,

### SC grants interim protection to Srinagar family facing deportation amid Pahalgam fallout

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 2 (UNI)

In a significant order, the Supreme Court on Friday granted interim protection to a Srinagar-based family facing the risk of deportation to Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack that occurred on April 22. A bench comprising

justices Surya Kant and NK Singh directed the authorities not to take any coercive action, including in India. deportation, against the family until a decision is made after verifying their claims of Indian nationalitv.

includes a married couple Srinagar. and their four children, contended that they are Indian citizens and possess valid government identification such as Aadhaar cards, PAN cards, voter IDs, and Indian passports.

Tensions between India leave the country by April 27.

Despite this, the

Advocate Kishore, representing the they may approach the family, informed the Court Jammu and Kashmir High that while one family Court for further relief. member works in Banga-The family, which lore, the rest are settled in treated as a precedent as it is in the peculiar facts

The bench emphasized and circumstances of this the need for proper verification of the family's documents before any action is taken.

"Besides the human gested that the family element, there are issues approach the relevant which need to be veri- authorities for redress. and Pakistan escalated fied. Since the factual plea after the Pahalgam attack, requires verification, we er's counsel maintained prompting the Indian dispose of the matter with- that the entire family had government to suspend out expressing anything been arrested despite visa services for Pakistani on merits, with a direction being Indian citizens. nationals and mandate to authorities to verify the that all Pakistani citizens documents and any other matter, leaving it to the relevant facts brought to authorities to verify the their notice." family's claims. Until such

The court instructed verification is completed petitioner-family family that an appropriate deci- and a final decision made, alleged that they were sion be taken by the no deportation or other detained unjustly, even authorities at the earliest, coercive action shall be though one of them had while refraining from pre- undertaken against them.

### Hope Pakistan cooperates with India to ensure Pahalgam terrorists are hunted down: US VP Vance

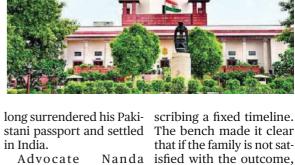
AGENCIES WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI, MAY 2 (UNI)

Backing India's stance that the Pahalgam terrorist attack was overseen by handlers in Pakistan, the



During the conversation, Rajnath told Pete Hegseth that Pakistan has a history of supporting, training and funding terrorist organisations.

"Pakistan has been exposed as a rogue state, US Vice President JD Vance attack in a way that doesn't fuelling global terrorhas asked Islamabad to lead to a broader regional ism, and destabilising the



"This order shall not be

Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta, appearing for the

Union government, sug-

However, the petition-

The court closed the

case," the Court added.

### Link students of tech and vocational education with industries: Yogi

#### AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, MAY 2 (UNI)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday underscored the importance of prioritising innovation and hands-on training in technical and vocational education.

During the review meeting of the Technical and Vocational Education departments, the CM said that over the past eight years, the state government has undertaken sev- lakh seats have been eral impactful initiatives enrolled for the 2024-25 to make technical edu- academic session in Dr cation more accessible, APJ Abdul Kalam Technihigh-quality, innovative cal University, Lucknow. and outcome-driven, the The university has aligned becoming evident.

and aided polytechnic programmes. institutes, he directed marks across the board.

technical institutions must from MMMUT, Gorakhpur, actively participate in qual- were placed in reputed by bodies such as NAAC, Rs 52 lakh per annum. NBA, and NIRF. However, accreditations to maintain that laboratories are well- and 1,948 private institu-



excellence.

equipped. Besides, he During the meeting, it directed the officials to was informed that 1.64 expedite the recruitment established 39 new govprocess for all vacant academic and non-academic positions. infrastructure and campus development projects results of which are now its curriculum with the related to the newly and Skill Development National Education Policy

Appreciating the suc- 2020, introducing MOOCcessful implementation based learning, a choiceof the State Institutional based credit system, and Pratapgarh be com-Ranking Framework multiple entry and exit pleted within stipulated (SIRF) for government options and integrated

In the 2023-24 aca- operational from the next that private institutions be demic year, 12,739 stu- academic session. He said brought under the frame- dents from the university work as well, to maintain secured employment, uniform quality bench- with the highest annual package reaching Rs 59.91 Yogi stressed that all lakh. Similarly, students

ties.

The CM directed univer- institutes are currently before applying for these tical training and ensure 18 PPP-mode, 19 aided

tions, with a total intake capacity of over 2.68 lakh students.

The department has introduced digital classrooms, Aadhaar-based biometric attendance, industry-integrated programmes and cuttingedge technologies such as drone technology, cyber security, data science and machine learning to modernise the curriculum. Since 2017, the state has ernment polytechnics and provided training to over 13,000 faculty members He directed that all and officers.

The Department of Vocational Education established Government informed Yogi that 324 Engineering Colleges in government and 2,982 private ITIs are operational Basti, Gonda, Mirzapur in the state. With support from Tata Technologies timelines, ensuring these Limited, 212 government ITIs have been upgraded institutions become fully with modern laboratories and trained instructhat the courses offered tors. These institutions must align with the local now offer both long-term industrial landscape and courses and short-term emerging job opportuniskill development programmes.

In the review of For the 2024-25 acadiploma-level technical demic year, approximateity evaluations conducted firms with packages up to education, it was noted ly 1.25 lakh trainees have that 2,139 polytechnic secured apprenticeship and employment opportuhe underlined the need sities and engineering col-functioning in UP. These nities. More than 30,000 for thorough preparation leges to strengthen prac- include 147 government, students have also applied under the PM Internship Scheme.

### **Telangana Cong** leaders meet Guv. thank him for 42 pc quota bill

AGENCIES HYDERABAD, MAY 2 (UNI)

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, and a delegation of Telangana Congress BC leaders met Governor Jishnu Dev Verma at Raj Bhavan on Friday and expressed their gratitude for approving the bill that provides 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in political representation and educational

opportunities.

cooperate with New Delhi conflict. and ensure that the terrorists are hunted down and that Pakistan, to the extent terrorism," Rajnath said. dealt with.

expressed hope that New Delhi's response to the April 22 terrorist attack with.

does not lead to a broader regional conflict.

Asked by Fox News if the Trump administration is worried about the breakout of tensions between comes after the US Secre-India and Pakistan, he said:

nuclear powers.

"We've obviously been friends in India and Pakistan.

responds to this terrorist saying.

region. The world can no "And we hope frankly longer turn a blind eye to

that they are responsible, He added that it is Vance also said that the cooperates with India to important for the global US is in touch with both make sure that the terror- community to explicitly Pakistan and India, and ists, sometimes operat- and unequivocally coning in their territory, are demn and call out such hunted down and dealt heinous acts of terrorism.

Notably, 26 tourists "That's how we hope were killed in the terrorist this unfolds; we are obvi- attack in Pahalgam. Followously in close contact. ing the dastardly act, India We'll see what happens." took stringent measures The US VP's statement against Pakistan, including holding the Indus Waters tary of Defense Pete Hegseth spoke with Defence the Integrated Check Post "Sure, I am worried Minister Rajnath Singh on Attari, asking all Pakistani about anytime you see Thursday and reiterated nationals to leave India, a hotspot breaking out, full support of the US gov- downsizing the Pakistani especially between two ernment in India's fight HC staff as well as its own against terrorism.

in close contact with our with India and supports pending the 1972 Shimla India's right to defend Agreement, stopping use itself," a Defence Ministry of its airspace by Indian "Our hope is that India statement quoted him as aircraft, among other measures.

# Treaty in abeyance, closing in Islamabad. Pakistan has "US stands in solidarity also replied in kind, sus-

### MEA in touch with Odisha govt, Nepali authorities over death of Nepali student at KIIT

#### AGENCIES

BHUBANESWAR, MAY 2 (UNI)

ment of India, is in touch with the Odisha government and Nepali authorideath of a Nepali girl stu- University on Thursday dent at KIIT University on Thursday night.

demise of a Nepali stu- statement added. dent of KIIT University, Bhubaneswar."

Affairs (MEA), Govern- extended its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the student, who was found dead in ties regarding the tragic her hostel room at KIIT night.

In a release, the MEA felt condolences to the ough inquiry is currently munication and coordistated: "We are deeply bereaved family during being conducted by the nation," the MEA consaddened by the tragic this difficult time," the Odisha Police.

The ministry has been in constant contact of all international stu-Government since the incident occurred.

"We extend our heart- the deceased, and a thor- ensure real-time com-

"The Government of The Ministry of Exter- India takes the safety, nal Affairs also said it has security, and well-being with the Odisha State dents very seriously," the release emphasized.

"We remain in close Furthermore, it noted contact with the Nepali that the Odisha Govern- authorities, the Odisha ment has extended full State Government, and support to the family of KIIT management to cluded.

The Ministry of External



**Srinagar, Saturday** 03-May-2025

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### Malnutrition as a global health concern



**DR. TASADUK HUSSAIN ITOO** (FELLOW INTERNATIONAL DIABETES FEDERATION(IDE FELLOW, BELGIUM)

Organization(WHO) has caused them to lose Adata of year 2020, weight. A young child who age groups are at risk of globally around 149 million is moderately or severely children under 5 years of wasted has an increased infants, children, and adoage were estimated to be risk of death, but treatstunted (too short for age), ment is possible. 45 million were estimated other forms of malnutri- ness, and/or inapproprition are also on rise.

found to occur in middle tive potential. and low income countries, including India. As a result, known as underweight. A Action on Nutrition". Led combating malnutrition in child who is underweight by WHO and the Food and governance and accountall its forms is becoming may be stunted, wasted, Agriculture Organization of ability everywhere.

nutrition makes children trition can occur due to as a great opportunity for in particular much more inadequacies in intake addressing all forms of malvulnerable to disease and of vitamins and minerals nutrition. often referred to as microdeath.

Broadly understand- nutrients. Micronutrients ing the forms of under- enable the body to produce nutrition - wasting, which enzymes, hormones, and means low weight-for- other substances that are height. It usually indicates essential for proper growth

recent and severe weight and development - their loss, because a person deficiency represents a has not had enough food major threat to the health to eat and/or they have and development of popuhad an infectious disease, lations, particularly chil-

s per World Health such as diarrhoea, which dren and pregnant women. Generally speaking, all malnutrition -- women, lescents. Poverty amplifies the risk - people who are

Low height-for-age is poor are more likely to be to be wasted (too thin for known as stunting. It is the affected by different forms height), with around 45% result of chronic or recur- of malnutrition. Moreover, of deaths among children rent undernutrition, usu- malnutrition increases under 5 years of age - ally associated with poor health care costs, reduces linked to undernutrition. socioeconomic conditions, productivity, and slows Childhood overweight and poor maternal health and economic growth, which obesity that attribute to nutrition, frequent ill- can accentuate a cycle of poverty and ill-health. To combat this emerg-

ate infant and young child While every country in feeding and care in early ing global health challenge the world is affected by one life. Stunting holds chil- of malnutrition, the United or more forms of malnutri- dren back from reaching Nations (UN) General tion - the major impact is their physical and cogni- Assembly in the year 2016, proclaimed 2016 to 2025 as

Low weight-for-age is "United Nations Decade of one of the serious global or both. Moreover, micro- the United Nations (FAO), drtasadukitoo@gmail.com

health challenge. Under- nutrient-related malnu- the Decade can provide

The Decade sets a timeline to meet a set of global nutrition targets and dietrelated NCD targets by 2025, as well as relevant targets in the Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030 - Sustainable Development Goals like SDG 2 (to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture) and SDG 3 (to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages).

Moreover, it promises to take steps for creating sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets; providing social protection and nutrition-related education for all; aligning health systems to nutrition needs, and providing universal coverage of essential nutrition interventions; ensuring that trade and investment policies improve nutrition; building

safe and supportive environments for nutrition at all ages; and strengthening and promoting nutrition

### 9 reasons why you should start your day with soaked dry fruits

E ating soaked dry fruits in the morn-ing is a healthy and Absorption beneficial habit that many

people incorporate into their daily routines for a variety of reasons. This practice not only enhances the digestibility and absorption of nutrients but also helps kickstart your day with a boost of energy, hydration, and essential

vitamins and minerals. Soaked dry fruits can be a great choice for anyone looking to improve their overall health, manage their weight, or simply fuel their body with nutritious, **3. Helps with Hydration** whole foods in the morning. Here's why soaked dry

fruits can be beneficial for your health:

makes it easier for the energy levels for the day. body to digest and absorb nutrients.

The soaked fruits are especially after a long smoother digestion in the morning.

Soaking activates ben- ing. eficial enzymes and reduces anti-nutrients, such as 5. Helps Regulate Blood phytic acid, which can block the absorption of important minerals like tion.

Nutrients like fiber, are more readily available their benefits for blood vital nutrients. for your body when they sugar control. are soaked.

Dry fruits are packed a great option for people with natural sugars and with diabetes or those fiber, and soaking them looking to maintain steady helps them retain mois- energy levels. ture, making them more hydrating and easier to 6. Rich in Essential consume, especially after **Nutrients** 

waking up. Staying hydrated in the packed with vitamins (like morning helps kickstart vitamin E and B-complex), your metabolism and minerals (like magnesium, 9. Natural Detox calcium, and potassium),

gentler on the stomach, rich in healthy fats, pro-function, skin health, and helps cleanse the digestive heart health. teins, and fiber, which ness. Eating them in the are rich in healthy fats, morning can help control while raisins are packed

Just 3 minutes of moderate activity

hunger throughout the with iron, making them day, reducing the likeli- great for boosting energy hood of unhealthy snack- in the morning.

#### 7. Supports Skin and Hair Health Sugar Levels

Many dry fruits like Dry fruits such as almonds and walnuts are almonds and walnuts are high in vitamin E and zinc and iron. This results known for their ability to omega-3 fatty acids, which in better nutrient absorp- regulate blood sugar levels are essential for maintaindue to their healthy fats, ing healthy skin and hair. fiber, and protein content. Consuming them in the healthy fats, vitamins, and Soaking these fruits before morning can contribute to antioxidants in dry fruits eating them can enhance your daily intake of these

8. Boosts Mental Health Soaked dry fruits can Soaked almonds, walprevent sharp spikes in nuts, and figs are known blood sugar, making them to have cognitive benefits. They contain omega-3 fatty acids, antioxidants, and vitamins that support brain health, improve focus, and enhance memory. Starting your day with these can give you a Soaked dry fruits are mental boost for the rest of the day.

Soaked dry fruits like and antioxidants, all of raisins and apricots have which support overall mild detoxifying proper-Soaked dry fruits are health, including immune ties. The high fiber content tract, removing waste and Almonds, for example, promoting regular bowel movements.

### **Social Justice department brainstorms** issues affecting beggars, homeless

#### AGENCIES NEW DELHI

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) has hosted a seminar to understand and deliberate on strategies and share knowledge regarding rehabilitating beggars, the homeless, and the destitute in the country.

The seminar in collaboration with the World Bank, was held with the theme 'Hard to Reach Population - SMILE (Beggary)' in the national capital.





opment and disabilityfriendly outreach. He also acknowledged the complexity of the

social, religious, and economic dimensions.

dational documentation -such as having a registered address, a bank account, tions. and access to healthcare

most vulnerable sections and support in vulnerable identified under the SMILE

tary, DEPwD, Ministry of roots insights and authen-Social Justice and Empow- tic data from the field, La erment, while sharing his Briere stressed the need vision on inclusive devel- to focus discussion on targeted interventions and actionable solutions.

The seminar also featured compelling presenissue, touching upon its tations by nodal officers and grassroots organisations from various states "It is important for who shared on-the-ground individuals to have foun- realities, challenges, and success stories in engaging with hard-to-reach popula-

"Approximately 18,000 -- to enable identification individuals have been

### AGENCIES NEW DELHI

Just three minutes a day of moderate activity may be enough to boost better heart health in older adults, according to a study.

Previous studies have shown that as people age, many do not engage in physical activity, increasing their chances of experiencing a cardiovascular event.

and Australia noted that or gardening.



and includes preparing the potential cardiovas- team found that people In the new study, meals, keeping the house cular health value of inci- who were moderately researchers from the UK clean, mowing the lawn, dental physical activity, active for at least three



These were compared with those whose wrist monitors showed they engaged in regular moderate activity with those who were more or less active.

The results showed that people who engaged in regular moderate incidental activity had a lower risk of experiencing a cardiovascular event or dying from one.

More specifically, the especially for people who minutes regularly reduced "Any daily IPA amount struggle to do structured their chances of having a heart attack, stroke, or In the study published other type of cardiovascu-

4. Increases Satiety overnight fast, aiding promote a feeling of full-

**1. Boosts Digestion** Soaking dry fruits like almonds, walnuts, and raisins helps break down the enzymes and phytic acid present in them. This

The event, witnessing of society in India. participation from both

national and internation- directly from real stake- Lead Economist, World bilitated," said Ajay Srival experts, formed part holders - those who have Bank, while bringing a of an ongoing knowledge transitioned out of beg- global lens to the discusseminar series aimed at ging -- to understand the sion on beggary rehabilideepening dialogue and root causes and impact tation. action to strengthen social of support systems," said

"We need to hear dicte Leroy De La Briere, have already been reha-

Noting that such events protection systems for the Rajesh Aggarwal, Secre- provide valuable grass-

conditions," said Bene- initiative, of which 1,612 astava, Economic Advisor (MoSJ&E). He assured that efforts are underway to accelerate the rehabilitation of the remaining individuals.

doing household chores the leisure-time domain

or shopping for groceries of vigorous or moderate- exercise," they added. -- referred to as incidental intensity was associated ties of daily living outside University of Sydney.

activities -- may also be with lower cardiovascu- in the journal Circulation, lar event. enough to boost health. lar disease risk in a dose- the team analysed data

"Our findings highlight and who self-identified as

The key is to try to do Incidental physical activity response manner," said on 24,139 people who several short-duration (IPA) encompasses activi- the researchers from the wore wrist monitors that activities every day, said tracked their activity levels the researchers.

### **Even short-term antibiotic use may** cause resistance in gut bacteria

### AGENCIES NEW DELHI

As antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has become a global health concern, with millions of deaths occurring each year due to it, a new study showed how even a short period of antibiotic use can lead to persistent resistance in human gut bacteria.

Researchers from the Stanford University in the US focused their study on ciprofloxacin -- used to treat bacterial infections the body.

They showed that ciprofloxacin can lead to resisindependently across

excessive and inappropri- daily for five days. ate antibiotic use.



in many different parts of in the journal Nature, 2.3 million genetic variperformed a longitudinal ants. Among these, 513 pop-

metagenomic study to tance that can emerge evolves in 60 humans.

diverse species and contin- scribed 500 mg of cip-

Previously studies have samples and a computa- bacterial DNA replication, relied on in vitro experi- tional tool to reconstruct ultimately killing the bacments and animal models 5,665 genomes represent- teria. to understand AMR. But, ing commensal bacterial the new study, published populations and identified cally arise independently

explain how resistance ulations showed genetic changes or mutations in The researchers pre- gyrA -- a gene associated with fluoroquinolone

ue for more than 10 weeks. rofloxacin to 60 healthy resistance. Fluoroquino-AMR is widely driven by adults, to be taken twice lones are a class of broadspectrum antibiotics that The team used stool work by interfering with

Many mutations typi-

within individuals. Nearly 10 per cent of initially susceptible bacterial populations acquired resistance through these mutations. The resistance persisted beyond 10 weeks and was predicted to remain detectable for up to a year.

Notably, resistance was more likely to emerge in populations that were abundant before treatment. These also experienced significant declines during exposure.

findings "These revealed that brief ciprofloxacin exposure drives the evolution of resistance in gut commensals, with mutations persisting long after exposure," said the researchers in the paper.

"This study underscores the capacity of the human gut to promote the evolution of resistance and identifies key genomic and ecological factors that shape bacterial adaptation in vivo (in humans)," they

added.

## Sleep well, avoid junk food to keep your liver healthy

#### AGENCIES NEW DELHI

Having a good night's sleep and avoiding junk food is essential to keep the liver healthy, said Dr. S.K. Sarin, Director of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) on Friday.

He said that junk food, as the name suggests, must be put in dustbins as

"The word junk food liver disease (NAFLD), and fat and carbohydrates means it is junk. It has to progress to more serious during sleep, leading to

Junk food which is rich in unhealthy fats, sugars, and processed ingredients increases the risk of obe- night has been linked to es of non-alcoholic fatty body is unable to process Instead maintaining "a



their accumulation in the liver.

"Sleeping late and to sleep well and not eat eating late-night food is late as it may affect the not a great idea, because gut bacteria, critical for the bacteria in your intesbetter health. Studies have tines which process the shown that people with food, will also sleep late. poor sleep are at increased Restorative good sleep is risk of fatty liver disease. the best thing," the leading operational guidelines Further, eating late at hepatologist said.

sity, high cholesterol, and a higher risk of significant to not lose their health detection and help boost type 2 diabetes. These dis- fibrosis -- a sign of liver by running after "money, patient care and outcomes eases then raise the chanc- damage. It is because the power and positions".

sound healthy body and good night's sleep" is essential as these are the "only two things which give happiness in life", the expert said.

NAFLD, currently termed metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), is a chronic liver disease that occurs when fat builds up in the liver in people who don't drink much alcohol. It can affect people with diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, or high cholesterol.

Fatty liver disease is emerging as an important cause of liver disease in India, affecting about three in 10 people in the country.

In September last year, the Union Health Ministry released the revised and training module for Sarin advised people MAFLD to promote early related to the disease.

its regular consumption can significantly affect liver health. and intestines are dust-

bins, put that food inside. Otherwise, avoid, don't use it," Sarin said, in a post on social media platform Χ.



03-May-2025



# **England unveil squad** for Zimbabwe Test

🥑 @HEADLINESTODA17

#### AGENCIES

LONDON, MAY 2 (UNI)

England have named their Test squad for the upcoming one-off match against Zimbabwe later this month.

Skipper Ben Stokes has been confirmed to take charge of the red-ball lineup, having made his recovery from a left hamstring tear injury.

during the three-Test series impressive 19.77. against New Zealand as cycle.

Stokes (captain), Gus Atkin- three matches. son, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Sam Cook, Jordan Cox, Zak Crawley, Ben hand, has been among Duckett, Ollie Pope, Mat- the top run-scorers at the in ODIs and T20Is. thew Potts, Joe Root, Jamie County Championship Smith, Josh Tongue.

ble inclusions in the include four centuries and 13-member squad are two two half-centuries. uncapped players in Test Jordan Cox, both of whom keeper-batter Jamie Smith, that will mark the begin-County Championship, an land's tour of New Zealand ICC report said.

Right-arm pacer Sam child. Cook has been rewarded



Stokes had last featured class wickets, averaging an Under back in 2023. England are gearing up

Cook also stood out for a much-anticipated part of the 2023-25 ICC with the ball for the Eng-home summer on the back World Test Championship land Lions on their tour of of a dismal ICC Champions Australia earlier this year, Trophy 2025 campaign that England squad: Ben snapping 13 wickets from saw white-ball skipper Jos

Twenty-four-year-old role. Jordan Cox, on the other this season, amassing 918

Among other nota- runs from 11 matches that summer with the one-off Test at Trent Bridge starting May 22, later squaring Also making a return in off against India in a fivecricket, Sam Cook and the Test setup is wicket- Test series starting June

represent Essex in the who had opted out of Eng- ning of the next ICC World Test Championship cycle. for the birth of his first Meanwhile, the whiteball team will also be in

Pacer Josh Tongue is also action against of West for his consistent displays set for a comeback to the Indies, South Africa and at the domestic level, red-ball setup, having last Ireland through the course having fetched 318 first- featured in the Ashes Down of the English summer.

### **Coco Gauff** thrashes Swiatek at Madrid Open AGENCIES MADRID, MAY 2 (UNI)

Generational Content of the second se

**HT-SPORTS** 

@headlinestodaydaily

Coco Gauff produced a stunning display to thrash four-time French Open champion

Iga Swiatek 6-1 6-1 and reach the final of the Madrid Open. Gauff, 21, had never beaten her Polish oppo-

nent on clay before but took just 64 minutes to dispatch the world number two on Thursday.

American Gauff will play world number one Aryna Sabalenka in the final.

Belarusian Sabalenka beat Ukraine's Elina Svitolina 6-3 7-5 in their semi-final.

Reigning champion Swiatek had won nine consecutive matches in Madrid - and 15 of 16 going back to her loss to Sabalenka in the 2023 final - but had no answer to Gauff, the BBC reported Gauff, who won the US Open in 2023, hit seven aces and won 19 of 21 points on her first serve in a dominant performance.

"I was aggressive and played with margin. Maybe it wasn't her best level," Gauff said in her on-court interview.

# **RCB** poised to maintain momentum as they take on CSK

**BD NARAYANKAR** BENGALURU, MAY 3 (UNI)

@headlinestodaynews

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) are poised to maintain their winning momentum as they face off against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the 52nd match of IPL 2025 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday.

RCB's overwhelming strength in the bowling department, led by the experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar and the in-form Josh Hazlewood, presents a significant challenge for CSK, who have struggled with both their batting and bowling this season.

likely be the difference-

rhythm with the ball.

for this encounter. RCB's bowling attack,

which has been firing on has been exceptional in all cylinders this season, leading the charge, and has been a key factor behind their success. With who has found his touch Bhuvneshwar's swing, this season, and the con-Hazlewood's precision, sistent Devdutt Padikkal and the all-round capawill be key contributors bilities of Krunal Pandya, to their batting lineup. RCB have built a formida-

On the other hand, ble unit that has dealt with their bowling woes from previous seasons. This will performances leading to maker against a CSK side that has failed to find their by the team's lacklustre

Despite a three-match winning streak, RCB performances, with their in yellow. has been inconsistent at bowling attack failing to home, having lost 3 out of provide breakthroughs. their 4 home games this solid form on the road and

Jadeja and Ravichandran role in reducing overs. His-Captain Rajat Patidar Ashwin, has not had the torically, teams bowling desired impact.

first have had the advan-CSK's batting, despite tage here, making the toss players like Virat Kohli, being deep, has lacked crucial for both sides. In terms of team predicthe aggressive approach needed to set big totals tions, RCB will likely stick form, but the team has a series of disappointing match will see CSK searching for a turnaround, but three consecutive losses. with their current form MS Dhoni's leadership and RCB's superior bowlhas been overshadowed ing strength, it will be an ily on the form of Dhoni, uphill battle for the men

The pitch at Chinnaswamy, known for being stronger side on paper Key bowlers like Mathi- a batting paradise, will season. However, their sha Pathirana and Khaleel offer both teams a chance bowling attack, they are Ahmed have been out of to post high totals, but the the favourites to secure the depth in both their bat- form, and the spin depart- weather conditions, with a much-needed win at ting and bowling lineups ment, although expe- light rain predicted and a home. make them the favourites rienced with Ravindra high of 24°C, might play a

or chase effectively. Sam to their winning combina-Curran and Dewald Brevis tion, with Kohli, Patidar, have shown glimpses of and Pandya expected to lead the charge, while CSK's campaign has been struggled to maintain con- the bowling attack will be one of their worst, with sistency. The upcoming strengthened by Hazle-

wood and Bhuvneshwar. For CSK, changes in their lineup are expected, but they will rely heav-Jadeja, and Curran to turn

the tide in their favour. With RCB clearly the

MY CINCLE

and a much more potent

### Scheffler shoots 61 to lead Byron Nelson tournament AGENCIES TEXAS, MAY 2 (UNI)

World number one Scottie Scheffler shot a 10-under-par 61 to take a two shot lead on the opening day of The CJ Cup Byron Nelson tournament here on Friday.

It was Scheffler's best round of the season as he seeks his

## **UAE welcome Bangladesh for T20I** series ahead of Pakistan tour

Buttler step down from his

taken over as his successor

will kickstart the home

Harry Brook has since

Ben Stokes and co

### AGENCIES

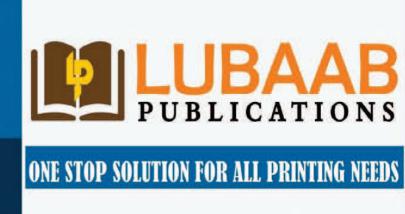
DHAKA, MAY 2 (UNI) Bangladesh are set to 2022 as Bangladesh com-Emirates later this winning both fixtures T20 International series 2-0. against UAE.

Both fixtures will take head to Pakistan for a local time.

The two teams last Sri Lanka and India. faced each other in The series marks Dubai in September the return of cricket to Faisalabad, where the tour the United Arab pleted a clean sweep, first two T20Is will take place, followed by the month for a two-match and sealing the series final three fixtures at the Gaddafi Stadium in

Bangladesh will then Lahore. Bangladesh are due place at the iconic Shar- five-match T20I series to arrive in Pakistan on jah Cricket Stadium on as they continue their May 21, with the final May 17 and 19, with play preparations for the game of the series set to commencing at 7:00 pm Men's T20 World Cup be played on June 3, an next year to be held in ICC report said.

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first PGA Tour win of 2025, having finished fourth at last month's Masters, the first major of the year.

The American, 28, eagled the ninth, after four consecutive birdies from the third, to go out in 29 shots and he added three more birdies on the back nine including on the final two holes, the BBC reported.

Filipino Rico Hoey and Venezuelan Jhonattan Vegas sit in second place on eight under.

Scheffler missed last year's tournament in his home state for the birth of his son, and he missed the beginning of this season after requiring surgery on a hand injury sustained on Christmas Day.

Last year he was the first player to win seven PGA Tour titles in a single season since Woods in 2007.

"I wouldn't say anxious or eager, anything like that," he said regarding the search for his first victory in 2025.

"I hit some good shots to start the round and I kept hitting fairways and greens.



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