

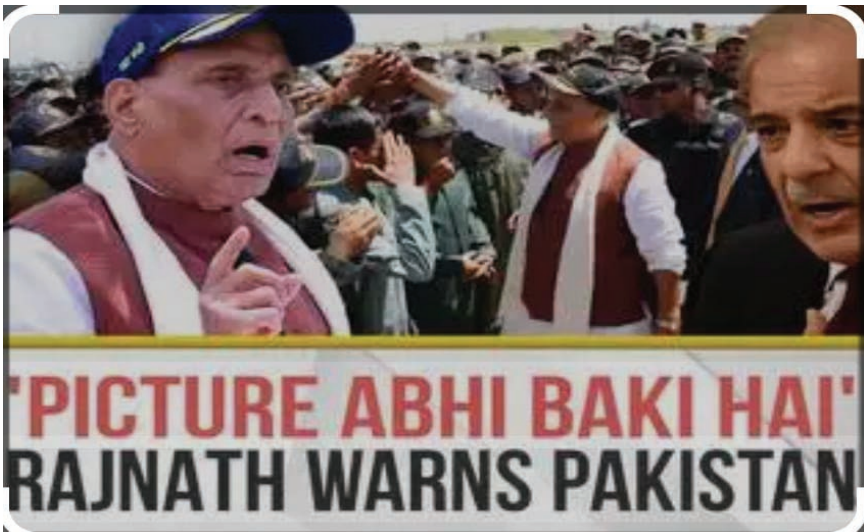


Operation SINDOOR Continues : World has Witnessed Trailer Only, At Right Time we Will Show Full Movie

■ HT News Network/UNI

BHUJ (GUJARAT), MAY 16: In a strong message to the international community, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday cautioned that Pakistan's close ties with terror outfits pose a grave danger to global peace, warning that it would be no surprise if nuclear weapons in the neighbouring country fall into the hands of terrorists.

Addressing the air warriors at the air force station at Bhuj, Singh, according to the news agency—accused the Pakistan establishment of actively supporting terrorism and rebuilding terror infrastructure destroyed by Indian forces during 'Operation Sindoor,' India's military retaliation to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam,



which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead."It has been proven beyond doubt that there is a strong nexus between Pakistan and terrorists. In such circumstances, if nuclear weapons fall into the hands of terrorists, no one should be surprised. It is not just a threat to India, but to the entire world," he said.

Rajnath Singh was on a visit to honour and congratulate the Indian Air Force for its swift and precise response during 'Operation Sindoor,' which was launched under the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack.BHUJ: SYMBOL OF INDIA'S STRENGTHCalling Bhuj a "witness to India's victories in 1965, 1971, and 2025," Singh praised the strategic importance of the air

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Op Sindoor Shows PM's Political Will, Precise Intelligence, Infallible Fire Power Of Forces: Shah

■ HT News Network/UNI



NEW DELHI, MAY 16: (UNI) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said Operation Sindoor was a reflection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's firm political will, precise intelligence gathering by various agencies and unmatched strike capability of the country's armed forces.

He said this after inaugurating an upgraded multi agency centre in Delhi for intelligence sharing among various agencies.

"Operation Sindoor is a unique symbol of Prime Minister Modi's firm political will, the precise intelligence of our agencies and the unmatched strike capability of our three armed forces," Shah said.

The multi agency centre, under the Intelligence Bureau, was created with an aim to share timely inputs among various stakeholders involved in law enforcement.

Shah said India is proud of its three armed forces — India Army, Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy, Border Security Force and all security agencies.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

6 Militants Killed In 2 Major Operations In South Kashmir In 3 Days: Officials

■ HT News Network/UNI

AWANTIPORA, MAY 16: Security forces turned the focus of their anti-terror operations to specific south Kashmir areas in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam attack and eliminated six terrorists in the last three days, officials said on Friday,Jammu and Kashmir tourism

"The security agencies reviewed their strategy according to the situation in the wake of terror activities in the last one month and our intensified focus was on operations," V K Birdi, Inspector

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CM Omar Abdullah meets several delegations at his Raabita Office in Srinagar

‘Public concerns need redressal with sincerity and urgency: CM’

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today listened to grievances and issues of public at the Chief Minister's Outreach Office, Raabita in Srinagar.

The programme witnessed participation of several public delega-



tions, representatives and individuals from diverse sectors who apprised the Chief Minister of various pressing problems and concerns requiring his attention.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani was also present during the outreach programme.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Prof Nilofer Re-Appointed As KU Vice Chancellor For 2 Years

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 16PROF. Nilofer Khan has been reappointed as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir for a period of two years, starting May 19, 2025.Jammu and Kashmir tourism

According to an order issued by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who is also the Chancellor of the University, "In exercise of powers vested in me, under Section 12(5) of the Kashmir and Jammu

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Misappropriation of funds: ACB registers case against Teacher, Contractor, others

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 16: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday said to have registered a case against the then Teacher, Incharge Headmaster of Government Middle School, Jandrel, Zone Chassana, Contractor and others for misappropriation of funds.A spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency—, said that ACB has registered a case under

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Budgam police arrest 3 terrorist aides affiliated with LeT

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, MAY 16: In the ongoing efforts to dismantle terror networks, Budgam Police on Friday said to have arrested three terrorist associates linked with the proscribed terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The arrested individuals as per a police spokesman have been identified as Muzamil Ahmad, Ishfaq Pandit (both residents of Aglar Pattan) and Muneer Ahmad R/O Meeripora Beerwah.

"The arrests were made in the Kawoosa Narbal area of Magam. On their apprehension, arms and ammunition including one pistol and one hand grenade were recovered from their possession,"

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Javid Dar reaffirms commitment to rural empowerment, calls for efficient governance

Stresses on participation of legislators for effective rural planning

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: Minister of Rural Development Department (RDD) & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today reaffirmed the government's commitment to rural empowerment, stating that ensuring eligible individuals benefit from RDD schemes without obstacles is a government obligation.

During a review meeting chaired at Civil Secretariat here, Javid Dar emphasized the need for prompt and transparent implementation of rural develop-



ment initiatives. He instructed officials to accelerate ongoing projects while maintaining quality standards, noting that efficient

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Haj-2025: CM Omar urges centre to arrange addl flights, clear backlog

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday urged the Government of India to arrange additional Haj flights from Srinagar to address the backlog of pilgrims stranded due to recent flight disruptions.

"I have taken up with the Government of India the urgent need to arrange additional Haj flights from Srinagar to clear the backlog of 1,895 pilgrims caused by recent flight disruptions. Ensuring a smooth and timely pilgrimage for our pilgrims is the Government's

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

MHA orders posting of 9 IAS, 3 IPS officers to J&K

Retracts transfer of two IAS officers; Pole, Bidhru shifted

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAR 16: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) ordered the transfer of 9 IAS and 3 IPS officers from the AGMUT cadre to Jammu and Kashmir while 6 IAS officers from the Union Territory have also been transferred. However, the transfer of two IAS officers has also been retracted.

According to an order, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Ashish Chandra Verma (1994 batch) and Anil Kumar Singh (1995 batch) have been posted to Jammu & Kashmir from Delhi.

The other IAS officers include Naveen S L (2012 batch), Choudhary Mohammad Yasin (2015 batch). Shri-



kant Balasaheb Suse (2016), Shreya Singhal (2020), Mahima Madan (2021), Ananth Dwivedi (2021), and Rakesh Kumar (2021) have also been transferred.

IPS officers who have been transferred to Jammu and Kashmir include Sameer Sharma (2011 batch) from Lakshadweep, Sandeep Gupta (2015 batch)

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Omar, Mehbooba spar over Tulbul Project, Indus Treaty

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 16 (UNI) A fierce war of words erupted between Jammu and Kashmir Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti over the revival of the long-stalled Tulbul Navigation Project in North Kashmir, amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan.

The controversy erupted after Omar on Thursday suggested that the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty



(IWT) could pave the way for the resumption of the Tulbul Navigation Barrage in the Wullar lake in north Kashmir, which was abandoned in the 1980s following Pakistan's objections.

He argued that the project would not only revive navi

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Op Sindoor: Lt Gen Katiyar lauds high spirit of troops in Jammu, Samba

■ HT News Network/UNI

JAMMU, MAY 16 (UNI) Western Command Army Commander Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar on Friday lauded the valour and high spirit of troops during his visit to Jammu and Samba locations.

"Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar, Army Commander Western Command, accompanied by GOC Rising Star Corps, visited forward locations in Jammu and Samba, interacted with troops, including personnel from BSF," the Rising Star Corps posted on X.



It further posted, "He commended their valour, high josh, and vigilant actions during #OperationSindoor and lauded the precise and punitive response given." "Army Commander exhorted all ranks to stay vigilant & mission-ready," it further said. Meanwhile, White Knight

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Shrine Board offers free facilities to woo pilgrims to Mata Vaishno Devi

■ HT News Network

KATRA (REASI), MAY 16 (UNI) As the guns have fallen silent on the borders with ceasefire between India and Pakistan after escalated tension and normalcy has limped back, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has offered free facilities to woo the pilgrims from across the country to the sanctum sanctorum nestled here in Trikuta Hills of Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir."The pilgrims have started returning to the pilgrimage and to facilitate their journey

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Zain and Zoya shared a unique bond as siblings, born and died together, their love forever etched in memory

■ By M S Nazki

Zain Khan and Zoya Khan shared an extraordinary bond, existing together since the spiritual realm. This connection persisted through their time in the womb and into the world. Miraculously, the twin siblings were born on the same day, with only a

30-minute gap between their arrivals.

Zain Khan and Zuya Khan brought immense joy to their parents' lives, creating a world of happiness and wonder. Growing up in a fairytale-like environment, the twin siblings shared an unbreakable bond, often laughing and crying in perfect synchrony.

The twins, Zain Khan and



ZuZoya Khan, brought immense joy to their home, filling it with laughter and innocence. Their presence transformed the house into a paradise, with their parents showering them with love and affection. Notably, the siblings often shared the same preferences, even choosing the same toys when asked.

Zain Khan and Zoya Khan

shared a deep bond, evident in their daily routines. When food items were brought home, Zoya would often be handed them first, followed by Zain. The twins enjoyed eating together, playing at the park, and going for bicycle rides. Their love and companionship were palpable in every shared moment.

Zoya Khan and Zain A

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

HT - BOTTOM



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

HM

Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.Jammu and Kashmir tourism

India and Pakistan agreed on May 10 to stop military actions. India has, however, made it clear it has merely paused its operation and its future actions will be guided by Pakistan's conduct.

Modi had said Operation Sindoor was India's new policy against terrorism and the country's unwavering pledge for justice.

"It is the new normal. We have only kept in abeyance our operations against Pakistan and the future will depend on their behaviour," Modi had said in a 22-minute address.

Shah said the new multi agency centre (MAC) will synergise the efforts of all agencies and provide a seamless and integrated platform to deal with the complex and interconnected current national security challenges.

The new network will strengthen the country's efforts to deal with serious threats like terrorism, extremism, organised crime and cyber attacks, he said.

Shah lauded the new MAC network and expressed satisfaction at

the successful completion of hardware and software related tasks in record time.

He said it incorporates futuristic capabilities such as embedded artificial intelligence and money laundering techniques to harness the potential of the vast database with MAC and Geographical Information Services.

Shah laid the future roadmap by emphasising the need to integrate other significant databases housed with different central agencies in different silos, on this platform for leveraging the advanced data analytics made available with new MAC.

Executed at a cost of over Rs 500 crore, the new MAC network has undergone both qualitative and quantitative transformation.

The new MAC network spanning the length and breadth of the country, has weaved-in country's island territories, insurgency affected areas and mountainous high altitude terrain ensuring last mile connectivity down to the level of district SP's in the remotest areas with a fast and stand-alone secure network, the release said. (Agencies)

RAJNATH

Narendra Modi to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack.

BHUI: SYMBOL OF INDIA'S STRENGTH
Calling Bhuj a "witness to India's victories in 1965, 1971, and 2025," Singh praised the strategic importance of the air base and the bravery of India's air warriors. "The Indian Air Force not only dismantled the terror network within minutes but also struck deep into enemy territory without even crossing the border. Our aircrafts are capable of neutralising enemy targets from within Indian airspace," he stated.

He highlighted how "Operation Sindoor," named by PM Modi himself, sent a strong signal to the world about India's capabilities and determination to root out terrorism. "You entered their land and decimated their terror infrastructure. You have sent the message of a 'New India'—strong, decisive, and self-reliant—to the entire world," he said, commending IAF Chief and all personnel involved.

PAK'S TERROR FUNDING EXPOSED
The Defence Minister alleged that Pakistan is planning to divert a portion of the \$2.1 billion IMF aid it is set to receive, to rebuild terror infrastructure for groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

He claimed that Islamabad has earmarked Rs 14 crore for Jaish chief Masood Azhar, a UN-designated terrorist and mastermind of deadly attacks such as the 2019 Pulwama and 2016 Uri strikes. "Pakistan will use the tax money collected from its citizens to fund Masood Azhar and rebuild terror infrastructure in places like Muridke and Bahawalpur. This is a clear case of indirect terror financing, and if the IMF's aid is used for this purpose, it becomes complicit. The funds contributed by nations like India to the IMF must not be misused to promote terrorism," Singh warned.

Singh called upon the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reconsider its one-billion-dollar assistance to Islamabad and refrain from providing any support in future as well.

INDIA HAS PUT PAK ON PROBATION

He also expressed deep concern that Pakistan had started reviving terror training camps and logistical hubs dismantled by Indian forces. "This rebuilding effort must be seen as a deliberate provocation. India has put Pakistan on probation—we are watching its every move. Any misadventure will invite a heavy price," he said firmly.

He asserted that the current ceasefire means that India has kept Pakistan on probation on the basis of its behavior. If the behavior improves, it is fine; but if there is any disturbance, harshest punishment will be given, he said.

Singh stated that India's war against terrorism is now a central element of the National Defence Doctrine, and the government is committed to wiping out proxy and hybrid warfare.

"This is not the old Bharat anymore. Under the leadership of PM Modi, India has drawn

a red line on terrorism. We do not tolerate, we retaliate. That is the New India," Singh declared.

ZOYA

Khan, both 12 years old, were inseparable siblings. Their mother showered them with love and affection when they returned home. The twins excelled academically, consistently securing top positions in their class, and actively participated in sports, making their teachers proud.

Following an attack on terrorist institutions, tensions escalated between India and Pakistan. On May 7, India conducted air strikes targeting terrorist locations in Pakistan. Pakistan responded with indiscriminate shelling on Poonch's civilian population on May 9-10, resulting in casualties and property damage.

Tragically, Zain and Zoya were fatally injured in the shelling, succumbing to their wounds and losing their lives together.

CM

Among the prominent delegations was one representing the residents of Saderkoot Payeen, Ajas area Bandipora, seeking the Chief Minister's intervention for the expeditious disbursement of compensation to Wular land dwellers affected by developmental works. Another delegation raised the matter of delayed release of withheld recommendations for Class IV posts, urging the CM for immediate redressal.

A deputation of Junior Anesthesia Assistants from the Health & Medical Education Department urged the finalization of the long-pending selection process.

In an important academic interaction, Professor Fayaz Ahmad Nika, Dean & Head of the School of Business at Central University of Kashmir, presented key findings from a study on the NRLM/UEED programmes, underlining their role in enhancing women's empowerment and employment generation in the Ganderbal district.

The Jehlum Riverside House Rehabilitation Union from Habba Kadal Ganpatyar submitted a memorandum seeking allotment of land at Rakhi Aarth for the permanent rehabilitation of landless families displaced along the Jehlum river.

Likewise, a delegation from the Local Youth Coordination Committee, Chattabal, requested the construction of a playground in their area, emphasizing the need for sports infrastructure.

A deputation from the Sangarmal Traders Welfare Association called for the resolution of multiple pending issues affecting traders at the Sangarmal Shopping Complex.

Representatives of both private and cooperative Kerosene Oil Dealers, under their president, appealed for the restoration of kerosene supplies—particularly for horticulturists and agriculturists operating power-driven machinery.

Mechanical engineering graduates and engineers highlighted the need for assured career progression.

The Tempo Travelers Association, Srinagar, sought a temporary waiver of EMI payments on vehicles in light of the ongoing financial stress on transport operators.

Ms. Khair-ul-Nisa, Principal Advisor to the World Trade Center Association in New York and World Trade Center India, held a high-level discussion on major investment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir and proposed the establishment of a World Trade Center in the region.

Academicians Prof. Hanief and Prof. Talat discussed the critical issue of NAAC accreditation for Islamia College and sought the government's support in strengthening institutional standards.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah gave a patient hearing to all deputations and assured sympathetic consideration of their demands.

He reiterated his government's unwavering commitment to participatory governance, inclusive development and responsive public administration.

"We remain committed to responsive governance and to addressing public concerns with sincerity and urgency," Omar Abdullah said.

MILITANTS

General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, said.

The IGP was addressing a press conference with General Officer Commanding, Victor Force, Major General Dhananjay Joshi and CRPF Inspector General Mitesh Jain at the headquarters of the Victor Force here in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Birdi said due to the intensified focus of various security agencies and the coordination between them, two successful operations were conducted and six terrorists killed in the last three days. He termed the elimination of the ultras "significant achievements".

"These successful operations were possible because of the coordination and synergy among the security and intelligence agencies. We are duty-bound to end any terror activity in Kashmir and we are always ready to stop such acts," the IGP said.

The encounters took place in the Keller area of Shopian and Nadar area of Tral in Pulwama on Tuesday and Thursday, respec-

tively.

Three terrorists each were killed in the two operations.

Major Joshi said immediately after the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives, the security forces designated several areas as focus areas.

"We had intelligence inputs that terrorists had moved to the higher reaches after the melting of the snow. Keeping that in mind, our domination parties were continuously deployed in the higher reaches, mountainous areas and forests," he said.

The security agencies received an intelligence input about the presence of terrorists in the Keller area on the night of May 12, Major Joshi said.Jammu and Kashmir tourism

"So the domination party that was deployed there for some time relocated itself and in a focused way, closed in on the area. They challenged the terrorists who fired at them, leading to an encounter in which three terrorists were neutralised," he said.

About the Tral encounter, the GoC said the operation took place on a different terrain.

"We had inputs and cordoned off the village. The terrorists took positions in different houses and fired at us. Our challenge was the safe evacuation of the innocent civilians, including children. Then, systematically, searches were conducted one by one in the houses and three terrorists neutralised at separate places," he added.

Major Joshi asserted that the successful conduct of both operations shows that the security forces will find terrorists wherever they are and neutralise them.

Of the six slain terrorists, the most prominent was Shahid Kuttay, who was involved in major attacks, including one on a sarpanch in Shopian's Heerpora on May 18 last year and a firing incident at the Danish Resort on April 8 last year, in which two German tourists and a driver were injured, the officer said. "Kuttay was also involved in fundraising and other activities," he added.

The neutralisation of both the modules has dealt a blow to terror outfits and will help stop their activities here, Major Joshi said.

Addressing the presser, the inspector general of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) said the success of these operations could not have been possible without the support and cooperation of the local population.

"It is not only difficult but impossible to wipe out terrorism without the support of people. The successful operations are a proof that the people here want an end to terror in Jammu and Kashmir," Jain said.Jammu dining guideJammu and Kashmir tourism

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma of the Army's Northern Command complimented the forces for the success of the anti-terror operations.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Commander #NorthernCommand, compliments #ChinarCorps for their swift action and precise execution in the joint operation that neutralised three terrorists in #Awantipora. The #IndianArmy stands by its commitment to keeping #JammuKashmir terror free," the Northern Command said on X. (Agencies)

TRANSFAR

from Delhi and Rishi Kumar (2021 batch) also from Delhi.

IAS officers transferred from J&K include Pandurang K Pole (2004 batch), Vijay Kumar Bidhuri (2005 batch), Sanjiv M Gadkar (2013 batch), Shakeel Ul Rehman Rather (2013 batch), Pardeep Kumar (2013 batch), and Rahul Sharma (2013 batch) have been shifted to other states.

Meanwhile, the MHA cancelled the transfer of two IAS officers.

According to the latest order issued by the MHA, "In partial modification of MHA's order of even number dated 17.10.2024, the transfers of Saugat Biswas, IAS (AGMUT: 2006), from Arunachal Pradesh to Jammu & Kashmir, and Yasha Mudgal, IAS (AGMUT: 2007), from Jammu & Kashmir to Puducherry, are hereby cancelled."

The order further states that all other contents of the original order shall remain unchanged—

HAJJ

priority," Omar Abdullah posted on X, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The air travel disruptions caused by the recent tensions between India and Pakistan have left at least 1,895 Haj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir stranded, prompting the J&K Haj Committee to consider operating additional flights to clear the backlog.

Speaking to KNO, Executive Officer of the Haj Committee, Dr Shujhat Qureshi, said that efforts were underway to accommodate those who were unable to fly earlier due to the disruptions. "For additional flights, we are waiting for approval from HCoI. We are expecting a schedule in the next 2-3 days", Dr Qureshi said.

According to official data, a total of 1,895 pilgrims have been impacted by the week-long disruption and are currently awaiting rebooking. The J&K Haj Committee is in active discussions with the concerned agencies to arrange special flights and clear the backlog at the earliest.

HT - NEWS

As per the data, of a total of 3622 pilgrims from J&K and 242 from Ladakh, 480 have left from Delhi, 10 from Mumbai, 2 from Hyderabad and 1461 from Srinagar, with the rest of the numbers remaining pending. As per the officials, there were a few fresh cancellations as well.

The disruptions have triggered anxiety among intending pilgrims and their families—

MEHBOOBA

gation on the Jhelum river but also boost power generation during lean winter months.

However, Mehbooba Mufti lashed out at Omar, accusing him of making "irresponsible and provocative" statements at a time when Jammu and Kashmir has suffered the most from the recent hostilities between India and Pakistan.

"J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's call to revive the Tulbul Navigation Project amid ongoing tensions between India & Pakistan is deeply unfortunate. At a time when both countries have just stepped back from the brink of a full-fledged war—with Jammu and Kashmir bearing the brunt through the loss of innocent lives, widespread destruction and immense suffering such statements are not only irresponsible but also dangerously provocative," she said on X. "Our people deserve peace as much as anyone else in the country. Weaponizing something as essential and life-giving as water is not only inhumane but also risks internationalizing what should remain a bilateral matter."

Omar hit back, accusing Mehbooba of trying to appease elements across the border for political mileage.

"Actually, what is unfortunate is that with your blind lust to try to score cheap publicity points & please some people sitting across the border, you refuse to acknowledge that the IWT has been one of the biggest historic betrayals of the interests of the people of J&K," Omar said on X.

He defended his stand against the Indus Water Treaty.

"I have always opposed this treaty & I will continue to do so. Opposing a blatantly unfair treaty is in no way, shape, size, or form war-mongering; it's about correcting a historic injustice that denied the people of J&K the right to use our water for ourselves," Omar said.

Mehbooba responded by invoking Omar's political lineage, reminding him that once Sheikh Abdullah advocated for accession to Pakistan.

LT GEN

Corps in a post on X said, "#GOC and all ranks of #WhiteKnightCorps salute the unwavering courage of #Braveheart Subedar Major Pawan Kumar, who made the supreme sacrifice during #OpSindoor."

"His valour and dedication to duty will always be remembered. We continue to stand with the bereaved family in their hour of grief," it wrote.

MATA

from Katra to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, efforts are being made to provide free facilities," Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, told UNI.

"As devotees have started heading towards the base for performing the yatra gradually, witnessing an increase, the Shrine Board is providing all the facilities to them for their smooth and hassle-free journey," the CEO said.

"To enhance the number of pilgrims, the Shrine Board is providing several facilities to the pilgrims free of cost, starting from Katra

FIR number 01/2025 in Police Station ACB Udhampur under sections 5(1)(d) r/w 5 (2) of J&K P.C Act, Svt. 2006 and section 120-B RPC against a public servant Sajjad Hussain, then Teacher (Incharge Headmaster) of Govt. Middle School Jandrel, Zone Chassana, District Reasi, Abdul Aziz, Contractor and others and started investigation.

"An enquiry was conducted by ACB against above named Govt. Official after receipt of a report from Director School Education Jammu substantiating there-

including free Aarti Darshan and accommodation," Garg expressed.

He revealed that besides that, the Shrine Board has also set up food counters at various places en route Bhawan, at Banganga and as well as at Katra Railway Station.

The Shrine Board had also announced a free accommodation facility at the Katra-based Ashirwad Complex for the devotees, he said.

The CEO said, "Although numbers remain modest, with summer vacations and the tourism season ahead, we are expecting a heavy rush of pilgrims in the coming days."

Notably, on May 15, by 10 PM, as many as 5,423 devotees had left from Katra to the cave shrine, and during the period of escalated tension between India and Pakistan, 45,430 pilgrims offered prayers at the cave shrine from May 6 to 13.

On May 6, 12917 pilgrims visited the cave

shrine, and on May 7, 12760 while on May 8, 8670 pilgrims, on May 9, 3962 pilgrims, on May 10, 1352 pilgrims, on May 11, 1303 pilgrims, on May 12, 168 pilgrims and on May 13, 2808 pilgrims visited the shrine.

However, expressing faith in the government and the Armed Forces, the devotees at Katra, have appealed to pilgrims across the country to visit the Bhawan and seek blessings of "Maa Bhagwati".

The helicopter service to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine has also resumed on Wednesday after remaining suspended for a week due to the military standoff between India and Pakistan, and the battery car service is also operational, he said.

The CEO also said, "The Shrine Board has implemented comprehensive security arrangements along the route from Katra to the Bhawan, under the supervision of police and CRPF, and the CCTV surveillance systems and Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) are operational."

"To ensure pilgrim safety and facilitate smooth yatra regulation, Shrine Board has operationalized the ICCC at Katra town," he further told UNI adding, "timely activation of the ICCC as this center enabled real-time monitoring, swift response to emergencies and effective coordination among security agencies through a network of 700 CCTV cameras with features like gesture recognition, face recognition, PTZ and such others as per operational requirements."

More than 3.5 lakh pilgrims during the navratras period in April, and more than 25 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance till mid-April at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine this year.

DAR

grassroots governance is essential for community welfare.

Minister directed Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs) and Assistant Commissioners Panchayats (ACPs) to collaborate closely with legislators on works and financial planning matters.

"We must support and work alongside legislators to ensure cooperation at the grassroots level," Dar said, stressing the importance of taking elected representatives into confidence during project planning and execution.

The Minister evaluated progress on key programs, including the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin. Discussions also covered the construction and enhancement of Panchayat Ghars for 2023-2025 and the co-location of Common Service Centers (CSC), UT capex budget.

The Minister was informed that under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), a record 1,12,000 houses were completed in FY 2024-25, the highest ever in J&K. Additionally, 5 Marlas of land were provided to 498 landless beneficiaries.

Under MGNREGA, 407.04 lakh person-days were generated, and 1.84 lakh works completed, marking record achievements in employment and rural infrastructure.

BUDGAM

a spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

In this regard, police said that a case under FIR number 66/2025 has been registered at Police Station Magam under relevant sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and further investigation has been taken up.

"During the course of investigation, it surfaced that the arrested individuals were in close contact with active LeT terrorist Aabid Qayoom Lone, S/o Abdul Qayoom Lone, R/o Wussan Pattan, who had exfiltrated to Pakistan in 2020 and subsequently joined the LeT outfit. The said terrorist/handler is currently operating from Pakistan and is involved in radicalising local youth, motivating them to join terrorist ranks, and directing them to carry out terror-related activities in the Narbal–Magam area of District Budgam," police said.

ACB

FIR number 01/2025 in Police Station ACB Udhampur under sections 5(1)(d) r/w 5 (2) of J&K P.C Act, Svt. 2006 and section 120-B RPC against a public servant Sajjad Hussain, then Teacher (Incharge Headmaster) of Govt. Middle School Jandrel, Zone Chassana, District Reasi, Abdul Aziz, Contractor and others and started investigation.

KU

Universities Act, 1969, I, Manoj Sinha, Chancellor, University of Kashmir, hereby re-appoint Prof. Nilofer Khan as the Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir, for a period of two (02) years w.e.f. 19.05.2025, the date of completion of her existing term as the Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir," reads the order. Universities Act, 1969, I, Manoj Sinha, Chancellor, University of Kashmir, hereby re-appoint Prof. Nilofer Khan as the Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir, for a period of two (02) years w.e.f. 19.05.2025, the date of completion of her existing term as the Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir,"



DLSA Srinagar to hold 2nd National Lok Adalat on May 31st

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar is going to hold 2nd National Lok Adalat of the year on 31st May 2025 at District Court Complex Srinagar.

During the Lok Adalat, both pre-Litigation and post Litigation Cases shall be taken up for amicable resolution. Pre -Litigation cases comprise Bank Recovery matters, Labour dispute cases, Electricity and Water bills (excluding non-Compoundable) and other (Criminal Compoundable, Matrimonial, other civil disputes etc).

Among those Pending in Courts include Criminal Compoundable offence, NI Act cases under Section 138, Bank Recovery matters, MACT cases, Labour disputes cases, Electricity and Water bills (excluding non-Compoundable), Matrimonial cases (Except Divorce matters), Land Acquisition cases and other civil cases (rent, easementary rights, injunctions suit, specific performance suit) etc.

Awareness programme to sensitize stakeholders regarding POSH Act held at Court Complex Srinagar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized an awareness programme on the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace (POSH) Act at the ADR Centre, District Court Complex Srinagar. The objective of the awareness programme was to sensitize the stakeholders, especially staff, legal professionals, and para legal volunteers, about the core aspects of the POSH Act, including preventive measures, complaint redressal mechanism, and the importance of a safe and inclusive workplace. 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. The event was graced by Massarat Jabeen (PT&E Magistrate Srinagar) Presiding Officer of the POSH Committee, and was attended by the members of the POSH Committee, staff members, Legal Aid Defense Counsels, and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar. Massarat Jabeen, in her address, emphasized the significance of understanding and implementing the POSH Act at every institutional level. She elaborated on the legal provisions, mechanisms for redressal, and the responsibilities of employers and committee members in ensuring compliance with the Act.

2nd National Lok Adalat on May-31 at Budgam

HT News Network

BUDGAM, MAY 16: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam is going to organize 2nd National Lok Adalat on 31 May, 2025 at Budgam and subordinate courts.

In this connection, all concerned Advocates as well as Persons/parties/Litigants who desire to get their cases settled through the said National Lok-Adalat may approach concerned courts for referring their aforementioned nature cases for their amicable settlement by or before 29 May, 2025.

Cases of Pre-litigation and Post-litigation nature shall be taken up for their mutual settlement in the said National Lok Adalat.

Pre-Litigation involves Commercial/Money Recovery cases and Labour and Employment disputes cases, electricity and water bills and other bill payment cases (excluding non-compoundable) if both the parties are ready for mutual settlement and Maintenance Cases.

Hakeem Yaseen Decries Windstorm Devastation in Budgam , Demands Urgent Relief for Affected Families

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 16::Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, has voiced deep anguish over the large-scale destruction caused by strong winds across Kashmir, particularly in Budgam district.

He expressed concern over the suffering of people whose homes and properties have been severely damaged. "The strong winds have inflicted serious damage in several areas, including in Raiyar Doodhpathri Gogathaji, Chekmarg ,Kralpathri, khag,Khansahib, Beerwah, and Charar-i-Sharief. Many families have been left in distress as their houses, shops, and essential infrastructure have been affected," Hakeem Yaseen said. "I urge the administration to immediately assess the extent of the damage and provide adequate compensation to the victims."

He stressed that the affected families should not be left to struggle on their own and called for a comprehensive relief package to address their hardships.

Raabita reflects continued commitment of government to public welfare, responsive governance: Sakeena Itoo

Meets scores of public delegations, individuals at Srinagar

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: In line with the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah's Public Outreach Programme Raabita, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo met scores of public delegations and individuals at Civil Secretariat here today. During the interactions, the Minister patiently listened to a wide range of public grievances, developmental issues and other concerns raised by the visiting delegations.

These delegations, hailing from various districts and constituencies, raised matters pertaining to road connectivity, healthcare facilities, water supply and social welfare schemes before the Minister and sought timely redressal of the same.

Interacting with the public delegations, Sakeena highlighted that Raabita reflects the continued commitment of our government to public welfare and responsive



governance. "These Public Outreach engagements are essential for bridging gap between the government and the people", the Minister stated. She added that such engagements provide a unique platform to public to raise their genuine issues and concerns with the government. The Minister further reaffirmed the dedication of Government towards public welfare, adding that the public voices are being heard and acted upon during the present government.

Sakeena further assured the visiting delegations that their genuine concerns would be promptly taken up for immediate redressal. Meanwhile, MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi also met the Minister and apprised her of various public issues pertaining to Pampore constituency. These delegations, hailing from various districts and constituencies, raised matters pertaining to road connectivity, healthcare facilities, water supply and social welfare schemes before

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'Strawberry Village' braces up as harvesting season begins

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 16 (KNO): As the early morning sun warms the fields of Kashmir's famous 'Strawberry Village' in Gassoo, located near Dargah Hazratbal on the outskirts of Srinagar, the farmers have begun harvesting their first bunch of vibrant red strawberries, marking the start of the much-awaited season.

The village, known for its fertile soil and favourable climate has emerged as a hub for strawberry cultivation over the past few years.

With baskets in hand and hope in their hearts, farmers say the harvest brings not just income but a deep sense of satisfaction.

"This is the time we wait for all year," said Fayaz Ahmad, a local farmer while speaking with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). He said the strawberries have grown, and the yield looks promising this season.

Locals from the Gasoo area say the



seasonal fruit has also started attracting visitors and photographers, who come to witness the beauty of the fields.

One of the photographers said the essence of the harvest through his lens. "There is a unique charm in these strawberry fields. The morning light adds to the beauty and it is truly a photographer's delight," he said. While strawberries are being harvested now, farmers are also preparing for the cherry season, which usually begins in late May and runs till early July. The Makhmali and Double cherry varieties are picked from mid-May, while the sweet Mishri variety is ready by the first week of June—(KNO)

Dry fruit, Kehwa, saffron sellers in Lethpora, Pampore say they face losses after Pahalgam attack

Seek govt intervention to revive Kashmir's tourism sector

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 16: The recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam has dampened the tourism sector in the Kashmir Valley, leaving local traders and vendors in Lethpora and Pampore in south Kashmir's Pulwama district struggling to survive.

As reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), small-scale traders who depend heavily on visiting tourists, especially those selling dry fruits, saffron and the renowned Kashmiri Kehwa, are now facing a severe decline in customers and income.

The once-bustling Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, where tourists traditionally stopped to enjoy a warm cup of kehwa or purchase local produce, is now eerily deserted. Peak season trading, which usually brings



lively activity and prosperity, has abruptly turned into a period of silence and mounting concern.

"We're barely making even one per cent of what we used to sell before the attack," lamented Manzoor Ahmad, a dry fruit stall owner in Lethpora. "There used to be

dozens of tourist vehicles stopping here daily. People loved our kehwa and bought it in bulk. Now, hardly anyone slows down or stops."

Shabir Lone, who runs a kehwa stall near Pampore, expressed similar worries. "The attack has not only instilled immediate fear but has also shattered tourist confidence. Even those who had already booked their travel plans are cancelling. Nobody feels safe coming here anymore," he said with a worried look.

The economic repercussions are compounded by the emotional toll on these people. For many vendors, this seasonal income is their primary livelihood. "We have children to feed, loans to repay, and no savings to fall back on," said Gulzar Ahmad, a saffron seller. "If this situation persists, we may be forced to shut down our stalls permanently."

Govt Likely to Resume RTC Bus Services from North, South Kashmir to Srinagar's City Centre

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 16: In a move that could significantly ease commuting woes for passengers from North and South Kashmir, the Jammu and Kashmir administration is planning to allow State Road Transport Corporation (SRTC) buses to operate up to Jahangir Chowk in Srinagar, officials said. Reliable sources said that a high-level meeting is expected to take place soon to finalize the modalities of this much-anticipated decision. The proposal comes in response to growing public discon-



tent and recent media reports that flagged the inconvenience caused by blocking SRTC buses at various entry points to the summer capital. As per the initial phase of the plan being discussed, 15 buses each from the North and South Kashmir divisions may be permitted to run up to Jahangir Chowk, a central hub

just short of the city's commercial heart, Lal Chowk. "This step is aimed at facilitating smooth travel for commuters and reducing congestion at the outskirts of Srinagar," a senior official privy to the development told CNS. The proposed move is being seen as a positive step toward restoring accessible and affordable transport options for daily commuters, especially students, office-goers, and patients visiting the city. Further details are expected to emerge after the official meeting, where the final decision and operational blueprint will be discussed. (CNS)

PM Surya Ghar Scheme Stalls in J&K: Six Months On, No Transition from JAKEDA to KPDCCL

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 16: The ambitious PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, launched by the Union Government to promote rooftop solar adoption, appears to have entered a state of stagnation in Jammu and Kashmir. Over six months have passed since the scheme's introduction, yet applicants who had previously registered on the JAKEDA (Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency) portal continue to remain in limbo—awaiting a seamless transfer to the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL) portal.

Despite early promises of integration and expedited implementation, there has been little to no movement in streamlining the application process, leaving both customers and vendors frustrated.

EDITORIAL

Take immediate steps for regularization of CIC operators in RDD

Couple of days back the Department of Information came out with a press release regarding the appointment of clerical staff in the Rural Development Department. The press release while quoting the Secretary of the concerned department said that 122 people are being appointed as junior assistants. It was made out while 120 people have been cleared for appointment as junior assistants with the selection of two people kept withheld for technical reasons.

The appointment of 122 persons as junior assistants in the Rural Development Department is a welcome step and it will lead to better working of the department. At the same time the department should think about the people who are working on contract basis over the past couple of decades. These people have been waiting for the regularization for years now and as on date the same is still pending. Despite repeated assurances the hapless fellows continue to work on contractual basis.

Around 180 people have been working as community information centre (CIC) operators in the Rural Development Department for the past 20 years or so. Despite spending so much time in the department the services of these people have not been regularized and they continue to yearn for the same. These CIC operators have given their youth to the department and discharged their services with utmost dedication and professionalism. As on date these people are paid a meagre amount of Rs. 10,000 as monthly wages.

Given the continuous price rise in the market the amount is too small and the CIC operators are at the receiving end. In 2014 then state government headed by Omar Abdullah passed an order regarding regularization of CIC operators. As the assembly elections were round the corner at that time the cabinet order could not be implemented. It was expected that the PDP-BJP government that came into existence in 2015 would take the process and regularize services of the CIC operators, but the same did not happen.

Since Omar has yet again become the CM of Jammu & Kashmir the onus lies on him in fulfilling this promise of his made more than a decade back. Since he is aware about the problems of CIC operators immediate steps should be taken to regularize their services. Once the CIC operators become permanent employees their problems would be solved and they will be absolved of the tension. The sooner it is done better it will be for the people yearning for their regularization.

International Day of families 2025: Embracing Family-Oriented Policies For A Sustainable Future

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Every year on May 15, people around the world take a moment to honour and celebrate a foundational unit of society—the family. Established by the United Nations in 1993, the International Day of Families serves as a reminder of the vital role families play in shaping individuals, societies, and ultimately, the world. In 2025, the day takes on even greater significance as it revolves around the theme, “Family-Oriented Policies for Sustainable Development.” This theme invites nations, institutions, and individuals to reflect on the centrality of the family unit in achieving inclusive, equitable, and lasting progress for humanity.

The family is more than just a group of people living under one roof. It is the very first social environment a person experiences—a microcosm of society where values are taught, identities are formed, and emotional support is cultivated. Families come in many forms—nuclear, extended, single-parent, blended, childless, same-sex, and chosen families among them—and all contribute uniquely to the social fabric. Yet, despite the diversity in structure, the function of the family as a nurturer, educator, and stabiliser remains universally acknowledged. Recognising this, the International Day of Families promotes awareness of the challenges families face and encourages policy frameworks that address their evolving needs.

The significance of this year’s theme lies in its timely call for governments and institutions to realign their development agendas through a family-focused lens. With global issues such as economic inequality, migration, climate change, and public health crises becoming increasingly interconnected, the resilience of families is being tested like never before. Therefore, incorporating family-oriented strategies into sustainable development goals is not only logical—it is essential. Access to quality healthcare, inclusive education, decent employment opportunities, housing security, gender equality, and social protections are cornerstones of strong family units. Policymakers are urged to design systems that are adaptable to changing demographics, gender roles, and economic pressures while being rooted in empathy and long-term vision.

In recent years, demographic trends

have revealed a world undergoing rapid transformation. Populations in many parts of the globe are ageing, fertility rates are declining, and youth unemployment remains a pressing issue. These shifts place new kinds of stress on family structures. For example, elderly family members often require extended care, which many households struggle to afford or provide. Similarly, young adults may find it difficult to achieve financial independence and establish their own families due to unstable job markets or unaffordable housing. In light of these realities, family-oriented policies can help close the gaps—supporting parental leave, affordable elder care, housing subsidies, and youth training programs, thereby fostering family stability and societal cohesion.

At a cultural level, the International Day of Families offers an opportunity to appreciate the richness and variety of family traditions across continents. From large communal gatherings in parts of Africa and Asia to intimate reunions in Europe or North America, family remains a cornerstone of human identity. Cultural values passed down through generations, such as respect for elders, intergenerational cooperation, or celebration of festivals, are rooted in familial relationships. These customs are not relics of the past; they are living testimonies to the enduring strength of familial bonds. On this day, schools, community centres, and civil society organisations across the globe organise storytelling sessions, exhibitions, music performances, and traditional food festivals to celebrate these invaluable heritages.

At the same time, the day is not without its activist spirit. Many use May 15 to amplify voices advocating for family justice. This includes raising awareness about domestic violence, discrimination against LGBTQ (Individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning)+ families, child labor, or the plight of refugee families separated by conflict. It also shines a light on the unpaid and often invisible labour provided by women in caregiving roles—a burden exacerbated during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. Global advocacy movements push for greater recognition of caregiving as a form of work deserving of state support, and for families of all kinds to be treated with dignity and equality under the law. The International Day of Families, thus, becomes a platform for social justice, equality, and the affirmation of

universal human rights.

One of the most powerful aspects of this global observance is its encouragement of grassroots action. While much of the focus often rests on government policy, individuals and communities are equally crucial in driving change. Simple acts such as organising community clean-ups, hosting intergenerational dialogues, mentoring children in the neighbourhood, or volunteering time to help a struggling family can create a ripple effect of positive social transformation. In a world increasingly characterised by individualism and digital detachment, such acts of communal care restore the social glue that binds people together.

The private sector, too, has a role to play. Family-friendly workplace policies—such as flexible work hours, paid parental leave, mental health support, and child-care services—can dramatically improve the quality of life for working parents and caregivers. Forward-thinking companies are beginning to realise that investing in their employees’ family well-being is not merely a moral obligation but also a sound business strategy. Happier, healthier employees tend to be more productive, loyal, and creative. On this International Day of Families, employers are encouraged to reflect on their organisational cultures and consider how they can contribute to more family-centred workplaces.

Technological innovation also intersects with family life in profound ways. Digital tools now enable distant family members to stay connected through video calls, messaging apps, and online gatherings. Educational platforms allow parents to become more involved in their children’s learning, while telehealth services provide easier access to medical consultation from home. However, the digital divide also poses challenges: millions of families, particularly in low-income regions, lack access to the internet or digital literacy. Bridging this divide requires coordinated efforts from governments, tech companies, and non-profits to ensure no family is left behind in the digital age.

Environmental sustainability is another key dimension that links closely to family-oriented development. Families shape the consumption patterns of future generations. By teaching values of conservation, waste reduction, and responsible resource use at home, parents and guardians nurture eco-conscious citizens. In this context, family policies can support greener lifestyles

through subsidies for clean energy, community gardens, eco-education in schools, and urban planning that prioritises family-friendly public spaces. On a planet facing ecological peril, the family has a fundamental role to play in fostering a culture of environmental responsibility from the ground up.

International cooperation and solidarity are vital in reinforcing these efforts. Multilateral agencies, development banks, and global NGOs must continue to invest in programs that prioritise family well-being in vulnerable regions. From humanitarian aid for displaced families to education grants for children in impoverished communities, these efforts reflect a shared commitment to ensuring that every family, regardless of location or status, has the opportunity to thrive. On this day, world leaders are reminded that building a better future is impossible without first securing the foundation—the family.

Importantly, the International Day of Families also invites introspection. What does family mean to each of us? How have our families shaped our identities and aspirations? How can we contribute to strengthening families not just within our homes, but in our neighbourhoods, workplaces, and societies? These are not rhetorical questions—they are calls to action. A healthy, supportive family environment lays the groundwork for empathy, cooperation, and resilience, all of which are essential for tackling the challenges of our time.

While the day may pass like any other on the calendar, its essence lingers in the shared laughter of a meal, a child’s story at bedtime, a call to an ageing parent, or a community gathering under an open sky. These simple, often unspoken moments remind us of the power and beauty of human connection. As we mark the International Day of Families in 2025, let us carry forward a renewed commitment to the values that families represent—care, inclusion, and hope. In doing so, we not only honour the past and present of our own families but also help shape a future that is more sustainable, just, and compassionate for all.

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A Call for Wisdom, Unity, and Admiration of De-escalation



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The recent escalation between India and Pakistan has once again underscored the fragile nature of peace in the subcontinent. While the ceasefire agreement brings a temporary halt to hostilities, the uncertainty surrounding its longevity remains. The echoes of conflict still linger, and the people—especially those living near borders—continue to bear the brunt of geopolitical tensions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the nation, reaffirmed India’s commitment to counterterrorism, stating that "Operation Sindoor" has set a new standard in India’s fight against terrorism. He emphasized that India will not tolerate nuclear blackmail and will respond decisively to any threats against its sovereignty.

The military leadership echoed similar sentiments, highlighting the precision strikes that eliminated over 100 terrorists in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir 'as stated.

However, amidst the strategic operations and diplomatic maneuvering, one undeniable truth remains—war brings death and destruction, and no one truly emerges as a winner. The devastation caused by prolonged conflict far outweighs any perceived gains. While some voices advocate for a decisive military operation to reclaim Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), they overlook the grave reality that Pakistan is also a nuclear-armed nation. From the outset of the strikes, Pakistan openly declared that any threat to its sovereignty would be met with nuclear retaliation.

The ceasefire agreement, brokered under intense international pressure, including former U.S. President Donald Trump’s warning to halt trade with both nations, reflects the necessity of diplomatic intervention. While some may view this as external interference, the reality is that economic stability and global partnerships play a crucial role in maintaining peace.

Yet, beyond the political and military calculations, the

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most tragic consequence of this conflict has been the suffering of civilians. Border residents, caught in the crossfire, have faced unimaginable losses. Homes have been reduced to rubble, livelihoods shattered, and families displaced. In Jammu and Kashmir’s border villages, residents have been forced to abandon their homes in the wake of relentless shelling. A young schoolgirl from Uri moved hearts when she tearfully expressed that her family had lost everything they owned—their house, their belongings—forced to flee with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

Despite the devastation, the plight of these civilians remains largely ignored in mainstream discourse. The focus remains on military strategies and political maneuvering, while the voices of those who have suffered the most are drowned out. "Is it not unfortunate? Do their lives not matter?"

The reality is stark—both India and Pakistan became test grounds for war machinery, with defense manufacturers reaping profits while civilians paid the price. The financial resources expended in this brief period of conflict could have been used to uplift millions living below the poverty line. Instead, they fueled

destruction, leaving behind scars that will take generations to heal.

Most critically, those who advocate for continued war must understand the catastrophic consequences of nuclear conflict. The nuclear weapons possessed by both India and Pakistan today are far more powerful than those used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. If either country were to deploy nuclear weapons, it would likely use its most destructive arsenal to ensure the enemy is unable to retaliate. But in doing so, the user nation itself would suffer irreversible consequences.

A nuclear strike on Mumbai or Islamabad would not only obliterate millions instantly but would also trigger a "nuclear winter" plunging the entire subcontinent into darkness and famine. Crores of people would evaporate at the point of impact, while those who survive would curse themselves for not perishing. The land would be barren, economies would collapse, and civilization as we know it would cease to exist.

Former Army Chief General Naravane aptly warned that "war is not a Bollywood movie"—it is not scripted for dramatic victories but is a grim reality where destruction is absolute. Those who casually demand escalation must reflect on the irreversible

consequences of their words.

India’s history offers invaluable lessons in resilience and strategic patience. The philosophy of "Ahimsa", which led to the British colonial exit, remains a testament to the power of non-violent resistance. The nation’s strength lies not in reckless aggression but in measured responses and long-term stability.

Now, more than ever, both nations must prioritize trust-building and peace efforts. Kashmiris deserve a rightful place in discussions shaping the future, and political divisions must be set aside in favor of national and humanitarian interests. True strength is demonstrated not just in power but in restraint, and wisdom lies in knowing when to exhibit force and when to seek reconciliation.

History of our civilization offers two guiding principles: "no matter how powerful one may be, true strength lies in restraint," and never underestimate the complexities of your adversary". As India and Pakistan stand at this delicate juncture, it is time for wisdom to prevail—not through division and hostility, but through dialogue, diplomacy, and respect for diverse voices.

The Day I Graduated: When The Cap And Gown Couldn't Protect Me From Life's Hardest Lesson

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It's deep and hard to describe the peace that fills your soul when you finally finish your university degree, especially when it's the end of a Master's journey. It's a special kind of freedom and joy that words can't fully capture. That's how I felt on the evening I finished. I had finally got freedom from the endless cycle of assignment deadlines, exams, and research work.

I felt like a heavy weight had been lifted off my shoulders, like a thick cloak I had been carrying and surviving for years. I felt light, almost like I could float, as I walked through the university gates one last time. I held onto that feeling of peace, thinking it was the start of something beautiful. But I didn't know that life was already waiting for me outside those gates with a harsh lesson I never saw coming.

If I had known what was ahead, maybe I would have stayed a little longer in the comfort of university life. Maybe I would have chosen the stress I knew over the unknown pain that was waiting for me.

Just beyond those gates that once welcomed me with dreams and hope, life was waiting like a trap, ready to teach me something no classroom ever could. The lesson came not from books or lectures, but from a moment so painful and clear that it split my life into two parts: before and after.

That one moment—just a heart-beat—left a deep mark on me. It became a memory I carry like broken glass under my skin. Sometimes it stays quiet. Other times, it hurts all over again. But it never really leaves.

What a cruel twist, to spend years studying how to understand the world, only to be completely unprepared for what life actually had in store. All those achievements and grades suddenly meant nothing in the face of real, unexpected pain. It was a lesson in loss—one no university could ever teach—and the certificate I truly earned was written in tears, not ink.

The degree that now gathers dust on my shelf has my name on it, written in fancy letters. But my real graduation happened at those



gates, where I lost my innocence and gained a different kind of knowledge.

A painful wisdom that took up space in my heart, in places that once held hope for a future untouched by grief.

Sometimes, I wish I could forget what I have learned. I wish I could go back to that final evening of peace, when my biggest worry was a deadline and my biggest hope was freedom. But once you have crossed certain lines in life, there's no going back. You just carry your pain forward, letting it change you. And maybe, one day, that pain will shape you into someone who can hold both deep sorrow and, hopefully, a greater kindness than you ever knew before.

Since leaving the farewell function in the seminar hall of my university that final evening of the final semester, not a night has passed that I haven't thought of the elderly man sitting alone on the stone bench near a street vendor's fruit juice stall.

His trembling hands clutched

a faded photograph as he rocked gently forward and back, silent tears carving paths down his weathered face. The graduation cap in his lap belonged to someone who would never wear it. He and I both knew that ceremony would remain forever incomplete—a celebration permanently silenced.

That moment has never left me—a man older than my grandfather, bearing the unbearable weight of an absence, alone on a campus emptying for summer break. With no consoling words to ease his pain. With no one stopping to notice.

Like once during a class lecture, my professor, Poornima ma'am, said:

“This world has failed to see private griefs. This generation has failed to honour the silent sufferers among us. We have failed to acknowledge the invisible burdens. We have failed to witness the quiet devastation hiding in plain sight.”

Remembering this thought made my chest constrict. I saw him. I caught his gaze for the briefest

moment and witnessed the abyss of loss that lives on still, in what remains of his shattered heart. I paused as he pressed the graduation tassel between his fingers, a tangible remnant of dreams extinguished too soon.

I remember approaching him near the exit gate of my university, where he sat immobile as students streamed past with laughter and relief. I wish I had rehearsed what to say, but words abandoned me. All I could feel was my breath—it felt like an ache, a heavy burden that was making my lungs too heavy with each gasp.

“Are you alright, sir?” I finally managed. “Is there anything I can do?”

He paused, looked at me with eyes that had cried oceans for a very long time, and asked,

“Son, what troubles your heart? Let me listen to your burdens.”

And so I sat down beside him, under the environment and atmosphere and the sad shadows of that evening. The blisters on his hands were forcing me to cry every

moment. It felt like these hands had also endured a lot of suffering.

“Mein apni graduation se sirf teen haftay door tha aur thak chukka tha

Mujhe apne mustaqbil ke baare mein pur aitmaad mehsoos karna yaad aata tha

Talimi qarz ka bojh meri rooh ko kuchal raha tha

Mere rishte taleemi dabao ke neeche toot chuke thay

Mera zehan is uljhan se dhundla gaya tha ke ab agla qadam kya hoga”

I told him I was afraid. That university was supposed to prepare me for life, but I was struggling to see my path forward. That my pursued education couldn't guarantee me purpose or peace. He nodded as I spoke, with a wisdom earned through suffering. He kept calling me “son,” offering his perspective when words failed me.

“Don't fear tomorrow, young man,” he said, his voice steadying as he spoke.

“My son would have been just like you—questioning, searching.”

In that moment—and in the hour that followed—I was seen. By a stranger carrying a grief I could barely comprehend.

He told me about his son. His only son. A brilliant student who would have walked across the graduation stage tomorrow if he had not lost his battle with depression three months earlier. The father had come to campus to sit where his son once sat, to breathe the air his son once breathed, to collect the degree his son had earned but would never receive.

This winter, I have now decided that I will volunteer at the campus crisis centre instead of taking the internship I had planned. As I prepare for this work, I am reflecting on what it means to truly see people—to create space for their stories, to listen without the urgency to solve or fix. During these next months, I will honour his son's memory by being present for others who struggle in silence.

That evening changed me in ways I am still discovering. From that bench to the counselling centre, I learned that behind every face on campus—professors rushing to meetings, cafeteria workers serving with tired smiles, students projecting confidence—there are stories of triumph and devastation we rarely glimpse.

People often romanticise acts of compassion, calling them heroic, but every person who chooses to witness another's pain eventually comes to understand that it is we who are transformed. In these sacred exchanges, we learn what it means to have nothing and everything at the same time. We meet people who are, quite literally, surviving the unlivable situations of life. Who understands the fragility of life more than we could ever comprehend? It is their resilience, their continued breathing despite it all, that teaches us the meaning of courage.

From this time forward, I hope to listen more deeply. I hope to create more space for the untold stories that surround us daily. I will remember that behind every composed face might lie an ocean of grief—or joy. And perhaps the weight we carry becomes lighter when shared.

The writer is a 1st-Year Master's student at Jain University, Bangalore

PM Modi's address after Op Sindoor: A nation's resolve against terror

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On May 12, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation following the successful execution of Operation Sindoor. This 22-minute speech was not just a recounting of military achievements but a declaration of India's unwavering stance against terrorism and its sponsors. The Prime Minister's address underscored India's commitment to safeguarding its citizens and sovereignty, sending a clear message to adversaries and allies alike. The Prime Minister began by acknowledging the collective grief and anger that swept the nation after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, which claimed 26 innocent lives. He emphasized that the entire country stood united in demanding a decisive response. We gave full freedom to the Indian forces to wipe out the terrorists, he stated, highlighting the government's resolve to act against those who threaten India's peace.

Operation Sindoor was launched in the early hours of May 7, 2025, targeting nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-

occupied Kashmir. The Indian Air Force executed 24 precision strikes using Rafale jets armed with SCALP missiles and AASM Hammer bombs. The operation lasted approximately 23 minutes and was described as focused and non-escalatory, aiming to dismantle the infrastructure of groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed without causing civilian casualties. The choice of the name Operation Sindoor was deeply symbolic. In his address, PM Modi stated, The enemy has now realised the consequences of removing Sindoor from the foreheads of our women, referencing the cultural significance of Sindoor as a symbol of marital status and the pain inflicted on families by terrorism. His emotional tone resonated deeply across the country, especially with those who had lost loved ones. Beyond the military response, India undertook several diplomatic and strategic actions to isolate Pakistan. These included suspending the Indus Water Treaty, halting bilateral engagements, and sealing the Attari border. These measures aimed to convey that India would not tolerate any form of support for terror-

ism and would use all available means to protect its interests. PM Modi reinforced that India is now a proactive nation that will not wait for another tragedy to act.

A significant moment during the post-operation briefing was the presence of Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, a Muslim officer, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, a Sikh pilot, and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, a Kashmiri Pandit. Their joint appearance symbolized India's unity in diversity and the collective resolve of its people to stand against terrorism, irrespective of religious or cultural backgrounds. That press briefing image will forever stay in our national memory, representing not just three officers, but the spirit of a billion Indians. Modi mentioned this unity in his speech as the real strength of Bharat. While the physical operation was underway, India faced a series of cyberattacks from state-backed hackers and hacktivist groups across several countries. These attacks targeted critical infrastructure, including defense, transportation, and financial sectors. Despite the intensity of these cyber threats, Indian cybersecurity agencies

successfully mitigated the risks, ensuring the nation's digital infrastructure remained secure. The PM praised the agencies for their vigilance and assured the public that India's digital defenses are robust.

PM Modi's address was not limited to recounting events but carried a warning too. He stated firmly that if Pakistan or any other nation sponsors terror again, the response will be even more decisive than Operation Sindoor. India has said no to terror, and the world has heard that loud and clear. In PM Modi's own words, Terror and Talks cannot go together. He concluded by assuring the citizens that India is in safe hands and that their safety and dignity will always remain the top priority of his government. This address will be remembered not just for its substance, but for the conviction with which it was delivered. It showed the world that India, under PM Modi's leadership, is no longer a silent observer but a determined protector. This speech will be etched in history as a moment when a leader not only spoke for a nation but as the nation.

On Love

Love's way is humility and intoxication,
The torrent floods down. How can it run up?
You'll be a cabuchon in the ring of lovers,
If you're a red ruby's slave, dear friend ;
Even as Earth is a serf of the sapphire sky
And your monkey body's a slave to your spirit.
What did Earth ever lose by this relationship ?
What mercy has the Self showed to weary limbs ?
One shouldn't beat the snare drum of awakening
Beneath a cosy sofa's, comfy counterpane.
Hoist, like a hero, your flag in the desert.
Listen with your soul's ear to the song,
In that hollow of the vast turquoise dome,
Rising from the lover's passionate moan .
When your tight gown-strings are loosened
By the tipsy inebriation of perfect love,
The victorious heavens shout, triumphantly !
And the constellations gaze down ashamed.
This world is in deep trouble, from top to bottom,
But it can be swiftly healed by the balm of love .

No end to the journey

No end to the journey No end, no end to the journey
no end, no end never
how can the heart in love
ever stop opening
if you love me,
you won't just die once
in every moment
you will die into me
to be reborn
Into this new love, die
your way begins
on the other side
become the sky
take an axe to the prison wall,
escape
walk out like someone
suddenly born into color
do it now

By: Rumi

Tiranga Rally Roars Across Continents”: Altaf Thakur Hails Global Patriotic Wave as Triumph of Operation Sindoor Says PM Modi’s Visit to Adampur Air Base Silences Pakistan’s Propaganda Machine

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 16: In a spirited tribute to India's rising global influence and unshakable national pride, senior BJP leader Altaf Thakur today hailed the Tiranga rallies held across the world under Operation Sindoor as a “historic and emotional moment for every Indian.” From the streets of London to Times Square in New York, and from the shores of Sydney to the skyline of Dubai, the Indian Tricolour flew high, symbolizing unity, strength, and peace. Notably, the patriotic wave was equally strong

within Jammu and Kashmir. Rallies were held across the Valley, with a massive show of unity witnessed at Srinagar's iconic Lal Chowk Clock Tower. Altaf Thakur, accompanied by senior BJP leaders and hundreds of enthusiastic youth, led a spirited Tiranga March through the heart of the city, culminating at the historic tower. Tricolours fluttered high, slogans of unity echoed, and the atmosphere pulsed with patriotic energy. “The Tiranga didn't just fly—it roared across continents and in the heart of Kashmir,” said Thakur. “Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Operation Sin-



door has evolved into a global wave of patriotism. The Indian diaspora—and now even the remotest corners of Kashmir—have proven that the spirit of Bharat lives strong.” Thakur underscored that the global and local response was not merely ceremonial—it was strategic. “This is a clear message to the world that India's spirit is resilient and unyielding. We stand united—across oceans, across ideologies, and beyond any propaganda.” Responding to recent disinformation pushed by Pakistan regarding damage to the Adampur Air Base, Thakur commended Prime Minister Modi's

unannounced visit to the base in Punjab. He called it “a masterstroke that exposed falsehoods with facts.” “While Pakistan attempted to spread lies, Prime Minister Modi stood with our jawans, reviewed operational readiness, and proved that India does not bow to deceit. His presence alone crushed the false narrative,” Thakur said. The BJP leader also used the occasion to address the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. “Let this Tiranga movement inspire you. Let us reject division and embrace our identity as proud citizens of a strong and sovereign India,” he urged.

Aryans Group of Colleges & Livasa Hospital, Mohali Sign MoU for training and placement

HT News Network



Srinagar, May 16th Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh & Livasa Hospital, Mohali have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide enhanced clinical training opportunities, internship and placement for healthcare students. The MOU was signed between Livasa hospital, Mohali, represented by Ms. Neha rampal, AGM HR, Group Head Talent Acquisition and Harpreet Singh Saini, Deputy Manager HR and Nidhi Chopra, Principal, Himanshi, Nursing Coordinator, Aryans Institute of Nursing. It is worth mentioning that recently Punjab Governor Sh Gulab Chand Kataria has awarded Aryans Group of Colleges for Excellence in Paramedical and nursing education. Where Education Minister, Punjab S. Harjot Singh Bains was the Guest of Honour The award was received by Dr Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group.

Nidhi Chopra said the MoU aims to provide hands-on clinical exposure to students pursuing healthcare programs, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical experience. WHO estimates, the world will face a significant shortage of 10 million health workers by 2030. This collaboration will empower students with the skills and expertise required to excel in the healthcare industry, Nidhi mentioned.

It is to be mention that Aryans Institute of Nursing is already running B. Sc. Nursing, GNM & ANM approved from Punjab Government & INC New Delhi affiliated to Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (BFUHS), Faridkot & Punjab Nurses Registration Council (PNRC), Mohali, respectively. The Paramedical courses including Radiology, Cardiac Care, Operation Theatre, Anesthesia, Medical Life Sciences are under IKGPTU, Jalandhar. B. Pharma & Physiotherapy are affiliated to MRSPTU, Bathinda & PCI, New Delhi while D. Pharma approved by Punjab Govt. Certificate courses including Home Care Helper, Operation Theatre Attendant, Ambulance & Hospital Attendant are also available under Punjab Govt. It is to be mention that Aryans Institute of Nursing is already running B. Sc. Nursing, GNM & ANM approved from Punjab Government & INC New Delhi affiliated to Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (BFUHS), Faridkot & Punjab Nurses Registration Council (PNRC), Mohali, respectively. The Paramedical courses including Radiology, Cardiac Care, Operation Theatre, Anesthesia, Medical Life Sciences are under IKGPTU, Jalandhar. B. Pharma & Physiotherapy are affiliated to MRSPTU, Bathinda & PCI, New Delhi.

Inaugrural ceremony of 21-day folk music workshop in Jammu

HT News Network

Jammu/ May 16 Vemedh Rangmanch proudly announces the commencement of a 21-day training workshop under its ongoing project focused on the Traditional Folk Art of Jammu and Kashmir, specifically encompassing folk music and dance traditions. The workshop has been organized as part of the Scheme for Preservation and Development of Cultural Heritage of the Himalayas 'BTI' for the financial year 2023-24. This initiative aims to revive, preserve, and promote the rich cultural heritage of the Himalayan region, with a special focus on the diverse and vibrant folk traditions of Jammu and Kashmir. The training program brings together experienced folk artists, cultural practitioners, and enthusiastic learners to facilitate intergenerational transmission of these invaluable art forms. The workshop will provide participants with intensive training in traditional folk music styles, vocal techniques, dance forms, instruments, and performance practices unique to the region. Through this initiative, Vemedh Rangmanch seeks to foster cultural pride and ensure the continuity of intangible cultural heritage. Speaking on the occasion, Rohit Bhat president of Vemedh Rangmanch, said, “It is our responsibility to safeguard the traditions passed down to us by our ancestors. This workshop is a small but significant step toward empowering local artists and connecting younger generations with their roots.” The program is being held at [Insert Venue], with participation from various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The initiative has received support from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, under its Himalayan cultural preservation scheme.

SDM Assar inspects academic activities at GHS Bagger

HT News Network



DODA, MAY 16: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Assar Ashok Katoch today visited the Government High School (HS) Bagger to take stock of academic activities in the institution. During the visit, the SDM interacted with the school staff and students, gaining insights into the academic environment and addressing various issues faced by the institution. The primary objective of the visit was to assess the functioning of the school, including its infrastructural and academic needs. The SDM encouraged the students to strive for excellence in their studies and actively engage in extracurricular activities. He also lauded the dedication of the teaching staff and urged them to continue their efforts to improve the educational standards in the area.

Javed Rana visits LoC Villages in Mankote sector of Poonch district

HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 16: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana today conducted an extensive tour of Line of Control (LoC) villages in Mankote Sector, including Uchhad and Jhulas, of Poonch district to meet people affected by recent cross-border shelling. The Minister was accompanied by SDM



Mendhar, Imran Kataria, and other senior officers of

Tejinder asks party cadre to work tirelessly to address public issues on ground

HT News Network

Jammu, May 16: A meeting of the Officer bearers Jammu and Kashmir Youth National Conference (JKYNC) was held today at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, under the chairmanship of Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President, JK YNC. In his address, Tejinder Singh strongly condemned the acts of terrorism and cross-border aggression and to those who lost their lives in cross border firing in Poonch and border areas.

ازنیابت شانگس اچہ بل

درخواست منجانب افغان ریاض داورلد ریاض احمد دار سانی لہل پوہر

ناجی اچہ بل RBA

اشتہار ہمارا اگاہی ہر خاص و عام

سائل نے ایک درخواست بغض حصول RBA دفتر حرائین میں کی ہے رپوٹ کے مطابق سائل لہل پوہر شانگس میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور افراد کہہ مندرجہ ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

محمد رمضان ولد علام محمد	پیشہ	lpc	سال 73
زریف باؤ زوید محمد رمضان	==	65	== گھرو کام
ریاض احمد پیر	==	42	== دوکانداری 5000
سائیدنا اختر زوید ریاض	==	42	==
زیدمان احمد پیر	==	16	== تعلیم
افغان ریاض پیر	==	18	==

سکے علاوہ اور کوئی افرا گمبہ میں موجود نہیں ہے اور سائل کی کل آمدنی 383480 روپے کے مطابق۔ تک ہے زیر کاروائی سر فٹنگ LPC سر فٹنگت اجراء کرنے میں کسی کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ سات پوم کے اندر اندر دفتر حرائین میں کرسے بعد از معاد کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا

نایب تحصیلدار

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to be informed that the Mother's of my daughter sunaina Mukhtar have been wrongly in her school records as Zubaida Bano but her correct mother's name is Zubaida Akhter now I want updating it her school record if anyone has queries plz inform to office of Hillway Public High school Ashmukam anntnag

ASAP Mukhtar Ahmad khanday
R/o mamal pahelgam

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to be informed that the dob of my daughter jasmeen ashraf have been wrongly in her school records as 25/09/2021 but her correct dob is 30/09/2011 now I want updating it her school record if anyone has queries plz inform to office of government middle school manal pahelgam.

ASAP Mohd ashraf lawe
R/o mamal pahelgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my Name has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, 335400738530 as name is Mujtaba Qadree Peerzada while his correct name is Mujtaba Qadree S/O Mashooq Ali R/O Peer Mohalla Rajpora I have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection concerned authority JUIDAI office within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Name: MUJTABA QADREE S/O MASHOOQ ALI
R/O: PEER MOHALLA RAJPORA/POST OFFICE ZACHALDARA/DIST KUPWARA

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 SHEIKH ABU BAKR S/O ISHFAQ AHMAD SHEIKH R/O PAHALGAM Tehsil PAHALGAM Distt. Anantnag with verified the date of Birth, as 20/01/2022 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

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 GULZAR AHMAD MAGHUL S/O MOHAMMAD YOUSUF MAGHUL R/O MAIN MARKET PAHALGAM Tehsil PAHALGAM Distt. Anantnag with verified the date of Birth, as 01/02/1999 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

Government of Jammu & Kashmir JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

CPO Chowk, Panjthirthi, Jammu/ZamZam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar

Notice

Subject: Submission of Online Application forms for the posts of Junior Engineer(Civil) , advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 03 of 2025 dated:24.04.2025 - req. In continuation to this office Notice No. JKSSB-PLAN/8/2025-06 (E-7685448) dated:13.05.2025, the aspirants can submit the application forms for the aforementioned Advertisement Notice through the online portal of JKSSB as per fresh dates given below:

Submission of Application Forms	Last Date for receiving Fee Online
18.05.2025 (12:00 AM) To 16.06.2025 (11:59PM)	18.05.2025 (12:00 AM) To 16.06.2025 (11:59PM)

Further, the candidates are advised in their own interest to submit online applications much before the closing date to avoid the possibility of inability or failure to login to the online application

DIPK-1491/25
Send Date:-16/05/2025
PUB Date:-17/05/2025

Sd/-
(Atul Kumaf) JKAS,
Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board.



DIPR artists promote awareness on dengue prevention through Nukkad Natak

HT News Network



JAMMU, MAY 16: To mark National Dengue Day, a Nukkad Natak (street play) was organized today at Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, by the artists of the Cultural Unit Jammu, Department of Information and Public Relations, in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu. The event was aimed at creating mass awareness causes of Dengue, preventive measures, and effective control strategies. The impactful street play captured the attention of the gathered audience with its engaging performances and clear messaging on the importance of maintaining cleanliness, avoiding stagnant water and taking personal precautions to prevent the spread of the dengue virus. Through humour, drama and educational storytelling, the artists successfully conveyed critical public health messages.

On the occasion, State Malariologist J&K, Dr. D. J. Raina emphasized the need for community participation in the fight against dengue. He elaborated on the symptoms of the disease, the significance of early diagnosis, and the role of timely medical intervention. Dr. Raina also highlighted the continuous efforts of the Health Department in controlling vector-borne diseases and urged the public to stay vigilant and informed.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the army personnel, locals, health officials and officials from the Information Department, making it a successful initiative towards health awareness and community mobilization.

Inter School Zonal level Tournament for U14/17 Girls kicks off at GGHSS Bhaderwah

HT News Network

BHADERWAH, MAY 16: The Inter School Zonal level Tournament for Under-14 /17 Girls began today at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Bhaderwah with great excitement and energy, bringing together young talent from across the zone Bhaderwah. The tournament was inaugurated by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunil Kumar Bhutyal in presence of Executive Engineer PWD Rajinder Kumar Principal of the host school Shafayat Ali, ZPEO Vijay Kumar, Lecturers, REKs NYCs, PEMs, PETs and sports lovers were also present at that time.

The tournament organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports would witness competitions in the disciplines of Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball, Athletic, Carrom, Chess, Tug of War, Cricket, Yoga etc. The tournament aims to promote sportsmanship, teamwork, and the empowerment of young girls through sports. The tournament will continue over for days. The matches are being coordinated by trained officials of the Department of Youth Services & Sports of zone Bhaderwah.

Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions reflects rising passion for sports among Doda Youth

HT News Network

DODA, MAY 16: In a vibrant celebration of sportsmanship and youth engagement, the Department of Youth Services & Sports Doda has successfully conducted a series of Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions across all zones of the district. The events witnessed enthusiastic participation, reflecting the growing passion for sports among young athletes. These competitions were held under the guidance of District Development Commissioner Harvinder Singh, and District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Pritem Singh, who continues to inspire and empower youth through sporting initiatives. Zone Thathri took the lead by hosting competitions in Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Chess, Carrom, Cricket, and Volleyball for U/14 and U/17 Boys and Girls. The event saw the spirited participation of 310 student-athletes, who showcased their talents and team spirit in high-energy matches that captivated spectators and officials alike. Meanwhile, Zone Gundna organized thrilling competitions in Badminton, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and Wrestling for U/14 and U/17 Boys at HSS Kandote. A total of 240 participants from various schools of the zone exhibited commendable sportsmanship, leaving a mark with their competitive spirit. In Zone Doda, a series of events in Athletics, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Badminton, and Yoga for both U/14 and U/17 Boys and Girls were successfully concluded. With a total of 165 participants, the competitions added vigor and grace to the zone's sporting atmosphere.

Dharti Aaba Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan Samba Admin convenes outreach camp at Tribal Village

HT News Network

SAMBA, MAY 16: The District Administration Samba has geared up to implement focused developmental initiatives under the Dharti Aaba Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan in the tribal villages of Rakh Barotian and Bari.

The strategy for rollout of the campaign was finalized by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma at a meeting held in the Administrative Complex the other day.

Keeping with the spirit of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsha Abhiyan, the District Administration Samba conducted an extensive public outreach camp today at the tribal village of Rakh Barotian in Block Vijaypur, reinforcing its commitment to addressing grassroots concerns through direct engagement.

Led by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, a multi-departmental team of officials directly engaged with the tribal residents to enable them to present their developmental aspirations.



The substantial turnout, comprising elders, youth, and community leaders, underscored the importance of such initiatives in bridging the gap between administration and underserved communities.

"Our mission is to ensure that no community remains untouched by the benefits of development. The Abhiyan is aimed at ensuring that the tribal communities are provided the benefit of various welfare schemes and contribute to their standard

of living," stated DC Sharma.

The villagers articulated several pressing needs including critical infrastructure development, particularly road connectivity, enhanced healthcare services, and development of the dairy industry. Educational infrastructure upgrades, including smart classroom facilities at the local middle school were also given a priority. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the administration's commitment to

ensuring tribal welfare schemes reach every eligible household. "These are not just schemes on paper—they are entitlements that must translate into tangible benefits for deserving families," he remarked, instructing officials to conduct thorough verification of beneficiary lists. In a notable focus on sustainable development, DC Sharma encouraged local youth to explore self-employment opportunities available through agro-allied initiatives and government schemes, highlighting the administration's dual approach of addressing immediate needs while fostering long-term economic resilience.

The outreach camp reflects the District Administration's progressive and inclusive governance model that prioritizes direct engagement, particularly with traditionally underserved communities, as the cornerstone of inclusive development.

The meeting was attended by district officers from various line departments such as Health, Education, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Jal Shakti among others.

DC Kathua reviews implementation of PCPNDT Act District records 936 CSR at birth, surpassing National average

HT News Network

KATHUA, MAY 16: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas, chaired the District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting on the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act at the conference hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting focused on evaluating the implementation of the PCPNDT Act across the district, with detailed discussions on the registration of ultrasound centres, legal provisions concerning offences and penalties, and the district's monitoring mechanisms. At the outset, Dr. Minhas appreciated the collective efforts of all stakeholders for their role in improving the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) at



birth, which has now reached 936—surpassing both UT and the national average. He acknowledged the positive trend as a significant achievement for the district and emphasized the need to sustain and build upon this momentum.

He further stated that collective and targeted efforts are required to elevate the

Child Sex Ratio in health blocks where the CSR at birth remains comparatively low. "We must identify these areas and intensify awareness, enforcement, and community engagement to ensure equitable progress across all blocks," he added. Earlier, Chief Medical Officer Kathua, Dr. Vijay Raina, briefed the committee on

the status of 16 ultrasound clinics in the district, including 13 private centres and 3 government-run facilities.

Dr. Minhas highlighted the vital role of the PCPNDT Act in safeguarding the girl child and called for strict enforcement through regular and random inspections of ultrasound clinics. He also emphasized the need for innovative strategies, including decoy operations, to curb illegal sex determination practices and further improve the CSR in the district.

The DAC approved the registration of a new private ultrasound centre coming up near Dreamland Park in Kathua. Besides, the meeting also accorded approval for the renewal of the registration of three private Ultrasound centres.

ADC inspects upcoming development projects in Bhaderwah town

HT News Network

BHADERWAH, MAY 16: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar Bhutyal on Friday conducted a comprehensive inspection of several ongoing projects in Bhaderwah town to assess the pace and quality of work.

During the visit, the ADC inspected the newly constructed building of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, which aims to enhance the infrastructure for girl education in the region. He appreciated the progress and emphasized



immediate completion of pending works. The ADC also visited the under-construction Tehsil Library building located near the ADC office. He stressed that the library, once completed, would serve as an

important knowledge hub for students and the general public. Another major stop was the site of the Municipal Committee Hotel project at the new bus stand Bhaderwah. Reviewing the ongoing work, Bhutyal

directed the executing agencies to ensure proper planning and quality standards. He further visited the damaged ARE wall on Gatha Gwari Road and instructed the concerned officials to take immediate steps for its repair to ensure the safety of commuters. The inspection also covered the construction of five new classrooms at Government Higher Secondary School Boys Bhaderwah.

Executive Engineer R&B, Rajinder Kumar, and AEE Mushtaq Ahmed accompanied the ADC during the inspection tour.

DC Rajouri visits shelling affected areas, assures timely relief for victims, orders doorstep damage Assessment

HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 16: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today visited shelling affected areas and later chaired a crucial meeting to review the progress of the ongoing assessment of damages caused to residential houses.

To ensure comprehensive coverage, the Deputy Commissioner directed the involvement of officials from multiple departments, including the Revenue Department and the Rural Development Department (RDD), for effective identification and reporting of damage cases from every nook and corner of the district.

Emphasizing a people-centric approach, the Deputy Commissioner said that no genuine case should be left out and directed the deputed teams to carry out the assessment as per laid down norms in a time-bound manner. He further stated that field teams shall visit the doorsteps of affected households to assess the extent of damage and ensure timely relief.

"The aim is to ensure that all affected families receive due support without any delays. Officials must act with sincerity,



empathy, and urgency," the Deputy Commissioner added.

Earlier in the day, the Deputy Commissioner visited Panjgrain and other affected areas to take firsthand stock of

the situation. He interacted with the local population, listened to their grievances, and assured them that timely relief would be provided to all eligible victims.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Chander Prakash; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohammad Jahangir Khan, and other concerned district and sectoral officers. To ensure comprehensive coverage, the Deputy Commissioner directed the involvement of officials from multiple departments, including the Revenue Department and the Rural Development Department (RDD), for effective identification and reporting of damage cases from every nook and corner of the district. Emphasizing a people-centric approach, the Deputy Commissioner said that no genuine case should be left out and directed the deputed teams to carry out the assessment as per laid down norms in a time-bound manner. He further stated that field teams shall visit the doorsteps of affected households to assess the extent of damage and ensure timely relief.

"The aim is to ensure that all affected families receive due support without any delays. Officials must act with sincerity, empathy, and urgency," the Deputy Commissioner added.



DDC Reasi reviews performance of banking sector Stresses on improving Financial Inclusion in rural areas

HT News Network

REASI, MAY 16: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi, Nidhi Malik chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting today to assess the performance of the banking sector for the quarter ending March 2025. During the meeting, the DDC reviewed key banking indicators including the Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio, priority sector lending, and agricultural advances. The DDC appreciated the banks for their improved performance across various key parameters, including agricultural credit, priority sector lending, and credit support to weaker sections of society. She acknowledged these efforts as vital contributions towards inclusive growth and the overall welfare of the people. Expressing concern over the low CD ratio of certain banks in this quarter, she directed them to enhance their performance in the upcoming quarter. The DDC emphasized the need to prioritize sectors such as agriculture, small



and medium enterprises (SMEs), renewable energy, and support for weaker sections of society. She also reviewed the implementation of various government-sponsored schemes and urged banks and line departments to strengthen coordination for timely disbursement of benefits to eligible beneficiaries. The DDC took stock of Aadhaar seeding

under social security schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana (PMJJY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY). The meeting also included a review of the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) and its ongoing training programs aimed at skill development and employment generation. The DDC urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively to improve banking performance and ensure that the benefits of financial schemes reach the last mile. CPO Reasi Narinder Kumar, LDM SBI, Cluster Head J&K Bank, DSHO, CAHO and other district officers were present during the meeting. The meeting also included a review of the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) and its ongoing training programs aimed at skill development and employment generation. The DDC urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively to improve banking performance and ensure that the benefits of financial schemes reach the last mile.

2-Day Civil Defence Refresher Training concludes at 2nd Battalion Hdqtrs Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 16: In a significant initiative aimed at equipping Civil Defence wardens and volunteers with vital life-saving skills, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) 2nd Battalion, Jammu, successfully conducted a two-day capacity building refresher training course from May 15 to May 16, 2025. During the course, the SDRF officers highlighted the critical role of Civil Defence personnel in disaster situations, emphasizing the importance of specialized techniques. The wardens and volunteers were lauded for their commendable efforts during the recent border crisis, and the need for continuous skill enhancement was underscored.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch visits Gurudwara Sahib, pays tribute to shelling victim S. Amarjit Singh

HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 16: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal paid a heartfelt visit to Gurudwara Bait-hak Mahant Mohar Singh Ji, here near District Hospital today to participate in the 10th Day (Antim Ardas) ceremony held in memory of Late S. Amarjit Singh, who lost his life in the recent cross-border shelling. The solemn ceremony, attended by members of the Sikh community and local resi-



dents, was convened to pay tribute to S. Amarjit Singh. The Deputy Commissioner offered condolences to the bereaved

family and stood in solidarity with the community. "S. Amarjit Singh's sacrifice for the Nation would be remem-

bered for a long time, he will always be known for his courage," said the Deputy Commissioner. The Tehsildar Haveli also assured the bereaved family of all possible support from the administration and reaffirmed the district's commitment to peace and the safety of civilians. The congregation at Gurudwara Sahib reflected the community's unity and strength, as prayers and tributes were offered in an atmosphere of deep respect and remembrance.

DDC Doda reviews performance of Rural Development Department

HT News Network

DODA, MAY 16: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh convened a review meeting today in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex to assess the progress and future plans of the Rural Development Department (RDD) for the financial year 2025-26. The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development Manoj Kumar; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Musharraf Ali Haf; Chief Planning Officer Manesh Manhas; Block Development Officers (All); Assistant Executive Engineers (All) of the District. Assistant Commissioner Development and Assistant Commissioner Panchayat presented detailed presentations on the ongoing schemes (MGNREGA, PMAY-G, SBM-G) highlighting their achievements and challenges faced in the execution. Reviewing the scheme wise performance, the DDC emphasized the importance of timeline implementation of Rural Development programs especially Rural Sanitation initiatives aimed at improving the cleanliness in the District and thereby improving living standard of the public. Discussions covered crucial areas such as infrastructure development for Plastic Waste Management System, Solid Waste Management System (SWMS), CSC, Goverdhan Plants, Segregation Sheds, Soakage pits under SBM-G; Employment



generation under MGNREGA. Emphasis was laid on Own Source Revenue (OSR) generation to make all Panchayats Self Sustainable. The Chair directed the BDOs to collaborate with the concerned Departments to address bottlenecks hindering progress. They were further directed to prepare innovative plans under Aspirational Block/ Panchayat Development Plans and to complete Estimation on SECURE and start execution of works under MGNREGA for the FY 2025-26. The Chair emphasised the completion of all pending houses under PMAY-G and to expedite recovery proceedings from the defaulters. Furthermore, the DDC outlined new initiatives promoting sustainable development and enhancing agricultural productivity, emphasizing the use of technology and innovative practices.

DDC Reasi reviews functioning of School Education Department

HT News Network

REASI, MAY 16: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi, Nidhi Malik, convened a comprehensive review meeting with officers of the Education Department today to assess the overall functioning of the education sector in the district. The meeting focused on critical areas such as staff strength, school infrastructure, vocational education, student enrollment, and fund utilization. The DDC asked the School heads and Heads of Departments (HODs) to work actively to identify and enroll out-of-school children to bring all of them into the formal education system by the end of the year. She also stressed the importance of opening bank accounts of students for scholarship disbursement and directed the department to coordinate with Tehsildars to expedite the process by helping students to obtain necessary documents. Reviewing the academic performance for the 2024-25 session, DDC Malik observed that there is significant scope for improvement. She urged school principals to implement effective strategies to enhance academic outcomes and encouraged teachers to take active responsibility for ensuring quality education for every student. To address the needs of students with disabilities, she instructed the Education Department to collaborate with the District Social Welfare Officer to provide



mobility aids, such as wheelchairs, and to organize special motivation and support camps to promote inclusive education. Emphasizing sustainable infrastructure, the DDC directed the installation of solar energy systems in schools. She also asked the school heads to prepare PowerPoint presentations showcasing their schools' infrastructure, academic performance, and fund utilization. Additionally, she instructed the Chief Education Officer (CEO) to organise exposure visits for students outside the district to broaden their learning experiences. Regarding PM SHRI Schools, the DDC expressed satisfaction over the adequacy of infrastructure and expected commendable academic outcomes this year. She called upon all stakeholders to remain committed to the holistic development and success of students. Further, DDC Malik strictly prohibited the burning of waste within school premises and urged all institutions to adopt environmentally sustainable practices.

Shailendra Kumar visits Poonch, meets victims of cross border shelling

HT News Network



POONCH, MAY 16: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar today visited Poonch district and met families affected by recent cross border shelling. During the visit, Shailendra went to affected villages and personally met with families who have suffered due to shelling. Expressing his solidarity, he assured them of the government's full support and directed the district administration to adopt a proactive, public centric approach to relief and rehabilitation. As part of his visit, the Principal Secretary also went to Mankote, where he met the bereaved family of a woman who lost her life in the shelling incident. Offering condolences, the Principal Secretary assured them that the administration stands shoulder to shoulder with affected families. Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, during the visit, briefed the Principal Secretary on the relief and restoration works carried out in the affected areas. The DC informed that power and water supply have been fully restored, hospitals are functioning normally, and all essential services are running smoothly. Deputy Commissioner Poonch further informed the Principal Secretary that village level assessment teams have already been constituted and are actively working on ground to identify and document losses. He also informed that for the ease of the affected public, district administration has also launched 'Report to Support' initiative, under which Tehsil wise WhatsApp numbers have been issued for allowing residents to report damage or seek assistance directly and efficiently. Shailendra appreciated the prompt and coordinated response of the district administration and stressed the importance of continuing relief measures in an efficient, and people focused manner.

Comm Secy Cooperative participates in Mother's Day celebrations at SCPHS Tikri

HT News Network



UDHAMPUR, MAY 16: Sainik Cooperative Public High School (SCPHS), Chanas Tikri today celebrated Mother's Day, marked by recognition, inspiration and the joyful spirit of community. The event was graced by Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives, Babila Rakwal along with Preeti Sharma, Joint Registrar Cooperative Special and Nishtha Nayyar, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Udhampur. Speaking on the occasion, Babila Rakwal commended the school's achievements, expressing her admiration for the talent of students, discipline, and school's holistic approach to education. She emphasized the importance of nurturing both academic and emotional intelligence in today's generation. As part of the celebration, students showcased a series of beautiful and emotional dance performances dedicated to mothers, leaving audience deeply moved. On the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary also awarded certificates among the students of Class 10th for securing more than 90% marks in their board exams. She also honoured the Pre-Primary section students of school with gold, silver and bronze medals for their success in olympiad competitions.

Relief material provided to flood-affected families at Dharamkund camp

HT News Network

RAMBAN, MAY 16: The District Administration Ramban, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, today provided relief material among the flood affected families here at Dharamkund camp. Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Niamatullah Sheikh, today visited the relief camp established in Dharamkund to monitor relief efforts and oversee the distribution of essential supplies. During the visit, ration

kits and other necessary items were distributed among the flood-affected families to ensure their immediate food and survival needs were met. The AD FCS&CA also interacted with the victims, listened to their grievances, and assured them of continued support from the district administration. Several issues raised by the affected families were redressed on the spot, showcasing the administration's commitment to responsive governance. Block Development Officer (BDO) Sangaldan, Anamol, along with other field staff and officials from the con-



cerned departments were also present. The DC Ramban has issued directions to all concerned

departments to stay vigilant and provide all possible assistance to the flood-hit population. He emphasized the impor-

tance of timely interventions and coordinated efforts to mitigate the impact of natural calamities. The District Admin-

istration reiterated its commitment to standing by the people in times of crisis and ensuring that relief and rehabilitation measures reach every affected individual in a timely and efficient manner. The District Administration Ramban, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, today provided relief material among the flood affected families here at Dharamkund camp. Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Niamatullah Sheikh, today visited the relief camp established in Dharamkund to

monitor relief efforts and oversee the distribution of essential supplies. During the visit, ration kits and other necessary items were distributed among the flood-affected families to ensure their immediate food and survival needs were met. The AD FCS&CA also interacted with the victims, listened to their grievances, and assured them of continued support from the district administration. Several issues raised by the affected families were redressed on the spot, showcasing the administration's commitment to responsive governance.



Op Sindoor not yet over; our actions were only a trailer: Rajnath Singh

AGENCIES

BHUJ, MAY 16 (UNI)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday asserted that Operation Sindoor is not over yet and the recent action was just a “trailer” with “full picture” to be shown at the right time.

“India’s fight against terrorism is not just a matter of security, it has now become a part of the national defence doctrine, and we will root out this hybrid and proxy warfare,” Rajnath Singh said while addressing the air warriors at the Bhuj Air Force Station, a Defence Ministry statement said.

He asserted that the current ceasefire means that India has kept Pakistan on probation on the basis of its behaviour. If the behaviour improves, it is fine; but if there is any disturbance, harshest punishment will be given, he said.

He made it clear that Operation Sindoor is not yet over. “Our actions were just a trailer, we will show the full picture, if need be and “attacking and eliminating terrorism is the new normal of New India”.

Stating that Pakistan has again started to rebuild its terror infrastructure destroyed by India, the Defence Minister called upon the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reconsider its one-billion-dollar assistance to Islamabad and refrain from



providing any support in future as well.

“Pakistan will spend the tax collected from its citizens to give around Rs 14 crore to Masood Azhar, the head of Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist organisation, even though he is a UN-designated terrorist,” said the Defence Minister.

“The Pakistan government has also announced financial assistance to rebuild the terror infrastructure of Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed located in Muridke and Bahawalpur. Certainly, a large part of IMF’s one billion dollars assistance will be used to fund the terror infrastructure. Will this not be considered indirect funding by IMF, an international organisation?” Rajnath questioned.

“Any financial assistance to Pakistan is no less than terror funding. The funds India gives to IMF should not be used, directly or indirectly, to create terror infrastructure in Pakistan or any other country,” he said.

The Defence Minister

also commended the effective role played by the Indian Air Force in Operation Sindoor which is being appreciated by the world.

Praising the air warriors for eliminating the terror camps in Pakistan and PoK in just 23 minutes, he said “when missiles were dropped inside the enemy territory, the world heard the echoes of India’s valour and might”.

He added that IAF spearheaded this campaign against terrorism, and during the operation, it not only dominated the enemy, but decimated them.

Highlighting that India’s fighter aircraft are capable of striking every corner of Pakistan without crossing the border, Rajnath said, “The world has witnessed how IAF destroyed terror camps and later Pakistan’s airbases. IAF gave the proof that India’s war policy and technology have changed. They conveyed the message of New India that we are not just dependent on weapons

and platforms imported from abroad, but Made in India equipment have become a part of our military power. The weapons manufactured in India are also impenetrable”.

The Defence Minister added that Pakistan has itself accepted the power of the ‘BrahMos’ missile. This Made in India missile showed Pakistan the light of day in the darkness of night, he said, lauding India’s air defence system, in which ‘Akash’ and other radar systems made by DRDO played a tremendous role.

On his interaction with the Indian Army soldiers at Badami Bagh Cantt in Srinagar on Thursday, and the air warriors and soldiers in Bhuj today, Rajnath stated that he is, once again, convinced that India’s borders are completely safe.

“I’ve witnessed the highest level of enthusiasm and patriotism among the soldiers on both the fronts. What our forces did during Operation Sindoor has filled the country with pride,” he said.

He said that Bhuj has been witness to India’s victory over Pakistan in 1965, 1971 and now. He termed Bhuj as a land of patriotism where soldiers stand tall with an unshakable resolve to protect national interests. He expressed gratitude to the air warriors and other brave soldiers of the Armed Forces

and BSF for their service to the motherland.

Reiterating the government’s commitment to continuously equip the armed forces with latest weapons/platforms and modern infrastructure, Rajnath Singh stated a strong nation respects its military and provides it with resources, technology and every support.

He highlighted that, earlier, India was heavily dependent on imports, but today it is indigenously manufacturing equipment such as artillery systems, radar systems, missile shields, drones and counter drones.

“We are becoming exporters from importers; and this is just the beginning,” he said.

Rajnath Singh stated that the people of India, the government, the armed forces and other security agencies displayed unity and understanding in this fight against terrorism, with every citizen participating like a soldier.

He stated that the government and the people stand shoulder-to-shoulder with its forces at every step, expressing confidence that “together, we will completely eradicate terrorism from the region”.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh and other senior IAF officers were present on the occasion.

Global economy in doldrums after Trump's tariff war

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 16 (UNI)

Global economy is at a precarious moment following heightened trade tension, the United Nations has warned.

Heightened trade tensions along with policy uncertainty have significantly weakened the global economic outlook for 2025, the Department of the Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations said in a report.

“Higher tariffs resulting in a significant increase in the effective tariff rate in the United States are likely to strain global supply chains, drive up production costs and delay critical investment decisions while also contributing to financial market volatility,” the mid-year report ‘World Economic Situation and Prospects-2025’ says.

It says global economic growth is now projected to slow to 2.4 per cent in 2025, down from 2.9 per cent in 2024. The downward revisions in growth forecasts are broad-based affecting both developed and developing economies.

Weakening global trade



growth and investment flows are compounding the slowdown. Many trade-reliant developing countries face mounting challenges from reduced exports, lower commodity prices, tighter financial conditions and elevated debt burdens.

“The tariff shock risks hitting vulnerable developing countries hard, slowing growth, slashing export revenues and compounding debt challenges especially as these economies are already struggling to make the investments needed for long-term sustainable development,” Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs said.

The report, while admitting that inflation is easing globally, says short-term risks from tariff-driven cost pres-

sures and uncertainty are adding to policy challenges. Addressing them requires a broad toolkit that combines monetary policy, fiscal measures, supply-side reforms, and industrial strategies to stabilize prices and foster resilience.

“The deteriorating economic outlook is further undermining progress towards Sustainable Development Goals many of which are already off track. Slower growth and persistent cost-of-living pressures risk deepening inequalities, disproportionately burdening low-income households and vulnerable populations,” according to the report.

Meanwhile, persistent weakness in global investment growth drags down long-term economic prospects, the report says.

Cong demands dismissal of Madhya Pradesh Dy CM Devda, Minister Shah for insulting army

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 16 (UNI)

The Congress on Friday demanded the immediate dismissal of two Madhya Pradesh BJP ministers – Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Devda and state Minister Vijay Shah – accusing them of making remarks that insult the Indian army and the brave soldiers who protect the nation.

Addressing a press conference here, party spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said, “Jagdish Devda and Vijay Shah have made remarks that insult the Indian Army and soldiers, and both ministers must be removed from their positions immediately”.

She said, “Every citizen in the country holds deep



respect for our army, and the entire nation is thankful because it is the army that ensures our safety. The Deputy CM of Madhya Pradesh harbours such ill-will and disgraceful views toward the armed forces that he has no moral right to remain in office”.

“This time, a mere apology won’t suffice. The BJP cannot remain silent, and Prime Minister Modi

cannot avoid accountability. If Jagdish Devda is not dismissed within the next few hours, it will be seen as a sign that Narendra Modi is encouraging such disrespect toward the army and that he supports and endorses these views—because without such backing, no one would dare to make such statements,” the Congress leader said.

The spokesperson said, “Not even 48 hours have passed since Minister Vijay Shah made disgusting remarks about Col Sofia Qureshi, the most promising and brave daughter of the country. In this entire case, the BJP did not take any action against its Minister Vijay Shah. The BJP governments of Madhya Pradesh and the Centre remained silent until the MP High Court ordered an FIR to be lodged.”

The Madhya Pradesh Deputy CM Jagdish Devda has stirred a political storm with his recent comments.

Speaking at a civil defence volunteers’ training programme in Jabalpur, Devda, while praising PM Modi for his response to the Pahalgam terror

attack, said: “Not just the country, but the entire military is also bowing at Modi’s feet for his strong stance against terrorism.”

Earlier, the Congress on its social media handle X said, “The statement made by Jagdish Devda, Deputy Chief Minister of the BJP government of Madhya Pradesh is very cheap and shameful”.

“This is an insult to the valour and courage of the army. While the entire nation stands in honour of our soldiers, BJP leaders are revealing their petty mentality towards our brave warriors,” the Congress said.

“BJP and Jagdish Devda should apologise. He should be removed from his post,” the Congress said.

SC declares ISKCON-Bengaluru as lawful owner of city's Radha Krishna temple



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAY 16 (UNI)

In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court on Friday ruled that the ISKCON temple located on Hare Krishna Hill in Bengaluru rightfully belongs to ISKCON Society Bengaluru, a society registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act.

A bench comprising Justice Abhay S. Oka and Justice AG Masih set aside the Karnataka High Court’s earlier judgment which had declared ISKCON-Mumbai as the rightful owner of the property.

The apex court’s ruling puts to rest the long-standing ownership and management dispute between ISKCON-Bangalore and ISKCON-Mumbai.

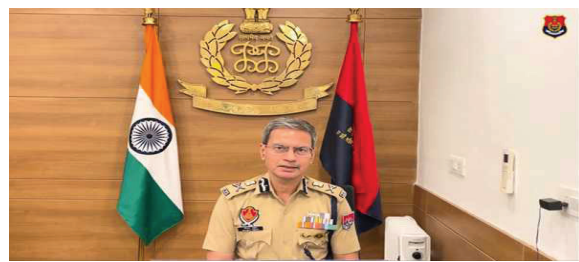
Affirming the legal and administrative autonomy of ISKCON-Bangalore, the court held that the society is the lawful owner of the Sri Radha Krishna Temple, and ISKCON-Mumbai cannot interfere in its affairs.

The dispute had its roots in the internal differences within the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) following the death of its

founder Srila Prabhupada. ISKCON-Bangalore, which was established in 1981, had opposed the succession of leadership by Western disciples, leading to a rift with ISKCON-Mumbai.

The matter traversed through various legal forums beginning with the trial court, then the High Court, and finally reaching the Supreme Court. While the High Court had earlier ruled in favour of ISKCON-Mumbai, the Supreme Court has now conclusively overturned that decision, upholding ISKCON-Bangalore’s status as an independent and legitimate entity.

85 kg heroin worth Rs 595 crore recovered, one arrested



AGENCIES

AMRITSAR, MAY 16 (UNI)

Punjab police on Friday claimed to have busted a cross-border, ISI-controlled Pakistan-based narco-smuggling module operated by UK-based drug handler Lalli and arrested his India-based operative, Amarjot Singh alias Jota Sandhu, and recovered 85 kg heroin worth Rs 595 crore. DGP Gaurav Yadav said in an X post that Ama-

rjot was receiving consignments from cross-border smugglers and supplying drugs across Punjab.

He said Amarjot’s residence served as a major stash point for the network. The DGP said that an FIR has been registered and further investigations were on to trace vital linkages.

Yadav said the police were actively pursuing leads and expect more arrests and recoveries in the coming days.

Countdown for May 18 PSLV-C61/EOS-09 mission to being tomorrow

AGENCIES

CHENNAI, MAY 16 (UNI)

The countdown for the May 18 launch of PSLV-C61/EOS-09 mission that would enhance earth observation capabilities and provide high-resolution radar imagery, especially of India’s border regions, would begin on Saturday morning.

This is ISRO’s 101st mission.

The four-stage 44.5 m tall PSLV-C61, with a lift of mass of 321 tonnes, in its 63rd flight, will take off from the First Launch Pad at 0559 hrs on Sunday morning from the spaceport of Sriharikota, carrying the earth observation satellite EOS-09, weighing 1,692.24 kg.

Sources said it is likely

to be a 25 hr countdown beginning at 0449 hrs tomorrow.

This mission is significant as it would give a big boost to the surveillance in border areas of India amid Indo-Pak tensions and the Operation Sindoor.

ISRO on Friday said “India is set to achieve a significant milestone with the 101st mission of its space programme.”

The mission will place the Earth Observation Satellite into a Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO).

This will be the 27th version of the PSLV-XL configuration and this mission continues the PSLV’s record of delivering reliable performance across a wide range of payloads and orbits.

After EOS-09 is



deployed, Orbit Change Thrusters (OCT) will be used to reduce the altitude of the PS4 stage, followed by passivation to limit its orbital life – a step aligned with responsible space operations.

“Subsequent to satellite separation, Orbit Change Thrusters (OCT) will be used to reduce the orbit

altitude of the spent PS4 stage to reduce its life in orbit, followed by stage passivation”, ISRO said.

EOS-09, with a mission lif of five years, is designed to provide continuous and reliable remote sensing data for operational applications across various sectors.

The sustainability

includes deorbiting fuel for safe post-mission disposal.

The entire mission including two orbit change and passivation operations will last about 6,112 secs.

EOS-09 is a repeat satellite of EOS-04, designed with the mission objective to ensuring remote sensing data for the user community engaged in operational applications and to improve the frequency of observation.

The spacecraft is configured using ISRO’s RISAT-1 heritage bus, with most of the functional requirements of the SAR payload and the bus platform systems derived from the earlier ISRO missions.

The mission carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar

(SAR) payload capable of providing images for various earth observation application under all-weather condition. Using an active C-band SAR, it will provide all-weather as well as the day-and-night SAR observation capability in applications such as agriculture, forestry, soil moisture, geology, sea ice, coastal monitoring, object identification, and flood monitoring, in addition to military surveillance.

Adhering to the ISRO’s commitment to the community, the spacecraft will be a debris-free mission.

A sufficient amount of fuel has been reserved for de-orbiting the satellite after its effective mission life, lowering it to an orbit that ensures its decay within two years.

Researchers find genetic fingerprints to predict efficacy of immunotherapy

AGENCIES
JERUSALEM

Israeli researchers have identified a genetic "fingerprint" that helps predict the effectiveness of immunotherapy treatments, according to a study.

The study, by the Israel Institute of Technology (Technion), stated that the discovery would help improve the personalisation of immunotherapy treatments, Xinhua news agency reported.

Immunotherapy is considered to be one of the greatest revolutions in cancer treatment. It enhances the immune system's ability to target and destroy cancer cells efficiently.

However, a major challenge in immunotherapy is the unpredictability of patient responses. Some patients do not benefit and may experience side effects without significant improvement.



Therefore, there is a need to identify biomarkers that can forecast the effectiveness of treatment based on the specific data of each patient.

In their study, published in the journal Cell Genomics, the team examined the genetic characteristics of T-cell clones -- groups of multiplied immune T cells that specialise in target-

ing a specific threat once recognised -- and their influence on treatment success.

To achieve the goal, the team conducted a large-scale meta-analysis using single-cell RNA sequencing and T-cell receptor sequencing data from cancer patients undergoing immunotherapy.

It was found that

although these T-cell clones are present in both responsive and non-responsive patients, those who respond to immunotherapy display a distinct genetic signature in their T-cell clones, and the treatment boosts their immune activity.

Another major finding was that in non-responsive patients, some T-cell clones were simultaneously found both in the bloodstream and the tumour.

To achieve a better immune response, it is crucial to activating T-cell clones located solely within the tumour, rather than those present in both the tumour and the bloodstream, the researchers said.

They added that this discovery will enhance predictive capabilities and could lead to new treatment strategies that improve the effectiveness of immunotherapy.

Eating a healthy diet in childhood can delay menstrual onset in girls: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Eating a diet rich in vegetables, legumes, and whole grains in childhood can delay the onset of menstruation in girls, according to a new study.

The findings, published in the journal Human Reproduction remained unaltered by the girls' body mass index (BMI) or height, both of which have been associated with the earlier onset of periods.

The study has implications for health in later life as it is well known that women who started their periods at an early age may be at higher risk for diabetes, obesity, breast cancer, and diseases of the heart and blood vessels.

"I think our findings highlight the need for all children and adolescents to have access to healthy meal options and the importance of school-based breakfasts and lunches being based



on evidence-based guidelines," said Holly Harris, Associate Professor at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle, US.

The findings come from a large, prospective study of more than 7,500 children, aged between 9 and 14.

The researchers assessed the girls' diets against two established

dietary patterns: the Alternative Healthy Eating Index (AHEI), and the Empirical Dietary Inflammatory Pattern (EDIP).

The AHEI awards more points for healthier foods, including vegetables, legumes, and whole grains, while unhealthy foods such as red and processed meats, trans fats and salt are awarded

fewer points.

The EDIP scores diets in a way that reflects their overall potential for causing inflammation in the body.

Foods that are linked to greater inflammation include red and processed meat, meat from animal organs, refined grains, and high-energy drinks.

"We observed that these two dietary patterns were associated with age at menarche, indicating that a healthier diet was linked to menstrual periods starting at an older age. Importantly, these results were independent of BMI and height, demonstrating the importance of a healthy diet regardless of body size," Harris said.

The researchers believe that these results suggest the type of food eaten by girls during childhood and adolescence and its impact on inflammation may be what is influencing the time of menarche, rather than height and BMI.

HT-HEALTH

1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men globally face sexual abuse by age 15 or younger: The Lancet

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Nearly one out of five women and one out of seven men aged 20, and older globally experienced sexual violence by age 15 or even younger, according to a study published in the journal The Lancet on Thursday.

The research from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, US, showed that 67 per cent of females and 72 per cent of males reported being first sexually abused during childhood, before the age of 18.

Almost 42 per cent of females and approximately 48 per cent of males said their first sexual violence incident occurred before the age of 16. Alarming, 8 per cent of female survivors and 14 per cent of male survivors reported being first exposed to sexual violence before 12.



"Sexual violence against children is a widespread human rights and public health issue, and the world is clearly failing to end it," said senior author Dr. Emmanuela Gakidou, Professor at IHME.

"The proportion of survivors facing sexual abuse at such a young age is deeply concerning, and we need urgent action from all countries to improve laws, poli-

cies, and the ways experts respond," Gakidou said.

The analysis is based on the newest Global Burden of Disease research covering 204 locations by age and sex from 1990 to 2023, while accounting for when people were first exposed to such violence.

"Survivors of sexual violence against children have a higher risk of developing depression, anxiety, substance abuse, sexually

transmitted infections, and even asthma. Sexual violence against children (SVAC) can also impact their social development, educational outcome, and economic achievement, underscoring the urgent need for effective prevention measures and responsive support systems to mitigate these lifelong consequences," said Dr. Luisa Flor, Assistant Professor at IHME.

The study also exposed critical gaps in data collection and inconsistencies in measurement, emphasising the urgent need for expanded surveillance programmes, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

Establishing standardised best practices for tracking sexual violence against children can help experts identify the barriers to disclosure, reporting, and care and create better child protection policies.

Researchers find molecule to kill sexually transmitted chlamydia

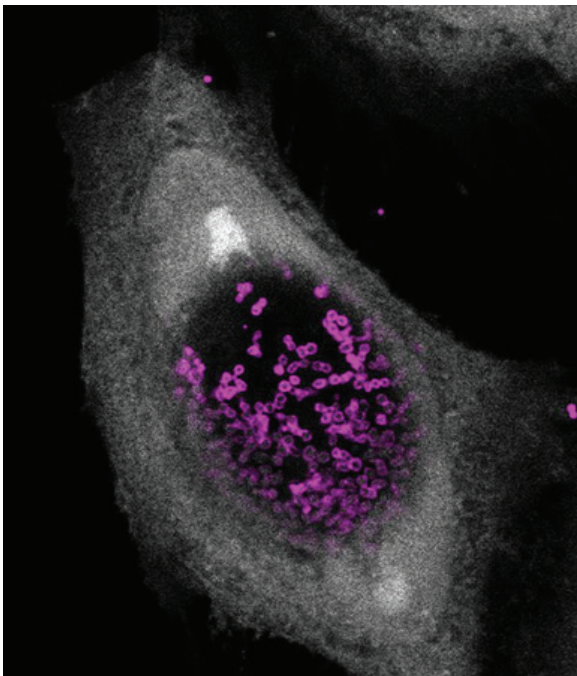
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A team of international researchers has discovered a type of molecule that can kill chlamydia bacteria -- the world's most common bacterial sexually transmitted disease with 130 million cases a year -- but spare bacteria that are important for health.

The team from Umea University, Sweden, and Michigan State University, US, identified more than 60 possible anti-chlamydia molecules.

Chlamydia is caused by Chlamydia trachomatis bacterium, which has very special properties. Just like viruses, they invade cells in the human body, which then reshape so that they give the bacterium a home where it can grow and multiply.

"No one should have to live with chlamydia. But the problem is that the treatments we have today do not distinguish



between dangerous and friendly bacteria. A growing problem is also that more and more bacteria are becoming resistant to today's broad-acting antibiotics," said lead author Barbara Sixt, Associate Professor at the Depart-

ment of Molecular Biology at Umea.

The researchers searched through large collections of chemical molecules to find molecules that could eradicate the growth of the chlamydia bacterium in

human cells in laboratory cultures.

After refined studies, the researchers were able to identify a particularly potent molecule.

The molecule in question was found to be able to inhibit the bacterium's ability to produce fatty acids, which are necessary for its growth.

"There is still a long way to go before we have a new treatment, but this finding may prove very important in developing new antibiotics that are both effective but at the same time gentle on the body," Sixt said.

Chlamydia often causes mild symptoms but if left untreated can cause long-term damage to the reproductive organs, especially in women. This can cause chronic pain and infertility and can have consequences for pregnancy and childbirth. Chlamydia may also contribute to the onset of cancer of the cervix and ovaries.

Spread message of holistic well-being through yoga worldwide: Ayush Minister

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Spread the message of holistic well-being through yoga worldwide, said Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush.

Jadhav said this while chairing a review meeting in New Delhi to assess the ongoing preparations for the upcoming International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025, which will be celebrated on June 21 across the globe.

During the meeting, the Minister reiterated the Government's vision to make this year's celebration of yoga truly extraordinary and globally impactful.

"We will work with utmost sincerity and commitment to ensure that International Day of Yoga 2025 is not only a grand success but also serves as a source of inspiration for the entire world," Union



Minister Ayush said.

He encouraged all stakeholders to approach the event with renewed energy and unity, stating that the efforts should reflect the spirit of 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health' -- the theme this year. The 2025 theme highlights Yoga's role in promoting physical, mental, and environmental well-being, aligning with global calls for sustainability and unity. Buy vitamins and supplements

"Let us reach every corner of the country and

every part of the globe with the message of holistic well-being through yoga," he added.

The review focused on the planning and implementation of major initiatives such as yoga sangam -- the integration of yoga with institutions like schools, hospitals, and corporates; harit yoga -- promoting eco-consciousness through yoga-linked plantation drives; yoga connect -- engaging global and diaspora communities in yoga celebrations; yoga bandhan -- fostering social

unity and shared wellness through mass participation.

Jadhav also emphasised the importance of engaging the youth, educational institutions, and community leaders to amplify the message and participation in IDY 2025.

International Day of Yoga, observed annually on June 21st, has grown into a global cultural and wellness movement since its inception by the United Nations in 2015, following India's proposal in 2014.

India pharma market sees 7.8 pc revenue growth in April: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India's pharmaceutical market (IPM) continues its growth in April with 7.8 per cent year-on-year (yoy) in revenue, according to a report on Thursday.

The report, by rating agency India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), showed that the growth was driven by the price hikes taken by companies with volume growing 1.3 per cent yoy. Almost all major chronic therapies also showed positive value and volume growth.

"Ind-Ra expects IPM to grow to the tune of 7 per cent-8 per cent yoy during FY26, with sustained growth momentum in the chronic therapies, led by price increases and product launches," said Nishith Sanghvi, Director, Corporate Ratings, Ind-Ra.

The report showed that the anti-diabetic segment experienced a volume



growth -- 2.8 per cent yoy in April -- due to genericisation opportunities.

Volume growth was also observed in key therapies such as gastro-intestinal (5.5 per cent) derma (3.1 per cent) and cardiac (2.2 per cent).

Further, there had been a stable performance in

April 2025 where value growth was observed across therapies.

Therapies such as cardiac, gastrointestinal, anti-diabetic, and derma showed higher volume growth than IPM.

Acute therapies such as gastro-intestinal, vitamins, pain/analgesics, and anti-

infective witnessed sales growth of 10.1 per cent, 7.5 per cent, 8.5 per cent, and 6.5 per cent yoy, respectively.

Chronic therapies such as derma, cardiac, anti-diabetic, and CNS grew 10.8 per cent yoy, 10.6 per cent yoy, 7.7 per cent yoy, and 9.1 per cent yoy, respectively.

Ind-Ra's March report showed that the sales of the acute segment grew 6.4 per cent yoy (March 2024: 6.7 per cent yoy) while the chronic and sub-chronic therapy segment rose 8.0 per cent yoy (12.8 per cent) and 8.4 per cent yoy (12.3 per cent), respectively.

Cardiac (chronic; 13.4 per cent of IPM), anti-infectives (acute; 11.7 per cent), gastro-intestinal (acute; 12.1 per cent), anti-diabetic (chronic; 9.2 per cent) and vitamins (acute; 9.0 per cent) contributed 55 per cent to IPM in March 2025.

News in Brief

UEFA accuses Infantino & stages FIFA congress walk-out

AGENCIES
ASUNCION, MAY 16 (UNI)

UEFA accused Gianni Infantino of prioritising "private political interests" after FIFA's president turned up late for the world governing body's own congress in Paraguay.

Infantino has been on a diplomatic tour of the Middle East along side United States President Donald Trump and arrived two hours and 17 minutes past the scheduled 10:30 start time (14:30 BST) for the FIFA event.

Infantino said his trip prior to the congress had been crucial as it allowed him "to represent football" in "important discussions" with "world leaders in politics and economy".

In protest at the 55-year-old Swiss-Italian's delayed arrival, UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin led a group of European delegates, joined by Football Association chair Debbie Hewitt, in staging a walk-out during a break at the event.

It meant there were clearly empty seats at the Conmebol Convention Center in Luque, on the outskirts of the Paraguayan capital of Asuncion, when the meeting resumed.

UEFA said in a statement the "last-minute changes" to the timings were "deeply regrettable" but "a point" had to be made, the BBC reported.

Atletico Mineiro beats Caracas FC to close in on knockout stage

AGENCIES
RIO DE JANEIRO, MAY 16 (UNI)

Brazil's Atletico Mineiro took a major step toward the Copa Libertadores knockout phase with a 3-1 home win over Venezuelan club Caracas FC.

An own goal from Nigerian midfielder Blessing Edet followed by a Tomas Cuello header gave the hosts a 2-0 lead before Jeriel De Santis reduced the deficit from the penalty spot on Thursday.

Former Palmeiras forward Rony restored the two-goal margin with a composed finish after combining with Gustavo Scarpa.

Atletico Mineiro now has eight points from five games and only needs a draw in its final group clash against Peru's Cienciano at home on May 29 to be guaranteed of place in the last 16.

Earlier in the Copa Sudamericana on Thursday, Independiente won 1-0 at home to Guarani and Corinthians edged to a 1-0 victory at Racing Montevideo.

Starc makes big-money IPL call as tournament resumes

AGENCIES
SYDNEY, MAY 16 (UNI)

Mitchell Starc has become the highest-profile Australian to opt out of returning to the IPL, with the veteran quick deciding against flying back to India.

His decision means he will have a clear runway into the World Test Championship (WTC) final, avoiding the possibility of playing T20s in India a week before the match.

Starc had always appeared one of the more hesitant players to return to India, after the tournament was postponed last week due to the hosts' conflict with Pakistan.

A "pause" in fighting between the two countries has prompted India's cricket board to resume the league on Saturday night (AEST).

The final of the tournament has been pushed back to June 3, eight days



before the WTC final between Australia and South Africa begins at Lord's.

Australia's captain Pat Cummins and star batter Travis Head will both return for the resumption of the IPL, with their duties to finish May 25 as Sunrisers Hyderabad are guaranteed to miss finals, the Cricket Australia sources said.

Josh Hazlewood will assess a niggling shoulder injury before determining whether to go back for Royal Challengers Banga-

lore's title tilt.

But players who featured in the abandoned match between Punjab and Delhi in Dharamshala have shown more hesitancy around the decision.

Josh Inglis has held off a decision on his plans to return for the Punjab Kings, while Starc's teammate Jake Fraser-McGurk has also opted out of the tournament.

Xavier Bartlett and Mitch Owen have returned to India to represent Ricky Ponting's Punjab, however.

Shastri details how he would have handled Rohit's Test ending

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, MAY 16 (UNI)

Former India coach Ravi Shastri said he would have advocated for recently retired Test skipper Rohit Sharma to play the final match against Australia in Sydney earlier this year.

Rohit's decision to retire from the longest format came on the back of a dismal ICC World Test Championship series loss for India in Australia, and his recent lean patch with the bat in the Test format that culminated in the 38-year-old sitting out the Border-Gavaskar series decider at the SCG in January.

Shastri has since shared details of a conversation he had with Rohit at an IPL fixture and prior to his retirement.

Speaking with host Sanjana Ganesan on the latest edition of The ICC Review, Shastri said, "I saw Rohit a



lot at the toss. At the toss, you don't get enough time to speak. Though I did put my hand on his shoulder in one of the games.

"I think it was in Mumbai and told him, if I was coach you would have never not played that last Test match. You would have played that last Test match because the series wasn't over," he said.

"And I'm not someone who threw in the towel with the scoreline 2-1. If your mindset is you feel you are... that's not the stage, you leave a team," Shastri said.

From his three outings

in Australia, having missed out the first of five Tests due to personal reasons, Rohit scored just 31 runs. In his last eight Tests, which included home series against Bangladesh and New Zealand, Rohit was able to cross the 50-run mark only once, averaging 10.93.

Despite his low returns, Shastri believes he would've pushed for Rohit inclusion in Sydney, with the series poised at 2-1.

"That was a 30-40 run game. And that's exactly what I told him. The pitch was so spicy in Sydney. Whatever kind of form he

was in, he's a match-winner," said Shastri.

"If he had gone, sensed the situation, sensed the condition and smashed it for even 35-40 at the top, you never know. That series would have been level. But that's each one to his own," he said.

"Other people have different styles. This would have been my style and I let him know it. It's sitting in my heart for a long time. I had to get it out. And I told him that," Shastri said.

Rohit's Test retirement comes ahead of India's much-awaited tour of England, which will feature five Tests marking the beginning of the new ICC World Test Championship cycle.

Adding to the transition phase, Virat Kohli too recently bid farewell to the longest format, signalling the end of a defining era in Indian Test cricket.

Shepherd & Rutherford to miss England tour for IPL

AGENCIES
ANTIGUA, MAY 16 (UNI)

West Indies batter Sherfane Rutherford and all-rounder Romario Shepherd will miss the upcoming tour of England and Ireland to remain at the Indian Premier League.

The IPL, the world's



richest T20 franchise league, restarts on Satur-

day but its' postponement means the play-offs now begin on May 29 and clash with the Windies' one-day and T20 tour of England.

England - with a richer national board - picked five IPL players in their one-day international squad but those players are expected to return.

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