



## Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons Should Be Brought Under IAEA Watch: Rajnath Singh

Says 'Operation Sindoor' most decisive anti-terror action in past 30 years: Rajnath Singh in Srinagar

■ HT News Network/UNI

SRINAGAR, MAY 15 (UNI) : Terming 'Operation Sindoor', as the most decisive anti-terror action in the past 30 years, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday warned Pakistan that it would have to "pay a heavy price" if it continues to support terrorism. Addressing soldiers at Badamibagh Cantonment here, Singh, according to the news agency—said, "Pakistan has repeatedly backstabbed India. But this time, we have ripped apart their chest in response to the assault on our innocent citizens in Pahalgam."

He reiterated that "talks and terror" cannot go together and if talks are held



## Country proud of armed forces for avenging Pahalgam terror attack: LG Sinha

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 15 Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said the country is proud of the armed forces for avenging the Pahalgam terror attack by launching Operation Sindoor against terror infrastructure in Pakistan.

"Nation is proud of our armed forces for scripting a historic victory saga of 'Operation Sindoor' with bravery and avenging Pahalgam terror attack. They have given exemplary punishment to terror planners sitting in Pakistan by dismantling their terror bases and killing top terrorists," Sinha said in a series of posts on X. "Operation Sindoor has changed the course of the fight against terror in one focused

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## We informed Pakistan before launching Operation Sindoor: EAM Jaishankar

■ HT News Network/UNI



New Delhi, May 15 (UNI) External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today said that India had informed Pakistan in advance on May 7 before carrying out Operation Sindoor of attacking the terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters outside the new Honduras Embassy, which was inaugurated today, the EAM also said that India will only talk bilaterally with Pakistan, and that too only on the issue of fighting terrorism – in a rebuff to the US which has been offering to mediate between the two sides. Jaishankar also reiterated that on the issue of Kashmir, India will only discuss with Pakistan the issue of "vacation of the illegally occupied part of Indian territory in POK".

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## India-Pakistan Ceasefire: DGMOs Agree To 'Continue Confidence-Building Measures'

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, MAY 15: The Indian Army on Thursday said that following the understanding reached between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan on May 10, both sides have agreed to continue confidence-building measures aimed at reducing alertness levels along the border. The decision was conveyed in a communication issued by the Indian Army on Thursday. "As the situation develops further, we shall intimate you," the note added.

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## Pahalgam Fallout: CM Omar Abdullah Assures Tourism Sector To Raise Issue Of Financial Support With Centre

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday assured the tourism stakeholders in Kashmir that he would raise the issue of financial support and interest relief for them with the Centre, including the prime minister, in the aftermath of the Pahal-



gam attack. The chief minister had convened the meeting with key tourism stakeholders to find a way forward for the tourism sector in Kashmir which has been affected badly following the Pahalgam terror attack which killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

Addressing a meeting of

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### NEWS BRIEF

#### WB says its Rs 1500 crore J&K project has surpassed agreed targets in few areas

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 15 : The Rs 1500 crore World Bank funded Jhelum-Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) has surpassed agreed targets in few areas, the multilateral financial institution said in its latest report on the project.

As per the news agency, in the latest "implementation status & results report" on the project, the World Bank has said

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#### DSEJ orders reopening of all schools from May-19

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 15: The Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) Thursday ordered that all government and recognized private schools in Jammu division which were yet to reopen post ceasefire shall resume functioning from May-19-2025.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) have been instructed to

#### Elderly Pulwama man found dead in Shopian

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 15: An elderly man from Pulwama was found dead in river Ranbiara at Bohrihalan area of South Kashmir's Shopian district on Thursday morning.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that locals spotted an unidentified body in Ranbiara following which they informed the local police, who arrived at the spot.

He said that the body was later shifted to a hospital for legal medico formalities. He was later identified as Mohammad Yousuf Ganie from Washbug Pulwama.

Meanwhile, the police have launched an investigation in this regard—He said that the body was later shifted to a hospital for legal medico formalities. He was later identified as Mohammad Yousuf Ganie from Washbug Pulwama.

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## Three Jaish militants killed in south Kashmir gunbattle

■ HT News Network/UNI

SRINAGAR, MAY 15 (UNI) Security forces shot dead three local Jaish-e-Mohammad militants in an encounter in Awan-tipora sub-district of south Kashmir on Thursday, police said.

They said the gun battle erupted in the early hours at Nader Tral during a cordon and a search operation, which was launched following an input about militant presence.

"Security forces got a specific input about the movement of three terrorists in the area.



Accordingly, a cordon was laid and it led to an encounter in which three terrorists were killed," Inspector General of Police, Vidhi Kumar Birdi, told reporters near the site of the encounter.

Another senior police officer

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## Kashmir sees record low in local militancy as count to single digit

■ HT News Network/UNI

SRINAGAR, MAY 15 (UNI) With the killing of six local militants in south Kashmir in the last three days, the number of listed local militants in the Valley has dropped to single digit—the lowest ever recorded since the insurgency began in the 1990s, officials said.

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## Army chief visits forward posts in Kashmir

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 15: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday visited forward areas manned by the Dagger Division under the Chinar Corps in North Kashmir, where he interacted with soldiers deployed along the Line of Control (LoC).

During the visit, General Dwivedi praised the troops for their courage, high morale, and operational readiness, particularly dur-



ing the recently executed Operation Sindoor. He acknowledged their success in asserting dominance along the LoC and applauded their precise actions that led to the destruction of terrorist camps across the border

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## Kashmir safe, time to stand with its economy: Civil Aviation Minister

Appeals people to visit Kashmir, reviews facilities at Srinagar Airport

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 15, : Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Thursday urged citizens across India to support Jammu and Kashmir's economic recovery by boosting tourism in the region, which he said remains safe and welcoming despite recent setbacks.

Speaking to the media during his visit to Srinagar, Naidu emphasized that the terror attack in Pahalgam not only caused tragic loss of life but also severe-



ly impacted the local economy. "Businesses here are struggling, and we must unite to help them bounce back," he said.

The minister reiterated that reviving tourism is central to

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## Chief Secretary visits Kishtwar; inspects Rattle, Dul Hasti Hydroelectric Power projects

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 15: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today visited Kishtwar district to inspect the ongoing works and operational status of two major hydroelectric power projects including 850 MW Rattle Hydroelectric Power Project and 390 MW Dul Hasti Hydroelectric Power Station.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, H. Rajesh Prasad;



Managing Director, JKPDCL, Rahul Yadav; Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan along with senior officers from the civil administration and representatives of the

power project authorities.

At the Rattle Hydroelectric Power Project, located in Drab-shalla Block, the Chief Secretary was briefed on the current status and progress on the project

through a PowerPoint Presentation. He also reviewed progress on construction works, visited Power Intake Structure, Cofferdam, Underground Powerhouse Complex, Tail Raised Tunnel and assessed implementation status of various project components.

The Chief Secretary issued on the spot directions to the concerned authorities to expedite the pace of work and ensure project's timely completion. He emphasised on main

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## Govt Stands Firmly With Its People, Especially The Border Residents: Dy CM

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 14: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, on second consecutive day, visited around 15 villages of Nowshera constituency to assess the impact of recent cross border shelling.

He expressed the commitment of the government and unwavering support to the people residing in border areas.

The two day tour was conducted in view of recent cross-border shelling incidents with an aim to assess the ground situation, interact with the affected families and address the



public grievances on the spot.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the damaged houses and met with families impacted by the shelling. He assured the border residents that the government is fully committed to their safety and

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## SC Order On Assent To Bills: Prez Murmu Seeks Top Court's Opinion, Poses 14 Questions

■ HT News Network



NEW DELHI, MAY 15: President Droupadi Murmu has posed 14 crucial questions to the Supreme Court over its April 8 verdict that fixed timelines for governors and the President to act on bills passed by state assemblies.

Exercising her power under the rarely used Article 143 (1), President Murmu said in the present circumstances, it appears that the following questions of law have arisen and they are of such nature and public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court of India thereon.

Article 143 (1) of the Constitution deals with the power of the President to consult the Supreme Court.

The provision says, "If at any time it appears to the President that a question of law or fact has arisen, or is likely to arise, which is of such a nature and of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, he may refer the question to that Court for consideration and the Court may, after such hearing as

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## CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

### SC

taining quality standards while effectively addressing the key operational challenges.

The Chief Secretary also visited the Dul Hasti Hydroelectric Power Station and inspected its ongoing operations. He interacted with the project officials, reviewed operational efficiency and issued necessary directives to enhance the performance and resolve the pending issues.

Later, the Chief Secretary held a meeting with the officers of NHPC, CVPL and HOPs of all power projects in Kishtwar.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan besides other senior officers of district administration were present on the occasion.

### RAJNATH

any time these will focus on Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) and terrorism.

He warned Pakistan of dire consequences if any terror attack takes place in India saying, "PM Modi has made India's position unequivocal, any terror act will be considered an act of war."

He reaffirmed India's commitment to peace but issued a stern warning: "India has never favoured war, but when it comes to giving a befitting reply, we do not hesitate. Our armed forces are respected across the world. We have ensured they are equipped with the latest technology and weaponry."

LAUDS COURAGE, PRECISION OF ARMED FORCES

The Defence Minister lauded the courage, precision, and professionalism displayed by Indian soldiers during 'Operation Sindoor'. "Under PM Modi's leadership the forces carried out Operation Sindoor with 'unmatched intensity and purpose.'"

"You did not just defend — you attacked. And you attacked with full intensity when the need arose," he told the soldiers.

THEY ASKED RELIGION BEFORE KILLING THEM, WE HIT THEM BACK ON BASIS OF THEIR KARMA

Referring to April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists, dead, Singh said, "The entire nation stood united in grief and anger. What was more heartening was how the people of Jammu and Kashmir took to the streets to condemn the terror attack. They sent a clear message: terrorism will not be tolerated," he added.

Referring to the moral contrast between Indian soldiers and terrorists, Singh said, "They asked the religion of innocent civilians before shooting them. But we hit them back on the basis of their karma."

"It was a dream of every soldier that we will reach every terrorist hideout and destroy them. Terrorists killed Indians based on their religion, we killed them for their deeds. It was our dharma to eliminate them. Our forces gave the right direction to their anger and took revenge for Pahalgam with great courage & discretion," he added.

As Defence Minister, Singh said during all these years he has felt proud to "know brave forces better" and assured them of the nation's unwavering support. "You have avenged the Pahalgam attack. You've made the nation proud," he said.

Singh said that through the Pahalgam incident, an attempt was made to break the social unity of India but the armed forces gave them a befitting reply.

INDIA CAN GO TO ANY EXTENT TO PROTECT ITS PEOPLE

The Defence Minister recalled Pakistan's declaration about 21 years ago in front of the then Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee that terrorism will no longer be exported from its land. "Pakistan has been deceiving India, and it must stop sheltering anti-India and terrorist organisations & not allow its land to be used against India," he said.

The Defence Minister said he had come to Srinagar "to feel the power of your energy, the power through which you destroyed enemy shelters with pinpoint precision."

He praised the forces for maintaining their composure during the operation, saying, "Even in josh, you kept your hosh."

Operation Sindoor, Singh said, has sent a loud and clear message to terror masterminds that they are not safe anywhere. "This operation has proven that India can go to any extent to protect its people. India has not succumbed to any nuclear blackmail and never will," he added, in a clear message to Pakistan.

On the question of global nuclear security, Singh raised serious concerns, stating, "I want to ask the world — are nukes safe in Pakistan's hands? The IAEA must take control of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal before it's too late."

Taking a swipe at Pakistan's economic woes, Singh said, "While Pakistan is begging the IMF for funds, India is contributing aid to IMF to help poor countries. That is the difference between the two nations."

The Defence Minister praised the valour and dedication of the armed forces and reiterated the Government's commitment to continue equipping the soldiers with advanced weapons & platforms and modern infrastructure. "Our Government has ensured that our forces are prepared for every situation. Many

new generation equipment like modern rifles, missile defence shields, and drones are being rapidly manufactured in India itself."

"Connectivity has been ensured along LoC and LAC like never before. The devotion and readiness with which our soldiers serve the country, the government is trying to serve you," he said—

### EAM JAISHANKAR

"Because even at the start of the operation, we had sent a message to Pakistan, saying we are striking at terrorist infrastructure; we are not striking at the military, so the military has an option of standing out and not interfering in this process. They chose not to take the good advice," he said.

"Once they got hit as badly as they did, on the morning of May 10, and all of you have seen the satellite pictures which bring out very graphically how much damage we did. By the way the satellite pictures also bring out how little damage they did (to India), these pictures will tell you what a hit they took.

"The same people who were not willing to stand down on 7th May are willing to talk and stand down the 10th of May; it is very clear who wanted the cessation of firing," the EAM said.

On dealings with Pakistan, he said they will be purely bilateral: "Where our dealings with Pakistan are concerned, they will be bilateral and strictly bilateral.

"That is a national consensus for many years, and there is absolutely no change in that consensus that dealings with Pakistan will be bilateral."

On talks with Pakistan, he said, "I think the PM made it very clear, that the only talks with Pakistan will be on terror; that Pakistan has a list of terrorists who need to be handed over, they have to shut down the terrorist infrastructure, they know what to do.

"We are prepared to discuss with them on what is to be done on terrorism, those are the talks which are feasible."

On the Indus Waters Treaty, he said:

"The Indus Waters Treaty is held in abeyance and will continue to be held in abeyance until cross border terrorism by Pakistan is credibly and irrevocably stopped."

On the Kashmir issue being raked up by Pakistan, and also by the US, he said;

"Sometimes the Kashmir issue has been brought up. Again the only thing that remains to be discussed on Kashmir, is the vacation of the illegally occupied Indian territory, in POK. We are open to discussing that, with Pakistan," he added.

"We have achieved the goals that we set out to do, by destroying the terrorist infrastructure, in Bahawalpur, Muridke, Muzaffarabad and other places,"

### CM

tourism stakeholders here, Abdullah said, "We will approach this in a structured and result-oriented manner." The chief minister assured them that he would take up the issue of financial support and interest relief directly with the prime minister, the finance minister and other senior central government officials.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Inspector General of Police Kashmir VK Birdi, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal and Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob.

Acknowledging the difficulties faced by the tourism sector, Abdullah said, "I understand the challenges many of you are grappling with, be it managing establishments, retaining employees, or dealing with fixed overheads. Many among you are under pressure due to bank loans." He expressed concern for small-scale entrepreneurs who have recently taken loans to purchase tourist taxis and deluxe mini buses or built guest accommodations in their homes.

"In this regard, I plan to engage with the Tourism Department and relevant authorities to advocate for a dedicated relief package from the Government of India," he said.

"A comprehensive package should cater to individuals affected in the border areas, where homes and shops have been damaged. For the tourism sector, we will explore the possibility of loan deferments for at least two quarters, which would provide temporary relief and reduce financial stress on stakeholders," the chief minister added.

Abdullah called for the formulation of a comprehensive and well-thought-out tourism revival plan.

"This is my suggestion for your consideration that we thoughtfully shape and finalise this plan without undue haste," he said.

He proposed that a robust tourism revival strategy be jointly developed with the Tourism Department after the conclusion of this year's Shri Amarnath ji Yatra.

The package, he said, should extend support to hotels, houseboats, shikaras, taxis, handicrafts and explore innovative models such as unique shopping festivals on the analogy of those in Dubai.

"We should also consider engaging artists for cultural performances, restarting the laser fountain shows, and introducing other attractions to enhance the tourist experience,"

Abdullah added.

Highlighting the ongoing interest in J-K as a tourism destination, Abdullah said there is already enthusiasm for promotional activities and tours.

"I have been receiving calls from individuals and organisations eager to promote Jammu and Kashmir and bring back tourists in large numbers," he said. Fine dining reservations

Abdullah said he would personally participate in joint promotional campaigns as the situation stabilises.

Earlier in the meeting, tourism stakeholders put forward several suggestions, including organising FAM tours, inviting the corporate sector to avail LTCs and host meetings in the region, holding government conferences in J-K, and seeking reductions in airfares to make travel more affordable.

They emphasised that the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is an opportune time to send a strong message to the rest of the country that Kashmir is peaceful and ready to welcome tourists with warmth and brotherhood. (Agencies)

### LG

and measured hit. Our brave armed forces have not only destroyed the terror factories within Pakistan, but terrorists are now being hunted one by one," he said.

He also posted pictures of the defence minister interacting with soldiers at the Army's 15 Corps headquarters at Badami Bagh here. The LG was also present at the function.

"The world has seen that terrorism in J&K Union Territory is engineered and executed by Pakistan and our mighty forces have ensured that now we will enter deep into Pakistan's heartland and kill the terrorists and we'll also treat future acts of terror as an act of war," he said.

Sinha seconded the defence minister's call for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to take the nuclear weapons of Pakistan under its supervision.

"As Hon'ble Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh Ji said, Pakistan's nuclear blackmail won't work now and its nuclear weapons should be taken under the supervision of International Atomic Energy Agency," he added.

### TRAL

identified the trio as Asif Ahmed Sheikh, Amir Nabi, and Yawar Bhat- all residents of Pulwama district.

"The trio were affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammad and Asif Sheikh was listed as 'A' category militant," police said.

The 28-year-old from Mumghama Tral, Asif, had joined the Jaish three years ago. His house, along with Amir's were blasted by joint forces after the Pahalgam terror attack.

This was the second gun battle in South Kashmir since Tuesday. On May 13, three local militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba were killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district. The slain also included Shahid Kuttay, a local commander of the Lashkar.

After the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, which left 26 civilians dead, security forces have intensified a crackdown against the militant groups in south Kashmir. While the three Lashkar militants, including two Pakistanis involved in the Pahalgam attack, continue to be at large, forces have been able to neutralize six local militants in the last 78 hours.

### KASHMIR

However, the number of foreign militants operating in the region remains around 40, they added.

On Tuesday, three local militants affiliated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) — Shahid Kuttay, Adnan Shafi Dar, and Ehsan ul Haq Sheikh, all residents of Shopian — were killed in an encounter in the upper reaches of the Keller area. According to officials, Shahid Kuttay was functioning as the operational commander of LeT in south Kashmir.

Three local militants were killed in a gun battle in the Tral area of Awantipora district on Thursday.

With their killing, officials said that only seven local militants are now active in Kashmir.

Most of the remaining militants are believed to have joined after 2021. While six of them are active in south Kashmir, one is based in north Kashmir, according to officials. The majority are locally trained; however, a few are believed to have received arms training in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), they added.

Before Tuesday's encounter, central agencies had pegged the number of active local militants in the region at 14.

The declining trend in local militancy is attributed to a significant drop in new recruitment over recent years, combined with sustained crackdowns on the militant support network, police officials said.

Officials also noted a shift in the operational tactics of local militants. Unlike earlier years, they are now avoiding posting photographs or claims on social media and have largely gone underground.

"Their current role appears to involve

providing logistical and tactical support to foreign militants, particularly in navigating forested terrain for guerrilla-style warfare," they said.

While the number of active local militants may have dropped to single digits, security agencies remain concerned about 'hybrid terrorists' — individuals who are not officially listed

Following the recent Pahalgam attack, security forces have intensified operations, including demolishing multiple houses of militants.

### DY CM

well-being. The administration is mobilizing all the necessary resources to ensure they do not face further hardships.

During a series of public outreach camps at multiple locations, the Dy CM listened to the concerns of the local residents. He reiterated the government's resolve to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of the border belt.

"The safety of every single resident living near the LoC is our topmost priority and best possible measures are being implemented in this regard," maintained the Dy CM.

Several delegations met the Deputy Chief Minister and raised key issues including the construction of individual and community bunkers, compensation for losses sustained during shelling, water scarcity, unscheduled power cuts, and demands for improvement of link roads.

Responding promptly, the Dy CM issued on-the-spot instructions to concerned officials for immediate redressal of grievances. He assured the public that their genuine demands will be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

The Dy CM affirmed that Omar Abdullah led government stands firmly with its people and will leave no stone unturned for the holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir, especially its border and remote areas. Fine dining reservations

Emphasizing the importance of protective infrastructure, the Deputy Chief Minister also announced that additional individual and community bunkers would be constructed at strategically identified locations. "These bunkers are vital for providing immediate shelter during instances of cross-border shelling and form an integral part of our border protection strategy," he added.

The visit highlighted the government's steadfast commitment to the safety, security, and welfare of people residing in the border areas.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, Pritam Lal Thapa, along with other senior district and sectoral officers.

### SAFE

economic restoration in the Valley. "Kashmir is as beautiful as ever, and all flight operations have been resumed. We are encouraging tourists from across the country to come and explore its natural beauty," Naidu stated.

He assured that the Civil Aviation Ministry is committed to supporting every possible effort to bring normalcy back to the region. "Restoring air connectivity is just the first step. We are determined to do everything we can to bring back tourists and help the people of Jammu and Kashmir regain economic momentum."

Naidu also expressed optimism over early signs of improvement, saying that flight bookings to Kashmir were already showing encouraging numbers. "We are hopeful that in the coming weeks, the response from the public will be even more positive," he added. [KNT]

### MARMU

it thinks fit, report to the President its opinion thereon".

The questions posed by the President are: \* What are the constitutional options before a governor when a bill is presented to him under Article 200 of the Constitution of India? \* Is the governor bound by the aid and advice tendered by the Council of Ministers while exercising all the options available with him when a bill is presented before him under Article 200 of the Constitution of India? \* Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the governor under Article 200 of the Constitution of India justiciable? \* Is Article 361 of the Constitution of India an absolute bar to judicial review in relation to the actions of a governor under Article 200 of the Constitution of India? \* In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed time limit and the manner of exercise of powers by the governor, can timelines be imposed and the manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders for the exercise of all powers under Article 200 of the Constitution of India by the governor? \* Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the President under Article 201 of the Constitution of India justiciable? \* In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed timeline and the manner of exercise of powers by the President, can timelines be imposed and the manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders for the exercise of discretion by the President under Article 201 of the Constitution of India? \* In light of the

constitutional scheme governing the powers of the President, is the President required to seek advice of the Supreme Court by way of a reference under Article 143 of the Constitution of India and take the opinion of the Supreme Court when the governor reserves a bill for the President's assent or otherwise? \* Are the decisions of the governor and the President under Article 200 and Article 201 of the Constitution of India, respectively, justiciable at a stage anterior into the law coming into force? Is it permissible for the courts to undertake judicial adjudication over the contents of a bill, in any manner, before it becomes law? \* Can the exercise of constitutional powers and the orders of/ by the President/ governor be substituted in any manner under Article 142 of the Constitution of India? \* Is a law made by the state legislature a law in force without the assent of the governor granted under Article 200 of the Constitution of India? \* In view of the proviso to Article 145(3) of the Constitution of India, is it not mandatory for any bench of this court to first decide as to whether the question involved in the proceedings before it is of such a nature which involves substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of Constitution and to refer it to a bench of minimum five judges? \* ... (Are) the powers of the Supreme Court under Article 142 of the Constitution of India limited to matters of procedural law or Article 142 of the Constitution of India extends to issuing directions/ passing orders which are contrary to or inconsistent with existing substantive or procedural provisions of the Constitution or law in force? \* Does the Constitution bar any other jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to resolve disputes between the Union government and the state governments except by way of a suit under Article 131 of the Constitution of India? The Supreme Court's April 8 verdict set a timeline for all governors to act on the bills passed by the state assemblies and ruled that a governor does not possess any discretion in exercise of functions under Article 200 of the Constitution in respect to any bill presented to them and must mandatorily abide by the advice tendered by the council of ministers.

It said the state governments can directly approach the Supreme Court if the President withholds assent to a bill sent by a governor for consideration. A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said reserving a bill on grounds such as "personal dissatisfaction of the governor, political expediency or any other extraneous or irrelevant considerations" is strictly impermissible by the Constitution and would be liable to be set aside forthwith on that ground alone. (Agencies)

### GOC

in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the personnel, the Army Chief urged them to maintain a high state of preparedness and continue their vigilance in the face of persistent security threats. "Remain ever ready to meet any challenge with firm and decisive action," he told the troops. [KNT]

### WB

that it has largely achieved its objective and surpassed its targets in some cases.

"JTFRP focuses on recovery and mitigating risks linked to floods in Jammu and Kashmir. The project has largely achieved this and, in some cases, has surpassed the agreed targets," reads the report released on May 13.

In the report, the multilateral funding institution has described the overall implementation progress of the project as "moderately satisfactory".

The noteworthy achievements under the project include 45 school buildings, five higher education buildings, one fire station, 112 km of road stretches, 10 bridges, 75-km of drainage network, 50 storm-water drainage pumping stations, critical medical equipment and supplies to 36 hospitals, augmenting 108-helpline with 112 critical care ambulances and commissioning of 30 oxygen generation plants covering all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The project was approved by the World Bank in June 2015. It became effective in April 2016 with a closing date of June 30, 2020. However, its deadline has been extended six times since 2020—

### DSEJ

ensure that all schools under their jurisdiction strictly follow the safety guidelines issued by the School Education Department and other relevant authorities

Heads of institutions have also been asked to ensure a smooth resumption of academic activities and maintain close coordination with local administration and law enforcement agencies to ensure the well-being of students and staff.

Earlier, educational institutions across Jammu, including the sensitive border districts reopened on Thursday.

The reopening of schools in Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch, and Udhampur marks a significant step toward restoring normalcy in the region after days of tension along the India-Pakistan border.

On May 13, schools in non-border districts







## IGNOU Begins Re-Registration for July 2025 Session

HT News Network

Srinagar :The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has officially opened the Re-Registration process for the July 2025 academic session. The process, which commenced today, is applicable for all learners enrolled in Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes offered through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Online modes. The Re-Registration window will remain open until June 30, 2025, and students are strongly encouraged to complete the process at the earliest to avoid any last-minute difficulties. Re-registration is mandatory for all eligible learners whose admission is still valid, regardless of whether they have appeared for term-end examinations or submitted assignments. Students must ensure that their programme duration and admission validity remain active before proceeding. Eligible learners can complete the re-registration process by visiting the official IGNOU Re-Registration Portal: <https://onlinerr.ignou.ac.in>. They are advised to carefully go through the instructions provided on the portal and keep their enrollment number, registered mobile number/email ID, and payment details ready while applying. "Timely re-registration ensures uninterrupted academic progress, access to study materials, support services, and eligibility for examinations in the upcoming session," said Dr. A. H. Rizvi, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar. For any queries or assistance, students may contact the IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar or visit the official websites: [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in) or [rcsri-nagar.ignou.ac.in](http://rcsri-nagar.ignou.ac.in).

## Minors Back on Roads Without Helmets in Srinagar, Public Seeks Strict Action

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 15,: Despite previous efforts by traffic authorities to curb underage and unlicensed driving, minors are once again being spotted riding two-wheelers without helmets across several localities in Srinagar, particularly in the city's interior areas. Following the Tenggpora Thar Jeep accident, the Traffic Police had launched awareness campaigns targeting parents, urging them not to allow their underage children behind the wheel. The initiative received appreciation for its active enforcement and educational outreach. However, the current situation suggests a worrying return to reckless behavior on the roads. Locals say the streets of Srinagar are once more witnessing young boys and girls, many without valid driving licenses or helmets, zipping through busy and narrow lanes, putting their own lives and those of others at risk. "Just weeks ago, there was strict checking, and we thought things have improved," said a local from Downtown Srinagar. "But now, minors are back on the roads like nothing ever happened. Authorities must act before another tragedy occurs." Concerned citizens have appealed to the administration and the Traffic Police to take stringent measures against the violators. Many have called for on-the-spot seizure of vehicles being driven by underage or unlicensed individuals to deter such practices.

## Goldsmith Helps Police Nab Fraudster in Budgam

HT News Network

Budgam, May 15,: Police in Magam area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district have arrested a man from Rakh Sultanpora, Baramulla, for attempting to sell fake gold, after a local goldsmith grew suspicious and promptly alerted authorities. The jeweller's timely action led to the arrest of the suspect before any transaction could take place. Officials confirmed that the individual was taken into custody on the spot. An investigation is now underway to uncover whether the accused was acting alone or is part of a larger network involved in counterfeit gold scams. Police are also probing the origin of the fake items and potential markets targeted by the fraud. Authorities have issued an advisory urging the public to exercise caution while dealing in gold and to get precious items authenticated through reliable sources. People have also been asked to report any doubtful activity to the nearest police station. [KNT]

## Windstorm Wreaks Havoc in Raiyar Gogathaji, Damages Homes and Religious Structures

HT News Network

Beerwah, May 15,: A powerful windstorm swept through Raiyar Gogathaji village in the Khansahib area of Beerwah, Budgam, on Thursday evening. The storm caused substantial damage to the rooftops of several homes, masjids, and imambaras, particularly impacting the poor and marginalized residents of the area. Locals told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that, the sudden windstorm tore off rooftops and damaged property, creating panic in the village.

# Javed Rana meets people of LoC villages; lauds their courage, commitment

HT News Network

BALAKOTE, MAY 15: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today commended the unwavering courage of the people living along the Line of Control, who have consistently stood strong in safeguarding the nation's security. The Minister visited villages along the Line of Control (LoC), for the third consecutive day, and met with the residents who have been severely affected by the ongoing hostilities. During his visit, the Minister heard heart-wrenching stories of untold sufferings, loss of livelihood, livestock and homes. The Minister expressed deep concern about the losses and also expressed concerns about psychological impact of these hostilities on children and elderly, who are among the most vulnerable in these situations. He emphasized the need for immediate attention and support to



mitigate the trauma and stress being experienced by the affected villagers. While interacting with the people, Minister Rana directed the Sub-Divisional Administration to conduct frequent visits to the affected areas. The administration has been tasked with assessing the extent of damages and ensuring that compensation is provided

to those who have suffered losses. The Minister called upon the officers to demonstrate exemplary commitment in supporting the people living along the LoC and addressing their pressing needs. He instructed them to focus on providing relief and rehabilitation to the affected communities, while also undertaking long-term planning to ensure their safe-

ty and well-being. The Minister visited villages along the Line of Control (LoC), for the third consecutive day, and met with the residents who have been severely affected by the ongoing hostilities. During his visit, the Minister heard heart-wrenching stories of untold sufferings, loss of livelihood, livestock and homes. The Minister expressed deep concern about the losses and also expressed concerns about psychological impact of these hostilities on children and elderly, who are among the most vulnerable in these situations. He emphasized the need for immediate attention and support to mitigate the trauma and stress being experienced by the affected villagers. While interacting with the people, Minister Rana directed the Sub-Divisional Administration to conduct frequent visits to the affected areas. The administration has been tasked with assessing the extent of damages and ensuring that compensation is provided to those who have suffered losses.

## Mandeep Kaur visits Srinagar city; reviews ongoing projects

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 15: Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur, today conducted an extensive tour of Srinagar city to review implementation of key urban developmental projects.

Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed, Vice Chairman LCMA, Shahid Saleem, senior officials of SMC, LCMA and other line departments accompanied the Commissioner Secretary. The tour included visit to multiple project sites across the city, focusing on ongoing interventions aimed at urban beautification, environmental sustainability and infrastructure development. The Commissioner Secretary visited Eidgah, Brar Numbal site, Rakh Arth housing colony Bemina, Parimpora and adjoining areas. She emphasized the importance of completing projects within stipu-



lated timelines. He asked for fostering effective coordination among the agencies to realise tangible improvements in Srinagar's air quality. She stressed the need to accelerate project execution and involve local communities for greater impact. Later, the Commissioner Secretary held a review meeting with the concerned officials to discuss project timelines, identify bottlenecks and formulate mitigation strategies. The Commissioner Secretary highlighted the critical role of sustainable urban planning and smart city initiatives in creating a resilient, cleaner and healthier Srinagar.

## Massive Tiranga Yatra in Srinagar displays unwavering support for the Indian Armed Forces.

HT News Network

Srinagar, 15 May 2025: In a powerful demonstration of patriotism and solidarity with the Indian Armed Forces, thousands emotionally charged citizens took part in a massive "Tiranga Yatra" in Lal Chowk Srinagar today. The Yatra commenced from Sher-i-Kashmir Park to Lal Chowk Srinagar. Waving the national flag and chanting slogans like Jai Hind, Vande Mataram, and Indian Army Zindabad, the participants expressed unflinching support for the nation's soldiers. Chief Guest Waqf Board Chairperson (MOS) Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, alongside BJP leaders, Workers, Activists, Civil Society Group, Students, etc participated in the rally. The Tiranga Yatra was led by a large number of females from the different sections of society to celebrate "Operation Sindoor." The rally began at Sher-e-Kashmir Park and culminated at Lal Chowk, a location that has symbolic significance in Kashmir's political landscape. Holding the national flag, participants raised



slogans against Pakistan and hailed the Indian Army and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "This rally at Lal Chowk is a tribute to the Indian Army and security forces for not only dismantling terror hubs in Pakistan but also showcasing India's strength and resolve," said a BJP leader. "This rally is an expression of our love for the nation." BJP leader and chairperson of the J&K Waqf Board, Darakhshan Andrabi, said the rally was a moment of pride for every Indian. "The Indian Army has made the entire country proud," Altaf Thakur, BJP Spokesperson, said.

## Drugs Free J&K Initiative; Distt admin Srinagar organizes awareness programme on drug abuse at Women's College Nawakadal

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 15: To sensitise students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage them to play their part in its eradication from the society, District Administration Srinagar today organized an awareness programme on Drug De-addiction at Government Women's College Nawakadal. The event was held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat as part of an ongoing Drug Free Jammu and Kashmir initiative of the Government to educate school children, staff members, and local residents about the growing menace of drug addiction and the collective responsibility to curb it.



During the event, informative sessions addressing the physical, mental, and social

consequences of substance abuse were held to effectively sensitize the partici-

pants. The program witnessed active participation from college faculty, students, local community members and officials from various departments. The event featured active participation from Departmental Resource persons representing Social Welfare, Police, Health, Education, Excise and SMC and others, all working together to raise awareness among students and the local population. Students contributed through speeches, skits, and discussions, further emphasizing the message. The participants present on the occasion emphasized the crucial role of education, awareness and community involvement in eradicating the menace of drugs from society.

## Inaugural ceremony of ESDP program under RAMP by JKEDI held at Pulwama

HT News Network

PULWAMA, MAY 15: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Pulwama, Thursday launched an Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Pampore. The program was formally launched by Er. Aijaz Ahmad Wani, Superintendent ITI Pampore and Nafia Nazir, Range Officer (South Kashmir)

JKEDI. Raiyees Manzoor, District Nodal Officer (DNO), JKEDI Pulwama, Waseem Afzal Naik (Course coordinator of the Program) & Arbin Hassan (Trainer of the Program) and faculty from ITI Pampore participated at the event. Speaking on the occasion, Superintendent ITI praised the initiative and underlined the role and importance of entrepreneurship and vocational training for tackling unemployment and a self-reliant economy. Range Officer detailed the aims of the RAMP pro-

gramme and identified the central role played by programmes like this one to promote grassroots-level entrepreneurship. The candidates also interacted with Raiyees Manzoor, DNO JKEDI Pulwama, emphasizing the program's significance and the extent it can empower youths through systematic training and mentorship. The RAMP's ESDP aim is to impart necessary business development, financial planning, and market awareness skills to prospective entrepreneurs.

## Free Medical Camp, awareness on NALSA Helpline 15100 held at Ahata-e-Waqar, Chanapora

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 15: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, conducted a Medical Camp and awareness programme on NALSA Helpline 15100 at Ahata-e-Waqar, Chanapora.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar and under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar. In his welcome address, Chairman of the Senior Citizens Council, Abdul Ganie Parray emphasized the significance of such initiatives in addressing the healthcare needs of the elderly besides raising awareness about their legal rights and entitlements.



EDITORIAL

Clear confusion about transaction of business rules for UT government

Amidst the escalation of tension between India and Pakistan and the consequent emerging situation an all important component of the working of the union territory government has been virtually put to the back-burner. Couple of weeks back the Omar Abdullah led cabinet of Jammu & Kashmir met and decided upon the transaction of business rules vis-a-vis functioning of the government. The file was sent to the office of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for approval.

After a few days the file was returned by the LG with some queries being raised by him. In the communication the LG had written that some of the points mentioned in the business rules are not in tune with the Reorganization Act of 2019. As soon as the file was sent back there was escalation of tension between India and Pakistan and as such no further progress was made in this regard. Even though the situation has eased but still then there is no word from either side about the file.

Both the LG and CM are reviewing the situation that has emerged after the mini-war between India and Pakistan. They are assessing the damages caused to the property in the border areas due to the intense shelling from across the border. As on date their focus is on framing a comprehensive plan for the rehabilitation of the families affected due to the shelling in both the Kashmir and Jammu divisions of the union territory. In this whole scenario there is confusion with respect to the powers and functions of union territory government.

It is imperative that the cabinet responds to the queries raised by the LG office so that the air is cleared and there is a proper functioning of the union territory government. Once the business rules are finalized then the chief minister and his cabinet colleagues are aware about their powers, functions and responsibilities. The people would also come to know about the mandate of LG, CM and the ministers with regards to day to day working of the union territory government.

The Omar Abdullah led union territory government is already seven months old and still there is confusion among the people with regards to the working of the government. This confusion needs to be cleared and the sooner this is done better it will be. This would give a new direction to the development of Jammu & Kashmir and at the end of the day the common masses will benefit.

The Modern daughter-in-law and the silent tragedy of the household matriarch

MOHD AMIN MIR  
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In the changing landscape of 21st-century domestic life, the home—a space once governed by tradition, discipline, and a strong sense of generational roles—is undergoing a quiet but radical shift. At the heart of this transformation lies an evolving dynamic between daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law, where the former increasingly embrace modern lifestyles marked by late sleeping and waking habits, and the latter continue to shoulder the burden of home chores—often silently and thanklessly.

This shift may appear subtle to the casual observer, but for many families, particularly in South Asia, it is a seismic change with far-reaching social consequences. This article explores the changing expectations within households, the consequences of shifting work ethics, and the growing tragedy of elderly women being burdened with domestic responsibilities well into their advanced years.

A Changing World Inside the Home

Traditionally, households functioned on a clear division of roles. While not without flaws, the older structure ensured that every member contributed to the household's smooth functioning. Daughters-in-law, especially, were expected to take up domestic responsibilities and help manage the home alongside the matriarchs who had done the same for their elders.

However, in recent years, a reversal of roles has been taking place. Many daughters-in-law today view domestic chores not as shared responsibilities but as burdens that can be postponed or outsourced—either to their mothers-in-law or domestic help, if affordable. For mothers-in-law who had once anticipated a degree of relief in their older age, the reality is a bitter disappointment.

This is not a question of character assassination or moral policing. Rather, it is about an introspective look into how societal shifts are reshaping the backbone of family units and leaving elder women physically and emotionally drained.

The "Night Owl" Phenomenon

One of the most visible signs of this transition is the shift in daily routines. Increasingly, daughters-in-law in nuclear and joint families are adopting sleep patterns more aligned with modern urban lifestyles—staying up late watching TV, scrolling through social media, or chatting with friends. Mornings, which were once sacred time for prayers, chores, and family

bonding, are now often missed altogether.

When a daughter-in-law wakes up at 10 am or even later, she is already out of sync with the rhythm of the household. Breakfast is missed, elderly parents-in-law are left to fend for themselves, and the entire day is thrown into a pattern of delay and dysfunction. The mother-in-law, often in her sixties or seventies, wakes up before dawn, sweeps the house, prepares breakfast, packs lunch for the working members, and handles miscellaneous chores—tasks she hoped would one day be handed over to the younger generation.

It is a tragedy not in the Shakespearean sense of bloodshed and betrayal but in the quieter, more poignant sense of emotional neglect and unrealised expectations.

Technology and Entitlement

Technology has brought many benefits, but it has also introduced new distractions. The smartphone, while a marvel of modern engineering, is also a silent contributor to family disconnection. Young daughters-in-law may spend hours on their phones—sharing reels, browsing through fashion pages, chatting in groups—while elderly mothers-in-law labour in the kitchen or clean the home.

Even worse, technology has introduced a sense of entitlement. The ease of online shopping, food delivery apps, and social media validation has created an illusion that domestic work is beneath one's status. "Why should I cook when I can order from Zomato?" or "Cleaning is for maids" are common refrains heard in many middle-class households.

Such attitudes breed apathy, and the person who suffers the most is not the one spending time online but the aged mother-in-law who now bears a double burden—managing chores and feeling emotionally marginalised.

Feminism Misunderstood

The modern daughter-in-law often uses the language of empowerment to justify neglect of responsibilities. "I am not a servant," she might say, or "I have my own life," echoing modern feminist discourses. While it is indeed essential to fight gender inequality and ensure women's liberation, such arguments are frequently taken out of context.

True empowerment lies in shared responsibility and respect for all forms of work—including domestic labour. Rejecting household chores altogether while expecting others (often elderly women) to perform them is not liberation; it is hypocrisy.

The tragedy deepens when one

realises that these very mothers-in-law were once daughters-in-law themselves. They too cooked, cleaned, and cared for the family without complaint—often under much more challenging circumstances. They now deserve rest, not repetition of servitude.

The Psychological Toll

Beyond the physical fatigue, the emotional toll on elderly women is profound. They may not speak up, perhaps out of fear of being labelled old-fashioned or interfering. But inside, many are heartbroken.

They feel unappreciated, unwanted, and burdensome—ironically, while doing the work that keeps the house running. This emotional alienation can lead to depression, anxiety, and a quiet resignation to a life of continued sacrifice.

Meanwhile, the daughter-in-law often remains oblivious, lost in her digital world or personal social circles, blind to the emotional cost of her choices.

The Role of Sons and Husbands

Another tragic element of this dynamic is the silence of the male members. Sons who were once raised with love and labour by their mothers often fail to stand up for them. Whether out of fear of conflict, indifference, or misplaced modern ideals, many husbands do not intervene when their mothers are overworked and disrespected.

They rationalise the late mornings and lack of participation in chores as "personal choices" or "the new normal," failing to see the long-term damage being done to both relationships and mental health within the household.

In trying to keep peace, they contribute to injustice. And their silence becomes complicit in the ongoing tragedy.

Culture, Capitalism, and Convenience

It would be unfair to place the blame solely on daughters-in-law without addressing the larger socio-cultural and economic changes that have influenced modern behaviour. Consumerism and individualism have altered the meaning of family. The joint family system, once prevalent in regions like India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, is being replaced by more fragmented, nuclear setups.

With the growing influence of Western media, cultural narratives glorify independence, privacy, and self-care, often at the cost of communal responsibility. Convenience has become a virtue, and hard work is viewed as optional rather than essential.

Unfortunately, in this race toward

modernity, the values of gratitude, respect, and shared labour are being left behind.

A Call for Balance and Compassion

This is not a call to return to regressive systems or to enforce rigid gender roles. Daughters-in-law are not maids; they are individuals with rights, ambitions, and choices. But freedom must coexist with fairness.

Waking up at a reasonable hour, contributing to meals, taking part in cleaning—not out of compulsion but out of care—can go a long way in restoring harmony in homes. Respecting the efforts of the elder women and recognising their limitations is a basic tenet of human decency.

Moreover, the older generation must also be open to conversation, understanding the pressures of modern life, and making space for negotiation. But the core principle must remain: no one, especially not the aged, should carry the burden of an entire household alone.

Solutions and Suggestions

Family Meetings: Encourage regular discussions on household duties where every member—including sons—contributes to finding balanced solutions.

Chore Rotations: Establish a shared chore calendar so that domestic responsibilities are evenly distributed across generations and genders.

Encouraging Empathy: Sons and daughters-in-law should be reminded of the sacrifices made by mothers and mothers-in-law. A simple "thank you" or an act of help can change relationships profoundly.

Counselling and Awareness: Where possible, families can engage in counselling or attend workshops on healthy domestic life, boundaries, and mutual respect.

Educational Campaigns: Media platforms should promote content that values family harmony, elder care, and the dignity of domestic work.

A Final Word

Behind many closed doors, in countless homes, there is an unsung heroine—the mother-in-law—who continues to sweep, cook, and clean, hoping silently for a gesture of appreciation or a morning when she is not the first one awake. Her story is not dramatic enough for headlines, yet it is a tragedy that touches millions.

It is time society reexamines its domestic equations. The home must evolve with time, yes, but not at the cost of compassion. The new daughter-in-law need not become the old one—but she must not forget the shoulders upon which her comfort now rests.

Operation Sindoor - India's Precision Strike Against Terror



BY M S NAZKI

In a stark but predictable replay of history, Pakistan has once again responded to India's anti-terrorist Operation Sindoor not with diplomacy or accountability, but with blind aggression, indiscriminate shelling, and deliberate targeting of innocent civilians. Following India's precise and measured counterterrorism operation against terror hubs in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Punjab, Pakistan chose to retaliate not by confronting the perpetrators of terror, but by turning its guns on defenseless border villages in Jammu and Kashmir.

This pattern of asymmetric retaliation has become synonymous with Pakistan's state policy—a combination of provocation, victim-playing, and terrorism masquerading as national defense. The latest escalation has tragically

reaffirmed Pakistan's unwillingness to confront the terror infrastructure it harbors, funds, and defends.

Operation Sindoor - India's Precision Strike Against Terror:

The events that triggered this cycle of violence began on April 22, 2025, when a brutal terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, carried out by militants from Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed the lives of 26 innocent civilians. Both groups are widely known to be patronized by Pakistan's deep state. In response, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, a meticulously planned strike targeting nine terrorist camps in Bahawalpur, Muzaffarabad, Kotli, and Muridke—notorious breeding grounds for cross-border extremism.

Using Rafale jets armed with precision-guided munitions, Indian forces surgically neutralized terror command centers, deliberately avoiding civilian infrastructure or military installations, affirming that the mission was strictly an anti-terrorist response, not an act of war.

Pakistan's Predictable and Perilous Retaliation:

Rather than confronting the uncomfortable truth about its terror networks, Pakistan resorted to its default reaction: heavy artillery fire targeting Indian civil-

ians. Within minutes of Operation Sindoor, Pakistani forces rained mortar shells on villages in Rajouri, Poonch and Uri destroying homes, injuring several villagers, and displacing families. Temporary bunkers were activated to shelter the terrified population.

This is not an act of military defiance, but one of desperation. Instead of confronting Indian forces, Pakistan targets unarmed villagers. This is not war—it is state-sanctioned terror from across the border. Such actions reveal not a confident nation defending itself, but a fractured regime lashing out in fear, guilt, and failure.

A Repeating Cycle of Denial, Deflection, and Aggression:

Pakistan's behavior following Operation Sindoor is neither new nor surprising. After every major Indian counterterror operation—be it the 2016 Uri surgical strikes, the 2019 Balakot airstrike, or now Sindoor—Pakistan's reaction follows a familiar and cynical script: **Deny the existence of terror camps. Deflect blame by raising the Kashmir issue.**

Aggressively target civilians along the LoC to provoke a humanitarian crisis and attract international intervention.

The most tragic aspect of this pattern is its human cost. In Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, & Uri Several civilians have been killed

and Dozens of Injureds as of May 8, 9, 10 & 11 Schools have been shut down, farmers have abandoned fields, and families now live in fear within underground shelters.

A History of Cowardice Disguised as Resistance:

The roots of this posturing lie deep in Pakistan's military history. From Kargil's Operation Badr, where Pakistani troops infiltrated Indian positions disguised as militants and were later disowned by their own army, to the Pulwama attack, Pakistan has persistently used terrorism as a tool of state policy. After India's Balakot airstrike in 2019, Pakistan responded not by dismantling terror camps, but by launching a failed air incursion and intensifying shelling on civilian areas.

Between 2020 and 2023 alone, over 4,000 ceasefire violations were recorded—almost all aimed at civilian zones. In 2021, a mortar shell hit a classroom in Mendhar, killing four schoolchildren. These are not isolated incidents. They are part of a systemic pattern designed to provoke, distract, and deflect from international scrutiny over Pakistan's terror ecosystem. **Why Pakistan Fears Direct Confrontation:**

The reason Pakistan does not retaliate against military targets is simple: it cannot. With increas-

ing military asymmetry, internal political chaos, and economic instability, the Pakistani establishment—led by the ISI and the military elite—resorts to a dual policy: protect terrorists as "strategic assets" while provoking India into appearing as the aggressor.

When global pressure mounts, terror leaders are taken into "protective custody," only to re-emerge months later under different names. Meanwhile, Pakistan unleashes artillery on Indian border villages to manufacture an illusion of equal retaliation and feed its domestic narrative of resistance.

The International Community Takes Note:

Unlike in the past, the global response to Operation Sindoor has reflected a more nuanced understanding of South Asia's dynamics. The United States recognized India's right to defend itself against terrorism. France issued a clear call for Pakistan to take concrete action against terror actors operating from its territory. The age-old narrative of "both sides must show restraint" is giving way to a more realistic appraisal of Pakistan's duplicity. **India's Clarity vs. Pakistan's Chaos:**

India's Operation Sindoor was an act of surgical precision, moral clarity, and defensive neces-

sity. It was aimed at the root of a decades-long terror problem festering across the border. Pakistan's response, by contrast, was a grotesque theater of cowardice—using innocent civilians as shields, as pawns, and as propaganda tools.

What India targeted were instruments of terror. What Pakistan targeted were classrooms, farms, and homes.

The world must recognize this distinction.

Conclusion - History Will Judge:

As shelling continues along the LoC, India stands resolute—not in conquest, but in the defense of its people, its borders, and its values. Pakistan, yet again, retreats behind a smokescreen of denials, distractions, and the ruin it unleashes upon others.

Each shell Pakistan fires into Indian territory is not just an act of violence—it is an admission of failure. A failure to reform. A failure to stand as a responsible global actor. A failure to prioritize peace over provocation.

India's response to terrorism will always be marked by strength, strategy, and sovereignty. Pakistan's will continue to be haunted by the ghosts it refuses to confront.

And in that contrast, history will forever remember who stood tall—and who chose to hide.



# SHOPIAN AT THE EDGE: BETWEEN BLOOMING PROMISE AND THE WEIGHT OF INERTIA

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Shopian, a historic place at the foothills of the Pir Panjal range, gracefully nestles the southern hemisphere of Jammu & Kashmir, which stands as a region of profound promise. It is renowned for its pristine landscapes and agricultural vitality that rightfully lead it to be known as the “Apple Bowl of Kashmir”, particularly for producing some of the premium apple varieties that anchor a substantial segment of the Union Territory’s horticultural economy.

Despite this pastoral and agrarian identity with natural assets and economic potential, there lies a stark paradox in why Shopian continues to struggle with chronic underdevelopment. In a telling historical coincidence, Shopian and its neighbouring district Kulgam were accorded district status on the same day in 2007. However, while Kulgam has since registered measurable growth in road connectivity’s, infrastructure, education, healthcare and economic diversification, Shopian appears shackled to systemic stagnation.

The reasons for this are as much political and institutional as they are infrastructural. Geographically, Shopian enjoys a unique strategic location. Bordered by Pulwama to the north, Kulgam and Anantnag to the east, Budgam to the west, and Poonch-Rajouri to the south, it occupies a critical position as a potential socio-economic and trade conduit between Kashmir’s heartland and its frontier regions. However, this latent advantage remains woefully underutilized due to fragile infrastructure, legacy conflict impacts and weak governance frameworks.

In recent past, the district, specifically Shopian constituency, witnessed a notable political shift, where developmental rhetoric emerged as the centrepiece of electoral discourse. The newly elected MLA of Shopian, riding a strong public mandate, drew attention to a deeply unsettling reality revealing therein that nearly 80% of commercial constructions in the town are encroached upon, illegally occupying public space. From unauthorised stalls to unchecked concrete sprawl, encroachments



have choked Shopian’s urban fabric, stalling vital civic development. A bulldozer model of justice was subtly hinted, triggering sharp political backlash.

Critics accused the MLA of seeking extortion, but the controversy unearthed a deeper truth: Is Shopian’s urban chaos incidental or deeply systemic? The revelations, though politically polarizing, cracked open a necessary debate particularly on the failed urban planning, institutional inertia and the ethics of governance. Shopian can no longer stand at crossroads where accountability gets replaced with silence and reforms stall with rhetoric.

Encroachments and chronic traffic congestion in Shopian are not isolated grievances but vivid indicators of a deeper systemic

malaise. At a time when global cities are embracing smart mobility, sustainable urban planning and decentralized governance, Shopian remains tethered to outdated administrative models and visionless execution. This stagnation is worsened by a culture of bureaucratic inertia, political appeasement and a performative approach to public service. Alarmingly, when the High Court of J&K, acting on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), ordered the government to publish the names of individuals illegally occupying state, forest, and Kah-charai lands, many names were either misrepresented or withheld thereby shielding violators and eroding public trust. The rule of law, instead of being upheld, is selectively applied, reinforcing impunity. In this dysfunctional

ecosystem, public service has been reduced to photo ops and social media spectacle, while substantive governance is conspicuously absent. Genuine public service demands lawful conduct, transparency and accountability. Unless this entrenched culture of delay, denial and incompetence is dismantled, Shopian’s potential will continue to be stifled by systemic neglect and political inertia.

A recent op-ed by Er Raja Ishfaq Lateef analysing Shopian’s traffic crisis in light of global urban mobility trends identified a troubling triad that appears fuelling the district’s stagnation in infrastructural deficiency, institutional lethargy and political inertia. The article exposed how building permissions were historically granted without enforcing zoning laws or

mandatory No Objection Certificates (NOCs), fostering a culture of impunity and unchecked construction. Alarmingly, even in the digital era, construction continues in violation of land-use norms and planning principles, signalling systemic decay with far-reaching consequences.

This pattern points to an urgent need to address collusion within public institutions, meant to safeguard, not exploit, public resources. Further aggravating the situation is the illegal occupation of public spaces, including areas designated for parks and recreational zones (designed under town plan), now converted for commercial use. A comparison between sanctioned building permits and ground realities reveals gross violations of planning ethics. Disturbingly, there

have even been allegations that some public officials paid bribes to secure postings in Shopian, exploiting administrative lapses for personal enrichment. This calls for institutional introspection, stringent accountability and a return to lawful, citizen-centric governance.

It is worth mentioning here that Shopian’s crisis is not rooted in resource scarcity but in the absence of will, vision and governance rooted in the rule of law. Despite its strategic location, natural bounty and human capital, the district remains paralysed by policy stagnation, rampant illegality and performative politics. To unlock its true potential, Shopian needs structural reforms, not symbolism. This begins with enforcing strict zoning laws and mandatory NOC compliance to prevent further encroachments. Digitally mapping and reclaiming encroached public spaces is essential and that these reclaimed lands must be repurposed for public welfare through health facilities, educational hubs, research centres and recreational zones. Holding public servants accountable for inaction, misconduct, and ethical lapses is critical to re-establishing the rule of law. A citizen-led urban renewal mission aligned with Smart City principles should be launched, promoting participatory governance. Independent monitoring bodies must oversee planning, development and land use integrity. Developmental narratives must shift from populist slogans to measurable outcomes.

In light of the above, it transpires that Shopian stands at a defining crossroads caught between persistent decay and untapped promise. Its revival lies not in rhetoric but in courageous, ethical governance rooted in law, transparency and people-first planning. With collective resolve and institutional integrity, Shopian can no longer rise as a symbol of neglect, but as a beacon of transformative change in Jammu and Kashmir.

The writer is a cofounder and chairman at RADISAT Foundation (Research And Development In Science Art & Technology), working at the intersection of science, justice and social development.

## Echoes Behind Closed Doors: The Untold Story of a Broken Home



BY SYED MAJID GILANI

In a world where truth is often trampled, Sameer’s life was turned upside down by a relentless campaign of harassment and manipulation orchestrated by his partner, Mehnaz. Her ultimate goal was to secure a divorce and a hefty alimony, but with a twisted plan: to manipulate Sameer into initiating the divorce.

Behind the façade of a happy family, a toxic environment festered. Sameer, a God-fearing, humble and honest officer, suffered in silence. His simplicity, clean-heartedness, and honesty had become his downfall in his marriage to Mehnaz, whose narcissistic personality had created a living hell. Behind closed doors, Sameer wept and wiped away his tears, hiding his pain from the world. Mehnaz would taunt him, criticize him, and manipulate the children into turning against him.

She would often humiliate Sameer in front of his relatives and of course, their children, making him feel worthless and insignificant. Mehnaz tightened the noose, declaring an open war on Sameer. She no longer bothered seeking permission or consent before doing anything or going anywhere, a fundamental aspect of a trusting married life. Instead, she began making

outrageous demands for huge sums of money, knowing Sameer earned a handsome salary and had adequate savings, but ignoring the fact, that he was drowning in loans and debts, which he had incurred for the renovation of his ancestral property. Sameer had a great emotional attachment to his ancestral home, where his fathers’ and grandparents’ memories, coupled with his own sweet and sour childhood memories, resonated. Actually, Sameer wanted to preserve the same for his dear children, hardly thinking that his wife was having contrary designs and plans.

As Mehnaz’s plans unfolded, Sameer’s world began to crumble. The first step she took was to feed lies and concocted tales to their children, just to cultivate and harness hatred among them for their loving father. The children, under Mehnaz’s influence, turned against Sameer. They would ignore his calls, dismiss his messages, and even refuse to meet him. Sameer felt like he was losing everything that mattered to him, although temporarily. He was left alone, with no one to turn to, no one to confide in.

For years, Mehnaz surreptitiously compiled a dossier on Sameer, meticulously copying his phone contacts and closely monitoring his interactions with friends, colleagues, neighbors and acquaintances. Her clandestine efforts were a precursor to a campaign of manipulation and harassment, designed to exploit Sameer. Despite being subjected to torture, incitement, denial, and constant provocation, Sameer remained calm and composed. Mehnaz’s strategy was to push him to the brink, hoping he would lash out and give

her the divorce she wanted. But Sameer refused to take the bait.

As the days turned into nights, Sameer’s tears fell like rain with his heart heavy with sorrow. He felt like a prisoner in his own home, trapped in a loveless marriage, with no escape from the torment. But Mehnaz had other plans. She decided to break their home without giving a second thought to the children’s future, and Sameer’s love for her. With a calculating smile, she executed her nefarious plans, feeling a twisted sense of joy in destroying the life they had built together.

Actually, Sameer thought he had found his soulmate in Mehnaz, but he discovered a self-centered and manipulative narcissist in her. She consistently belittled him, making him feel insignificant and eroding his self-worth. Conversations revolved around her accomplishments, needs, and desires, with any disagreement or non-compliance triggering her rage. Despite his efforts to please her, Mehnaz was never satisfied, leaving Sameer feeling trapped and walking on eggshells to avoid her wrath. Her fragile ego and superiority complex made her incapable of empathy or understanding. But one day, Sameer found the strength to break free from Mehnaz’s toxic grasp. He set boundaries, refusing to engage in her games, and rediscovered his passion for writing. He reconnected with friends and family, slowly rebuilding his shattered confidence. However, Mehnaz couldn’t accept Sameer’s newfound independence. She unleashed her fury and manipulation, desperate to pull him back into her web. Yet, Sameer stood firm, knowing he deserved a life free from

narcissistic abuse.

When Mehnaz created a scene, hoping to manufacture evidence of violence, her lies didn’t work as planned. Undeterred, she reached out to the police, courts, and various forums, spinning a web of fabricated stories and lies. She even approached Sameer’s colleagues, friends, relatives, and acquaintances hoping to infuriate him into a divorce. But Sameer remained resolute, refusing to give in to her tactics. The battle of wills continued, with Sameer determined to withstand the onslaught and protect his rights.

As Sameer reflects on the darkest chapters of his life, he realizes that his quest for love and connection was mercilessly manipulated and distorted. Every day brought a fresh wave of torment: relentless arguments, crushing criticisms, and a relationship twisted beyond recognition. Mehnaz, the person he trusted most, turned against him, and his own flesh and blood were brainwashed and turned against him. As the truth began to unravel, Sameer realized with horror that he was betrayed in the most heinous way imaginable. Yet, he finds the strength to break free from this toxic web of lies and manipulation. His heart-wrenching true story is a testament to the resilience of the human heart and the power of truth to overcome even the darkest of evils.

Syed Majid Gilani is a Government Officer and a writer who reflects on human emotions, family bonds, moral values, and heartfelt experiences drawn from the rich tapestry of real life. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com

## When i die



RATHER ALJAZ ratherajaz740@gmail.com

When I die, let the sky carry me soft in a whisper, no thunder, no cry—just the hush of a distant river. Let the trees remember my name, not in bark, but in shade and bloom, a quiet part of nature’s frame, not a monument, not a tomb. Scatter no gold, no stone or fire, but speak in the voice of rain, tell the earth I held desire but learned to let go of pain. If you miss me, look to the light where dawn kisses the hill. I’ll be there in morning’s flight, and in your silence, still. When I die, don’t say goodbye like it’s an end you fear—just let love be the reason why I was ever here. when you see my corpse is being carried, do not cry for leaving. i will met you in the eternal world. Do not think, death is the end of life, Actually death marks the begining of secound phase of life.





# Mission Director reviews HADP initiatives amid field visit to Marh

## HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 15: Mission Director Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) Sandeep Kumar conducted a comprehensive tour of the Marh area to assess the on-ground progress of multiple agricultural initiatives under the flagship programme. He was accompanied by Director Agriculture Jammu Arvinder Singh Reen; Joint Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Jammu, Livestock Development Officer, SMS-DL, SDAO and field staff.

The visit aimed to evaluate the transformational impact of HADP initiatives designed to modernize agriculture and uplift the livelihoods of farmers across the district. The tour commenced with a briefing from

Director Agriculture Jammu, who presented an overview of ongoing developmental projects in the region. During the field inspection, the Mission Director visited several key project sites with a strong emphasis on innovation, sustainability, and community engagement. A highlight of the tour was the inspection of a High-Tech Polyhouse under HADP of Beneficiary Kamla Devi of village Baba Talab, Gurha Singhu, enabling controlled-environment agriculture for improved crop yields while minimizing risks from adverse weather conditions.

The delegation also visited the Commercial Vermicompost unit of Manmeet Singh of Village Chatha Gujran, a vital step towards encouraging organic farming and enhancing soil fertility through eco-friendly practices. Mission Director also visited Akhil Mushroom Farm to inspect



Controlled Conditioned Cropping Unit of Bal Krishan of Gurha Singhu and Controlled Conditioned Cropping Unit of Rahul Sharma of village Flora Nagbani, under HADP Project No. 10 (Promotion of Mushroom Cultivation). Sandeep Kumar reviewed its operations and underscored the potential of mushroom farming as a

sustainable and profitable livelihood option for rural communities. The tour also encompassed an evaluation of Dairy Development initiatives under HADP. The Mission Director interacted directly with dairy farmers in Village Marh and inspected operational units aimed at improving milk production and rural income.

Expressing his satisfaction with the progress, Sandeep Kumar stated that the programme is not only advancing scientific agriculture and improving farmers' incomes, but also emerging as a powerful driver of rural employment. He emphasized that HADP is opening up new avenues in farming, agri-business, and allied sectors, particularly for youth and women, who are being actively encouraged and equipped with skills to adopt agriculture as a sustainable and dignified means of livelihood.

Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen highlighted the broader socio-economic impact of HADP, stating that the HADP is making a significant difference in the lives of our farmers. By focusing on sustainable and innovative agricultural practices, we are not only enhancing their income and livelihoods but also ensuring these benefits reach the

most deserving sections of our rural community.

The positive feedback from farmers during this visit reinforces the value of these initiatives in empowering local agriculture. The tour also encompassed an evaluation of Dairy Development initiatives under HADP. The Mission Director interacted directly with dairy farmers in Village Marh and inspected operational units aimed at improving milk production and rural income.

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## District Hospital Bandipora Conducts Crucial ALS/BLS Training for Night Duty Staff

### HT News Network

Bandipora, May 15: In a major step towards strengthening emergency preparedness, District Hospital Bandipora today successfully conducted an Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) training session for all night duty staff.

The session was held in the Emergency Room, was conducted by the on-duty anesthetist and witnessed active participation from doctors, paramedics, and support staff including pharmacists, X-ray and OT technicians, MTS, drivers and sanitation workers.

Medical Superintendent Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani, under whose guidance the training was organized, stressed the importance of such initiatives. "Equipping staff with ALS and BLS skills is critical in ensuring timely and effective response during medical emergencies. This training can mean the difference between life and death," she said. All night duty personnel were directed to attend without fail, and no staff member was permitted to leave the station without completing the training.

The hands-on session covered key techniques in CPR, airway management, and emergency cardiac care, ensuring that frontline responders are well-prepared for critical situations. The hospital administration reiterated its commitment to patient safety and professional competency through regular capacity-building programs like this one. The session covered key techniques in CPR, airway management, and emergency cardiac care, ensuring that frontline responders are well-prepared for critical situations. The hospital administration reiterated its commitment to patient safety and professional competency through regular capacity-building programs like this one. The session covered key techniques in CPR, airway management, and emergency cardiac care, ensuring that frontline responders are well-prepared for critical situations. The hospital administration reiterated its commitment to patient safety and professional competency through regular capacity-building programs like this one.

## Police Organizes Thana Diwas/Lok Darbar to Discuss New Criminal Laws Across PD Handwara

### HT News Network



Handwara May 15: Police in Handwara organized Thana Diwas/Lok Darbar across all police establishments in the police district as part of its ongoing public outreach initiative. The program aimed to raise awareness and facilitate discussions on the newly introduced criminal laws, with special emphasis on their victim-centric and citizen-centric provisions.

These events witnessed active participation from across-section of the community, including religious leaders, local representatives, senior citizens, Masjid Imams, Nambardars, and other prominent figures. During these sessions, police officers highlighted key aspects of the new criminal legislation, underlining how the changes prioritize justice for victims, protect citizens' rights, and promote a more transparent and efficient legal process. Officers also urged the public to familiarize themselves with the new laws and assured them of the department's commitment to fair implementation and public welfare.

Police reaffirmed its dedication to public safety, victim support, and citizen-friendly policing, and called for continued cooperation from the community in upholding peace, justice, and mutual trust.

## ازنیات شانگس اچھل

درخواست پنجاب ایمان ریاض ولد ریاض احمد ڈار سائل مکمل پوہر

شانگل بھول RBA سرٹفکٹ

اشتہار ہمارا آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

سائل نے ایک درخواست بھول RBA سرٹفکٹ کے مطابق مکمل پوہر کی ہے رپوٹ کے مطابق مکمل پوہر شانگل میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور افراد کیہ مندرجہ ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

محمد رمضان ولد غلام محمد 73 سال پشتر آمدنی 26540 Ipc

ذریفہ بانو زید محمد رمضان 65 سال گھریلو کام

ریاض احمد پیر 42 سال دوکانداری آدانی

5000 شاہید اختر زوہر ریاض احمد 42 سال گھریلو کام

زیشان احمد پیر 16 سال زید تعلیم

ایمان ریاض پیر 18 سال

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد محمد مین موجود نہیں ہے اور سائل کی کل آمدنی 383480 تک ہے سرٹفکٹ اجراء کرنے میں کمی کی ضرورت ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر دفتر حرا میں پیش کرے بعد ازاں معاد کی ضرورت قبول نہیں ہوگا

نایب تحصیلدار

## اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ سب سے پہلے رجسٹران محدود وادی جاوید احمد وانی سائل پہلے کامی D08 سرٹفکٹ مطابق پوہر کاڈ 27-07-2020 منسل کیٹی پہلے کامی سے تکی مطلب ہے اگر کسی کو کوئی ضرورت ہو تو وہ سات یوم تک منسل کیٹی کے دفتر میں پیش کرے بعد ازاں معاد کی ضرورت قبول نہیں ہوگا

المستہر

جاوید احمد وانی والد ریحان احمد

ساکن پہلنگام

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE PAHALGAM. (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PAHALGAM / BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER PAHALGAM has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of SUBZAR AHMAD MAGHUL S/O MOHAMMAD YOUSUF MAGHUL R/O MAIN MARKET PAHALGAM Tehsil PAHALGAM Distt. Anantnag with verified the date of Birth, as 01/11/2000 and event has been to be occurred at Home .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of said registration shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate  
1st Class PAHALGAM

## UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

### DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMER'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT LALMANDI SRINAGAR. RE-AUCTION NOTICE

Due to poor response of the Auction Notice called vide No:- Agri/Pur-Sec/2024-25/ 7022-26 dated 11.03.2025& No. Agri/Pur-Sec/2025-26/335-39 dated 28.04.2025 in respect of Grazing Area of Nowgam Rakhs& Farms is hereby re-auctioned which will be held at RakhiNowgam Bandipora on 20.05.2025.

Interested parties are informed to quote their rates in respect of grazing areas to be auctioned on following terms and conditions. The rates should reach to the office of RakhiNowgam Bandipora on 20.05.2025 (Tuesday) till 1.00 pm through sealed envelop on prescribed format.

S.N o.	Name of circle	Name of Grazing Area	Area available for grazing (Ha)	Minimum Reserve Price in Rs.	Remarks
1	Nowgam	1-Rakhi Nowgam,Doslipora,1111Kanal s, (Except new Plantation beats).	406.4	Rs. 4,89,500.00	Auction will be held atRakhiNowgam Bandipora.
		2-Rakhi Sultanpora (Except new Plantation beat)	10.00	Rs. 12,516.00	Auction will be held atRakhiNowgam Bandipora.

#### TERMS AND CONDITION

That the offered rates must be accompanied with a CDR @ 10 % of the Minimum Reserve price pledged to Accounts Officer Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir or cash deposit Rs. 50000.00 & Rs. 2000.00 for akhiNowgamDaslipora,&RakhiSultanpora respectively.

That the interested party can inspect the material at respective Grazing Areas as mentioned above on any working day during the office hours upto 19.05.2025.

That the offered rates shall be opened on same date i.e., 20.05.2025 at 1.00 PM in the office chamber of RakhiNowgam Bandipora.

That the Auction Committee shall be at liberty to accept or reject the bids without assigning any reasons thereof.

That the Successful bidders shall have to deposit 100% bid amount immediately after he/she is declared successful bidder, otherwise his earnest money will be forfeited.

In case the successful bidder fails to make the payment in full within stipulated time his earnest money shall be forfeited & the award shall be given to second highest bidder on the rates offered by Isthighestbidder.

The successful bidder shall have to use the grazing area without causing damage to other plantation/infrastructure of the farm area. That in case any dispute arises between the parties, the matter will be referred to Director Agriculture, Kashmir and his decision shall be binding on both the parties.

That the said public auction notice has been called in the interest to save the state exchequer from imminent loss being perishable commodity.

That no tenderer is allowed to submit the tender below the minimum reserved rates, otherwise his cash deposit/CDR will be forfeited.

11. That if the quoted rate is found below Minimum Reserve Bid his/her Earnest money deposit will be forfeited.

12. The CDR's in respect of unsuccessful bidders will be released after one week duly applied by the bidder to Member Secretary Auction Committee (Accounts Officer).

13. That the contract shall be valid upto ending November 2025.

DIPK-1468/25  
Send Date: May 15 2025  
Pub Date: May 16 2025

Sd/-  
Accounts Officer  
Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Industrial Training Institute (Sopore) Skill Development Department

### Admission Notice

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for seeking Admission in Govt. ITI Sopore for the Academic Session 2025-26/25 in various Engineering/Non Engineering Trades having duration of two year/one year/six months being run under NCVT Scheme with effect from 15th May, 2025 to 30th May, 2025.

Candidates having minimum age of 14 Years, as on 1st September 2025, with no upper age bar can apply. The desirous Candidates have to fill up the admission forms online available at ITI admission link (<http://itiadmissions.jkdsd.in>), present on the official website of Directorate of Skill Development J&K i.e. [www.jkdsd.in](http://www.jkdsd.in).

The last date for applying online is up to 30th May, 2025. The candidates have to fill up the complete details which include Basic Details of the Student like Name, Parentage etc. and Qualification Details online in the portal and have to upload the soft copy of the following documents online only.

1. Marks Certificate of Qualifying Examination.
2. Date of Birth Certificate.
3. Category Certificate (SC/ST/Ex. Servicemen / Physically Handicapped/EWS) if any.
4. Aadhaar Card.
5. Domicile Certificate should be produced at the time of admission.

The candidates after finalizing the profile and application online will be required to deposit the print out (hardcopy) of system generated application along with self-attested photo copies of above mentioned required documents at the ITI in the trainings section. The details pertaining to trades functioning in Govt ITI Sopore for which admission are to be made for the session 2024-25/26 are as below.

S No	Name of the Trade	Scheme	Duration	Intake Capacity	Eligibility
1	Stenographer and Secretarial Assistant (Normal)	NCVT	1 Year	24	10th
2	Stenographer and secretarial Assistant (Self Finance)	NCVT	1 Year	24	10th
3	Computer Operator & Programming Assistant	NCVT	1 Year	24	10th
4	Software Testing Assistant	NCVT	1 Year	24	12th science with Math or with vocational subject in IT
5	Desktop Publishing Operator	NCVT	1 Year	24	10th
6	Computer Hardware and Network Maintenance	NCVT	1 Year	24	10th
7	Data Entry Operator	NCVT	06 months	20	10th (Women's Wing)
8	Sewing Technology	NCVT	1 Year	20	8th
9	Welder	NCVT	1 Year	24	8th
10	Plumber	NCVT	1 Year	24	8th
11	Electronics Mechanic	NCVT	2 Year	24	10th
12	Electrician	NCVT	2 Year	20	10th
13	Refrigeration And Air Conditioning Technician	NCVT	2 Year	24	10th

The candidate has to pay a fee of Rs. 100/ (One Hundred) per three trades in which he /she is seeking admission against cash receipt from the ITI Sopore.

The detailed guidelines for filling the application forms by the candidates is also available on ITI Admission Portal and [www.itisopore.com](http://www.itisopore.com).

Important Note:

1. Selection will be made purely on the basis of Academic Merit obtained by the applicants in their qualifying examination (Both for free and Self Finance seats separately).
2. On successful completion of training in trades running under NCVT scheme, certificate will be 3. awarded by National Council for Vocational Training.

Candidates who have already undergone training in any of the trades in ITI can apply for admissions in another trade after two years of completion of previous training/ course. However, for the ensuing academic session, their admission can be considered in any trade having poor response.

DIPK-1456/25  
Send Date:-15/05/2025  
PUB Date:-16/05/2025

Sd/-  
Superintendent  
Industrial Training Institute, Sopore







## DC Baramulla conducts administrative tour of Sub-division Sopore Thoroughly reviews functioning at Tehsil Office, Municipal Council Office, SDH Sopore

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MAY 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa conducted a visit to the Tehsil Office, Municipal Council Office and Sub-District Hospital Sopore to review their overall functioning, assess public service delivery and take stock of ongoing administrative activities. During the visit, DC reviewed the overall performance of the tehsil office and checked the attendance of staff. He was briefed by the Tehsildar Sopore regarding the day-to-day functioning of the tehsil office. After detailed assessment of the

tehsil office, DC approved sanctioning of Rs.6 lakh for upgrading the facilities and strengthening service delivery at the tehsil office Sopore. DC directed the concerned authorities that all pending court cases must be disposed-off within stipulated time frame, and emphasized timely action on public grievances. Additionally, he directed the concerned authorities to ensure the demolition of unsafe structures in the jurisdiction to safeguard public safety. DC further instructed the Executive Engineer R&B to prepare DPRs for beautification of parking spaces, record room and other facilities in



Sopore town for effective service delivery. Meanwhile, during his visit to the Municipal Committee Office Sopore, DC thoroughly checked the staff attendance, and reviewed the service delivery. Speaking during the visit, DC said that the revenue department has already transferred 40 kanals of land for the construction of a sewage treatment plant which will be operationalised in a few weeks time to cater to the local waste management needs. He further stated that SDRF equipment, including machinery such as boats, life jackets, and other essential

tools, will be stationed at Sopore to ensure a prompt response during emergencies. Later, DC conducted a visit to Sub District Hospital Sopore to take stock of the healthcare facilities being provided to the patients. He also interacted with patients, attendants and inspected staff rosters to ensure optimal healthcare delivery. At the SDH Sopore, DC also undertook the thorough assessment of Jan Aushadhi Kendra to review the service delivery and availability of medicine for the patients visiting the hospital. During the visit, DC was accompanied by ADC Sopore and other officers and officials.

## District-level workshop on SIP implementation under RAMP held at Shopian

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 15: To promote awareness and implementation of the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) under the RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) programme, District Industries Centre (DIC), Shopian hosted a district-level workshop at Mini-Secretariat Shopian. RAMP programme is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, supported by the World Bank. The workshop brought together key stakeholders from across the MSME ecosystem of the district Shopian, including the General Manager, DIC, DDM NABARD, Lead District Manager (LDM), DPM National Rural Livelihood Mission, DNO Entrepreneurship Development Institute, representatives from the



Department of Cooperatives, Handicrafts, Handloom and Industrial Association IE Aglar/IE Gagren. The primary objective of the workshop was to sensitize stakeholders on the strategic priorities outlined under the SIP, which aims to enhance the capacity, competitiveness, and resilience of MSMEs in the district. In his keynote address, General Manager, DIC Shopian, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in driving sustainable growth for the MSME sector.

The RAMP programme, through the SIP framework offers a structured roadmap to bridge existing gaps in infrastructure, finance, and market access for our local entrepreneurs, he noted. As the knowledge and implementation partner under RAMP, Experts from Grant Thornton Bharat LLP delivered a detailed presentation on the Strategic Investment Plan, outlining the main objectives, priority reform areas, and district-specific strategies for MSME development. The team highlighted the importance of insti-

tutional strengthening, access to finance, digital enablement, and market integration, with a focus on actionable steps tailored for Shopian district. DDM NABARD and LDM Shopian spoke about credit linkage, financial inclusion, and institutional support available for MSMEs. Meanwhile, DPM NRLM and representatives from Cooperatives, Handicrafts and Handloom outlined various schemes and initiatives designed to support artisans, weavers, SHGs, and rural entrepreneurs. Interactive sessions provided a platform for open discussion, where representatives from Industrial Association IE Aglar/IE Aglar and departmental representatives shared ideas, addressed challenges, and explored ways to leverage the RAMP initiative effectively.

## DC Kulgam visits GHSS Nihama, interacts with students

Farooq Rather

KGULGAM, MAY 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Nihama to take firsthand assessment of the overall functioning of the institution. During the visit, DC took stock of the existing infrastructure, academic environment, and staff availability. He also interacted with the students and staff and highlighted the significance of dedication, discipline, and consistency in achieving academic and personal success. Khan urged students to remain focused on their goals and to make optimal use of the educational opportunities available to them.



Emphasizing the pivotal role of education in shaping a successful future, DC shared valuable insights on goal setting, time management and confidence building. He also appreciated the efforts of the teaching faculty and assured them of full support from the district administration in addressing academic and infrastructural requirements. On the occasion, DC also

inspected the ongoing construction work of a new building within the school premises. He instructed the Executive Engineer, R&B, to expedite the pace of work and ensure timely completion of the project to augment the existing infrastructure. DC was accompanied by ADC, Viqar Ahmad Giri; SDM D.H.Pora, Tehsildar, ZEO and other officers.

## Medical Camp, yoga session organized at Shopian

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 15: A free medical and awareness camp was organized today at Zari Center Babapora Chitragam, Shopian. The camp was conducted by AWHC Wachi and AHWCTurkawangam in collaboration with JKRLM Shopian. A total of 110 patients were attended to. The initiative aimed to promote health awareness and provide free consultations and treatment. In continuation of the countdown to the 11th International Yoga Day, a Yoga session was also held at TRC Park Borihalan, Shopian. The session focused on promoting holistic health and well-being through yoga, witnessing active participation from students and staff.

## DLSA Shopian organises awareness programme at GHSS Hermain

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 15: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian in collaboration with the Education Department today organized an awareness programme on Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities at Govt. Higher Secondary School Hermain, Shopian today. The event was organized on the directions of Chairman DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary and guidance of Secretary DLSA Shopian, Mudasar Farooq. The programme was attended by LADC Advocates, students, teachers & PLVs. All the participants actively engaged in comprehensive discussions to deepen their understanding of the NALSA Scheme 2024 and strategize its effective execution. Assistant LADC, DLSA Shopian, Sajad Hussain Najar elaborated on the NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme 2024, outlining its objectives and the role of legal services units in its execution. Assistant LADC DLSA Shopian, Meenu Jan highlighted the significance of the NALSA Scheme 2024 in safeguarding the rights of children and individuals with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities. She emphasized the necessity of a collaborative approach to ensure the scheme's successful implementation. Assistant LADC DLSA Shopian, Aamir Ayoub shed light on 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.

## DLSA Budgam organizes awareness programme on POSH Act at Al-Asma Educational Institute

HT News Network

BUDGAM, MAY 15: In order to sensitize authorities/managements, employees and adolescent groups with the provisions of the 'Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act)' District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam today organized an awareness programme at Al-Asma Educational Institute Budgam. 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. Deputy LADC, DLSA Budgam, Nazir Ahmad Wagay, a resource person on the occasion gave a brief introduction on the provisions of the said Act. He said the purpose of implementing the POSH Act is to prevent and protect the women from sexual harassment at the workplace and ensuring a safe working environment



for them. He also highlighted all important facts under different sections of the Act such as definition of sexual harassment, composition of Internal Complaints Committee, complaint mechanism, steps for conduct of inquiry, report submission by Internal Complaint Committee, etc., Wagay also spoke about the duties as well as the powers of the Local & Internal Complaints Committee in a Govt. or public organization. He went on to explain the meaning of 'Sexual Harassment' with the help of case laws and examples. The programme was attended

by Officers, Officials and PLVs of DLSA Budgam. He also highlighted all important facts under different sections of the Act such as definition of sexual harassment, composition of Internal Complaints Committee, complaint mechanism, steps for conduct of inquiry, report submission by Internal Complaint Committee, etc., Wagay also spoke about the duties as well as the powers of the Local & Internal Complaints Committee in a Govt. or public organization. He went on to explain the meaning of 'Sexual Harassment' with the help of case laws and examples.

## DC Kulgam visits PHC Nihama, reviews facilities, staff availability

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MAY 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Nihama to take stock of the healthcare facilities and assess staff availability. During the visit, DC inspected various sections of the health centre and reviewed the availability of essential medical services, equipment and manpower. He interacted with both medical staff and patients to gauge the quality of healthcare being provided at the facility. Khan emphasized the importance of delivering timely and efficient medical care to the public, and stressed the need for ensuring patient-friendly services. He assured that all necessary measures will be taken to address any infrastructural or service-related gaps. DC also instructed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure optimal utilization of available staff and to provide round-the-clock healthcare services. DC was accompanied by ADC, Viqar Ahmad Giri; SDM D.H.Pora, Tehsildar and other officers.



## DC Ganderbal visits Baltal Base Camp, reviews preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Convenes meeting of service providers, stakeholders for rate fixation of various services

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, MAY 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today visited Baltal Base Camp to inspect and take a firsthand appraisal of ongoing preparations for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra. During the visit, DC inspected key infrastructure projects including the Yatri Niwas Baltal, fencing work, upgradation of frisking points and other essential arrangements. On-spot instructions were issued to the concerned departments and executing agencies to expedite the completion of these works within a fixed timeline. During the visit, DC was accompanied by Additional CEO SASB, Director Information, SSP Ganderbal, ADC Ganderbal, and other officers. Later, the DC chaired a joint meeting with concerned officers and representatives



of various service providers to finalize the rates for key services provided to the pilgrims, including ponies, pithus, dandies, palkis, and tents during the Yatra. The meeting, held at Sonamarg, aimed

to ensure fair pricing and quality service delivery during the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 (SANJY) via Baltal route. A detailed discussion was held with

stakeholders to prevent overcharging and enhance the overall experience for Yatri. Representatives from different service groups actively participated in the meeting and assured full cooperation for the smooth and successful conduct of SANJY-2025. Kishore urged all stakeholders to strictly adhere to the approved rates and assured that necessary mechanisms would be in place to ensure compliance and facilitate a safe and comfortable pilgrimage. The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal; ADC Ganderbal, Syed Fahim Bihaqi; CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, DFO Sindh Forest Division, SDM Kangan, CMO Ganderbal, and other district and sectoral officers. The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal; ADC Ganderbal, Syed Fahim Bihaqi; CEO Sonamarg Development Authority.











## DC Rajouri constitutes ward-wise teams for identification of sites for community bunkers in border towns

HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 15: In view of the vulnerability of border areas to cross-border shelling and to ensure the safety and protection of the civilian population residing in towns near the Line of Control, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma has constituted ward-wise teams under respective Municipal Committees for identification of suitable land for the construction of community bunkers/underground shelters.

These teams have been directed to conduct extensive field visits across their respective wards to identify Government or community-owned land that is feasible for the construction of bunkers. They will assess the suitability of land in terms of location, accessibility, safety, and size, while avoiding flood-prone or naturally vulnerable areas.

The teams have also been tasked to interact with local residents and take community inputs into consideration during the identification process. Additionally, consultations with religious heads and members of civil society shall be held to ensure wider participation and consensus in the selection process.

Each team is required to prepare a brief report supported with GPS coordinates, photographs, and documentation regarding the land status. The reports are to



be submitted to the office of the Deputy Commissioner within two days from the issuance of the order.

To ensure timely action, the Executive Officer of the respective Municipal Committee shall monitor daily progress. The overall coordination and compilation of data shall be supervised by the Additional Deputy Commissioner concerned and Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rajouri.

This proactive initiative reflects the administration's

commitment to safeguarding civilian lives and enhancing preparedness in the border region during emergency situations. These teams have been directed to conduct extensive field visits across their respective wards to identify Government or community-owned land that is feasible for the construction of bunkers. They will assess the suitability of land in terms of location, accessibility, safety, and size, while avoiding flood-prone or naturally vulnerable areas.

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## AAP Expels OP Khajuria from Jammu and Kashmir Unit Over 'Indiscipline'

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 15: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday expelled one of its senior members, Om Prakash Khajuria, from the party's Jammu and Kashmir unit, citing indiscipline and conduct deemed contrary to the party's core values. According to a termination order issued by Mehraj Malik, the State President of AAP J&K, Khajuria's membership has been revoked with immediate effect following internal consultations. The party said Khajuria's actions were found to be inconsistent with the principles and discipline upheld by the organisation. "You are henceforth directed to refrain from representing or associating yourself with the Aam Aadmi Party in any capacity," the order stated.

## 2 Day Registration Camp for Shri Amarnath Yatra Service Providers successfully concludes at Mahore

HT News Network

REASI, MAY 15: A two-day registration camp for service providers for the Shri Amarnath Yatra concluded successfully at Dak Bungalow, Mahore today. The camp, held under the supervision of Assistant Labour Commissioner Reasi, Annie Vaid, aimed to register Pithuwalas, Ponywalas, and Palkiwalas, enabling them to offer their services during the upcoming pilgrimage. Acknowledging the financial and logistical challenges faced by residents of Mahore in traveling to the Labour Department's office in Reasi, the department took the proactive step of



setting up the camp locally. This effort aimed to provide easier access to the registration process and alleviate the burden of travel expenses for the ser-

vice providers. As part of the registration process, service providers were required to submit the documents like Police Verification Report, Animal Fitness Certificate (for Ponywalas), Aadhar Card, E-Shram Card, Bank Account Details, Blood Group Test Report. Speaking on the initiative, ALC Annie Vaid highlighted that this camp not only streamlines preparations for the Yatra but also creates meaningful economic opportunities for the registered workers. She emphasized the critical role these service providers play in the logistical success of the pilgrimage and highlighted the administration's commitment to supporting their welfare.

## Toyota Rolls Out 'Mega Summer Celebration' with Exciting Offers Across North India

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 15, KNT: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has kicked off its 'Mega Summer Celebration' across all authorized dealerships in North India, promising a host of exciting offers for customers throughout May and June 2025. From buying a brand-new Toyota to servicing your current vehicle, checking out certified used cars, or upgrading accessories — the campaign is designed to bring value and delight to Toyota customers this summer. The initiative covers multiple states and territories including the National Capital Region, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir. Customers visiting these dealerships can take advantage of exclusive deals across new vehicle sales, service packages, used car purchases, and accessories.

As part of the campaign, Toyota is offering tailor-made deals based on customer feedback to ensure every interaction adds value and enhances the overall ownership experience. Special attention has been given to summer-friendly service packages aimed at keeping vehicles in peak condition during the hotter months.

Mr. Sabari Manohar, Vice President and Chief Representative – North Region, Sales, Service, and Used Cars at TKM, said, "With our steadfast 'Customer-First' philosophy, we've launched the Mega Summer Celebration to enhance customer satisfaction.



The curated offers on new and used Toyota vehicles, along with customized service packages, are designed to provide maximum value. We're confident this initiative will further strengthen the bond Toyota shares with its customers."

In addition to these offers, Toyota is also encouraging vehicle owners to adopt simple summer care habits. These include checking tyre pressure and battery health, inspecting rubber parts, using sunshades or car covers, and parking safely away from dry leaves or waste. For a more comfortable drive, Toyota also suggests keeping essentials like water bottles, wet wipes, and umbrellas in the car during travel. The 'Mega Summer Celebration' reflects Toyota's commitment to delivering dependable products and services while ensuring a joyful and worry-free ownership experience. [KNT]

## Village Level Teams to assess damages in shelling affected areas of Poonch

HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 15: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting with district officers to formulate a coordinated strategy for the assessment and verification of damages caused due to recent cross border shelling in the district. The meeting discussed the constitution of Village Level Committees (VLCs) for carrying out detailed, on ground assessment of affected structures across the border villages.

The meeting was attended in person by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Tehsildar Haveli, and Headquarters Tehsildar. Sub Divisional Magistrates of Surankote and Mendhar, along with Tehsildars of Mandi, Mankote, Surankote and Balakote, joined the session virtually, ensuring representation from all affected areas and administrative subdivisions.

The Deputy Commissioner laid out the plan for constituting village level assessment teams that will include officials from the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RD&PR) Department, the Revenue Department, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, Public works department and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). These committees will visit the affected



locations to verify and document the extent of damage to structures caused by the shelling. The damage will be classified into three categories, full damage, severe damage, and partial damage based on the physical condition of each structure. Moreover, the damages would be categorized as private property, commercial and government owned, thereby ensuring a comprehensive profile of all losses sustained.

The Deputy Commissioner Poonch emphasized the need for a swift and transparent verification process to ensure timely assistance and rehabilitation of affected families. He directed all concerned departments to provide full cooperation to the committees and ensure accurate documentation, supported by photographic and written evidence. The administration will review the progress of this initiative in the coming days, with follow-up meetings scheduled to address emerging challenges and expedite the response efforts.

## District Administration Poonch launches "Report to Support" facility for Shelling-Affected Residents

HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 15: In a committed move to ensure no loss goes unreported and no affected family is left behind, the District Administration Poonch has launched a proactive initiative "Report to Support" to help shelling affected people.

This campaign enables residents impacted by the recent cross border shelling to report damages to their property or livestock directly via WhatsApp for swift assessment and assistance. Tehsil-wise WhatsApp Contact Numbers for Submissions are • Tehsil Haveli: 9906198432 • Tehsil Mandi: 9622249091 • Tehsil Balakote: 7006458657 • Tehsil Mankote: 7006385343 • Tehsil Surankote: 7889810611 • Tehsil Mendhar: 9622347276.

It's important to note that reporting through this medium does not replace the already on ground verification. Instead, this proactive approach empowers residents to inform the administration of their losses directly, ensuring no one goes unattended or overlooked.

However, Officials from the District Administration shall still visit the affected areas to carry out formal damage assessments.

Minimum Details Required for Reporting include (a) Name of the Owner; (b) Muhallah / Ward No (Urban Area); (c) Village / Panchayat (Rural Area); (c) Block and Tehsil; (d) Type of Damage: (Property / Livestock); (e) Contact Number; (f) Photograph of the Damaged Property: (Clear and recent)

The people have been advised to ensure the accuracy of the information and photographs; Only report damages that pertain to your own property or livestock; An official will reach out for spot verification based on the submitted details. This initiative underscores the administration's pledge to fairness, transparency, and timely relief. Your active participation will help the administration deliver support effectively and without delay.

## HDFC Bank Launches 'Biz+ Current Accounts' to Empower India's Growing MSME Enterprises

HT News Network

SRINAGAR: HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank in Current Account deposits announced the launch of its new Biz+ Current Accounts, a reimagined suite of Current Account offerings designed to meet the evolving needs of Indian businesses. The range of accounts aims to empower businesses by bringing the entire Bank to the customer from day one. Each Biz+ Current Account comes equipped with core benefits including cash handling services, seamless digital banking platforms and dedicated Bank/Relationship Manager support along with bundled solutions that address the full spectrum of banking needs for businesses. A standout highlight of the new offering for new to bank current account customers is the inclusion of comprehensive business and payment protection insurance coverage from day one for the first year. This helps business owners safeguard their enterprises against unforeseen risks. The Bank has introduced a tiered structure under the Biz+ Current Accounts, offering four distinct variants designed to cater to different stages of a business journey: Biz Lite+ Account is ideally suited for businesses in the Setup stage. It offers free 6X cash deposit limit on account balance, up to 5% savings on tax payments with complimentary debit cards, free shop/payment protection insurance and monthly rental waiver on soundbox based on usage. Biz Pro+ Account is ideally suited for those in the Growth stage. It offers free 10X cash deposit limit on account balance, free shop/payment protection insurance, zero-collateral Overdraft Loan at special rates and rental waiver on PoS devices based on usage. Biz Ultra+ Account is ideally suited for the Expansion stage. It offers free 12X cash deposit limit on account balance, savings of up to 1.3 lakh annually with Biz-Power Credit Card, free shop/payment protection insurance, and special offers on banking services under the Preferred Program. Biz Elite+ Account is ideally suited for businesses in the Diversification stage. It offers free 15X cash deposit limit on account balance.

## DDC Reasi reviews functioning of Kissan Khidmat Ghars

HT News Network

REASI, MAY 15: District Development Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the functioning of Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) in the district to enhance service delivery and ensure that farmers receive comprehensive support through these centers.

During the meeting, DDC Nidhi Malik directed officials to provide a detailed list of all services offered by KKGs to ensure transparency and better awareness among farmers. She emphasized the importance of clear-

ly displaying available schemes, inputs, and technical advisories at each center.

DDC Reasi directed the officials to ensure that Krishi Udyamis are provided with seed and fertilizer licenses, enabling them to sell agricultural inputs and enhance their livelihoods. She further emphasized the need to explore the potential of integrating these Krishi Udyamis into the delivery of other farmer-centric services and schemes. By involving them more actively, the administration aims to strengthen outreach efforts, improve awareness at the grassroots level, and increase the number of applications for vari-



ous government initiatives—thereby ensuring that more farmers benefit from the available schemes and resources.

She instructed the concerned departments to organize a training program for all 75 Krishi Udyami to enhance their skills and ensure better implementation of the schemes at the grassroots level. She also called for increased coordination among agriculture and allied departments to make the KKGs fully functional as single-window service centers for the farming community. Officials were urged to conduct regular outreach and ensure that all government schemes reach

beneficiaries efficiently.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer and other concerned officers were present. She instructed the concerned departments to organize a training program for all 75 Krishi Udyami to enhance their skills and ensure better implementation of the schemes at the grassroots level.

She also called for increased coordination among agriculture and allied departments to make the KKGs fully functional as single-window service centers for the farming community.







# Dr Ajay Kumar takes over as UPSC Chairman

## AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 15 (UNI)

Former defence secretary Dr Ajay Kumar on Thursday took oath as the chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

The oath was administered to him by retired Lt Gen Raj Shukla, the senior-most member of the commission. Dr. Ajay Kumar holds an MS in Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota, USA and a PhD in Business Administration from the Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota. He was also conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Amity University in 2019.



Dr Kumar is a 1985 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Kerala cadre. During

his career spanning over three decades, he held important positions in the Kerala government as well as at the Centre.

In Kerala, he worked as managing director of the

Department of Electronics and Information Technology and principal secretary of the Department of Information Technology, while holding important portfolios such as director of science and technology, joint secretary of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, director general of the National Informatics Centre, additional secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, secretary of defence production in the Central government. Dr. Kumar served as secretary of the Ministry of Defence as the last stint.

# CJI Gavai rebukes Madhya Pradesh Minister over remarks against army officer

## AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 15 (UNI)

On his first day as the Chief Justice of India, Justice B.R. Gavai rebuked Madhya Pradesh Tribal Welfare Minister Vijay Shah, directing him to apologise for his inappropriate and offensive remarks targeting Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, a senior Indian Army officer.

A bench led by CJI Gavai, hearing Shah's petition seeking interim protection from arrest, minced no words in criticising the minister's conduct.

"What sort of comments are you making?" the Chief Justice asked pointedly. "You should show some sense of sensibility. Go



and apologise in the High Court," he directed.

The Supreme Court refused to grant any interim relief from arrest, underlining that those in public office are not above the law, especially when their statements undermine the dignity of constitutional institutions or the

armed forces.

"Nothing will happen to you in a day. You know who you are," the court remarked, signaling its unwillingness to tolerate attempts at evading accountability.

The controversy stems from a speech delivered by Minister Vijay Shah

on May 12 at a public event in Raikunda village, Indore district. During his address, Shah allegedly made communal and gendered remarks aimed at Colonel Qureshi remarks that were widely perceived as demeaning and inflammatory.

Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, a senior and respected officer of the Indian Army, has become a prominent figure in media briefings on Operation Sindoor, India's high-priority strategic military initiative.

She frequently appears alongside Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, representing the armed forces with clarity and dignity.

# Supreme Court defers hearing of Waqf Amendment Act to May 20

## AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 15 (UNI)

The Supreme Court on Thursday deferred the hearing on a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2023, to May 20, after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta assured the Court that no action would be taken by the authorities under the amended law until the matter is heard in detail.

The matter came up before a bench led by the newly sworn-in Chief Justice of India, Justice B.R. Gavai, along with Justice A.G. Masih, which was hearing a series of petitions



questioning key provisions of the amended Waqf law, particularly those allowing registration of properties as waqf by user and the appointment of Waqf Boards under the new Act.

"List the matter next

Tuesday. The assurance shall continue as given by the Solicitor General," CJI Gavai directed. "If any officer tries to do something before that, we are here," he added, underlining the Court's readiness to intervene if

necessary.

The SG reiterated, "Before that, I am there", drawing a brief moment of laughter in court, as the Bench and lawyers engaged in a series of light exchanges amid the serious constitutional discourse.

During the proceedings, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners, said he was not ready to argue the main plea today but could seek interim relief, which would require at least two hours.

The SG agreed, noting that "it is a case of seeking a stay on statutory provisions, so it's better taken up next week".

# ETP blast at TN dyeing unit, over 20 hospitalised due to nausea, dizziness

## AGENCIES

CHENNAI, MAY 15 (UNI)

More than 20 people were hospitalised after they complained of nausea and dizziness following a blast at an Effluent Treatment Plant (ET) at a dyeing unit in the Sipcot Industrial Estate in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu on Thursday.

Police sources said the blast at Loyal Super Fabrics, a textile unit operating within the Sipcot Industrial Complex, led to the release of approximately 600,000 liters of chemical-laden water, which inundated nearby residential areas, causing significant health issues



among the local population.

The explosion took place during routine operations at the dyeing facility.

The sudden blast resulted in the rupture of a large

chemical storage tanker, releasing a substantial volume of contaminated water. This hazardous liquid entered adjacent homes, exposing residents to toxic substances.

Following the incident,

about 20 people in and around the estate and neighbouring hamlets complained as nausea and dizziness.

They were admitted to the Cuddalore Government Hospital for treatment and their health condition

was being closely monitored.

The sudden influx of chemical water into residential areas sparked outrage among the affected communities.

Residents staged a protest by blocking the Cuddalore-Chidambaram highway, demanding immediate action and accountability from the factory management.

# Five charred to death as pvt bus catches fire in Lucknow

## AGENCIES

LUCKNOW, MAY 15 (UNI)

Five passengers were charred to death and one injured when a Delhi-bound private sleeper bus from Bihar caught fire in the Mohanlalganj area of the state capital of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, on Thursday, police sources said here.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took cognisance of the accident caused by fire in a bus in Lucknow district. He has expressed condolences to the bereaved families of the deceased.

He has directed the officials to reach the spot



immediately and expedite the relief work. He has also directed to ensure proper treatment of the injured.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South)

Nipun Agarwal said that on Thursday morning the Mohanlalganj police received information that a private sleeper bus caught fire, probably due to a short circuit. "Several

passengers were rescued, but five of them died," he said.

He said that around 60 to 70 passengers were travelling in the bus at the time of the incident. "The deceased include two children," he said.

Police sources said that the incident took place in the wee hours on Kisan Path on the Lucknow-Rae Bareilly road when the sleeper bus caught fire. "The police and the local residents pulled out the passengers trapped inside the bus by breaking window panes. The bus dragged for one kilometre after catching fire," they said.

# Modi against caste census, succumbed to Congress pressure: Rahul

## AGENCIES

DARBHANGA (BIHAR), MAY 15 (UNI)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was against caste census but under his sustained pressure, announced a national-level enumeration.

The leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha defied district administration's order to shift his venue and addressed the students at Ambedkar hostel in Darbhanga during which he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was against caste census. It was his pressure that forced the PM to



fairly and in a proper way so that a real picture of the status of those who lagged behind on the path of development could emerge," said the Congress leader. He said such a census was conducted properly in Telangana where his party was in power.

"The Modi government should conduct the caste census on the pattern of Telangana, he added.

Rahul said that population of Schedule Castes(SCs), Scheduled Tribes(STs), Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) and minorities was 90 per cent in the country. Despite their large population, all of them were

being subjected to torture and harassments everyday, he alleged.

The Congress leader said that participation of SCs, STs, OBCs and EBC was zero in higher judiciary, bureaucracy and corporate sector," he added.

Rahul said the government should make provisions for reservation of SC in private institutions. There was a law for reservation of these classes, but it was not being implemented either by the Modi government at the Centre or by Nitysh-led NDA government in Bihar. "Congress will not rest unless reservation for them is given in private institutions," he added.

# Ambani meets Trump, Qatari Emir in Doha

## AGENCIES

DOHA, MAY 15 (UNI)

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries, met with US President Donald Trump and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha on Thursday IST.

This engagement was part of President Trump's Middle East tour, which included the announcement of a \$1.2 trillion economic exchange between the US and Qatar, encompassing sectors like aviation, energy, defence, and quantum technology.

Ambani's attendance underscores Reliance Industries' expanding



global footprint and its strategic relationships with entities such as the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), which has invested in Reliance ventures, and US tech giants like

Google and Meta.

While no formal business discussions were scheduled during the dinner, Ambani was seen engaging in conversations with President Trump

and US Secretary of Commerce Steve Lutnick.

This meeting marks the second interaction between Ambani and President Trump since Trump's inauguration in January 2025, highlighting the ongoing diplomatic and business engagements between Reliance Industries and global leaders.

During his visit to Doha, President Trump secured a historic \$1.2 trillion economic commitment in Qatar, highlighting over \$243.5 billion in new deals between US and Qatari firms, according to a statement issued by The White House.

# Ten militants die in gunfight with Assam Rifles troopers in Manipur

## AGENCIES

IMPHAL, MAY 14 (UNI)

Ten militants died in a gunfight with Assam Rifles troopers in Manipur's Chandel district close to the Indo-Myanmar border on Wednesday night, the Indian Army said.

In a post on X, the Eastern Command of the Indian Army said acting on specific intelligence about the movement of armed cadres of a militant group near New Samtal village under Khengjoy Tehsil, the Assam Rifles unit under Spear Corps



launched an operation on Wednesday.

"During the operation, the troops were fired upon by suspected cadres, to which they quickly reacted, redeployed and retaliated in a calibrated and measured manner.

"In the ensuing firefight, 10 cadres were neutralised and a sizeable quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered. Operation is still in progress," the post read.



## Health inequities shortening lives by more than 30 years in poor countries: WHO

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Low social determinants of health are shortening the lives of people in poor countries by more than 30 years worldwide, according to a global report by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday.

The WHO defines social determinants of health as conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age.

The report noted that beyond the health sector, factors such as lack of quality housing, education, and job opportunities can dramatically reduce healthy life expectancy.

It said that people in the country with the lowest life expectancy will, on average, live 33 years shorter than those born in the country with the highest life expectancy.

"Children born in poorer countries are 13 times more likely to die



before the age of 5 than in wealthier countries," the report said.

Women from disadvantaged groups are also more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes.

"Our world is an unequal one. Where we are born, grow, live, work and age significantly influence our health and well-being," said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"Addressing the inter-linked social determi-

nants" can help, he added.

Further, the report showed that 3.8 billion people worldwide are deprived of adequate social protection coverage, such as child/paid sick leave benefits, with a direct and lasting impact on their health outcomes.

High debt burdens have been crippling the capacity of governments to invest in these services. As a result, the total value of interest payments made by the world's 75 poorest coun-

tries has increased four-fold in the last decade.

Worryingly, the report also cited "sufficient evidence to show that health inequities within countries are often widening".

Closing the gap and enhancing equity between the poorest and wealthiest sectors of the population within low- and-middle-income countries can help save the lives of 1.8 million children annually, revealed modelling studies.

## Here's how Ayurveda tourism is redefining wellness travel

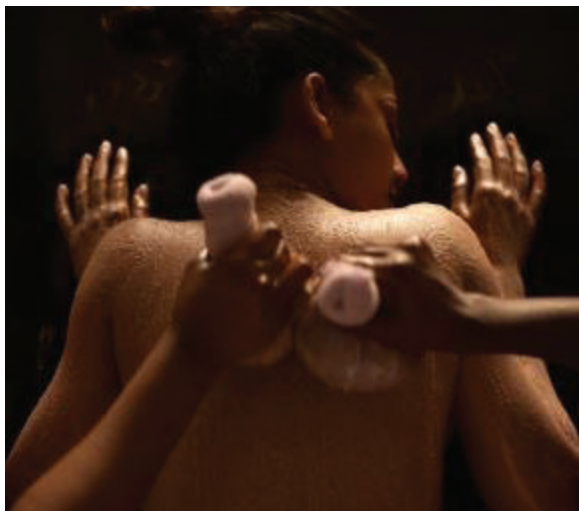
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

From being merely an alternative remedy, Ayurveda is now offering transformative, personalised healing boosting tourism as well as redefining wellness travel. Best vacation packages

Ayurveda, which is India's 5,000-year-old system of healing rooted in ancient wisdom and sustainable living, is increasingly boosting tourism by offering an experience rich in healing, culture, sustainability, and self-discovery.

"This century, the world will witness the rise of Ayurveda not only as a system of healthcare but also as a system of prevention and wellness," Lakshman Shrivastava, Director, of Maharishi Ayurveda Hospital, was quoted as saying in a media report.

"Ayurveda was the only medical science to originally believe in prevention



as well as cure."

Shrivastava indicated a rise in wellness travel that seeks "authentic, natural healing" which Ayurveda offers through well-being through diet, detoxification, meditation, and personalised therapies.

Unlike, the typical spa getaway Ayurveda tourism promises long-term transformation for conditions ranging from autoimmune diseases to anxiety, and

digestive disorders.

"Ayurveda stands apart by nurturing long-term health across the physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions," Shrivastava said.

Further, he said that modern Ayurvedic centers are adapting to the needs of both patients, offering treatment as well as enriching "the guest experience".

The modern Ayurvedic

are offering a softer, more accessible version of traditional Ayurvedic therapies, "tailored to suit the modern traveller." Best vacation packages

Ayurveda tourism model not only preserves ecological balance but also protects India's cultural heritage.

"Our Vedic lifestyle -- from food to daily routines -- is deeply influenced by Ayurveda. So when guests experience Ayurveda, they're also experiencing India's soul," Shrivastava said

It also offers personalisation -- from a visit to an Ayurvedic doctor to a customised treatment, dietary plan, and daily routines. These are accompanied by workshops, yoga sessions, and guided meditations sessions

"Ayurveda is deeply experiential," notes Shrivastava. "It's a journey that changes how one lives, eats, breathes, and thinks."

## CCRAS revives rare ayurvedic manuscripts to boost India's literary heritage

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), under the Ministry of Ayush, on Wednesday announced it has revived two rare and significant Ayurvedic manuscripts strengthening India's literary heritage in traditional medicine.

The manuscripts Dravyaratnakara Nighantu and Dravyanamakara Nighantu were unveiled during an event organised by the RRAP Central Ayurveda Research Institute in Mumbai.

"These texts are not just historical artefacts -- they are living knowledge systems that can transform contemporary healthcare approaches when studied and applied thoughtfully," said Prof. Vd. Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General, CCRAS, New Delhi.

Acharya emphasised the importance of such revivals in bridging India's



ancient wisdom with contemporary research frameworks. These critical editions are expected to serve as invaluable resources for students, researchers, academicians, and Ayurveda practitioners, further inspiring scholarly exploration and deeper engagement with India's classical medical literature. Dravyaratnakara Nighantu was authored by Mudgala Pandita in 1480 AD. The previously unpublished lexicon consists of eighteen chapters offering in-depth knowledge of drug synonyms, therapeutic actions, and medicinal

properties.

It was a widely referenced text in Maharashtra until the 19th century, and it draws from classical Nighantus like Dhanvantari and Raja Nighantu while documenting numerous novel medicinal substances from plant, mineral, and animal origins.

On the other hand, Dravyanamakara Nighantu, attributed to Bhisma Vaidya, serves as a stand-alone appendix to the Dhanvantari Nighantu.

The manuscripts focus exclusively on homonyms of drug and plant names -- a complex area of study

vital to Ayurveda. Encompassing 182 verses and two colophon verses, the text has been meticulously edited enhancing its utility for scholars of Rasashastra, Bhaishajya Kalpana, and classical Ayurvedic pharmacology.

The manuscripts were critically edited and translated by renowned manuscriptologist and veteran Ayurveda expert, Dr. Sadanand D. Kamat of Mumbai. Kamat is also known for his authoritative work on Saraswati Nighantu, Bhavaprakasha Nighantu, and Dhanvantari Nighantu

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

An Indian-origin researcher in the US has developed a probiotic cocktail that will help prevent dementia -- a condition that affects memory, thinking, and the ability to perform daily activities of more than 57 million people worldwide.

The cocktail, developed by Hariom Yadav from the University of South Florida, is a unique blend of probiotics that can positively impact the microbiome -- the unseen community of microorganisms that live by the trillions in a person's gut.

While in healthy individuals, the microorganisms live harmoniously in their vast internal community, the gut also can become populated with certain bacteria and viruses.

This can cause disruptions throughout the body, ultimately triggering a progression over time that



contributes to dementia and Alzheimer's disease -- the most common cause of dementia.

The probiotic cocktail, detailed in the journal Scientific Reports, suggest that the concoction could become a novel therapy to help lower the risk of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

In the study, the team mixed the cocktail in mice's drinking water for 16 weeks and then subject-

ed them to a "water maze" test. The mice were given visual cues to help them swim to a hidden underwater platform.

The findings showed that the cocktail-drinking mice were consistently able to find the platform faster.

The cocktail also reduced the levels of proteins that can cause the build-up of sticky plaques in the brain. It appeared to lower levels of brain

inflammation and preserve tight junctions in the blood-brain barrier -- preventing leakage of harmful microorganisms into the brain.

The results suggest that this probiotics mixture could decrease the progression of cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease, the researchers said.

"Normally, people look at some single-strand probiotics. But we discovered that when they are put together as a consortia, they actually have more power for manipulating microbiomes, switching them from the bad side to the good side," Yadav said.

The probiotic cocktail serves to decrease inflammatory bacteria in the gut, effectively suppressing that population. Yadav and his team are currently working on commercialising the cocktail, in contact with various companies to potentially bring it to market.

## Study shows diabetes drug may help treat prostate cancer

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Certain drugs used to treat type 2 diabetes can also be used to treat prostate cancer, according to a study.

Researchers from the Medical University of Vienna in Austria identified similarities in the mechanisms of diabetes and cancer.

They showed that the protein PPARy (peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma) -- central to the regulation of metabolic processes -- can also influence the growth of prostate cancer cells.

But PPARy is already known to be a target of certain drugs including so-called thiazolidinediones such as pioglitazone, which are used to treat type 2 diabetes.

The findings "showed that the diabetes drug pioglitazone influences the activity of PPARy and thus inhibits the growth



behaviour and metabolism of tumour cells. Furthermore, initial results revealed that prostate cancer patients with diabetes who were treated with PPARy agonists had not relapsed at the time of data collection," explained Emine Atas from the Department of Biomedical Imaging and

Image-guided Therapy at the varsity.

The study, published in the journal Molecular Cancer, indicates that such drugs could slow down growth of prostate cancer cells, representing a promising approach for the treatment of prostate cancer.

The researchers exam-

ined cell cultures and tissue samples from patient cohorts. They analysed how different activation states of the protein affect the cells.

Prostate cancer occurs when abnormal cells in the prostate gland grow out of control. Despite enormous medical advances in recent years, prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men, with an estimated 1.4 million diagnoses and 375,000 deaths worldwide in 2020.

The currently available treatment methods range from surgery and radiotherapy to medication. The identification of previously unknown molecular mechanisms could help to develop targeted therapies.

PPARy, as a potential regulator of tumour growth, is a promising option that will now be investigated in further studies, said the researchers.

## World's wealthiest 10pc contributing most to global warming than poorest 50pc: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Ten per cent of the world's richest individuals have a higher carbon footprint than the poorest 50 per cent, leading to climate extremes such as heat waves and droughts, according to a study on Wednesday.

The study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, that the world's wealthiest 10 per cent are responsible for two-thirds of observed global warming since 1990.

"Our study shows that extreme climate impacts are not just the result of abstract global emissions, instead we can directly link them to our lifestyle and investment choices, which in turn are linked to wealth," explains lead author Sarah Schongart, from the ETH Zurich in Switzerland.

"We found that wealthy emitters play a major role in driving climate



extremes, which provides strong support for climate policies that target the reduction of their emissions," she added.

An international team of researchers from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Australia assessed the contribution of the highest emitting groups within societies.

The findings showed that the top 1 per cent of the wealthiest individuals

globally contributed 26 times the global average to increases in monthly 1-in-100-year heat extremes globally and 17 times more to Amazon droughts.

The research sheds new light on the links between income-based emissions inequality and climate injustice, illustrating how the consumption and investments of wealthy individuals have had disproportionate impacts on

extreme weather events.

"If everyone had emitted like the bottom 50 per cent of the global population, the world would have seen minimal additional warming since 1990," says co-author Carl-Friedrich Schleussner, who leads the Integrated Climate Impacts Research Group at International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria.

The impacts are especially severe in vulnerable tropical regions like the Amazon, Southeast Asia, and southern Africa -- areas historically known to have contributed the least to global emissions.

The study also emphasises the importance of emissions embedded in financial investments, rather than just personal consumption.

The researchers argued that targeting the financial flows and portfolios of high-income individuals could yield substantial climate benefits.





## News in Brief

**Thailand Open: Unnati Hooda, Malvika Bansod crash out in second round**

### AGENCIES

BANGKOK, MAY 15

The Indian campaign at the Thailand Open suffered a significant blow on Thursday as rising stars Unnati Hooda and Malvika Bansod bowed out of the Super 500 tournament in the second round of the women's singles category.

Facing formidable local opponents, both shuttlers endured straight-game defeats, ending their run in the competition earlier than hoped.

Unnati Hooda, just 17 and already a two-time BWF title winner with triumphs at the Odisha Masters and Abu Dhabi Masters, came up against top seed and world No. 6 Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand.

The Thai ace, known for her aggressive style and swift court coverage, dominated from the outset. Unnati showed glimpses of her shot-making prowess but struggled to maintain consistency against the more experienced Chochuwong.

The match ended 14-21, 11-21 in just 39 minutes, with the Indian teenager unable to shift the momentum in her favour.

**Zimbabwe to fine-tune preparation for England Test with warm-up match in Leicester**

### AGENCIES

LEICESTER, MAY 15

Zimbabwe will step up their preparations for next week's landmark Test against England with a four-day warm-up match against a Professional County Club (PCC) Select XI, starting Thursday at the Uptonsteel County Ground in Leicester.

The tour match is the visitors' only fixture ahead of their much-anticipated return to Test cricket on English soil for the first time since 2003. The one-off Test at Trent Bridge, scheduled for 22-25 May, marks a historic chapter in the team's red-ball journey.

For Zimbabwe, the warm-up match represents a crucial opportunity to acclimatise to English conditions ahead of the highly anticipated encounter.

"Look, there's a few things that we're really looking forward to getting out of this match," Zimbabwe assistant coach Dion Ebrahim said after the team's third day of training in Leicester.

## IPL 2025

# Virat Kohli's mastery shines in a season of high-octane cricket

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

In IPL 2025 season that featured nearly 13,000 balls bowled, over 19,000 runs scored, and close to 300 wickets taken, a comprehensive analysis of IPL 2025 has been done on Virat Kohli as the enduring symbol of cricketing brilliance. As Kohli bids an farewell to Test cricket earlier this week, the IPL has borne witness to his remarkable resurgence in the shortest format.

Representing Royal Challengers Bangalore in the 18th season. Kohli's 2025 campaign has been one of grit, poise, and controlled aggression – a masterclass in modern-day T20 anchoring. According to stats, Kohli has amassed 505 runs in 11 matches at a staggering average of 63.13



and a strike rate of 143.47, reaffirming his form to navigate the middle overs.

Virat Kohli remains a standout in IPL 2025 with 505 runs in 11 innings at a strike rate of 143.5 and a 27 per cent dot ball rate, showcasing his trademark consistency and control.

Amid power-hitters like Suryakumar Yadav and Nicholas Pooran, Kohli's anchor role, marked by an 18 per cent boundary rate, brought stability to RCB, reaffirming his status as one of the most dependable performers in his 17th IPL season.

## Mendis to replace Buttler in Gujarat Titans' for IPL 2025 playoffs: Reports

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

Sri Lanka wicketkeeper-batter Kusal Mendis is set to replace Jos Buttler in the Gujarat Titans' (GT) squad when the IPL 2025 playoffs happen. This will be the first time that Mendis will be a part of the IPL.

A report in ESPNcricinfo on Thursday said Mendis will not play for Quetta Gladiators in remainder of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) due to security concerns, and instead, he will be coming to India for the IPL 2025 playoffs. Mendis had made 143 runs at a strike rate of 168 in five 2025 PSL matches.

The report also mentioned that Mendis is currently



awaiting his India visa, and is likely to join the GT squad on Saturday, ahead of their clash against Delhi Capitals (DC) at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Sunday.

Buttler's unavailability for GT in the IPL 2025 playoffs is due to him being named in England's ODI squad for the home series against West Indies, which starts on May 29.

It's also the day when the IPL 2025 playoffs begin, with the final to happen on June 3.

Buttler was replaced as England's captain by Harry Brook after the side suffered a group stage exit in the 2025 Champions Trophy. GT, the IPL 2022 winners, are currently at top of the IPL 2025 points table and look set to enter the playoffs.

## ICC announces USD 3.6 mn prize money for WTC winners, runners up to get USD 2.1 mn

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

With less than a month to go for the 2025 World Test Championship (WTC) final to happen between Australia and South Africa at Lord's, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has confirmed that the winners of the one-off game will earn double the prize money than previous two editions.

From the total prize money pool for the WTC 2023-25 cycle of USD 5.76 million, which already is more than double that of the previous two editions, the winners will walk away with USD 3.6 million (approximately



standing at 30,79,48,931 Indian rupees), a significant jump from the USD 1.6 million awarded to winners of both 2021 and 2023 editions.

The runners-up, meanwhile, will earn USD 2.16 million (approximately 18,47,96,390 Indian rupees), which is also

up from USD 800,000. India, the two-time WTC runners-up who finished at third place, will get 12,31,98,048 rupees. "We have witnessed a very interesting third cycle of the ICC World Test Championship, where the finalists were decided only towards the end of the

competition."

"The championship has showcased remarkable performances from players of different teams, culminating in a final between these two exceptional squads - a true celebration of cricket."

"I am sure spectators at Lord's, along with fans tuning in from all over the world, will be treated to some top-class cricket in this revered format when Australia and South Africa take the field less than a month from now. On behalf of the ICC, I extend best wishes to the players of both teams in their preparations for the prestigious match," said ICC Chairman Jay Shah in a statement on Thursday.

## IPL 2025: Stoinis, Inglis likely to join PBKS for game against DC, say sources

### AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

Australian duo of seam-bowling all-rounder Marcus Stoinis and wicketkeeper-batter Josh Inglis are expected to join Punjab Kings (PBKS) for their IPL 2025 match against Delhi Capitals (DC) set to be played on May 24 in Jaipur, said sources to news agency on Thursday.

Agency further understands that as of now, Marco



Jansen, Xavier Bartlett, Azmatullah Omarzai, and Mitchell Owen have confirmed to PBKS that they will play the remainder of IPL 2025, starting on May 17.

"Jansen, Bartlett, Omarzai and Owen are likely to join the PBKS camp in Jaipur by tomorrow. For Stoinis and Inglis, they will most probably join from the second game onwards, which is against DC. We are yet to know about the availabil-

ity status of Aaron Hardie, though," a source aware of the developments said on the condition of anonymity.

Both Inglis and Jansen have been named in Australia and South Africa squads, respectively, for the World Test Championship (WTC) final, starting at Lord's from June 11. It is yet to be known for how long the duo will be available for PBKS in IPL 2025, which now ends on June 3.

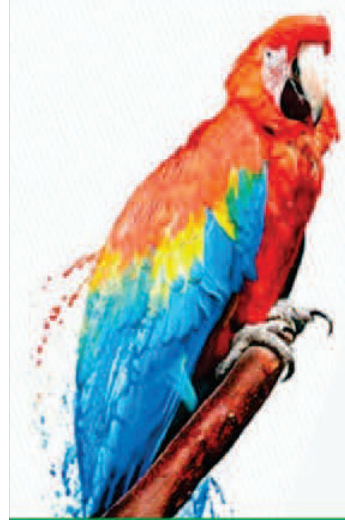
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