



Srinagar  
SATURDAY  
MAY 24 | 2025  
26 Dhu al-Qadah 1446  
Issue No: 122

District Level Committee  
reviews provision of civic  
amenities in Doda Hostels

P|08

Dy CM pays surprise visit to  
govt offices at Sanat Ghar  
Bemina

P|03



## Bonding Between Pak Army and Terrorists Exposed After 'Operation SINDOOR' HM Amit Shah

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, MAY 23: Asserting that actions of the neighbouring country have confirmed that terrorism in India is Pakistan-sponsored, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that "Operation Sindoor" tore apart the veil and exposed the bonding between terrorists and Pakistan Army.

Addressing BSF investiture ceremony Shah, according to the news said, "When we launched an attack on terrorist sites in Pakistan, the Pakistan army retaliated. The officers of the Pakistan army attended



the funeral of the terrorists."

The Union Home Minister said, "Pakistan proved that it sponsors terrorism by considering the attack on the terrorists as an attack on itself and dared to target

our country's civilians and military institutions. India's air defence system is remarkable, and Pakistan's attacks could not harm us."

He said what Pakistan had always denied has now been fully exposed to the

world after "Operation Sindoor." "Its actions have confirmed that terrorism in India is Pakistan-sponsored. "Through Operation Sindoor, bonding between Pakistan and terrorism has been exposed to the entire world. When terrorist bases in Pakistan were attacked, the Pakistani army responded, and the world witnessed senior Pakistani army officers attending the funerals of the killed terrorists," the Home Minister.

Shah said that "Operation Sindoor" was the most precise and successful response in the history of countering terrorist attacks

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Committed to 'people-centric' governance: CM Omar

Meets students, specially-abled groups at Raabita Office; praises TMC delegation's border visit

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today conducted a weekly Public Outreach Programme at the Chief Minister's Raabita Office at Gupkar in Srinagar, engaging directly with the public to address their issues and concerns. Former J&K Minister Mohammad Ashraf Mir brought to the Chief Minister's attention various developmental



challenges in Athwajan, Pantha Chowk and surrounding areas.

Students from the SPS Library, MA Road Lal Chowk, requested the extension of library

hours and resolution of internet connectivity and other student-related issues.

"Libraries are vital to a learning society—we are committed to mak-

ing them more modern and student-friendly. All genuine concerns will be looked into," CM assured the students delegation.

A delegation led by Peerzada Masood Hamdani from Khankah-e-Moula raised concerns related to the upkeep and development of the Khankah Shrine, along with other local matters.

Retired veterinary employees presented issues related to

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Jaishankar accuses West of backing military regime, undermining democracy in Pakistan

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, MAY 23: Accusing the West of backing military regime – and undermining democracy in Pakistan for the past eight decades, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday said that recent skir-



mishes between India and Pakistan were not over Kashmir but in retaliation to a terrorist attack.

In an interview to an international newspaper, Jaishankar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), took a dig at the West's backing of Pakistan over the past decades: "Our borders have been violated by Pakistan in Kashmir ever since our independence in 1947. And what have we seen in the eight decades since

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## LG pays tribute to Army soldier killed in Kishtwar gunfight

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid heartfelt tributes to Army Braveheart Sep Gaykar Sandip Pandurang, who attained martyrdom during an anti-terror operation in Kishtwar.

"Salute to the indomitable courage of brave-heart Sep Gaykar

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## CM Omar convenes public outreach programme at Raabita office

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TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Two Minor Girls Injured in Stray Dog Attack in Kupwara's Lolab

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

KUPWARA, MAY 23: In a tragic incident, two minor girls were injured after being attacked by a stray dog in the village of Ridnag, Lalpora Lolab area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Friday afternoon. According to family sources, the two innocent girls, identified as 5-year-old Hurain and 3-year-old Aqsa, daughters of Imtiyaz Ahmad, were playing outside their home around 2:50 PM when a stray dog suddenly attacked them. The victims sustained multiple injuries, including scratches on their face, arms, and back. One of the girls was reported to be in a critical condition initially. Both were rushed to the nearby Medical Sub-Centre Lalpora for first aid and were

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Stakeholders Demand Reopening of 48 Tourist Spots in Kashmir

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Over a month after the deadly attack in Pahalgam that left 25 tourists and a local resident dead, political leaders and tourism stakeholders in Kashmir are urging the government to reopen 48 tourist destinations that were shut down in the aftermath of the violence. Calling the prolonged closure "a blow to the Valley's economic backbone," PDP spokesperson Zuhair Mir said,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Govt Forms Panel to Oversee Handover of Centaur Hotel to Private Firm

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: The Jammu and Kashmir government has sanctioned the formation of a high-level committee to oversee the handover of the Centaur Lake View Hotel Srinagar to Lago Vue Srinagar Private Limited, under a formal concession agreement.

According to a government order, the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Rahul Gandhi to Visit Poonch to Meet Victims of Pakistani Shelling Today

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 23, Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, is set to visit Poonch district in Jammu region on Saturday to meet the families affected by the recent Pakistani shelling, senior party leader Jairam Ramesh confirmed.

In a statement on social media, Ramesh said the visit is aimed at expressing solidarity with those who lost their loved ones and suffered due to



TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Intense heatwave sweeps Kashmir, Srinagar sizzles at 33.2 degrees Celsius Jammu records slight improvement

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, May 23: The intense heatwave continued across Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, with all the stations across the valley recording above normal temperatures.

According to the details shared by the Meteorological (MeT) Department with the news agency—, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a



maximum temperature of 33.2 degrees Celsius, which was 7.8 degrees Celsius above normal.

The details reveal that Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, has recorded a day temperature of 32.5 degrees Celsius while Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded 32.4 degrees Celsius.

In Pahalgam, a famous tourist resort, the mercury settled at 28.8 degrees Celsius

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Police attach property of notorious peddler in Anantnag

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Continuing its sustained crackdown against drug trafficking and its proceeds, Police in Anantnag on Friday said to have attached immovable property belonging to a notorious drug peddler under the provisions of Section 68-F of the NDPS Act, 1985.

"The attached property includes a double-storey residential house with attic and land measuring 32 marlas situated at Gund Bagh Seer Hamdan, Mattan, owned by Zubair Ramzan

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Relief measures for shelling affected people must be fast-tracked: LoP Sharma

BJP leaders visit Uri, express solidarity with border residents

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MAY 23: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) delegation led by J&K President Sat Sharma (CA) visited the shelling-affected areas of Uri in Baramulla district to assess the damage caused by unprovoked shelling from Pakistan



and to stand in solidarity with the affected residents.

The delegation comprised Leader of Opposition in the J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, BJP National Secretary and MLA Dr. Narinder Singh, J&K BJP General Secretary and MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Adv. Ranbir Singh Pathania, District

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

## Land record digitisation; a challenging yet crucial task: Chief Secretary

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chairing a meeting held to assess the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), urged the Revenue Department to tackle the massive digitisation task head-on and work towards completing



it within the stipulated timeframe.

The meeting besides Financial Commissioner,

Revenue (FCR) was attended by Commissioner Secretary, IT; Secretary, Revenue and

Director, Land Records. The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress on all the components including the digitisation of Jamabandis, vectorization/digitisation of cadastral maps, modernisation of record rooms, scanning of past records and updation of the pending backlog mutations.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

HT - BOTTOM

## HT SUCCESS STORY : Sabira Arooj Selected as Nursing Officer AIIMS Guwahati Sumbal Girl Qualifies National Level Prestigious NORCET-8 Examination

■ ABU HASNAIN  
HT CORRESPONDENT

In a moment of pride for the Kashmir Valley, Sabira Arooj, daughter of Syed Firdous Hyder from Inderkote Sumbal, Bandipora, has successfully qualified the NORCET-8 examination and secured selection as a Nursing Officer at AIIMS Guwahati.

The Nursing Officer

Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET)-8 is a prestigious national-level exam conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for the recruitment of nursing officers across AIIMS branches and other central government hospitals in India. The competitive exam was held in two stages: the Preliminary Stage on April 12, 2025, followed by the Comput-



er-Based Test on May 2, 2025.

Sabira's achievement stands out among thousands of aspirants from across the country and reflects her unwavering dedication, academic excellence, and perseverance. Her success has brought immense pride not only to her family but also to the entire Bandipora district.

Locals, teachers, and

peers have extended heartfelt congratulations to her, celebrating the hard-earned success of a bright and determined young woman from the region.

This achievement marks a significant milestone in Sabira's career and serves as an inspiration for youth in Kashmir aspiring to join the healthcare sector.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02









## Drug Free J&K initiative Distt admin Srinagar organizes awareness programme at GGHSS Sonwar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: Aiming to eradicate drugs from society, District Administration Srinagar today organized an anti-drugs awareness programme at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS), Sonwar to sensitize students about the dangers of drug abuse.

The awareness programme was held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat under ongoing Drug Free Jammu & Kashmir initiative to raise awareness about the illicit impacts of the drugs on the individuals, their families and the society.

During the programme, talented artists of Kashmir Kala Manch, from Cultural Unit Kashmir, DIPR, staged a hard-hitting and thought-provoking skit portraying the devastating impact of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society at large. Through powerful performances and a compelling narrative skit, emotional, social and psychological trauma caused by substance abuse was effectively conveyed to the audiences. The presentation struck a deep chord with the audience and was met with resounding applause and appreciation for its meaningful message and artistic excellence. On the occasion, speakers highlighted the importance of collective community responsibility in addressing the growing challenge of substance abuse. They urged the youth to channel their energy into constructive and developmental pursuits.

School staff and students also took part in the anti drugs awareness programme and pledged to become active change-makers and advocates for a drug-free society within their own communities. The event saw active participation from officials representing the departments of education, health, excise, social welfare and other concerned.

## ICR-ER team visits District Emergency Operation Centre, Srinagar

Inspects functioning of Decision Support System

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR MAY 23: To assess the operational readiness and effectiveness of the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) in managing disasters/emergency situations including natural disasters and other calamities, a team from Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER), Ministry of Home Affairs Disaster Management Division, today visited the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) in Srinagar.

The team was comprised of Bharat Singh Rawat and Davinder Mishra accompanied by CEO/ERO/ Nodal Officer of the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC),

Chief Executive Officer of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Srinagar, Aadil Fareed and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz besides other concerned were present on the occasion.

During the visit, the team had a detailed assessment of the facilities at the District Emergency Operation Centre Srinagar, instrumental in coordinating responses during critical incidents. Notably, the DEOC served as a focal response centre during the Pahalgam incident, where over 4,300 calls were received and managed efficiently, demonstrating the centre's capacity to handle the large scale emergencies.

On the occasion, the team was provided a comprehensive presentation on functioning of the Decision Support System (DSS) during disaster situations by the Consultant DDMA Srinagar. He highlighted the importance of real-time data integration and analysis in enhancing the decision-making processes during emergencies. He also briefed about the significance of updating the Indian Disaster Resource Network (IDRN), a national electronic inventory that catalogs equipment, human resources and critical supplies for emergency response. It was informed that the regular updates to IDRN are crucial for maintaining preparedness and ensuring effective resource mobilization during disasters.

The visiting team commended the efforts of the DDMA Srinagar and other stakeholders in strengthening the emergency response framework in the region. The members of the team reiterated the commitment of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Emergency Operations Centre to provide continued support and resources, enhancing the capabilities of the District Emergency Operation.

## Dy CM pays surprise visit to govt offices at Sanat Ghar Bemina Emphasises prompt disposal of public grievances, punctuality

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: In a bid to enhance the public convenience and ensure efficient service delivery, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, paid a surprise visit to various government offices at Sanat Ghar Bemina, Srinagar.

The Dy CM visited the offices of Director Industries Kashmir, MD JK Minerals, MD SICOP/SIDCO, MD Handloom Development Corporation, KVIB, Office of TPO. He reviewed the functioning of these offices and asked the officers to ensure that the public receives hassle-free services.

During the visit, the Dy CM emphasised the importance of maintaining cleanliness, ensuring quick disposal of public grievances and enforcing punctuality in government offices.

The Dy CM held a detailed discussion with the officials regarding steps to streamline the function-



ing of their respective departments. He emphasised the need for prompt service delivery, better management of public inflow and improved infrastructure, especially considering the ongoing summer heat.

He also stressed that benefits of all government

schemes should reach the last person in line in real-time. He directed for conducting awareness programs to educate the general public about the government schemes.

The Dy CM cautioned that no lackadaisical approach would be tolerated, underscoring the administration's commitment to transparency and accountability. He directed that all the HoDs should be stationed in Srinagar stating "it is essential that citizens do not have to wait unnecessarily and services are provided strictly according to the scheduled time frame".

Reiterating commitment of the government towards citizens satisfaction, the Dy CM emphasised that every citizen should receive government services in a prompt, corruption-free and transparent manner.

Pertinently, the Dy CM conducted similar surprise visit to Udhog Bhawan in Jammu.

## Accelerate execution of works to ensure smooth conduct of SANJY-2025: Div Com to officers

Emphasizes importance of advance preparations to provide efficient services to yatris



■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: To establish intricate & enhanced framework for the seamless and peaceful conduct of the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, convened a meeting of officials on Friday to review the progress of works being carried out by various departments at base camps and enroute to the holy Cave.

Chairing the meeting, Div Com instructed officials to execute the necessary developmental works effectively and ensure their completion within the designated time-frame. He also called for the enhancement of base camp capacities to withstand weather-related emergencies.

Also, Div Com urged the Labour and Animal Husbandry departments to expedite the registration of service

providers and ponies to meet the target before the commencement of Yatra. He also asked for the installation of signages at key locations to give yatris an insight regarding the availability of facilities.

Regarding registration of yatris at various places, Div Com directed for the establishment of RFID counters at the Nowgam and Anantnag railway stations in addition to other locations. He further directed the BRO to ensure that the routes leading to the holy cave are free of potholes.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Anantnag, Budgam, Ganderbal and Bandipora, besides officers of various departments including KPDCL, FCS&CA, PHE, R&B, SMC, Health, Tourism, Sonmarg Development Authority, Pahalgam Development Authority briefed the meeting regarding the ongoing works & plans to facilitate the pilgrims of Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025.

## CII delegation calls on Dy CM Urges for infrastructure upgradation of industrial estates of Jammu, Srinagar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: A three member delegation of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) today called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

The delegation was led by Dr M.A Alim, Chairman CII J&K Council, who was accompanied by Iqram Ali Shafiee Vice Chairman CII J&K and Khurshid Dar, Head CII J&K.

During the deliberations, Dr Alim appreciated the performance of different departments under the guidance of Deputy Chief Minister.

Dr Alim raised several issues including the need for infrastructure upgradation at industrial estates of Srinagar and Industrial Estate Khanrail Jammu.

## DC Budgam flags-off Refrigerated Vans of fresh peas to Chandigarh

Move aimed to boost supply chain of vegetable movement from Distt Budgam

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, MAY 23: In order to boost supply chain of vegetable movement from District Budgam to Chandigarh, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo Friday flagged-off refrigerated vans carrying 90 quintals of fresh peas in presence of senior officials and local farmers.

The initiative was organized by district administration Budgam in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Budgam and AF Multi-Cooperative Society (FPO) Budgam, under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), a government measure designed to support timely and cost-effective transportation of perishable agricultural produce.

On the occasion, DC said that this is not just a transportation initiative; it is a step towards empowering our farmers by providing them direct access to markets.

He said the use of departmental refrigerated vans ensures that the quality and freshness of the produce is preserved during transit, helping to secure fair market prices for the farming community.

He further said the Market Intervention Scheme is a crucial platform to reduce wastage, ensure better returns, and create sustain-



able market linkages for our high-quality produce. DC said Agriculture department Budgam and AF Cooperative (FPO) Budgam played a pivotal role in mobilizing and organizing the produce for dispatch. The coordination between the agriculture department and the farmer producer organization highlights a growing synergy aimed at strengthening the region's agricultural economy. Labroo emphasised the district administration's resolve in enhancing agricultural infrastructure and supporting farmers' livelihoods. Chief Agriculture Officer Budgam, Naseer Ahamd said that by facilitating access to national markets, our aim is to turn Budgam into a hub of agri-export. This initiative under the Market Intervention Scheme not only ensures fair pricing but also boosts confidence among our farming community.

## Aashiq Hussain Appointed as Organiser for Handwara Constituency by JKAP

■ HT News Network

Handwara, May, 22: As per the field assessments and on the recommendation of party workers, a special letter was forwarded by the former constituency incharge Handwara and senior leader of Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party, Ab Rashid Bhat, to the district body under the guidance of District President Kupwara (JKAP) via No. JKAP/11 Dated 22-05-2025. In this communication, the party recommended the appointment of Aashiq Hussain Dar, popularly known as Jugnoo, a dedicated and committed member of JKAP from Lachipora Handwara, as the



Organiser for Handwara Constituency. He will oversee all political activities in the constituency on behalf of the party. The decision was warmly welcomed by the district body, constituency cadre, and party workers of Handwara. Core members expressed satisfaction over the move, viewing it as a step towards strengthening the

party's grassroots structure in the region. Speaking on the occasion, Aashiq Hussain Dar expressed gratitude towards the party leadership for entrusting him with this responsibility. "From the inception of Apni Party, I have actively participated in all party programmes and conventions, from district Kupwara to Jammu. I feel honoured and happy to be appointed as the organiser for Handwara constituency and pledge to work with honesty, dedication, and in the best interest of the party," Dar said. The party leadership also reiterated their confidence in Dar's ability to mobilise grassroots support and effectively coordinate political activities in the area.

## New Immunization Policy: Mothers Forced to Travel Long Distances Due to Rigid Digital System

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, May 23, CNS: A recently introduced digital tracking system for infant immunization in Jammu and Kashmir has triggered unexpected difficulties for new mothers, particularly in rural areas, as the policy's rigid framework overlooks local customs and practical needs. The new system, designed to streamline vaccine records and improve

accountability, has instead become a source of distress for families. As per its current implementation, vaccinations are administered strictly according to the father's residential address. This has become a major hurdle for mothers who, in line with common Kashmiri cultural practice, stay with their parents after childbirth. Denied access to local healthcare centers, they are being asked

to travel, sometimes across districts for a simple vaccine dose for their newborns. Recent cases from Baramulla, Kupwara, and Bandipora have drawn attention to the flaws in the system. In one instance, a young mother from a remote village in Baramulla had to make the exhausting trip to Hajin in Bandipora for her baby's immunization, only to be told that the required vac-

cine was unavailable. In another case, a woman had to travel from Kupwara to Baramulla, shouldering both physical discomfort and financial strain, just to ensure her infant received a scheduled dose. Reports indicate that even villages within the same health block are refusing immunizations unless the child's registration matches the father's village, leaving many mothers confused.

## Power shutdown by JKPTCL

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 23: According to the Chief Engineer, JKPTCL, in order to carry out maintenance of main and Reserve Bus Bars and to rectify the DC circuit malfunctioning of protection system in the 475 MVA, 220/132 KV Grid Substation Mirbazar, being carried out by JKPTCL, Kmr as part of readiness measures for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025, shutdown of 475MVA GSS Mirbazaar shall be observed due to which power supply to 132 KV GSS Mattan, Lisser, Wanpoh, Kulgam, Shopian and AIS Lassipora will be affected from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 28 May, 2025.

Also in this connection, shutdown of 220kV New Wanpoh ckt 1st and ckt 2nd shall be observed due to which power supply to District Anantnag, District Kulgam, District Shopian and District Pulwama (Partly) shall remain affected will be affected from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 28 May, 2025.



EDITORIAL

Make all facilities available for school children so that there is no eventuality

Better sense seems to have prevailed upon the Department of School Education since it has announced revised timings for the educational institutions in the Kashmir valley from May 26 (Monday). The school timings have been revised as the Kashmir valley is going through unprecedented heat wave conditions over the past one week or so. Although the timings have been changed but one fails to understand why did the department wait for the same to be implemented from coming Monday?

These ought to be put into practice at the earliest so that there is relief for the children receiving education in both the private and government sector. At the same time the education department needs to improve the facilities in the government schools since the health department has issued advisories for the school going children. The health department has made it clear that the schools should have proper drinking water facilities so that the children are properly hydrated.

Since the government schools lack basic facilities one can easily understand the situation being faced by the children receiving education in such educational institutions. There may be some model schools in the Srinagar city and other districts as well as towns but majority of the schools are not having the basic facilities. There are numerous schools across the valley where there are broken windows or doors and the furniture is also in a dilapidated condition. It would be a herculean task for the people managing these schools to ensure that no harm is caused to children there.

Yet another facility that needs to be put into place in the educational institutions so that the children don't feel panicky or under stress is that of cooling facilities. Adequate number of fans, coolers and air-conditioners need to be put in place so that there is proper cooling and heat wave conditions are kept at bay. Everybody including those at the helm is fully aware about the infrastructure available in the educational institutions in the government sector. In such a scenario one can easily assess the situation of students in government schools.

Since directions have been issued to the schools to avoid morning assembly for the time being there are many schools that are carrying out the same and giving damn to the government directions. Such schools need to be taken to task as the primary concern of one and all is that no harm whatsoever is caused to the health of the children both in the government and private sectors.

A tribute to Maharani of Jammu & Kashmir Yasho Rajya Lakshmi  
APOSTLE OF LOVE, COMPASSION  
On the Occasion of her 16h Death Anniversary which falls on 24 May 2025  
(9th January 1937 to 24th May 2009)

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Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi bestowed with a charming behavior and attitude even towards the ordinary people enhanced her manifold. Her love and affection for the needy and deep interest in their welfare, no matter how they are affected became life long mission and led her to be involved in various social activities.

24th May 2009 will remain as one of the saddest day for many people particularly Jammu and Kashmir, Nepal, and Delhi when Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi Wife of Padam Vibhushan Maharaja Dr. Karan Singh Ji, left for heavenly abode to live in eternal peace. Today on her 16th Death Anniversary , she will rekindle her memories , passion and benevolence in our minds in a deeper sorrow than before she left a deep and indelible mark in the social, cultural and intellectual spectrum of Indian society for which she deserves Nation's gratitude

24th May 2009 was indeed a sad day for many people, particularly the people living in Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi because on that day the erstwhile Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi, wife of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Karan Singh shed her mortal frame and became a part of the cosmic soul. Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi was an idol of beauty, prosperity, love and affection and social worker devoted to the causes of welfare of widows, orphans, the poor, deaf and dumb and the weaker sections of the society. Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi was born in a Royal Family of Sir Mohan Shamsher Jang Bahadur, last Rana Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Nepal on 9th January 1937. Her father was General Sharda Shamsher Singh. At her minor age of 13 years on 5th March 1950, she was married with the son of the Royal House of Dogra Ruler Maharaj Hari Singh ( Prince Karan Singh Bahadur Ji of 19 years) Both these Royal families deemed themselves as the successors of Rajputana " Kachawaha" and "Sisodia" dynasties. The ancestors of Jammu Royal family " Kachawaha" were the rulers of Jaipur while the ancestors of royal family of Nepal "Sisodia" were the rulers of Udaipur. But due to long stay at two different places of Jammu and Nepal, difference of language and culture was



a reality in both the families. This was a great change for Yasho Rajya Lakshmi who was Nepali speaking grew up with five brothers and sisters and her tie with an unknow person speaking other language was not an easy task. Lessons in English from Hanley and in painting from Lillian Purbi supported by her caring husband soon she became proficient in her official duties as well as of a hostess. Both wife and husband had a brief meeting before marriage for a short while of half an hour. The marriage was solminised with full religious fervour as well as according to the traditions of Nepal and Dogra. By this two nations got relations. Life partner of Maharaja Sahib, Maharani Yasho Lakshmi started working for the welfare of the poor, needy, deaf and dumb, widows, mentally retarded children, blind, both in Jammu and Kashmir as well as in capital city of India Delhi. This type of service has not been undertaken by any other religious or social society. Whatever Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi did socially or religiously was a selfless service but it was all for her own satisfaction and object of social service. Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi in addition to enjoying her married life with successor of Dogra rulers, Central Government Minister, member Parliament Dr. Karan Singh continued her higher studies despite being a Nepali National and in a short span of time learnt Dogri and Hindi languages, on hearing her Dogri language nobody could say that

she was a Nepall language knowing personality. She continued to work for the welfare of needy and the poor during the period. She was undergoing studies besides being Chief of the J and K Social Welfare Board.

During Indo-Pak war of 1965, she under took various welfare activities for the army personnel. She spent hours together with the army personnel in trying circumstances, distributing commodities tirelessly. Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi since her beginning was familiar among women though being a bridegroom of Royal family she used to live in simplicity. Maharni was a disciple of MaaDurga and she had full faith in Maa Durga. During the year 1979 Dr Karan Singh and Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi installed the idol of Natraj in the complex of Raghunath Ji Temple Jammu. A very good judge of people, she was a constant companion to Dr Karan Singh during his long and arduous election compaigns in the constituency of Udhampur and Kathua. Mingling with older people especially ladies, she ensured their support for her husband. Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi was the organiser of Ladies Clubs in J and K Chief of the Delhi Hospital Welfare Society and organiser of Dharmarth Trust J and K, besides being Chairperson of Kashmir Women's Industrial Units, Chairperson of Maharaja Gulab Singh Memorial Trust, Patron of Deaf and Dumb Societies and Mentally Retarded. She was managing these different societies smoothly. In the sad demise of Maharani Sahiba, the State in particular has suffered a setback. Though Maharni Sahiba is not physically with us but the works she did for the poor needy, handicapped, orphans, and deaf, dumb, blind, suffering widows, physically and mentally retarded children will be remembered by us till these works continue to run. Due to untimely death of Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi Dogra community has suffered irreparable loss. Her idols will give us a feeling of her being alive but her loss will make us feel a lot.

MONUMENTS

• In the memory of Maharani Yasho Rajya Lakshmi 24th May 2012 on the day of her third death anniversary Smt. Sheila Dikshit Ex. Chief Minister of Delhi inaugurating Yasho-Karn Park at the backside of historic Shri Rabireshwar Temple accompanied by Dr. Karan Singh, Chariman Trust-

ee, J&K Dharmarth Trust Council and Member Parliament. I am sure that the Park by becoming an attraction for tourists as well as citizen of Jamu will always keep the memor of the Late Maharani alive.

• Dr. Karan Singh, Chariman Trustee, J&K Dharmarth Trust Council, on dated 17-03-2013 at Kankhal, Haridwar reconstructed old Shiv Mandir and started Maharani Yasho Rajaya Luxmi Sanskrit Partshalla in this old Temple.

Maharani's demise came as a Personal Shock to one and all because for full six decades she affectionately dominated J&K scene in a wonderful manner with her unique personality, nature, charms , impressive presence and perfection even during crisis in J&K state. Entire Jammu and Kashmir region always honoured and welcomed her dignity as the dignified Maharani throughout. Whenever she visited her choicest city of temples and historic Shri Raghunath Ji Temple there was a sudden thrill and curocity in every mind to have a glimpse of the perfect queen. She was an embodiment of born qualities of head and heart. Her spotless and heartfelt smile with soft words was a soothing symbol of peace and prosperity for the subjects of the state. Till her last breath Maharani remained fully attached with all the sentiments feelings and aspirations of duggar land. She was a natural reflection of Dogra culture and civilization in a mystical manner. It seemed that nature had imbided each and every best aspect of duggar queen in Yasho Rajya Lakshmi's unforgettable image. It is really difficult to find a queen with this difference, her influence was irresistible , Maharani's extraordinary caliber in motivating guiding directing and organizing also makes her a queen with a difference imbued with moral values. She has left behind a legacy for us to tread upon with full determination.

In the end I may say:

"Chaman Mai Gul Khiltay, Nahi Sabi Ka Liyay,  
Yahan Bhahar Aati Hai Kisi Kisi Ka Layay,  
Tumaharay Janay ke baad, andhera rahega mahafil mai,  
Hazaroon chirag jalanay, padangey Roshni kaliyay,  
Yoon to sadaiv yahan rehney nahi aata koi,  
Jaisay achanak Maharani Sahiba Aap Chalay gaye, vaise jaati nahi koi".

Role of Intellectual in Society

VIJAY GARG

Intellectual is a person who uses his intelligence and analytical thinking, either in a professional capacity or for personal reasons. It also means of or associated with or requiring the use of the mind. There are many types of Intellectuals, some of them are anti-academic while some are a part of universities. Some are involved in arts, politics, journalism and education. Some are specialized experts and professionals and some are independent. They acquire a variety of roles as such. The emergence of Intellectuals can be traced back to 'The Dreams Affair' in France at the end of the nineteenth century. Rather, this period is notable for the full emergence of the intellectual in public life. Especially with the roles of Émile Zola, Octave Mirbeau and Anatole France, in speaking directly on the matter. The term Intellectual became better known from that time. The use of the term as a noun in French has been attributed to Georges Clemenceau in 1898.

Role of Intellectual in Society

The role of intellectuals in any society is indeed one of the elements crucial to its development. Intellectuals. It can be gauged from a historical perspective. The French Revolution's was instigated by people whom we would today classify as intellectuals, Lenin and

most of his comrades were intellectuals. Intellectuals assisted the spread of ideological messages in the Middle East by becoming the icons of discontented, disillusioned and frustrated generations anxious for change and peace. Political parties and clergy used the intellectuals to extend their organizational power and political control. The way to assess historically, the impact of intellectuals on any given society depends on the society in which they are operating: where civil society is weak, where non-conformity is looked down upon, where tolerance and pluralism are lacking, intellectuals will find it difficult to steer society toward a more open political and moral climate. Iranian society where Islam is only one of the building blocks of national identity appears to offer many more options for critical intellectuals to legitimise elements for change and transformation. Whilst it is not the same case in many Arab societies, where Islam is, in one way or another is linked to the heritage of Arabism and true critical thinking is stunted.

Intellectual dedicates himself to performing a particular activity within the society whose end is to bring about the ennoblement of humankind by means of the advance of culture. It is the duty of a scholar to adopt a dispassionate, objective approach to discovering the truth, knowledge that derives from purely

rational principles, add their voices to the public debates for peace and safe future. Intellectuals play an important role in the formation and evolution of civil society. Intellectuals have also been this basis of ideologies like democratization, totalitarian rule, dictatorship, western liberalism, constitutionalism, nationalism, fascism. Intellectuals are the most important sociological actors of modernity. Their struggle for critical rationality and civil liberties goes hand in hand with their critique and refusal of instrumental rationality and spirit of domination. Their superior intellectual talents and training in the techniques of positive inquiry enabled them to transcend the narrow conceptions of local viewpoints and rationalize the process of policy formation. In a position of leadership, they governed on the basis of faultless conclusions, solving problems of previous generations and establishing superior forms of societal organization. They also observed that while the course of modern society had indeed grown to become more rational in its organization, this change did not nurture a greater freedom of the individual but contributed to a rising level of bureaucratic control. A consequence of this trend was a growing irrationality in the social world, where human emotions and pre-modern habits of thought remained prevalent. Many of the beliefs and superstitions of

the feudal era continued to thrive in industrial society and these shaped the course of political and economic development in the West. Architecture courses

The Role of Intellectual as a Researcher

Researchers pursue an objective analysis and approach an investigation of their subject matter. Intellectuals seek to develop an awareness of an assumption and whilst doing so they acquire the role of Researcher. They indulge in social scientific research. They apply the principles of science and past traditions in developing their own informed perspectives. They also found that social scientific work can foster innovative analyses of the social world. These researchers organized their investigations on the basis of their own curiosities and scholarly interests, whilst doing so they have revealed some facts which have would have been missed if they had not researched. Their personal insights in the social world have assisted research in a big way. The rapid changes of the modern order require an ongoing qualitatively unique assessments. Older formulations can become static and lose their ability to explain newer developments. The role of the intellectual in this context is to formulate creative interpretations of the world in relation to the trends leading up to the present. Ideas which do not conform to the

mainstream of social thought can contribute to the thinking of others interested in pursuing alternative viewpoints. Contemporary social research, whether of a political or scientific variety, may ultimately have far-reaching consequences and intellectuals operating within the framework of these two sets of ethics can be influential in shaping the future directions of the modern social order.

The Role of Intellectual as a Political Advisor

Intellectual involvement is a crucial component of a political leadership. Intellectuals acting in the official capacity of advising political leaders offer analyses to political leaders who then make decisions on the basis of their own convictions and sense of responsibility. Intellectuals play an important role in expanding the knowledge upon which decisions can be made. They utilise their knowledge in the political arena which further gets translated into practical policy options. Having a hand in both research and in politics, the political intellectual can provide the crucial link between social scientific inquiry and policymaking. Their task is to reveal the larger problems and to suggest it's remedied. Since the policies are to be made for the public, Intellectual provide a valuable insight into the ways people's lives will be changed by the actions being pro-

posed. The advisor's responsibility is also to draw the attention of leaders to the long-term consequences of the actions being considered and impart his suggestions. In the absence of Political Intellectuals, policy formation would continue to fall into the hands of bureaucratically oriented managers.

The Role of Intellectual as an Educator

In industrial-technological society, they influence public opinion and provide assessments of the social world which are enlightening. Their objective as educators is to offer interpretations of the contemporary world that enhances the capacity of poorly informed individuals to participate in matters in an enlightened manner. Another goal of such Intellectual is to teach their disciples to think critically in the classroom and at the level of scholarly interaction. Their education offers to strengthen the moral fibre of the masses and to ground the morality of modernity in the findings of the positive inquiry. They examine the different morals of a given culture, assess them, and develop critiques of them and whilst doing so they inspire a systematic inquiry.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal  
Educational columnist Eminent  
Educationist street kour Chand MHR  
Malout Punjab



# Pakistan was back to its usual games by thudding the innocents with Mortar shells and piercing the walls of the houses of the people with bullets!

BY M S NAZKI

And India prepared for the response.....With Fire burning in the hearts of the people, India prepared for a response! But before the final delivery punch came in several things!

-Everyone in the Nation knew that India would retaliate but the same was not done in a haste!

-We wanted to strike at the time and place of our choosing, though the targets were well known yet the fact is that detailed inputs were needed for a precision strike!

-Pakistan was back to its usual games by thudding the innocents with Mortar shells and piercing the walls of the houses of the people with bullets!

-But Indian democracy held its faith in the armed forces!

-Everyone was scrabbling for thoughts as to what would happen next!

-The Indian Generals, the top guns from the armed forces, the air force and white marauders from the navy knew what had to be done!

-And what they were going to do we will be coming out in the subsequent chapters in this war which sent the terror infrastructure in Pakistan bundling over like ninepins!

-This particular chapter we would be taking over tomorrow?

-What happened after the Pahal-gam attack:

-In the aftermath, locals assisted in the rescue effort and offered shelter to victims. Members of the local pony-handlers association rescued 11 injured tourists on ponies and improvised stretchers. Gurudwaras in Kashmir opened their doors to shelter tourists fleeing the valley in fear, as many sought safety closer to cities and airports to return to their home states.

-Emergency services arrived at the scene after news of the attack reached district headquarters. Two critically injured victims were taken to the district hospital at Anantnag at around 16:30, while others were transported to nearby medical centres.

-The critically injured were airlifted to a military hospital in Srinagar by helicopter for further treatment. A helpline was established to assist affected tourists.

-A joint cordon and search operation was launched by the Indian Army, paramilitary forces,

and Jammu and Kashmir Police. A temporary lockdown was imposed in Pahalgam, and Indian Army helicopters were deployed to track down the militants, who reportedly fled to the upper reaches of the Pir Panjal range.

-On 24 April, an Indian soldier was killed and two other soldiers wounded during a gunfight with insurgents in the Basantgarh area of Udhampur.

-Authorities conducted extensive searches in Indian-administered Kashmir, detaining more than 1,500 people for questioning. They also demolished the houses of the families of at least 10 alleged militants.

-What was the motive:

-The Resistance Front (TRF) initially claimed responsibility for the attack, linking it to Indian government policy that allows non-Kashmiris to live and work in Kashmir, resulting in non-local settlement in Kashmir. In a statement on the social media platform Telegram, TRF opposed the granting of domicile certificates to "outsiders", and voiced discontent at resulting alleged demographic changes in the region. It claimed, "These non-locals arrive posing as tourists, obtain domiciles, and then begin to act as if they own the land. Consequently, violence will be directed toward those attempting to settle illegally."

-TRF has a history of targeting non-Kashmiri settlers on such grounds. In June 2020, it released a statement saying, "any Indian who comes with an intention to settle in Kashmir will be treated as an agent of RSS and not as a civilian and will be dealt with appropriately." In December 2020, it shot and killed a 70-year-old goldsmith, who had lived in Kashmir close to 50 years, branding him part of the "settler" project. In February 2021, it killed a Punjabi restaurateur's son, even though Punjabi Khatri is a well-established part of Srinagar's retail business, having arrived there well before 1947.

-In October seven civilians were killed in the span of a week, including two school teachers, a pharmacist and poor economic



migrants. According to Puri, such killings of civilians are not normally condoned by the populace but the atmosphere of "mass-scale hysteria" in the Valley on potential demographic changes allows TRF to get away with them.

-On 26 April, TRF retracted responsibility for the attack, claiming that their initial claim of responsibility was a communications breach. TRF accused Indian intelligence operatives of having a part in the attack, and stated that they were conducting their own investigation into the perpetrators.

-On 7 May 2025, the foreign secretary of India Vikram Misri stated in a press conference that the objective of the attack was to negatively impact the economy by attacking tourism in the union territory.

-The Resistance Front (TRF) initially claimed responsibility for the attack, linking it to Indian government policy that allows non-Kashmiris to live and work in Kashmir, resulting in non-local settlement in Kashmir. In a statement on the social media platform Telegram, TRF opposed the granting of domicile certificates to "outsiders", and voiced discontent at resulting alleged demographic changes in

the region. It claimed, "These non-locals arrive posing as tourists, obtain domiciles, and then begin to act as if they own the land. Consequently, violence will be directed toward those attempting to settle illegally."

-This was nothing but bunkum all the way!

-The response had started:

-India's National Investigation Agency initiated an investigation into the attack after visiting the site on 23 April. Based on eyewitness testimonies, the Jammu and Kashmir Police released sketches of three of the militants believed to have been involved in the attack. The police stated that all of them were linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba and at least two are foreigners. Police confirmed that all of them have been linked to previous militancy-related incidents in the Poonch region. Following the attack, hundreds of former overground workers and ex-militants were interrogated in Kashmir.

-Indian authorities linked the Pahalgam attack to Pakistan, with digital traces leading to safe houses in Muzaffarabad and Karachi. They concluded that forensic evidence and intelligence intercepts suggested potential support from opera-

tives based in Pakistan.

-Indian forces demolished the homes of suspected militants living in Kashmir. Followed by the investigation, NIA found that the attack was done under the directives issued by senior operatives of Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

-On 26 April, a new first information report (FIR) was registered by the central anti-terrorism agency, following an order from the counter terrorism and counter radicalisation (CTCR) division of the ministry of home affairs.

-Independently, investigative journalists from the media found that the demand for the high-resolution satellite imagery of the Pahalgam area surged at Maxar two months before the Pahalgam attack. The period of the surge coincided with the joining of a Pakistani geospatial firm, Business Systems International (BSI), as a 'partner' with Maxar. The firm's owner Obaidullah Syed was previously convicted for illegally exporting computer equipment and software to Pakistani government agencies.

-On 24 April, the Jammu and Kashmir Police announced a bounty of 2,000,000 (US\$30,000) for information leading to the identification, arrest, or elimination of the individuals responsible for the Pahalgam attack. As per security forces, four terrorists were suspected to have been involved in the attack. The J&K police revealed their identities and released their sketches based on the details given by the survivors of the attack. Out of these four, two are infiltrators from Pakistan, and two are local Kashmir residents who allegedly aided them. These four terrorists have been identified by the Jammu and Kashmir police as Ali Bhai alias Talha (Pakistani), Asif Fauji (Pakistani), Adil Hussain Thoker (a resident of Anantnag) and Ahsan (a resident of Pulwama).

-What happened subsequently:

Security agencies identified three terrorists behind the Pahalgam terror attack. Two of them – Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiez Saeed and his deputy Saifullah

Kasuri – are in Pakistan, while the third, Hashim Moosa, is believed to be hiding in the forests of south Kashmir. An extensive operation is underway to capture him, with concerns that he may attempt to flee to Pakistan. Hashim Moosa, a former para-commando in Pakistan's Special Service Group, joined Lashkar-e-Taiba and has been involved in several terror attacks since infiltrating India in 2023. Authorities aim to capture him alive to confirm Pakistan's involvement in the attack. He was involved in a deadly October attack in Ganderbal that killed seven and another in Baramulla where four security personnel died. In total, he has been linked to at least six terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

-Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi cut short his visit to Saudi Arabia and returned to India to chair a meeting with the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on the issue. After this meeting, the Indian foreign secretary, Vikram Misri, briefed senior diplomats around the world regarding five major decisions made by the Indian government. He announced India would immediately suspend the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan until Pakistan ceases its support for cross-border terrorism. He further announced the closure of the main border crossing between the two countries, a travel ban of all Pakistani nationals to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme, and a cancellation of all previously issued visas. Pakistani military advisers at the High Commission of Pakistan in New Delhi were expelled, and their Indian counterparts in Islamabad were withdrawn.

-Union home minister Amit Shah travelled to Srinagar to assess the situation and coordinate the security response, and later travelled to the site of the attack. On 23 April, the Indian Army gave limited clearance for the operation of its grounded HAL Dhruv fleet for counterterrorism operations.

Everything was in order but several other things had to be taken care of! They were duly taken and the time was not far off for the H-hour to arrive and once it did Pakistan was just blown off like dust in an oil-less frying pan! The story Continues so please keep reading!

## Echoes of history in the mansions of Barwa village: From Thakur's fort to Kesar Talab



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

On the sandy land of south-west Haryana, where the heat of the sun is capable of burning even the sand particles, lies Barwa, a village that still preserves the memories of its past in the walls of mansions, the depths of ponds and the colours of paintings.

This village is located in Bhiwani district, 25 km south of Hisar, on the Rajgarh-Bikaner highway. It is not just known as a normal rural settlement, but as a living museum, which contains all the colors of architecture, art, culture and social

history.

The fortress of Thakurs: The soul of Barwa

The first historical structure that comes to mind when we mention Barwa is the Garhi of Thakurs. This Garhi is built on a sandy mound located in the north-west of the village, which is also known as Bransa Bhawan. It was constructed in 1938 – at a time when the monsoon failed and famine conditions arose in the village. Then Thakur Bagh Singh Tanwar saw it as an employment opportunity and engaged his men in construction work.

The huge entrance of the fort is still decorated with thick iron plates and strong wood. As soon as we enter inside, it feels like we are entering a medieval tale. Rows of rooms made for storage, huge habitable halls, and the arrangement of elephant houses still testify to its grandeur.

The legacy of the Tanwars: From Rajasthan to Haryana

Barwa village was founded by the Tanwar Rajputs who came here

from Jeetpura in Rajasthan about 600 years ago. The ancestors of Thakur Brijbhushan Singh, who is the heir to the fort today, took over 14,000 bighas of land here and gradually transformed it into a prosperous estate.

During the Mughal period, the Tanwars adopted peace and trade instead of conflict, and created a strong social and political position for themselves in the Bhiwani region.

Village Havelis: Where the walls speak

There are about a dozen historical havelis in Barwa, of which the havelis of Seth Parshuram, Seth Hukumchand Lala Sohanlal and Seth Laxmichand are the most notable. The architectural style, paintings and religious and cultural images on the walls of these havelis are reminiscent of the Kota and Kishangarh styles of Rajasthan.

Seth Parshuram's Haveli: This Haveli was decorated by artisans brought from Pilani. Every corner of the Haveli has intricately carved

paintings depicting Krishna-Radha's Raasleela, love dialogues between the king and queen and religious stories.

Seth Hukum Chand Ki Haveli: The elephant figure on the main gate, with the king and queen seated on it, shows how the royal life was brought to life in these paintings. The walls show the paintings of Vishnu Lakshmi, Sherawali Mata and the love story of Radha-Krishna made in Kota style. Lakshmichand ka Katahra: At this place, one can find paintings of chariot processions, maids, and guards on the roofs. In one scene, Sri Krishna is seen braiding Radha's hair - this painting reflects the depth of familial closeness, aesthetic sense and expression of love of that period.

Kesar Talab and 'Muktidham' The identity of Barwa village is also associated with Kesar Talab, which was built by Seth Parshuram in the memory of his sister Kesar. The story says that when the women of the village used to pick

cow dung, this act was considered humiliating for the upper castes and wealthy families. To save his sister from humiliation, the Seth built a huge concrete pond there, which was named Kesar Talab.

There is a deep pool near this pond, which is called Muktidham, because unhappy women jumped here to commit suicide. The walls of the chhatris built on its banks have paintings of Radha-Krishna's Raasleela, which also have pictures of musical instruments like dholak, nagada, flute, harmonium.

Red, yellow and blue colours have been used in these paintings. Shri Krishna has been painted in blue and Radha in white colour. Figures of animals and birds - peacock, parrot, birds - can also be seen in it.

Village of films: The land of 'Chandrawal' and 'Bairi'

The cultural richness of Barwa has been so ancient and impressive that even Haryanvi cinema has not remained untouched by it. Some scenes of the famous films

Chandrawal and Bairi were shot near the Rushada Johad and wells of this village. Even today, those paanghats, where 'Chandro' used to come to fetch water, are a matter of memory and pride for the villagers.

Recognizing the present in the lap of the past

Barwa is not just a village but a living example of the rural glory of Haryana. Its havelis, paintings, ponds, religious heritage and social stories - all together make it a heritage site.

Today, when the cultural character of villages is being lost in the blind race of development, villages like Barwa teach us that if we preserve our past, it not only strengthens our identity but also becomes a source of inspiration for future generations.

(The author Dr. Satyawan Saurabh is a freelance columnist writing on history and culture topics. This article is based on his visit to Barwa village and local research.)



# Healthcare infrastructure across J&K to witness major upgradations soon: Sakeena Itoo

**HT News Network**

KOKERNAG (ANANTNAG), MAY 23: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today conducted an extensive tour of Kokernag Constituency during which she reviewed functioning as well as status of infrastructure of various healthcare facilities and educational institutions in the area.

MLA Kokernag, Choudhary Zafar Ali Khatana; MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie; Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Colleges J&K, Director Family Welfare & Immunization, Director Health Services Kash-

mir, Director AYUSH J&K, ADC Anantnag, Programme Officer ICDS Anantnag, SDM Kokernag and other senior officers from Health, Social Welfare, and Education departments accompanied the Minister.

During the visit, Minister Sakeena inspected Sub-District hospital Kokernag, PHC Larnoo, PHC Gadole, PHC Wandevalgam, GDC Larnoo and took first hand appraisal of the functioning of these healthcare facilities and educational institutions.

At SDH Kokernag, Minister Sakeena took detailed round of the hospital and assessed the facilities available for the general public. She inspected various departments, interacted with staff and patients and took feedback from them about the services avail-



able at the facility.

While interacting with the public on the occasion, Minister Sakeena assured them that under Omar Abdullah led Government, major upgrada-

tions will be done in the healthcare infrastructure of Jammu and Kashmir soon. She further assured them that significant upgrades like establishment of an oxygen plant, blood bank

and dialysis facilities, will be done at SDH Kokernag in coming months to improve medical services and ensure accessibility of better healthcare facilities to local population within their vicinities.

While visiting PHC Larnoo, PHC Gadole and PHC Wandevalgam, Minister Sakeena minutely evaluated the healthcare facilities at these locations. She interacted with local health workers and discussed strategies with them and accompanying officers to improve healthcare accessibility and quality in these areas.

Later, the Minister also inspected the Government Degree College (GDC) Larnoo and took comprehensive assessment of college's infrastructure, faculty strength as well as status

of educational facilities available for students. She took detailed round of the college campus and also interacted with faculty as well as students and took feedback from them about the quality education being imparted at the college.

During this extensive tour, Minister Sakeena also interacted with public delegations and individuals at various locations. While interacting with them, She reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening of healthcare and educational infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir. "Accessibility to quality healthcare services and quality education for our people is prime motto of Omar Abdullah led Government", Sakeena stated.

## Three Injured in Road Accident at Wangam Crossing, Kralgund

**DR. AB QAYOOM**



HANDWARA, MAY 23: Three persons, including a motorcycle rider, a pillion rider (commonly referred to as a "pillow rider"), and a wayfarer were injured in a road accident at Wangam crossing in Kralgund area of Police District Handwara on Friday. According to initial reports, the accident occurred when the motorcycle rider lost control of his bike after noticing a vehicle approaching from the opposite side or possibly an obstacle on the road. As a result, both the rider, the pillion passenger, and a passerby were injured on the spot. The injured have been identified as: Zakir Hussain Mir, son of Nazir Ahmad Mir, resident of Hajan, Mohammad Hussain Khawaja, son of Farooq Ahmad Khawaja, resident of Kralgund Mohammad Shafi Dar, son of Ghulam Mohiuddin Dar, resident of Nowpora Kalan, Sapore. All three were immediately shifted to District Hospital Handwara for emergency medical care. Senior doctors at the Emergency OPD confirmed that after initial treatment and medical examination, Mohammad Shafi Dar, the wayfarer, was referred to Bone and Joint Hospital, Srinagar, as he had suffered fractures in two major bones of his lower leg — the tibia and fibula — due to the impact of the accident. The motorcycle rider and the pillion rider are currently admitted at District Hospital Handwara and are reported to be in stable condition. A senior police officer confirmed the incident to Headlines Today, stating that police reached the accident site within minutes and later moved the injured to the hospital. A case has been registered at Police Station Kralgund, and further investigation is underway.

## Udhampur: DUDA hosts special event on Women for Trees Campaign' Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'

**HT News Network**

UDHAMPUR, MAY 23: District Urban Development Agency Udhampur-Reasi, in collaboration with Municipal Council Udhampur, organized a special event on the theme 'Women for Trees Campaign' Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam under the AMRUT Mitra-NULM initiative.

Project Officer District Urban Development Agency Udhampur/Reasi, Jaffar Abass Batt, felicitated the Self-Help Groups members. He highlighted the significance of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign in promoting environmental sustainability, emphasizing the importance of planting trees in their mothers' names for a greener tomorrow. The event successfully raised awareness about the importance of green spaces, fostering a sense of community and environmental stewardship. By empowering women as climate champions, the initiative demonstrated the impact of collaborative efforts between DUDA and MC Udhampur in creating a sustainable future. Importance of green spaces.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as Peerzada Qawam-Ud-Din in my Adhaar Card Having Adhar no 9009-6422-2335 while my correct name is Pirzada Qawam Din as per School Records. which needs to be corrected. Anybody having any objection in this regard, may file his/her objection in the office of Concerned Department within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:.... Pirzada Qawam Din  
S/O Mohd Mubarak Pir R/O:- Buber Nag kupwara

## 2 yr electrician course for youth of Project-Affected Families inaugurated at ITI Kishtwar

**HT News Network**

KISHTWAR, MAY 23: Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today inaugurated the first batch of the Electrician Training Course for the youth of project affected area.

Organised under the ongoing Skill Development Training Program, the initiative caters to members of households impacted by the hydroelectric projects including Rattle HEP, Pakal Dul HEP, Kiru HEP, Kwar, and others.

The inaugural session was held here at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), where a batch of 20 youth from project-affected families were enrolled for free two-year-long Electrician Training Course.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC urged all project-affected families to enroll in the Skill Development Training Program. He also informed that interested individuals can pursue skill development courses across India through support from the district administration.

The DC advised the trainees to engage sincerely and diligently with the course. He also highlighted the opportunities under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana Scheme, pointing out that trained electricians are in demand under this scheme, and that the current batch may benefit by associating with the vendors of the said scheme in the district, as vendors have apprised about the shortage of trained electricians.

Furthermore, he mentioned that the trainees will be given exposure visits both within and outside the district for on-the-job training across India.

It is pertinent to mention that the Skill Development Program launched by the Power Projects Authorities of the District and District Administration provides comprehensive support including free meals, accommodation, stipends, field exposure visits, and toolkits upon successful completion of training.

DC Kishtwar reaffirmed the administration's commitment to ensuring sustainable livelihoods for affected families, highlighting it as a key priority for both the Government and project authorities.

It is pertinent to mention that 20 Candidates have already Started Plumbing Training Course in ITI under the Ongoing Skill Development Program.

The event was attended by Principal ITI Kishtwar, Anoop Sharma, representatives from power projects, and other concerned staff. DC Kishtwar reaffirmed the administration's commitment to ensuring sustainable livelihoods for affected families, highlighting it as a key priority for both the Government and project authorities.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the No Plate of my M/Cycle. Brining Registration JK 01A5-9068 From Khan Kahi Mohallah to Bohari Srinagar. Now I hae applied for its Dublicate. if any body having objection he/she may contact RTO office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objections will be accepted.

Shamid Mehraj  
S/O Mehraj Ud din Matoo  
Ph No 6006098330

## PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my DAUGHTER'S NAME has been incorrctly mentioned on his Adhar card, 663450914653as MERHAT LA-TEEF while his correct ,NAME is UROOJ LATEEF now I have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection concerned authority /UIDAI office within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Name: UROOJ LATEEF DOB : 07/09/2024  
D/O LATEEF AHMAD MIR  
R/O: BAGHATPORA TEHSIL HANDWARA DIST KUPWARA

## 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 update it her school record if anyone has queries plz inform to office of government middle school if manal pahelgam.

Mohd ashraf lawe  
R/o mamal pahelgam

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Its being notified that my name in my bank account having ac no 012204010007601 branch pahalgam is wrongly mentioned as shameema raina d/o sona ula raina but my actual name as par aadhat is shmaema bano W/O ghulam Rasool khanday R/O mamal pahlagam If anyone have queries they may contact to jk bank branch pahalgam Within 7 days

## Palli PACS launches Co-operative Crumbs Bakery-n-Café to Promote Employment, Self-Reliance

**HT News Network**

SAMBA, MAY 23: The Palli Primary Agriculture Co-operative Credit Society Ltd. (PACS) today inaugurated its latest initiative — Co-operative Crumbs Bakery-n-Café— on Bishnah Road, Palli.

The venture aims to generate employment and foster self-reliance among cooperative members.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by MLA Vijaypur Chander Prakash Ganga as the Chief Guest. The event also witnessed the presence of the Joint Registrar Audit Jammu, Deputy Registrars of Samba and Jammu, Assistant Registrars from Samba, Jammu, and Kathua, along with several District Officers from Samba, including the District Animal Husbandry Officer and the District Development Manager, NABARD. During the event, the Deputy Regis-



trar Cooperative Societies Samba briefed the guests on the functioning and achievements of Palli PACS. Guests were taken on a tour of the Sahkar Mandap, a dedicated cooperative display centre showcasing locally made products such as pickles and handcrafted suits produced by Sahkar Saheli, a women-led coop-

erative initiative.

In a brief interaction with the media, the MLA praised the initiative, describing it as a model of self-sustained growth aligned with the national vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. He lauded the role of cooperatives in generating local employment opportunities.

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE (G&P) KASHMIR Tel:0194-2474234 Fax:2482032 email:kashflori@rediffmail.com Subject: - Extension Notice No. 05.

In view of zero response, the Bid Submission end/opening date (Online) of technical/financial bid in respect of e-NIT No. 10 of 2025 dated:-21.02.2025 invited by this office under endorsement No: DOFK-GSOTNDR/12/2024/E-7594415/e-NIT-10 Dated:- 21/02/2025 with regard to "Outsourcing of Entry Ticketing system of Padshahi Bagh Bijbehara "is hereby extended as per details given below:-

1.	Bid Submission End date & time	09.06.2025	up to 02:00 PM
2.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	12.06.2025	at 02:00 PM

Other terms & conditions shall remain same as laid down in the concerned e-NIT.

DIPK-1796/25

Send Date: May 23 2025

Send Date: May 23 2025

Sd/-

Accounts Officer,  
(Member Secretary)  
Floriculture Department, Kashmir.

### Govt Of Jammu and Kashmir UT Office of the executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

#### Short Term e-Tender NIT No: E-07 of 2025-26

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders in two covers are invited from experienced, reputed and registered firms/ genuine manufacturers/authorized distributors/dealers/workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following maintenance works of electromechanical equipment's:

S. N o	Name of work	Cost of tender document (Rate in Rs)	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest money	Validity of offer	Time of completion	Programme Head	Whether Accorded/ Position of Funds	Tender ID no.
1	Repairing of 10 cusec M&P Make pumping unit no. 02 at Lift irrigation cum dewatering scheme Gadkach of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.361	Rs. 722.00	120 days	07 days	M&R (2702	Within the ceiling of Budgetary Provisions of ARD 2025-26/ AAA No. 01- MCO of 2025-26 dated: 08-05-2025	2025_IFC_277 527_1
2	Repairing of 05 cusec Kirloskar make pumping unit at LIS Hamdara of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.268	Rs. 536.00					2025_IFC_277 527_2
3	Repairing of 05 cusec Kirloskar make pumping unit at LIS Magraypora 2nd of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.34	Rs. 680.00					2025_IFC_276 178_3
4	Mechanical works at Lift Irrigation scheme KP Payeen and Flood channel 2nd of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.424	Rs. 848.00					2025_IFC_277 527_4
5	Rewinding of 75HP, 3 phase induction motor at Lift Irrigation cum dewatering scheme Sedpow Ghat of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.557	Rs. 1114.00					2025_IFC_277 527_5
6	Repairs to 350mm dia. delivery pipe line at Lift irrigation scheme Sheerbugh of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.392	Rs. 784.00					2025_IFC_276 178_6
7	Repairing of 100 KVA HT transformer at Lift Irrigation scheme Chainabal of MISP Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.385	Rs. 770.00					2025_IFC_277 527_7
8	Rewinding of 40HP, 980rpm, 03 phase induction motor and other electrical work at Lift Irrigation scheme Flood channel 2nd of MISD Pattan.	Rs. 50.00	Rs. 0.351	Rs. 702.00					2025_IFC_277 527_8

The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 22-05-2025 (06:00 pm). The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 22-05-2025 (06:00 pm) to 28-05-2025 (6:55 pm). The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on the time and date, in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the scheduled time and venue. The complete bidding shall be online.

Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla on 29-05-2025 at 13:00 pm after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened on the same day. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.

DIPK-1756/25

Send Dated:-23/05/2025

Pub:- 24-05-25

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla



# Hindi teaching course exams for ministerial staff held successfully at NIT Srinagar

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 23: The Prabodh, Praveen, and Parangat course examinations under the Central Hindi Teaching Scheme were successfully conducted at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar. For the second consecutive year, NIT Srinagar was selected as the examination centre for the Kashmir division. The three-day exams were held on campus and saw enthusiastic participation from over 50 aspirants, including ministerial staff from NIT

Srinagar, the Central University of Kashmir, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), and the Accountant General (AG)'s office. The examinations were smoothly administered under the supervision of Assistant Registrar (S&P, T&P, Member of Rajbhasha Cell), Mohammad Iqbal Dar, who served as the superintendent. "It was an honour to host the Hindi teaching course exams for the second consecutive year at NIT Srinagar. We are grateful to the Ministry for selecting our institute once again for this



responsibility. We are proud to contribute to the promotion and implementation of the Rajbhasha language as part of the Government of India's linguistic initiatives," he said. Mr. Dar also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia and Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman for their unwavering support and guidance, which ensured the seamless conduct of the examinations. Hindi Officer Dr. R. P. Shukla (Asst. Prof. CED) said the active participation of ministerial staff in exams

reflects the institute's continued commitment to promoting the use of Hindi in official work. He appreciated the enthusiasm of the staff and encouraged more employees to take advantage of the scheme in the upcoming sessions. Hindi Anuvadak Dr. Sabzar Gani served as the supervisor and invigilator for the examination process. He was ably assisted by Mr. Naresh Kumar and Mr. Suhail Ahmad, who together ensured the administrative aspects were handled efficiently.

## DC Bandipora conducts extensive tour of Sumbal sub-division Reviews irrigation facilities; calls for efficient irrigation access

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, MAY 23: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Friday conducted an extensive tour of the Sumbal sub-division to assess the status of irrigation infrastructure ahead of the upcoming agricultural season. During the visit, DC inspected several irrigation canals and lift irrigation schemes across key areas including Pahalyari, Zajyari, Galibal, Hakabara, Paribal, Markundal, Wangipora Khurwan, Shadipora, Naribal Ganastan, Boon, Shahgund and other adjoining areas. Qadri interacted with the officials from the Irrigation & Flood Control department and Mechanical Irrigation division to understand ground-level challenges, identify existing issues, and discuss strategies for improving water management.



Reviewing the functionality of pump stations and distribution networks, DC emphasized regular monitoring and prompt grievance redressal, ensuring timely support to the farmers. Highlighting the critical role of irrigation in agricultural sustainability, DC urged officers to

ensure equitable access to irrigation facilities for all farmers to support their livelihoods and enhanced crop productivity. While reviewing the functionality of pump stations at Markundal, Paribal, and Ganastan, Qadri observed certain technical issues hindering opti-

mal performance and directed the concerned departments to immediately initiate repair and maintenance work to ensure uninterrupted irrigation to the agricultural fields. During the field visit, DC was accompanied by officers from the I&FC department, Mechanical Irrigation, and other concerned departments. Qadri interacted with the officials from the Irrigation & Flood Control department and Mechanical Irrigation division to understand ground-level challenges, identify existing issues, and discuss strategies for improving water management. Reviewing the functionality of pump stations and distribution networks, DC emphasized regular monitoring and prompt grievance redressal, ensuring timely support to the farmers. Highlighting the critical role of irrigation in agricultural sustainability,

## Mission Director HADP conducts day-long tour of Baramulla

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MAY 23: Sandeep Kumar, Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), today conducted an extensive tour of district Baramulla. He was accompanied by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Mohammad Alyas Khateeb; Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir, Dr. Parwinder Singh Sudan; Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah; Joint Director (ext), Project Coordinator Mushroom and officers and officials of agriculture and allied departments. During the visit Mission Director HADP inspected the Oil Extraction mill (with filter press) at Matipora, Integrated Mushroom Unit at Johama, Vegetable farmers field at Palhallan Pattan, DCTC public sector at Baramulla and other infrastructures created under HADP. While interacting with the officers and the beneficiaries, Mission Director highlighted that the HADP is a comprehensive programme focusing on various aspects of Agriculture Development including horticulture, Crop Production and Livestock Husbandry. He said



that HADP is a comprehensive initiative aimed at transforming the Agricultural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir including Kashmir division. He expressed keen interest in the functioning of different units and commended the department and the beneficiaries for their commendable efforts and emphasized the potential impact in such initiatives in boosting rural livelihood and strengthening the socio-economic status of the farming community. During the visit Director Agriculture Kashmir briefed the Mission Director regarding various farmer friendly initiatives under HADP and other farmer friendly schemes being taken up by the department for revival of the agriculture sector.

## Ayush holds Yoga, VHND & Anemia awareness camps at Shopian

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 23: On the directions of Director Ayush J&K, Dr. Nuzhat Bashir Shah, AYUSH Shopian today conducted a yoga session at Govt High School Trenz. A Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND) was also observed at Anganwadi Centre Borihalan by Ayush Health and Wellness Center Heerpora. During the VHND, various health services were provided to the local community including general health check-ups, awareness on maternal and child health, distribution of Ayush medicines and counselling on nutrition and hygiene. The session aimed at promoting preventive healthcare and spreading awareness about the benefits of Ayush-based wellness practices among the rural population. Also, free Anemia Mukht Bharat Camp was organized by AHWC Reshinagri at Ahmadiya Public School Reshinagri, where students and locals were screened for anemia, counselled and given Ayush-based dietary advice for anemia prevention and management.

## Awareness program on POSH Act held at South Campus of Kashmir University

ANANTNAG, MAY 23: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Anantnag conducted an awareness program on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (POSH Act) at Kashmir University South Campus. The keynote speaker for the event was Fozia Paul, Secretary DLSA. She discussed in detail the legal framework surrounding the POSH Act and highlighted the need for creating a safe and inclusive work environment. She also discussed the role of institutions in upholding the dignity and rights of individuals at the workplace. The event aimed to educate participants about the importance of constituting Internal Complaints Committees (POSH cells) on campuses, and the proper procedures for reporting and addressing complaints of workplace harassment. Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Mohammad Aleem served as the resource person and provided insights into working of free legal aid services under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Program witnessed active participation from students, faculty members, and administrative staff, reflecting the growing awareness and commitment to ensuring a harassment-free workplace. The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where participants clarified their doubts and shared their views on fostering a respectful work culture. Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Mohammad Aleem served as the resource person and provided insights into working of free legal aid services under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Program witnessed active participation from students, faculty members, and administrative staff, reflecting the growing awareness and commitment to ensuring a harassment-free workplace.

## Distt admin Kulgam organises day-long CBP on Holistic Development & Convergence DC Kulgam presides over the inaugural session

HT News Network

KULGAM, MAY 23: District Administration Kulgam today organized a day-long capacity building programme (CBP) focusing on holistic development and convergence, held at the new conference hall of the mini-secretariat Kulgam. The inaugural session of the programme was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan. Training programme aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to drive holistic development in Kulgam district. Programme featured multiple technical sessions and tabletop exercises centered around key themes including convergent planning, saturation approach, public-private partnership, role of PRIs, inclusion, digitization, and leveraging IT as a multiplier.



The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from district, block, and field-level officers representing various departments including Revenue, RDD, R&B, PHE, Social Welfare, Education, Health, Industries, KVIB, KVIC, ICDS, SWD, and YSS, among others. The inaugural session of the programme was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan.

Training programme aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to drive holistic development in Kulgam district. Programme featured multiple technical sessions and tabletop exercises centered around key themes including convergent planning, saturation approach, public-private partnership, role of PRIs, inclusion, digitization, and leveraging IT as a multiplier.

## Vikas Anand Appointed as Director Horticulture Kashmir, Receives Warm Felicitations from JKPICCA

MUSHTAQ ULISLAM

Pulwama : Shri Vikas Anand has been promoted as the Director Horticulture, Kashmir, earning widespread appreciation for his distinguished service and unwavering commitment to the horticulture sector. The Jammu and Kashmir Fruits and vegetables processing and Integrated Cold Chain Association (JKPICCA) has extended heartfelt congratulations on his well-deserved elevation. In a congratulatory message, Bashir Ahmad Naik, President of JKPICCA, lauded Shri Anand's dedication, visionary leadership, and deep-rooted knowledge in horticulture. "Your journey stands as a testament to the power of knowledge, integrity, and service to the farming community. This new role is a recognition of the impactful work you have consistently delivered," Naik stated. Highlighting Shri Anand's integrity and commitment, the JKPICCA president expressed confidence that under his leadership, the Horticulture Department will scale new heights. "We look forward to working together as a team and taking the sector to unprecedented growth," he added. The association wished Shri Vikas Anand continued success and many more milestones in his professional journey.



## DC Shopian conducts extensive visit of sub-division Zainapora

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 23: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta conducted an extensive tour of Zainapora on Friday to take firsthand appraisal of civic amenities, market regulation and ongoing developmental activities in the area. During the visit, DC carried out a thorough inspection of the Zainapora main market, interacting with shopkeepers, traders and the general public. The visit focused on monitoring the availability of essential commodities, quality control, adherence to government-notified price lists and sanitation standards in the market. On-spot directions were issued to the SDM Zainapora and concerned officers to maintain cleanliness and ensure strict compliance with market regulations to safeguard consumer interests. Later, DC visited a prominent high-den-



sity apple orchard at Wandina Zainapora where he reviewed the implementation of modern horticultural practices

under the high-density plantation scheme being promoted by the government to boost the region's apple production and

improve growers' income. While interacting with orchardists and field officers from the Horticulture Department, DC emphasized the importance of adopting scientific techniques, including integrated pest management, efficient irrigation systems and timely nutrient application. DC also visited Government Higher Secondary School, Zainapora and Indoor Stadium Zainapora and took stock of the educational and sports facilities being provided to the school children and stressed for providing best education to them. DC also took stock of grievances and demands projected by the locals, and directed the concerned departments to resolve genuine issues in a time-bound manner. DC was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, SDM, Zainapora, Ex. Engineer R&B and other concerned officers.





## SDRF 2nd Bn conducting Water Rescue Exercise at Jia Pota Ghat on May 24

■ M S Nazki

JAMMU, MAY 23: State Disaster Response Force 2nd Bn Jammu is going to conduct Water Rescue Exercise at Jia Pota Ghat River Chenab Akhnour on May 24 at 9 am.

The initiative aims to enhance water rescue skills of SDRF personnel to effectively tackle the situation in the event of flash floods during the rainy season. The exercise is being conducted under the command and control of Dy. SP (Trgs) Dinesh Gupta and assisted by Inspector Mohinder Parkash of SDRF 2nd Bn.

## 3-Day Women for trees campaign concludes

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 23: The three day 'Women for Trees' campaign, organized by Mission Directorate AMRUT and NULM J&K under AMRUT MITRA 2.0 concluded today.

During the campaign 523 women members of 76 SHGs formed under NULM visited 51 sites of water bodies and parks and planted trees. The organisers have set a target of planting around 2621 trees during June- to August 2025 under the aegis of Ek Ped Maa ke Naam.

The Mission Directors Vikas Sharma, Special Secretary to Government H&UDD/ MD AMRUT J&K and Mridhu Slathia Additional Secretary to Government H&UDD / MD NULM J&K pioneered the event under the esteemed leadership of Commissioner/ Secretary to Government, Housing & Urban Development Department Mandeep Kour. J&K Nodal Officers Parvaiz Naik, (CEO JUDA) and Zahida Mir, (CEO UDAK) put in all efforts for the success of the Mission mode Campaign with the marvelous support from Urban Local Bodies of Jammu & Kashmir, DUDAs, City Nodal Officers of NULM and AMRUT.

Er. Mavi Kapoor, Mission Manager coordinated the whole event for J&K.

## GDC Kathua Cadet Mohit Knathia scales Mount Everest

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, MAY 23: In a momentous achievement that has brought pride to the Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua and the 4 J&K NCC Battalion, Cadet Mohit Knathia has successfully scaled Mount Everest, the world's highest peak at 8,848.86 meters. He reached the summit on May 18, 2025, as a member of the prestigious National Cadet Corps (NCC) Everest Expedition 2025.

Cadet Knathia, representing GDC Kathua, was one of only ten cadets selected from across the nation through an intensive selection process. His remarkable endurance, commitment, and rigorous training earned him the distinction of being the sole representative from Jammu & Kashmir on this historic mission.

The expedition was officially flagged off by the Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh, on April 3, 2025. Prior to the ascent, the team underwent exhaustive training, including a preparatory climb of Mount Abi Gamin and a winter camp at the Siachen Base Camp, under the expert guidance of the Army Mountaineering Institute.

Braving extreme conditions and treacherous terrain, Cadet Mohit Knathia reached the summit and proudly unfurled the National Flag alongside the NCC Flag, embodying the spirit of courage, discipline, and patriotism. This marks the third successful Everest summit by an NCC team, following similar triumphs in 2013 and 2016.

The College Principal Prof. Seema Mir expressed immense pride in Mohit's accomplishment, stating, "Cadet Mohit Knathia has become a beacon of inspiration for youth of Jammu & Kashmir. His perseverance and spirit reflect the core values of the NCC and our institution." She also commended Lt. (Dr.) Daya Ram, Associate NCC Officer at GDC Kathua, for his unwavering guidance and mentorship that significantly contributed to this success. The college also extended sincere gratitude to Col. Kuldeep Kachroo and Subedar Shyam Chand, Training JCO of the 4 J&K NCC Battalion, for their instrumental role in shaping Cadet Mohit's journey through their intensive training and support.

## DECC organises one day Job fair at Udhampur

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MAY 23: District Employment & Counselling Centre organized a one-day job fair in its office premises here today.

Different companies viz M/S Shri Ram General Insurance, M/S Vijay Builders, M/S Pukhray Health Care, M/S Universal Somo General Insurance Co Ltd., M/S J&T International Pvt. Ltd, L.I.C, SBI Life M/S Rajshree Motors, Phone-Pe, M/S Kalka Ventures participated, offering a common platform to job seekers and job providers.

More than 300 unemployed youth from different corners of Udhampur participated in the job fair. Assistant Director Employment Priyanka Gupta impressed upon the youth to avail the opportunity of job fair & reap the benefit of MISSION YUVA self-employment scheme run by the Employment Department. The officials also carried out on the spot registration of unemployed youth on Mission YUVA App. Assistant Director Employment Priyanka Gupta impressed upon the youth to avail the opportunity of job fair & reap the benefits.

# District Level Committee reviews provision of civic amenities in Doda Hostels

## DC orders regular inspection, CCTV surveillance for safety of inmates

■ HT News Network

DODA, MAY 23: Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting of District Level Committee on Hostel Inspection here in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The meeting was convened to review the inspection and overall functioning of hostels across the District Doda, with a focus on ensuring effective management, safety, hygiene, and the welfare of students residing in these facilities, in alignment with government norms and expectations. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur; District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Qazi; District Education Planning Officer Anis Ahmed; Assistant Director FCS & CA, Accounts Officer SSP office, Food Safety Officer and wardens of G&B Hostel (Girls), G&B Hostel (Boys), Hostel GHSS Doda,



Parisha (Nari Niketan), and Palash (Bal Ashram). During the meeting, the DC emphasized the need for regular and surprise inspections of hostels to monitor food quality, sanitation standards, safety

protocols, and the overall living conditions of students. He directed the concerned officers to submit detailed inspection reports and take immediate corrective measures wherever necessary. Special

focus was laid on ensuring the psychological well-being of hostel residents and the availability of proper grievance redressal mechanisms.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed officers to coordinate closely with hostel wardens to streamline the supply of essential commodities, maintain infrastructure, and ensure timely health check-ups for inmates. He stressed that hostels should function as safe, supportive, and development-friendly environments for the children and youth of the district.

The DC reviewed the work rosters of all permanent and temporary hostel employees, as well as the accommodation facilities. He also reviewed staff positions in hostels across the district and issued necessary directions to utilise their services for the betterment of hostel inmates. He directed that routine medical check-ups for all hostel boys and girls be ensured.

## District JKRLM, SWD organise Gender Sensitization Workshop across 17 blocks of Doda

### Empowers Rural Women, SHGs through Awareness on Equity, Welfare Initiatives

■ HT News Network

DODA MAY 23: The Department of Rural Development (RDD), under the aegis of Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM), in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department organised a one-day gender sensitization workshop across all 17 Community Development (CD) Blocks of Doda district today.

The event was held under the guidance of District Social Welfare Officer, Tariq Parvez Qazi, with the support of field teams from Social Welfare, Mission Shakti, District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), and the One Stop Center.



The workshops aimed to enhance awareness among rural women and women Self-Help Group (SHG) members, especially those engaged under the UMEED initiative, about gender equity and social empowerment. Key objectives of the program included promoting understanding of gender beyond biological differences, challenging traditional roles and stereotypes, and fostering a more inclusive and respectful society. Special emphasis

was laid on breaking myths related to menstruation, early marriage, caregiving roles and domestic violence.

Interactive sessions were conducted by gender experts who educated participants about government schemes and welfare entitlements available for women in Jammu & Kashmir. They were acquainted with State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS), Tejaswini - Women Entrepreneurship Scheme, Prad-

han Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Women Helpline (181), Child Helpline (1098), Ladli Beti Scheme, Poshan Abhiyaan and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). The experts also encouraged women to take leadership roles within their communities and become agents of change.

As part of the awareness campaign, career guidance booklets were distributed under the banner of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative to promote girl child education and rights. The program served as a participatory platform for rural women to engage, learn, and become more informed citizens, thereby fostering a stronger and gender-equitable rural society.

## DDC Reasi reviews Maternal Health Services, Pushes for 100% institutional deliveries

■ HT News Network

REASI, MAY 23: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi, Nidhi Malik today reviewed the maternal and child healthcare services here at a meeting.

The meeting focused on the provisions in place for facilitating institutional deliveries and the management of potential high-risk pregnancies in the district.

The DDC emphasized the urgent need to eliminate home deliveries in the district and directed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to ensure that all pregnant women are motivated and counseled for institutional deliveries. She asked for bringing down high-risk pregnancies to minimum and making



special medical care arrangements for such cases.

The CMO was asked to submit detailed reports on the availability of ambulances at sub-centers and to identify locations where additional support is required. She also sought a list of priority works needed at these healthcare facilities to improve service delivery. The DDC asked for mobilizing the ASHA workers to work more proactively for tracking the pregnant wom-

en to ensure timely and safe institutional deliveries. She further directed that any cases of home delivery be documented with valid reasons and reviewed monthly. She added that strict action would be taken against individuals who misguide pregnant women and deter them from seeking institutional care.

The DDC also directed that any staff shortage at Primary Health Centers (PHCs) be addressed immediately through internal deputation. "All challenges must be resolved promptly, and healthcare delivery must be carried out with 100% commitment," she asserted.

The meeting was attended by CMO Dr. Ashraf Kohli, Deputy CMO Dr. Mohd Yousaf, BMOs, ZMOs, DPMU members, and other health officials.

## DC Ramban reviews Mela Mata Kheer Bhawani arrangements

■ HT News Network



RAMBAN, MAY 23: To ensure a smooth and spiritually enriching experience for devotees traveling through District Ramban to pay obeisance at Mela Mata Kheer Bhawani, Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, today chaired a detailed review meeting with officers of concerned departments.

Among those present in the meeting were Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; ACD Shrinath Suman; ACP Ashfaq Ahmed; Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineer PWD Ramban, and CEO Municipal Council Ramban and various senior officers.

Underscoring the importance of meticulous planning, the Deputy Commissioner directed officers to put in place robust arrangements at designated langar sites and other key locations. He emphasized the need to provide comprehensive facilities to pilgrims and ensure their comfort and safety throughout the Yatra.

The review covered key aspects including provision of sanitation, drinking water, electricity, food services (langars), toilets and parking at Langer sites. The DC instructed officials to ensure security arrangements are in place and to deploy fire tenders at critical points. Effective inter-departmental coordination during the Yatra was stressed.

The Health Department was directed to deploy skilled medical teams and keep ambulances on standby at important locations to deal with any medical emergencies. Officers briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the ongoing preparations, g, and positive learning environment for all students.

The Health Department was directed to deploy skilled medical teams and keep ambulances on standby at important locations to deal with any medical emergencies. Officers briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the ongoing preparations, g, and positive learning environment for all students.

# DLSA Ramban launches orientation on NALSA's 'SAATHI' Campaign to support destitute children

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, MAY 23: The District Legal Services Authority Ramban today organized an 'Orientation cum Introduction' session on the newly launched National Legal Services Authority's national campaign SAATHI to provide legal identity and access to social welfare for destitute children.

The campaign aims to bridge the gap in accessing essential government benefits, education, and healthcare for children who lack Aadhaar cards.

The session was aimed to explore the possibilities for effective collaboration of the district judiciary with the stakeholder departments of the district administration to identify and assist the destitute children which are defined in the scheme as: Chil-



dren under the age of 18 who are without family support, guardianship, or a stable source of shelter, protection, and care—including but not limited to children living on streets, in slums, or railway stations, orphans living/not living in child care institutions, abandoned children or those res-

cued from trafficking, begging, child labor, children residing in informal shelters or unregistered child care homes Missing children recovered and not restored to family.

The session was held under the guidance of DLSA Secretary Priyanka Mahajan, who

also serves as the Chairperson of the SAA-THI district committee. The orientation session was attended by a number of officers/officials of the district administration including Tehsildars of all tehsils, Chief Medical Officer, Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers etc.

The program was also attended by the representatives of the district women and child development unit and Child Care Institutions.

In her address, the Secretary highlighted the importance and significance of this campaign which is primarily aimed at providing legal identity and facilitates social welfare access to destitute children. Many such children, living on streets or in care homes, lack Aadhaar — a crucial gateway to availing government benefits, education, healthcare, and protection under various child welfare laws.





# DC Rajouri conducts Surprise inspection of Urban Health Training Centre, Tehsil Office Stresses on Service-Oriented Governance

HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 23: To strengthen public services delivery and reinforce accountability in the district administration, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today conducted surprise inspections of the Urban Health Training Centre located at Town Hall and the Tehsil Office. During his visit to the Urban Health Training Centre, the Deputy Commissioner took a comprehensive review of the functioning of the facility and assessed the quality of services being provided to the public. Expressing concern over punctuality and the standard of service delivery, he directed the staff to maintain strict discipline and ensure that patients receive timely and quality healthcare. Emphasizing the need to bolster healthcare services at the grassroots level, he stated, "We are here to serve the people. Every official must remember that our



prime responsibility is to ensure public welfare through responsive and transparent administration." As an immediate impact of the visit, two

intern doctors were deployed at the Urban Health Training Centre on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner to strengthen the healthcare delivery mechanism

and ensure adequate medical support for visiting patients. Later in the day, the Deputy Commissioner also visited the Tehsil Office Rajouri to assess the functioning of various sections. Interacting with the officials, he underscored the importance of dedication, efficiency, and the timely redressal of public grievances. He urged the staff to adopt a proactive approach and work with sincerity and commitment. As an immediate impact of the visit, two intern doctors were deployed at the Urban Health Training Centre on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner to strengthen the healthcare delivery mechanism and ensure adequate medical support for visiting patients. Later in the day, the Deputy Commissioner also visited the Tehsil Office Rajouri to assess the functioning of various sections. Interacting with the officials, he underscored the importance of dedication, efficiency,

## BJP Minority Morcha J&K UT Organizes Grand Tiranga Rally at B.K. Pora, Chadoora Nawgam

HT News Network

Srinagar :-In a vibrant display of patriotism and national pride, the BJP Minority Morcha, Jammu & Kashmir UT organized a grand Tiranga Rally at B.K. Pora, Chadoora Nawgam, Budgam today. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from party workers, supporters, and local residents who came together to celebrate the spirit of unity and integrity under the Indian Tricolour. The rally was led by UT President BJP Minority Morcha J&K, Sh. Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, along with UT General Secretary Sh. Bhat Imtiyaz and UT Spokesman Sh. Fareed Ahmad Fani, who addressed the gathering and reiterated the BJP's commitment to national integration, communal harmony.

## DG Floriculture, Parks & Gardens visits Reasi District Inspects Shalimar Park upgradation project at Katra, other works

HT News Network

REASI, MAY 23: Director General, Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Jammu Vivek Sharma conducted an official visit to Reasi District today. During the visit, the Director General inspected the ongoing departmental works, with a special focus on the upgradation project of Shalimar Park, Katra. She directed the executing agencies to ensure high-quality standards in all developmental works. Ms. Sharma also visited



Kindroria Park (Katra), Zanana Park (Reasi), and Kalika Temple Park (Reasi). At each location, she emphasized the importance of cleanliness and proper

maintenance of the parks and gardens in the district. Furthermore, the Director General asked the department to plan a comprehensive plantation drive for

monsoon season and formulate a plan for the mechanisation of park maintenance operations. She was accompanied by Joint Director (Planning) Gurmeet Kaur, Landscape Officer Vikrant Sharma, Assistant Floriculture Officer Arjun Singh Parihar, engineers from the PWD Department, and Section Officer. Sudhir Sharma. She was accompanied by Joint Director (Planning) Gurmeet Kaur, Landscape Officer Vikrant Sharma, Assistant Floriculture Officer Arjun Singh Parihar.

## Director RDD reviews progress of Rural Development works, schemes in Poonch '97% PMAY-(G)-AwassPlus houses completed in Border District'

HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 23: Director Rural Development Department Jammu Mohammad Mumtaz Ali convened a review meeting to assess the status and implementation of the RDD schemes in Poonch during his tour to the border District. The meeting was attended by Block Development Officers and functionaries of Rural Engineering Wing. The meeting was informed that 97% PMAY-(G)/AwassPlus houses have been completed and work on remaining is in progress. It was further informed that only 17 cases are pending for first installment for which directions were issued to obtain the relevant documents and resolve the issue, if any, within a week's time to dispose of the cases. Instructions were issued for preparation of Annual Action Plan under UT Capex after ascertaining the feasibility / estimation of each work

strictly as per the instructions passed by the higher authorities and submit the same by May 24- 2025 (Saturday) positively. Assistant Commissioner Panchayat and the Block Development Officers of the District were directed to submit the physical and financial status and other details of incomplete Panchayat Ghars, taken up under the schemes other than Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), so that further action is taken in the matter. They were further directed to resolve land disputes and other related issues pertaining to the construction of Panchayat Ghars under RGSA. The Director also inspected a number of completed/ongoing developmental works in Poonch, Mankote Mendhar and Balakote Blocks which includes Panchayat Ghars, Amrit Sarovars, CSCs, Multipurpose halls, works related to connectivity etc and directed the field staff to monitor the quality.

## Army, local admin organise medical camp at Village Dhanna Dhanu- Chowki Chaura

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 23: A medical camp was organised today at Village Dhanna Dhanu in Block- Chowki Chaura, Akhnour jointly by Indian Army, specifically, Chenab Rangers and the local Sub Divisional Administration. The camp was inaugurated in the presence of SDM Ankush Hans, Tehsildar Pramod Kumar, Panchayat Secretary Dhanna Jalara, Mandeep Chib, ex-Panchs and Lambardars of nearby villages and spirited local villagers. The aim of the medical camp was to provide health care facilities to people residing in far flung villages of the hilly parts of Akhnour Sub District. A joint Medical team of Indian Army and Government Hospital, Chowki Chaura comprising 4 doctors including a lady doctor and one pharmacist and four nursing assistants extended their ser-



vices for betterment of the local population. Apart from the medical consultation, free life-saving medicines were also provided to the patients at the camp. The camp received an overwhelming response from the nearby local villages to include senior citizens, ladies and children who benefited from the medical camp.

## DIPR Cultural Unit conducts 'Say No to Drugs' campaign at GGHS Agore

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 23: The Cultural Unit of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu today conducted a Cultural Awareness Programme titled 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' (Say

No to Drugs) at Govt. Girls High School Agore, Jammu. The initiative aimed to raise awareness concerning the negative effects of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free community. Artists from the Cultural Unit, Jammu

enthralled the audience with thematic songs, successfully showcasing the effects of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society in general. The event was attended by both school staff and students. The School Headmas-

ter Prem Chand shared his thoughts on the topic, emphasizing its importance to the audience. He praised the Department of Information and Public Relations for arranging such a significant programme aimed at raising

awareness. The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu, Mr. Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer, Mr. Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

## Mega Rally Held in Madwan Hajin, Bandipora

HT News Network

Handwara :-Today, a grand Tiranga Rally was held in Madwan Hajin, District Bandipora, under the dynamic leadership of Shri Arif Raja ji, Prabhari and Incharge Bandipora, along with Shri Mudasar Farooq Jan, BJP District President Bandipora. A large number of BJP karyakartas and nationalists participated with great enthusiasm to honour our brave soldiers on the successful completion of Operation Sindoor. The rally served as a powerful expression of patriotism and gratitude towards the Indian Armed Forces, highlighting the unwavering support of the people for national security and unity.

## IUST Celebrates International Biodiversity Day

HT News Network

Awantipora, May 22: The Mantaqi Centre for Science & Society (MCSS), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with Mantaqi Memorial Higher Secondary School, celebrated International Biodiversity Day to promote environmental awareness and inspire collective responsibility for biodiversity conservation. The program commenced with a plantation drive on the university campus, followed by an engaging session at Mantaqi Memorial Higher Secondary School, where Mr. Manzoor Javaid—popularly known as the "Herbal Man of Kashmir" conducted an engaging session on the importance of preserving biodiversity and reconnecting with nature. He also conducted a live demonstration on the medicinal properties of the local herb Ziziphous. A quiz competition aimed at enhancing awareness and interest in environmental issues was also organised as part of the program. The event was sponsored by Al-Qasim Business Group, Awantipora, and SJT Biotech Innovations Pvt. Ltd., Anantnag.

## IUST Hosts Capacity Building Program on Media Outreach and NEP Implementation

HT News Network

Awantipora, May 23: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) today organized a comprehensive Capacity Building Program focused on Media Outreach and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, with a special emphasis on the National Credit Framework (NCrF). The program was attended by all heads of departments, university officers, deans, directors, and coordinators of various centers at IUST. The Media Outreach sessions organized by the Public Relations and Media Centre IUST highlighted the pivotal role of media—both mainstream and social—in promoting education, with particular attention to enhancing outreach in rural and underserved areas. Discussions emphasized the strategic use of media platforms to raise awareness, improve access to educational resources, and build institutional visibility. A special session was delivered by Prof. A.H. Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, who provided a detailed overview of the National Credit Framework. He underscored the importance of implementing NCrF across different educational levels to foster flexibility, multidisciplinary learning, and academic mobility in line with the NEP 2020 vision.

## Politics Over Patriotism and Nation's Unity Won't Be Tolerated: NC to BJP

HT News Network

JAMMU, May 23: Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), today accused the BJP of using Operation Sindoor for political mileage and dividing people on communal lines to serve their vested interests. In a press statement issued here today, the senior NC leader strongly criticised the irrelevant unwarranted and misleading statement made by BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma to distort facts and malign the National Conference's unmatched legacy of standing by the nation and the people of Jammu and Kashmir in times of crisis.

## Labour Commissioner cancels registration of 447 Trade Unions for non-compliance

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 23: In a significant administrative development aimed at reinforcing compliance with statutory labour laws, Labour Commissioner and Registrar of Trade Unions of Jammu & Kashmir, Charandeep Singh, has ordered cancellation of registration for 447 trade unions and associations across the Union Territory. This action has been taken

following their persistent failure to submit mandatory annual returns as prescribed under the Trade Unions Act, 1926. Under Section 28 of the Act, every registered trade union must file an audited annual statement detailing its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities. Despite repeated notices and availability of a streamlined digital submission system introduced under the UT's "Ease of Doing Business" reforms, these unions failed

to comply with some having remained inactive for more than a decade. "This action has been taken under Section 10(b) of the Trade Unions Act, after due process and sufficient notice," stated Charandeep Singh. "Non-filing of annual returns constitutes a serious statutory breach and is indicative of either prolonged inactivity or cessation of operations. We are committed to ensuring that only active and accountable unions continue to be

recognized in Jammu & Kashmir." This landmark decision is a step towards establishing a robust and responsible framework for trade unionism that genuinely safeguards the interests of workers and enhances the credibility of organised labour representation. These cancellations are subject to the outcome of any pending writ petitions before the competent courts of law.

## DCDRC B'la directs HDFC Bank to compensate customer for deficiency in service

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MAY 23: District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDRC) Baramulla/ Bandipora has directed HDFC Bank, Baramulla Branch, to compensate a local resident after the bank failed to honour two cash certificates issued in his name. The complainant, Habibullah Sheikh of Dewan Bagh, had invested a total of Rs 6.35 lakh in the form of two cash certificates issued by the bank in 2022

and 2024. Upon maturity, when Sheikh approached the bank for encashment, he was informed that no such records existed. The bank later suggested that the certificates may have been fraudulently issued by an employee who is currently under suspension. After reviewing the case and evidence, the Commission comprising President Peerzada Qousar Hussain and Member Nyla Yaseen observed that the cash certificates in question bore the official seal and signature of the bank. The Commis-

sion held the bank vicariously liable for the actions of its employee and stated that institutions cannot disown responsibility for documents that appear genuine and carry their endorsement. In its final order, the Commission directed the bank to pay the matured amounts of both certificates along with applicable interest. Additionally, the bank has been ordered to pay Rs 50,000 as compensation for mental agony, Rs 20,000 towards litigation expenses, and Rs 10,000 to the Consumer Welfare Fund.





## US: Trump administration bars Harvard from taking foreign students

UNI  
WASHINGTON, MAY 23

The US administration of President Donald Trump has barred the iconic Harvard University from enrolling international students, after the elite institution turned down the regime's instruction to hand over the conduct report of its foreign students sought by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

"Harvard can no longer enrol foreign students and existing foreign students must transfer or lose their legal status," the US Department of Homeland Security said in a statement, CNN reported.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem ordered her department to terminate Harvard's Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) certification, citing the university's refusal to turn over the conduct records of foreign students requested by the DHS last month.

The decision could impact more than a quarter of Harvard's heavily international student body, whose future has become uncertain after the ba. Professors apprehend a mass exodus of foreign students could impact the academic prestige of the institution which has taken on the administration to protect its ideological autonomy.

"Enrolling foreign students is a privilege, not a right" the White House said, charging the Harvard leadership with turning "their once-great institution into a hot-bed of anti-American, anti-Semitic, pro-terrorist agitators."

"They have repeatedly failed to take action to address the widespread problems negatively impacting American students and now they must face the consequences of their actions," White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said in a statement to CNN.

## Russia downs 112 Ukrainian drones overnight

UNI  
MOSCOW, MAY 23

Russia's air defenses shot down 112 Ukrainian drones overnight, including 24 over the Moscow region, the defense ministry said on Friday.

"Starting from 8 p.m. Moscow time (1700 GMT) on May 22, on-duty air defenses intercepted and destroyed 112 Ukrainian fixed-wing drones over Russian regions," the Defense Ministry said.

Those drones included 24 shot down over the Moscow region, 22 over Crimea, 18 over Tula, and 11 over Kursk, according to the ministry.

In Yelets, a city in the Lipetsk region, drone debris fell in an industrial area, causing a fire. Eight people were injured as a result, the regional governor said.

## China condemns shooting of Israeli embassy staff in Washington - FM

UNI  
BEIJING, MAY 23

China strongly condemns the violent attack that killed two Israeli embassy staffers in Washington, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said on Friday.

"We have noted relevant information. China condemns any acts of violence. We believe the safety of diplomats must be effectively protected," Mao told a briefing.

On Wednesday night, two Israeli Embassy staff members, Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim, were shot dead by a gunman at the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington. The suspected shooter, identified as 30-year-old Elias Rodriguez, was arrested, he was said to have shouted a pro-Palestinian slogan during the arrest.

Israel launched a new offensive in the Gaza Strip last week as part of Operation Gideon's Chariots, which it claims will finally defeat Hamas. The escalation of hostilities is taking place in parallel with mediated negotiations in Qatar on a truce and a deal to release Israeli hostages.

## Bangladesh: Muhammad Yunus considers resignation amid political deadlock

UNI  
DHAKA, MAY 23

Bangladesh's interim government chief, Professor Muhammad Yunus is reportedly on the verge of stepping down, as frustration and disillusionment deepens within Bangladesh's public, political groups, and his own interim government regarding his ability to govern the country.

According to Business Standard BD, witnesses present at key meetings this week revealed that Yunus has expressed serious doubts about remaining in office, citing growing political obstruction, lack of cooperation from major parties, and intensifying public unrest. During a lengthy and informal session with his advisory council, Yunus questioned the point of continuing in his role if he could not govern effectively.

"What is the point of being the Chief Advisor if I cannot function properly?" he reportedly asked, expressing frustration over being "held hostage" by relentless demonstrations and political infighting. A draft of a resignation speech was reportedly discussed, though no final decision was made.

# PM inaugurates NE Investors Summit, says govt has 'zero tolerance policy' against terrorism, Naxalism

UNI  
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday his government has a policy of "zero tolerance" against terrorism or unrest by Maoist elements.

"Be it terrorism or Maoist elements spreading unrest, our government follows a policy of zero tolerance," the Prime Minister said while inaugurating the two-day North-east Rising Summit here on Friday.

Reaffirming that peace and law and order are the most crucial factors for any region's development, PM Modi said the Northeast was once associated with blockades and conflict, which severely impacted opportunities for its youth. The government's consistent efforts towards peace agreements had resulted in more than 10,000 young individuals abandoning arms to embrace peace during the past ten-eleven years.

This shift had unlocked new employment and entrepreneurial opportunities within the region, he said and added that the MUDRA scheme had provided thousands of crores in financial support to lakhs of youth in the Northeast. The rise of education institutes had helped

young individuals develop skills for the future.

Describing the youth of the Northeast as not just internet users but emerging digital innovators, he said advancements like over 13,000 km of optical fiber expansion, 4G and 5G coverage, and growing opportunities in the technology sector had encouraged young entrepreneurs to launch major startups within the region, reinforcing the Northeast's role as India's digital gateway.

The two-day Summit will highlight India's North-eastern region as a land of opportunity to attract global and domestic investment there.

It will focus on tourism, agro-food processing, textiles, information technology, infrastructure, energy, entertainment and sports. It will include ministerial sessions, Business-to-Government sessions, Business-to-Business meetings, startups and policy initiatives by the state governments and central Ministries for investment promotion.

Describing the event as a "celebration of investment in the Northeast", he said Rising Northeast is "more than just an investors' summit—it is a movement and a call to action". The Prime Minister said the region is becoming a



key destination for sectors like energy and semiconductors and is witnessing unprecedented progress. The government is determined to accelerate its growth story.

Northeast is a complete package for tourism, he said and added that the region is a perfect destination for its nature and organic life-style. Whether concerts, global conferences or destination weddings, Northeast is a perfect destination.

There was a time when the Northeast was merely called a Frontier Region. Today, it is emerging as the Front-Runner of Growth, he said, adding that his government went forward from 'Look East' to the 'mantra of Act East'. "The government's effort has been to make the 'Heal in India mantra' a global mantra."

"For us, EAST means - Empower, Act, Strengthen and Transform. This is

the government's policy for Eastern India," the PM said. Pointing out that the Northeast is "the most diverse region of our diverse nation", he said that this diversity is its big strength.

Emphasising the critical role of Eastern India in achieving a Viksit Bharat, the Prime Minister underscored the Northeast as its most vital component. "For us, EAST is not just a direction but a vision—Empower, Act, Strengthen, and Transform—which defines the policy framework for the region", he stated, highlighting that this approach has placed Eastern India, particularly the Northeast, at the center stage of India's growth trajectory.

He said the government's engagement with the region goes beyond policy measures, fostering a heartfelt connection with its people. "While the Northeast was once

## Sindoor is combination of Modi's resolve, military might and precise intelligence: Shah

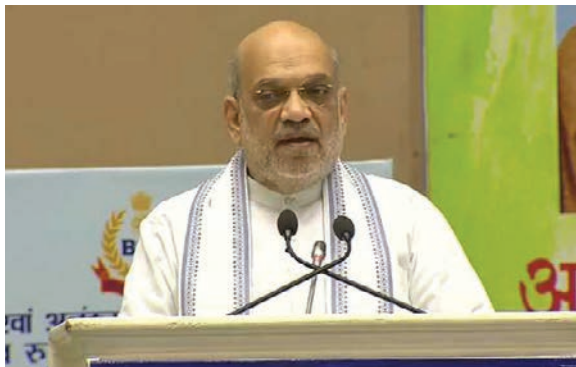
UNI  
NEW DELHI, MAY 23

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said Operation Sindoor is the result of a powerful combination of Prime Minister Modi's strong political resolve, formidable capabilities of the armed forces, and precise intelligence provided by the agencies.

Speaking at the BSF Investiture Ceremony and Rustamji Memorial Lecture here, the Home Minister said Operation Sindoor had exposed Pakistan's continued support for terrorism.

Referring to the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, the Home Minister said, "The attack crossed all limits. Innocent tourists were brutally killed by terrorists after being asked about their religion, right in front of their families."

He emphasised, "In Operation Sindoor, we only destroyed the terrorist



bases but Pakistan considered the attack on terrorists as an attack on itself. This only showed that Pakistan supports terrorism".

Praising the bravery of the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Indian Army, Shah said, "The world has witnessed the unmatched courage displayed by our forces during Operation Sindoor."

Highlighting BSF's long history of valour, Shah recalled its significant role in the 1971 war and the creation of Bangladesh. "The

BSF has always been the first line of defence, fulfilling its duty under the harshest conditions. The nation will never forget its sacrifices," he stated.

On the occasion, the Home Minister also honoured the personnel with gallantry awards.

Also present at the event were Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, BSF Director General Daljit Singh Chawdhary, Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Kumar Deka, and other senior officials.

## Negi death probe

# Himachal HC orders CBI probe after DGP revelations

UNI  
SHIMLA, MAY 21

In a development that has sent shockwaves across Himachal Pradesh's administrative and police corridors, the High Court on Friday ordered a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the mysterious death of Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited's Chief Engineer and General Manager Vimal Negi.

The court delivered its order after accepting the writ petition filed by Negi's wife, Kiran Negi, highlighting a possible cover-up by the state police.

A single bench of Justice Ajay Mohan Goel, while delivering the verdict in open court, expressed deep concern over the manner in which the investigation was handled by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) led by Shimla SP Sanjeev Gandhi.

The court noted that the status report filed by the police indicated serious lapses and that the doubts raised by the deceased's family had substantial merit warranting a CBI investigation.

The court further ordered that no officer from the state cadre be associated with the CBI probe to ensure an impartial investigation.

The verdict came following nearly three hours of heated arguments on May 21 between advocate general Anoop Rattan and former advocate general RK Bawa, who represented the deceased's family.

What emerged in court was damning: the Director General of Police (DGP) Atul Verma, due to retire by the end of this month, submitted a detailed report that pointed to an alleged systematic attempt to derail the investigation



and shield powerful figures.

According to Verma's report, SP Shimla actively obstructed the investigation. He instructed SIT officers not to share any records with the DGP and even prevented the Director of the Forensic Department from forwarding forensic reports.

In a particularly disturbing revelation, the report stated that a pen drive recovered from Negi's body on March 18 by ASI Pankaj was found to have been formatted three days later. Forensic recovery later revealed the pen drive contained sensitive information on two HPPCL projects – Kadcham and Pekhabela – possibly indicating financial irregularities to the tune of Rs 12.70 crore.

Chats recovered from the phones of the officers involved in retrieving the body allegedly show a conversation on March 20 discussing the replacement of the pen drive. The DGP also flagged that the call data records (CDRs) of the officers concerned were never submitted, despite repeated instructions.

Additionally, Inspector Manoj, who seized a fisherman's phone containing footage of ASI Pankaj discussing the pen drive, went on sudden leave when media reports about the pen drive surfaced.

These revelations have drawn comparisons with the infamous 2017 Gudiya rape and murder case, which similarly involved

crore has been invested in the Northeast's education sector. Underscoring the government's commitment to facilitating the establishment of food processing units in the Northeast, the Prime Minister said while enhanced connectivity is already supporting this initiative, additional efforts were being made to develop mega food parks, expand cold storage networks and provide testing lab facilities.

He highlighted the launch of the Oil Palm Mission, recognising the Northeast's soil and climate as highly suitable for palm oil cultivation.

He noted that beyond investment opportunities in plants and infrastructure, there is significant potential in manufacturing, including solar modules, cells, storage solutions, and research.

On the growing role of Assam in strengthening India's semiconductor ecosystem, he said the first Made in India chip from a Northeast-based semiconductor plant would soon be introduced, signalling a major milestone for the region. This development is unlocking opportunities for cutting-edge technology and solidifying the Northeast's position in India's high-tech industrial growth.



## No difference in how autistic and non-autistic people communicate: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

A new study on Wednesday said that there is no significant difference in the effectiveness of how autistic and non-autistic people communicate, thus challenging the stereotype that autistic people struggle to connect with others.

Social difficulties often faced by autistic people are more about differences in how autistic and non-autistic people communicate, rather than a lack of social ability in autistic individuals.

Autism is a lifelong neurodivergence and disability, and influences how people experience and interact with the world.

The study, led by experts from the University of Edinburgh and published in Nature Human Behaviour, tested how effectively information was passed between 311



autistic and non-autistic people.

Participants were tested in groups where everyone was autistic, everyone was non-autistic, or a combination of both. The first person in the group heard a story from the researcher, then passed it along to the next person. Each person had to remember and repeat the story, and the last person in the chain recalled the story aloud.

According to the study, the amount of information passed on at each point in the chain was scored to discern how effective participants were at sharing the story. Researchers found there were no differences between autistic, non-autistic, and mixed groups.

Researchers found that non-autistic people preferred interacting with others like themselves,

and autistic people preferred learning from fellow autistic individuals. This is likely down to the different ways that autistic and non-autistic people communicate, experts say.

Dr Catherine Crompton, Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences, said "Autism has often been associated with social impairments, both colloquially and in clinical criteria. Researchers have spent a lot of time trying to 'fix' autistic communication, but this study shows that despite autistic and non-autistic people communicating differently, it is just as successful".

With opportunities for autistic people often limited by misconceptions and misunderstandings, this new research could lead the way to bridging the communication gap and create more inclusive spaces for all, Crompton added.

## India's bioeconomy aims to reach \$300 billion by 2030: Dr Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

India's bioeconomy has seen an exponential rise under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi government -- from \$10 billion in 2014 to \$165.7 billion in 2024 -- and aims to reach \$300 billion by 2030, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday.

India is at the right time and in the right place, with a highly enabling political ecosystem to lead the next global biotechnology revolution, he said while addressing the "International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology's (ICGEB) board meeting of governors here. Dr Singh described India as the emerging global biotech destination and said that this is the most appropriate venue for such deliberations at a time when India has much to contribute to the world community.



On the occasion, the minister dedicated India's first-of-its-kind public funded DST-ICGEB 'Bio-foundry'. ICGEB has 69 member countries and plays a key role in biotechnology-led sustainable global development through research, training, and technology transfer.

Dr Singh highlighted India's remarkable progress in the biotechnology

sector. He noted that India now ranks 12th globally in biotechnology and holds the third position in the Asia-Pacific region. The country has emerged as the largest vaccine producer in the world and is home to the third largest startup ecosystem globally.

A testament to this growth is the exponential rise in biotech startups, which have surged from

just 50 in 2014 to over 10,000 in 2024.

Recalling the success of Mission COVID Suraksha, Dr Singh noted the development of the world's first DNA-based vaccine. He proudly stated that India gifted these vaccines to the world under the Vaccine Maitri initiative, showcasing its commitment to global health equity.

Dr Singh also mentioned the development of India's 1st indigenous generation antibiotic for monotherapy in bacterial pneumonia Nafthromycin, backed in part by DBT-BIRAC. He also cited the creation of diagnostic kits for Dengue and HIV.

Emphasising the national importance of biomanufacturing, he lauded the BioE3 Policy, approved by the Union Cabinet in August 2024, as a game-changing step to build a resilient ecosystem for bio-based products and promote high-performance biomanufacturing.

## 'Inclusive India Summit' to promote digital accessibility for persons with disabilities

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) is slated to organise the 'Inclusive India Summit' on the occasion of Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) on May 15, it was announced on Wednesday.

The 'Inclusive India Summit' is not only an initiative to bring inclusivity to the forefront but also a significant step toward making the digital world accessible to all.

GAAD is dedicated to raising awareness around digital access and inclusion for persons with disabilities across the globe. This day is observed annually on the third Thursday of May.

During the event, 'Mission Accessibility' will release its annual Accessibility Report Card, which presents the current status of accessibility across the country. Additionally, an



AI-enabled chatbot will be announced to assist with departmental schemes.

The event is being conducted in partnership with SBI Foundation and the National Association for the Blind (NAB), New Delhi, besides collaboration with the Association of People with Disability (APD) and Mission Accessibility (Dhananjay Sanjogta Foundation), the Ministry of Social Justice and

Empowerment said in a statement.

"The objective is to promote inclusive development and digital accessibility in the country, while strengthening collaboration between the government, industry, academia, civil society, and the Divyang community to ensure equal opportunities and accessible environments for persons with disabilities," said the ministry.

Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, DEPwD, would preside over the event as the Chief Guest. A key highlight of the summit will be a panel discussion on digital accessibility, where experts will discuss practical measures to make technologies and products more inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities.

On this occasion, DEPwD will sign Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with several organisations including I for Humanity Foundation, Nipman Foundation, Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC), and RampMyCity Foundation.

The event will also feature the presentation of a draft curriculum aimed at integrating digital accessibility guidelines into computer science and design courses. This curriculum has been developed through a national consultative process led by APD, according to the ministry.

## Study claims online plant-based diet programme can help manage diabetes

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

A structured online nutrition programme may address India's diabetes epidemic by removing key barriers to dietary adherence, according to a study, led by an Indian-origin researcher.

The study, led by the US-based Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), showed that participants who followed a physician-led, plant-based nutrition programme experienced measurable improvements in health. This included reduced medication use, body weight, blood sugar, and cholesterol levels.

The findings offer potential insights for India, where diabetes currently affects more than 101 million adults, with an additional 136 million in the prediabetes stage, said the team in the paper, published in the American Journal of Lifestyle Medi-



cine. "India's diabetes crisis requires solutions that work within our healthcare realities," said lead author Dr. Vanita Rahman, internal medicine physician with PCRM.

"While we've long known that dietary changes can effectively manage diabetes, implementation has been challenging due

to limited consultation time, inconsistent follow-up, and accessibility barriers -- particularly in tier-2 and tier-3 cities," Rahman added. Buy vitamins and supplements

The study addressed common challenges Indian patients face when attempting lifestyle modifications such as accessibility; structured support;

practical implementation; and consistent follow-up.

The 12-week programme enrolled 76 adults with type 2 diabetes. Among the 58 participants who completed the programme 22 per cent of participants reduced diabetes medication dosages; average weight decreased by 3.7 kilograms (approximately 8 pounds); HbA1C (a measure of blood sugar control) decreased by 0.6 per cent.

Further, the total and LDL cholesterol levels decreased by 15 and 12 mg/dL, respectively, among participants not taking lipid-lowering medications. "These results are especially relevant in the Indian context, where vegetarian and plant-forward dietary habits are already part of cultural norms. With simple adaptations to lower fat content and focus on whole foods, these interventions can be easily incorporated within Indian households," Rahman said.

## India pharma market sees 7.4 pc growth in April over surge in chronic therapies

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Indian pharma market (IPM) has seen a 7.4 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in April due to a surge in chronic therapies, according to a report.

The monthly report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services showed that the IPM's growth in April 2024 was 9 per cent. In March 2025 it was 9.3 per cent.

The growth was driven by strong outperformance in cardiac, central Nervous System (CNS), and respiratory therapies.

Notably, respiratory therapies saw a revival in YoY growth in April. Acute therapy growth stood at 6 per cent in April (vs. 6 per cent in April 2024 and 8 per cent in March 2025) owing to seasonality.

IPM growth was also led by price (4.3 per cent), new launches (2.3 per cent), and volume growth (1.3 per cent).

Further, the report said



that therapies like cardiac (11.3 per cent), gastro (9.4 per cent), antineoplast -- also known as anticancer drugs or chemotherapy drugs -- (12.6 per cent), and urology (13.1 per cent) lead YoY growth on a moving annual turnover (MAT) basis. On the MAT basis, the industry reported 7.9 per cent growth YoY.

Chronic therapies witnessed 9 per cent YoY growth, while acute therapies displayed 6 per cent YoY growth in April. The

acute segment's share in overall IPM stood at 61 per cent for MAT April, with YoY growth of 7.9 per cent.

The report noted that domestic companies outperformed multinationals in April. As of April, Indian pharma companies hold a majority share of 83 per cent in IPM, while the remaining is held by multinational pharma companies (MNCs). In March, Indian companies grew 7.4 per cent, while MNCs grew 7.4 per cent YoY.

Similarly, a recent report, by rating agency India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), showed that IPM continued its growth in April with 7.8 per cent YoY in revenue.

The report 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.

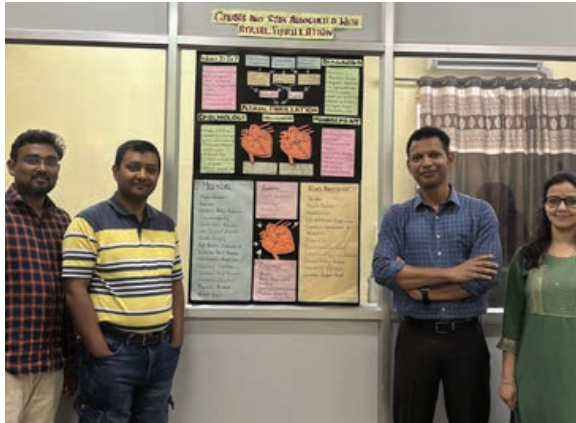
## NIT Rourkela's new ECG lead system to boost diagnosis of abnormal heart rhythms

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Researchers at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela have developed an effective upgrade to Electrocardiography (ECG) to identify abnormal heart rhythms that can lead to serious conditions such as atrial fibrillation which can further lead to stroke.

ECG is one of the most commonly used techniques to monitor heart activity.

The novel lead placement system called the Atrial Lead System (ALS) helps in easily detecting subtle electrical signals from the upper chambers of the heart, which are often too indistinct to be seen clearly in regular ECGs. These signals play a key role in identifying abnormal heart rhythms -- responsible for a large number of cardiac-related deaths around the world. Irregular heart rhythms



in the heart's upper chambers, known as atrial arrhythmias, are among the most common, especially in patients who have been hospitalised. Identifying these arrhythmias in the early stages can help doctors begin timely treatment and prevent complications.

An ECG records the electrical activity of the heart using electrodes placed on the body. In an ECG, doctors check the 'P-wave', which reflects the electrical activity in

the upper chambers of the heart. However, P-waves are often small and easily lost in background noise making it difficult to detect atrial arrhythmias.

The ALS uses a modified arrangement to improve how electrical activity from the atria is recorded. By strengthening these signals, especially the P-wave, the system helps improve the accuracy of arrhythmia detection, both by doctors and by computer-based diagnostic tools.

"We introduced novel electrode placements that significantly increased the visibility of atrial activity on ECG readings. The improved signal clarity allows for quicker analysis and better clinical decision-making," said Dr. J. Sivaraman, Research lead, and Assistant Professor at the the Department of Biotechnology and Medical Engineering, at NIT Rourkela

Importantly, the new system requires no change to the ECG machine itself. The innovation lies entirely in the way the leads are placed, which means the upgrade can be easily adopted in both public and private healthcare settings without additional cost.

The findings are published in international journals including Bio-medical Signal Processing and Control, Medical Hypotheses, and Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine.



**News in Brief****Punjab Kings aim for top-two finish**

UNI

JAIPUR, MAY 23

Punjab Kings, having ended an 11-year playoff drought, are now eyeing a top-two finish in IPL 2025 to gain a crucial double chance in the title hunt.

The Shreyas Iyer-led side face Delhi Capitals side which has already been eliminated from playoff contention and is looking to end their disappointing season on a high note in the 66th match at Sai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur, tomorrow.

Punjab have been the most consistent side this season, accumulating 17 points from 12 matches to secure a playoff berth with two games to spare. Apart from Iyer, who has scored 435 runs at a strike rate of 175, Punjab's batting has been bolstered by the steady performances of Prabhsimran Singh (458 runs) and Priyansh Arya (356 runs). The return of overseas players Marcus Stoinis and Josh Inglis provides added firepower and depth to the squad.

**England enjoy opening day of one-off Test against Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge**

UNI

LONDON, MAY 23

England went all guns blazing on the opening day of the one-off Test against Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge.

After losing the toss and being put in to bat first, England took little time to establish their grip over Zimbabwe in their one-off Test on Thursday.

With the top three of Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley and Ollie Pope scoring blazing tons, the hosts managed to close the day with 498 runs on the board - their fifth-highest haul from one day of Test cricket.

The foundation for the total was laid by openers Duckett and Crawley, who added a staggering 231 runs for the first wicket off just 41.3 overs.

Duckett, who returned for England after impressing with the bat at the ICC Champions Trophy, took the attack to the Zimbabwe bowlers. The left-hander brought up his fifth Test hundred off 100 deliveries, lacing 20 fours and two sixes in his knock of 140, an ICC report said.

He was eventually dismissed by Wessley Madhevere, with Ben Curran completing the catch at cover.

**Sri Lanka all-rounder Angelo Mathews announces Test retirement**

UNI

COLOMBO, MAY 23

Former Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews took to social media on Friday to announce his retirement from Tests upon the conclusion of the first match against Bangladesh in Galle next month.

Mathews, who made his Test debut at the same venue against Pakistan in 2009, has been a cornerstone of Sri Lanka cricket for over 15 years, excelling as both an all-rounder and a leader.

Aggregating 8,167 in 118 matches, he is only behind Kumar Sangakkara (12,400) and Mahela Jayawardena (11,814) for most Test runs by a Sri Lankan. He also proved handy with the ball with 33 wickets to his name.

Mathews will have a chance to add to those runs and wickets in his 119th and final match in whites against Bangladesh next month.

He is also Sri Lanka's third most successful Test captain, having led the side to 13 wins in 34 matches between 2013 and 2017, an ICC report said.

Announcing his retirement via social media,



Mathews said, "It is time for me to say goodbye to the most cherished format of the game, International Test Cricket."

"The past 17 years of playing cricket for Sri Lanka has been my highest honour and pride.

"Nothing can match that feeling of patriotism and servitude when one dons the National Jersey.

"I have given my everything to cricket and Cricket has given me everything in return and made me the person that I am today.

"I stand grateful to the game and thankful to the thousands of Sri Lanka Cricket fans who have

been there for me throughout my career during my highest of highs and lowest of lows.

"The first test match against Bangladesh in June will be my last red-ball appearance for my country."

While announcing his retirement, Mathews also confirmed that he will remain available for selection in the white-ball formats. His last appearance for Sri Lanka in limited-overs cricket came over a year ago, during their group-stage clash against New Zealand at the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

**New Zealand all-rounder Hayley Jensen calls time on international career**

UNI

WELLINGTON, MAY 23

New Zealand all-rounder Hayley Jensen has retired from international cricket with immediate effect.

Jensen calls time on an 11-year international career, having represented New Zealand on 88 occasions (35 ODIs and 53 T20Is) that was highlighted by a total of 76 wickets across all formats.

She also represented New Zealand during their home ICC Women's Cricket World Cup campaign in 2022 and a total of four ICC Women's T20 World Cup events in 2014, 2018, 2020 and 2023.

Her best effort came in 2020 where she picked up three wickets in a Player of the Match performance against Sri Lanka and finished the tournament as

New Zealand's leading wicket-taker with seven scalps. Jensen's last international appearance came in February 2023, with the 32-year-old deciding the time was right to bow out of the game, an ICC report said.

"Ever since I was 10 years old, I came home from my first cricket tournament and knew I wanted to be a White Fern," Jensen said.

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**KREERI**

**J&K Lawn Tennis Assn flags off ten players selected for Rohan Bopanna Academy**

UNI

JAMMU, MAY 23

In a noble gesture to give wings to the raw talent, Jammu and Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association on Friday flagged off ten players selected under "Bhoomi" Programme to the Rohan Bopanna Tennis Academy, Bangalore.

In a function here, Jammu and Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association honoured ten children (five boys and five girls) for having been selected by Rohan Bopanna Foundation at Bangalore for "Bhoomi" Scholarship Programme.

"Under Bhoomi Programme, the selected players will receive free boarding, lodging, schooling (ICSE) and a comprehensive Tennis training at the Academy," R S Chib,



former J&K Sports Minister, who happens to be Patron of the Jammu and Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association here told reporters.

He also congratulated the players and thanked Indian Tennis legend Rohan Bopanna for this unique initiative.

The selected children are Raguvansh Rajput, Vivek Dogra, Raghur Singh, Prince Kumar, Arjun Kumar, Rupali Sharma,

Arti Chulail, Priya Sharma, Diksha Devi and Gungun.

"The players will also be accompanied by two wardens - Sachin Singh and Renu Bala for boys and girls respectively who will ensure their safe travel and care at Bangalore," Murti Gupta, Association President said.

He said that these children will receive training in a very scientific and refined way to prevent

injury and optimize physical performance including video analysis and feedback.

The Jammu and Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association along with patron and former minister R S Chib presented travelling kits to these children and stressed upon them to work hard and keep the flag of Jammu and Kashmir Lawn Tennis Association and J&K UT flying high.

**Djokovic into Geneva semi-finals to face Norrie**

UNI

GENEVA, MAY 23

Novak Djokovic celebrated his 38th birthday with a revenge victory over Matteo Arnaldi to reach the Geneva Open semi-finals.

Djokovic lost to the Italian in April in what was a third straight loss for the Serb great during a mixed clay-court season.



However, Djokovic came through a stern test in damp conditions to

beat Arnaldi 6-4 6-4 on Thursday and continue his French Open preparations in positive fashion.

He will face a semi-final against Cameron Norrie, who staged an impressive fightback to beat Australian Alexei Popyrin 7-6 (8-6) 6-4.

The Briton is into his first semi-final of the season and while facing Djokovic is a daunting prospect, he will take heart from his performance, the BBC reported.

It didn't start well, however, as he trailed Popyrin 5-3 in the first set but impressively dug in to turn things around, drawing level before forcing the tiebreak.

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