



Srinagar
WEDNESDAY
MAY 07 | 2025
09| Dhu al-Qadah 1446
Issue No: 107
Volume: 15

DC Poonch reviews
implementation of
AB-PMJAY, redressal of
public grievances
P|09



Team of Tourism, Revenue,
PWD, Forest deptts
conduct spot visit
P|07

India's Response To Pahalgam Attack Should Be Effective: Owaisi

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, MAY 6: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday said India should give an effective response to last month's Pahalgam attack and termed the incident as barbaric and cowardly.

Speaking to reporters here, the Lok Sabha MP sought an inquiry into the death of a man from Kulgam who was allegedly picked up by security forces for questioning in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack. "It was a terror attack, a cowardly attack. The more we condemn it, the less it is. We have seen how terrorists from Pakistan killed 26 people," Owaisi told reporters.

The way people were killed by separating kids and women, and asking males about their religion, was disheartening and inhumane. "Those who couldn't recite

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

India's Water Will Flow for Country's Benefits : PM Modi on Indus Water Treaty Says nation's rightful share of water will no longer flow outside

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, MAY 6 : In an apparent reference to the Indus Waters Treaty being put in abeyance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said earlier even the water which rightfully belonged to India went outside the country but it will now flow for India's benefit and will be utilised for the country.

Addressing the ABP Network's 'India@2047' Summit, Modi asserted that for taking big decisions and achieving objectives, it is important to give primacy to national interest and believe in the country's capability.

The prime minister said that when people look at the country now, they can



proudly say "democracy can deliver", and stressed that the government was moving from GDP-centric approach to prog-

ress based on Gross Empowerment of People (GEP).

While speaking about the work done on the interlinking of rivers, Modi quipped that water is a topic of intense discussion in the media lately.

"Earlier, even the water which rightfully belonged to India was going outside the country. Now India's water will flow for the country's interest and will be useful for it," he said in an apparent reference to India putting Indus Water Treaty in abeyance as part of countermeasures against Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack.

Referring to the new Waqf law, Modi said the need for reforming the law was

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Pahalgam Attack Aftermath: Cong stands firmly with Govt, says Karra

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra on Tuesday said the party was committed to supporting the Union Government in any action against the perpetrators of terrorism. Speaking to media persons in Srinagar, Karra, as per

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Amid tensions, Army, BSF on high alert in J&K

Pak Army violates ceasefire for 12th night; India responds effectively

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, the Army and Border Security Force (BSF) are on high alert along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) across Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Pertinently, the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists



dead, and its cross border linkages have led to the heightened tensions between the two nations. India has downgraded the diplomatic ties with Pakistan, has suspended trade, closed border gates and deported all Pakistan nationals from India.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Innocents must not suffer in Pahalgam attack probe: Omar Abdullah

■ HT News Network/UNI



SRINAGAR, MAY 6 (UNI) Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday called for restraint, urging law enforcement agencies not to target innocent civilians while pursuing those responsible for the Pahalgam terror attack. Omar also acknowledged the prevailing atmosphere and the need for time in handling the situation.

"We cannot deny the situation, nor can we close our eyes to it," he told reporters in Srinagar.

The Chief Minister emphasized that in the hunt for the perpetrators of the April 22 Pahalgam attack, that left 25 tourists and a civilian dead, the innocents must not be made to suffer. "It should not appear that we are trying to catch all the people of Jammu and Kashmir just to nab a few," he remarked. Omar said they had conveyed their concerns over the security measures in some areas.

"We have made our point about being a little careful in this regard," he noted.

After the Pahalgam attack, security grid in Kashmir have stepped up crackdown against terror ecosystem. In last two weeks, nearly 2900 people have been detained for questioning or

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

J&K set for civil defence mock drill today

Emergency response system to be tested; sirens to sound at multiple locations

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Jammu and Kashmir is all set to witness a civil defence mock drill on Wednesday.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the directions to hold the nationwide exercises have been passed by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

An official said that the preparations for conducting mock drills in J&K have been finalized and tomorrow sirens will be activated at various locations in the union territory to test emergency response systems. "Public is requested to remain calm and not be alarmed," he added.

The official said that Union Home Sec-

retary Govind Mohan on Tuesday reviewed the civil defence preparedness across the country through a high-level video conference with Chief Secretaries and heads of civil defence of all states and union territories.

"The aim is to assess readiness in the event of a hostile attack, with a specific focus on improving coordination and training across all levels of administration," the official said, adding, "Over 270 'civil defence districts' across India, which include sensitive locations such as military installations health institutions, schools will be covered under the drill."

These drills, the official said, are designed to test air-raid warning systems, public alert mechanisms,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CS Atal Dulloo Pushes For Swift Claim Settlements, Financial Inclusion Of All In J&K

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 6: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation status of various financial inclusion and social security schemes of the Government of India being executed through banks and financial institutions in J&K.

Besides Principal Secretary, APD and Principal Secretary, Finance Departments, the meeting was attended by MD, J&K



Bank; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Secretary, Revenue; Secretary, RDD; MD, JKRLM; Convenor, UTLBC; repre-

sentatives from NABARD, SIDBI and other banks operating here.

The meeting focused on the progress under major schemes including Pradhan Mantri Jan

Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), saturation of unbanked rural areas, priority sector lending, credit flow to MSMEs, agriculture sector initiatives including Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), and skilling interventions undertaken through Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) established in the UT.

While reviewing the current

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Two soldiers killed, two injured as Army vehicle plunges into gorge in Kupwara

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 6 (UNI) Two soldiers were killed and two others sustained injuries when an Army vehicle plunged into a gorge near the Line of Control in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday, officials said.

The incident occurred in the Teetwal area in the afternoon when the vehicle reportedly lost con-

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Govt extends coverage under Public Distribution System

Minors, widows, destitute, divorcees to be included in family ration cards: Satish Sharma

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 6: In a significant move aimed at strengthening food security across Jammu and Kashmir, the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, has enhanced inclusion measures under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

The information was given by Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information



Technology, Youth Services & Sports and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma,

here today while interacting with the media.

"In accordance with the Government Order No. 47-JK(FCS&CA) of 2024, the new directive mandates the inclusion of children aged six years and above in family ration cards. These children will be incorporated into relevant categories such as Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Priority Household (PHH), Non-Priority Household (NPHH), or Exclusion, in accordance with existing guidelines", maintains the min

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah launches JK Pension Suvidha portal for retiring employees, pensioners

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 6: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today launched the Pension Suvidha Portal at the Civil Secretariat here. Developed by the Finance Department, J&K in collaboration with the National Informatics Center (NIC) and the Principal Accountant General (A&E), J&K, the portal marks a significant step towards digitizing the pension sanctioning process for government employees.



TURN ON.....PAGE 02

ECI initiates interactions with Political Parties to strengthen electoral process

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 6: In continuation to the Election Commission of India's emphasis on fostering enhanced engagement with different stakeholders, it has initiated interactions with National and State political parties.

These interactions would provide a long-felt need of constructive discussions which enable National and State Party Presidents to



share their suggestions and concerns directly with the Commission.

This initiative aligns with

the Commission's broader vision of further strengthening the electoral process in

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Sukhnag Nallah mining: J&K admin justifies activity for ring road amid eco-concerns

Government tells NGT it's exempt from clearance; petitioner alleges ecological damage

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has strongly defended its authorisation of riverbed mining in the ecologically sensitive Sukhnag Nallah, asserting that the activity is vital for the construction of the Semi-Ring Road and falls under emergency exemptions from environmental clearance.

The response, accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) has learnt, was filed before the National Green Tribunal (NGT). It comes amid a petition alleging illegal extraction and



ecological harm in the area.

In a detailed affidavit submitted to the NGT's Principal Bench, the Union Territory administration and the District Min-

eral Officer (Budgam) argued that the mining was exclusively for government work of an "emergent nature", and therefore exempt from standard environmental approvals. The officials cited a 2020 notification from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), which exempts dredging and desilting for linear infrastructure projects—such as roads and disaster response—from requiring environmental clearance.

The case, "Raja Muzaffar Bhat vs. UT of Jammu & Kashmir & Ors.", underscores the ongoing conflict between development

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

PM

being felt for decades, but to satisfy a votebank even this noble work was defamed.

"Now the amendments have been made which in the real sense will help poor Muslim mothers and sisters and poor Pasmanda Muslims," he said.

In his address, he said the biggest dream of this changing India is to become 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

"The country has the capabilities, resources and the willpower for it," he said.

Speaking about the finalisation of the India-UK free trade agreement, Modi said it is a historic day as this pact between two big and open market economies will mark a new chapter in the development of the two countries.

"This will boost economic activity in India and will open new ways and opportunities for Indian businesses and MSMEs," Modi said.

The prime minister said India is not only carrying out reforms, but by actively engaging with the world, it is also making itself a vibrant trade and commerce hub.

"For taking big decisions and achieving objectives, it is important to give primacy to national interest and believe in the capability of the country," he said.

"For decades, a counterstream prevailed in the country. There was a time when, before taking a big decision, it was thought, 'what would the world think? Will we get votes or not?' And decisions and big reforms languished due to such reasons," Modi said.

He said the country does not move forward like this and it advances when the basis of decisions is 'Nation First'.

In the last decade, India has moved forward with this mantra, and the results are there for all to see, he said.

"Our government has taken decisions which had been languishing and did not see the light of day due to a lack of political willpower," he said.

Modi said direct benefit transfer weeded out 10 crore fake beneficiaries, saving Rs 3.5 lakh crore. (Agencies)

OWAISI

the Kalma were fired upon. This is barbaric," he said.

Owaisi said the local residents of Kashmir are bearing the brunt of the attack as the tourism sector has taken a hit.

"The tourists have gone from here in huge numbers. We want our government to give an effective response to it. We have said the same in the all-party meeting as well," he added.

To a question about the death of 22-year-old Imtiyaz Ahmad Magray from Kulgam, Owaisi said an inquiry should be conducted to ascertain the circumstances that led to the death.

"There should be an inquiry. I have read the statements of his relatives in the media. An inquiry should be held into the circumstances of his death," the AIMIM chief said.

Residents of a village in Kulgam district found Magray's body on Sunday amid allegations that the deceased was taken away by security forces for questioning in the wake of the Pahalgam incident.

While Police have launched an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the death, a drone footage, which surfaced hours after Magray's body was recovered, showed a youth jumping into the gushing Adbal stream and getting washed away.

Police claimed that Magray, who confessed to being an underground worker (OGW) for terrorists, tried to escape while leading security forces to a hideout in a forest area. (Agencies)

CM

preventive custody and also 90 individuals have been booked under the stringent Public Safety Act.

Responding to reports about the death of a youth from Kulgam—who was picked up by security forces and later found dead in a stream—Omar said such incidents should not happen.

"...The news of arrests and detentions is coming in from across the Valley," he said, pointing out that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had clearly voiced their anger over the attack.

"For the first time after such an incident, people came out and expressed their displeasure. They said clearly that they do not support this kind of violence," Omar added, underlining the collective rejection of militancy by the local population.

BSF

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) along with the nationwide civil defence mock drills to be held on Wednesday, the Army and BSF will remain on high alert along the LoC and the International Border. "Armed forces have been directed to maintain tight vigil and not to lower the guard," the official added.

Meanwhile, amid the rising tensions, Indian forces apprehended a Pakistani national near the LoC in the Poonch district. The individual was arrested at a time when rela-

tions between India and Pakistan are already strained.

Senior officials stated that the arrested man is being questioned to ascertain further details about his intentions.

Pak Army violates ceasefire for 12th night
Pakistan Army once again violated the ceasefire agreement along the Line of Control (LoC), continuing their pattern of unprovoked firing in several areas.

The latest incident occurred on the night of May 5-6, when Pakistani troops opened fire using small arms across the LoC in multiple sectors, including Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Naushera, Sunderbani, and Akhnoor.

This marks the 12th consecutive night of ceasefire violations by Pakistan, further aggravating the already fraught situation between the two neighboring countries.

In response to the provocations, the Indian Army carried out a strong and calibrated retaliation, adhering to standard operating procedures to maintain security and safeguard personnel and infrastructure in the region.

These repeated violations of the ceasefire agreement, which was established in February 2021, have significantly undermined the credibility and effectiveness of the agreement.

Truce violations instill fear

The relentless violations following the April 22, Pahalgam terror attack, have instilled widespread fear and panic among the people living in the frontier areas. "For 12 consecutive nights, 53 incidents of small-arms fire and mortar shelling have been reported in villages across Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, and Akhnoor," an official told KNO.

Residents, rattled by the constant sound of gunfire, are fleeing to safer areas or fortifying their homes and bunkers. "We live in constant fear. Every night, we hear the sound of shells landing near our homes," said Farooq Ahmad, a resident of Uri.

"I don't know how long we can stay like this. Our children are scared to even sleep," added Shabir Ahmad from Poonch.

The escalating violence, coupled with the severed India-Pakistan diplomatic ties, have heightened anxieties about a potential military escalation. "We're caught in the middle. No one seems to care about the people who are suffering here," said Rukhsana Begum, a resident of Rajouri—(KNO)

KARRA

the news agency—said that the Congress Working Committee's resolution regarding the recent Pahalgam attack was clear.

"We stand by the government for any action against the perpetrators. We support every step taken in the country's best interest," Karra said.

Responding to a question on the mock drill, Karra called it a preparedness exercise. "If a mock drill is happening here, it encourages others to prepare as well," he said.

About the status of the cabinet's business rules report and the Lieutenant Governor's response, Karra said contradictory information was emerging. "Some are saying it has been rejected, others suggest queries were raised. We should wait for clarity before drawing conclusions."

On the meeting of Leader of the Opposition (LOP) Rahul Gandhi with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Karra called that a strong message, stating that Congress stands united with the government on national security matters.

Responding to a question on search operations post-Pahalgam attack, Karra said, "It is for the government to decide the process, but we had cautioned that no innocent should be caught in it."

Asked whether Congress was backing a war-like stance, Karra cautioned against war-mongering. "War is a dangerous word. But if the government takes action in the national interest, Congress will support it."

Karra also welcomed the approval of the Caste Census, crediting Rahul Gandhi's persistent efforts.

"We are happy that due to Rahul ji's consistent efforts, the government was forced to approve the caste census. In the coming days, a three-day workshop will be held to discuss its details."

Speaking about the party's today's meet, he said the meeting was focused on administrative matters, where inputs were shared and programs were discussed—

CS

status of population coverage under these schemes, the Chief Secretary also took stock of the compliance on earlier directions issued to financial institutions. He directed the concerned agencies to ensure saturation of all identified unbanked rural centres before the stipulated deadline of June this year.

Stressing on the need for prompt and efficient claim settlements, Dulloo observed that the success of these social security schemes should be judged not merely by the number of beneficiaries enrolled, but also by the speed and effectiveness of claim settlements.

He emphasized that financial institutions must instill confidence in public by providing full assistance in processing and settling their

genuine claims, and proactively reaching out to families, especially in case of the death of insured members, to ensure timely support.

To ensure the schemes reach the most deserving, the Chief Secretary directed for the inclusion of Self Help Group (SHG) members registered with JKRLM and their families under all applicable social security schemes. He also instructed for coverage of registered building and construction workers under Atal Pension Yojana, with the premium to be borne by the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board here.

Dulloo also called for formulation of a focused strategy to enhance credit flow under the priority and MSME sectors, ensuring that all banks meet the targets assigned to them. He also enquired about the progress in rolling out the 'Gramin Credit Score' system for agricultural lending on the lines of the CIBIL score used for individual borrowers.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed IT-enabled financial interventions such as the distribution of RuPay Debit Cards under PMJDY and Smart Cards for KCC beneficiaries. He assessed progress made in designing loan products to promote High-Density Plantation, rural homestays, and properties identified under the Svamitva Yojana.

Further, he sought an update on the Credit Grievance Redressal Portal, being developed for the convenience of all bank customers in the UT. He was informed that the portal is ready for launch and will soon be made operational to facilitate efficient resolution of customer grievances.

During the meeting, Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, highlighted the noteworthy performance of J&K Bank, stating that it had achieved an 11% year-on-year growth in its business, significantly reduced its Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) to 3.37%, and brought down its cost-to-income ratio to 58% from the earlier 71%. He appreciated the bank administration for these achievements and termed the performance as satisfactory and commendable.

Managing Director, J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, also shared important statistics on the implementation of social security schemes across the UT. As the lead bank and Convenor of UTLBC, he detailed the bank's efforts to popularize financial inclusion schemes and expand credit outreach to the priority sectors.

He pointed out that the latest statistics clearly reflect significant improvement over the figures presented in the previous review meeting held under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. He pointed out that the UT has recorded significant strides in financial inclusion and social welfare coverage as per the performance data for various centrally sponsored schemes thereby highlighting the growing participation of citizens and strong involvement by banking institutions here.

In its presentation the Convenor UTLBC, Rayees Maqbool revealed that J&K currently hosts 2,197 brick-and-mortar bank branches in addition to 5,135 Banking Correspondents (BCs) and a network of 2,661 ATMs operated by 37 banks and financial institutions ensuring that one banking touch point is available per 1,227 of population.

The meeting was apprised that efforts are underway to fully cover the remaining 21 URs identified by RBI here under tier 5 areas (population under 5,000) with banking touch points. It was given out that 150 additional Gram Panchayats are scheduled to be covered by May 15, 2025, by J&K Bank.

Regarding the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), an accident insurance scheme for citizens aged 18-70 years saw 6.04 lakh enrollments during FY 2024-25; reaching the cumulative coverage of 23.57 lakh beneficiaries in the UT.

About the performance J&K Bank had registered 2.29 lakh accounts, SBI (1.27 lakh), and HDFC Bank (39,096) with 285 claims settled with Rs. 5.69 Cr disbursed during the year.

With respect to Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) offering life insurance for citizens aged 18-50 years an impressive number of 2.47 lakh new enrollments were done during the previous financial year with cumulative coverage reached 9.67 lakh and settlement of 668 claims with Rs. 13.34 Cr disbursed during the previous financial year.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) targeting unorganized workers also registered an significant progress with 24,230 new account openings, cumulatively reaching 2.48 lakh accounts since inception.

As far as the priority sector lending is concerned under the Annual Credit Plan 2024-25, J&K's banks collectively achieved 92% of the credit disbursement target, totaling Rs. 36,575 Cr. J&K Bank emerged as the top contributor, surpassing targets at 139% for physical targets and 134% in credit volume. The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector absorbed Rs. 22,688 Cr, accounting for 62% of priority sector lending. A total of 2.96 lakh accounts were supported with J&K Bank leading the table with Rs. 5,537 Cr disbursements in this sector.

The meeting was informed that the agriculture sector too received focused attention with Rs. 6,430 Cr disbursement out of a target of Rs. 11,056 Cr, achieving nearly 58% of the

set goal.

Under PM Mudra and PM Vishwakarma Yojana aiming at empowering the entrepreneurs as on March 31, 2025 substantial disbursements were made under Shishu, Kishor, and Tarun categories providing support to small entrepreneurs, women, and youth-led micro businesses

It was added that under PM Vishwakarma Yojana, growing traction was observed across various trades. The RSETI performance in skilling of rural masses (since 2009) depicted training of 1,07,672 trainees, and starting of 78,059 ventures (72.5%), and nearly 50% beneficiaries availing bank credit to start their respective enterprises.

SHARMA

ister.

The Minister further said that in a bid to ensure no eligible citizen is left behind, the Department of FCS&CA has been directed for undertaking identification and inclusion of previously omitted eligible beneficiaries into the PDS framework, adhering to established norms.

"A notable provision of the order addresses the inclusion of widows and divorcees who were not previously covered under the system. Upon notifying the department, such individuals will be eligible for issuance of separate ration cards based on their financial status and eligibility under the National Food Security Act (NFSA)," the Minister emphasised.

The Minister further said that the initiative reaffirms the government's commitment towards promoting inclusive access to food and essential supplies, especially among vulnerable sections of society.

ACCIDENT

"Four soldiers were initially injured in the accident and were immediately rushed to a nearby medical facility. Unfortunately, two of them were declared dead on arrival," an official said.

The remaining two injured personnel were later shifted to the Army's base hospital in Srinagar for advanced treatment.

Authorities are investigating the circumstances leading to the accident.

GOVT

projects and environmental protections in the region. The petitioner, environmental activist Raja Muzaffar Bhat, has alleged that unchecked mining in Sukhnag Nallah poses a serious threat to local ecosystems and water resources.

According to the government's reply, a District Level Single Window Committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of Budgam approved the extraction of riverbed minerals (RBM) and clay by M/S NK Projects Pvt. Ltd.—the contractor for the Semi-Ring Road—in November 2022, even before formal no-objection certificates (NOCs) were issued. Minutes from the meeting, submitted as Annexure-I, indicate that the chairperson's directives were treated as interim NOCs to fast-track the project.

Authorities said the extraction sites were identified by the Flood Spill Channel Division in Narbal to mitigate environmental impact. "The DMO Budgam acts tough against illegal mining," the affidavit noted, highlighting a series of seizures, fines, and FIRs filed against violators in the past year.

However, the administration's reliance on the 2020 MoEF&CC exemption is expected to face scrutiny. Critics argue that such provisions, meant for genuine emergencies, are being exploited to circumvent environmental norms for large-scale infrastructure development. The petitioner's counsel has previously claimed that the mining is causing "irreversible damage" to the Nallah's flow and aquatic life—an allegation the government's reply does not directly address—

ECI

accordance with the existing legal framework with all stakeholders.

Earlier, a total of 4,719 all-party meetings have been conducted including 40 meetings by CEOs, 800 by DEOs and 3879 by EROs engaging over 28,000 representatives of various political parties.

DRILL

and bunker management procedures.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the Directorate of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Civil Defence Kashmir has issued a public advisory notifying residents of the scheduled mock drill.

According to the advisory, the drill will begin at 4:00 PM on Wednesday, and sirens will be activated as part of the exercise.

It urged residents not to panic, and to cooperate fully with officials during the simulation. "This is a practice exercise to test our emergency response systems. Please remain calm and do not be alarmed," reads the official notice issued by the SDRF & Civil Defence Kashmir.

"To enhance the Civil Defence preparedness for emergencies, a Civil Defence Mock Drill will take place on Wednesday, May 7,

2025, at 4:00 PM. As part of the drill, sirens will be activated at various locations in Kashmir. This is a practice exercise to test our emergency response systems. We kindly request all members of the public to remain calm and not be alarmed. Your cooperation is essential in making this safety initiative a success," the Directorate of SDRF and Civil Defence Kashmir stated in an another public advisory.

Authorities across all states and the union territories have been instructed to ensure active public participation. Students, hospital staff, government and private sector employees, railway and metro officials, and members of the police, paramilitary, and defence forces will be part of the exercise.

The Maha has said that the civil defence framework is an important component of national preparedness, especially given "new and complex threats."

It stated that such drills improve the passive defence strategy and help safeguard civilian lives and infrastructure.

Officials have also been directed to ensure communication systems are tested, bunkers are cleaned, made accessible and designated personnel are familiar with evacuation procedures.

The government said that the civil defence drill is part of a broader initiative to improve grassroots-level readiness and empower local communities to respond effectively to emergencies.

SRINAGAR POLICE, SDRF HOLD MOCK DRILL IN DAL LAKE

Meanwhile, Srinagar Police, in collaboration with the Tourist Police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), conducted a mock drill in Dal Lake on Tuesday to strengthen emergency response capabilities.

Simulating rescue operations for boat capsizing and drowning incidents, the exercise was held to improve real-time response to such emergencies.

The drill followed recent boat accidents due to high velocity winds, resulting in death of a youth.

Senior officers, including SSP Enforcement and SSP Srinagar, monitored the exercise—

PORTAL

The event was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary Education Shantmanu, ACS to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries of Agriculture Production Department, Finance, Information Technology, Social Welfare, Forest, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Public Works Department, Rural Development Department, Cooperatives, Law Department.

The event was also attended by Principal Accountant General (A&E) J&K along with his team of officers, Principal Resident Commissioner J&K, MD & CEO Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd, Director General, Funds Organization/Codes/Audit & Inspection/Budget/Local Fund, Audit & Pension, Directors of Finance/Financial Advisors of all Administrative Departments, Director Accounts and Treasuries, Jammu/Kashmir, State Informatics Officer, NIC J&K and other concerned. The outstation officers and officials attended the launch via video conferencing.

The Chief Minister formally inaugurated the portal and congratulated the Finance Department, AG's office, J&K Bank and all stakeholders involved in the initiative.

Chief Minister said, "Whatever we can do to simplify the retirement process and post-retirement of our employees, I think that is a responsibility that lies on our shoulders. Employees who have served J&K and its people for long years, they deserve a simplified process. And the more we do for our employees, I think the more we need to appreciate it."

Extending his congratulations to the officers and his best wishes to all pensioners who will benefit from the initiative, the Chief Minister said that verification of pensioners also needs to be made pensioner-friendly as every year pensioners have to prove that they are still alive and have to submit various documents and to visit offices in person. "So this initiative, I think, is something that all employees will appreciate," he said.

Highlighting the inclusive nature of the portal, he said it also covers ex-legislators who are pensioners. "So my suggestion would be that together with the Assembly Secretariat, some sort of briefing material can be sent out to all the ex-legislators, so that they are aware of this change and how better to utilize it," he added. Acknowledging the challenges faced by employees nearing retirement, he noted that the last few months of service are often consumed by paperwork. He emphasized that more often than not, efforts are made to post such employees close to Srinagar or Jammu to ease their transition. "With this initiative, I believe that process will be simplified. Now, going ahead, what we must always try and do is to ensure that employees get their dues on time," he said.

The Chief Minister also pointed out that timely disbursement of dues—such as GP fund—is a recurring concern among employees. "So for that, in the Finance Department, we are working closely to ensure that these sort of issues are resolved.





Dy CM reviews performance of J&KKVIB, JKPC

Emphasizes to enhance employment opportunities across J&K

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 6: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today chaired a meeting to review the performance of Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (J&KKVIB) and Jammu and Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC) at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary Industry & Commerce Vikramjit Singh, CEO J&KKVIB Jagdish Chander, senior officers from the Board and district officers. In the review meeting of KVIB, the concerned official gave a PowerPoint Presentation to apprise the meeting of the functioning besides the phys-

ical and financial achievements of the Board.

It was apprised that there are three main schemes being implemented by the KVIB including PMEGP, JKREGP and SFURTI. It was further informed that the main objective of all the schemes is to generate employment opportunities, to foster a strong rural economy, enhance socio-economic status of rural artisans and promote environment friendly and sustainable development in Khadi or Micro Industrial Sector.

Highlighting achievements of the boards, the official informed that 19444 males and 13689 female have been provided benefits under PMEGP whereas 4010 males and 937 females were provided benefits under JKREGP



to promote entrepreneurship in J&K in last six years. Besides, 8 cluster projects have been approved under SFURTI scheme.

It was also informed that under JKREGP, 1637 cases have been sponsored, out of which, 1148 have been sanctioned. It was further informed

that 115 bee keeping training camps have been organised by KVIB in Kashmir division.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Surinder Choudhary, who is also the Chairman of KVIB, emphasized on the need of active engagement of all stakeholders to amplify

employment opportunities across the Jammu & Kashmir. He reiterated the importance of making these employment generation programmes inclusive, ensuring equal opportunities for all segments of society, particularly marginalized communities, women and individuals with disabilities.

The Dy CM emphasised upon the officers to simplify the process of establishment of income generating units under such programmes for all. He maintained that the applicants should be provided training for better management of the units in order to maximise their gains.

Commending the Board's efforts in employment creation across J&K, he urged the officers to adopt a robust

monitoring and evaluation framework to guarantee target-oriented implementation of schemes. He stressed the importance of aligning all activities with the overarching goals and objectives.

Surinder Choudhary also highlighted the need for synchronized efforts by the implementing agencies and banks to ensure that the benefits of employment generation programmes such as PMEGP and JKREGP reach the target population effectively.

The Dy CM asked the Board to ensure convergence with other departments and establish forward and backward linkages with the skill training so as to provide end-to-end assistance and required handholding to the job seekers and young entrepreneurs.

Javid Dar meets delegations; assures prompt redress of public concerns

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 6: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department and Pan-



chayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today met with various delegations at Civil Secretariat to assess and address their issues and concerns. The Minister, while assuring them of prompt resolution to their concerns, emphasised the government's commitment towards addressing the needs and issues of the people. The Minister took stock of representations from different deputations and individuals taking note of their demands and grievances. He assured the delegations that their concerns would be addressed on priority basis. The Minister reiterated that the government is committed to take all necessary measures to fulfil the desires and aspirations of the people. He emphasized the importance of effective implementation of policies and programs to ensure the well being and prosperity of the citizens. Javid Dar said that the government would work tirelessly to resolve the concerns and issues raised by the delegations.

GCC condemns murder of tribal woman, seeks severest punishment to perpetrators

HT News Network

Srinagar May 06: The Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC) J&K has condemned the "rape and murder" of a tribal lady in Nishat (Srinagar) describing it "a grievous wound on the conscience of our society".

The Group has appreciated the swift action by Police in apprehending the accused and urged "fast-track investigation and trial to secure justice to the victim and the family while handing down severest punishment to the perpetrators, unleashing a deterrent effect that it must". In a statement issued here today, the GCC said "it is our collective responsibility to address the causes at the root of rising crime against women" and made a spirited plea that "communities come together to help further a culture where women are respected, protected and empowered.

MP Mian Altaf express grief over loss of lives in Mendhar accident

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 06 (KNS) : National Conference Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmed has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of lives in a tragic bus accident in Ghani Mendhar area of Poonch on Tuesday.

In a statement issued, Mian Altaf expressed deep grief over the loss of lives due to a tragic accident in Mendhar Poonch in which at least four people died and many were injured who have been hospitalized. "Sad to know about the tragic road accident in Mendhar Poonch which claimed four human lives besides leaving many injured. My heartfelt condolences to the grieving families, and my prayers for the eternal peace of the departed souls and the speedy recovery of the injured," Mian Altaf added.

Mian Altaf urged the administration to provide best possible medical care to the injured persons. A statement issued, Mian Altaf expressed deep grief over the loss of lives due to a tragic accident in Mendhar Poonch in which at least four people died and many were injured who have been hospitalized. "Sad to know about the tragic road accident in Mendhar Poonch which claimed four human lives besides leaving many injured.

Satish Sharma conducts surprise visit to MD RTC, Director, FCS&CA, Kashmir offices

Reviews records, interacts with staff

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 6: In an endeavour to ensure transparency and accountability, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, conducted a surprise inspection of offices of the Managing Director's Road Transport Corporation (RTC) headquarters and Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Kashmir here today.

During the visit, the Minister reviewed operational and administrative records to assess compliance with government norms and efficiency in service delivery. He also interacted with the staff, encouraging open dialogue about their roles,



challenges and suggestions for improvement. The officers and officials present at the RTC office briefed the Minister on

key operational aspects, ongoing projects and service enhancement measures. The Minister assured full support from

the government for modernizing the SRTC and improving public transport services across the state.

While interacting with the Director, FCS&CA, Kashmir, the Minister was given a brief about the activities being undertaken by the Department in order to ensure hassle-free delivery of food grains and other civil supply services to the public. "The objective of today's visit was to understand the ground realities and ensure that the departments are functioning smoothly and in the best interests of the public," said the Minister. "It is essential to maintain a culture of accountability and I commend the staff for their cooperation and dedication, he maintained"

DC Srinagar assesses ongoing TB control efforts, strides made towards TB elimination at the grassroots level

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: In order to assess ongoing Tuberculosis control efforts and to acknowledge the significant strides made towards TB elimination at the grassroots level, a comprehensive review meeting on National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) cum felicitation ceremony recognizing the achievements under the TB Free Panchayat initiative for the year 2024, was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here. Speaking on the occasion, DC acknowledged the commendable efforts of the Health Department and other stakeholders, appreciating the dedication



shown by the teams at various levels.

Dr Bilal also sought a renewed commitment from all participants to sustain and accelerate the momentum towards TB elimination, ensuring continued collaboration and support at all levels of governance and healthcare delivery in Srinagar District.

DC further underscored that the achievement reflects the collaborative

efforts of the District administration, Health, Panchayat level staff and community health workers in combating Tuberculosis at the grassroots level.

On the occasion, a detailed and insightful presentation outlining the district's achievements and ongoing initiatives under NTEP was given by the District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO), Dr. Abdul Rouf. He informed the chair that all 21 Panchayats within Srinagar District have successfully attained the status of TB Free Panchayat under the Silver category for two consecutive years, marking a significant public health milestone. Furthermore, the chair was apprised of the current diagnostic infrastructure and emphasized the critical need to strengthen it further.

BJP Lal Chowk Constituency Holds Workers Committee Meeting at Rajbagh

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 6: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Lal Chowk Constituency today held a Workers Committee Meeting at Rajbagh, with enthusiastic participation from office bearers, executive members, active workers, and senior party leaders.

As part of the organizational strengthening efforts, Shakti Kendra units were formally constituted during the meeting. Each unit was tasked with finalizing their respective booth teams and appointing one dedicated Karyakarta as the Mann Ki Baat Incharge at the booth level. This initiative aims to enhance the outreach and engagement with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's monthly radio programme, Mann Ki Baat, across the grassroots.

Addressing the gathering, senior BJP leader and Lal Chowk constituency in-charge Er. Aijaz Hussain spoke on key organizational responsibilities and the importance of timely and disciplined implementation. "Our strength lies in our struc-



ture and sincerity. With teamwork, discipline, and people-centric efforts, we will deliver on the expectations of the people," he stated. BJP Vice President, Minority Morcha, Shri Amarjeet Singh also graced the occasion and encouraged party workers to stay steadfast in their dedication to the party's mission of inclusive development and national integration.

Lal Chowk Constituency President, Shri Umer Shafi, expressed gratitude to all attendees for their presence and participation. He called on the cadre to work with renewed zeal and determination to expand the BJP's footprint across every booth in the constituency.

SDRF In Collaboration With NTTA Launches Three Dedicated Rescue Units At Nigeen & Hazratbal To Boost Tourist Safety

HT News Network

Srinagar, 06 May, 2025: In a landmark step towards enhancing safety and emergency preparedness across Kashmir's vital tourist zones, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) in collaboration with the Nigeen Tourist Traders Association (NTTA) inaugurated three dedicated SDRF units at Nigeen Lake and Hazratbal Srinagar. The inauguration ceremony was held at Nigeen Lake and witnessed the formal launch of the 1st Battalion of the SDRF Nigeen unit. The event was graced by several dignitaries including SP Hazratbal Hilal Khaliq Bhat, who formally inaugurated the units. He was joined by DySP SDRF Faisal Khan, DySP Traffic Suhail Reshi, SHO Nigeen Police Station Showkat Hussain, River Police Nigeen Incharge Bashir Ahmad, Vice President NTTA Qari Zahoor Ahmad,



RTSOL Kashmir Chpater President, Peerzada Fayaz Ahmad, Shahmeem Ahmad Shah President TAFI, Yaseen Tumaan Member NTTA, Dr. Touseef Bhat, and other prominent personalities from the community. These units are equipped with modern rescue boats

and trained personnel to ensure swift response during emergencies—especially sudden weather changes, fire and other natural disasters that often impact the lake areas. The initiative aims to bolster the region's disaster preparedness, particularly in tourist-heavy zones like Nigeen and Hazratbal, where safety remains a growing concern for locals and visitors alike.

While speaking to the media, NTTA Chairman Haji Manzoor Ahmad Wangnoo said, "The establishment of the 1st Battalion of SDRF at Nigeen fulfills a long-standing and vital demand of the tourism stakeholders. We express our sincere thanks to the administration and SDRF for their prompt response and for recognising the pressing needs of the tourism community. A special note of appreciation goes to Team NTTA, Team NLCO and all stakeholders—houseboat owners, shikarawalas and local residents.

EDITORIAL

Rail connectivity of Kashmir with rest of country continues to be a dream

April 19, 2025 was considered to be a red letter day in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was scheduled to flag off the Vande Bharat express from Katra. The Vande Bharat express will connect Katra with Srinagar and as such the decades old dream of rail connectivity of Kashmir with the rest of the country would be realized. This would have come as a relief for the people of the valley.

The residents of the valley have been at the receiving end as far as surface connectivity is concerned. As soon as the weather becomes inclement the Srinagar-Jammu national highway gets closed and there is no movement of vehicles on the highway. Since the Prime Minister's visit could not materialize, the dream of rail connectivity of Kashmir with the rest of the country continues to be a dream. The people are eagerly waiting for the day when this becomes a reality.

Since the meteorological department had forecast that the weather would be bad on April 19 the Prime Minister's visit had to be cancelled. As the Baisaran-Pahalgam massacre took place three days after the PM's scheduled visit there has been no talk of the flagging off of the Vande Bharat express. Therefore the people of Kashmir have kept their fingers crossed as far as inauguration of the Vande Bharat express is concerned. The delay in connecting Kashmir with the rest of India through trains has disappointed the people of the valley.

The talk about the inauguration of Vande Bharat express has been going for months now and delay in the same is bound to cause ripples among the public circles. Although some of the dates had been proposed for the start of the same, ultimately April 19 was set as the date for the inauguration. The people were eagerly waiting for the day but the inclement weather virtually acted as a damp squib thus dashing the hopes of valley residents.

As both India and Pakistan are at loggerheads after the Baisaran massacre the inauguration of Vande Bharat express may not happen earlier as expected. Once the situation becomes normal in Jammu & Kashmir then only the concerned authorities would take a call on the flagging off of the Vande Bharat express from Katra to Srinagar. As the Prime Minister is expected to inaugurate the train service the delay may be longer as expected and as such valley residents would have to wait a little longer.

Toppers, Trends and Trauma

How Social Media Affects 10th & 12th Graders

ER UMAIR UL UMAR
umairulumar77@gmail.com

For students who have just cleared their 10th or 12th-grade exams, the social media hype can often become a serious distraction and even a curse. The period following the 10th and 12th board exams is one of the most crucial and sensitive phases in a student's life. These transitional years shape one's future, demanding focus, informed decision-making, and serious self-reflection. Unfortunately, this is also the time when teenagers are most vulnerable to external influences.

Social media, with its flashy content and exaggerated success stories, can hijack a young mind's attention, leading them into a spiral of comparison, distraction, and unrealistic expectations. In the age of reels and re-tweets, where dopamine flows with every like and share, students—especially those in the 10th and 12th grades—stand at the crossroads of aspiration and anxiety. Academic results, once a personal milestone shared with close family, have now become digital spectacles, amplified through social media megaphones. As students anxiously await their board exam results, social media doesn't just reflect their emotions—it shapes them. In this era, "How did you score?" is not just a question, it's a trending topic.

The Celebration of Toppers: A Double-Edged Sword

Every year, the academic landscape lights up with newsfeeds celebrating toppers. Screens are flooded with pictures of smiling faces, scores flaunting 99% and above, and captions that scream #ProudParent, #HardWorkPaysOff, and #TopperDiaries. These posts do more than celebrate success—they set a benchmark for others.

For many students, especially those who didn't meet their own expectations, this can be deeply unsettling. The overwhelming glorification of academic excellence creates a silent pressure cooker of comparison. "If she scored 98%, why did I only get 85%?" is not just a thought—it's an internalized critique, made sharper with every scroll. While appreciating achievement is natural, the unintentional consequence is the creation of an elitist narrative—where anything less than 'topping' is treated as underperformance.

The Rise of Academic Influencers

and the "Result Culture"

Social media has birthed a new kind of celebrity: the academic influencer. These are students who, after topping exams, are sponsored the Ambassadors for Coaching Centres like in Srinagar SKIE Coaching Center did. After knowing her results ,she just came again on Social media that she is in mental trauma. Al's many students create YouTube channels or Instagram pages to share their study hacks, productivity routines, and "how I got 99% in 12th" stories. Their intention may be noble, but the impact is complex.

This curated perfection can feel intimidating. Students begin to doubt their own methods and feel inferior even before their results are out. The idea of "success" becomes boxed into rigid templates—morning routines starting at 5 AM, study timetables split into color-coded blocks, and zero screen time for fun.

When a student's reality doesn't match this perfection, it often leads to guilt and a decline in self-worth. What social media fails to show is the silent majority—the students who worked hard but didn't get the highest marks, and still have bright futures ahead.

Trend-Driven Stress and Meme Culture

Ironically, social media is also the place where students vent their stress. Every result season, meme pages explode with content about failing maths, overprotective parents, or "hiding from relatives." Laughter becomes a coping mechanism, a digital sigh of collective relief.

However, beneath the humor lies real anxiety. Students tag friends in posts about "marks ruining my life" or "becoming a monk after seeing my result," but not everyone is laughing on the inside. The joke is often a mask for pain. Moreover, viral trends such as "result reaction videos" or "how my parents reacted to my board marks" bring private emotions into the public eye. The line between genuine emotion and performative content is blurring, leaving students unsure of how to process their feelings authentically. One of the young girl from South Kashmir Kulgam Nillow suicide after her 12th class results were declared.

Peer Comparison and the Psychological Toll

Social media encourages a culture of comparison. Whether it's a cousin showing off a perfect report card or a

friend sharing their acceptance letter from a prestigious college, students are constantly evaluating themselves against their peers.

This leads to what psychologists call "imposter syndrome"—the feeling of being a fraud despite genuine effort. Even high scorers may feel inadequate because someone else scored a fraction more or secured a spot in a better college.

What makes this worse is the "highlight reel" nature of social media. Students see only the successes, not the failures, sleepless nights, or moments of doubt. This creates a skewed perception of reality and can drive feelings of worthlessness and depression.

Parental Pressure and Social Expectations Amplified

In many households, especially in South Asian cultures, academic performance is still a major measure of worth. With social media in the mix, parental expectations are now public. A father sharing his son's 99% score on Facebook isn't just proud—it sends a message to his circle about his family's status.

For students who don't meet these unspoken standards, this visibility can feel suffocating. They not only feel they've let themselves down but also believe they've failed to uphold their family's online reputation. This pressure isn't always expressed directly—it's in the silence that follows a disappointing result, the absence of a social media post, or the constant comparison with a more "successful" cousin.

Digital Detox or Digital Dependence?

Ironically, while social media contributes to this stress, it also becomes a place for support. Students share their stories, form study groups, and follow mental health pages. But the key is moderation. Some students choose to go on a digital detox during result season to protect their mental peace. Others, however, find themselves trapped in a loop—refreshing feeds, waiting for updates, checking how others fared, and reading motivational quotes they don't truly believe. This unhealthy dependence can extend beyond results—affecting college admissions, career choices, and long-term confidence.

The Way Forward: Creating a Healthy Digital Culture

Social media is not the villain; it's a mirror. What we reflect onto it is what we see. Parents, educators,

and influencers must help students engage with it mindfully.

Here are a few steps to make social media a healthier space for students during result season:

Normalize All Outcomes: Celebrate effort, not just marks. Success comes in many forms.

Promote Real Stories: Share not just the 98%, but also stories of resilience, improvement, and growth. Like a girl Shabnum G who is living in Tarpaulin tent in Tral Area of Pulwama scored 463/500.She must be encouraged so that she will carry her carrier with flying colours.

Digital Mentorship: Encourage academic influencers to include mental health messages and promote balance.

Parental Sensitivity: Parents must resist the urge to post marks online unless their child is comfortable. One of my colleague's daughter got extraordinary marks in recent 12th Class. Many of the teachers tried to tell him about the Mark's of her daughter but He just politely answered them she got good Mark's. This defines the foresightedness of a father.

Peer Compassion: Students should support, not compare. Everyone has a different journey.

Last Thought

Board exam results are important—but they are not a student's identity. In an age where social media makes every emotion public and every achievement trend-worthy, it's crucial to remember that true success lies in self-worth, not just numbers. Social media is a powerful tool, but in the hands of unprepared minds, it can be a dangerous distraction.

For students who have just cleared 10th or 12th, the hype and noise of social media often lead to more harm than good. This period of life demands focus, introspection, and smart planning – not comparisons, distractions, or illusions of fame. Parents and educators must play an active role in guiding students to use social media as a stepping stone, not a stumbling block. Only then can the youth of today turn this digital age into a source of empowerment, not confusion.

Let us build a digital culture where toppers are celebrated, but every student is respected. Where trends do not define self-esteem, and trauma isn't masked behind likes and laughter. Let's remind our 10th and 12th graders: your marks are a chapter, not the whole story.

The business of anti-national activities on social media: Freedom of expression or agenda marketing?

PRIYANKA SAURABH

Today, social media has become such a weapon whose edge is no less than a sword. This edge is of thoughts, emotions, and, most dangerously, rumors. In the name of freedom of expression, an undeclared market has emerged in the last few years where posts are prepared in exchange for 'payout', the country's image is tarnished, and under a well-planned strategy, an anti-national agenda is served in the name of "news," "opinion," and "justice."

But now the warning has been issued.

The recent office memo of the "Standing Committee on Information Technology" has made clear the intention to take serious steps in this direction. Now it will not just be watched—now action will be taken. Under the IT Act 2000 and Digital Media Ethics Code 2021, action will be taken against such social media platforms and 'influencers' who are engaged in spoiling the atmosphere by spreading content against the country.

Expression versus Destruction
Freedom of thought in the coun-

try is protected by the Constitution. But should this freedom be so open that anyone can say anything, and when questions are raised, they can take the cover of 'democracy,' 'free speech,' and 'dissent'? Should anti-national content also be considered a part of expression?

When a youth says "there is no job," it is a legitimate pain. But when the same person writes on social media, "India should burn," "Hindustan is hell," or "The country has become fascist," then these are no longer opinions—they become a well-planned rumor, which is further fueled by political or foreign forces.

Therefore, now it will not be decided which party the person posting the post supports; now it will be decided what impact the post has on the nation.

The growing web of 'payout journalism'

Nowadays some 'freelancers' and 'influencers' are giving 'gyaan' on every issue on social media. But behind these gyaanis, there is often a payout strategy hidden. Videos are made under a particular ideology—someone is accused, someone's image is tarnished, and in the end the climax is that "India is no longer

Those who defame India by taking 'payouts' on social media will no longer be spared. The government has taken a strict stand under the IT Act 2000 and Digital Media Ethics Code 2021. Now there will be neither silence nor exemption on anti-national content. Legal action will be taken against those who spread rumors and agendas in the name of freedom of expression. It will not be decided which party you support, but it will be seen whether your views are with the integrity of India or against it. Now think before posting—country comes first, not popularity!

worth living in."

All this is part of the agenda marketing where India's image is tarnished internationally—especially on sensitive topics like human rights, anti-Muslim sentiment, and Dalit oppression. Also look at their timing: when there is a discussion on India in the UN or when foreign reports come out, on the same days these 'anti-India campaigns' intensify on social media.

Will treason be identified by the party?

Another funny point of the debate is that people try to decide whether an idea is anti-national or not based on whether the person posting it is a BJP supporter or a Congress critic. But should India's integrity be identified with a party? Will national interest also be seen through a political lens?

No. It is time to draw clear lines between country and party.

Nation comes first—not ideology, caste, religion, or party.

Any post that tries to destabilize India by making baseless allegations against its borders, its soldiers, its judicial system, or its democratic institutions is anti-national. And now the government has made it clear that such content

will be banned immediately.

IT Act and Digital Code: No More Exemptions

The IT Act 2000 and the Digital Media Ethics Code 2021 will no longer be limited to books. Those who believed that the online world is a 'no rules zone' will now have to face the ground reality.

Under these laws:

Notice to the platform for sharing anti-national content and instruction to remove the content
Criminal case filed for spreading fake news.

It is mandatory to openly display paid promotions.

Actions like financial penalties and even bans on promoting anti-India 'trends'

Now the government is going to strictly implement these legal provisions.

This is a country, not a story pitch!

India is not a product that needs to be defamed to be sold in 'International Outlook.' This country is made of the faith, soul, and struggle of crores of people. If any person thinks that he can defame the country through a tweet or a reel, then he is making a big mistake.

This "anti-national outsourcing" going on on social media will not continue anymore.

The pen is now responsible.

Literature, journalism, media, and social space—all these are the backbone of democracy. But when these platforms become infected with foreign agendas or political hatred, then purifying them becomes a part of national security.

Now the time has come that the pen should also be used responsibly.

Before every post, before every tweet, before every video, ask yourself, is this in favor of my country or against it?

If the answer isn't clear, don't post.

One more thing in closing—

This country is not afraid of debate. But it will not remain silent due to conspiracy.

Now that era is over when people used to gain 'popularity' by abusing the nation.

Now the answer will be given—strict, legal, and immediate.

Priyanka Saurabh is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist, and columnist.

World Laughter Day: One-dimensional laughter in a one-dimensional world: a sociological reflection

TARIQ ZAMAN
tariquzamani21@gmail.com

Each year, the first Sunday of May is celebrated as World Laughter Day—a tribute to the healing power of laughter, unity, and peace. Streets echo with cheerful gatherings, yoga sessions filled with giggles, and social media feeds glow with smiling emojis. At first glance, it's a wholesome celebration of joy. But from the lens of Herbert Marcuse, one of the sharpest critics of modern society, we might ask: Is this laughter liberating or limiting?

In his 1964 classic *One-Dimensional Man*, Marcuse argued that advanced industrial societies—both capitalist and communist—had created individuals who are conformed, complacent, and controlled. These “one-dimensional” people lose the capacity for critical thinking, imagination, and authentic freedom. What seems like happiness is often a mask that conceals alienation and compliance.

Laughter as Repressive Desublimation

Marcuse introduced the concept of repressive desublimation, where people's instincts and desires are released, not to empower them, but to pacify them. In today's world, laughter too can be commodified—turned into entertainment, memes, and commercial therapy. We are encouraged to laugh, not to question; to smile, not to resist.

World Laughter Day, then, can be seen as a ritual of emotional release in a system that exhausts us daily. It offers temporary relief, but without challenging the source of our stress—be it long working hours, consumerism, or social isolation.

The One-Dimensional Culture of Laughter

In a truly liberated society, laughter would arise from freedom and genuine connection, not from marketed jokes or superficial distractions. But in our one-dimen-

sional world, even laughter is standardised—packaged into sitcoms, stand-up routines, and apps promising instant mood boosts.

Marcuse feared a world where even dissent and humour were absorbed into the system. And perhaps that's where we are—where rebellion becomes a t-shirt slogan and resistance becomes a punchline.

Towards a Two-Dimensional Joy

This doesn't mean we must stop laughing. Instead, we must recover the depth of our emotions. Laughter should be a tool of healing, not sedation. It should accompany awareness, not replace it.

So, on this World Laughter Day, let us laugh—but let us also ask:

What are we laughing at, and what are we forgetting while we laugh?

Can our joy be a force of resistance rather than compliance?

Examples of Marcuse's Theory Applied to Laughter

Consumer Culture and Laughter
Marcuse argued that in modern societies, consumerism becomes a primary way of fulfilling needs, even false ones. The push for continuous consumption dulls critical thinking and reduces people to mere cogs in the machine. This concept applies to laughter as well:

Example:

- Laughing as a Product: Advertisements often use humour to sell products. While we laugh at a commercial, the joke itself is part of a strategy to make us associate happiness with consumption. On World Laughter Day, people may laugh in group sessions, but are they truly liberated, or are they merely laughing to distract themselves from the need for real social change and deeper connections?

The Illusion of Freedom in Media

Marcuse warned that mass media plays a crucial role in shaping a one-dimensional society. It often turns rebellion, dissent, or alternative lifestyles into consumable entertainment, which then loses its potential to challenge



authority.

Example:

- Comedians and Political Satire: Stand-up comedians or late-night TV shows may criticise political leaders or social issues, yet their content is often designed to entertain rather than inspire change. Comedy can become a form of repressive desublimation, where jokes about power structures become so normalised that they no longer incite real resistance, but rather reinforce the existing order.

Workplace Humour and Alienation

Marcuse's analysis of labour in industrial society suggests that workers are alienated from the products of their labour, leading to an inner sense of emptiness. Laughter in this context often masks dissatisfaction and frustration.

Example:

- Corporate Humour: In the workplace, humour often circulates around trivial matters or internal jokes that serve to distract workers from the monotony and alienation of their labour. This

laughter can be seen as a way to mask deeper frustrations with oppressive work environments or a lack of personal fulfilment. On World Laughter Day, a corporate gathering might feature jokes and laughter, but does this laughter address the real issues employees face, like burnout or lack of creativity?

Technology and Laughter

Marcuse critiqued the role of technology in modern societies, noting that it is used not to liberate but to control and manipulate people. Technology, including social media, can shape how we express emotions like laughter.

Example:

- Laughter on Social Media: Social media platforms encourage users to post funny content, often through memes or short videos. While it may seem like a celebration of joy, this laughter is often controlled and commodified. Algorithms determine what content is visible, shaping our understanding of what is funny. This is an example of Marcuse's point that technology serves to reinforce the status quo

by dictating the types of joy we experience.

Political Correctness and Humour

Marcuse's work often emphasised the control of intellectual freedom. In contemporary debates around political correctness, humour becomes a battleground for questions of freedom of expression and social justice.

Example:

- Political Correctness and Jokes: Comedians today navigate the fine line between free expression and being “cancelled” for crossing boundaries. In a one-dimensional society, humour can be used to safeguard the dominant social order. By enforcing certain norms around what is acceptable to laugh at, society may stifle the potential of humour to challenge power structures.

Mass Entertainment and the Pacification of Society

Marcuse argued that the mass media pacifies the population, offering distractions to prevent people from thinking critically about their conditions. Entertainment

ment becomes a tool of repressive desublimation.

Example:

- Laughter in Reality TV: Reality television often presents “unscripted” moments of humour that may seem spontaneous but are carefully curated for entertainment value. These programs distract viewers from societal problems by providing them with a false sense of connection and enjoyment. On World Laughter Day, while people might enjoy shared laughter, do they recognise that these forms of entertainment keep them from engaging with deeper societal issues?

Laughter as a Form of Resistance

While Marcuse's work critiques the one-dimensionality of society, it also suggests that authentic human expression can offer a path to liberation. In this sense, laughter that arises from true solidarity, critical thought, and resistance is empowering.

Example:

- Revolutionary Laughter: In social movements, laughter can be an act of defiance. Protesters use humour to mock oppressive regimes or challenge unjust systems. This form of laughter, rooted in critical awareness, contrasts sharply with the empty laughter promoted by consumer culture. On World Laughter Day, we could reflect on how laughter has historically been used to resist oppression (e.g., in political protests, satirical works, or underground movements).

Conclusion

Marcuse's analysis of modern society's one-dimensionality reveals the ways in which humour, laughter, and entertainment are often co-opted by systems of control. However, when laughter is authentic and comes from a place of true connection and awareness, it has the potential to be liberating. On World Laughter Day, we might ask ourselves: is our laughter freeing us, or is it simply another tool used to distract us from the deeper questions of our existence?

Swift Chat: A Technological Boon for Monitoring Student Attendance



BY JAWAID IQBAL

In the contemporary academic milieu, where digital transformation steadily reshapes pedagogical paradigms, the integration of real-time communication platforms like Swift Chat has emerged as an indispensable innovation. Designed as a multifaceted tool, Swift Chat transcends its primary function of instant messaging to assume a pivotal role in facilitating online attendance mechanisms, particularly in educational institutions striving for seamless digital integration.

At its core, Swift Chat operates as an agile communication interface enabling educators to mark, monitor, and manage student presence with immediacy and precision. Unlike conventional roll-calling or static online forms, this dynamic platform allows real-time

Swift Chat is redefining attendance in the digital age. More than just a messaging platform, it enables real-time student tracking, timestamped responses, and automatic record-keeping — boosting efficiency and accountability in classrooms. Integrated with the JK Smart Attendance system, it supports synchronous, hybrid, and remote learning environments while consuming minimal data.

interaction, timestamped responses, and automatic archival of attendance data — all of which contribute to enhanced administrative efficiency and accountability.

A direct portal to the JK Smart Attendance system is accessible at: <https://cgweb.page.link/aLSV8A4AHF-ManIoj6>, allowing educators to swiftly navigate the digital interface and streamline the attendance process.

The application's inherent versatility permits its deployment across diverse instructional settings — from synchronous online classes to hybrid learning models — thereby ensuring equitable participation and reducing absenteeism. Furthermore, with built-in analytics and data export features, Swift Chat empowers institutions to conduct attendance audits and derive actionable insights on student engagement trends.

Moreover, in districts grappling with infrastructural constraints or fluctuating internet accessibility, Swift Chat's lightweight design ensures uninterrupted usage with minimal data consumption. This aspect renders it particularly efficacious in rural or semi-urban academic landscapes where digital equity remains a formidable challenge.

In summation, the incorporation of Swift Chat into the educational framework signifies a laudable stride towards technological modernization. It is not merely a tool but a testament to the evolving ethos of educational governance — one that privileges agility, transparency, and student-centered accountability.

What is Common From Kandahar to Pahalgam

VIVEK SHUKLA
vivekshukladelhi@gmail.com

Those who were born in 1999, when the hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight IC 814 took place, are now witnessing the war like situation between India and Pakistan are grown up men and women. In between these long 26 years, one man is still relevant and calling the shot. Well, you have rightly identified him. He is none other than Ajit Doval, the super sleuth and National Security Advisor.

The 1968 batch IPS officer, Ajit Doval was the key negotiator to release the Passengers from the Indian Airlines Flight IC 814. And now, he is the point man of the Indian government to deal with a very grim situation that arose due to gory killings of 26 tourists in Pahalgam.

In his recently published book ‘My Comint Memories’ on the silver Jubilee of Kandahar Hijacking, Vishnu Mishra, a veteran of India's premier intelligence, RAW and someone who was there at the Kandahar when the negotiations were going on writes- “ I went to Kandhar with my Joint Secretary Anand Arni and Additional Secretary S.D. Sahai. My official duty was to establish and maintain Emergency Radio Communication between Kandahar and Delhi.” When Vishnu Mishra and his colleagues reached there, the senior team that was to negotiate with the hijackers were already camping in Kandhar. It had Ajit Doval, Chander Dhar Sahai and Vivek Katju. We all know that now a prolific writer, Katju is an IFS officer and an authority on Pakistan and Afghanistan affairs.

It may be recalled that this traumatic event, which unfolded over eight days from December 24 to December 31, 1999, involved the hijacking of an Airbus A300 en route from Kathmandu, Nepal, to New Delhi, India. The crisis exposed vulnerabilities in India's security apparatus, sparked intense diplomatic negotiations, and led to the controversial release of three high-profile terrorists in exchange for the hostages.

On December 24, 1999, Indian Airlines Flight IC 814 departed from Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu at 4:00 PM IST, carrying 179 passengers and 11 crew members, including Captain Devi Sharan, First Officer Rajinder Kumar, and Flight Engineer Anil Kumar Jaggia. The flight was a routine one, expected to land in New Delhi within an hour and forty minutes. However, at approximately 4:39 PM, as the aircraft entered Indian airspace, five armed men, later identified as members of the Pakistan-based Islamist militant group Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM), seized control of the plane. “ The hijackers, identified by Indian authorities as Ibrahim Athar, Shahid Akhtar Sayeed, Sunny Ahmed Qazi, Zahoor Mistry, and Shakir—all Pakistani nationals—used code names: Chief, Doctor, Burger, Bhola, and Shankar.” If you look their pictures, they all look so innocent and naive.

The hijackers ordered Captain Sharan to divert the plane westward, initially demanding to land in Lahore, Pakistan. However, Pakistani authorities denied landing permission, forcing the plane, which was critically low on fuel,

to land at Raja Sansi Airport in Amritsar, India, at 7:00 PM. The aircraft remained on the tarmac for approximately 55 minutes, during which Indian authorities faced a critical opportunity to intervene. The Punjab Police sought permission from the central government to deploy commandos, while the Crisis Management Group (CMG) in Delhi considered sending National Security Guard (NSG) operatives. However, delays in decision-making and concerns about passenger safety prevented any action. Frustrated by the lack of refueling, the hijackers stabbed two passengers, including 25-year-old Rupin Katyal, who was fatally wounded, and forced the plane to take off without refueling.

The aircraft landed in Lahore at 8:07 PM, where it was refueled after negotiations with Pakistani authorities. It then proceeded to Dubai, landing at Al Minhad Air Base at 1:32 AM on December 25. In Dubai, the hijackers released 27 passengers, primarily women and children, and offloaded Rupin Katyal's body. The United Arab Emirates denied India's request to conduct a commando operation, citing sovereignty concerns. The plane then departed for its final destination, landing at Kandahar Airport in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan at 8:33 AM on December 25. The Taliban surrounded the aircraft with armed militia, claiming it was to protect the passengers, though Indian officials viewed this as a move to prevent a military rescue operation.

The Hostage Crisis

The hijackers' initial demands were extensive: the release of

36 jailed terrorists, including Masood Azhar, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, and Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar; a ransom of US\$200 million; and the exhumation of HuM leader Sajjad Afghani's body. Azhar, arrested in 1994 for terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir, was a key figure in HuM. Sheikh, apprehended in 1994 for kidnapping foreigners, was linked to multiple militant groups. Zargar, arrested in 1992, faced numerous murder charges. The Indian government, led by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, faced immense pressure to resolve the crisis without compromising national security.

Once the Indian External Affairs Minister Late Jaswant Singh arrived to lead the negotiations with the Pakistan's ISI backed hijackers, it was certain that now the whole episode will be come to an end. Prior to his arrival as Vishnu Mishra writes- “ A negotiating team, including Ajit Doval, Vivek Katju, and CD Sahay, was talking to hijackers.” According to Mishra, Ajit Doval was not at all happy as the government had conceded so many demands of hijackers. Vivek Katju was happy that finally the passengers were freed.”

According to Vishnu Sharma-Ajit Doval is an outstanding officer and his understanding of the Security issues is matchless. In his highly gripping book, he has also discussed very important subjects like The Terrorism in India, The International Terrorism and The Rise and Fall of Osama Bin Laden in great detail. My Comint Memoris is published by Pravasi Prem Publishing.



Prof. H. C. Verma inspires NIT Srinagar students: calls for scientific inquiry beyond exams

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 06: Prof. H. C. Verma, one of India's most celebrated physicists and educators, delivered an inspiring address at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Tuesday and urged them to look beyond the narrow goals of competitive examinations like JEE and NEET and instead embrace scientific inquiry as a lifelong pursuit. In his keynote speech, Prof. Verma emphasized the value of curiosity-driven learning over rote memorization. He encouraged students to engage deeply with the fundamentals of Physics and Mathematics, citing unsolved problems in Physics that require fresh and imaginative thinking. "Real science begins where textbooks end," he said, stressing the need for innovation and

original thought. Prof. Verma also highlighted the pressing environmental challenges facing the world today. He called on the academic community, especially young scientists and engineers to incorporate sustainability into both research and daily practice. "Water conservation and the responsible use of natural resources should be core concerns in scientific development," he said. Prof. Verma expressed his gratitude to the Department of Physics for hosting the event and fostering a vibrant academic culture at NIT Srinagar. Expressing his appreciation, Prof. Verma thanked the Department of Physics for hosting the event and fostering an environment conducive to academic excellence and critical thinking. Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, expressed his deep appreciation



for Prof. Verma's visit and its lasting impact. "We are honored to host Prof. H. C. Verma, whose teachings have ignited scientific curiosity across generations," he said. "His philosophy aligns perfectly with our mission at NIT Srinagar—to cultivate not just skilled engineers but thoughtful, socially responsible innovators. His interaction today will surely inspire a renewed sense of purpose among our students and faculty," Prof. Kanaujia added. The session was organized by Prof. M. A. Shah, Dean of Alumni Affairs at NIT Srinagar, who delivered the welcome address. "Prof. Verma's visit is not just an academic event—it is an emotional moment for generations of science lovers who grew up learning from his books," Prof. Shah said. "His presence rekindles a deeper love for Physics and reminds us that the purpose of education is not just to clear exams, but to

transform minds," he said. Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman also praised the initiative, having a luminary like Prof. Verma on our campus is an inspiration for both students and faculty. "His insights bridge the gap between textbook knowledge and real-world application. Events like these shape the ethos of an institute," he said. Prof. Rehman said that Prof. Verma has redefined the way Physics is taught in India. His philosophy of education aligns with our vision at NIT Srinagar to create thinkers, innovators, and socially conscious technologists. We are honored to host him, he said. The lecture drew a diverse and enthusiastic audience, including faculty members from the Physics Department, lecturers from higher secondary institutions, research scholars, and undergraduate engineering students.

Blood Donation Camp Organized at IUST

HT News Network

Awantipora, May 06: A blood donation camp was organized today by the Health Centre of the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) in collaboration with Humanity Welfare Organisation Helpline (HWOH), Bijbehara, and Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag. The camp was formally inaugurated by Prof. Abdul Wahid Makhdoomi, Registrar IUST and Chairman HWOH, Mr. Javid Ahmad Tak. The camp saw overwhelming participation, with 140 donors including students, teaching, and non-teaching staff. Notably, a significant number of female donors also came forward, making this drive particularly encouraging and inclusive. A total of 140 blood points were collected for the Blood Bank of GMC Anantnag, marking the event as one of the major blood donation initiatives in the region. The camp highlighted the spirit of social responsibility and humanitarian commitment among the university community.

Free Medical, awareness camp held at Tengwani Batgund of Shopian

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 06: On the directions of Director AYUSH, Dr. Nuzhat Bashir Shah, a free medical and awareness camp was organized at Tengwani Batgund in Shopian. During the camp, participants received free medicines and were counseled on adopting healthier lifestyles and maintaining personal and environmental hygiene. A total of 208 patients attended the camp and availed the medical services provided by AYUSH Shopian.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Nazir Ahmad Reshi Father of Imtiaz Ahmad Reshi Resident of Veersiran Tehsil Sallar District Anantnag do hereby solemnly declare and affirm on oath as under, That due to in advertence the Date of Birth of Deponents Son has been Wrongly entered in the Adhar Card having aadhar card No 6231 4500 1341 as 15-11-2003 which is incorrect. . That the actual Date of Birth of the Deponents Son as 19-02-2009 which is true and correct as per School Record. That the information furnished by deponent is true and correct and in case any thing found false the deponent shall be my self responsible.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Riyaz Ahmad Najar, F/O Shifa, studying in Linton Hall School Rajbagh Srinagar, intend to correct my daughter's Name in school record from: Shifa D/O: Riyaz Ahmad Najar to Mahira D/O Riyaz Ahmad Najar. Objections if anyone Have Any Objections in this Regard He /She may contact Linton Hall School Rajbagh, Srinagar within a period of seven days. After That No objection will be entertained.

Name:- Riyaz Ahmad Najar
F/O Mahira

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: xennhchdk@yahooin

GIST NIT No: M&HDS/TS / 2025-26/03/e-tendering, Dated: -05.05.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two cover system technical and financial on percentage basis from eligible registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of completion	Accord of Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of VRV/VRF based Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning System for Auditorium at Police Headquarters, Peerbagh, Srinagar	85.496	3000	2% of the estimate d cost	120 Days	BD/DF- 55/2021/III/1384-86 Dt: 07.04.2025	MHED/K/TS/03 Dated: 26.04.2025

- Position of funds: Available with the intending department (HQ, J&K, Police)
- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in from 05-05-2025 (18:00 hrs.) and can be downloaded from 05-05-2025 (18:00 hrs.).
- Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 06-05-2025. (10:00 hrs.) to 26-05-2025 (18:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids: - The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 27-05-2025 at 14.00 (hrs.)

DIPK-1167/25
Date: May 6 2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, M&HD, Srinagar

Two days Pre-Lok Adalat concludes at Budgam

HT News Network

BUDGAM, MAY 06: In connection with the upcoming 2nd National Lok-Adalat scheduled on 10th May, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam successfully concluded 02 days Pre Lok Adalat on Tuesday. The said Pre Lok Adalat was held under the directions and supervision of O.P Bhagat, Chairman DLSA (Ld. Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Budgam and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam. The two days Pre-Lok Adalat was scheduled for the amicable settlement/compromise of pre-litigation matters (PHE, BSNL etc) at ADR Centre, Budgam for which one bench was constituted which was presided over by Nusrat Ali Hakak (Secretary DLSA) and was assisted by Javid Ahmad Mir, Deputy LADC. Overall 1395 Pre-Litigation matters were taken up by the said bench, out of which a maximum number of cases got settled and the said Pre Lok Adalat was very successful.

ازنیات ہندواڑہ اے

منکند محمد الوب میر ولد موم غلام حسن میر ساکن موم غلام تحصیل ہندواڑہ سے وارث جائیداد (لنگر ہیر سریشٹھیت) حاصل کرنی مطلوب ہے من منظر/منظر کاوالد مورخہ 20/12/2018 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور مرند رہ ذیل وارثان کو اپنے پیچھے چھوڑ گیا ہے

اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

نمبر شمار نام پسماندگان رشتہ بہرہ موتی عمر پیشہ

1 محمد الوب میر ولد موم غلام حسن میر رشتہ بہرہ عمر 50 پیشہ دوکاندار

2 مسعودہ بیگم زویدہ موم غلام حسن میر رشتہ زویدہ عمر 70 پیشہ عمر رسیدہ

3 لطیفہ بیگم دختر غلام حسن رشتہ دختر عمر 55 پیشہ گھر بیلو کام

4 زمرہ وودہ بیگم دختر غلام حسن رشتہ دختر عمر 45 پیشہ گھر بیلو کام

5 روینہ بیگم دختر غلام حسن میر عمر 35 پیشہ گھر بیلو کام

وارثان مندر بہ بالا سے اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی وارثان یا ہرمو جو نہیں ہے ابراہیم لکھنٹ ہذا کے نسبت اگر کسی بھی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی نذر یا اعتراض ہو تو سات یوم کے اندر اندر دفتر ہذا سے رابطہ کریں یا بذیل فون نمبر سے رابطہ کریں میں معاذت ہونے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا

فون نمبر 70066157287

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Bijbehara

CORRIGENDUM

Refer this office e-NIT No. 08/PHE/BJU of 2025-26 issued under endorsement No. PHE/BJU/1153-65 dated :26.04.2025 the item No. 03 name of the work "Provision for POL for tankers for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025 for security installations at different places enroute Yatra and adjoining areas & engagement of additional tankers" is hereby cancelled due to technical error in BOQ and will be reloaded very soon.

DIPK-1184/25

Dated:- 06/05/2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Bijbehara

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ سکول رکاز دین ٹاٹی سے سکول رکاز دین انراج ہوئی ہے جب کہ 12/08/2012 میری بیٹی کی تاریخ پیدائش 15/03/2012 ہے اس کی دینی کرانی مطلوب ہے کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر العمان پبلک سکول سرینگوڈاڈ بکس میں پیش کرے بعد از معاذ کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا

المستہر

طارق احمد سیر گوجری والد باز لہ طارق ساکن ویرہامہ تحصیل سر پھلگام

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my Name and dob has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, 972167946370 as name and DOB 19/03/2000 sumiya Akther while his correct name and DOB IS, 10/07/2002: SUMAYA RAHIM D/O ABDUL RAHIM WANI R/O WARAPORA MAGAM now I have applied for the correction. If anybody 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: SUMAYA RAHIM / DOB 10/07/2002
D/O ABDUL RAHIM WANI
R/O: WARAPORA MAGAM/TEHSIL HANDWARA DIST KUPWARA

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being notified that my name on my bank account number 01220408000009260 branch pahalgam has been wrongly mentioned as Mushtaq Chohan . my actual name as per Aadhar is Mushtaq Ahmad Gojar Chohan C/o Nazir Ahmad Gojar Chohan khaleen gojani batkoot pahalgam JAMMU AND KASHMIR If anyone have queries please contact the branch office Or call 6006959049

PDF Chief Hakeem Yaseen urges govt to safeguard shepherds' livelihood in Budgam forest zones

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 06: President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, on Tuesday expressed serious concern over the restrictions imposed on local shepherds in upper forest areas of Budgam district. These areas include popular tourist destinations such as Tosa-



maidan, Doodhpathri, and Yousmarg. In a statement issued here, Hakeem Yaseen said that while combating terrorism is essential, it should not

come at the expense of the livelihood of local shepherds, especially those from Gujjar, Bakerwal, and Chohan communities, who depend on these highland pastures for grazing cattle, sheep, and goats. "We support the government's efforts in fighting terrorism, but the needs and rights of our people must also be respected. These shepherds have been traditionally dependent on these pastures for genera-

tions, and denying them access threatens their only source of income," he said. Hakeem Yaseen noted that although tourism has been restricted in these regions due to security concerns, locals should not be treated the same as visitors. Shepherds' seasonal migration to these meadows is vital to their economic survival, especially in a region already grappling with high unemployment, he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my father's name ALI MOHD MALIK S/O MOHD ABDULLAH MALIK R/O KHESIPORA . Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021204000270 wants to be registered on my name MOHD ASSADULLAH MALIK S/O ALI MOHD MALIK R/O KHESIPORA KREERI . If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name... MOHD ASSADULLAH MALIK
S/O ... ALI MOHD MALIK
R/O KHESIPORA KREERI
DIST..... BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 8th pass certificate at somewhere . Now i am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of GOVT BOYS MIDDLE SCHOOL TAKIYA YOUSUF SHAH /ZEO office CHANDOOSA BARAMULLA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.... RUKHSANA RASHID
D/O ABDUL RASHID WANI
R/O TAKIYA YOUSUF SHAH
Zone ... CHANDOOSA
DISTT ... BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as HAJI QUIYUM PEERZADA in my driving licence bearing licence no JK-05 2008 0006337 while my corrected name is ABDUL QUYAM as per aadhar card which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of ARTO BARAMULLAH within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name.... ABDUL QUYAM
S/O PIR GHULAM HASSAN





IUST Observes World Hand Hygiene Day

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, May 6: Syed Mantaqui College of Nursing and Medical Technology, Islamic University of Science and Technology in collaboration with Sub District Hospital (SDH) Tral, conducted a series of awareness campaigns and educational outreach activities across schools in the Tral region on the eve of World Health Day. The programs were held at Hamdania High School Tral, Government Middle School Amirabad Tral, and Government High School Tral. The day is globally observed under the World Health Organizations (WHO) campaign to promote hand hygiene in healthcare and community settings. The outreach programs were conducted on the theme "Clean Hands are Within Reach," focused on reinforcing the significance of regular hand washing to prevent infections, especially among school-aged children. The activities included interactive awareness sessions led by nursing students, emphasizing the vital role of hand hygiene. Creative competitions such as poster-making and slogan-writing saw active participation from students, helping reinforce the cleanliness message in an engaging manner. Educational pamphlets were also distributed among schoolchildren to support long-term awareness. The campaign witnessed participation from hundreds of students and school staff, and enhancing their knowledge of hygiene practices.

Public advisory issued for Civil Defence Mock Drill

■ HT News Network

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, MAY 06: To enhance Civil Defence preparedness for emergencies, a Civil Defence Mock Drill is being conducted on May 7, 2025 (Wednesday) at 4:00 PM across Jammu and Kashmir.

"To enhance the Civil Defence preparedness for emergencies, a Civil Defence Mock Drill will take place on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 4:00 PM. As part of the drill, sirens will be activated at various locations in UT. This is a practice exercise to test our emergency response systems.

We kindly request all members of the public to remain calm and not be alarmed. Your cooperation is essential in making this safety initiative a success," a public advisory issued by Office of the Director Civil Defence & SDRF reads.

Mendhar Road Mishap: Ex Gratia announced by DC Poonch

■ HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 06: A tragic road accident occurred today involving a passenger bus bearing registration number JK02AX-1671, on way from Ghani to Mendhar. The incident resulted in the unfortunate loss of four lives and injuries to several others. District authorities responded swiftly and launched rescue and medical relief operations. The injured were shifted to nearby medical facilities for treatment.

The Deputy Commissioner Poonch, who also serves as the Chairman of the District Road Safety Committee, has announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1 lakh each for the families of the deceased. This compensation will be disbursed from the Road Safety Victim Fund.

The district administration has extended its deepest condolences to the bereaved families and assured to provide all necessary assistance.

Rafi Ahmad Mir Meets LG Manoj Sinha, Advocates for Pahalgam's Public Concerns and Civil Society Contributions

■ HT News Network

Srinagar May 06 Senior leader Rafi Ahmad Mir called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, bringing to the forefront several pressing issues faced by the people of Pahalgam.

During the meeting, he emphasized the urgent need for responsive governance to address local infrastructure, environmental conservation, and sustainable development in the region.

He also drew special attention to the exceptional role played by civil society members and the relentless commitment of Pahalgam's residents in safeguarding the region's ecological and cultural fabric.

He strongly advocated for institutional recognition and support for their contributions, noting that community-driven efforts remain central to the area's progress. During the meeting, he emphasized the urgent need for responsive governance to address local infrastructure, environmental conservation, and sustainable development in the region.

He also drew special attention to the exceptional role played by civil society members and the relentless commitment of Pahalgam's residents in safeguarding the region's ecological and cultural fabric.

He strongly advocated for institutional recognition and support for their contributions, noting that community-driven efforts remain central to the area's progress.

Javed Rana visits GMC Rajouri; meets Ghani Bus accident victims

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 6: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri to enquire about the health of the passengers injured in the tragic bus accident that occurred at Ghani in the Mendhar area.

During his visit, the Minister interacted with the injured patients and assured them of all possible support for their treatment and speedy recovery. He directed the Medical Superintendent and the hospital staff to provide the best possible medical care and extend every necessary assistance to the victims.

The Minister was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, along with other district and sectoral officers. Expressing deep concern over the rising



number of road accidents in the Pir Panjal region, the Minister called for urgent and concrete measures to enhance road safety. He emphasised the need to improve road infrastructure across the hilly and accident-

prone areas. He asked for strengthening driver training and licensing systems, strict enforcement of traffic regulations, regular inspection of commercial and passenger vehicles, launch of targeted public aware-

ness campaigns on road safety and detailed data analysis of past accidents to identify and address key risk factors.

Later, the Minister met with various public delegations at Dak Bungalow, Rajouri, and listened to their issues and concerns. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for time-bound redressal of genuine public grievances. The Minister was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, along with other district and sectoral officers.

Expressing deep concern over the rising number of road accidents in the Pir Panjal region, the Minister called for urgent and concrete measures to enhance road safety. He emphasised the need to improve road infrastructure across the hilly and accident-prone areas. He asked for strengthening driver training and licensing systems, strict enforcement of traffic regulations, regular inspection of commercial and passenger vehicles, launch of targeted public

DC inspects JJM, PHE mechanical offices in Rajouri Emphasizes staff discipline, timely installation of machinery

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 6: Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today conducted a surprise inspection of the offices of the Executive Engineer, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and the Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division here to assess the functioning and ongoing progress of JJM-related works in the district. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner issued string of directions to the Executive Engineer JJM and Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical to ensure regularity and punctuality of staff in their respective offices. He emphasized that indiscipline and laxity in attendance will not be tolerated, especially in departments involved in the execution of



crucial public utility schemes.

While reviewing the status of ongoing JJM works, the DC instructed the concerned officers to expedite the installation of machinery and equipment at the sites of ongoing projects. He underscored the importance of ensuring that all

infrastructural and mechanical components are installed in tandem with civil works to avoid delays in project completion. The DC reiterated the administration's commitment to providing safe and adequate drinking water to every rural household in line with the objectives of

the Jal Jeevan Mission and directed officers to work in a mission mode to achieve the set targets within the stipulated timelines. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner issued string of directions to the Executive Engineer JJM and Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical to ensure regularity and punctuality of staff in their respective offices. He emphasized that indiscipline and laxity in attendance will not be tolerated, especially in departments involved in the execution of crucial public utility schemes. While reviewing the status of ongoing JJM works, the DC instructed the concerned officers to expedite the installation of machinery and equipment at the sites of ongoing projects. He underscored the importance of ensuring.

J&K Police Detains Overground Worker Of Terrorists In Poonch

■ HT News Network

Jammu, May 6: An alleged overground worker for terrorists was detained in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, with police claiming that his presence and actions posed a serious threat to public order and tranquillity.

Mohd Qayoom, a resident of Qasba village, has been nabbed under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), a spokesperson of the force said, adding he was identified as an overground worker involved in activities detrimental to the region's security and integrity.

"After thorough investigation and compiling intelligence inputs, a dossier was submitted, and a PSA detention order was obtained. Acting swiftly, police detained the individual and lodged him in the Rajouri district jail under preventive detention," the spokesperson said.

He said the action is a part of sustained efforts by police to curb the activities of anti-national elements and their sympathizers.

Police also booked a notorious drug peddler under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act for his repeated involvement in selling and distributing contraband narcotics in the Ramban district. Police also booked a notorious drug peddler under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act for his repeated involvement in selling and distributing contraband narcotics in the Ramban district. (Agencies)

People cross Chenab at Akhnoor as water level decreases below knee

Many get silver coins, gold ornaments from river

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, May 6: As the water level in river Chenab decreased to hardly one foot, after the Indian authorities stopped the flow of water at Salal and Baglihar dams over the mighty river, the people of Akhnoor town and several upstream villages of the Sub Division and Reasi district were seen crossing the river today.

Click here to watch video The people of Akhnoor today woke up with the surprise to see the river almost dry. After coming to know about

the news, many people of the town including women and children rushed towards Jia Pota Ghat and near Pandav cave and Gurdwara river banks. Scores of people were seen making videos with their mobile phones while other were seen crossing the river.

Some youth were seen praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi on stopping the flow of river water to Pakistan and raising slogans in support of Modi and India. It apparently, turned the occasion of amusement for many as the people specially the children

gathered at the bank of the river, depicting the occasion like a fair.

The police party from local police station arrived at the river site and warned the people against crossing the Chenab on foot at Akhnoor after the river recorded its lowest water discharge and attracted hundreds of people from the historic town and villagers. On this occasion some people were seen searching for gold and silver ornaments and coins. Many of them even managed to get some gold ornaments and silver coins.

ABRSM J&K anguished over delay in conducting ATD and DPC of all cadets in education department.

■ HT News Network

JAMMU ,06 MAY 2025:-Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh Jammu and Kashmir, has expressed strong displeasure over the non-transfer of teachers for the last two years.

Rattan Sharma State President (ABRSM) highlighted that the government's failure to conduct the annual transfer drive which has led to widespread dissatisfaction among teaching staff across the Union Territory. According to Sharma, teachers posted in far-flung and difficult areas have been serving there continuously without rotation.

Rattan Sharma urged Sakina Itooj (Cabinet Minister of Education, Health and Medical Education and Social welfare) and worthy Commissioner Secretary to education to direct the authorities for

immediately initiate the annual transfer process to ensure transparency and fairness in the system.

He also pointed out that the delay in transfers contradicts the principles of good governance and employee welfare. He said that the deployment orders of some influential officials are going viral on social media. ABRSM will continue to raise this issue at every appropriate platform until the government takes prompt action. He called for a clear and time-bound transfer drive to restore confidence among the teaching fraternity. Sharma mentioned that during the last round, fewer teachers were promoted as master than expected, causing disappointment among many eligible candidates. Now the Director School Education Jammu taking the process forward, it is imperative that the promotions be completed without further delay.

NR flags delay in tunnels' communication system of Srinagar rail project

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, May 6: The communication system inside the escape tunnels between two sections of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project (USBRL) is incomplete and yet to be fine-tuned, the Northern Railway complained in a written communication to the Konkan Railway Communication Limited, its service provider.

The final Katra-Sangaldan section of the 272-km USBRL project was to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 19 to connect Kashmir with the rest of the country. However, it was postponed due to bad weather predictions and the new date has not been announced yet.

The work to instal and enable an integrated tunnel communication system in the USBRL project was awarded to Konkan Railway Communication Limited (KRCL) for train operational efficiency and safety.

However, according to the Northern Railway's letter, despite various written instructions as well as repeated verbal discussions, the KRCL has not completed crucial work essential for communication inside the tunnel.

According to the letter, the inspection by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) from Sangaldan to Reasi section was done on June 18 last year and Reasi to Katra on January 8 this year but tunnel VHF communication



works are still not completed at the site.

"From Sangaldan to Dugga and Katra-Reasi section, tunnel VHF (very high frequency) communication has not been activated in the escape tunnel till yet," the letter, addressed to the chairman and managing director of the KRCL, said, complaining that important communication components required for 'adits' (opening of tunnel) have not been supplied yet.

Besides the escape tunnels, the letter also highlighted challenges in seamless communication in the main tunnels and said, "In VHF Communication in Main Tunnels in

Sangaldan-Dugga and Katra Reasi sections, compliant of noise, voice not clear, communication break, communication at one station only are also reported by user department."

"Also, all the 6 channels designed for VHF communication are to be fine-tuned. Hence OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) should be called to settle these issues so that continuous and clear VHF Communication should be made available," it added.

The letter has also flagged the delay in the supply and installation of Voice Recording Equipment (VRE) in all block sections from Katra to Sangaldan and said the installation of ROIP (Radio Over IP) in the new divisional control office, Jammu also has not started yet.

The Northern Railway maintained that in view of the incomplete works, the tunnel VHF system of these sections could not be offered to the Jammu Division.

"To avoid further delay, your immediate intervention in the matter is required for completion of balance works and complete commissioning of VHF works," the Northern Railway said.

It added, "Tunnel VHF Communication is a vital component of communication for train operation in Katra-Banihal section."

At present, train services are operational between Baramulla and Sangaldan via Qazigund and Banihal. (PTI)





Empowering Youth, Enabling Enterprises: JKTPO, JKEDI launch ESDP in Samba under RAMP

HT News Network

SAMBA, MAY 06: In a significant move to promote entrepreneurship and skill development across the Union Territory, the Managing Director Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) Sudershan Kumar, along with Director Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Khalid Jahangir, today formally inaugurated the first Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under the World Bank-funded RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) initiative at JKEDI in Samba district.

The Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program (ESDP) under the RAMP initiative has commenced on 5th May 2025 in the districts of Ramban, Reasi, Samba, Udhampur, Anantnag, Bandipora, Budgam, Kulgam, Kupwara, and Shopian. In the rest of the districts, the ESDP will be



rolled out from 13th May 2025. This programme is a part of a broader initiative being implemented across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir, with the objective of nurturing entrepreneurial spirit among the youth and providing them with tools to establish and manage sustainable business ventures.

While addressing the participants, MD JKTPO, Sudershan Kumar extended his gratitude to JKEDI for successfully com-

pleting the first batch of the Management Development Programme (MDP) and initiating the ESDP simultaneously in all districts of J&K. He encouraged the aspiring entrepreneurs to become job providers and play a proactive role in making Jammu and Kashmir a thriving hub of entrepreneurship and innovation.

Director JKEDI, Khalid Jahangir, provided an overview of the ESDP and highlighted the institute's pivotal role in promoting

self-employment and building a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region. He reaffirmed JKEDI's commitment to empowering local youth through capacity-building initiatives and encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs to seize opportunities, offer innovative solutions, and adopt advanced technologies in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

The ESDP Batch-1 at the JKEDI Samba Centre has commenced with 35 participants, including students from ITI Samba, Polytechnic College Samba, and Government Degree College (Commerce), Samba, with 12 female candidates. Under the RAMP initiative, a total budget of 1.5 crore has been allocated for 108 ESDP training programs, aiming to reach 3,240 beneficiaries across Jammu and Kashmir. Each training program is designed to build foundational business skills and entrepreneurial capacity. The four-week training includes modules on enterprise management, marketing strategies, business simulations, market surveys.

DM restricts use of VPNs in Doda district

HT News Network

DODA, MAY 06: The District Administration Doda has prohibited the use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) in the interest of public safety, cyber security and overall integrity of digital governance in the District.

An order issued by District Magistrate Harvinder Singh stated that it has been brought to the notice that certain individuals and groups are misusing VPNs to circumvent lawful cyber restrictions and access prohibited applications, websites and digital content thereby posing a serious threat to public order, tranquility and national security.

ADM Doda issues prohibitory orders against hate speech, provocative statements, acts that incite violence

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 06: Additional District Magistrate Doda in exercise of the powers vested under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 today issued strict prohibitory orders within the jurisdiction of District against hate speech, provocative statements and acts that incite violence. "No individual, digital platform, representative of community, organization, or group shall deliver, publish, or circulate any hate speech, objectionable remark, or irresponsible statement in public places, through print, websites, electronic media, or on social media platforms. No person or group shall engage in or promote acts that incite violence, hatred, or enmity between different communities, religious groups.

DC Kathua chairs District Road Safety Committee meeting Seeks focus on decongesting roads, enhancing commuter safety

HT News Network

KATHUA, MAY 06: A meeting of the District Road Safety Committee was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas here at the DC Office Complex. The meeting was attended by Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) Kathua, Basohli, Billawar and Hiranagar, representatives from Degree Colleges, BRO, Police, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and other concerned departments. Detailed discussions were held regarding the corrective and safety measures at vulnerable spots. Emphasis was also laid on ensuring smooth plying of transport near congested locations and enhancing commuter safety at critical points such as the Bus Stand and GMC Kath-



ua. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the effective implementation of measures to make roads safer, to minimize mishaps, injuries and fatalities. He stated that the district administration has developed a work-

able plan to enhance the overall road safety scenario, which requires the active cooperation of all stakeholders. The DC asked enforcement departments to encourage people to strictly follow traffic rules and contribute towards a smooth and congestion-free traffic environment. He directed the Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) and PMGSY to ensure regular maintenance of roads to help prevent accidents. Stressing the importance of public awareness, the DC called for mass sensitization regarding traffic safety rules. He further instructed the stakeholder departments to take immediate steps to decongest city roads and facilitate smooth vehicle movement. Besides, he directed the MVA and traffic authorities to strictly enforce traffic laws and take stern action against violators.

DC Samba reviews impact of key initiatives, developmental schemes



HT News Network

SAMBA, MAY 06: Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma today chaired a high-level multi-departmental meeting to evaluate the impact of key governance initiatives and development schemes in the district. The meeting extensively reviewed multiple critical areas including registration on the JK Samadhan portal, e-office implementation status at block and tehsil level offices and the status of the developmental schemes across the departments. A special presentation highlighted the district-wide implementation of the Jal Shakti Ministry's 'Catch the Rain' program, underscoring the importance of the government initiative for water conservation and management.

The DC emphasized the administration's commitment to good and effective governance, directing all officials to avoid unnecessary delays in public services delivery and ensure smooth execution of day-to-day departmental activities.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Champa Devi Thakur; Programme Officer ICDS Subhash Chandra; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and all district officers. "This comprehensive review aimed to strengthen the administrative response and ensure that government initiatives reach the citizens effectively," stated the Deputy Commissioner, reaffirming the district administration's dedication to transparent and efficient governance.

DC Poonch reviews implementation of AB-PMJAY, redressal of public grievances

HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 06: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today reviewed the implementation of Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and redressal of public grievances at a meeting of District Grievance Redressal Committee (DGRC) of the Health Department. During the meeting, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz Khan briefed the chair that all three registered grievances, one received through the JK Samadhan portal and two via the CPGRAMS portal have been resolved.

The chair was also briefed that 11,942 beneficiaries have received treatment in public empanelled hospitals across the District under the Golden Card initiative. An amount of Rs 1,71,28,696 has been received from the State Health Agency to support these services. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Health Department for effective implementation of AB-



PMJAY and timely redressal of public grievances. He reiterated the administration's commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery and ensuring accessible services for all. The meeting was attended by Medical Superintendent District Hospital, Dr. Nusrat-ul-Nisa, Block Medical Officer Mandi, Dr. Riyaz Jan, District Coordinator State Health agency Dr Tanweer Malik and District Information System Manager Dr Parvez. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Health Department for effective implementation of AB-PMJAY and timely redressal of public grievances.

Advocate General's Office condoles demise of Sr Additional Advocate General, Ramesh Arora

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 06: The Office of the Advocate General, Jammu, today convened a condolence meeting to mourn the untimely demise of Ramesh Arora, Senior Additional Advocate General, Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was presided over by Monika Kohli, Senior Additional Advocate General and witnessed the presence of a large gathering of Law Officers and Government Counsels, including Senior Additional Advocate Generals, Additional Advocate Generals, Deputy Advocate Generals, Government Advocates, along with officers and staff members of the Advocate General's Office, J&K, Jammu. Expressing profound grief over the loss, Monika Kohli described late Arora as a towering figure in the legal fraternity, a seasoned professional and a noble soul whose contributions to the legal field and public service will be remembered with deep respect and admiration. The gathering, resonated with heartfelt tributes, joined in expressing their sorrow and extending sympathies to the bereaved family. As a mark of respect, a two minute silence was observed during the proceedings, and prayers were offered for the eternal peace to the departed soul.

Zonal level sports competitions hosted in Drabshalla, Paddar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 06: The spirit of youth empowerment through sports has taken center stage as the Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS) launched the Inter-School Zonal Level Sports Competition in Drabshalla and Paddar Zones, here today.

The inaugural day in Zone Drabshalla witnessed a vibrant start with Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) presiding over the event as Chief Guest.

A total of 98 U/14 boys and girls showcased their talent in Chess, Carrom, Yoga, and Rope Skipping competitions. The atmosphere was electric, marked by intense mental challenges and displays of physical agility that highlighted a well-rounded approach to youth development.

On the second day, the action shifted to Zone Paddar where 102 U/14 girls from different high and middle schools engaged in spirited contests of Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Volleyball, and Tug of War. The grounds reverberated with energy, determination, and a strong sense of sisterhood, turning the event into a celebration of teamwork and athletic prowess.

JMC team seizes huge stocks of banned Polythene material in Rajiv Nagar

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 06: In a major crackdown on the illegal storage and distribution of banned materials, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) seized approximately 40 metric tonnes (40,000 kg) of polythene from the Narwal area, specifically from a warehouse located along Rajiv Nagar Road, late Monday evening. The operation was led by the Corporation Commissioner Devansh Yadav, who was present at the site along with a dedicated team of municipal officials. A truck fully loaded with polythene was discovered parked at the warehouse, alongside a substantial quantity of polythene stored inside the premises. The team also uncovered a large stock of gutka packets during the raid. Given the magnitude of the seizure, police personnel and administrative officials were called to the scene to support the operation. The team carried out a thorough inspection of the premises, including registers and equipment found within the warehouse. Commissioner Yadav stated that the seized polythene appears to be single-use plastic, which is banned. However, the material will be sent to the Pollution Control Committee for laboratory analysis to confirm its composition.

Arrangements for 3-day Historic Mounгри mela discussed at Udhampur

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MAY 06: The arrangement for the smooth conduct of 3 day historic Annual Shiv-Parvati Shrine Mounгри Mela scheduled from May 14, 2025 at Sar Dabber in Tehsil Mounгри were today discussed here at a meeting of District Officers and representatives of management committee of Lord Shiv-Parvati cave shrine Mounгри. The meeting was chaired by Member Legislative Assembly Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta alongside Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex. Threadbare discussions were held

on the maintenance of roads, arrangements related to security, Sanitation, Healthcare, Transport, Drinking water and power supply, checking of rates, Ration supply, Cultural programme and sports etc. Addressing the meeting, the DC directed the concerned officers to put in place all arrangements pertaining to their respective departments well in advance and in an effective manner, leaving no scope of any complaint from any quarter. She directed the Police Department to ensure proper security arrangement & sensitization of surrounding areas during the mela days. The DC directed BDO Mounгри for deployment of adequate manpower and installation



of dustbins to ensure proper sanitation at the Mela Site. The meeting was informed that the 25th wrestling competition will also

be organized on the third day of the mela, which is one of the main attractions of the 3-day event. The government departments were

directed to put up their respective stalls to sensitize the public regarding flagship government schemes with special emphasis on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and facilitation centre for JK Samadhan Portal. It was also decided that the Information and Youth Services & Sports Departments, in coordination with the Education department, will organize a cultural programme and sports events at the venue.

The meeting was attended by DDC member, Jasvir Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan; Mela Officer, Tehsil Mounгри Arushi Sabharwal and other senior officers of the line

departments, besides President J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association, Shiv Kumar Sharma; President Shiv Parvati Cave Shrine, Hans Raj Thakur; Dy Chief Warden Civil defence organization, Swatantra Dev Kotwal and prominent citizens. The government departments were directed to put up their respective stalls to sensitize the public regarding flagship government schemes with special emphasis on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and facilitation centre for JK Samadhan Portal. It was also decided that the Information and Youth Services & Sports Departments, in coordination with the Education department, will organize a cultural programme and sports events.





SC Judge likens reservation system in India to 'train journey'

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 6 (UNI)

In a significant observation during the hearing of a case concerning OBC reservations in Maharashtra's local body elections, Supreme Court Judge Justice Surya Kant on Tuesday likened the reservation system in India 'to a train journey where those already seated are reluctant to let others in'.

The remark came from a bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and KV Viswanathan (not NK Singh) while hearing a petition challenging the OBC quota granted by the Banthia Commission.

Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the petitioner, argued that the commission granted politi-



cal reservations to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) without determining if they were indeed politically backward a criterion legally distinct from social and educational backwardness.

Justice Kant commented, "The thing is, in this country, the reservation business has become like a Railway. Those who have entered the bogie, they don't want anyone else to enter. That is the whole

game. That is precisely the game of the petitioner also."

Sankaranarayanan responded, "And bogies are being added at the back also."

Elaborating on the principle of inclusivity, Justice Kant added, "When you follow the principle of inclusivity, the states are bound to identify more classes.

There will be socially backwards classes, politi-

cally backwards classes, and economically backwards classes. Why should they be deprived of the benefit? Why should it be confined to one particular family or group?" Sankaranarayanan concurred, saying the petitioner was making the same point.

Despite the ongoing legal debate, the bench stressed that the long-pending local body elections in Maharashtra cannot be delayed any further due to the OBC reservation issue. The hearing was deferred to allow the state to present its position.

The elections were earlier postponed following a Supreme Court directive in August 2022 that maintained the status quo on the OBC reservation matter.

Remove 50 per cent cap on quota: Kharge writes to PM Modi

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 6 (UNI)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday made three suggestions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on caste enumeration in the upcoming census one of which is removing the 50 per cent ceiling on reservation.

In a letter to PM Modi, which Kharge had posted on his social media handle X said, "You have now announced, without providing any details, that the next Census (that was actually due in 2021) will include caste as a separate category as well. I have three suggestions for your consideration".



Kharge said that design of the census questionnaire is crucial and asked the "Union Home Ministry to draw upon the Telangana model – both the methodology adopted for finalising the questionnaire, as well as the final set of questions asked".

He also suggested removing of 50 per cent ceiling on reservations for

Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs, by a Constitutional amendments which he said was "arbitrarily imposed".

Kharge's third suggestion is to implement Article 15(5) that provides reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs in private educational institutions as well.

"Conducting any exercise such as the caste census which gives the backward, the oppressed and the marginalised sections of our society, their rights cannot and should not be considered divisive in any way. Our great nation and our large-hearted people have always come together as

one whenever needed, just as we have done after the recent cowardly terrorist attacks in Pahalgam," Kharge said.

He said, "Congress believes that conducting caste census in the comprehensive manner suggested above is absolutely necessary to ensure social and economic justice and equality of status and opportunity as pledged in the Preamble of our Constitution".

He further hoped that his suggestions would receive serious consideration and also urged the Prime Minister to have a dialogue with all political parties soon on the issue of the caste census.

India set to lead world in 6G: Jyotiraditya Scindia

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 6 (UNI)

Describing India's 5G rollout as "monumental", Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Tuesday said the country is not just keeping pace with global telecom developments but is now on course to lead the world in 6G technology.

Speaking at the 22nd edition of Bharat Telecom 2025, Scindia said: "In just 22 months, 99 per cent of our villages have been connected via 5G, covering 82 per cent of the population. This phenomenal progress is no accident, it is a direct result of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership, bold reforms, and transformative policies."



Outlining India's digital growth trajectory, the Minister said the country is poised to become a \$4 trillion economy by 2028, \$5 trillion by 2031, and \$6 trillion shortly thereafter, driven by its digital backbone and innovation-led development.

India now accounts for 46 per cent of global digital transactions, primarily enabled by the Uni-

fied Payments Interface (UPI), with nearly \$3 trillion worth of transactions recorded last year alone, he said. Data consumption in the country has also surged significantly, with urban households and businesses now consuming 12 times more data than before.

"India is not merely participating in the digital revolution, we are leading it, shaping it, and inspiring the world to follow," Scindia said.

The Minister also spotlighted India's emergence as a global manufacturing hub. Mobile phone production has risen from 50 million units a decade ago to 350 million units today, he said, adding that tech giant Apple has begun manufacturing in India. Meanwhile, telecom equipment exports have jumped from Rs 8,500 crore to nearly Rs 20,000 crore.

"Investing in India is no longer just a gesture of goodwill—it makes strong economic sense. India offers affordability, reliability, and a spirit of innovation that is setting new global benchmarks," he said.

AGENCIES

IMPHAL, MAY 6 (UNI)

Manipur Police and security forces apprehended 12 people who were allegedly members of various militant outfits in separate incidents in the last 24 hours.

Police said three active cadres of Kangleipak Communist Party-People's War Group KCP (PWG) were nabbed from Keirao Wangkhem and arms were recovered from them.

Four cadres of the outfit



were also nabbed from Mantripukhri Imphal East district. Police said they were involved in planting hand grenades at various locations. Two pis-

tols were recovered from them.

In another operation, the state police arrested a man belonging to the proscribed PLA from Sawom-

bung Kabui Khunjaio in Imphal East along with a 9 mm pistol.

Security forces arrested two active cadres of KCP (Apunba) from an abandoned hut at Wangjing Awang Leikai under Thoubal-PS, Thoubal District.

Police said search operations were conducted and arms and ammunition were recovered from Phonsenphai Gap near Kwakta Ward No. 8 of Bishnupur district and Heibonglok Hill under Imphal West district.

Supreme Court judges make assets public

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 6 (UNI)

In a landmark step towards transparency, the judges of the Supreme Court have begun declaring their personal assets on the official court website.

This decision was made unanimously in a full court meeting held on April 1.

As of Monday night, the declared assets of 21 out of 33 sitting judges have been made public.

The disclosures include movable and immovable properties, liabilities, as well as details of the assets held by their spouses and dependents, where applicable.

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, who assumed office recently, has declared Rs 55.75 lakh in fixed deposits and bank accounts, Rs 1.06 crore in his Public Provident Fund (PPF), a two-bedroom DDA flat in South Delhi, a four-bedroom flat in the Commonwealth Games Village, and 56% ownership in a Gurugram apartment (the remaining share



is held by his daughter). He also has a stake in an ancestral home in Himachal Pradesh.

Justice B R Gavai, set to become CJI on May 14, has Rs 19.63 lakh in bank accounts, Rs 6.59 lakh in PPF, and inherited properties, including a house in Amravati and agricultural land in Amravati and Nagpur. He has declared liabilities amounting to Rs 1.3 crore.

Justice AS Oka, retiring on May 24, has Rs 92.35 lakh in PPF, Rs 21.76 lakh in fixed deposits, a 2022 Maruti Baleno, and a car loan of Rs 5.1 lakh.

Justice Vikram Nath

owns a 2-BHK apartment in Noida, a bungalow in Allahabad, inherited farmland in Uttar Pradesh, and has investments worth Rs 1.5 crore.

Justice Surya Kant has joint ownership of residential properties in Chandigarh, Gurugram, and Delhi, and holds 31 FDs totaling Rs 6.03 crore.

Justice Bela M Trivedi owns a house in Ahmedabad and another under construction. Her investments include Rs 60 lakh in mutual funds, Rs 20 lakh in PPF, Rs 50 lakh worth of jewellery, and a 2015 Maruti Swift.

Justice Sudhanshu

Dhulia has stated that all his immovable assets were acquired before his elevation to the bench. His old Maruti Zen Estilo, currently unused, is located in Dehradun.

Justice Sanjay Kumar has declared a comprehensive stock portfolio that includes major companies such as Reliance Industries, Infosys, Tata Steel, and State Bank of India, among others.

Justice K V Viswanathan, a former leading advocate who became a Supreme Court judge in May 2023, disclosed investments totalling RS 120.96 crore. His income tax payments from 2010-2024 amount to RS 91.47 crore, reflecting his highly successful legal career before joining the bench.

The Supreme Court's move to publicly disclose judges' assets marks a major push towards institutional integrity and openness in the judiciary.

Legal experts have hailed the move as a confidence-building step in promoting public trust.

SC reinstates CPI(M) MLA A Raja, sets aside Kerala HC order

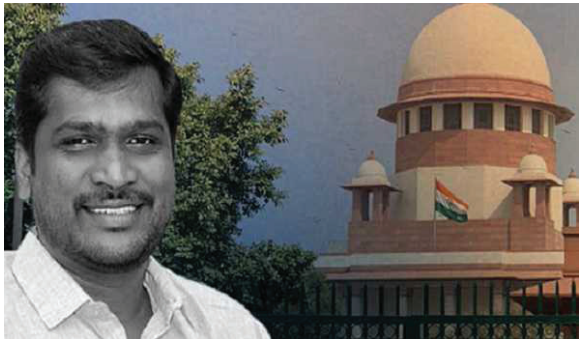
AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 6 (UNI)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday quashed the Kerala High Court's decision that had annulled the election of CPI(M) legislator A Raja from the Devikulam Assembly constituency in the 2021 Kerala Legislative Assembly elections.

A bench comprising justices AS Oka and Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah allowed the appeal filed by Raja challenging the March 23, 2023 judgment of the Kerala High Court, which had held that Raja was not eligible to contest from the Scheduled Caste-reserved seat as he was allegedly not a member of the 'Hindu Parayan' community within the state of Kerala.

Pronouncing the verdict, Justice Amanullah stated, "The judgment rendered by the High Court is set aside and the election petition stands dismissed. The appellant is entitled to



all consequential benefits as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the entire period."

The detailed judgment is awaited.

The Kerala High Court had ruled in favour of rival candidate D Kumar, who alleged that Raja was ineligible under Section 5 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which mandates that a candidate for a reserved constituency must belong to a Scheduled Caste within the state concerned.

Kumar contended that Raja's paternal lineage traced back to Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, and alleged

that his family had converted to Christianity citing church baptism records, Christian-style marriage photos, and family registers maintained by the CSI Church in Kundala, Kerala.

The High Court found discrepancies and overwriting in church records and held that Raja had converted to Christianity and was therefore not entitled to contest from a Hindu Scheduled Caste seat.

Raja, in his defense, maintained that he belongs to the Hindu Parayan community of Kerala, that his parents were Hindus, and that no

conversion had occurred. He also disputed the validity of the High Court's inferences from church records and marriage photographs, asserting they were misinterpreted.

During the Supreme Court hearings, the bench had questioned why Raja's caste certificate had not been directly challenged, and whether the High Court had overstepped in invalidating the election without first adjudicating the validity of that certificate.

On April 29, 2023, the apex court had stayed the High Court's judgment, allowing Raja to participate in the Assembly proceedings, albeit without voting rights or monetary benefits, until a final decision was reached.

With Tuesday's verdict, those restrictions are lifted, and Raja stands fully reinstated as the elected MLA from Devikulam, entitled to all privileges and benefits of office.

ing, an official confirmed.

The incident involved a bus operated by the Antar Lintas Sumatra (ALS) company, traveling the Medan-Jakarta route. The bus reportedly lost control and overturned after experiencing a brake failure.

"The ALS bus experi-

enced brake failure while moving at high speed. It failed to negotiate a bend and rolled over," said Arkes Refagus, head of the transport department in Padang Panjang.

He added that the bus rolled to the left and struck the fence of a house.

12 killed, 5 injured in bus accident in Indonesia's West Sumatra

AGENCIES

JAKARTA, MAY 6 (UNI)

At least 12 people were killed and more than five others injured in a single-vehicle bus accident in Padang Panjang city, West Sumatra province, Indonesia, on Tuesday morn-

Bangladeshi Hindu monk Chinmoy Das to remain in jail, shown arrested in four more cases

AGENCIES

DHAKA, MAY 6 (UNI)

Bangladeshi Hindu monk and former ISKCON member Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, who is currently in jail, was shown as arrested today by a Chattogram court in four more cases, thereby ensuring he remains in jail.

Due to security concerns revolving around the matter, the hearing was held virtually around 10:00am.

Chinmoy was present-



ed to the court virtually for Tuesday's hearing, considering the "suspect's security and over-

all situation," said Assistant PP Raihanul.

Three of the four cases Chinmoy was shown

arrested in on Tuesday were filed by police, and related to clashes, vandalism and attacks on cops in the Chattogram court building premises on November 26 last year, while one was filed by the deceased lawyer Alif's brother Khane Alam.

On Monday, the court ordered Chinmoy Krishna to be shown arrested in the murder case of lawyer Saiful Islam Alif in Chattogram following a petition from the investigation officer.

Health Benefits of Milk



SAHIL MANZOOR
sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Health is wealth. For me, not only should health be our utmost priority, but we should also never ignore health-related issues. Renowned and esteemed doctors suggest milk, eggs, cereals, fresh fruits and vegetables, etc. to patients who are complaining of body weakness, weight loss, dehydration, or fatigue. Milk is considered a complete food because it contains a good number of vitamins and has great and immense health benefits. One thing is unfortunate: people with lactose intolerance issues cannot take milk. Milk is one of the best and greatest foods everyone should try, from a small amount to an adequate amount on a regular basis. Today, there are about 8 billion people in the world. There are about 200 countries in the world. Every country has some

stuff that makes it famous among other countries, earns benefits, and uses and exports its rare and unique goods to other countries. The creation of humans is quite incredible and has an amazing aspect. Humans are very accustomed to living with other living creatures. Animal rearing is one of the beauties of humans. Different animal species are being domesticated for various kinds of benefits. Today, the whole world is focusing on the large production of agricultural goods, dairy products, silk products, etc. For the last few decades, globalized trade has gripped fame and charm and has kept a lofty impact so far. Literally, I am trying to divert your attention towards how to make our lifestyle better and healthier. Today, there are unknown and lethal diseases being noted on records. There are different causes as well, but one thing is very true and clear: we are not well aware of our daily diet plan, and we are lacking education on this very important issue. Today, in this article, I am going to explore the health benefits of milk and its different products like butter, ghee, cheese, etc., and I hope it will help you all to keep your health good. There are great health benefits of milk. We have

heard since we started growing up that milk is a complete diet, plays a great and beneficial role in developing and repairing our health, and keeps us away from various lethal chronic diseases. Milk is a liquid food, whitish-colored, produced by the mammary glands of mammals. New Zealand, the Netherlands, and Germany are the largest countries in the world that produce milk in very bulk quantities. Milk contains essential nutrients and has been used worldwide for centuries by all age groups. The benefits are as follows: Milk contains 1) potassium, which serves as a source of energy; potassium helps in the repair of tissues in the muscle. 2). Calcium helps us keep away from a very common bone disease called osteoporosis and, at the same time, builds our bones and teeth. 3). Protein: serves as a source of energy and builds or repairs muscle tissue. 3). Vitamins are D: good for bones; vitamin D requirements are also fulfilled by the sun. 4). Vitamin B12 maintains healthy red blood cells and nerve energy. Vitamin A, also known as retinol, maintains the immune system and is beneficial for normal vision and skin. Niacin metabolizes sugars

and fatty acids. In other words, milk packs quite a punch when it comes to nutrition, and you don't have to drink a gallon to reap the benefits, the National Dairy Council says. In fact, the council says that just one eight-ounce glass of milk provides the same amount of vitamin D. Milk and weight loss: Milk helps to maintain our weight as well and is considered a complete food. All of these nutrients contribute to our overall health and wellness, and they can even play a part in weight loss. Milk keeps us away from various lethal diseases and provides us with important nutrients. As per the various research studies done by renowned scholars, milk decreases heart disease and stroke by up to 15-20 percent. I have mentioned a few benefits of milk in this article and will try to mention more facts about it in my next article. There are uncountable foods around us that are enough to quench and minimize our starving condition, but smart is one who eats selective, hygienic, and nutrient-packed food. One thing that is very unfortunate for society is that dairy farming is not so common, which satisfies our demand for milk. Pure cow milk is very scarce and not available in a very good quantity.

No scientific evidence to prove urine therapy can treat any disease: Experts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

There is no scientific evidence to prove that urine therapy can treat any disease, said health experts on Tuesday, after Bollywood actor Paresh Rawal vouched for its benefits for his knee injury. In a recent media interview, the veteran actor claimed that he "sipped his urine like a beer first thing in the morning" to heal his injured knee. "I did for 15 days and when the X-ray reports came in, the doctor was surprised," Rawal said. "As an oncologist, I must emphasise that while anecdotal experiences like Paresh Rawal's are fascinating, they should not be mistaken for medical advice. There is no scientific evidence supporting urine therapy as a treatment for any diseases whether musculoskeletal injuries or cancer," Dr. Abhishek Shankar, Assistant Pro-

fessor, Department of Radiation Oncology, Dr BR Ambedkar Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital at AIIMS, Delhi, said. "Even with all the scientific progress and easy access to good healthcare information, it is unfortunate that some people still look for shortcuts and try to promote them. Drinking urine does not cure any health problems. This myth has been proven wrong many times," added Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan, Convener, Research Cell, Kerala State IMA. Urine therapy, also known as Urophagia, is the practice of drinking urine. In Ayurveda, urine was used to treat asthma, allergies, indigestion, wrinkles and even cancer. However, the claims are based on anecdotes or ancient texts and have no robust scientific evidence to support the benefits. On the other hand, there is evidence to show that drinking urine has several health risks, said

Shankar. Many studies showed that urine contains bacteria, which if ingested could be harmful. It can also introduce toxins into the gut and potentially cause further illnesses like stomach infections. Further, because urine is a diuretic, it may also increase a person's risk of dehydration. Rawal is not the only one to claim the benefits of urine therapy. The list also includes British TV star Ben Grylls and Mexican boxer Juan Manuel Marquez. "There is no credible scientific evidence that supports this type of therapy for any benefit whatsoever, urine is actually body based that contains a lot of waste materials which the kidneys filter, and reintroducing it into the body can cause a lot of side effects like infection, electrolytic balance or delayed appropriate medical care," Dr Charudatt Vaity, a Mumbai-based intensivist said.

Air pollution exposure raises brain stroke risk in older adults: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Older adults are at significant risk of brain stroke due to prolonged exposure to air pollution, according to a study led by Chinese researchers. The study showed that elderly males are disproportionately affected by ischemic stroke related to air pollution. Ischemic stroke is a condition resulting from reduced blood supply to specific areas of the brain due to blocked blood vessels. The primary contributor to this burden is PM2.5 from air pollution. Researchers from the Shandong First Medical University evaluated the burden of ischemic stroke attributable to air pollution in China from 1990 to 2021. They also examined gender and age-specific differences and projected future disease burden trends from 2022 to 2036. The results, published



pollution can heighten the risk of ischemic stroke. The underlying mechanism may involve environmental PM2.5 exposure contributing to the formation of atherosclerosis, which affects both small cerebral vessels and large arteries, thereby increasing the risk of ischemic stroke. The study suggested effective measures and policies to improve air quality and simultaneously enhance public awareness of the health risks associated with air pollution, particularly for vulnerable groups such as elderly men. "Government actions could include stricter regulations on industrial emissions, promoting the use of clean energy, and increasing public health campaigns to educate people about the risks of air pollution and the importance of protective behaviours," said the researchers. Previous studies suggest that both brief and prolonged exposure to air

in the journal BMC Public Health, observed a decline in both age-standardised mortality rates (ASMR) and age-standardised disability-adjusted life years (DALY) rates for ischemic stroke attributed to air pollution. However, the decline was slower among men than women, with a higher burden observed in elder-

ly males. "This suggests the need for gender-specific interventions and policies that target male populations, particularly the elderly, to reduce their exposure to air pollution and its adverse health effects," said the researchers. Previous studies suggest that both brief and prolonged exposure to air

Why treating depression in teenagers may be easier than in adults

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Depression in young teenagers could be easier to treat than in adulthood due to the symptoms being more flexible and not yet ingrained, according to a study. Depression is a complex condition, characterised by a range of connected symptoms. Current interventions treat overall depression severity and do not consider how symptoms interact and evolve. Researchers from the University of Edinburgh, in the UK, explained that symptoms such as sadness, fatigue, and a lack of interest are less predictable in teenagers. However, these become more fixed in adults, which can lead to persistent depression. "The findings highlight the importance of targeting depression at an early age when symptoms are



still changing," said Poppy Z. Grimes, Division of Psychiatry, at the varsity. In the paper, published in the journal Nature Mental Health, the team analysed data from more than 35,000 young people to capture how depression symptoms interact throughout adolescence. They found that symptom patterns become

more stable across adolescence, with individuals more likely to be persistently depressed or experience no depressive symptoms, while symptoms fluctuate at younger ages. The researchers explained that the variability seen in teenage depression is likely to be influenced by three main

factors: puberty and hormones; ongoing brain development; and social and environmental influences. The team also found that among teenagers, depression symptoms stabilise faster in boys than girls, leaving less time for risk or protective factors to have an effect. Symptoms in teenage girls continue to fluctuate over a longer period. "Targeted support for young teenagers while symptoms are flexible and more responsive to treatment could help to prevent persistent depression into adulthood," the researchers said. Further, the findings could also help to explain why some adults -- with stable symptoms that are unable to change tend to experience depression that is resistant to treatment. The experts noted that further research is needed to explore the theory.

World Immunisation Week: Vaccines saved 38 million lives SE Asia, says WHO

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Vaccines have saved 38 million lives in South-East Asia, including India, said World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday, as part of the World Immunisation Week. World Immunisation Week is marked annually in the last week of April (24th-30th), to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease. "Each year, in the last week of April, we come together to celebrate World Immunisation Week -- a powerful reminder of the life-saving impact of vaccines. This year's theme, "Immunisation for all is humanly possible," reinforces our collective commitment to protect every individual, at every age, from vaccine-preventable diseases," said Saima Wazed, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia. She noted that in the



last five decades, "vaccines have saved over 154 million lives globally -- an average of six lives every minute". "Our WHO South-East Asia Region has been at the forefront, with an estimated 38 million lives saved across the Region," Wazed added. Notably, the region has maintained wild poliovirus-free status and has also upheld the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus as a public health concern. "Four of our countries

have eliminated measles, five have eliminated rubella, and six have achieved control of hepatitis B through immunisation. This has all led to unprecedented improvements in childhood survival," the Regional Director said. "In the past two years, three of our countries have launched national HPV vaccination programmes. This is a major step forward in protecting adolescents' health," she added. Moreover, the region proudly vaccinates over 40

million pregnant women and 37 million newborns each year as well as contributing 46 per cent of the global vaccine supply. Yet, "more than 2 million children remain completely unvaccinated," Wazed said, stressing the need for continuing efforts as the threat of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks is growing worldwide. She also noted the shrinking global health budgets that are placing additional strain on immunisation programmes, surveillance systems, and on outbreak response capacities. Wazed urged the need to "invest in routine immunisation; embrace innovation and combat vaccine hesitancy". "On World Immunisation Week, join us in spreading the message that vaccines are safe, that vaccines save lives, and immunisation for all is essential," she said.

New machine algorithm can identify heart, fracture risks with routine bone scans

AGENCIES
SYDNEY

Australian and Canadian researchers have developed a cutting-edge machine learning algorithm capable of rapidly identifying heart disease and fracture risks using routine bone density scans. The innovation, developed by researchers from Australia's Edith Cowan University (ECU) in conjunction with Canada's University of Manitoba, could pave the way for more comprehensive and earlier diagnoses during routine osteoporosis screenings, improving outcomes for millions of older adults, Xinhua news agency reported. The automated system analyses vertebral fracture assessment (VFA) images to detect abdominal aortic calcification (AAC) -- a key marker linked to heart attacks, strokes, and falls. Traditionally, assessing



AAC requires around five to six minutes per image by a trained expert. The new algorithm slashes that time to under a minute for thousands of images, making large-scale screening far more efficient, it said. About 58 per cent of older women undergoing routine bone scans showed moderate to high levels of AAC, many of them unaware of the elevated cardiovascular risk, ECU research fellow Cassandra Smith said.

"Women are recognised as being under-screened and under-treated for cardiovascular disease," Smith said. "People who have AAC don't present any symptoms, and without doing specific screening for AAC, this prognosis would often go unnoticed. By applying this algorithm during bone density scans, women have a much better chance of a diagnosis," Smith added. Further research by ECU's Marc Sim revealed

that AAC is not only a cardiovascular risk indicator but also a strong predictor of falls and fractures. In fact, AAC outperformed traditional fall risk factors like bone mineral density and past fall history. "The higher the calcification in your arteries, the higher the risk of falls and fractures," Sim said, adding clinicians typically overlook vascular health in fall assessments, and this algorithm changes that. "Our analysis uncovered that AAC was a very strong contributor to fall risks and was actually more significant than other factors that are clinically identified as fall risk factors." Sim said that the new machine algorithm, when applied to bone density scans, could give clinicians more information about the vascular health of patients, which is an under-recognised risk factor for falls and fractures.

**News in Brief****Labuschagne to play two matches for Glamorgan in May****AGENCIES**

LONDON, MAY 6 (UNI)

Glamorgan are set to have Australia star Marnus Labuschagne available for two Championship matches against Northamptonshire and Middlesex late in May.

Labuschagne, who has played 57 Tests, returns for a brief stay with Glamorgan in his sixth season with the county.

The 30-year-old batter is likely to feature for his country as they defend the World Test Championship title against South Africa at Lord's, starting on June 11.

International calls and paternity duties have limited his availability for the Welsh side.

Injured Cox to have scan with England place in doubt**AGENCIES**

LONDON, MAY 6 (UNI)

Essex batter Jordan Cox will have a scan on Tuesday to determine the seriousness of a side injury that could rule him out of England's Test squad to play Zimbabwe.

Cox, 24, retired hurt on 103 on day three of Essex's defeat by Somerset with a left side issue.

He walked off after reaching three figures, having sustained the injury playing a shot moments earlier, and did not field when the match concluded on Monday.

Sinner doping ban deal best choice in bad moment**AGENCIES**

ROME, MAY 6 (UNI)

Jannik Sinner said it was "good news" for him personally not to miss any Grand Slam tournaments during his three-month doping ban.

World number one Sinner accepted the ban in February after reaching a settlement with the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) over his two positive tests last year.

His ban expired at midnight on Sunday, meaning he is able to compete at his home tournament - the Italian Open - in Rome this week, the BBC reported.

"Of course when you go to court it can go both ways - nothing or a lot," the 23-year-old told a packed interview room at the Foro Italico.

KKR to wear special kit at training before CSK game

AGENCIES

KOLKATA, MAY 6 (UNI)

As part of their continued commitment to empowering the community and celebrating everyday heroes, the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) are set to bring their Shahoshi

Rani initiative to the ongoing IPL 2025 season.

This unique initiative honours women who have shown exceptional bravery, resilience, and determination in the face of adversity.

These Shahoshi Ranis will be at the heart of KKR's message of celebrating strength, inspiring change, and fostering inclusivity in sport, when the defending champions take on the Chennai

Super Kings (CSK) at the Eden Gardens on May 7.

As part of the campaign, 40 Shahoshi Ranis will be present at the KKR practice session, having the

opportunity to watch the team train, interact with the players and coaching staff, and spend time with franchise co-owner Juhi Chawla, who will also be present to engage with these remarkable women, the KKR sources said.

To further amplify the initiative beyond the cricket field, KKR's practice jerseys ahead of their match against CSK will prominently carry the Shahoshi Rani logo on the back.

As a personal gesture of recognition, each player and member of the support staff will also don the names of each Shahoshi Rani beneath the logo, symbolizing a bond between the team and the women they are honouring.

In addition, the team will be filming select moments from the practice session, capturing the inspiring interactions between the Shahoshi

Ranis and the players. These stories will be shared across digital platforms to spotlight the strength and spirit these women represent, not just to the team, but to the global audience.

Speaking about the initiative, Juhi Chawla, Co-Owner of Kolkata Knight Riders said, "Shahoshi Rani is more than just a campaign, it's a celebration of real courage. These women are an inspiration, and we are honored to share our platform with them. We hope their stories move others as much as they've moved us."

The Shahoshi Rani initiative is one of several community-led efforts championed by KKR, reflecting their commitment to using sport as a tool to bring about a positive change, amplify voices that matter and inspire people beyond the cricket field.

KKR look to keep playoff hopes alive against CSK

AGENCIES

KOLKATA, MAY 6 (UNI)

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) will look to continue their winning momentum and stay in contention for a playoff spot as they face off against the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the 57th match of IPL 2025 at Eden Gardens here on Wednesday.

After a narrow 1-run victory against Rajasthan Royals in their previous outing, KKR will be keen to build on this win and make a strong push for the top four positions in the points table.

KKR, currently on a two-match winning streak, have shown solid batting performances, especially from Andre Russell and Rinku Singh, both of whom have been key in the team's recent success.

The challenge for the Knight Riders, however, lies in their inconsistent bowling, with pacers Vaibhav Arora and Harshit Rana failing to produce economical spells. Spin bowlers Sunil



Narine and Varun Chakravarthy will need to play a crucial role if KKR are to maintain their stronghold at home.

In contrast, Chennai come into this match on a four-match losing streak, having failed to capitalise on promising situations, including a close defeat against Royal Challengers Bangalore. Despite strong individual performances, notably from young Ayush Mhatre, CSK's aging core, including MS Dhoni

and Ravindra Jadeja, has struggled to deliver match-winning contributions consistently. The team will be looking for a turnaround, relying on their key players to step up and end the losing streak.

The match will also be a test of CSK's bowling attack, which has been inconsistent, with Khaleel Ahmed and Matheesha Pathirana needing to strike early to put KKR's powerful batting lineup under pressure. Sam Curran and Ravindra Jadeja,

two of the most experienced allrounders in the squad, will be crucial if CSK hopes to halt their losing run and challenge KKR on this batting-friendly wicket.

With the weather forecast predicting cloudy skies and no rain expected to interfere with the game, Eden Gardens will once again prove to be a high-scoring ground, with the average first-innings score this season surpassing 200. Teams batting first have enjoyed success here, and KKR's decision to bat first, should they win the toss, would give them an advantage.

For KKR, it's a must-win game as they push for the playoffs. They will look to make the most of home advantage, while CSK will need to overcome their recent struggles and rediscover their form if they are to challenge the hosts.

The match is scheduled to start at 7:30 PM IST, and both teams will be eager to secure vital points as the race to the top four heats up.

West Indies reveal squad for upcoming ODIs against Ireland & England

AGENCIES

ANTIGUA, MAY 6 (UNI)

West Indies have named a strong squad for their upcoming ODI tour of Ireland and England commencing later this month.

The Caribbean side will travel to Europe later this month for a total of six ODI contests against Ireland and England, with the matches to form a crucial path towards the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 2027.

Hard-hitting dasher Shai Hope will captain the side after he was once again named skipper, while a nucleus of top-order batters including Brandon King, Evin Lewis and Keacy Carty are joined by teenage star Jewel Andrew following his eye-catching efforts



at last year's ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup.

The 15-player squad is similar to the playing group that registered an impressive 3-0 clean sweep over Bangladesh in the three-match ODI series at the end of last year, with left-hander Shimron Hetmyer the notable absentee as he continues to ply his trade in the Indian Premier League for the Rajasthan

Royals.

West Indies coach Daren Sammy is looking forward to the tour and wants his side to continue the momentum they got from series victories over England and Bangladesh last year as they head towards the next 50-over World Cup that is set to be staged in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia in 2027, an ICC report said.

Cell. 9149442151 | 9419007973

AZIZ AUTO MOBILES

ALL INSURANCE CLAIMS ARE ACCEPTED HERE
ALSO INSURANCE FACILITY ARE AVAILABLE HERE.

BAJAJ ALLIANZ | RELIANCE | HDFC ERGO | DIGIT | ICICI LOMBARD | LIBERTY INSURANCE ETC

SERVICE AVAILABLE: DAINTING PAINTING WASHING MECHANICAL WORK

KREERI

Increasing business profitability

by reducing printing cost

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

LUBAAB Printing services means I get my job back on time, always accurate and of the highest quality

When you need a Company that can handle a complex workload, save your money and deliver on time..... leave it to

Also visit us for:
Newspapers & News Magazines

Specialists in:
Non Woven & Paper Bags

Mobile: 9999038812
9419008414
Tel: 0194 2496287
Email: jahangirbukhari@gmail.com
Humhama, Budgam/Srinagar

- Prepress
- Sheet Fed
- Bindery
- Finishing
- Promotions

Our Printing Services

- ◆ Flyers
- ◆ Posters
- ◆ Business Cards
- ◆ Envelopes
- ◆ Brochures
- ◆ Booklets
- ◆ Catalogues
- ◆ Post Cards
- ◆ Presentation folders
- ◆ letterheads
- ◆ Magazines
- ◆ Newsletters
- ◆ Raised printing

- ◆ Wedding Cards
- ◆ Invoices
- ◆ Note pad
- ◆ Forms
- ◆ Labels
- ◆ Scratch coupon
- ◆ Signs/Banners
- ◆ Pen/Caps
- ◆ T-Shirts
- ◆ Calenders
- ◆ Embroidery
- ◆ Door Hangers