



Pak Deliberately Targeted Civilian Areas of J&K : CM Omar Abdullah

Says people's pain 'deeply personal'; assures relief, long-term safety measures including bunkers

HT News Network

URI (BARAMULLA), MAY 14: Reaffirming his government's commitment to ensure welfare and well-being of residents living along the Line of Control (LoC), Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today visited several areas in Uri sector affected by recent cross-border shelling, including Salamabad, Lagama, Bandi, Razarwani and Gingal.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Member of Legislative Assembly Uri Dr. Sajj

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Northern Army Commander briefs CM on security situation along border, LoC

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Northern Command, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah yesterday to apprise him of the prevailing security scenario and recent

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Prez Murmu praises bravery, dedication of armed forces

CDS, Tri-Service Chiefs brief President on successful conduct of 'Operation Sindoor'

HT News Network



NEW DELHI, MAY 13: Tri-services chiefs, including General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff; General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff; Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, Chief of the Air Staff; and Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff called on President Droupadi Murmu here on Wednesday.

A Rashtrapati Bhavan statement in possession of the news agency—said, "They briefed the President on the successful conduct of Operation Sindoor"

"The President praised the bravery and dedication of the Armed Forces, which made India's response to terrorism a resounding success."

"General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff, along with General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff, Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh,

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CS takes stock of relief efforts in Jammu's border areas post shelling

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 14: In a move aimed at assessing the ground situation and ensuring the well-being of affected populace, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today visited the border subdivisions of Akhnoor and Khour, that had witnessed unrelenting

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Govt committed to enhancing healthcare facilities in J&K: Sakina Itoo

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, MAY 14: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today inaugurated the Outpatient Department (OPD), AYUSH & Wellness Centre and several



other critical sections of the Trauma Hospital at Bijbehara here.

Addressing a large gathering on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo maintained that the present government led by Omar Abdullah is committed for the holistic

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NEWS BRIEF

Police arrest 7 drug peddlers in Kashmir

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Continuing its firm resolve against the menace of drugs, Police on Wednesday said to have achieved a significant success by arresting seven drug peddlers in separate actions in Anantnag, Baramulla & Kulgam and recovered heroin-like/contraband substances from their possession. In Anantnag, two drug peddlers identified as Mohammad Irfan son of Mohammad Jehangir Khan resident of

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Haji flights resume, 640 pilgrims depart

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: After a brief but tense pause in Haji operations triggered by rising tensions between India and Pakistan, the flights ferrying pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir resumed on Wednesday, with 642 pilgrims successfully departing for the holy city of Madeena.

Executive Officer J&K Haji Committee, Dr Shujhat Qureshi, confirmed the resumption while speaking to news agency—said, "Today, we

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Post Ceasefire Farmer is busy ploughing in frontier district of Kupwara - HT Photo - Dr Ab Qayoom

Rajnath Singh's visit to J&K today postponed

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's scheduled visit to Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday has been postponed, official sources said.

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer that Rajnath Singh was scheduled to visit Jammu air base and forward areas tomorrow, but it has been cancelled now.

They said that the visit has been cancelled due to some prior engagements.

Earlier, it was reported that Singh will visit Jammu and Kashmir to meet and interact with the Army soldiers and praise them for the success of Operation Sindoor against Pakistan—

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GoC-in-C Northern Command calls on LG

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GoC-in-C) Northern Command, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Wednesday and briefed him on latest developments and different aspects pertaining to prevailing security scenario.

He was accompanied by Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, GoC 15 Corps—

Rare snow leopard sighted in Kargil's Suru Valley

Wildlife explorer documents historic moment

HT News Network

KARGIL, MAY 14: In a landmark development for wildlife conservation and eco-tourism in Ladakh, a Snow Leopard was captured on camera with its kill—an Ibex—for the first time in Suru Valley's Sangrah area in March this year. The rare and dramatic sighting was documented by seasoned wildlife explorer Maqbool Hussain Moqudasi, known for his efforts in tracking elusive species in the region.

Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhnoor, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), lauded the Wildlife Department and Moqudasi for this milestone. Dr. Akhnoor noted that of the estimated 477 Snow Leopards in Ladakh, 127 are found in Kargil—

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India rejected Trump's mediation offer: Union Minister Athawale

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, MAY 14: Union Minister Ramdas Athawale on Wednesday said that India turned down the offer of US President Donald Trump to defuse recent India-Pakistan military tensions. Addressing a news conference here, Athawale said, "US President Donald Trump had volunteered to mediate in the ongoing military tensions between India and Pakistan. However, New Delhi firmly rejected any third-party involvement." Athawale praised the opposition for supporting the government during the standoff but criticized them for politicizing the matter. He urged the opposition to remain united with the government and avoid questioning its approach



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Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage picks up after ceasefire

Heli service resume, shrine board announces several initiatives

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 14: The tension between India and Pakistan had impacted the pilgrimage to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) shrine. However, following the recent ceasefire and reduction in hostilities, devotees are gradually returning to the world-famous pilgrimage site, Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, although numbers remain modest. The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDB) has announced several measures to facilitate pilgrims, including free Aarti Darshan and accommodation. As per the figures accessed by the news agency—, on May 6, a total of 12,917 pilgrims arrived from across the country. The day prior, May 7, coinciding with India's Operation Sindoor, saw 12,760 devotees visit Katra for darshan. Subsequently, the number of visitors declined over the following days: 8,670 on May 8; 3,962 on

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Safety of our people is government's topmost priority: Surinder Choudhary

Dy CM visits border areas in Rajouri; assures enhanced safety measures for border residents

HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 14: R: Following the recent cross border shelling, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, undertook an extensive visit to the border areas in Nowshera subdivision of Rajouri district.

During his visit, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the damaged houses, inspected the loss due to shelling, met with the



affected families besides interacting with the border residents at various locations.

During the interaction, he assured that the government stands firmly with them in this hour of need and is actively mobilizing the resources and efforts to ensure that they don't face any inconvenience. He also assured that the safety of every single resident living near the

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'Operation Sindoor' IAF jammed Pak's Chinese-supplied air defence systems, wiped out targets in 23 minutes

HT News Network



NEW DELHI, MAY 14: The Indian Air Force (IAF) in the first phase of "Operation Sindoor" completely jammed Pakistan's Chinese-supplied air defence systems and wiped out the nine terror camps in Pakistan and the Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) within a span of 23 minutes, officials said on Wednesday.

An official told the news agency that all strikes were executed without loss of Indian assets. "These strikes underscored the effectiveness of our surveillance, planning, and delivery systems. The use of modern indigenous technology, from long-range drones to guided munitions, made these strikes highly effective and politically calibrated," he added.

The official said, "Indian Air Force bypassed and jammed Pakistan's Chinese-supplied air defence systems, completing the mission in just 23 minutes, demonstrating India's technological edge."

According to the officials "Operation Sindoor" also produced concrete evidence of hostile technologies neutralized by Indian systems: Pieces of PL-15 missiles (of Chinese origin) Turkish-origin UAVs, named "Yiha" or "YEEHAW" Long-range

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

CM

ad Shafi, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa, SSP Baramulla Gurinderpal Singh and other senior officials.

At Salamat, the Chief Minister met with affected families and assured them of sustained relief and long-term rehabilitation measures. "It is the responsibility of my government to ensure you receive the necessary support to rebuild your lives with dignity," he said during an interaction with residents.

During his visit to Razarwani Uri, the Chief Minister offered heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of Nargis Begum, who tragically lost her life when a shell struck their vehicle as they attempted to flee the area. "No words can truly capture the depth of your grief or the magnitude of this tragedy. I pray you find the strength to endure this irreparable loss. We stand with you in this hour of sorrow," he said.

Commending the unwavering spirit of the people of Uri, Omar Abdullah said, "This land has borne tremendous hardship — from the devastating 2005 earthquake to recurrent cross-border shelling. Yet, its people have consistently demonstrated courage and resilience."

Expressing solidarity with the affected families, the Chief Minister remarked, "Over the past few days, I have witnessed immense suffering and loss, but also unparalleled courage. These visits should have been about progress and development — not grief. The pain of my people is deeply personal to me."

The Chief Minister also visited the Lagama market, where several homes and commercial establishments suffered damage. After assessing the situation on ground, he assured affected individuals of prompt relief.

In Gingal village, Omar Abdullah inspected the NHPC's Uri-I Hydro Electric Project, which was also targeted in the recent shelling. He interacted with NHPC officials and assessed the damage caused to the infrastructure, including residential quarters.

Speaking to the media, the Chief Minister noted that the situation in Uri mirrors that of Tangdhar, Rajouri, and Poonch. "It appears that civilian areas were deliberately targeted in this instance, endangering more lives," he said. "Thankfully, the ceasefire is currently holding, and we are working diligently to assess damages and extend help wherever needed."

He also emphasized the need for individual bunkers in vulnerable areas. "With support from the Union Government, we will work for construction of individual bunkers in all shelling-affected regions," CM said.

LT. GEN. SHARMA

developments along the Line of Control (LoC) and other border areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Lt. Gen. Sharma was accompanied by Lt. Gen. Prashant Srivastava, General Officer Commanding 15 Corps.

"Our forces are doing a commendable job in protecting the nation," the Chief Minister stated. (GNS)

PRISEIDENT

Chief of the Air Staff, and Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, called on President Droupadi Murmu and briefed her about Operation Sindoor. The President commended the valour and the dedication of the Armed Forces that made India's response to terrorism a sterling success," the statement reads.

Notably, "Operation Sindoor" was a series of precision missile strikes conducted by the Indian Armed Forces on May 7, 2025, targeting nine terrorist infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

The operation was a direct response to the Pahalgam attack, aimed at neutralizing terrorist camps linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and Hizbul Mujahideen.

The strikes were carried out at around 1:00 AM on May 7, lasting 23 minutes, using Indian Air Force (IAF) jets, including Sukhoi-30MKI fighters armed with BrahMos missiles, SCALP cruise missiles, Crystal Maze-2 missiles, Hammer precision-guided munitions, and Spice-2000 bombs—

RAJNATH SINGH

CS

cross border shelling over the past few days.

Accompanying the Chief Secretary were Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, along with other senior officials from the local administration.

The Chief Secretary inspected the local Higher Secondary Schools of Sohail and Bhalwal Brahmana in Subdivision Akhnoor, which had been converted into temporary shelters for the residents displaced due to cross border shelling. He interacted with the affected families to assess their concerns and issues. He reviewed the arrangements made for their stay, including the provision of food, water

and power supply.

CS also assessed the medical facilities available to the sheltered villagers. He took note of the adequacy of medical aid being provided to the inmates. He directed the health officials to enhance medical services, ensuring that these distressed families receive proper treatment without the need to travel elsewhere.

While interacting with the inmates, the Chief Secretary sought feedback regarding the arrangements. He instructed the local administration to remain in constant touch with the affected people, ensuring their needs are met without any disruption.

Later, the Chief Secretary toured the villages impacted by the shelling, inspecting the damage inflicted upon the residential houses and public infrastructure. He asked the administration to promptly assess the damages and initiate relief measures for the affected population. He also emphasised the need for long-term safety measures, including construction of community bunkers, to safeguard the residents from future incidents.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the government's commitment towards supporting the border residents and ensuring their safety and well-being amidst such challenging circumstances.

SAKEENA

development of every sector and section of the society across Jammu and Kashmir. "This Government has been formed by the vote and trust of people and, as such, we are committed to work tirelessly for the welfare and development of our people", Sakeena stated. "The report card of our last seven months of governance reflects that Jammu and Kashmir is back on the track of development in every sector, be it health, education or other social sectors", she added.

The Minister further said that the medical infrastructure is being upgraded across J&K besides an ample push has also been given for recruitment of medical officers as well as other paramedical staff. "In the last few months this government recruited more than three hundred doctors and posted them in required areas to uplift the medical care facilities", Sakeena said. She added that a large number of doctors were also posted in rural areas to strengthen the medical care services from grassroots level, which is core objective of present Omar Abdullah led government. On the occasion, the Minister advised the people to take best utilisation of this newly established Ayush and Wellness Centre for their well-being. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Srigufwara-Bijbehara, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Veeri submitted a detailed memorandum concerning various developmental needs related to the health and education sectors in his constituency. The Minister assured him that these demands would be taken up with urgency and fulfilled on a priority basis.

After the inauguration ceremony, Sakeena Itoo also took a detailed round of the Trauma Hospital and assessed its functioning. She interacted with doctors and other staff, emphasising on the availability of all critical care equipments and other medicines. She highlighted that this hospital is very vital during emergencies as it is situated on the sidelines of National Highway.

During the inauguration ceremony, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Anantnag briefed the Minister about the range of facilities now available in the upgraded sections of the hospital. He briefed the Minister about current infrastructure, manpower deployment and services. Later, the Minister also visited the Government Degree College (GDC) Bijbehara and Government Girls Higher Secondary School Bijbehara, where she conducted a comprehensive review of the existing infrastructure, academic environment and faculty positions. She personally interacted with the students and enquired about their academic needs and institutional requirements. The students on the occasion shared suggestions and concerns with the Minister.

While interacting with them, Sakeena Itoo assured the students that their issues would be addressed promptly.

Interacting with the faculty during the visit, the Minister stressed on the importance of quality education and underlined the government's approach on upgrading both physical and academic facilities in educational institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

Among others, the Minister was accompanied by a MLA, Srigufwara-Bijbehara, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Veeri; Director Colleges, Director Social Welfare, Kashmir, Director School Education Kashmir, Director AYUSH, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Anantnag, Medical Superintendent and other senior officers from Health, Social Welfare and Education departments.

HAJJ

operated four flights from Srinagar Airport to New Delhi. From there, two Hajj flights departed directly to Medina, carrying a total of 642 pilgrims."

Dr Qureshi noted that the committee was working round-the-clock to clear the backlog caused by the suspension. "We have written to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, request-

ing additional flights to manage the pendency. Tomorrow, we have scheduled two more flights, one as per the regular schedule and another dedicated to accommodating those whose departures were delayed," he said.

According to the plan, 641 pilgrims are set to fly out on Thursday around 320 from Jammu & Kashmir and 242 from Ladakh. An additional group of 80 pending pilgrims, initially scheduled to travel on May 9 from Ladakh, will also be accommodated.

"We are addressing the backlog in a phased, date-wise manner, starting with May 7, followed by May 8 and onwards," Dr Qureshi said, adding that both J&K and Ladakh pilgrims affected by the disruption are being prioritised.

Notably, the temporary suspension of Hajj services had created concern among intending pilgrims, particularly those scheduled to travel earlier in the week.

However, with the situation easing, the authorities have swiftly reinstated operations, ensuring that no pilgrim is left behind.

Dr Qureshi added that they were hopeful that the entire backlog will be cleared soon, and the regular Hajj flight schedule will be back on track—

INDIA

on such a crucial issue. Pertinently Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Adampur airbase in Punjab on Tuesday praised the Indian Armed Forces for their decisive response during "Operation Sindoor" and the message they sent to Pakistan.

"Armed Forces had made it clear to the Pakistan Army that there is no place in Pakistan where terrorists can hide," PM Modi said, adding, "If there is another terror attack, India will respond, and will definitely respond." PM Modi said that there's a need for the armed forces to remain vigilant and to continually remind the enemy that "this is a new India." The Prime Minister stated that India had suspended its military actions only after receiving a plea for ceasefire from Pakistan—

DYCM

LOC is our topmost priority and best possible measures are being taken in this regard.

During the extensive tour, the Dy CM met several delegations at different locations in which the local residents apprised him of various issues which were mainly pertaining to construction of individual and community bunkers, compensation for their loss during recent cross border firing, water scarcity, unscheduled power cuts, link roads etc.

The Dy CM gave on spot instructions to the concerned officials to resolve their grievances and assured them that all their other genuine issues will be redressed in a phased manner.

In a step to safeguard lives and livelihoods, the Dy CM also assured that additional individual and community bunkers will be constructed at strategic locations based on requirements identified. "These bunkers will provide immediate safety during instances of cross-border shelling and are a critical component of the administration's border protection strategy" he added.

The visit underlined the unwavering commitment of the Government towards the safety, security, and well-being of the people living in the border belt.

DEVI

May 9; 1,352 on May 10; 1,303 on May 11; 1,658 on May 12; and 2,808 on May 13. By 3:00 pm on May 14, approximately 3,300 devotees had registered and departed for Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, with more arriving continuously.

With the easing of tensions, devotees are beginning to return to the pilgrimage, aided by the Shrine Board's efforts to provide free facilities from the base camp at Katra to Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan. This initiative aims to encourage more pilgrims to undertake the journey.

Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, said the number of pilgrims is increasing as the situation improves. "As the security situation gets better, the number of devotees is also rising. Jammu Airport has resumed operations, including civilian flights and helicopter services," he said, adding, "We are also facilitating air travel through both online bookings and counters. All services are being maintained to ensure a smooth pilgrimage experience, and we expect the numbers to grow in the coming days."

Garg further added, "We have implemented comprehensive security arrangements along the route from Katra to the Bhawan, under the supervision of police and CRPF. Our CCTV surveillance systems and Integrated Command and Control Centre are operational."

Based on the recommendations from joint security reviews, we are working diligently to ensure a safe and pleasant environment for all pilgrims, the CEO said, adding that to encourage participation during the current lower attendance, they are offering free walk-in services for Garbhjoon Aarti and Attaka Aarti on a first-come, first-served basis.

Anshul Garg said the safety of pilgrims remains a priority. "Security arrangements are robust across Katra and along the entire route. We are committed to providing a secure environment so that devotees can enjoy their pilgrimage without concern," he said.

Locals said that while there has been some activity during the early morning and evening Aarti sessions, much of the daytime remains quiet, with many shops on the Bhawan road and in Katra closed due to the decreased footfall. The ongoing decline in pilgrims has affected local businesses, but the community continues to hope for an increase in devotees.

The SMVDB, along with the tourism department, hotel and restaurant associations, and local businesses, remains actively engaged in restoring the pilgrimage's usual vibrancy. It is anticipated that in the days ahead, the number of pilgrims will rise, which will revitalise the spiritual and economic life around Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, the route and Katra—

KARGIL

a testament to the region's thriving and largely untouched ecosystem.

"This sighting is not only a breakthrough in wildlife documentation but also a gateway to eco-tourism and local employment opportunities," Dr. Akhoo stated.

Suru Valley, which recently earned a spot on National Geographic's list of Top 25 Global Destinations, is now emerging as a promising destination for sustainable wildlife tourism. With this latest discovery, the valley's global significance as a biodiversity hotspot is expected to rise further.

Moqudasi described the moment as "historic" for Suru Valley and stressed the importance of promoting responsible tourism to preserve the region's fragile natural heritage.

Wildlife experts believe this development could draw researchers, nature photographers, and eco-tourists from around the world, firmly establishing Kargil as a vital node in global conservation efforts—

SINDOOR

rockets, quadcopters and commercial drones

These were recovered and identified, showing that despite Pakistan's attempts to exploit advanced foreign-supplied weaponry, India's indigenous air defence and electronic warfare networks remained superior.

The officials said, "Operation Sindoor emerged as a calibrated military response to an evolving pattern of asymmetric warfare, one that increasingly targets unarmed civilians along with military personnel. The terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam on 22 April 2025 served as grim reminder of this shift. India's response was deliberate, precise, and strategic. Without crossing the Line of Control or international boundary, Indian forces struck terrorist infrastructure and eliminated multiple threats."

They said, "Beyond tactical brilliance, what stood out was the seamless integration of indigenous hi-tech systems into national defence. Whether in drone warfare, layered air defence, or electronic warfare, Operation Sindoor marks a milestone in India's journey towards technological self-reliance in military operations." UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS, ADS NEUTRALIZED PAK DRONES, OTHER THREATS Providing details about how the adversary tried to escalate the tension, the officials said, "On the night of 07-08 May 2025, Pakistan attempted to engage a number of military targets in Northern and Western India including Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarai, and Bhuj, using drones and missiles. These were neutralised by the Integrated Counter UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) Grid and Air Defence systems."

They said that Air Defence systems detect, track, and neutralise threats using a network of radars, control centres, artillery, and both aircraft- and ground-based missiles. "On the morning of May 8, the Indian armed forces targeted air defence radars and systems at a number of locations in Pakistan. An air defence system at Lahore was neutralized."

"As part of "Operation Sindoor," the following were used: Battle-proven AD (Air Defence) systems like the Pechora, OSA-AK and LLAD guns (Low-level air defence guns). Indigenous systems such as the Akash, which demonstrated stellar performance.

AKASH is a Short Range Surface to Air Missile system to protect vulnerable areas and vulnerable points from air attacks. The AKASH Weapon System can simultaneously engage Multiple Targets in Group Mode or Autonomous Mode. It has built in Electronic Counter-Counter Measures (ECCM) features. The entire weapon system has been configured on mobile platforms," they added.

The officials said, "India's Air Defence Systems, combining assets from the Army, Navy, and primarily the Air Force, performed with exceptional synergy. These systems created an impenetrable wall, foiling multiple attempts by Pakistan to retaliate. The Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) of the Indian Air Force brought all these elements together, providing the net-centric operational capability vital for modern warfare."

PINPOINT ACCURACY

According to the officials India's offensive strikes targeted key Pakistani airbases- Noor Khan and Rahimyar Khan with surgical precision. Loitering munitions were used to devastating effect, each finding and destroying high-value targets, including enemy radar and missile systems. "Loitering munitions also known as "suicide drones" or "kamikaze drones", are weapons systems that can hover or circle a target area, searching for a suitable target before attacking," they added.

"All strikes were executed without loss of Indian assets, underscoring the effectiveness of our surveillance, planning, and delivery systems. The use of modern indigenous technology, from long-range drones to guided munitions, made these strikes highly effective and politically calibrated," they said.

EVIDENCE OF NEUTRALIZED THREATS On May 12, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, Director General Military Operations, in the "Operation Sindoor" press briefing highlighted the excellent performance of a mix of legacy and modern systems.

"Since precise strikes on terrorists were conducted without crossing the Line of Control or International Boundary, it was anticipated Pakistan's response would come from across the border.

A unique blend of counter Unmanned Aerial Systems, Electronic Warfare assets, and Air Defence Weapons from both Army and Air Force Multiple defensive layers from the International Boundary inward: Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems Shoulder-Fired Weapons, Legacy Air Defence Weapons, Modern Air Defence Weapon Systems. This multi-tier defence prevented Pakistan Air Force attacks on our airfields and logistic installations during the night of May 9-10. These systems, built over the last decade with continuous government investment, proved to be force multipliers during the operation. They played a crucial role in ensuring that both civilian and military infrastructure across India remained largely unaffected during enemy retaliation attempts," the officials added. At an event on May 11, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan mentioned that At least 10 satellites are continuously working round-the-clock for the strategic purpose to ensure the safety and security of the citizens of the country.

POLICE

Ghaziabad, UP and a lady drug peddler resident of Bawana JJ Colony, Delhi-39 were arrested in possession of 06 grams and 03 grams of heroin-like substances respectively, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). Similarly, a notorious lady drug peddler resident of Bangidar, was also apprehended near Bangidar Bridge with 07 grams of heroin-like substance. Moreover, one more drug peddler identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Hajam son of Gul Mohammad Hajam resident of Saidwara, Dooru Shahabad was arrested after being found in possession of 06 grams of heroin-like substance, police said.


We felt caged': Students relieved as schools reopen in border districts amid fragile calm

Baramulla, May 14: Following days of disruption caused by intense cross-border shelling, schools in several border areas of North Kashmir reopened on Wednesday, bringing a sense of relief and normalcy for students and their families. As per the news agency—educational institutions resumed functioning in most parts of Baramulla and Kupwara districts, except for the shelling-hit Sub-Divisions of Uri and Karnah, where schools remain shut as a precautionary measure. The resumption of academic activities brought joy and emotional respite to students who had been living under the shadow of fear and uncertainty for the past several days. Students expressed how deeply the closure of schools had affected them—not just academically, but emotionally. "We are happy to be back. It felt like we were caged, unable to meet our friends. Our studies had come to a standstill, and the fear of shelling was always on our minds," said a student from Baramulla.

PUBLIC NOTICE

With profound grief and sorrow it is informed that Mrs. **Shameema W/O. Srs. Aijaz Rizvi D/o. Munshi Abdul Raheem R/O. Nowlari Pattan passed away in the wee hours of 14/5/2025 Wednesday. She was buried in ancestral graveyard at Nowlari. Her Ijtemai Fateh Khawni will be held on 16/5/2025 Friday at graveyard at 6:30 A.M. in the morning and later on day long Majlis will be held at their residence Nowlari.**

**Rizvi family of Nowlari
Munshi family of Habakadal.**





Ajay Kumar Appointed New UPSC Chairman

HT News Network

New Delhi May 14: Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), according to an official order issued by the Union Personnel Ministry. The post had been vacant since April 29, following the completion of Preeti Sudan's tenure. Kumar's appointment was cleared by President Droupadi Murmu, the order stated on Tuesday. A 1985-batch retired IAS officer of the Kerala cadre, Ajay Kumar served as India's Defence Secretary from August 2019 to October 2022. He brings extensive administrative experience to the post. The UPSC conducts the country's prestigious civil services examinations to select officers for the IAS, IFS, IPS, and other central services.

District admin Srinagar reaches out to the fire victims of Guru Bazar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR MAY 14: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat a team of District administration, Srinagar led by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed today visited Guru Bazar area in Tehsil South of the District to provide immediate assistance to the fire affected families whose houses were gutted in a fire incidents here on Wednesday. The Immediate relief was sanctioned by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and was provided to the affected families in the form of blankets, Mattress etc to each affected families as an interim relief out of the District Red Cross Fund. The Team of District Administration Srinagar also expressed sympathy with the affected families on loss of property.

Awareness/ Enrollment Drive under Mission YUVA conducted at Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MAY 14: To monitor and assess the implementation and effectiveness of the ongoing awareness-cum-enrollment drive under Mission YUVA, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad visited multiple awareness venues on the second day of the drive. As part of the drive, awareness camps were held at Hangalbus, Nowpora, Kheejogipora and Pariwan, covering a total of 12 Panchayats. During the visit, detailed information regarding Mission YUVA was disseminated among potential entrepreneurs. Participants were also facilitated in downloading the official mobile application and assisted in initiating the application submission process on the spot. The drive aims to empower local youth by encouraging entrepreneurship and facilitating access to various self-employment schemes. The ADDC was accompanied by Assistant Director Employment & Career Counselling Officer (AD Employment & CCO), District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Kulgam, along with other concerned officers.

RTO Kashmir Mandates CCTV in School Buses, Warns Against Overloading

HT News Network



Srinagar, May 14: Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, Qazi Irfan on Wednesday issued strict directives for school transportation, mandating that all school buses and vans must be equipped with CCTV cameras. He also warned that overloading of students will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The RTO emphasized that any violation of these safety norms will result in strict action against both the school transport operators and the respective school administrations. In another development, the RTO assured the public that the number of available driving license test slots will be increased in the coming days to accommodate the growing number of applicants and reduce delays.

Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for Mela Kheer Bhawani

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: To ensure a smooth and spiritually enriching experience for devotees during the upcoming Mela Mata Kheer Bhawani, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Tuesday chaired a detailed review meeting with officials from various departments. Calling for meticulous planning, Bidhuri directed Deputy Commissioners and departmental heads to put in place robust arrangements at the main shrine in Tulmulla, Ganderbal, as well as at other key locations in Kupwara, Kulgam, and Anantnag. He emphasized the need to surpass last year's efforts in providing facilities for pilgrims. Key areas of focus included transportation, accommodation, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, food services (langars), and toilets. Div Com stressed timely desilting of the canal at Tulmulla, beautification of temple surroundings, repair of approach roads, and restoration of non-functional streetlights. He directed for security arrangements, deployment of SDRF teams and fire tenders near the shrine. Departments were



instructed to nominate nodal officers to ensure effective coordination throughout the festival. He directed for providing special transport facilities for migrant employees wishing to attend the mela. The Health Department was asked to position skilled medical teams, while the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department was directed to ensure an uninterrupted supply of essentials including LPG. Deputy Commissioners of all concerned

districts briefed on ongoing preparations, while representatives from Kashmiri Pandit organizations outlined their suggestions for a smooth and safe celebration. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Kupwara and Kulgam besides senior officers from Tourism, Relief and Rehabilitation, Police, Traffic, PWD, KPD-CL, PHE, SRTC, SDRF, Fire & Emergency, Information departments and representatives of various Kashmiri Pandit orga-

nizations. Calling for meticulous planning, Bidhuri directed Deputy Commissioners and departmental heads to put in place robust arrangements at the main shrine in Tulmulla, Ganderbal, as well as at other key locations in Kupwara, Kulgam, and Anantnag. He emphasized the need to surpass last year's efforts in providing facilities for pilgrims. Key areas of focus included transportation, accommodation, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, food services (langars), and toilets. Div Com stressed timely desilting of the canal at Tulmulla, beautification of temple surroundings, repair of approach roads, and restoration of non-functional streetlights. He directed for security arrangements, deployment of SDRF teams and fire tenders near the shrine. Departments were instructed to nominate nodal officers to ensure effective coordination throughout the festival. He directed for providing special transport facilities for migrant employees wishing to attend the mela. The Health Department was asked to position skilled medical teams, while the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department was directed to ensure an uninterrupted supply of essentials including LPG.

Pulwama set to launch Dharti Aaba Abhyan across tribal villages

HT News Network

PULWAMA, MAY 14: In a major step towards ensuring holistic and sustainable development of tribal communities, District Administration Pulwama is set to implement the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhyan—a flagship initiative launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on October 2, 2024. This nationwide campaign seeks to saturate tribal villages with essential service infrastructure and bridge gaps in human and economic development. In alignment with the national vision, District Administration Pulwama has initiated a focused strategy for the effective rollout of the campaign. This includes conducting a baseline gap analysis under the supervision of Block Development Officers to identify critical deficits in infrastructure and human development indicators in tribal settlements, ensuring these are addressed during the campaign. The programme will

be implemented through a series of well-structured awareness and service camps designed to reach the last mile beneficiary in each location. As part of this initiative, awareness and benefit saturation camps will be conducted from 15th June to 30th June in various tribal villages of the district. The Dharti Aaba Abhyan in Pulwama will focus on intensive outreach, benefit saturation, and awareness campaigns across the tribal villages of the district. These camps will provide on-the-spot services and entitlements under various government schemes, including social security, livelihood, education, housing, skill development and financial inclusion. The campaign will ensure on-the-ground delivery of services such as Aadhaar and voter ID enrolment, Jan Dhan Account, Ayushman Bharat card issuance, social security pensions, and registration under schemes like PMAY-G, Ujjwala Yojana, and PM-KISAN among others.

LoC Shelling: 3 persons brought dead as many injured received after May 7, says Pr GMC Rajouri

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 14: Three persons were brought dead while three others were critically injured after shelling started across the border on May 7th, officials said on Wednesday. In a press conference at GMC Rajouri, Principal GMC Rajouri Dr Amarjeet Bhatia as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a total of 27 patients were brought to the GMC Rajouri, who were injured due to the shelling in Poonch and Rajouri areas. He said that three persons were brought dead to the hospital and three were critically injured while a total six are undergoing treatment at the hospital while the rest have been discharged after recovery. Bhatia also said that a child was hit by a shell, which had pierced through his belly and had critically injured his intestines, and he was timely operated and his intestines were repaired and currently he is out of danger. He added that another girl child was brought to hospital whose hip was badly damaged



by the shell and she was treated with the modern technology and she is also currently out of danger. A lady with multiple compound injuries was also treated and operated a day and she is also out of danger now, he said. He said that all six injured patients admitted in hospital are out of danger and are being treated properly at the hospital and will be discharged after recovery. Recording manpower shortage, Dr Bhatia said that manpower shortage isn't in GMC Rajouri only it is pan state and government is working upon it—

Water Logging in Apple Orchard during Ring Road construction NGT issues notice to NHAI, Construction Company & JK Govt

HT News Network

Srinagar May 14: The National Green Tribunal -NGT has issued notice to National Highway Authority of India-NHAI, a private construction company namely NKC Projects Private Limited & JK Govt for not taking steps to safeguard a high density apple orchard at Batpora Wathoora in Budgam district during construction of road project last year. The apple orchard owned by a local farmer got severely damaged last year as there was massive water logging due to blockade of water drainage channels around the land after construction company earth filled the area for highway / flyover construction in the area. In this original application, the applicant namely Ghulam Nabi Bhat a resident of Batpora- Wathoora Tehsil Chadoora in District Budgam through his counsel Advocate Saurabh Sharma raised the issue before the NGT regarding damage caused to his orchard/agricultural on account of water logging due to choking of



a waste water drain in the course of construction of a flyover. The applicant's counsel Advocate Saurabh Sharma argued before the NGT's bench of Justice Prakash Shrivastava (Chairperson), Dr. A. Senthil Veil (Expert Member and Dr. Afroz Ahmad (Expert Member) that the waterlogging caused flooding and damaging of approximately 6.5 Kanals of the orchard and agricultural field. The applicant in his petition (original appli-

cation) alleged that the respondents (NHAI & NKC Projects Pvt Ltd) were engaged in construction of Srinagar Ring Road flyover bridge near his orchard / agricultural field and in that process since the water drainage system was choked causing flooding for more than a month which caused massive damage to around 500 HD apple plants (7 to 8 years old). The petitioner Ghulam Nabi Bhat prayed that the remedial/restoration action and also the compensation for the damage caused be paid to him. The applicant also prayed for impleading the Horticulture Department as party which was accepted by the NGT bench. The NGT order dated May 8th 2025 reads : "Issue notice in original application -OA and Interim Application- IANo. 350/2025 to the respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing through e-filing. The Applicant is directed to serve the respondents and file an affidavit of service at least one week before the next date of hearing"

DC Shopian reviews implementation of self-employment schemes

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 14: In order to assess the progress and implementation of various self-employment schemes in the district, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta at Mini-Secretariat Shopian today. Addressing the Officers, DC emphasized the importance of working with dedication, zeal and a proactive approach to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the intended beneficiaries. He urged all departments to work in close coordination for the effective implementation of

self-employment programmes in the district. DC reiterated the Administration's commitment to empowering youth through sustainable livelihood opportunities and directed all the stakeholders to intensify efforts in this regard. The meeting witnessed participation from key District Officers from the departments engaged in the implementation of self-employment initiatives aimed at promoting livelihood opportunities for the youth and unemployed sections of society. During the review, existing gaps in implementation were identified, and concerned departments were

directed to take corrective measures to ensure smoother execution. General Manager District Industries Centre was stressed for achieving the full target under PMEGP and other schemes in the district. Agriculture and other allied departments were also emphasized for achieving the target in full in all the schemes meant for the well-being of the unemployed youth of the district to enable them to earn their livelihood at ease to shine their future. Banks were advised not to reject self-employment scheme applications without valid reasons, ensuring greater support for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Inspection Visit to Under-Construction Court Complex and Lawyers' Chambers in Bandipora

HT News Network

Bandipora, May 14: The District and Sessions Judge Bandipora, accompanied by the Additional Sessions Judge and Chief Judicial Magistrate Bandipora, today visited the under-construction Court Complex and Lawyers' Chambers in Bandipora. The visit was conducted in coordination with the Executive Body of the Bar Association Bandipora, led by its President Advocate Sufi Feroz. During the inspection, the concerned authorities were directed to expedite the pace of the construction work and ensure its completion within the stipulated timeframe. The Executive Body of the Bar Association brought to the attention of the judiciary the pressing need for essential facilities within the court premises, including an ATM, a post office,.

EDITORIAL

Make travel of pilgrims for Hajj 2025 comfortable

The recent skirmishes between India and Pakistan have cast a shadow on the annual Hajj pilgrimage for this year since the Hajj flights could not be operated for seven days between May 7 and 13. Although the Hajj flights resumed on Wednesday (May 14) the pilgrims were up against a difficult situation. The pilgrims were asked to change the aircraft at New Delhi by the authorities and this caused hardship to them.

Given the fact that not many flights are being operated from the Srinagar international airport after the recent tension between the two neighbouring countries the direct Hajj flights have been discontinued at least for the time being. The foot-fall at the Srinagar airport has come down drastically and it will take a lot of time to normalize things on the aviation front. This can be expected but since the time for departure for the pilgrims of Hajj is limited the authorities should ensure that the same is hassle free.

The Hajj Committee of India along with the Hajj committees of different states and union territories should ensure that the practice of direct flights for Hajj pilgrims is not discontinued. It is important that direct Hajj flights are operated from the different cities of the country. This would remove the travel hassles for the Hajj pilgrims and they would feel relieved. Changing the aircraft at New Delhi or any other airport of the country is not welcome and the same needs to be stopped and that too at the earliest.

The Hajj 2025 has already been in news since very few pilgrims are proceeding for the annual pilgrimage from the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. For the second consecutive year no draw of lots has been conducted for the selection of Hajj pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir. This year round about 3500 pilgrims from the union territory are going to perform Hajj. There was a time when the local government had to request the Hajj Committee of India for additional Hajj seats but this time around there has been a reduction in the number of pilgrims.

At the national level the number of seats for the private Hajj tour operators has also come down drastically. According to the latest information not more than 10,000 people can perform Hajj through the private Hajj operators. Initially the private Hajj tour operators had claimed that they would be taking around 60,000 people for Hajj this year but the number has come down drastically.

Operation Sindoor: A Decisive Victory in Modern Warfare

MR. JOHN SPENCER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, URBAN WARFARE
INSTITUTE TITLED 'OPERATION SINDOOR: A
DECISIVE VICTORY IN MODERN WARFARE'

India has not declared Operation Sindoor completely over. What exists now is a sensitive halt in operations—some may call it a ceasefire, but military leaders have deliberately avoided that word. From a warfighting perspective, this is not merely a pause; it is a strategic hold following a rare and unambiguous military victory.

After just four days of calibrated military action, it is objectively conclusive: India achieved a massive victory. Operation Sindoor met and exceeded its strategic aims—destroying terrorist infrastructure, demonstrating military superiority, restoring deterrence, and unveiling a new national security doctrine. This was not symbolic force. It was decisive power, clearly applied.

India was attacked. On April 22, 2025, 26 Indian civilians, mostly Hindu tourists, were massacred in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir. The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility. As has been the case for decades, the group is backed by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

But unlike previous attacks, this time India didn't wait. It didn't appeal for international mediation or issue a diplomatic demarche. It launched warplanes.

On May 7, India initiated Operation Sindoor, a swift and precisely calibrated military campaign. The Indian Air Force struck nine terrorist infrastructure targets inside Pakistan, including headquarters and operational hubs for Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba. The message was clear: terror attacks launched from Pakistani soil will now be treated as acts of war.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the new doctrine unmistakable: "India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail. India will strike precisely and decisively at the terrorist hide-outs developing under the cover of nuclear blackmail."

More than a retaliation, this was the unveiling of a strategic doctrine. As Modi said, "Terror and talks can't go together. Water and blood can't flow together."

Operation Sindoor was executed in deliberate phases:

- May 7: Nine precision strikes were launched deep into Pakistani



territory. Targets included key terror training camps and logistics nodes in Bahawalpur, Muridke, Muzaffarabad, and elsewhere.

- May 8: Pakistan retaliated with a massive drone swarm across India's western states. India's multi-layered air defense network—domestically built and augmented by Israeli and Russian systems—neutralized nearly all of them.

- May 9: India escalated with additional strikes on six Pakistani military airbases and UAV coordination hubs.

- May 10: A temporary halt in firing was reached. India did not call it a ceasefire. The Indian military referred to it as a "stoppage of firing"—a semantic but deliberate choice that reinforced its strategic control of the situation.

This wasn't just tactical success. It was doctrinal execution under live fire.

Strategic Effects Achieved

1. A New Red Line Was Drawn—and Enforced

Terror attacks from Pakistani soil will now be met with military force. That's not a threat. It's precedent.

2. Military Superiority Demonstrated

India showcased its ability to strike any target in Pakistan at will—terror sites, drone coordination hubs, even airbases. Meanwhile, Pakistan was unable to penetrate a single defended area inside India. That is not parity. That is overwhelming superiority. And that is how real deterrence is

established.

3. Restored Deterrence

India retaliated forcefully but stopped short of full war. The controlled escalation sent a clear deterrent signal: India will respond, and it controls the pace.

4. Asserted Strategic Independence

India handled this crisis without seeking international mediation. It enforced doctrine on sovereign terms, using sovereign means.

Operation Sindoor was not about occupation or regime change. It was limited war executed for specific objectives. Critics who argue India should have gone further miss the point. Strategic success isn't about the scale of destruction—it's about achieving the desired political effect.

India was not fighting for vengeance. It was fighting for deterrence. And it worked.

India's restraint is not weakness—it is maturity. It imposed costs, redefined thresholds, and retained escalation dominance. India didn't just respond to an attack. It changed the strategic equation.

In an age where many modern wars spiral into open-ended occupations or political confusion, Operation Sindoor stands apart. This was a demonstration of disciplined military strategy: clear goals, aligned ways and means, and adaptive execution in the face of unpredictable escalation. India absorbed a blow, defined its objective, and achieved it—all within a contained timeframe.

The use of force in Operation Sindoor was overwhelming yet controlled—precise, decisive, and without hesitation. That kind of clarity is rare in modern war. In an era defined by "forever wars" and cycles of violence without strategic direction, Sindoor stands apart. It offers a model of limited war with clearly defined ends, matched ways and means, and a state that never relinquished the initiative.

The India of 2008 absorbed attacks and waited. This India hits back—immediately, precisely, and with clarity.

Modi's doctrine, India's advancing domestic defense industry, and the professionalism of its armed forces all signal a country no longer preparing for the last war. It is preparing for the next one.

The halt in operations is not the end of Operation Sindoor. It is a pause. India holds the initiative. If provoked again, it will strike again.

This is a new doctrine revealed. And it should be studied by all nations confronting the scourge of state-sponsored terrorism.

Operation Sindoor was a modern war—fought under the shadow of nuclear escalation, with global attention, and within a limited objective framework. And by every measure that matters, it was a strategic success—and a decisive Indian victory.

John Spencer is executive director of the Urban Warfare Institute. He is the co-author of Understanding Urban Warfare.

Time to Uplift Tribal Girls



SAHIL MANZOOR
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People who are truly educated never discriminate based on caste, color, creed, or gender. True education promotes humanity—it opens minds, fosters compassion, and inspires us to raise our voices for justice and equality. In today's era, cutting-edge technology has become a window to the world, unveiling opportunities that were once hidden.

A World Awakened by Technology

Technology has played a pivotal role in transforming societies and empowering the underprivileged. With internet access, even the most marginalized individuals can now learn how to start businesses, pursue higher education, and find motivation through platforms like YouTube, Google, and countless digital learning resources. Unlike earlier times, when our only guides were our teachers and books,

today's learners can access global knowledge from the comfort of their homes.

This shift has opened the doors of success to anyone with the will to learn. Now, people from all walks of life are acquiring skills to enhance their livelihoods and improve their standing in society.

The Role of Education in Nation-Building

Education remains the most powerful tool for transformation. It replaces fear with confidence, violence with peace, and ignorance with understanding. Every household should recognize the importance of educating their children—especially girls.

India has expanded its educational infrastructure impressively. From primary schools to ITI colleges and universities, education is now more accessible than ever. But education isn't just about securing government jobs—it's about opening minds, following the right path, becoming self-reliant, and helping others do the same. A truly educated person seeks to give, not just receive.

Focusing on Tribal Girls: A Need for Urgent Attention

This article aims to highlight the condition of tribal girls and the pressing need to uplift them for the betterment of our nation.



Today, India grants equal rights to women in every sphere, and the government is actively promoting women's empowerment. But gaps still exist—particularly for tribal communities.

We must move beyond outdated caste systems and embrace humanity as our common identity. A truly great individual is someone who works for the collective good, fostering peace, brotherhood, and

opportunity for all.

Why Are Tribals Still Struggling?

According to the 2011 Census, about 12% of Jammu and Kashmir's population belongs to tribal groups such as the Gujjars and Bakarwals. These communities mainly reside in Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, and scattered parts of the Kashmir Valley. They are traditionally pastoralists—rearing cattle, sheep, and goats—

and migrate seasonally between Jammu and the Pir Panjal forests.

Despite their patriotic spirit and rich cultural heritage, many of them remain economically and educationally backward. This is a matter of national concern. Gujjars and Bakarwals deserve not just recognition but meaningful support.

Roadmap to Empowerment: Mandatory Education Up to Graduation

Every girl in tribal communities should receive free education up to the graduation level.

100% Scholarships

There should be full scholarships for higher and professional education (medicine, engineering, etc.).

Skill Development at the Village Level

ITI branches should be opened in villages, not just district headquarters, to make skill training accessible.

Free Transport for Women in Remote Areas

Government-sponsored bus services can help girls reach schools and training centers safely.

Awareness of Government Schemes

Many tribal families are unaware of existing schemes. Awareness programs must be conducted reg-

ularly.

Forest Rights and Sustainable Livelihoods

As many Gujjars and Bakarwals depend on forests, they should have special rights to access and protect them, contributing to both the economy and ecology.

Medical and Security Awareness for Women

Women must be empowered to safeguard their rights and manage their families with confidence and knowledge.

District-Level Job Opportunities

Government recruitment should be conducted district-wise to ensure fair access to employment for tribal youth.

Exam Preparation Support

Special coaching centers should be set up to help tribal students prepare for competitive exams.

Conclusion

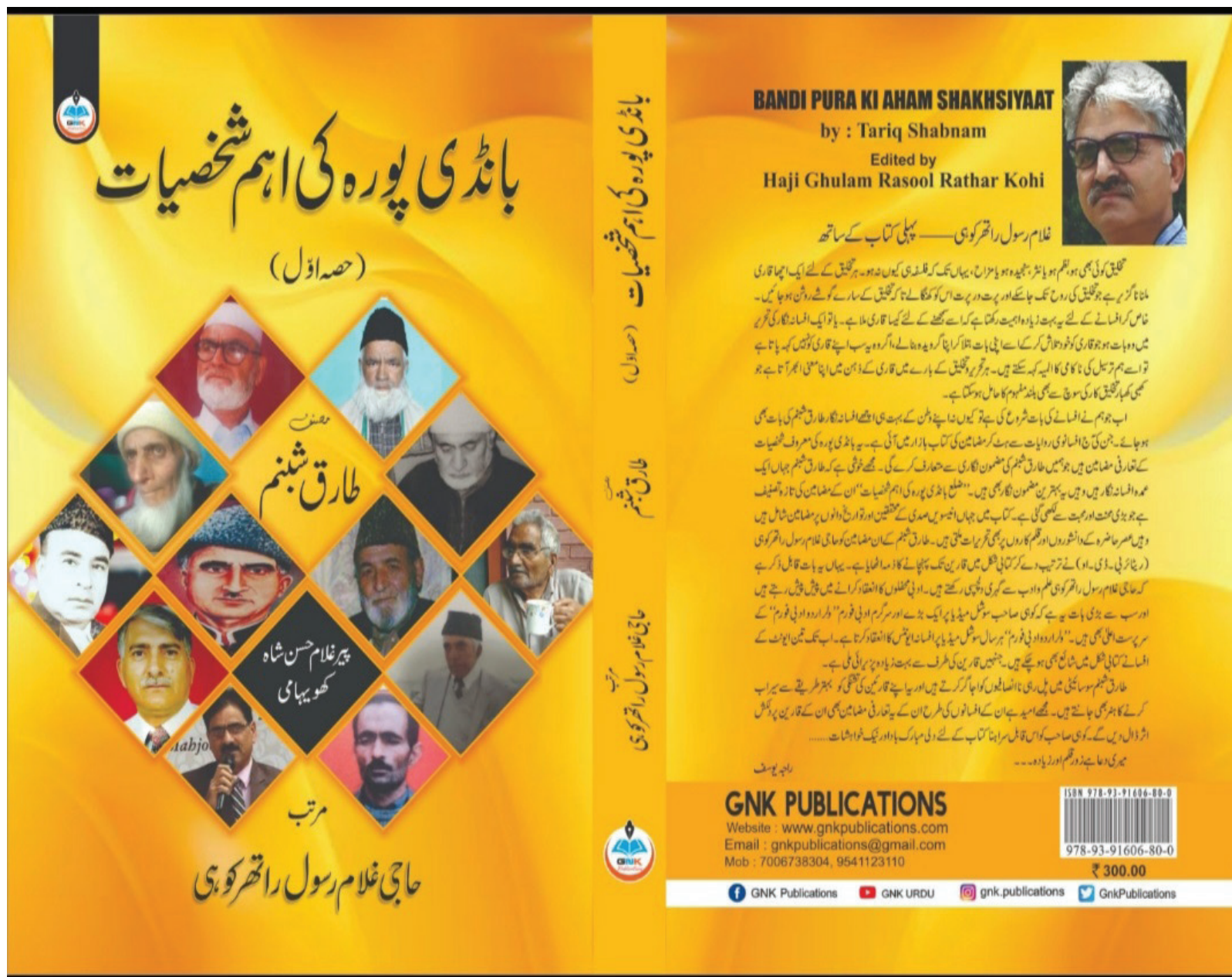
Empowering tribal girls is not just about helping individuals—it's about uplifting entire communities and strengthening the fabric of our nation. Education, awareness, and access to opportunity must reach every corner, including the remotest tribal villages. Let us stand together for a future where no girl is left behind.

Bandipora Ki Aham Shakhsiyaat by Tariq Shabnam



RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

North Kashmir's Bandipora district is famous for three things, Ilm-Knowledge, Adab-Literature and Aab-Water. The blessed soil of this district has given birth to a number of intellectuals, Litteratuers, educationists, authors, poets and social reformers. Tariq Shabnam, a young literary sensation and noted Urdu fiction writer too belongs to Bandipora. Hailing from the Ajas village, Tariq Shabnam has authored a couple of short story collections, which were highly praised and commended in literary circles. Recently he came up with a new book, titled Bandipora ki Aham Shakhsiyaat, published by famous GNK Publications. Spanning 91 pages, this book is compiled by Haji Gh Rasool Rather Kohi. Boasting an alluring cover page with photographs of the literary icons of Bandipora, this book sketches the life and achievements of thirteen renowned litteratuers of Bandipora district. Tariq Shabnam has dedicated this compilation to his beloved parents. While writing a brief summary of the book, Dr Riyaz Tawhidi- internationally acclaimed critic and well-known short story writer, has appreciated the efforts of Tariq Shabnam and Gh Rasool Rather Kohi for coming up with a treasure trove of information about the local litteratuers, who's contribution to promote language and literature is unparalleled, who otherwise would be unknown to the young generation. Raja Yousuf, noted fiction writer has too commended both Tariq Shabnam and Gh Rasool Rather for writing this book about literary giants of Bandipora. In it's poem, Gh Rasool Rather writes about his endeavors to collect articles about the literary figures of Bandipora or who contributed for the society. Gh Rasool Rather besides being the patron of Wullar Urdu Adbi Forum, is an enthusiastic litteratuer and a retired BDO. He



expresses his heartfelt gratitude to all those who helped him in compiling this collection. Pir Gh Hassan Shah Khoihami- Born at Gamro village, Pir Hassan Shah is credited to have authored famous Tawarikhi Hassan, an authentic history of Kashmir in Persian, translated into Urdu by Dr Sarif Hussain. According to Tariq Shabnam, his grandfather was also a learned scholar besides a Persian poet. His whole family were in allegiance to Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom ra. It was Pir Hassan Shah, who helped Sir Walter Lawrence, the land settlement commissioner of JK to write The Valley of Kashmir, translated into Urdu by Gh Nabi Khayal. About his life and achievements, Tariq Shabnam has painted an eloquent Picture. Prof Mohiuddin Hajini - He was a celebrated poet, litteratuer, social

worker, educationist and a reformer from Hajin Bandipora. Tariq Shabnam has eloquently tried to enlighten readers about his contributions and literary prowess which is reflected through his books. His Kashmiri drama, Greas sund Ghara Peasant's Home got so popular that it was published on multiple platforms. He was drawn to literature from his early schooling years and in all major languages like Urdu, English, Persian and Kashmiri, he proved his mettle by writing some award winning books. Fron laying the foundation of Adbi Markaz Kamraz, a vibrant and oldest literary forum of Jammu Kashmir, spending a greater part of his life in prison and then his contributions being acknowledged by honoring meritorious scholars and authors through Khilati Mohiuddin Hajini

and Mohiuddin Hajini gold medal award, are some brightest aspects of his life which Tariq Shabnam has unwrapped in this article. Prof Rashid Nazki -The Nazki dynasty of Bandipora has ever been at forefront in enriching the literary landscape of valley. It's profound literary stars include Mir Gh Rasool Nazki, Farooq Nazki, Ayaz Rasool Nazki and Prof Rashid Nazki, who's contribution to promote literature is unparalleled. He was among the founding members of Adbi Markaz Kamraz, an ace poet of Kashmiri and Persian besides a good translator. His translative masterpiece of Qasida Burda Sharif of Hazrat Sharfuddin Bosri of Egypt into Kashmiri is famous across the whole Kashmir. Prof Bashir Ahmad Nehvi, ex-director Iqbal Institute of Culture and philosophy too has

admitted his literary prowess and is all praise to him. Mohd Ahsan Ahsan - Mehtab Manzoor has written a thought provoking and meticulous article about Mohd Ahsan Ahsan, according to him, Mohd Ahsan was among the founding members of AMK and his style of writing both prose and poetry in Kashmiri is multidimensional as well as unique. His contribution to Kashmiri language and literature is noteworthy. Gh Nabi Jan - A well-known Socio-political figure, Gh Nabi Jan's contribution for the upliftment of society is still remembered by the local people. According to Gh Rasool Rather Kohi, after qualifying BA degree, he embraced the job of contractor. He was many times choosen as leader of his association, joining mainstream politics led him to land in jail also. Later he

was officially recognized as freedom fighter. He served as chairman of the Jammu Kashmir awkaf trust from 1962-65 as well. Dr Aziz Hajini -Tariq Shabnam's extensive article about Dr Aziz Hajini has made this compilation a special and extraordinary one. Dr Hajini's works and contributions will continue to inspire generations. As secretary of JKAACL, he has been instrumental in getting maximum number of books published regardless of language and as editor and editor-in-chief of multiple magazines and journals, his unwavering dedication to preserve Kashmiri language is a living example. He served as deputy director academics JKBOSE, research officer at erstwhile SIEK and members of advisory boards of various literary organisations. He also served as president of AMK thrice, convener of Sahitya Academy and editor of Sheeraza. He is the recipient of first gold medal from Kashmir university and in 1976 topped the essay competition organized by Adbi Markaz Kamraz. As poet, he is celebrated across whole Jammu & Kashmir, his poems and other poetry items reflect his commitment to give space to societal ill health and is style has always been unique, modern and revolutionary. Er Mohd Yousuf Rather -It is through this book that, I knew the actual cause of naming Jahangir chowk to Batamaloo road as Er Mohd Yousuf Rather Avenue. He was an engineering genius, who excelled in his profession, did lot of developmental services, reached to Chief Engineer's position, often referred to as Hero of R&B and lost his life in 2004 at Kapran verinag in an explosion. Siyad Kashmiri - Tariq Shabnam's school teacher, Ab Samad Lone aka Siyad Kashmiri was an academican who retired as Headmaster besides an unsung poet. Simple living and high thinking were his inborn principles. There are few other articles about Gh AHMAD aka Ama, Ab Khaliq Bhat, Ataulah Bhat and Moulana Gulzar Samad Lone, which have been fastidiously composed by author, intending to make public enlightened about their contributions. Tariq Shabnam and Gh Rasool Kohi deserve accolades and sincere praise for editing and composing this marvelous collection which truly depicts their best literary service. **Writer is a columnist hailing from Qazigund Kashmir**

Bhalesa: The Land of innocence and harmony



MUZAMIL ARIF BHALESSI

Bhalesa shares its borders wide, With Bhaderwah and Chamba side by side. Cultures blend where valleys meet, In harmony, their hearts repeat. Bhalesa is a land so fair, With hills and rivers, clean fresh air. The trees are tall, the skies are blue, The hearts are kind, the words are true. In Bhalesa's lanes, the children play, Their laughter brightens up the day. Jamia Masjid, strong and wide, Brings calm and peace to those inside. Kalguni Temple, pure and old, Its bells still ring through heat and cold. Different faiths live side by side, With love and trust as their guide. Fairs and melas, songs and dance, Give every heart a joyful chance. From dhol and flute, the music flies, And happiness lights up the skies. Festivals bloom in Bhalesa's air, With prayers and songs, a bond so rare.

Eid and Diwali light the skies, Unity and joy in every rise. From Gurekrah's hills to Chilly's green, Chanser and Kota add to the scene. Khargal, Kahal-Jugasar shine bright, With Pingal and Bhatyas wrapped in light. Kilothran stands with youthful grace, Chanyas and Bharthi share their place. Each village tells a tale so dear, Of love, of peace, and hearts sincere. Kanthi Dhar stands tall and grand, With rivers flowing through the land. GDC Kilothran, a beacon of light, Where knowledge blooms and futures take flight. On the cricket field, the crowd roars loud, As players shine beneath the proud. The Mela comes with joy and cheer, A festival that brings us near. Padhri meadows, soft and wide, Bal Padhri whispers with gentle pride. Bani Talab, so calm, so still, Reflects the sky and every hill. Birchoo's waterfall sings through stone, A melody carved in nature's tone. Each place a gem in Bhalesa's crown, Where peace and beauty both come down. In Bhalesa, hearts are one, No matter where we're from, we're spun. Together, we share joy and pain, Bound by love, like the sun and rain. In Bhalesa, hearts are pure, Innocence that will endure. Their smiles are simple, kind, and bright,

A peaceful world in their sight. Scholars of Bhalesa, wise and bright, With books and knowledge, they light the night. Alhaj Ghulam qadir Ganipuri Sahib, full of light, Taught us all to choose what's right. This land has leaders proud and wise, Like Azad Sahib, who touched the skies. He fought for justice, peace, and right, Shaping futures, lighting the night. O Bhalesa, land of peaks so wide, Where pine trees whisper, rivers glide. In every breeze, your stories ring, Of valiant sons like Chain Singh. Mehraj Malik, with vision clear, A voice of hope, far and near. He leads with heart, and dreams that soar, A future built on peace and more. Raja Sarfraz, with voice so grand, Sings the stories of Bhalesa's land. Through songs like "Bhalesa Meri Jaan," He keeps the region's spirit strong and long. Bhalesa is not just a name, It's heart, it's hope, it's more than fame. A place where goodness still is strong, Where even silence feels like song. **Written by POET AND AUTHOR MUZAMIL ARIF BHALESSI A WELL KNOWN WRITER whose work delves into the complexities of human nature and society. With a keen eye for detail and an inquisitive mind, he tackle(s) the issues that matter most in today's world.**

ECHOES BEYOND THE GUN FIRE



IBTISAAM CHOUDHARY

One year shook us to the core, Left us trembling, fear more. It opened eyes, broke the lies Revealed the truth we long disguise. How vital now is kindness shown, A helping hand when we are alone. In times of pain, through grief We learned the worth of a gentle life. In the darkest hour, hands reached out, No place for hate, no room for doubt. A stranger's pain became our own, And kindness in our hearts was sown. But, why in peace do we turn away, When silent tears beg us to stay? We pass the weak with hardened eyes, Ignore their wounds, their unheard cries. When hardship knocks at every door, We turn to kindness, rich and poor. We whisper prayers, recall His name. But in the calm of normal days, Do we still walk in kinder ways? Do we pause for the helpless souls,



Or pass them by; with our hollow souls. Today we speak of empathy, Of kindness, love and humanity. But aren't we those who shaped this land, With hardened hearts and selfish hands. For us, it was a battle, a fight we could see But for the weak, the poor, the speechless, it's their daily plea. Everyday they face a war, a silent strife Crushed beneath our apathy!! We see them there, yet do we see? A begging hand, empty stomachs? If we can love when skies are gray, Why not show warmth every day? Why wait for storms to make us see? That kindness is the way to be!! **This poem is written by IBTISAAM CHOUDHARY from Poonch, J&K & can be contacted at ibtisamchoudhary1000@gmail.com**

Govt appoints 122 Junior Assistants to address clerical staff shortage in RDD New recruits to enhance rural governance, ease workload in districts: Aijaz Asad

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: In a major Human Resource boost to the rural sector, the Jammu and Kashmir government has appointed 122 Junior Assistants (UT/Divisional/District Cadre) in the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR) department, addressing a critical shortage of clerical staff that had plagued the field offices since 2021. The appointments, finalized through the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), followed the referral made by the Rural Development Department to the recruitment agency. The final selection list, issued recently, marks completion of a prolonged process aimed at addressing the staffing gap that had persisted since 2021. The appointments included

a structured distribution across various administrative levels, with 1 post allocated at the UT level, 2 posts each for the divisional cadres of Jammu and Kashmir, 55 posts distributed among districts in the Jammu division and 62 posts assigned to districts in the Kashmir division. The recruitment drive is aimed to fill the critical clerical and executive staff vacancies at district-level RDD offices and Block Development Offices (BDO) throughout the UT. Secretary, RDD&PR, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, emphasized that the recruitment is a significant boost for the department and will strengthen the public service delivery mechanism. "The recruitment of Junior Assistants is a long-overdue measure, aimed at reinforcing rural governance and ensuring timely service delivery



to the public," he asserted. Aijaz Asad said that the newly recruited Junior Assistants will play a pivotal role in expediting the file processing in rural offices, improving public

grievance redressal systems, strengthening implementation of welfare schemes and providing much needed support to the overburdened Block Development Offices (BDOs),

thereby enhancing the overall efficiency of rural governance in Jammu and Kashmir. Among the 122 posts, 120 have been cleared for immediate appointment, while 2 posts are withheld pending further recommendations. The selected candidates are required to submit their Personal Verification Roll (PVR) within 21 days to secure their appointment. Last year, the Jammu and Kashmir government appointed 1,395 Panchayat Secretaries across various districts, significantly bolstering the workforce in the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR) department. Prior to that, the government had appointed 1,889 Panchayat Accounts Assistants. Aijaz Asad said that the newly recruited Junior Assistants will play a pivotal role in expe-

ditioning the file processing in rural offices, improving public grievance redressal systems, strengthening implementation of welfare schemes and providing much needed support to the overburdened Block Development Offices (BDOs), thereby enhancing the overall efficiency of rural governance in Jammu and Kashmir. Among the 122 posts, 120 have been cleared for immediate appointment, while 2 posts are withheld pending further recommendations. The selected candidates are required to submit their Personal Verification Roll (PVR) within 21 days to secure their appointment. Last year, the Jammu and Kashmir government appointed 1,395 Panchayat Secretaries across various districts, significantly bolstering the workforce in the Rural Development

Commerce Guru Academy Organizes Inspiring Awareness Program on Shaping Healthy Society In Lal Bazar Srinagar

HT News Network



Srinagar May 14— Commerce Guru Academy successfully organized a meaningful Awareness Program aimed at fostering informed, responsible, and active citizenship among youth. The event brought together students, educators, and social leaders to discuss the vital role awareness plays in shaping a progressive society.

The program was graced by Mr. Touseef Raina, youth icon and former Chairman of the Municipal Council Baramulla, who delivered a powerful message on social responsibility and community engagement. Also in attendance was prominent social worker Syed Aijaz Kashani, who emphasized the importance of youth involvement in societal development. Mr. Salim Mir, Chairman of Commerce Guru, shared his thoughts on how awareness can act as a catalyst for positive change and urged the younger generation to remain informed and active in their communities. The President of Commerce Guru Academy, Miss Fajar, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed guests and participants for their valuable presence and contributions to the event's success. The event featured a series of engaging skits performed by students, highlighting real-life stories.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as Saqib Ahmad S/O Bashir Ahmad Baba R/O Jawahirpora Lam Pulwama in aadhar card bearing aadhar card no 4064-6659-2979 while my correct name is Saqib Bashir BaBa S/O Bashir Ahmad Baba which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned Aadhar authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name... Saqib Bashir Baba
S/O Bashir Ahmad Baba R/O Jawahirpora Lam Pulwama

CUKashmir extends application deadline for faculty positions

HT News Network

Ganderbal, May 13: Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) has extended the last date for submission of online application forms for the posts of Professors and Associate Professors, advertised Vide Notification Nos. 06 and 07 of 2025, respectively, dated April 11, 2025. The new deadline for submitting the online application is May 19, 2025, while the last date for submitting the downloaded application form along with annexures is May 26, 2025. Interested candidates can access the detailed notifications and apply through the official university website: www.cukashmir.ac.in.

SKUAST-K Extends Admission Deadline to May 17

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 14 (KNS): Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has extended the last date for submission of online admission forms for undergraduate and post-graduate courses. The new deadline for submitting applications is May 17, 2025. Candidates seeking admission to various UG and PG programs at SKUAST-K are advised to complete their applications before the extended date.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughter's name has been wrongly written as HADIYA JAAN bearing id no 101002610397 in DOB certificate in Hospital record while her correct name is DUA JAAN which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of BMO / SDH KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...MEHRAJ AHMAD DAR F/O DUA JAAN
R/O BANDI PAYEEN TEHSIL...WAGORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for issuance of Pesticides license with DAP, UREA, MOP, NPK, MICRO. in this connection if anybody has any objection in this regard He/She may file same to Plant Protection officer (PPO) Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

MOHD SHAFI MALIK S/O MOHD ABDULLAH MALIK
R/O DOLIPORA KREERI BARAMULLA

Deputy Commissioner Poonch conducts city tour, inspects shelling hit areas

HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 14: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, accompanied by a team of officers of the district administration, conducted a comprehensive city tour today to inspect areas affected by recent cross border shelling and to oversee the administrative response to public safety and infrastructure restoration.

During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner visited Mohalla Shankar Nagar, one of the affected localities in the cross border shelling. He interacted with local residents and assessed the ground situation firsthand.



Expressing concern over the extent of damage caused to residential properties and public infrastructure, he instructed the revenue officials to carry out an immediate and thorough assessment of all losses. He further directed them to submit a consolidated report at the earliest to facilitate prompt relief and rehabilitation measures.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the affected families that the administration is fully committed to ensuring their safety and

well being, and all necessary resources will be mobilized to support them during this difficult time. He emphasized that timely compensation, repair of damaged structures, and relocation where necessary would be taken up on priority.

Later, the DC visited the Divisional Forest Office building, which had also sustained damage due to shelling. He inspected the affected sections and directed concerned officers to begin restoration and renovation work without delay to restore normal functioning of the department.

DDC Ramban Convenes Meeting to Discuss Formulation of District Capex Budget 2025-26

HT News Network

Ramban, May 14: To deliberate on the formulation of the District Capex Budget 2025-26, the District Development Council (DDC) Ramban convened a meeting today under the chairmanship of Chairperson DDC Ramban Dr. Shamshad Shan, at the Conference Hall, Ramban. The meeting was attended by Vice-Chairperson Rabia Beigh, all DDC

Councillors, Chief Executive Officer District Development Council Roshan Lal, Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, ACD Shrinath Suman, ACP Ashfaq Ahmed and other concerned officers. At the outset, the house observed two minutes of silence to condole the sad demise of the Additional District Development Commissioner Rajouri Raj Kumar Thapa, who lost his life in a recent cross-border shell-

ing incident at Rajouri. During the meeting, the Chairperson informed that Rs. 60 crore have been earmarked under the District Capex Budget 2025-26 for developmental activities across the district. She took a detailed review of the progress achieved under various sectors and emphasized that the planning process for the upcoming financial year must be participatory and inclusive.

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER & B DIVISIONS OPPORE.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No- 10 of R&B-Sopore of 2025-2026e-tendering DATED 14.05.2025
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/D OC (In Rupees)	E/Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. Hof Account
01	Construction of Boys Toilet at Boys Higher Secondary School Sopore.	22.919	800/-	44400/-	90 days	05.06.2025	BEE/CEE	PAB Samagra Shiksha 2024-25

Project Authority: Director Education (Samagra)
Position of funds: Available
Position of AAA/TS / Accorded
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

S.No.	Date of issue of tender Notice	14.05.2025
1	Date of issue of tender Notice	14.05.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	14.05.2025
3	Bid Submission start date	14.05.2025
4	Bid submission End date	04.06.2025 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	05.06.2025 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore

2, Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan and CDR (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
3, At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the quoted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period
3(b) Geo tech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x 21 cm to be provided.
All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per -NIT No. 01 of 2025-26
21, If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected outrightly.
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&KUT,

Send Dated: 14.05.2025.
DIPK-1402/25
Pub Date: 15-05-25

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore

اطلاع عام
ہر خاص عام کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بیٹے رحمان احمد وانی ولد جاوید احمد وانی ساکن پھلگام DOB 27-07-2020 سرٹیفکٹ مطابق پھلگام ڈی ایچ ایس سکول میں داخلہ دیا گیا ہے۔ اس کی تصدیق کرانی مطلوب ہے۔ اگر کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ سات یوم تک مجلس تعلیمی کے دفتر میں پیش کرے۔ بعد از معاذ کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المستہتر
جاوید احمد وانی والد رحمان احمد ساکن پھلگام

اطلاع عام
ہر خاص عام کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ مجھے غلطی سے سکول کا ڈیٹا میں میری بیٹی کی اڑان ہوئی ہے۔ جبکہ میری بیٹی کی اصل DOB 25/09/2011 ہے۔ اب اس کی تصدیق کرانی مطلوب ہے۔ کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر گورنمنٹ مڈل سکول ماسل کے دفتر میں پیش کرے۔ بعد از معاذ کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المستہتر
محمد اسرف لاوے والد جاسمین اسرف ساکن مامل پھلگام

اطلاع عام
ہر خاص عام کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ غلطی سے سکول کا ڈیٹا میں میری بیٹی کی اڑان ہوئی ہے۔ جبکہ میری بیٹی کی اصل DOB 25/09/2011 ہے۔ اب اس کی تصدیق کرانی مطلوب ہے۔ کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر گورنمنٹ مڈل سکول ماسل پھلگام کے دفتر میں پیش کرے۔ بعد از معاذ کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المستہتر
محمد اسرف لاوے والد جاسمین اسرف ساکن مامل پھلگام

IUST Celebrates International Nurses Day 2025
HT News Network

Awantipora, May 14: The Syed Mantaqui Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (SMMCN&MT), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) commemorated International Nurses Day 2025 with the theme Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for Nurses. Strengthens Economies. The aim of the program was to honour the invaluable contributions of nurses and to promote awareness, support, and advancement in the nursing profession.

Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor, IUST, emphasized that nursing is a service rooted in compassion and commitment. He noted the challenges nurses face in J&K, including a low nurse-to-population ratio and workplace hardships, calling for advanced solutions and institutional support.

Prof. Ayaz Hassan Moon, Dean Academics, IUST, underscored the historical roots of nursing in Islamic tradition and highlighted IUST's focus on digital and simulation-based training for nurses. Registrar Prof. Abdul Wahid praised the dedication of nurses, especially in crises, and called for their greater recognition and support.

Ms. Neelofar Jan, Principal Nursing College, unveiled the event theme, lauding nurses as the backbone of healthcare who serve selflessly even in the toughest conditions. The program featured a solemn lamp-lighting ceremony in honour of Florence Nightingale, followed by an Oath-Taking Ceremony led by Ms. Onaisa Aalia Mushtaq.

Javid Dar inaugurates macadamization work on Sopore Fruit Mandi; reviews development projects in Achabal

HT News Network

SOPORE, MAY 14: In a major step towards strengthening the Horticulture infrastructure in North Kashmir, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today visited the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi Sopore and inaugurated the long awaited macadamization work on the Mandi premises. The macadamization project, being executed by the Roads & Buildings (R&B) department at an estimated cost of Rs 117.63 lakh, aims to improve

transportation and trading conditions for the fruit growers and dealers. This development fulfills a long pending demand of the fruit growers of North Kashmir.

While speaking to the media, the Minister said that the government is committed towards creating a comprehensive and grower friendly environment in the Mandi. "Along with road improvement, we are also working to enhance the facilities for the labourers, including construction of a Labour Sarai and other essential amenities to support their welfare, he added". He announced that a Mega Kisan



Mela will be organized soon at Sopore Mandi to promote awareness, show-

case innovations in the horticulture sector and connect the growers with new market opportunities.

In terms of security and infrastructure, Javid Dar said that additional CCTV cameras and high mast lights will soon be installed across the Mandi premises to ensure better surveillance, safety and night time functioning.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar; Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing; Director Animal Husbandry and Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore. The team inspected ongoing works

and interacted with various stakeholders at the Mandi.

Later, the Minister visited Achabal Sopore and inspected the newly constructed New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) building. He directed the concerned executing agency to expedite the formal handover of the facility to the Health Department so that it can be made operational at the earliest.

Javid Dar stressed the need for timely completion and effective utilization of public assets, saying that projects must translate into services without delay for benefit of the people.

DC Ganderbal holds public outreach program at Safapora

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, MAY 14: District Administration Ganderbal today held a public outreach program at the conference hall of Manasbal Development Authority to address public grievances and review developmental progress in Block Safapora.

The program was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, and attended by DDC Member Safapora, ADDC, ASP, ACD, ACP, ACR, officers of various departments. Senior citizens, youth, and the general public of the area actively participated in the event.

During the interactive session, locals and public representatives raised various issues concerning public welfare and development.

These included the beautification of Manasbal Lake, vaccination camps for livestock, improved healthcare facilities, deployment of adequate staff at



Higher Secondary School Safapora, establishment of an additional receiving station at Kohistan Colony, provision of 24x7 power supply in metered areas, replacement of old water pipes, widening Safapora to Beehama road, legacy waste removal, repair of Lar Canal among other vital concerns. The representatives also appre-

ciated the visible developmental achievements in Block Safapora. Responding to the issues raised, DC assured that all genuine public demands will be addressed on priority. He instructed the concerned departments to assess the viability of the proposed demands and ensure time-bound redressal of grievances.

Highlighting the importance of irrigation for the farming community, the DC directed I&FC department to undertake desilting of irrigation canals and to initiate urgent repair works on the Lar Canal.

To address waste management concerns, BDO Safapora was directed to ensure door-to-door waste collection, as well as lifting and proper disposal of legacy waste from roadsides.

While interacting with the public, DC emphasized the administration's commitment to developing Manasbal Lake as a premier tourist destination, and urged locals to actively participate in maintaining its cleanliness and ecological health.

The DC also encouraged the youth to approach Agriculture and allied departments to explore employment generation opportunities under schemes like HADP, noting that Block Safapora holds significant potential in these sectors.

DIC Kulgam organizes awareness programme under RAMP

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MAY 14: District Industries Centre (DIC) Kulgam today organised an awareness creation cum outreach programme under RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) at Municipal Committee Devsar.

Officers from line departments viz. Lead District Manager Kulgam, besides representatives from KVIB, SICOP, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Handicrafts/ Handloom, CSCs and Cooperatives Department, Industrial Promotion Officers and other officials of DIC Kulgam were present in the programme. More than 100 beneficiaries from various departments, viz. Handicrafts/ Handloom, Cooperatives, Agriculture



and industrial unit holders of DIC Kulgam attended the programme.

In the inaugural address, participants and other stakeholders were sensitized about the importance and vibrancy of Udyam Registration for taking their business and industrial establishments to new heights in collaboration with the Government and the flagship

schemes run by it.

The process flow and benefits under Udyam Registration was explained to the participants through a detailed powerpoint presentation by the IPOs of DIC, Kulgam.

On the occasion, officers also interacted with the participants regarding entrepreneurship and the benefits of registration.

Medical camp, Yoga sessions organised at Keegam, Kapran of Shopian

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 14: On the directions of Director AYUSH J&K, Dr. Nuzhat Bashir Shah, a series of wellness activities were conducted today in Shopian. A Medical Camp was organised at Astanpora, Keegam by a team of AHWC Keegam and AHWC Zarkan, providing essential healthcare services to the local community.

In continuation of the countdown to the 11th International Yoga Day, a Yoga session was also held at Government Higher Secondary School Kapran. The session focused on promoting holistic health and well-being through yoga, receiving active participation from students and staff.

DLSA Budgam organises awareness programme

HT News Network

BUDGAM, MAY 14: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, in collaboration with Legal Literacy Club, Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam conducted an awareness programme on the Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Scheme, 2024.

The programme was held under the supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman, DLSA Budgam and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam. Members of the Legal Services Unit for Mentally ill Individuals and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM), students, teachers & officials of DLSA and Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam attended the programme. All the participants actively engaged in comprehensive discussions to deepen their understanding of the NALSA scheme 2024 and strategize its effective execution. The scheme's significance in ensuring access to justice for Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities was discussed at length. Assistant LADC Budgam, Zahoor Ahmad Malik addressed the attendees, highlighted the significance of the NALSA Scheme 2024 in safeguarding the individuals with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities. He emphasized the necessity of a collaborative approach to ensure the scheme's successful implementation. He stressed the importance of equipping participants with the knowledge and tools required for effective implementation of the scheme, ensuring justice reaches the most vulnerable sections of society and implementation of the NALSA scheme 2024 & also shared his practical experiences in the field. All the participants actively participated in the discussions, sharing insights and experiences contributing to a broader understanding.

RAMP awareness programme held at Ramnagri, Shopian

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 14: As part of its ongoing efforts to boost the local entrepreneurial ecosystem, District Industries Centre (DIC) Shopian today conducted a programme on formalization of MSMEs under RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) for block Ramnagri at the Govt. Higher Secondary School, Ramnagri.

The event was attended by a diverse group of over 75 participants from handicrafts, SHGs, MSMEs, traders, entrepreneurs, etc.

Programme aimed to create awareness around Udyam Registration and facilitate access to various Government support schemes for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises.

The session commenced with a detailed presentation highlighting the Udyam Registration process, its benefits, and the role it



plays in formalizing and strengthening MSMEs. The importance of aligning with flagship Government schemes was emphasized, showcasing how such initiatives can drive business growth and sustainability.

Speakers from District Industries Centre Shopian engaged with the audience, offering insights, importance of Udyam in availing various Government schemes.

They encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs to make the most of available platforms and support systems.

An interactive session towards the end provided a forum for participants to seek clarifications and share feedback, reinforcing the commitment of District Industries Centre Shopian to foster a vibrant and inclusive MSME sector in the region.

Suhaib Appointed as General Secretary of RRV's Muslim Wing in J&K

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 14: In a significant organizational development, Suhaib Ayoub Bandh, a native of Kaichachkoot, Awantipora, has been appointed as the General Secretary of the Muslim Wing of Rashtra Raksha Vahini for the Jammu & Kashmir region.



The appointment, which was made with the approval of Honorable Abhijeet Vishen, the National President of Rashtra Raksha Vahini, marks a strategic step in strengthening the party's presence and structure in the region.

Known for his commitment to grassroots activism, Suhaib Ayoub Bandh is expected to play a pivotal role in mobilizing dedicated volunteers and expanding the reach of the organization's ideology. His responsibilities will include promoting the values, principles, and policies of the Rashtra Raksha Vahini among the masses and nurturing disciplined leadership across the union territory.

In a statement issued by the organization, it was emphasized that the role comes with significant responsibility and accountability. Any involvement in criminal activities or actions against the organization will result in immediate revocation of the position and termination of membership.

Suhaib Ayoub Bandh's appointment has been welcomed by many within the organization who see it as a move towards inclusive leadership and structured growth in the region.

DC Reasi holds Public Outreach Camp at Panthal, inspects developmental works

HT News Network

REASI, MAY 14: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today convened a comprehensive public outreach camp during her tour to Block Panthal conducted to review ongoing developmental works and address public grievances. The camp was held at the Community Hall, Sira Kotla, Panthal and witnessed active participation from locals, including DDC members, Ex-Sarpanches, Panches and the general public.

During the camp, the locals projected varied demands seeking adequate and safe drinking water supply, road blacktopping and widening, implementation of schemes for Agriculture development, resolving disputes to facilitate execution of projects and timely pension disbursement. The DC gave a patient hearing to all the concerns and issued on-spot directions to the concerned departments for timely redressal of issues. She instructed



the PHE Department to conduct water quality testing, particularly to monitor and reduce calcium levels, and submit an action taken report. Regarding the delayed cases of widow pensions, she directed the Social Welfare Department officials to make a list of left out beneficiaries and convene a special camp to address the issues. Addressing electricity-related grievances, DC Malik directed the PDD Department to conduct a thorough assessment for the requirement of additional poles to fix low-lying wires and resolve low voltage issues. She also

encouraged locals to avail PM Surya Ghar Bijli Yojana, while asking the concerned government functionaries to spread community awareness for its broader implementation. In a move to promote local agriculture, the Agriculture Department was asked to explore the feasibility of establishing a dedicated counter for the local Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) to boost output and sales. The PWD Department was instructed to ensure that all road works are executed as per approved DPRs, and observing zero tolerance against encroachments that might

hinder project progress. Discussions were also held to expedite the construction of a vegetable shed near the railway station. The DC assured the public that all projected issues would be resolved within the stipulated timeframe and that action taken reports would be submitted for monitoring and transparency.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited several developmental sites in Panthal. She inspected the cleanliness of local ponds, reviewed facilities at the Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG), inspected the newly constructed Panchayat Ghar building at Sira Kotla, and visited the lemon-grass processing unit and the project being executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). She also visited a polyhouse set up by the Agriculture Department and stressed the need to replicate such initiatives to enhance farmer welfare. Additionally, the DC visited the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) building to review its current status and explore possibilities.

Mission Director reviews implementation of key HADP components

HT News Network



JAMMU, MAY 14: Secretary Agriculture Production Department, J&K and Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) Sandeep Kumar today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation of different components of the HADP. The meeting was held here in the Conference Hall Directorate of Agriculture Krishi Bhawan. The review session was attended by Project Grounding and Monitoring Committees, Directors of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Sericulture and Sheep Husbandry from both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, alongside representatives from SKUAST-Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir. Officers from the Kashmir division joined the proceedings virtually.

Key agenda items included a review of the action taken on decisions from previous meetings, submission of training calendars, and the status of farmer training initiatives. Progress updates were also shared regarding the Daksh Kisan Portal and the Kisan Sathi Portal, particularly in relation to course completion and farmer registration, respectively.

During the meeting, Sandeep Kumar directed all departments to fast-track the implementation of assigned tasks and ensure robust inter-departmental coordination for effective execution of developmental projects under HADP.

A detailed review of all ongoing projects under HADP was conducted. The Mission Director instructed concerned officers to adhere strictly to projects timelines and objectives. He particularly emphasized the need to strengthen the agricultural marketing system to enhance the sale and distribution of produce, including infrastructure development for marketing fruits and vegetables. In the livestock sector, the Mission Director stressed the importance of improving animal health, breeding programs, and value addition through various schemes and initiatives under HADP.

Special focus was given to the area expansion of millets under the Promotion of Nutri-Cereals (Millets) project. Sandeep Kumar highlighted the significance of Research & Development (R&D) in this domain and called for the conservation of traditional landraces and indigenous varieties.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on organizing farmer-centric workshops under HADP, particularly on themes such as organic farming and beekeeping. Progressive farmers will be invited to share their experiences during these events, fostering peer learning and community engagement. Sandeep Kumar further stressed the need for documentation of success stories, which will serve as motivational case studies for the wider farming community.

SDRF 2nd Bn team rescues Woman

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 14: A team of SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu late last evening rescued a woman from the high rise building of GMC Jammu.

"A woman resident of Panjari Mongri, District Udhampur was rescued at midnight, after information was received from PCR Jammu that a lady tried to jump from the building of GMC Jammu. A Rescue Team of SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu immediately rushed towards the spot and by using rescue equipment launched a rescue operation," a hand-out stated.

The swift and timely action of the SDRF rescue team under the supervision of Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu Zahid Naseen Manhas succeeded in saving the precious life. The efforts of the SDRF rescue team were appreciated by the general public and hospital authorities.

NCSC starting free, Stipendiary Coaching, Training for SC, ST Jobseekers

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 14: National Career Service Centre (NCSC) for SC/ST, Jammu- a subordinate office under DGE, Ministry of Labour & Employment (Govt. of India), is going to conduct Free of Cost and Stipendiary Coaching/Training for SC/ST Jobseekers of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The eligible Jobseekers will be imparted "O" level Computer Software and "O" level Computer Hardware & Maintenance (CHM) training through NIELIT & Special Coaching Scheme for One Year.

The Training will likely start from July 1-2025. The minimum eligible Qualification is 10+2 pass, The age limit for Special Coaching Scheme is 18-27 yrs (as on 01-07-2025) & "O" level Computer Software, "O" level Computer Hardware & Maintenance (CHM) is 18-30 yrs (as on 01-07-2025) with Income Certificate up to Rs. 3 Lakh per annum.

Rana advocates mandatory bunkers in border areas to protect lives Assesses damages in shelling-hit areas of Mendhar

HT News Network

MENDHAR, MAY 14: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Environment & Ecology and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today advocated the need for mandatory bunkers for people residing along the Line of Control (LoC) to protect them from erratic shelling in these areas.

He emphasized that the provision of mandatory bunkers would go a long way in ensuring safety of the people living in these vulnerable areas along the LoC.

The Minister, for the second consecutive day, visited various shelling hit areas in Mendhar to assess the extent of losses to property and livestock. He empathised with the victim families who have been affected by the recent shelling incidents. During his visit, the Minister interacted with the affected families, taking stock of their grievances and difficulties. He expressed deep concern over the losses suffered by the people and assured them of all possible support from the government.



Following the visit, the Minister convened a meeting of Sub-Divisional Officers, where he directed them to undertake detailed planning for restoration of the affected public infrastructure. He emphasised the need for prompt action to ensure that normalcy is restored in the area at the earliest besides the essential public ser-

VICES. The Minister instructed the officers to engage closely with the victim families and extend all possible support to them. He directed that compensation to the affected people should be processed expeditiously, ensuring that they receive the necessary assistance to rebuild their lives. The Minister exhorted upon the officers

to demonstrate highest level of commitment to public service and efficiently help the affected communities by taking concrete steps to compensate them. He emphasized that the provision of mandatory bunkers would go a long way in ensuring safety of the people living in these vulnerable areas along the LoC.

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Kishtwar showcases sports excellence: Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions Energize the District

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 14: The Department of Youth Services & Sports, Kishtwar, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, is witnessing a vibrant celebration of youth talent and sports excellence as Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions are being conducted with great enthusiasm across all zones of the District.

The long drawn tournaments, held in Kishtwar, Nagseni, Drabshalla and Paddar Zones, highlighted the athletic abilities, sportsmanship, and team spirit of students from different schools.

The district is pulsating with energy as U-14 girls engage in a diverse range of sports



including Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Rope Skipping, Volleyball, Yoga, Chess, Carrom, and Badminton. Events are being conducted at key venues such as Chowgan Ground, HSS Boys, and ITI, creating a festive atmosphere that promotes camaraderie and healthy competition. The event hosted at BVM

and Chowgan Ground in Zone Nagseni features Chess and Carrom competitions for U-17 boys and girls, along with Yoga sessions for U-14 and U-17 categories (boys and girls). With 233 enthusiastic participants from various schools, the events have showcased a high level of skill, focus, and dedication.

On its fourth consecutive day, Zone Drabshalla conducted Athletics for U-14 boys and girls at Bimalnag Binoon. The competitions have drawn spirited performances from young athletes, who are demonstrating commendable agility and sportsmanship in track and field events.

The Zone Paddar featured Athletics, Cricket, and Yoga for U-14 boys. A total of 45 students, drawn from schools across the zone, are actively participating, showcasing their talent and enthusiasm across multiple disciplines.

All events are being held under the guidance of DYS-SO Jaffer Haider Sheikh. The Zone Paddar featured Athletics, Cricket, and Yoga for U-14 boys. A total of 45 students, drawn from schools across the zone.

DC reviews progress of road projects in Panchari-Moungri area

HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, MAY 14: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting of officers to review the execution of different road projects in Panchari-Moungri and the status of vacant government quarters in the district. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Iqbal and other concerned officers. While reviewing the progress of road works in the Panchari and Moungri areas, the DC directed the concerned officers to strictly adhere to the prescribed specifications and ensure the timely completion of all ongoing projects. The DC further directed the concerned to accelerate the pace of work and ensure that all targets are achieved within the stipulated time frame. Expressing concern over the delay in some projects, the DC instructed the officers to serve show-cause notices to the contractors responsible for the delays.

Jammu Municipal Corporation takes action against unregistered dairies

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 14: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) today carried out a coordinated drive against unregistered cow and buffalo dairies operating within the city limits. The initiative was undertaken to enforce compliance with the municipal regulations regarding animal husbandry and dairy operations. Under the directions of JMC Commissioner Dr Devansh Yadav, Animal Welfare Officer Dr Gourav Chowdhary, in coordination with Tehsildar Bahu Raju Sambhal, SHO Bagh e Bahu Inspector Ashwani Kumar and Dr Divya Sharma and other officials from Veterinary Wing jointly conducted impounding drive across various localities in the city. As a result, several animals were taken into custody from unregistered dairies. AWO, Dr Gourav Chowdhary reiterated that operating an unregistered dairy

DC listens to people's issues at Palmar- Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today convened a public outreach camp at Block Palmar to directly engage with residents and assess their developmental needs.

A large number of locals, including civil society members, participated in the interaction and projected a range of issues of public importance, including augmentation of infrastructure to improve healthcare, education, road connectivity and other civic amenities. The key demands brought to the DC's attention included provision of Fire and



Emergency services, construction of boundary wall at local GHSS and adequate staff in the Educational Institutions. They further demanded Bhandarkoot to Ikhal Road, Lower Palmar to Upper Palmar Road and the payment of pending land compensation and Technical sanctioning to the Hatna-

Palmar Road. Responding to the issue of land compensation and technical sanctioning to the Hatna-Palmar Road, the DC assured that the matter would be taken up with the concerned higher authorities. The DC also shared insights into various ongoing schemes across depart-

ments, including Mission Yuva, HADP, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the Tejasvini Scheme, and the Mumkin Scheme. He urged the youth to actively participate and take full advantage of these initiatives.

Additionally, the DC highlighted the benefits of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (RVY Scheme) and urged the general public to avail themselves of the scheme. The DC emphasized 100% saturation of all centrally sponsored schemes in the Block Palmar.

Locals also raised the issue of ambulance service, to which the DC assured prompt redressal on a priority basis.

Commissioner State Taxes reviews functioning of department in Jammu Stress on revenue augmentation, creating deterrence among defaulters

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 14: Commissioner State Taxes Department, P.K. Bhat Wednesday chaired an extensive review meeting of the State Taxes Department, Jammu Division and assess ongoing activities and streamline strategies for improved tax compliance and revenue augmentation. The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner State Taxes Administration & Enforcement, Jammu, Namrita Dogra and State Taxes Officers from all circles of Jammu Division.

During the meeting, several key issues were discussed, including deemed registrations, TDS mismatch, high-risk cases, return compliance and audit cases. The discussions were held to streamline strategies for improved tax compliance and revenue augmentation.

The Commissioner emphasized the need for ensuring returns compliance and direct-



ed the officers to keep a close watch on taxpayers to prevent any tax evasion. He stressed on ensuring nearly 100% return filing compliance and creating deterrence among the defaulters. The Commissioner emphasized the importance of raising awareness among taxpayers about return filing requirements, particularly the necessity of filing returns with proportionate

liability in cash to meet their tax liabilities. He also directed officers to engage with the taxpayer fraternity and provide guidance to improve compliance.

The meeting also discussed other key issues like identification of Fake ITC Suppliers, monitoring of TDS Payments, action on Intelligence Reports, Audit and Verification of E-Way Bills and other issues.

Addressing the meeting, the Commissioner State Taxes J&K emphasised the pivotal role of the State Taxes Department in ensuring financial discipline and highlighted priority areas requiring immediate attention. With regard to specific issues, the Commissioner directed the officers to ensure proper and efficient monitoring of all deemed registration cases, ensuring proper scrutiny of E-Way Bills as it was identified as a critical component of preventing revenue leakage and ensuring compliance. The officers were advised to check e-way bill on a regular basis the flow of inward and outward supplies so that revenue due is realised. The Commissioner also highlighted the importance of using various tools like MIS (Management Information System), GST Prime. He elaborated on the functionality of GST Prime, emphasizing its potential to provide actionable insights, saving time and energy while enhancing revenue collection.

Convinced India, Pak to let's have peace: President Trump

HT News Network

NEW YORK, May 14: US President Donald Trump has repeated his claim that Washington "got involved" with India and Pakistan, saying he "didn't like what was happening" and that he did a "good job" as he "convinced" the two countries "to let's have peace and let's go and make trade deals."

Trump was speaking to Fox News aboard Air Force One after he wrapped up his Saudi Arabia visit on Tuesday. This is the fifth time since Saturday that Trump has claimed that the US brokered the "ceasefire" between New Delhi and Islamabad.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on Saturday to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Indian government sources in New Delhi have been maintaining that the Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect. They said no third party was involved.

"Well, I've been busy, but I've enjoyed it, because we're getting things accomplished. You can have times when you're working very hard and not getting things done. That happens too, but we're getting a lot done," Trump said in an interview to Fox News' Sean Hannity.

Trump was responding to a question that it has been "an amazing week so far", with the President getting a



trade deal with China, playing a big role in India and Pakistan and slashing prescription drug prices.

"I don't think there's ever been a little period like this with the potential nuclear war. And two countries (India and Pakistan), they have very good leaders, people I know very well. And, yeah, it was, it was a very important process. We got involved with India and Pakistan," Trump said.

When asked to give an insight into what happened behind the scenes, Trump said, "Well, I didn't like what was happening. And you know, they're two very strongly nuclear countries, with very, very powerful amounts of nuclear, too, serious stuff."

"And if that ever started, boy, that's the beginning of something that could be really bad. Even a minimal minimum, you could have millions of people killed and

with one shot, two shots. And I just thought it was something we could get involved in," he said.

"And I did a good job. (Secretary of State) Marco (Rubio) did a good job, and (Vice President) J D (Vance) did a good job. We sort of were a team. And we, I think, convinced them to let's have peace and let's go and make trade deals. If we can make trade deals, we like that much better than nuclear weapons. And that was a great thing."

Hours earlier, addressing a high-level audience at the Saudi-US investment forum in Riyadh, that he doesn't like war and wants to be a peacemaker and unifier.

With Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the audience, along with senior members of the Saudi and American governments, Trump said, "Just days ago, my administration successfully brokered a historic ceasefire to stop the escalating violence between India and Pakistan."

"And I used trade to a large extent to do it. And I said, 'Fellows, come on. Let's make a deal. Let's do some trading,'" Trump, who was in Saudi on the first leg of his four-day Gulf region trip, said to applause from the audience.

Sitting in the audience were billionaire Elon Musk, Rubio and other senior members of the Trump administration as well as the Saudi leadership.

"Let's not trade nuclear missiles. Let's trade the things that you make so beautifully. And they both have very powerful leaders, very strong leaders, good leaders, smart leaders. And it all stopped."

Australian Cabinet sworn in after landslide election victory

HT News Network

CANBERRA, May 14 : Australia's Cabinet was sworn into office Tuesday after the centre-left Labor Party was reelected in a landslide May 3.

With vote counting continuing, Labor expects to hold between 92 and 95 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives. The party held 78 seats in the previous Parliament.

The conservative opposition alliance of parties is on track to win 41 seats in one of its worst election results. The Cabinet held its first meeting after the swearing-in ceremony. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese plans to fly to Jakarta on Wednesday to meet Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto. He then intends to fly from Indonesia to Rome to attend the inauguration of Pope Leo XIV on Sunday. While in Rome, he plans to meet for the first time a range of world leaders including Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney. The conservative opposition Liberal Party on Tuesday elected former minister Sussan Ley as their new leader. She is the first woman to lead the party that was founded in 1944. Her predecessor Peter Dutton is the only Australian opposition leader to lose his parliamentary seat in an election. (AP)

Buckingham Palace says French President Macron accepts invitation for state visit in July

HT News Network

LONDON, May 14 : French President Emmanuel Macron has accepted an invitation from King Charles III to pay a state visit to the UK in July, Buckingham Palace said Tuesday.

Macron and his wife, Brigitte, will stay at Windsor Castle for the visit, which will take place from July 8 to July 10.

Charles and Queen Camilla travelled to France in September 2023 in a visit that underscored Britain's aim to bolster ties with its closest European neighbour. The trip came after years of sometimes prickly relations strained by Britain's exit from the European Union and by disagreements over the growing number of migrants crossing the English Channel on small boats. (AP)

Nepal aims to draw world attention on climate issues through mountain dialogue

HT News Network

KATHMANDU, May 14 : Delegates and subject experts from 12 countries, including from India and China, are expected to attend a summit to discuss and raise awareness about climate change and its impacts on mountain countries here next week, it was announced Tuesday. 'Sagarmatha Samba', or the Mountain Dialogue, with a central theme 'Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity' will take place here from May 16 to 18 and is expected to attract around 300 participants, with 50 per cent foreign delegates. Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world, is known as Sagarmatha in Nepalese. "The high-level dialogue forum aims to address the pressing global environmental concerns and challenges, particularly the climate change adversely affecting the mountainous regions and vulnerable communities," organisers of the event said at a press briefing here. One of the major objectives of the upcoming event is to provide a suitable platform for multi-stakeholder, inter-regional global dialogue in Nepal on pressing contemporary issues facing the world, according to Lok Bahadur Paudel Chettri, joint secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and also the coordinator of the Publicity Committee of the event. The participants will discuss the impact of climate change — from Himalayas to sea, sustainable green economy, climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, climate justice and future of humanity, and regional and global partnership to tackle the global climate crisis, the organisers said. Delegates from 12 countries, including from India and China, will include ministers, high-ranking government officials, diplomats, representatives of donor agencies, climate change experts and environmentalists.

Netanyahu says Israel to enter Gaza with full force in coming days

HT News Network

JERUSALEM, May 14: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that in the coming days, the Israeli army will enter Gaza "with full force to complete the move and defeat Hamas," according to a statement issued by his office on Tuesday.

Speaking to wounded reserve soldiers on Monday, Netanyahu said, "With your spirit, we are going to a total victory. Eliminating Hamas and releasing all our hostages, it works together." He added, "Hamas may say, 'That's it, we want to release 10 more hostages.' Okay, bring them. We'll take them, and then we'll enter, but there will be no way we will stop the war. We can make a ceasefire for a certain period, but we're going to the end."

Indian heritage Anita Anand is Canada's new foreign minister; Sidhu given International Trade

HT News Network

OTTAWA, May 14: Indo-Canadians Anita Anand and Maninder Sidhu have landed important portfolios in the new cabinet announced by Prime Minister Mark Carney after reshuffle.

While Anand was appointed as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sidhu is the new Minister for International Trade in the new cabinet announced on Tuesday.

Carney announced the reshuffle almost two weeks after his Liberal Party won the federal elections in Canada. He had replaced Justin Trudeau months ahead of the elections.



Anand, 58, was the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry before the polls and in the past has served in the roles including of defence minister. She replaced Melanie Joly, who is now the Minister of Industry. "I am honoured to be named Canada's

Minister of Foreign Affairs. I look forward to working with Prime Minister Mark Carney and our team to build a safer, fairer world and deliver for Canadians," Anand, an MP from Oakville East, posted on X soon after taking oath.

Sidhu, 41, also took to X after swearing-in and said, it is an "honour of a lifetime" to be appointed as Canada's International Trade Minister.

"I'm grateful to Prime Minister @MarkCarney for the confidence he's placed in me to diversify trade, support Canadian businesses in reaching new global markets, and help create good-paying jobs across Canada," he said.

Hope parties will use deal for outstanding issues: UN spokesperson on India, Pak understanding

HT News Network

UNITED NATIONS, May 14: With India and Pakistan having reached an understanding to end hostilities "we're in a better place," a spokesperson for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said and hoped the countries would use it to deal with their "outstanding issues".

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. "The ceasefire is holding. I think we have seen we're in a better place than we were before. We hope that the ceasefire will continue to hold, and we hope that the parties will use this to deal with a lot of the outstanding issues between them," Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the Secretary-General, said at the daily press briefing Tuesday.

India carried out precision strikes under 'Operation Sindoor' on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people. Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

After announcing the understanding, Indian government sources in New Delhi have maintained that the Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan reached the understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immedi-



ate effect. They said no third party was involved.

Guterres had earlier welcomed the "ceasefire" agreement between India and Pakistan, describing it as a "positive step" toward ending current hostilities and easing tensions.

Guterres said he hopes "the agreement will contribute to lasting peace and foster an environment conducive to addressing broader, longstanding issues between the two countries," Dujarric had said in a statement on Saturday. The United Nations stands ready to support efforts aimed at promoting peace and stability in the region, it had said. Meanwhile, New York City Mayor Eric Adams said in a post on X that "New York City is home to vibrant Indian and Pakistani communities, whose ties to their homelands run deep. The recent ceasefire brings hope to many New Yorkers, and we stand with all those who long for lasting peace." (PTI)

Ceasefire between Israel, Hamas has been violated many times: Qatari PM

HT News Network

DOHA, May 13 : Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Palestinian movement Hamas was not fully implemented due to numerous violations. The three-stage ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas was reached by the parties in January 2025 with the mediation of the United States, Egypt and Qatar. However, the ceasefire was no longer observed in March. "As a mediator, I try as much as possible not to be critical of one party over the other, but there were a lot of problems and violations that took place in the first deal that didn't allow us to win the trust between the parties to continue with the second phase of the deal," Al Thani told The Washington Post newspaper on Monday. The prime minister added that he had no information on whether US President Donald Trump intended to speak out in favor of a Palestinian state during his Middle East tour, which includes a visit to Doha.

"We didn't hear anything like this, but this is the ultimate solution. Qatar has been from the beginning a strong believer in the two-state solution," Al Thani said, adding that many aspects would be discussed during the talks with Trump, the most important of which are security and defense. On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said after



a meeting with US envoy Steve Witkoff that a delegation will be sent to Qatar on May 13 to continue talks on a settlement in the Gaza Strip and the release of hostages. The prime minister added that he had no information on whether US President Donald Trump intended to speak out in favor of a Palestinian state during his Middle East tour, which includes a visit to Doha. "We didn't hear anything like this, but this is the ultimate solution. Qatar has been from the beginning a strong believer in the two-state solution," Al Thani said, adding that many aspects would be discussed during the talks with Trump, the most important of which are security and defense. On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said after a meeting with US envoy Steve Witkoff.

Trump, Saudi crown prince sign host of agreements as US leader begins 4-day Mideast tour

HT News Network

RIYADH, May 14: US President Donald Trump signed a host of economic and bilateral cooperation agreements in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday as he kicked off a four-day Middle East trip with a focus on dealmaking with a key Mideast ally while shared concerns about Iran's nuclear programme and the war in Gaza dragged on in the background.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi de facto ruler, warmly greeted Trump as he stepped off Air Force One at King Khalid International Airport in the Saudi capital. The two leaders then retreated to a

grand hall at the Riyadh airport, where Trump and his aides were served traditional Arabic coffee by waiting attendants wearing ceremonial gun belts.

"I really believe we like each other a lot," Trump said later during a brief appearance with the crown prince at the start of a bilateral meeting.

They later signed more than a dozen agreements to increase cooperation between their governments' militaries, justice departments and cultural institutions. Additional economic agreements were expected to be inked later Tuesday at a US-Saudi investment conference convened for the occasion. Prince Mohammed has already com-



mitted to some USD 600 billion in new Saudi investment in the US, but Trump teased USD 1 trillion would

be even better. The pomp began before Trump even landed. Royal Saudi Air Force F-15s provided an

honorary escort for Air Force One as it approached the kingdom's capital — an exceptionally rare sight.

Trump and Prince Mohammed also took part in a formal greeting and lunch at the Royal Court at Al Yamamah Palace, gathering with guests and aides in an ornate room with blue and gold accents and massive crystal chandeliers.

As he greeted business titans with Trump by his side, Prince Mohammed was animated and smiling. It was a stark contrast to his awkward fist bump with then-President Joe Biden, who looked to avoid being seen on camera shaking hands with the prince during a 2022 visit to the kingdom.

Biden had decided to pay a visit to Saudi Arabia as he looked to alleviate soaring prices at the pump for motorists at home and around the globe. At the time, Prince Mohammed's reputation had been badly damaged by a US intelligence determination that found he had ordered the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

But that dark moment appeared to be distant memory for the prince as he rubbed elbows with high-profile business executives — including Blackstone Group CEO Stephen Schwarzman, BlackRock CEO Larry Fink and Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk — in front of the cameras and with Trump by his side.

Union Cabinet approves semiconductor unit in Uttar Pradesh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 14 (UNI)

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday gave the go-ahead to set up a new semiconductor unit in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, under the India Semiconductor Mission, in order to give the required push to the programme for development and manufacturing of a robust and vibrant ecosystem.

This unit will help to develop electronic devices, microchips and transistor diodes, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a press conference.

He briefed the media about the decision taken at the Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here.

Already five semiconductor units are in advanced stages of construction. With this, the sixth unit, Bharat moves forward in its journey to



develop the strategically vital semiconductor industry, he said.

The unit will be a joint venture of HCL and Foxconn. HCL has a long history of developing and manufacturing hardware. Foxconn is a global major in electronics manufacturing. Together they will set up a plant near Jewar airport in the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority or YEIDA.

This plant will manu-

facture display driver chips for mobile phones, laptops, automobiles, PCs, and myriad of other devices that have display.

The plant is designed for 20,000 wafers per month. The design output capacity is 36 million units per month.

The Semiconductor industry is now shaping up across the country. World-class design facilities have come up in many states across the country. State governments are

vigorously pursuing the design firms.

Students and entrepreneurs in 270 academic institutions and 70 start-ups are working on world class latest design technologies for developing new products. 20 products developed by the students of these academic institutions have been taped out by SCL Mohali.

The new semiconductor unit approved today will attract investment of Rs 3,700 crore.

As the country moves forward in its semiconductor journey, the eco system partners have also established their facilities in India. Applied Materials and Lam Research are two of the largest equipment manufacturers.

Both have a presence in India now. Merck, Linde, Air Liquide, Inox, and many other gas and chemical suppliers are gearing up for growth of our semiconductor industry.

Justice BR Gavai takes oath as 52nd Chief Justice of India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 14 (UNI)

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai on Wednesday took over as the 52nd Chief Justice of India.

President Droupadi Murmu administered him the oath of office and secrecy at a simple but impressive ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior Cabinet ministers were present at the oath ceremony.

Justice Gavai succeeds Chief Justice Sanjeev Khanna who superannuated on Tuesday. He will serve as CJI for six months only and is going to complete his term by November 23.

Justice Gavai's wife, his mother and other family members were present on the occasion. After taking oath as Chief Justice, he touched his mother's feet. Justice Khanna retired



as the 51st Chief Justice on Tuesday, May 13. He had recommended Justice Gavai as his successor. He was promoted as a judge of the SC on May 24, 2019. He will retire on November 23, 2025. It is worth noting that the retirement age of judges in the Supreme Court is 65 years.

Justice Gavai's elevation is being considered a milestone in the history of the apex court, as he is the second person from the Scheduled Caste community to reach the top post in the judiciary after former Chief Justice KG

Balakrishnan.

Justice Gavai is the son of RS Gavai, a well-known politician, prominent Ambedkarite, former MP and governor of many states.

He started practising law on March 16, 1985, after completing his BA, LLB degree from Nagpur University. He practised independently in the Bombay High Court from 1987 to 1990. After the year 1990, he practised mainly in constitutional law and administrative law before the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court.

Justice Gavai was pro-

moted as an additional judge of the High Court on November 14, 2003. He became a permanent judge of the Bombay High Court on November 12, 2005.

Justice Gavai, during his tenure as a High Court judge, headed benches with all kinds of workloads, including the principal bench at Mumbai as well as benches at Nagpur, Aurangabad and Panaji.

He laid the foundation of his legal career till 1987 (a brief stint) with late barrister Raja S. Bhosale, former advocate general of Maharashtra and judge of Bombay High Court.

The new CJI has been part of several constitutional bench judgements in the apex court, including those on demonetisation, Article 370, the electoral bond scheme and sub-classification within SC/ST categories. He had strongly advocated the introduction of a creamy layer among SC/ST.

India rejects China's 'vain and preposterous attempts' at renaming Arunachal Pradesh places

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 14 (UNI)

India today slammed China for its "vain and preposterous attempts" to name places in Arunachal Pradesh, and rejected the move saying such creative naming will not alter the reality of the North East state being an integral part of India.

The MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, said in a statement,

"We have noticed that China has persisted with its vain and preposterous attempts to name places in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

"Consistent with our principled position, we reject such attempts categorically.

"Creative naming will not alter the undeniable reality that Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of



India."

China's move came after Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Tuesday held his cabinet Meeting at Kibithu, the last outpost along the India-China (Tibet) border in the state's Anjaw district, as part of his government's 'Cabinet Aapke Dwar' concept.

Beijing's latest attempt at renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh, which it considers as South

Tibet, also comes after the Indian air force heavily damaged Chinese-origin long-range, surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems during its bombing of Pakistani air bases. These Chinese made systems were considered the backbone of Pakistan's layered air defence network.

Pakistan's HQ-9 system, developed by China, is designed to intercept aircraft, cruise missiles, UAVs, and tactical ballistic missiles.

Pak hands over captured BSF jawan

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 14 (UNI)

BSF Jawan Purnam Kumar Shaw, who had been in the custody of Pakistan Rangers since April 23, was handed over to India at the Attari border in Punjab, according to a statement from the Border Security Force.

"Today at 1030 hrs Constable Purnam Kumar Shaw has been taken back from Pakistan by BSF at Attari Wagha border. Constable Purnam Kumar Shaw had inadvertently crossed over to Pakistan territory, while on operational duty in area of Ferozepur sector on April 23, 2025 around 1150 hrs and detained by Pak Rangers," a BSF statement said.

"With the consistent efforts of BSF through regular flag meetings with Pakistan Rangers and through other communication channels, the repatriation of BSF constable has become possible."

SC grills Centre over blanket blood donation ban on some sections

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 14 (UNI)

In a crucial hearing on petitions challenging the blanket prohibition on blood donations by transgender persons, gay men, and sex workers, the Supreme Court on Tuesday urged the Union government to consult medical experts to explore how the "discriminatory elements" of existing guidelines can be revised without compromising public health and safety.

A bench comprising justices Surya Kant and N. Kotiswar Singh questioned the scientific basis and social consequences of the 2017 "Guidelines on Blood Donor Selection and Referral" issued by the National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC) and the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), under the Health Ministry.

Clauses in the guidelines classify transgender persons, men who have



sex with men (MSM), and female sex workers as "high-risk" for HIV and permanently bar them from donating blood.

Justice Singh raised a pointed concern with Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre:

"What is troubling me is this, are we branding an entire community as risky? Are we, in effect, institutionalising stigma? Unless backed by clear medical data, you cannot assume all transgender persons or gay men engage in risky behaviours. Even hetero-

sexual people can and do," Justice Singh said.

When Bhati defended the guidelines as being based on scientific and medical assessments of risk by the NBTC, Justice Singh countered, "Aren't we inadvertently reinforcing prejudice and social exclusion by forming a segregated group under these guidelines?"

Justice Surya Kant emphasized the need for balance between precaution and inclusion, remarking:

"Please engage with domain experts. It's essen-

tial that communities are not stigmatized, even as we uphold the necessary safeguards for medical safety."

The case stems from three separate petitions filed by LGBTQ+ advocates author and journalist Sharif D. Rangnekar, activist Thangjam Santa Singh, and activist Harish Iyer all asserting that the 2017 donor guidelines violate fundamental rights to equality, dignity, and life.

The petitioners argue that the existing norms are not only scientifically outdated but also reflect prejudices rooted in the HIV/AIDS panic of the 1980s.

"With modern blood screening technologies, the blanket bans are no longer justified," the pleas contend. They cite reforms in countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada, where donation rules have been liberalized based on individual behaviour rather than group identity.

Anita Anand is Canada's new Foreign Minister; Three South Asians in PM Carney's new cabinet

AGENCIES
OTTAWA/NEW DELHI, MAY 14 (UNI)

Former Indo-Canadian Minister, Anita Anand has been named Canada's new Minister of Foreign Affairs, in Prime Minister Mike Carney's government. She replaces Mélanie Joly, who moves to Industry.

PM Carney announced a major Cabinet shakeup on Tuesday as he shapes a newly re-elected Liberal government.

Anand, MP for Oakville East, Ontario, served previously as Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, Minister of Transport and Internal Trade, President of the Treasury Board, Minister of National Defence, and Minister of Public Services and Procurement.

The other three South Asians in Prime Minister Mark Carney's new cabinet of 28 members announced on Tuesday are:

- Maninder Sidhu (MP



for Brampton East, Ontario), who was appointed Minister of International Trade;

- Shafqat Ali (MP for Brampton—Chinguacousy Park, Ontario), who has been made President of the Treasury Board; and

- Gary Anandasangaree (MP for Scarborough—Guildwood-Rouge Park, Ontario), who has been appointed Minister of Public Safety.

There are two South Asians among the 10 new secretaries of state that were also named:

- Ruby Sahota (MP for Brampton North—Caledon, Ontario), for Combatting Crime; and

- Randeep Sarai (MP for Surrey Centre, B.C.), for International Development.

Carney said: "Canada's new Ministry is built to deliver the change Canadians want and deserve. Everyone is expected and empowered to show leadership - to bring new ideas, a clear focus, and decisive action to their work."

François-Philippe Champagne retains the Finance portfolio. He will also be Revenue Minister.

Dominic LeBlanc will be President of the King's Privy Council for Canada and Minister responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs and One Canadian Economy.

David McGuinty moves from Public Safety to National Defence.

Speaking to reporters after the swearing-in

ceremony, Carney said: "Canadians elected this new government with a strong mandate to define a new economic and security relationship with the United States and to build a stronger economy for all Canadians.

"The Canadians also sent a clear message that their cost of living must come down and that our communities must be safe."

The Prime Minister added: "The swearing-in of this cabinet is amongst the fastest following an election, and the beginning of the new Parliament will be one of the most rapid following an election in Canadian history.

"We are starting as we aim to go on, our government will deliver its mandate for change with urgency and determination. We're going to deliver that mandate with a new team purpose built for this hinge moment in Canada's history."

At least 6 killed in Israeli attack on southern Gaza hospital: Health authority

AGENCIES
GAZA, MAY 14 (UNI)

At least six Palestinians were killed and 40 others injured in an Israeli airstrike on the European Hospital in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, Gaza-based health authorities said in a statement on Tuesday.

The Palestinian official news agency Wafa reported that 16 people had died in the strike, while other media outlets cited rescuers who put the death toll at 28.

Palestinian security sources said the hospital was hit by at least six missiles. Videos circulating on social media showed significant damage to the facility.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said in a statement that it had carried out a "precise strike" in coordination with the Israel Security Agency, targeting Hamas operatives located beneath the



hospital.

According to the IDF, the strike was aimed at an underground Hamas command and control centre. The military accused Hamas of continuing to use hospitals in Gaza to conceal militant infrastructure.

Israeli state broadcaster Kan and other media outlets reported that the strike

targeted Hamas figure Mohammed Sinwar. It remained unclear whether he was among the casualties. Sinwar is the younger brother of former Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, who was killed by Israeli forces in southern Gaza in October last year.

Hamas, in a statement issued Tuesday, rejected the Israeli claims, calling

them "lies and attempts to mislead international public opinion." The group accused Israel of exploiting such allegations to justify attacks on Gaza's healthcare system and to "terrorise civilians." The statement did not address whether Mohammed Sinwar was present at the site.

Natural Sunscreen: Exploring Safe Alternatives



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Our skin goes through a lot of changes during summer. Hot sun rays and UV radiation harm skin, causing acne, blemishes, severe tanning, and wrinkles. Dermatologists recommend applying sunscreens with a minimum of SPF 30, and the market is flooded with high SPF sunscreens.

When it comes to sun protection, Ayurveda offers powerful solutions with natural ingredients that have inherent SPF properties.

These natural sunscreens are gaining popularity as people seek to protect their skin from harmful UV rays while

avoiding synthetic chemicals.

There are so many benefits to using homemade sunscreen over store-bought products. First of all, when you make it yourself, you know exactly what is in it. You aren't using any chemicals that could be harmful to your body or your skin.

Unlike chemical sunscreens, natural sunscreens don't get absorbed into the skin, making them ideal for sensitive skin and those looking to avoid synthetic compounds. Homemade sunscreens are easy to make with ingredients like sandalwood, sesame oil, coconut oil, jojoba oil, Aloe Vera, etc. that nourish and care for the skin.

They're typically free of parabens, as well as the ingredients oxybenzone, avobenzene, octisalate, octocrylene, homosalate, and octinoxate.

Coconut Oil
Coconut oil is one of the most used natural oils in India. It is widely used across the country



because of its health benefits. But not many people know that it is a great way to protect against sun's rays - Coconut oil offers mul-

ti-ple skin benefits, including SPF protection. 1---Take half a cup of virgin coconut oil, 2 Tablespoons of Non-Nano Zinc Oxide, 1 Tablespoon of Red

Raspberry Seed Oil Optional: 10 Drops of Essential Oils. Whip coconut oil up in a mixer. Carefully add the zinc oxide, red rasp-

berry seed oil, and essential oils. Once the oils and zinc oxide are mixed well, pour them into a small container. 2--- Take a cup of coco-

nut oil, add half a cup of Shea butter, - Add water and mix well. Apply every morning to prevent the skin from sun damage.

3--- Take 50 ml mineral water and add 1 tsp pure glycerine or aloe vera gel, and ½ tsp sunflower oil. Mix well to make a lotion and then add 3 to 4 tsp zinc oxide. You can also add 4 drops of vitamin E oil if the skin is normal to dry.

4---Take 10 drops of lavender essential oil, 1 tablespoon Pomegranate oil, ¾ cup Coconut oil, 4 tablespoons Zinc Oxide, 2 tablespoons Arrowroot flour, 2 tablespoons Shea butter, and 4 capsules of Vitamin E

Combine all ingredients except zinc oxide and arrowroot flour in a jar. Start a saucepan with 2 inches of water on the stove over medium/low heat. Place the jar in the saucepan and stir the contents until the ingredients start to melt. When all ingredients have melted and combined, add in zinc

oxide and arrowroot flour, a tablespoon at a time. Store in a cool place.

5--- Wheat germ oil is equally effective as many great sunscreen options on the market. If you want to get the full benefit of wheat germ oil, you must apply it 30 minutes before leaving the house. If you have a long day of the sun ahead of you, carry the oil and reapply every 2 hours.

Always remember to apply homemade sunscreen at least 20 minutes before every period of direct exposure to sunlight. This is because you want the sun protection ingredients in your DIY sunscreen lotion to have enough time to bind properly onto your skin. The best way to figure out how much you should be using is by considering how much SPF you want for your DIY sunscreen.

The author is an internationally famous beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

Elderly dementia patients in S. Korea hold assets worth 6.4 pc of GDP: Report

AGENCIES SEOUL

Elderly dementia patients in South Korea hold assets worth a combined 153.5 trillion won (\$110.9 billion), which is equivalent to about 6.4 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), a report showed on Tuesday.

The assets had been owned by 1.24 million dementia patients aged 65 and above as of 2023, according to the report compiled by the Presidential Committee on Ageing Society and Population Policy, Yonhap news agency reported.

In detail, the elderly dementia patients owned 33.4 trillion won worth of financial assets and 113.8 trillion won worth of real estate properties.

The committee forecast the "dementia money" would surpass 488 trillion won by 2050, amounting to 15.6 per cent of the GDP. "Senior dementia



patients make up only 2.4 per cent of the total population, but the value of their assets accounts for 6.4 per cent of the nation's GDP, indicating a disproportionately high concentration of wealth," the committee said.

"The asset freeze caused by dementia will likely have a significant impact on the real economy," it added.

The committee plans to monitor annual changes

in the "dementia money" and discuss policies aimed at improving the private and public trust systems, as well as the guardianship system for dementia patients.

According to the latest data from the country's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, nearly one out of 10 older adults in South Korea suffer from Alzheimer's disease.

The number of dementia patients has reached

970,000 as of 2025, accounting for 9.17 per cent of those aged 65 or older. The figure is anticipated to surpass 1 million next year and 2 million mark in 2044.

"The proportion of dementia cases among older people is expected to stay around the 10 per cent level until 2045 and increase to around 12 per cent to 13 per cent by 2059," a ministry official said.

Study shows HIV prevalence rising in older adults, but prevention focusses youth

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

Older adults are increasingly acquiring HIV, but are underrepresented in prevention and treatment campaigns, which is more focused on youth, according to a study.

The study, published in The Lancet Healthy Longevity, showed that the prevalence of HIV in older adults is exceeding that of younger adults. However, prevention and treatment campaigns are not adequately targeting the particular needs of the 50+ year age group, said researchers from Wits University in South Africa who investigated HIV in older people in Kenya and South Africa.

"We often think of HIV as a disease of younger people. It doesn't help that intervention campaigns are mainly targeted at the youth," said Dr. Luicer Olubayo, a researcher at the Sydney Brenner Insti-



tute for Molecular Bioscience (SBIMB) at Wits.

Moreover, the study showed that older adults are less likely to believe that they can get HIV.

This misconception is pervasive and has consequences for reaching global targets to achieve UNAIDS' 95-95-95 targets

by 2030 (95 per cent of people living with HIV know their status, 95 per cent of people who know their status are on treatment, and 95 per cent have a suppressed viral load).

"While HIV prevalence among individuals over 50 years of age is similar

to or even exceeds that of younger adults, HIV surveys focus on younger individuals, leaving considerable gaps in understanding HIV prevalence, incidence, and treatment outcomes in older populations," said F. Xavier Gomez-Olive, Associate Professor at the MRC/Wits-Agincourt Research Unit.

Further, the uptake of HIV testing among older adults is poor, which delays diagnosis and limits access to care.

This is, indeed, one of the signifiers of the pervasiveness of the stigma surrounding the disease, said the team stressing the need to boost interventions to support older people's mental health and overall well-being.

Shingles vaccine can protect heart health up to 8 years: Study

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

People who are given a vaccine for shingles -- zoster vaccine -- have a 23 per cent lower risk of cardiovascular events, including stroke, heart failure, and coronary heart disease, according to a study of more than a million people.

The live zoster vaccine contains a weakened form of the varicella-zoster virus that causes shingles.

Shingles is a viral infection that causes a painful rash. It has also been linked to a higher risk of heart problems.

The condition can lead to serious complications, especially in older adults and those with weak immune systems.

The study showed that protective effect of the vaccine lasts for up to eight years and is particularly pronounced for men, people under the age of 60, and those with



unhealthy lifestyles, such as smoking, drinking alcohol, and being inactive.

"Our study suggests that the shingles vaccine may help lower the risk of heart disease, even in people without known risk factors. This means that vaccination could offer health benefits beyond

preventing shingles," said Professor Dong Keon Yon from the Kyung Hee University College of Medicine in Seoul, South Korea.

The study included 1,271,922 people aged 50 or older living in South Korea.

The findings showed that among people who

received the vaccine, there was a 23 per cent lower risk of cardiovascular events overall, with a 26 per cent lower risk of major cardiovascular events (a stroke, heart attack, or death from heart disease), a 26 per cent lower risk of heart failure and a 22 per cent lower risk of coronary heart disease.

Yon explained that shingles infection can damage blood vessels, and cause inflammation and clot formation that can lead to heart disease. But vaccination may lower these risks.

"Our study found stronger benefits in younger people, probably due to a better immune response, and in men, possibly due to differences in vaccine effectiveness," the researcher said.

Previous research shows that, without vaccination, about 30 per cent of people may develop shingles in their lifetime.

Need to sensitise health sector on fire safety measures, says JP Nadda

AGENCIES NEW DELHI

The health sector needs to be sensitised about fire safety measures to boost preparedness and response during disasters, said the Union Health Minister J P Nadda.

He said this while inaugurating the second national workshop on 'health sector disaster preparedness and response' and 'fire safety in healthcare facilities' in the national capital.

Union Health Minister highlighted the need for capacity building and sensitisation of all cadres of personnel working in health facilities in public as well as private sectors at all levels of the healthcare delivery system.

"Since the health sector works with high-load equipment and highly inflammable materials like oxygen and chemicals that not only save lives but also are inflammable



and might cause a hazard. Therefore, there is a need for increased sensitization towards them," he said.

"Lack of sensitivity towards disaster and fire preparedness leads to complacency and complacency further leads to carelessness that proves to be a spark of fire, a spark of disaster," Nadda added.

The workshop by the Disaster Management Cell of the Union Health Ministry was organised as a culmination of various activities organised by the Ministry as part of 'Fire Safety Week' in coordina-

tion with Disaster Nodal Officers from all States/UTs.

The need is to "focus on the preventive part of the disasters so that uninterrupted, comprehensive and quality health services can be ensured and we can stay vigilant; mitigate and address unforeseen situations," he said, urging for more such workshops.

He called on both the "top tier officials" and "the grassroots workers and paramedics" to share responsibility and to increase the confidence of the healthcare work-

ers regarding disaster response.

"This workshop is not only for government hospitals but for the entire healthcare landscape of the country including private hospitals, primary health centres, nursing homes, maternity centres, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, and preventive facilities," Nadda said.

Union Health Secretary, Punya Salila Srivastava stressed the need to continue to strive towards a culture of fire prevention and preparedness while encouraging comprehensive disaster management planning and regular exercise of such plans at all levels.

"At time of disaster health facilities are the harbinger of hope for all those who have been affected by the disaster. Therefore, disaster management, and particularly hospital disaster management becomes very important," Srivastava said.

News in Brief

Ballard's 122nd-minute goal sends Sunderland to final

AGENCIES
WEMBLEY (UK), MAY 14 (UND)

Sunderland reached the Championship play-off final after Dan Ballard's last-gasp goal in extra time decided their semi-final tie against Coventry City.

Ballard headed in off the underside of the bar in the final seconds of stoppage time to level the match at 1-1 on the Tuesday night and secure a 3-2 aggregate victory over the Sky Blues. It was an incredible end to an evening filled with tension at the Stadium of Light after Ephron Mason-Clark had scored in the 76th minute to take the match to extra time.

The Black Cats will now face Sheffield United here on Saturday, to decide who plays in the Premier League next season, the BBC reported. In a meeting between the sides who finished fourth and fifth in the regular season, the Wear-side club will have the chance to end an eight-year exile from the top flight. But the Sky Blues will rue a chance which USA forward Haji Wright headed wide in regulation stoppage time that would have booked their spot in the final.

Awoniyi in induced coma after surgery

AGENCIES
LONDON, MAY 14 (UND)

Nottingham Forest striker Taiwo Awoniyi is in an induced coma after having the first phase of surgery on a serious abdominal injury.

The Nigeria international, 27, collided with the post in the 88th minute of the 2-2 draw against Leicester at the City Ground on Sunday as he attempted to get on the end of a cross from Anthony Elanga.

Sources have told BBC Sport that Awoniyi suffered a ruptured intestine in the collision.

He had surgery on Monday night and remains in hospital, with the rest of the procedure set to be completed on Wednesday.

In a statement on Tuesday Forest said Awoniyi was "recovering well" following the operation.

Awoniyi, a late substitute for Ibrahim Sangare on Sunday, received lengthy treatment on the pitch.

Elanga was in an offside position when he collected the ball but the assistant referee did not raise their flag until after Awoniyi's collision.

India beat Nepal 4-0 in SAFF U19 Championship

AGENCIES
YUPIA (ARUNACHAL PRADESH), MAY 14 (UND)

India sealed their spot at the top of Group B of the SAFF U19 Championship after a comprehensive 4-0 victory against Nepal at the Golden Jubilee Stadium here.

The hosts scored two goals in each half. Rohen Singh Chaphamayum (28', 76') scored two goals, while local boy Omang Dodum (29') and Danny Meitei (84') netted one each on Tuesday night.

India, with this win, finished Group B with a perfect six points from two matches, with a goal difference of 12. Nepal finish second with three points from their two matches.

The hosts will face Maldives, Group A runners-ups at 7.30 pm IST on May



16, while Group A winners Bangladesh will play Nepal at 3.30 pm IST in the semi-finals on the same day.

While both teams had already secured progression to the last four, it was a rather frantic start to the match. Perhaps neither side were willing to compromise on finishing at the top of the group. However, once the scoring

began, India established themselves firmly in the drivers' seat.

A cross from the left flank off Malemngamba Singh's left boot bounced off a couple of heads before landing kindly in front of Rohen, who swiftly proceeded to slide it past Nepal goalkeeper Bhakta Bahadur Pariyar in the 28th minute.

Mehidy & Bryce named ICC Players of Month for April

AGENCIES
DUBAI, MAY 14 (UND)

Bangladesh all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Scotland captain Kathryn Bryce have been named as the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for April 2025.

Mehidy becomes only the third player from Bangladesh to win the men's monthly award and the first in over two years. Shakib Al Hasan was the last Bangladesh player to win the award, in March 2023, while Mushfiqu is the other one to have won it.

Superb performances with both bat and ball in a two-Test home series against Zimbabwe helped



him win the award, his purple patch also helping grab the number two spot among all-rounders in the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings for the first time in his career.

The 27-year-old was named Player of the Series after finishing with

15 wickets that comprised three five-wicket hauls and knocking up his second Test century (104) in the second match in Chattogram that Bangladesh won by an innings and 106 runs to draw the series 1-1.

Mehidy, who was also named Player of the Match

in Chattogram, pipped Zimbabwe player Blessing Muzarabani and New Zealand's Ben Sears to clinch the award, an ICC media statement on Wednesday said.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz said, "It's an incredible honor to win the ICC Men's Player of the Month award. The ICC Awards are the ultimate recognition for any cricketer, and to receive this from a global vote means a lot to me. Moments like these remind me of my journey - being named Player of the Tournament in the 2016 ICC Under 19 World Cup was a massive encouragement early in my career, and this award feels just as special."

Henry & Dottin miss out as West Indies name squad for England

AGENCIES
ANTIGUA, MAY 14 (UND)

Experienced duo Chinelle Henry and Deandra Dottin are sidelined through injury as the West Indies revealed their 15-player squad for their white-ball tour of England that commences later this month.

Henry is nursing a leg injury she picked up during the recent T20 Blaze competition in the Caribbean, while Dottin is yet to fully recover from the knee problem she had



during the Women's Premier League in India in

March. It opens the door for a

pair of uncapped players to feature, with Jahzara Claxton and Realeanna Grimmond called into the touring party and in contention to feature during the six white-ball contests (three T20Is and three ODIs) against England from May 21.

Claxton is an all-rounder that was part of the West Indies' squad at the ICC Women's Under-19 World Cup earlier this year, while Grimmond is a top-order batter also yet to debut at international level.

One of the hardest tours: Luus' verdict on SL tri-series

AGENCIES
DURBAN, MAY 14 (UND)

Following a disappointing showing in the tri-series by South Africa, where the South Africa Women won only one out of their four fixtures, all-rounder Sune Luus gave an honest reflection of the tournament conditions in the subcontinent.

Speaking on the humid conditions in the subcontinent that had a major impact on the visitors, Luus said.

"Upon arrival, we were met with the intense heat and humidity of the subcontinent, making Durban's weather feel like a breeze," she said.

"In the blazing heat, the weather quickly became a popular talking point,



especially given that we would be playing two subcontinental teams in their backyard, where conditions are known to be low, slow, and offer turn," Luus said.

"Despite the host nation having the upper hand in understanding and adapting more quickly to the conditions, they too expressed discomfort

with the humidity," she said.

"Battling humidity levels of up to 85% and temperatures in the mid-thirties, the team showed great resilience as they continued to fight, match after match. Some players described this tour as one of the hardest tours of their careers, physically," Luus said.

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