



Islam Preaches Brotherhood, Peace and Unity : LG Manoj Sinha Invokes message from 'Surah Nisa' and Teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 24: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today laid the foundation stone of Guest House at Holy Shrine Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to members of Jammu Kashmir Waqf Board and all the stakeholders. He said, in the past few years, the basic facilities for the pilgrims have seen tremendous improvement and the infrastructure development has eased the pilgrimage to Hazratbal, a revered spiritual center.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the people to ensure that we rid the society of elements aiding and abetting terrorists, bring the terror elements hiding among the



public to justice and the infrastructure and other projects must be given a new impetus to meet the developmental needs of the people.

Paying homage to the innocent civilians killed by Pakistan-Sponsored Terrorists in Pahalgam, the Lieutenant Governor said, Operation Sindoor avenged Pahalgam terror attack by punishing terror state Pakistan and firmly enforced India's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism. He said, the brave soldiers of our armed forces have not only destroyed the terror factories deep inside He said, the brave soldiers of our armed forces have not only destroyed the terror factories deep inside Pakistan but have also drawn a new red line. Now any terror attack will be considered an 'act of war' and Pakistan

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Khelo India Water Sports: Dal Lake In Srinagar Tipped To Host Inaugural Event

■ HT News Network

DIU, MAY 24: If all goes according to plan, the serene Dal Lake in Srinagar will host the inaugural edition of the Khelo India Water Sports Games in the last week of June.

If this happens, the event could help restore normalcy and revive business in the

region, coming just months after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, where 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, triggering a four-day military escalation between India and Pakistan and dealing a heavy blow to local tourism.

Speaking on the sidelines of the closing ceremony of the

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Dismantle terror ecosystem, make fool proof arrangements for Amarnath Yatra: DGP Prabhat tells officers

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 24: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat-IPS on Saturday directed the officers to intensify their efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem and make foolproof security arrangements for the upcoming 38-day Amarnath Yatra,



slated to commence on July 3.

According to the details available with the news agency DGP Prabhat chaired a joint meeting with officers from the Police, CRPF, ITBP, Traffic Police, Railways, and various security and intelligence agencies at Police Control Room Kashmir to review the overall security arrangements for

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Hold PSU, Parliamentary Panel Meetings In Kashmir To Allay Public Fears, Revive Tourism: JK CM At NITI Aayog Meet

■ HT News Network



NEW DELHI, MAY 24: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday proposed a dual approach to resuscitate Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector, severely impacted by the Pahalgam terror attack, urging the Centre to mandate PSUs to hold meetings in Kashmir and to convene parliamentary committee meetings there. Fine dining reservations Jammu and Kashmir tourism

Speaking at the Governing Council meeting of the NITI Aayog under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Abdullah also raised the issue of recent shelling from Pakistan that claimed 23 lives in Poonch, Rajouri and north Kashmir and underlined that the construction of individual bunkers for residents is necessary.

Acknowledging the severe impact of the recent events on the vital tourism sector, Abdullah proposed that as an immediate step, the government should direct its public sector undertakings (PSUs)

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NEWS BRIEF

ACB Books Srinagar DC Office Employee In Disproportionate Assets Case

SRINAGAR, MAY 24: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday registered a case against an employee of the Srinagar deputy commissioner's office for possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, an official spokesperson said. Fine dining reservations Jammu and Kashmir tourism. He said the accused official was identified as

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Hailstorm ravages south Kashmir orchards again; growers demand insurance, compensation

SRINAGAR, MAY 24: Apple orchards in south Kashmir's Pulwama district have once again been severely affected by a hailstorm, causing losses for local growers.

Farmers from various areas, including Sedow-Hirpora in Shopian district and DH Pora in Kulgam district in south Kashmir, informed the news agency—Kashmir that the storm struck during a crucial harvesting period, damaging orchards and dashing the hopes of thousands of orchardists who depend on this sector for their livelihood.

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Waqf Board Chairperson thanks LG Sinha for support

Calls guest house at Hazratbal a 'dream step'

SRINAGAR, MAY 24: Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, on Saturday expressed heartfelt gratitude to Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha during his visit to the Hazratbal Shrine, where he laid the foundation stone for a new guest house.

Calling the moment emotional and historic, Dr. Andrabi addressing the gathering as per the news said the initiative was made possible due to the consistent support and blessings of the LG Sinha.

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Statehood Will Restored By Parliament, Not By NC Or PDP: BJP's Sunil Sharma

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, MAY 24: Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Sunil Sharma Saturday said that restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is the prerogative of the Parliament and the Bharatiya Janta Party, not those of regional parties like the National Conference or People's Democratic Party (PDP). Jammu dining guide Jammu and Kashmir tourism Speaking with reporters in Karnah, Sunil Sharma, said that the NC and PDP have no role in statehood restoration, people should not get misled. He said that people should seek basic amenities like free electricity, extra ration, and subsidised LPG from

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Rahul Meets Victims Of Pak Shelling In Poonch, Pledges To Raise Their Issue At National Level

■ HT News Network

POONCH (J-K), MAY 24: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday met the victims of the cross-border shelling by Pakistani troops in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and described the damage caused as a "big tragedy", pledging to highlight their plight at the national level.

The leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha visited Poonch town and interacted for over an hour with the



affected population, including the families who lost their members in the shelling between May 7 and May 10.

"It is a big tragedy. Many people lost their lives. They (Pakistan army) have hit civilian targets directly. I talked to

the people and tried to understand their problems and they have asked me to raise their issue at the national level which I will do," Gandhi told reporters.

Later, in a post on X, he said, "Today I met the families of those who lost their lives in shelling by Pakistani troops in Poonch. Damaged houses, scattered belongings, moist eyes and painful stories of losing loved ones — these patriotic families bear the biggest

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India slams Pakistan at UN over hypocrisy of sponsoring terror, speaking about protecting civilians

■ HT News Network/UNI

NEW YORK, MAY 24 (UNI) India at the UN on Saturday slammed Pakistan over its hypocritical behaviour of sponsoring terrorist attacks in India and killing innocent civilians and, at the same time, speaking about protecting civilians.

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador P. Harish speaking at the UN Security Council

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CS chairs SLSC meet; approves Rs 75.80 cr AAP for Watershed Development under PMKSY

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 24 The State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) for the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) 2.0, which met here today under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, gave nod to Annual Action Plan worth Rs 75.80 crore for



Watershed Development under PMKSY. The meeting was convened

to review implementation of the scheme besides

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Two Army Brigades, Mobile Network Established In Remote Billawar Areas: Dr Jitendra

■ HT News Network

BILLAWAR, MAY 24 : Two Army Brigades and mobile network in remote areas of Billawar region have been established, which would not only provide security to the local people but also ensure surveillance through mobile connectivity and ease of communication in far-flung areas.

This was disclosed here today by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh during a Public Durbar held by him.

The Public Durbar was



attended by senior officers of the district administration with representatives from all the engineering

wings and health department, in the presence of elected representatives including MLA Satish Shar-

ma, DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh, DDC Members Vikram Singh, Narayan Dutt Tripathi and Neeru Rajput, former Municipal Chairman Basotra, BJP District President Gopal Krishan, Amrik Singh, Romi Khajuria, all the panches, sarpanches and former DDCs.

Dr Jitendra Singh further informed that one Armed Brigade had already been established at Sarthal and now another similar Armed Brigade has been set up in Rampur township of Billa

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Sakeena Itoo distributes Prosthetic Aids, Assistive Devices among specially-abled persons in D.H Pora

Says welfare of all sections of society at the heart of present government

■ HT News Network

KULGAM, MAY 24: Minister for Social Welfare, Education and Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today said that the welfare of all sections of society is at the heart of present government led by Omar Abdullah with inclusivity and equal opportunity for all members of society. The Minister made these remarks while addressing a large gathering of people after



distributing prosthetic aids and assistive devices among specially-abled persons at DH

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TWO ARMY

war. This will not only provide round the clock army surveillance in the area but the Army personnel will also maintain regular liaison with the civil administration with the concerned Brigadier and the DM constantly being in touch with each other.

As for the Mobile network, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the far-flung areas, particularly areas beyond Lowang in the Bani area, were deprived of connectivity ever since independence and only yesterday evening, the first mobile phone call was made after the installation of the Mobile Tower and mobile network. This has not only come as a huge facility for the local residents including particularly students and youth, but this will also enable the armed forces to maintain round the clock real time surveillance, he said.

All these measures, taken as a result of the personal follow up on a day to day basis by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, have instilled a lot of confidence and sense of security among the local people.

Dr. Jitendra Singh further informed that the long pending demand of the widening of the Dhar Road has been taken up with impetus received from the Home and Defence Ministries in the wake of the recent armed conflict and very soon the BRO will hand over this road to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for widening.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that in the last summer, the main demand from this region was regarding the shortage of drinking water. He informed that this too has also been taken care of with 55 Jal Jiwan Mission (JJM) schemes approved for region of which nearly 70% work has been completed at a cost of Rs. 131.55 Crore. This, he said, has ensured drinking water supply to 14875 households.

Under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme, the Minister informed that another 1250 households in the Billawar town will be given the facility of drinking water supply at a cost of Rs.11.03 Crore.

Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that he has suggested a proposal for a Master Plan for Sukrala Mata which can be taken up at its next Board meeting. This could enable this entire area to attract a new genre of tourists like Mussoorie etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled his recent visit to International border and said, that nearly 2500 Family Bunker constructed along the Hiranagar sector over the last seven years have been found highly convenient and received appreciation from the local people that now demands are received from other areas including the LoC for construction of similar family bunkers. He said, this could be accomplished because we had taken up the task of planning and constructing such family bunkers for nearly 10 years and we went ahead in a very meticulous manner. As a result, today, he said, these Family bunkers in the Hiranagar sector have emerged as a role model for the country to build bunkers elsewhere along the border.

Later, Dr Jitendra Singh held a Public Darbar, which lasted for nearly two hours. During his interaction, the Minister gave a patient hearing to individuals and sought to dispose of their grievances and demands on the spot by issuing the required instructions to the administration.

INDIA

Open Debate on Addressing emerging threats, ensuring the safety of civilians, humanitarian and UN Personnel, journalists and media professionals and enhancing accountability mechanisms" said that for a nation that sponsors terrorism across its borders, to even participate in a discussion on protection of civilians is an affront to international community.

"India has experienced decades of Pakistan-sponsored terrorist attacks across our borders... For such a nation to even participate in a discussion on the protection of civilians is an affront to the international community..." Ambassador Harish said while speaking under the agenda item "Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict

Demolishing Pakistan's arguments he said he was constrained to respond to the baseless allegations of the representative of Pakistan on a number of issues.

Referring to the Operation Sindoor launched by India against Pakistan in the wake of the killing of 26 innocent tourists at Pahalgal in Kashmir by Pakistani terrorists, Ambassador Harish said earlier this month the Pakistani army "deliberately shelled our border villages killing more than 20 civilians and injuring more than 80."

He said there was intentional targeting of places of worship including gurdwaras, temples and convents, as well as medical facilities.

"To preach at this body after such behaviour is grossly hypocritical..." Ambassador Harish said.

Earlier he also lashed out at Pakistan for spreading disinformation about the Indus Water Treaty and said Islamabad had violated the spirit of the Treaty by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India that seek to hold hostage the lives of civilians, religious harmony and economic prosperity.

"We are constrained to respond to the disinformation being carried out by the delegation of Pakistan with regard to the Indus Water Treaty. India has always acted in a responsible manner as an upper riparian state," Ambassador Harish said and added that in the last four decades more than 20,000 Indian lives had been lost in terror attacks, the most recent of which was the dastardly targeted terror attack on tourists in Pahalgal.

MOBILE TOWER

Rules, 2024, which allows the authorities to take immediate action in situations deemed sensitive to national security and public peace," it said..

As per the order, the temporary telecom shutdown affects all mobile data services including 2G, 3G, 4G, 5G, and public Wi-Fi facilities.

"The services are likely being misused by 'anti-national elements and miscreants,' which could potentially lead to a deterioration of public order in the region," the order cited. "In the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State/UT, and for maintaining public order, I am satisfied that the action taken by the authorized officer was necessary," read the order issued by the Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department.

The service providers and internet service providers however, are directed to ensure compliance with the order for the entire duration specified.

SHARMA

these parties. "Statehood will come. We will bring it. Not at the request of NC or PDP, but when the time is right – through Parliament, and through PM Modi."

Calling NC unfamiliar outside Jammu and Kashmir, he said that they have only three members in Parliament. "In a crowd of 543, they're not even visible. We are ruling in more than 20 states. They cannot be compared to us."

Sunil Sharma was on a visit to Karnah sector near the Line of Control in Kupwara to assess the damage caused by the Pakistan shelling post Operation Sindoor.

RAHUL

burden of war with courage and dignity every time. Salute to their courage."

"I stand strongly with the victim families – I will definitely raise their demands and issues at the national level," Gandhi added.

He was accompanied by senior Congress leaders, the party's Jammu and Kashmir unit president Tariq Hameed Karra and AICC general secretary G A Mir.

This was Gandhi's second visit to the Union territory since the dastardly April 22 Pahalgal terror attack that claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists.

Gandhi visited Srinagar on April 25 to meet those injured in the terror attack. He had also met the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant governor, the chief minister and several stakeholders then, Jammu dining guide Jammu and Kashmir tourism

On Saturday morning, the former Congress chief reached Jammu airport and left for Poonch in a helicopter to visit the areas affected by the cross-border shelling and meet the bereaved families, a party leader said.

The Poonch sector was witness to heightened artillery and mortar shelling after India carried out precise strikes under Operation Sindoor on nine terror hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on May 7 in response to the dastardly Pahalgal massacre.

A wave of artillery shelling, missiles and drone strikes by Pakistan killed 28 people, 13 in Poonch district alone, and injured more than 70 between May 7 and 10 across Jammu and Kashmir.

Thousands moved hearth and home from areas near the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border areas to seek refuge in government-run relief camps.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the military confrontation after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

On Saturday, Karra said, "Gandhi will visit shell-hit structures, including a gurdwara, a temple, a madrasa and a Christian missionary school. He will also meet the bereaved families and the members of the civil society.

"Gandhi is the first national leader to reach out to the affected population to express his solidarity and share their pain," he had said.

During his visit to Jammu and Kashmir last month following the terror attack, Gandhi had said the idea behind the terror strike was to divide the people of the country and it was imperative that India stood united to defeat terrorism once and for all.

LG

He said, the brave soldiers of our armed forces have not only destroyed the terror factories deep inside Pakistan but have also drawn a new red line. Now any terror attack will be considered an 'act of war' and Pakistan will be given the harshest punishment for it, he further added.

"We need to strike hard at the terror eco-

system. The aides of terrorists should be identified and they should be given the same punishment as a terrorist for inflicting wounds on the soul of J&K.

After the terror attack in Pahalgal, the kind of protests that were seen on the J&K's streets against the terrorist country Pakistan were historic. The valley echoed with slogans against terrorism," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called for collective efforts to foster the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' and promote unity across the diverse communities. He said statements like the guests are spoiling the culture of J&K or demographic invasion are truly problematic and public should oppose such statements.

"I appeal to those in positions of responsibility in Jammu Kashmir to stop using the phrase like local and non-local. We all are Indians. Stop dividing Indians into local and outsiders. You should work to unite people so that a united society can take Jammu Kashmir to the greater heights of growth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor prayed that Prophet Muhammad, Baba Amarnath may shower their blessings and strengthen the love, peace and brotherhood in the society.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Shri Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; members of J&K Waqf Board, senior officials, religious leaders, prominent citizens and people in large number were present.

CM

to hold their meetings in Kashmir.

He also strongly pitched for holding of parliamentary consultative committee and parliamentary standing committee meetings in Jammu and Kashmir.

These concerted efforts by the government will significantly alleviate public fears, foster a renewed sense of security and trust, and ultimately pave the way for the revival of tourism in the Kashmir valley, bringing much-needed economic relief and a return to normalcy, he added.

During his extempore speech, the chief minister hailed the public's defiance against the April 22 Pahalgal attack while simultaneously seeking the Centre's attention for the region's security, tourism and economic revival.

The security challenges post-Pahalgal have severely impacted Jammu and Kashmir's economy, particularly its crucial tourism sector – a significant source of livelihood for many in the region.

Abdullah emphasised that while the nation mourns the loss of lives in the Pahalgal massacre, the memory of the 23 people who died due to shelling from across the border must not be forgotten.

The speech began with the chief minister commending the widespread condemnation from the people of Jammu and Kashmir following the Pahalgal massacre, which claimed 26 lives, Jammu and Kashmir tourism Fine dining reservations

He also extended his gratitude to the central leadership, including the prime minister, for its crucial assistance in protecting Kashmiris targeted by anti-social elements in the rest of the country in the aftermath of the Pahalgal attack.

"When the victims of the Pahalgal massacre are remembered, the nation should also not forget 23 people who lost their lives in shelling from across the border as they were also killed by shells that emanated from Pakistan," he said, drawing a direct link between the violence and its source.

India launched Operation Sindoor and targeted nine terror camps, including the headquarters of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba outfits, on May 7. This was followed by heightened tensions along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB).

In a move to bolster civilian safety in vulnerable areas along the LoC and the IB, Abdullah stressed the urgent need for constructing individual bunkers for residents.

The call for individual bunkers highlights the persistent threat faced by border communities while the push for government-led tourism initiatives aims to rebuild confidence and economic stability in the valley. (Agencies)

DGP

the upcoming Amarnath Yatra-2025.

The meeting was attended by Special DGP Coordination J&K S.J.M. Gillani-IPS, ADGP Hqrs J&K M.K. Sinha-IPS, ADGP CID J&K Nitish Kumar-IPS, IGSP of Kashmir & Jammu Zones, IG BSF Kashmir, IGP POS J&K, IG CRPF KOS, IG CRPF Srinagar, IGP Traffic J&K, IGP Railways J&K, IGP Security J&K, DiSG of CKR, SKR, SSB Srinagar, IRP Kashmir, Armed Kashmir, Personnel HQ & ITBP, SSp of PCR Kashmir, Anantnag, Kulgam, Ganderbal & APCR, and other senior officers. The DGP stressed on the importance of proactive measures in mitigating risks and ensuring the safety and security of the Amarnath pilgrims, sad an official. He said the DGP issued directions for implementing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and also emphasized the importance of proactive measures in mitigat-

ing risks and ensuring the safety and security of the yatris. He also directed the field officers to intensify their efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem.

The DGP instructed the officers to bolster security measures and mitigate potential risks by deploying anti-sabotage teams along the yatra routes. He also directed the officers to enhance surveillance and threat detection capabilities by utilizing advanced technologies and real-time monitoring of both pilgrim-age routes.

The official said that Inspector Generals of Police from Kashmir and Jammu zone briefed the chair on the proposed security arrangements for the conduct of Amarnath Yatra-2025.

The officers of CAPF and other SFs also briefed the chair, gave their feedback and emphasized the significance of effective coordination among the various forces.

The meeting ended with a resolve to ensure the highest level of preparedness and coordination for the smooth and successful conduct of the upcoming pilgrimag.

CS

assessing the Annual Action Plan for the year 2025-26.

Present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, Finance; Secretary, RDD; representatives from JSD, PWD, Revenue and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary exhorted upon the concerned to make the best use of this scheme for creation of durable assets in the water stressed areas. He called for community participation in such initiatives so that these could prove to be the most beneficial for them.

He assessed the progress registered in different districts being covered under this flagship scheme and stressed on prioritizing works which are most suitable for the particular areas. He directed the senior officers in the department to conduct frequent visits to the sites to take first hand appraisal of the works being executed under this scheme. Principal Secretary, Finance and APD Departments, Shailendra Kumar, while speaking in the meeting, stressed on including other minor irrigation works in the DPRs so that the water reaches up to the last fields in these areas. He also suggested measures to make the execution of works more transparent and beneficial for the public at large.

The meeting reviewed the progress and approved the proposals under the centrally sponsored flagship programme aimed at enhancing the water conservation, climate resilience and sustainable agriculture in the UT.

While highlighting broad contours of the scheme, Secretary RD & PR Department, Aijaz Asad, informed that WDC-PMKSY is continuation of the earlier Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), which had been subsumed into PMKSY in 2015-16. He revealed that under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, several initiatives and infrastructure projects had been implemented to boost watershed-based development. Besides, physical and financial progress has been recorded across various districts, with special emphasis on construction of water harvesting structures, ponds and irrigation channels. Additionally, the rainwater harvesting tanks and bunds for soil and moisture conservation, beautification and rejuvenation of water bodies including springs and streams also constitutes the actions being taken under this programme.

SAKEENA

Pora Constituency of Kulgam district. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sakeena reiterated the commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led Government towards the welfare of all sections of society. She highlighted that the Government has already enhanced pensions under various social welfare schemes to provide greater support to the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society. While speaking on the growing threat of drug menace, Minister Sakeena said that drug addiction is a grave concern in society these days. She called upon all stakeholders that collective and coordinated efforts are the need of the day to eradicate this menace from society.

ACB

Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat, presently posted as 'Nazir' (clerk grade) in the office of the deputy commissioner, Srinagar.

"A discreet verification conducted by the bureau into the financial transactions and asset holdings of the said public servant revealed that Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat has accumulated assets grossly disproportionate to his known and legitimate sources of income," the ACB spokesperson said. The assets identified during the verification include a house situated at Firdousabad in Batamalo, Srinagar, constructed on land measuring 11 marlas (1 marla = 272.25 square feet); an additional structure with appurtenant land measuring 6.5 marlas at the same location; and two plots of land measuring 10 marlas and 13 marlas at Mouza Nowgam in Srinagar, he said. Bhat also possesses movable assets, including vehicles such as Toyota Fortuner,

Maruti Wagon-R and Renault Duster. The verification also brought to light substantial expenditures incurred on the higher education of his children, the ACB said.

Scrutiny of various bank accounts revealed multiple suspicious transactions and unexplained cash deposits.

Bhat and his family members were found operating several bank lockers in J&K Bank, and were in possession of multiple immovable properties of considerable value.

"The subject public servant was also found to be maintaining a lifestyle that is inconsistent with his declared income," the spokesperson said.

In view of the above findings, a case has been registered against Bhat at ACB police station here for criminal misconduct, he said.

HAILSTORM

Many affected growers, who have faced recurring weather-related damages over the years, have once again appealed to the government for immediate financial compensation and the long-promised implementation of a comprehensive crop insurance scheme.

"The storm was merciless," said Nazim Ahmad, an orchardist from Shopian. "Our apples had already suffered damage earlier, and now, due to this hailstorm, we face further losses. We invest lakhs every year in fertilisers, pesticides and labour, only to see our efforts turn to ruin without any meaningful support from the authorities."

Growers said the government must introduce a crop insurance scheme. They expressed their willingness to pay premiums annually if it guarantees fair compensation during natural disasters.

"We are not asking for charity," said another grower. "We are ready to pay for insurance coverage. But the government must act now. It is heart-breaking to watch a season's hard work be destroyed in a single night."

WAQF

"I want to thank LG Sahab for coming here today. When we started the Waqf Board in 2022, it was a difficult journey, but his guidance helped us take every step forward," she said. Dr. Andrabi described the upcoming guest house as the board's "first step" towards development. "We feel honoured and capable today because of the love and support we have received. We may not be here tomorrow, but we are thankful for the opportunity to do something meaningful today," she added.

She further stated that the Waqf Board is determined to continue working for the welfare of the people and the development of religious places.

DAL LAKE

Khelo India Beach Games in Diu, Jammu and Kashmir divisional sports officer Nuzhat Gazala expressed optimism about the event.

"We have heard that our proposal to host the first Khelo India Water Sports event in Dal Lake has been accepted. It's expected to happen in the last week of June," she said.

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse also emphasised the government's efforts to spread sports across all regions of India.

"Earlier people would say there is no development in Kashmir, but the Indian government is trying hard," Khadse said during an interview on the final day of the Beach Games.

"Through Khelo India, we aim to reach every corner of the country. Be it water sports, winter games, or beach games, we are exploring different formats to bring out the best in our athletes." "We are identifying sectors where athletes can find opportunities and receive world-class facilities to prepare them for major events like the Asian Games and the Olympics," Gazala said the inaugural water sports event will likely feature 3–4 disciplines, including canoeing and kayaking.

"Nothing is confirmed yet, but the proposal includes events like kayaking and canoeing. The plan is to hold it in Dal Lake in the last week of June. We've heard here that it's going to happen," she said, adding that the event could help revive tourism in the region.

"Sports and tourism go hand in hand. An event like this will definitely give a big boost to the local economy." Despite the turmoil back home, Jammu & Kashmir delivered a commendable performance at the Beach Games, finishing joint fourth with Haryana, winning five gold, one silver, and three bronze medals. Commenting on the debut edition of the Beach Games, Minister Khadse hailed it as a "historic moment" under the Khelo India scheme. "This is the first time beach games have been organised under Khelo India. It's been a great experience. Many top athletes with national and international exposure took part. This initiative opens new doors for our athletes to aim for the Asian Games and Olympics," she said. She credited the Ministry of Sports, the Government of India, and local administration for the event's success. "It was a healthy and spirited competition, showcasing the incredible talent we have in India. The aim is to tap into that potential and nurture it. Be it youth games, winter sports, or beach games – we are progressing in every field." Khadse also highlighted the government's broader mission to develop every part of the country through sports.





DC Kupwara inspects various JJM works coming up in Handwara sub-division

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, MAY 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today took a detailed tour of Handwara sub-division to take stock of various ongoing Water Supply Schemes (WSS) under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

She was accompanied by Executive Engineer PHE Division Handwara, CPO Kupwara, Tehsildar Handwara and other concerned officers.

During the visit, DC inspected various water supply schemes (WSSs) coming up under Jal Jeevan Mission in different areas of Handwara sub-division which include WSS Zagsundri, WSS Shahnagri, WSS Peer Khan Mohallah, WSS Villgam-Ramhall, WSS Moqdam Mohallah, WSS Magam-Neelipora, WSS Opezwani-Sirajpora and WSS Trich.

On the occasion, DC stressed upon the concerned engineers to gear up their men and machinery and ensure completion of all ongoing water supply schemes within the stipulated time frame so that the people get clean drinking water under the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission.

She also appreciated the department for completion of various schemes which have been tested recently including Augmentation of WSS Neelipora-Magam and WSS Khanpora. It was informed that WSS Khanpora completed at a cost of Rs.618.52 lakh shall benefit the population of 6390 souls living in the area.

DC also redressed various issues and bottlenecks of some water supply schemes on the spot, and directed the concerned officers to ensure strict compliance of the timelines stipulated for completion of the JJM works.

Day-long training program under Mission YUVA held at Kulgam

■ HT News Network

KULGAM, MAY 24: For capacity building of YUVA Doots and newly inducted Business Help Desk members, a day-long refresher training program was today organized under Mission YUVA at the Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam.

The training aimed to equip YUVA Doots with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively engage with and support aspiring entrepreneurs in their respective panchayats.

Participants were extensively trained in their roles as grassroots motivators, tasked with spreading awareness about various self-employment schemes and facilitating youth engagement at the village and ward levels.

A key focus of the training was the significance of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in monitoring the initiative's impact, ensuring that the YUVA Doots maintain a results-oriented approach in their outreach efforts.

An exclusive hands-on session on the Mission YUVA App and Portal was conducted by the Career Counselling Officer from the District Employment & Counselling Centre, Kulgam.

This session enabled the YUVA Doots to familiarize themselves with the technical aspects of the digital platform, enhancing their operational efficiency. The training also covered critical areas such as mobilization techniques, Mission YUVA guidelines, scheme benefits, required documentation and standard reporting formats.

Additionally, an official from the office of the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Kulgam, briefed the participants on the importance of e-governance in empowering grassroots functionaries.

The interactive nature of the sessions encouraged active participation, allowing YUVA Doots to seek clarifications, share insights, and contribute suggestions.

Indian Delegation Reaches Bahrain to Highlight Stand Against Terrorism

■ HT News Network

Manama, May 24: An all-party Indian delegation arrived in Bahrain on Saturday as part of New Delhi's global outreach campaign to underline its firm position against cross-border terrorism. The delegation, led by senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament Baijayant Jay Panda, was welcomed at the airport by Indian Ambassador to Bahrain, Vinod K Jacob. "The All-Party Delegation led by H.E. @PandaJay, Member of Parliament, arrived in Bahrain. India's unwavering stand against cross-border terrorism will be highlighted in all engagements," the Embassy of India in Bahrain posted on X. This visit is part of a broader initiative involving seven multi-party delegations traveling to 33 world capitals to inform the international community about Pakistan's actions and India's response to terrorism. Tensions between India and Pakistan have been high since the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives. In response, India carried out precision strikes on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on May 7. Pakistan then attempted attacks on Indian military bases over the following three days, prompting strong retaliatory action.

Yousmarg to be developed as next Gulmarg: Speaker Legislative Assembly Inaugurates Rs. 1.88 cr PHC at Nagbal

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, MAY 24: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today said that special focus will be laid on developing the scenic tourist destination Yousmarg as the next Gulmarg.

He made these remarks while inaugurating a newly constructed Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Nagbal, in Charar-i-Sharief Constituency, built at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.88 crore.

Highlighting the government's vision, the Speaker stated that Yousmarg will be equipped with all modern tourist facilities including a gondola, all-weather connectivity, skiing and other recreational and basic amenities. He emphasised that this development of Yousmarg will significantly uplift the socio-economic conditions of the local population living in kandi area.

Speaking on the importance of the health sector, the Speaker noted that the newly inaugurated PHC will provide essential medical services to the residents of Nagbal and adjoining Kandi areas. He said that the building, com-



pleted at a cost of Rs. 1.53 crore, will require an additional Rs. 35 lakh for construction of a boundary wall, landscaping and development of the approach road.

The Speaker said that the PHC is equipped to offer ECG, dental care, gynecology services, separate male and female wards and minor operation theatre facilities. He inspected various sections of the facility, including the general wards, minor OT, dental unit, immunization area and took stock of

availability of medicine at pharmacy section.

He remarked that the establishment of this health centre will minimize the need for residents to travel long distances to avail medical services in Srinagar or Charar-i-Sharief.

The Speaker also highlighted sanctioning of other PHC buildings across the constituency, including, Kanir, Tilsara, Nowpora, Hushroo, Nilnag, Bonen, Watkalu, as well as the Sub-District Hospitals at Charar-i-Sharief,

Pakherpora and Nagam, all of which are functional and catering to local healthcare needs.

"Work on PHC Challein Chhotnar and other health and educational projects will also be expedited and dedicated to the general public soon," he said.

The Speaker reiterated that, alongside overall infrastructure development, particular attention will be given to improving the health and education sectors in Charar-i-Sharief.

"Under the Aspirational Plan for Surasyar and Pakherpora, additional funds shall be utilized on improvement of health and education sectors," Speaker said.

He further assured that all pending development projects including macadamization of all main and inner roads in Charar-i-Sharief will be completed on priority and dedicated to the public at the earliest. During the visit, several public delegations met the Speaker and presented their demands and grievances. He gave them a patient hearing and assured that all genuine concerns will be taken up with the concerned authorities for prompt redressal.

BOPEE conducts Common Entrance Test for B-PHARMACY, D-PHARMACY courses

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 24: Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (JK BOPEE) today conducted the Common Entrance Test (CET) for B-PHARMACY and D-PHARMACY courses-2025 for the academic session 2025-26 today at Jammu and Srinagar Centres. The test was conducted at S P College, Srinagar & Kashmir University in Kashmir Division and Gandhi Nagar College for Women and MAM College, in Jammu Division, where in 2022 candidates appeared in this examination. To ensure smooth conduct of the Entrance Test, arrangements had been established in collaboration with the respective university/

college administrations and law enforcement agencies under the guidance of Professor Minu Mahajan, Chairperson, J&K BOPEE. The process was conducted under the diligent supervision of competent JKBOPEE staff members and the staff from the respective colleges. The members, Secretary, Controller of Examinations and other officials of BOPEE, actively monitored the conduct of the said Common Entrance Test at Srinagar and Jammu. They thanked the district administration, IGP Jammu/Kashmir, for deploying police personnel, members of the monitoring squad, the Principal and staff members of the respective University/Colleges for their support during smooth conduct of the said Entrance Test.

SKUAST-K Holds High-Level Review Meet on Krishi Viksit Sankalp Abhiyan-2025

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

Srinagar, May, 24: A high-level review meeting on the implementation of Krishi Viksit Sankalp Abhiyan-2025 was convened today at the Vice-Chancellor's Conference Hall, SKUAST-Kashmir, under the chairmanship of Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-K and UT-level Nodal Officer for the campaign. The meeting aimed to apprise stakeholders of the comprehensive roadmap for the successful execution of the 15-day campaign, scheduled from May 29 to June 12, 2025, across Jammu and Kashmir. The session witnessed participation from Shri Ilyas Khateeb, Director Agriculture, Dr. Vikas Anand, Director Horticulture, Dr. M.K. Verma, Director CITH (online), representatives from the Directorate of Agriculture Jammu (online), senior officials from Animal Husbandry, Sericulture, Rural Development, district-level officers, faculty members, and Heads of Krishi Vigyan Kendras of SKUAST-Kashmir. Detailed discussions were held on the core objectives, themes, and modalities of the campaign, with emphasis on outreach, convergence, and farmer empowerment initiatives.



Prof. Ganai highlighted the Abhiyan as a transformative step towards enhancing agricultural productivity, innovation, and farmer welfare, urging all departments and institutions to work in unison for its success. Key campaign guidelines were reviewed, focusing on 100% saturation of central schemes like PM-KISAN, PMFBY, KCC, and Soil Health Cards, alongside organizing awareness camps, exhibitions, and field demonstrations at the grassroots level. Strengthening institutional linkages and ensuring digital integration for real-time monitoring and feed-

back were also emphasized. Prof. Ganai appreciated the proactive participation of all stakeholders and directed the formulation of a consolidated joint action plan with defined roles, responsibilities, and timelines. He reaffirmed the University's commitment to serve as a lead knowledge partner, supporting on-ground capacity building and policy implementation. The meeting concluded with a collective pledge towards a Viksit Bharat, reinforcing the spirit of "One Nation, One Agriculture, One Team - Ek Desh, Ek Kheti, Ek Team."

Locals concerned as water level in Bulbul Spring recedes again in Nawa

■ HT News Network

Pulwama, May 24: The famous Bulbul Spring, nestled in Nawa area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district is once again witnessing a worrying dip in its water level. This comes just months after the spring's water had been restored following a prolonged dry spell. Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), locals expressed concern over the recurring depletion, stating that the spring had started flowing again earlier this year, bringing relief to the community and sparking hopes for its complete revival. However, amid the heatwave, the

water level has started receding once again, raising alarms about the long-term sustainability of this iconic natural source. The residents of Nawa and its adjacent areas said that several water supply schemes are dependent on this spring, saying that they have already suffered a lot when spring dried up completely earlier this year. They said that water level has again started receding due to which people of around three dozen villages would face hardships again. Ghulam Hassan Wani, a local resident said that he has never witnessed the drying up of this spring in his whole life but this year it dried up completely earlier. He said that

water level got restored after rains but due to the current heatwave, the water level again receded due to which supplies dependent on this spring have again started getting affected. Nisar Ahmad, another local resident of the area said that people of the area have been suffering due to drying up or its low water level for want of the water as this spring is the water source of many schemes. Locals said that there is an immediate need for a well that will act as a source of water whenever such situations arise. They said that the officials from the concerned department had already visited the spot for construction of the well even as the land was identified.

Migratory Bird Sanderling Sighted In Kashmir's Hokersar Wetland

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, May 24: A group of birdwatchers on Saturday claimed to have sighted a Sanderling, a migratory bird, for the first time in 134 years at Hokersar Wetland in Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir tourism Reyan Sofi, Mufeeq Ahmad Malik and Mansoor Shayir spotted the Sanderling at Hokersar wetlands in the outskirts of Srinagar on Thursday. "During an evening birding section to Hokersar, we encountered various wader species. While my friends were busy capturing images of other birds, I promptly directed their attention to a specific species that I had identified instantly due to its size difference from a Little Stint," Sofi said. Shayir was initially skeptical but was convinced after comparing the sizes. This is for the first time a Sanderling has been spotted in Kashmir in past 134 years. Also, it is the first time the bird has been captured in a photograph in Kashmir, a birdwatcher claimed.

EDITORIAL

Throw open all tourist places in Kashmir & improve facilities

At a time when the people both in the government and non-government sectors are pitching for the revival of the tourism sector in Kashmir valley there is a glaring discrepancy in the whole scenario. Following the Baisaran-Pahalgam massacre that led to the death of 25 tourists and a local, the government has closed 48 tourist places for both the locals and tourists in the Kashmir valley. As on date these tourist places are out of bounds for the people.

One among such places is Yusmarg in Central Kashmir's Budgam district. Yusmarg is one of the picturesque tourist places even though the development is not to the expected level. On Saturday the legislator of Charar-I-Sharief Abdul Rahim Rather inaugurated a health centre at Nagbal in his constituency. Yusmarg comes under the Charar-I-Sharief assembly segment and has seen a good inflow of tourists over the past few years. At the same time the facilities have not been developed to the expected level.

Rather, who is also the assembly speaker while speaking at a function said that Yusmarg would be developed as one of the top notch tourist destinations of the Kashmir valley? The legislator should take the people of the Yusmarg into confidence so that the requirements needed to develop the same are given the due attention. This would ensure that the development at Yusmarg takes place in the right direction and all the facilities are world class.

Besides Yusmarg there are many other tourist places in Budgam district and the facilities there too are also not up to the mark. It is important that the tourism department and the tourism development authorities pull up the socks and improve the facilities at all these tourist places. Once facilities are improved all these health resorts then more and more people would come and visit them. This would give a new dimension to the tourism scenario in Kashmir especially in the Budgam district. As on date the Kashmir tourism is dependent on few places and this needs to be changed.

At the same time it is imperative that all the stakeholders in the tourism sector chip in and do their bit in inculcating confidence among the people intending to visit Kashmir. It is important that advisories are removed and people are motivated to come and visit places that have been kept out of bounds as on date. In this regard it is necessary that proper security is provided to the tourists visiting any place in Kashmir.

Funeral of education in Haryana's government schools: When the entire class fails, the system is the culprit



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

A shameful and disturbing news has come out from the government schools of Haryana - 18 schools of the state got zero percent result in the 12th board examination. That is, not a single student from the entire school passed. This incident is not just about the failure of some students, but it is a situation that exposes the nakedness of the entire education system. This is not just a result, it is a mass murder of the dreams of a generation.

When there is no education, then what about rights?

Education has been established as a fundamental right in our Constitution. But when not even a single student passes out from a school, the question arises whether this right is just an eyewash? Are we just going through the motions of sending children to school, or are we actually making an effort to impart knowledge to them?

Looking at the condition of these 18 schools in Haryana, it seems that the focus is more on 'management' than

education. Whether students come or not, whether they study or not, whether there are teachers or not - it does not matter, just the figures should look correct.

Already listed "bad schools", still no improvement!

The shocking thing is that these are the same schools that the government had already included in the list of 100 worst performing schools in the state. This means that the administration was already aware of the poor condition of these schools. But no teachers were added, no laboratories were built, nor was the operation of libraries ensured. Some schools do not even have science and math teachers - then how will the students pass?

Government school or punishment home?

Sending children to a school where there are no books, no teachers, no environment is not education, but mental exploitation. Today, many government schools have become just 'Mid Day Meal' distribution centers. Was this the purpose of these schools? In the name of education, only food and attendance are being taken, nothing else.

It's not the students who fail, it's the system that fails

These students can be called failures, but in reality, failure is the administrative system that claims to give pri-

ority to education but does nothing on the ground level. Failure is the leadership that talks about education in election rallies but turns a blind eye after coming to power. Failure is the bureaucracy that runs schools from AC rooms on files.

When the children of leaders study abroad, what rights do common children have?

Children of many big leaders and officers of Haryana study abroad or in expensive private schools. They know the reality of government schools, that is why they do not dare to send their children there. But the children of the poor who have no choice are left at the mercy of this wretched system. This double standard is shameful for a democratic society.

Not only the results are bad, trust is broken

When students work hard all year, go to school, hope that they will become something - and in return they do not get a teacher, the syllabus is not completed, then walls of disappointment are built inside them. Education is not just a means of employment, it is the key to self-esteem and self-reliance. When the entire school fails, it means that we have broken the trust of those children.

Will the school run with mid day meal only?

Today, the identity of many government schools is limited to mid-day meals only. Officials are busy ensur-

ing how much rice came and how much dal was distributed. But no one sees the condition of education? What was taught in the classroom? Was the syllabus completed or not? And most importantly - did the teacher come or not?

These are not 18 schools, these are 18 warnings

These 18 schools are an alarm bell - a warning that if we do not improve government schools now, this figure will increase from 18 to 180. Today it is Hisar and Jhajjar, tomorrow it will be Rohtak, Yamunanagar, Bhiwani. This structure of education is slowly becoming hollow, and we are becoming silent spectators.

What is the solution?

1. Appointment of permanent teachers: Schools cannot be run with the help of guest teachers. Qualified, trained and permanent teachers are the backbone of education.

2. Independent educational audit: There should be an impartial audit of the educational quality of schools in every district - not just infrastructure, but also teaching methods and outcomes.

3. Parent Participation: Schools should be connected with the local community and parents. Accountability will be created only when the society feels involved.

4. Political will: Leaders need to show action, not just speeches. Spending on education must be truly pri-

oritised.

5. Work on the digital divide: Where resources are lacking, technology can fill the gap - but it must be used in a planned and trained manner.

It is important to ask questions

Today, when the entire school is failing, does this question not arise that why were there no teachers in that school? What did the government do? What are the departmental officers getting paid for?

If we do not ask questions, this same system will swallow our children tomorrow too.

Silence will not work on the murder of education

It is an irony that in a state like Haryana, which is a leader in agriculture, sports and military service, this state of education is a paradox. If we remain silent on this destruction of education, our next generations will not forgive us. When leaders talk about education revolution, they should show the report card of these 18 schools.

This is not the right to education, it is a betrayal of education. This is not the failure of the students, it is the crime of the system. If we turn a blind eye even now, the numbers will be even more horrifying in the next report. Now is the time to speak up, to ask questions, to demand answers.

Operation Sindoor: India had a right to respond which it did, in a responsible, restrained, measured and a non-escalatory manner

BY MS NAZZKI

The strike was imminent and it was launched! But again the realistic background remains the same! It was all due to the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack which was planned in terrorist hideouts by the haggard terror amalgamation parked in Pakistan!

To every action there is an exact and more appropriate action that is taken!

It was a Pak based terror group who went in for a macabre action!

On 22 April, Pakistan based terrorist group "The Resistance Front" (TRF) perpetrated a devastating attack in Pahalgam, India. In this attack 26 innocent tourists were killed in cold blood after segregating them based on their religion. TRF is an offshoot of the well known Pakistan backed terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Post the attack, TRF claimed responsibility for this attack not once but twice within a few hours. Pakistan's subsequent refusal to acknowledge or curb these terrorist networks compelled India to take a responsible but resolute action.

In response, on the night of 7-8 May 2025, the Government of India executed "Operation Sindoor". The response was non escalatory, precise and targeted terrorist training camps at nine different locations within Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

No military targets were engaged. However, in the early hours of 8 May, Pakistan, in an escalated response launched coordinated drone and missile strikes targeting over a dozen Indian military installations across the Northern and Western theatres, including Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Bathinda and Bhuj.

Following these provocations, India conducted precision strikes against Pakistani Air Defence systems at a number of locations in Pakistan. These strikes were deliberately confined to the neutralization of systems that had facilitated the earlier Pakistani assault and were executed under the guiding principle of "equal intensity in the same domain."

-By targeting only those installations directly involved in the aggression, India balanced the imperative of deterrence with its overarching commitment to de-escalation.

- Concurrently, along the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan escalated to unprovoked mortar and heavy-calibre artillery fire into civilian areas in which sixteen innocent lives were lost, including three women and five children.

-Here too, India was compelled to respond in equal proportion with mortar and artillery fire. Indian Armed forces reiterate their commitment to non-escalation, however, any attempts by Pakistan to escalate will be responded firmly.

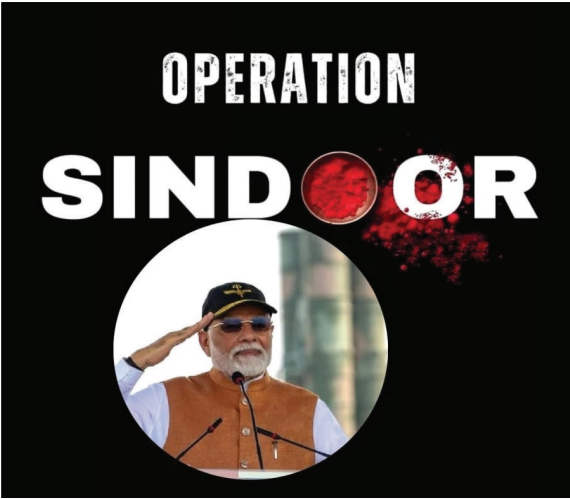
-India's strategic calculus in Operation Sindoor was informed by an unwavering objective: to uphold national sovereignty and protect civilian lives without precipitating a broader military conflagration.

- By confining military action to terrorist infrastructure, India underscored its non-escalatory posture and respect for established international norms.

-Pakistan's reputation as the epicentre of global terrorism is rooted in a number of instances, there are several terrorist attacks around the world where Pakistani fingerprints have been found.

-Earlier in pursuit of justice for the victims of terrorist attack be it Mumbai in 2008, Pathankot in 2016, Pulwama in 2019 or many others, India provided forensic evidence and urged Pakistan to bring the perpetrators of these attacks to justice. India has also submitted an updated dossier to the UN 1267 Sanctions Committee, documenting Pakistan's complicity in sheltering and abetting designated terrorist operatives.

-Meanwhile, Pakistan's repeated stonewalling of joint investigative teams despite India's full cooperation in forensic, call data and on-site evidence sharing from Mumbai 2008 and Pathankot 2016 probes reveals that its calls for new "joint investigations" are nothing more than delaying



tactics.

-Operation Sindoor is a principle-driven military response underpinned by strategic restraint. It was in response to a barbaric terrorist attack on innocent tourists which originated from Pakistan. India had a right to respond which it did, in a responsible, restrained, measured and a non-escalatory manner.

Once more unto the breach, India struck inside Pakistan in response to a terrorist attack. Once more, the two sides escalated - again to unprecedented levels - before agreeing to a ceasefire. It is tempting to consider this latest crisis as a somewhat larger replay of the last Indo-Pakistani crisis in 2019, but in fact it signifies a notable shift in India's military strategy towards Pakistan, which has potentially grave implications for future crises.

-Tensions rose immediately, with consistent exchanges of small-arms fire across the Line of Control that separates Indian- and Pakistani-controlled parts of Kashmir. Then, soon after midnight on May 7, India launched its military response, dubbed Operation Sindoor. It used a mix of long-range stand-off weapons, including air-launched missiles and loitering munitions, to target nine sites belonging to terrorist groups Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad, groups that have frequently

attacked India, including at Pahalgam.

-Pakistan made still-debated claims to have shot down Indian aircraft, and launched reprisal drone and missile attacks. The two sides traded tit-for-tat rounds of stand-off weapon attacks against each other's military installations.

-The violence intensified on May 9 and 10, with effective Indian strikes against key Pakistan Air Force bases and Pakistan launching its own counter-offensive, Operation Bunyan Marsoos, which was largely thwarted. That uptick drew the concerned diplomatic intervention of the United States before the two belligerents agreed to a ceasefire on the afternoon of May 10.

- Despite some minor violations, the ceasefire seems to be holding, and the crisis seems now to have concluded. For India, this crisis represents an important evolution in its military strategy against Pakistan - shifting from the issuance of threats to change Pakistani behavior, to the direct imposition of costs to degrade terrorists' capacity. This new cost-imposition strategy has a compelling logic, but will be difficult and risky to execute in future crises.

Over the past decade, India has progressively transformed its response to Pakistan's campaign of terrorism. Its actions have grown in scale, using new technologies, triggering larger cycles of violence, and seeking more expansive effects.

For years, despite grave provocations such as the 2001 attack on the Indian parliament, the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai, and even multiple smaller attacks during Prime Minister Modi's first term in office, India resisted responding militarily to terrorist attacks. That pattern of inaction began to change in 2016, when in response to an attack at Uri, Indian special forces raided terrorist camps just across the Line of Control. At the next crisis, India's response was notably more aggressive. In 2019, in response to an attack at Pulwama, India launched an airstrike tar-

getting a terrorist site at Balakot.

Operation Sindoor took that evolution further. India struck a larger set of initial targets, with more force, and more types of weapons, including cruise missiles and loitering munitions. Whereas in Balakot the use of air power was a radical departure, in Operation Sindoor, air- and ground-launched stand-off weapons had become India's primary tool. India already boasted some such capabilities, for example, with its indigenously-produced BrahMos cruise missiles, and Israeli-made Spice bomb kits and Harop loitering munitions. But it made a concerted effort to grow these capabilities since Balakot, most prominently with the procurement of French-made Rafale fighters carrying Scalp air-launched cruise missiles. Its layered, integrated air defenses - including the S-400 surface-to-air missiles that it imported from Russia, to Washington's great consternation - also proved to be exceptionally effective.

All of these capabilities gave India military options short of starting a war. Over the past decade, India has been able to attack Pakistan repeatedly without mobilizing its large ground formations.

India's new military strategy against Pakistan is therefore no longer satisfied with the symbolism of an aggressive posture, as in Uri, or threatening future punishment, as in Balakot. Its new strategy centers on exacting a direct cost on the Pakistani military-terrorist complex. The central logic of this strategy - its theory of victory - is subtly but importantly different from India's prior approach. India no longer expects that threatening a major punitive response can dissuade the Pakistani establishment from its campaign of terrorism. Instead, it accepts that Pakistani intent is practically immovable, and seeks to materially degrade the adversary, keep it on the defensive, and thereby thwart its offensive power against India.

This you can call as a beginning but do not forget to read, Those 100 Hours Tomorrow!

Understanding Nature and Staying Healthy in Summer



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATI
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The phenomenon of day and night is caused by the rotation of the Earth. A full day starts at midnight (12 a.m.) and ends at 11:59 p.m., comprising 24 hours. Interestingly, the Earth not only rotates on its axis but also revolves around the Sun, completing one revolution in 365 days and 6 hours. This is why every fourth year is a leap year, with 366 days.

Due to this revolution, we experience four seasons:

- Spring: March 21 - June 21
 - Summer: June 22 - September 21
 - Autumn: September 22 - December 21
 - Winter: December 22 - March 20
- Nature's beauty lies in these changing seasons. We experience rain, snow, heat, and cold, each bringing its own charm. The Kashmir Valley, situated in the extreme north, remains cool for most of the year, enhancing its natural beauty. During summer, the valley becomes a hub for local and foreign tourists. The dense forests of the Pir Panjal range help keep tourist spots cool, even during peak summer months.

One remarkable thing about nature is its balance. The Almighty has ensured that natural events remain within our endurance. Nature is both mesmerising and merciful, offering us countless wonders to enjoy and learn from.

Staying Fit and Healthy in Summer
Summer in Kashmir is a highly cherished season, not just for tourists but for locals too. However, the intense sunlight and heat call for special care.

Here's how to stay fit, hydrated, and refreshed during hot summer days.

1. Stay Hydrated
Our body needs plenty of water to function efficiently. Hydration:
Boosts energy
Aids digestion
Keeps your skin healthy
Prevents heat-related illnesses
2. Eat Hydrating Foods
Include fresh fruits and vegetables in your diet:
Watermelon: 92% water, rich in fiber, vitamin C, vitamin A, potassium, magnesium, and B vitamins. It improves digestion, keeps you full, and is low in calories.

Lemon: Rich in vitamin C, lemon juice helps with digestion, detoxification, weight loss, immunity, and hydration. It's especially beneficial when mixed with lukewarm water in the morning.

How to use lemon water:
Squeeze half a lemon into a glass of water.

If aiming for weight loss, squeeze a whole lemon into lukewarm water and drink it after a 30-minute walk. Repeat for 30 days for best results.

3. Tips to Stay Cool and Fresh
Avoid going out during midday when the sun is at its peak.
Schedule outdoor work in the morning or evening.
Use sunscreen to protect your skin.
Wear cotton clothes that are breathable and light.
Take early morning baths for a refreshing start.
Exercise in the morning or evening, not in peak heat.
Drink fresh juices (dry fruit milk, lemon juice, etc.) for nutrients and hydration.
stay fit and healthy even during in scoring heat wave.

Changing seasons bring joy and variety. Summer, especially in Kashmir, is a time of natural beauty and vibrancy. While we enjoy its blessings, it is important to take proper care of our health. Stay hydrated, eat well, and protect yourself from the heat – and always remain curious and eager to learn more about the natural wonders around us.

A Call For Summer Break In Schools



BY MOOL RAJ

I am writing to express a growing concern that I believe requires immediate attention: the extreme and unprecedented rise in temperatures currently being experienced in Jammu and Kashmir. This summer has seen temperatures soar to levels that are not only uncomfortable but also pose significant health risks to the population. Moreover, forecasts indicate even higher temperatures in the coming week, exacerbating an already critical situation.

The residents of Kashmir are not accustomed to such intense heat, and our infrastructure, including homes and public spaces, is not designed to cope with these conditions. The health impacts, especially on vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, and those with pre-existing medical conditions, can be severe. Heat-related illnesses, including heatstroke and dehydration, are real and present dangers. The prolonged exposure to such heat can also aggravate chronic conditions, leading to more severe health crises.

In light of these challenges, I propose the introduction of an additional short summer break. This break would provide much-needed relief to students, teachers, and working professionals who are currently struggling to function effectively in this heat. A temporary suspension of activities would allow people to stay indoors, hydrate adequately, and avoid the worst of the heat during the peak temperature periods.

An additional summer break is not just a measure of comfort but a necessary step to safeguard the health and well-being of the people of Jammu Kashmir and Chenab Valley. I

urge the relevant authorities to consider this proposal seriously and act swiftly to provide the community with the respite it desperately needs. Since the day temperatures have soared to a new highs, the demand of a short summer break dictated by the unprecedented rise in day temperatures going viral on social media sites deserves immediate consideration from the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, his advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Chief Secretary Attal Dulloo and Principal Secretary School Education Shantman IAS and Honble Education Minister Ms Sakeena Masood Itoo. Experiences of decades have shown that weather does not accept the calendars of Governments and people but enforces its own calendars' on both the Governments and its people at different times in different parts of the world and same holds good this time for the School Education Department in Jammu and Kashmir amid ongoing intensifying heat wave. Unfortunately the incumbent Director School Education Kashmir is known for tending and trying to enforce his own calendars' for both the winter and summer breaks for last more than three years instead of drawing calendars for summer and winter holidays on the basis of prevailing weather conditions in Kashmir. Unfortunately this time also Director School Education Jammu and Kashmir are as usual unnecessarily tending to unrealistically deny a short summer break for the ongoing high intensity heat wave period for schools in Jammu and Kashmir Valley. Now reluctantly the Director with the approval of the Government has changed school timings by fixing 8.00 A.M the reporting time at schools. Perhaps Director School Education won't dispute the hard reality that even during his school days the school timing in high intensity heat wave periods in Kashmir used to be 7.00 A.M to 12.00 noon and summer break period during those years used to be of 15-20 days duration. Since the day tem-

peratures have soared to a new highs, the demand of a short summer break dictated by the unprecedented rise in day temperatures going viral on social media sites deserves immediate consideration from the Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr Omar Abdullah Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, his advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Chief Secretary Attal Dulloo and Principal Secretary School Education Shantman IAS, Hon'ble Education Minister Ms Sakeena Masood Itoo. The announcement of a short summer won't be a concession to teachers of Government and Private Schools but a respite to children whose physical and psychological health has hugely come under increasing stress of the ongoing intensifying heat wave across Jammu and Kashmir. God forbid a single casualty or a single critical health issue of any child at any school can become a cause for police investigation which would be obviously humiliating and harassing for both the teachers and as well as the school education department. Fact remains that highest priority is the education of children for people in all parts of world and same holds good for people in Jammu & Kashmir but it is also an irrefutable fact that education comes next to health safety of people particularly children. Since ground realities speak themselves about the growing compulsions of a short summer break in Jammu and Valley and risking the lives of children for a short summer break of one or two weeks is not apparently advisable particularly these days when the trend of online teaching is growing tremendously in Jammu & Kashmir like other parts of the country. Though administrative wisdom demands that timing of the summer vacations should not have been different for schools and colleges in view of the fact that heat waves is as good a respite for elders as it is for children. It is not at all advisable for the Government to fix different timings for summer and winter vacations for schools and Colleges in Jammu and

Kashmir. Interestingly this time schools are open but colleges are shut for summer break and the trend as such has made children but not the elders of colleges vulnerable to intensifying heat wave.

Change in school timings leads to daytime sleepiness and poorer academic performance.

Scorching heatwave and extreme temperatures can severely effect our health. Heatwave can strain our bodies so we cannot afford to ignore them. The effect of heatwave on human health can be significant, particularly for venerable groups such as tender children, older and those with chronic medical conditions. Heat-wave can cause heat exhaustion, dehydration, headache, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, muscle cramps and so on.

Studies have attributed insufficient sleep as one of the factor contributing to poor school performance also can impair memory and concentration, make it difficult for students to learn. Recent government decision of changing school timings with effect from 24th of June have raised mixed reactions among general masses. I had met so many parents which were annoyed with the decision that change in timings yield nothing, it would have been better if extension of summer vacation got endorsed.

Considering the prevailing heatwave situation and change in timings, officials coming from distant places might face lot of inconveniences by reaching school before 8am triggers a lot of contradictions. Most of schools stretching from primary upto upper primary don't have sophisticated Infrastructural facilities to beat the severe heat. Government should have come up with the strategy without being marred the children's cozy cot. Most of the parents decided not to send their wards to school, because they prioritize their health first then education. There have been surge in heat stroke, dizziness and extreme fatigue among blooming buds since culmination of summer break.

Dar-ul-Ulooms: Nurturing Minds for a Better, Inclusive Society



BY: SYED MAJID GILANI

Dar-ul-Ulooms in our country, India, have always held a place of great respect in our society. For generations, these religious institutions have shaped the moral, spiritual, and ethical values of our communities. They have produced countless Islamic scholars, Imams, Hafiz-e-Quran, and Moulvis who dedicated their lives to guiding people with wisdom, kindness, and the message of peace. Even today, most mosques are led by Imams who proudly belong to one Dar-ul-Uloom or another. Their contribution in preserving religious knowledge is priceless.

However, as times change, the needs of society change too. While religious education will always be important, there is now a growing need to connect Dar-ul-Ulooms with the realities of modern life. Islam is a religion based on truth, wisdom, and compassion. It guides people in both spiritual and worldly matters and encourages them to gain knowledge, adopt wisdom, and move forward with time while staying firm in their faith and values. This beautiful balance can help build a peaceful, meaningful, and successful future.

Today, the world is moving fast in science, technology, and professional fields. It is time for our religious institutions to grow with these changes while holding on to their spiritual roots. We should imagine a future where an



Imam is not only a Hafiz-e-Quran and Islamic scholar but also a doctor, engineer, teacher, or professional. This blend of religious and modern education would strengthen society and produce people who can contribute in every field while staying true to their moral and spiritual values.

At present, most Dar-ul-Ulooms only focus on religious education. This is necessary to protect the timeless wisdom of the Holy Quran, the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and the noble Sunnah. However, if students only study religious books and do not learn about other subjects, it limits their opportunities in today's competitive world. These days, technical skills, professional education, and career training are also needed. If Dar-ul-Ulooms include subjects like science,

mathematics, technology, computer studies, languages, and vocational training alongside Islamic studies, their students would be better prepared for modern life while still following the path of faith.

This thoughtful and positive change would make Dar-ul-Ulooms more useful and meaningful today. It would open new doors for students, giving them complete education and the ability to handle modern challenges with wisdom, confidence, and honesty. These graduates would not only become spiritual guides but also respected professionals –jurists, doctors, engineers, teachers, journalists, and administrators – all working for the good of society while promoting the values of honesty, justice, kindness, brotherhood, and human dignity.

Most importantly, this idea promotes peace, harmony, and inclusiveness in society. The Holy Quran, the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and the Sunnah teach us to refine our character, spread kindness, ensure justice, and build a society free from crime and corruption. Islam teaches that people of every religion, caste, and community should be treated with respect, safety, and dignity. It gives special importance to protecting the rights and honour of women, caring for the environment, and showing kindness to all living beings – whether humans, animals, birds, or plants.

By modernizing Dar-ul-Ulooms and widening their scope, we can create a society where people of all faiths live together with peace, respect, and equal rights. A society based on fairness, justice, and compassion for all.

Through this balanced change, Dar-ul-Ulooms can continue their original Islamic mission in a broader, more practical way. They can become centres of complete education, producing people who are spiritually strong, professionally skilled, and socially responsible. These individuals would be successful in both this world and the hereafter.

Now is the time for the leaders of Dar-ul-Ulooms, community elders, and society as a whole to think about this vision and work together to turn it into reality. With unity and good planning, we can ensure that Dar-ul-Ulooms remain respected centres of knowledge, producing kind, capable, and well-rounded people who serve their communities and promote peace, brotherhood, and progress.

Syed Majid Gilani is a Government Officer and a writer who reflects on human emotions, family bonds, moral values, and heartfelt experiences from real life. He can be reached at syedmajid6676.

I Speak the Truth (A Journey of Opulence)

SIDHARTH P K
(WRITER/ POET)

I recall the day I started to learn, to rewind myself in the long process. It was sunlight upon my world, to which I owe. The meaning of life starts with my journey as it all began in 2018. The time I was born into the poetic sense, me thrive to it took shape, as the opulence of life glimmer. 2018, I ended my ten year long wait to myself fulfill again from the debris.

My first print poem happened to appear in a local edition. It was the beginning of my mind to realize. I gave many a good chances and attempts to bring the dream into reality, and its witness secured in 2018. I build my moment and the wordsmith hobbled.

AS I look behind, my recollections, I had done what I have dreamt of. My opulence and the books that took birth out of my pen are my best friends. They seek in me, remembers me and I owe my life to them.

Centre Extends Special Perks For Government Employees Posted In Kashmir Valley By 3 Years

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, May 24: The central government has approved a three-year extension of special concessions and incentives for its employees posted in the Kashmir Valley, reaffirming its commitment to personnel working under challenging conditions in the region. The new order, issued on 29 April 2025, ensures the continuation of these benefits from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2027, Jammu and Kashmir tourism. The move comes as a follow-up to a similar extension granted in September 2022, which remains in force until 31 July 2024. The decision applies to all central government departments,

including the Indian Railways, with parity maintained through orders issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoP&T). The Railway Board, through circular RBE No. 34/2025, confirmed that railway staff deployed in the Valley will receive the same concessions available to employees of other central ministries. These benefits are applicable mutatis mutandis, meaning they are subject to the same conditions as outlined by DoP&T. The concessions apply to employees posted in the following 10 districts of Jammu & Kashmir: Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Kupwara, Pulwama, Srinagar, Kulgam, Shopian, Ganderbal, and



Bandipora. The key benefits include: 1. Family Transfer Facility Employees may opt to relocate

their families to a place of their choosing within India at government expense. This includes a transport allowance and a Composite

Transfer Grant equal to 80 per cent of the employee's last drawn basic pay. 2. Per Diem Allowance Those who choose not to shift their families are entitled to a daily allowance of 113 for every day of attendance, intended to compensate for additional commuting expenses. This is aligned with the Department of Expenditure's city travel reimbursement norms. 3. Additional House Rent Allowance Employees relocating their families are not eligible for the per diem allowance, as they benefit from the Composite Transfer Grant. Jammu dining guide Jammu

and Kashmir tourism 4. Security and Transport Departments are required to arrange secure accommodation, transportation, and safety measures for personnel stationed in the Valley. A Continued Acknowledgement of Service This extension underscores the government's recognition of the difficulties faced by personnel serving in the region, where security risks and logistical challenges are routine. The continuation of incentives aims to boost morale, ensure stability in administrative functions, and encourage continued service in the strategically sensitive area.

Red Ribbon Club Celebrated Red Cross Day at GLDM Degree College, Hiranagar

HT News Network



Hiranagar 24-05-2025: The Red Ribbon Club of Government GLDM Degree College, Hiranagar, successfully organized a Poster Making Competition on the theme "On the Side of Humanity", underscoring its commitment to fostering artistic expression, community engagement, and health awareness. The event was conducted in connection with the celebration of Red Cross Day, which is observed on the 5th of May every year.

The event was conducted under the directives of the DC Office, District Kathua, J&K in collaboration with the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), the J&K AIDS Control Society, and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). NACO, functioning under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, plays a pivotal role in formulating policies and implementing programs to combat HIV/AIDS nationwide.

Prof. Roopali Jamwal, Convenor of the Red Ribbon Club, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the importance of RRC in colleges and its impact on youth engagement in public health awareness. She praised the volunteers for their dedication in promoting such vital initiatives under the RRC banner.

More than 20 students participated in the competition, showcasing their creativity by depicting the causes, effects, and preventive measures related to HIV/AIDS. Their artwork served as a powerful medium for sensitizing the youth towards the significance

Prof. Jamwal emphasized that such events are crucial in shaping informed, responsible, and health-conscious citizens, ultimately contributing to the vision of a disease-free society. Dr. Pragma Khanna, Principal of GLDM Degree College, lauded the efforts of the Red Ribbon Club for consistently organizing impactful awareness programs. She commended the enthusiasm and active participation of students, which reflects the success of the Club's ongoing initiatives. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Bharat Bhushan, a member of the RRC, who appreciated the volunteers and acknowledged the commendable involvement of all participants. Faculty members Prof. Namrata Choudhary and Prof. Amit Singh were also present at the event, adding to the academic significance and encouragement for the students.

Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi: 7 J&K BN NCC Kupwara hosts youth network programme at AGS Wayne

HT News Network



Kupwara, 24 May Demonstrating a strong commitment to nurturing leadership, cultural awareness, and civic responsibility among young people, the 7 Jammu & Kashmir Battalion NCC Kupwara successfully conducted a Youth Network Programme at Army Goodwill School (AGS), Wayne. The event, organised under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) SS Misquith, Administrative Officer of the battalion, was marked by active participation from NCC cadets, local youth, and students. Attendees engaged in an inspiring lecture and interactive session designed to motivate and empower the next generation of leaders. The programme was honoured by the presence of National Conference youth leader Shahrukh Nasir Khan who attended as the Chief Guest. In his keynote address, Khan commended the initiative, applauding both NCC and AGS Wayne for their efforts in guiding youth towards constructive engagement and national development. The youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow; they are the strength of today. Programmes like this equip them with the tools, vision, and courage to bring about meaningful change," Khan remarked.

The event centred around the theme 'Vikas for Viksit Bharat 2047', highlighting the importance of culture, heritage, and roots. It forms part of the NCC's wider objective to unite communities and empower young individuals, especially in border areas.

Lt Col SS Misquith underscored the vital role the NCC plays in cultivating disciplined, responsible citizens and extended heartfelt appreciation to local authorities and the school administration for their support in making the programme a success.

The Youth Network Programme at AGS Wayne stands as a significant milestone in regional efforts to promote peace, unity, and proactive youth engagement. The Youth Network Programme at AGS Wayne stands as a significant milestone in regional efforts to promote peace, unity, and proactive youth engagement

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application for issuance of OBC certificate in favour of SHABIR MOHI UD DIN HAJAM S/O GHULAM MOHI UD DIN HAJAM R/O RESHIPORA AUTHOORA Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward class in his/her / their favor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of RESHIPORA AUTHOORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the HAJAM community having annual income 100000 /- (one lakh only) the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...GHULAM MOHI UD DIN HAJAM Father 47 years Labour
- 2...MISRA BEGAM wife 45 years Housewife
- 3...BILAL AHMAD son 25 years student
- 4...Mohd SHAFI son 22 years student
- 5...SHABIR MOHI UD DIN HAJAM son 18 years student

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my father's name GH MOHD SHEIKH S/O GHIRASOOL SHEIKH R/O SALOOSA KREERI. Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040008416 wants to be registered on my name MOHD SHAFI SHEIKH S/O GH MOHD SHEIKH R/O SALOOSA. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....MOHD SHAFI SHEIKH
S/O ...GH MOHD SHEIKH
R/O SALOOSA KREERI
DISTT.....BARAMULLA

Vijay Garg's Book titled, "Vedic mathematics (Teacher's Manual) released by Principal Sonia Sharma

HT News Network

Principal Mrs Sonia Sharma of G T Bkhalsa Sen Sec school Malout today released Book, ". Vedic mathematics (Teacher's Manual) Authored by well known writer and Retired Principal Vijay Garg. On this occasion senior teachers was also present. Principal speaking during Book release function appreciated works of Vijay Garg done in education field. She said that this book is very useful for students who are going appearing competitive exams. Principal further said that this book written by Vijay Garg will always work for guidance for students and society and very helpful for competitive exams. Speaking on the objecting of releasing Book, Vijay Garg said that Logical reasoning is an essential skill that helps students think clearly, analyze situations, and solve problems effectively. This book, Logical Reasoning for Class 5, has



been specially designed to introduce young learners to the fascinating world of logic and critical thinking in a fun, engaging, and age-appropriate manner. Garg further said that The activities and exercises in this book aim to sharpen students' analytical abilities, boost their confidence in solving problems, and prepare them for various competitive exams and real-life situations. The topics covered include patterns, sequences,

classification, coding-decoding, puzzles, and more—each presented in a child-friendly format with clear instructions and examples. Book is useful for competition exam who are preparing for competitive exams are crucial because they provide a well and effectively graded easy and simple language, ample questions for practice and prepares the examiner holistically for the competitive exams, also structured understanding of concepts, offer practice questions aligned with the exam pattern, help students gauge their readiness, and ensure they are studying updated and relevant material. Garg further added that This book encourages learning by doing, helping students develop a habit of thinking independently and logically. It can be used both in the classroom and at home, offering plenty of opportunities for practice and self-assessment.

Govt Of Jammu and Kashmir UT

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No. 28/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2025-26 issued under Endorsement No: ERB/2043-51 DATED:21-05-2025.

For and on behalf of The Government of J&K (U/T)-e-tenders (Single cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender/ Doc. (In Rs.)	2% Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion (Calendar Days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account	Remarks
01	Construction of Ghantaghar at Municipal committee Qazigund B.W.O Electric works	Rs. 4.017/- Lacs	Rs. 200	Rs. 8035/-	Linked with Progress of Civil work	"AAY" Class Electrical	FC Grants	Accord of Administrative Approval accorded by Director Urban Local Bodies vide order No.DULB/Plg/031 pof 2025 Dated:-09-01-2025

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21-05-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	22-05-2025 from 06.00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	22-05-2025 from 06.00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	04-06-2025 upto 04.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	05-06-2025 at 02:00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-NIT carefully before uploading soft copy. As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No. OM No. A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-

a) Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids: 1. The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt). 2. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

2.1. All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:-

a. All the bidders shall upload the Scanned copy of the Latest Enlistment Registration Contractor License duly renewed for the current year. 2025-26

b. Scanned copy of GSTIN Registration/No. certificate with return clearance certificate (Form GST-3B) for the month of APRIL 2025 or Quarter January to March

c. Scanned copy of PAN card. (As reflected in GST Regd./GST Form-3B).

d. Scanned copy of valid contact number/E-mail-id.

e. All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan (Tender document cost) (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date) by debit to M.H.0059 in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir (Tender inviting authority). Mentioning NIT No./S. No/Name of the work, Name of the division as per Annexure I

f. Scanned copy of Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR /Pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir (Tender Inviting Authority). (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date).

g. The successful bidder shall submit the scanned copy of Latest renewed JKPWDOMS Contractor card valid for the current year before issuance of contract allotment.

h. The successful bidder has to execute the agreement and subsequently submit the same to this office within same day after issuance of formal allotment order for commencement of work as per the terms and condition laid.

The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @5% of contract value in the shape of CDR/

FDR/BG after issuance of Letter of Acceptance which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. The EMD @ 2% of successful bidder will be released only after the submission of 5% performance Security deposit. 2.3. The bidder who so ever participate the e-tenders floated by this office will submit Additional Performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG in case the bidder has Submitted the below Percentage Bid against the Advertised Cost for the work as per below mentioned percentage Breakup in order to avoid unbalancing of e-tender and shall be released after 100% completion of work:-

S. No.	% age of Unbalanced bid Viz-a-viz advertised cost on account of Low Rate.	Additional Performances security to be Deposited on quoted bid by L1
1.	Upto and including 15%	NIL
2.	Greater than 15% upto & including 20%	5%
3.	Greater than 20% upto & including 25%	10%
4.	Greater than 25% upto & including 30%	15%
5.	Greater than 30% below	20%

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority)

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids. 4. The Employer reserves the right to invite fresh tender without any Prior Notice to the Bidders. 5. The earnest money (EMD) shall be released in favour of unsuccessful bidders only after submission of Treasury Challan.

DIPK-1822/25

Send Dated:- 24/05/2025
Pub:- 25-05-25

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(R&B) Electric Division Kashmir Rajbagh

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my DAUGHTER'S NAME has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card. 663450914653as MERHAT LATEEF 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 manal pahelgam. Mohd ashraf lawe R/o mamal pahelgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change then Name in my electricity Connection From Haji Habibullah Dar S/O Ghulam Mohammad Dar to my brothers Name i.e Mohd Aslam Dar S/O Haji Habibullah Dar bearing consumer I'd 0206050002182. Anybody having any objection in this regard, may file his/her objection in the office of Concerned PDD Department within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.

Name..... Mohd Aslam Dar S/O Haji Habibullah Dar
Under consumer I'd 0206050002182



DC Baramulla finalizes IEC campaign action plan for saturation of DAJGUA to empower tribal communities

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MAY 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting here to finalize the detailed action plan for the upcoming IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) campaign for comprehensive implementation of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) and PM-JANMAN. These flagship initiatives aim to empower tribal communities, including Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), by ensuring com-

prehensive awareness and delivery of government services at the grassroots level.

DC emphasized the importance of timely and efficient execution of campaign activities scheduled from 15th to 30th June 2025. He directed for the preparation and widespread distribution of IEC materials regarding 25 different schemes spread across 17 central ministries as part of DAJGUA in multiple tribal and regional languages to ensure effective outreach.

A key focus of the campaign will be Benefit Saturation Camps at village



and habitation levels of tribal areas, providing essential services such as

issuance of Aadhaar cards, ration cards, caste certificates, and Ayushman health cards directly to eligible tribal beneficiaries. Coordination with NGOs, Common Service Centers, and government departments was prioritized to facilitate smooth service delivery.

During the meeting, DC instructed the Assistant Commissioner Development to prepare a detailed calendar outlining all campaign activities, deadlines, and responsibilities for seamless coordination among stakeholders. He also called for active involvement of youth and commu-

nity leaders through engagement activities including Gram Sabhas, street plays, and awareness drives. To ensure transparency and accountability, DC instructed for daily real-time reporting of campaign progress via geo-tagged photographs, attendance records, and event reports on a centralized dashboard managed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Further, DC announced that recognition and incentives would be awarded to the best-performing blocks, officials, and community leaders to encourage exemplary participation and leadership.

DC Pulwama chairs District Road Safety Committee meeting

HT News Network

PULWAMA, MAY 24: To strengthen road safety mechanisms and mitigate road accidents across the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a comprehensive meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) at the Administrative Complex Pulwama.

At the outset, Executive Engineer, R&B Division Pulwama (Member Secretary DRSC), presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the current road safety status, actions taken on previous decisions, black spot identification, removal of unauthorized cuts, and compliance with Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety (SCCoRS) norms.

While presenting the year wise road accident data, the chair was apprised that the number of accidents has significantly



reduced this year in comparison to previous years.

DC reviewed the decisions taken during the previous meeting and the action taken by concerned departments. He sought department-wise action plans for better coordination and tangible progress on road safety initiatives.

During the meeting, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Pulwama apprised the chair about the series of enforce-

ment drives carried out across the district to ensure adherence to traffic and safety regulations. It was further informed that comprehensive inspection drives of all school buses operating within the district have been successfully completed. Additionally, it was conveyed that the installation of CCTV cameras in all school buses has been ensured, significantly enhancing the safety and monitoring of student transportation.

Dr. Qayoom stressed the importance of joint enforcement drives, particularly targeting rash driving, illegal parking and use of safety gear. He emphasized on organising a fortnight of medical check-ups of commercial drivers in collaboration with the Health Department, ensuring their physical fitness for road safety.

He also directed the ARTO Pulwama to intensify enforcement drives and awareness drives especially regarding the Road Accident Victim Fund. During the meeting, DC directed the Chief Education Officer and Principals of Degree Colleges to revitalize Road Safety Clubs in schools and colleges to promote traffic awareness among students.

Highlighting the issue of illegal parking, DC instructed the R&B Department to prioritize the coverage of black spots and installation of crash barriers and signage at vulnerable locations.

DDC Kupwara reviews implementation of Dharti Aaba Abhiyan

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MAY 24: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the implementation of Dharti Aaba Abhiyan in the district.

During the meeting, a threadbare discussion was held about the action plan for conduct of the awareness campaign under Dharti Aaba Abhiyan scheduled from 15 June to 30th June, 2025 in the district which is aimed at saturating all Government schemes and other beneficiary oriented programmes at the grassroots level. Addressing the meeting, DDC impressed upon the officers to work with added zeal and close coordination to ensure cent percent saturation of government schemes in the district with special focus on tribal areas. She underscored different dimensions of the centrally sponsored schemes launched to uplift tribal communities and ensure their socio-economic development. Meanwhile, a block wise schedule for holding IEC cum beneficiary saturation camps was also issued which begins from 15th June. SEs of PHE/R&B/KPDCL, ACD Kupwara, CMO,



CEO, CPO, CAO, CAHO, Principal GPC Kupwara, Superintendents of ITIs and other district and block officers were present in the meeting. Addressing the meeting, DDC impressed upon the officers to work with added zeal and close coordination to ensure cent percent saturation of government schemes in the district with special focus on tribal areas. She underscored different dimensions of the centrally sponsored schemes launched to uplift tribal communities and ensure their socio-economic development.

MLA Shopian chairs Rogi Kalyan Samiti meeting at Keller

HT News Network



SHOPIAN, MAY 24: A governing body meeting of Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS) for Community Health Center (CHC) Keller was held today under the chairmanship of Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Shopian, Advocate Shabir Ahmad Kullay.

The meeting discussed various development proposals to improve healthcare services at the CHC Keller. Several key initiatives were approved for processing. DDC Member Keller, Chaudhary Fazal also participated in the meeting and shared valuable inputs.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA emphasized timely execution of approved works and appreciated the efforts of the medical staff in serving the people.

IEC programme under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan organised across Anantnag

ANANTNAG, MAY 24: An extensive IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) programme under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan was organized today across various educational institutions of Anantnag to realize the vision of a drug-free society.

The initiative is part of a concerted and sustained campaign to tackle the growing menace of substance abuse, particularly among youth. It aims to educate students, teachers and the broader community about the dangers of drug addiction while promoting a healthy and positive lifestyle through awareness, active participation and multi-departmental collaboration.

As part of the campaign, a series of events including interactive sessions, awareness rallies, essay competitions, debates and pledge-taking ceremonies were conducted today in various educational institutions across the district including at HS Levdoora, HS Shangus, Eternal Public School, Public school Urn hall, ST Peters International School and HS Dadoo.

These activities are designed to inform students about the harmful effects of drugs besides to empower them as change agents within their families and communities. Special sessions were held during which experts from the Health Department, Social Welfare Department and District Police shared insights into the psychological, physical and social impacts of drug addiction. Real-life testimonials and case studies were also presented to emphasize the reality and severity of substance,

DC Shopian chairs NCORD meeting Calls for collaborative action of stakeholders to tackle the menace

HT News Network



SHOPIAN, MAY 24: District Level Narco Coordination (NCORD) meeting was held today at the mini-secretariat here, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta. On the occasion, department wise action taken reports were assessed, and directions were issued to strengthen the fight against drug abuse.

DC emphasized the critical role of departments, including police, drug control, revenue and others

in combating the rising menace of drug abuse, and directed the departments to take more stringent measures against the menace. He also stressed on the importance of keeping close vigil on poppy cultivation areas and taking strict action against the cultivators besides conducting poppy destruction drives.

While reviewing the issues pertaining to the seizures of narcotic substances, DC instructed taking more strict action against drug peddlers. The treatment & rehabilitation issues pertaining

to the victims of drug abuse through institutional support of Addiction Treatment Facility and Drug De addiction Centre was also discussed. Other departments were instructed for enhancing counseling services and Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities to raise awareness about drug abuse, aiming to formulate a comprehensive action plan to curb drug abuse and ensure effective grassroots-level awareness so that the anti-drug message reaches one and all.

GDS Hajin organises seminar on the theme, "Show Your Talent"

HT News Network

Hajin 24 May (HT) The Seminar, Debates & Cultural Committee of the college organised a one day Seminar on the theme, "Show your Talent" in the seminar hall of the college. The seminar started with the formal welcome address given by the principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Gazala Firdous. In her inaugural speech, the principal focused on the role of college in grooming up the talent of students. She further stressed upon students that "artistic genius is not a meticulous gift rather a talent" that can be developed by education, hard work & dedication. Prof. (Dr.) Mehrajud Din Hajini encouraged students to continuously strive for the pursuit of knowledge & wisdom for achieving their innate talent. He quoted Shakespeare, John Keats and other thinkers to show how talent can be groomed through intuitive & imaginative journey into the hidden layers of the individual self. Similarly, Dr. Fayrooz Ahmad Mir presented the coming of age account of the college and its role in bringing up the desired change and transformation in the lives of students. He also presented a brief biography of each faculty member and highlighted their distinctive role in the development of the college. Dr. Firdous Ahmad In his speech stressed upon the students to inculcate moral and ethical value in their lives. Later on, the college administration distributed NSS certificates among the NSS students for their regular social services. In the talent display session, the students showcased their unique and distinctive talent in creative and critical areas. They actively participated in creative writing, mimicry, public speaking and group singing activities. The event was attended by all members of the teaching and non-teaching faculty along with local media fraternity.

DC Kulgam reviews Eid-ul-Adha arrangements

Farooq rather

KULGAM, MAY 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today convened a meeting of officers to review the arrangements put in place for the upcoming festive occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

During the meeting, DC directed officers of Jal Shakti and KPDC to ensure a smooth supply of water and electricity across the district. He also directed the Jal Shakti department to press water tankers in required areas and ensure no shortage of water at any place.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer informed the meeting that adequate numbers of poultry birds are available in the district. District Sheep Husbandry Officer informed the chair that adequate numbers of sacrificial animals (Goats and Sheep) are available in the district. Sale outlets cum mandies would be established in the main town, he added.



Instructions were passed by the DC to constitute joint teams to intensify market checking to ensure the quality food items such as bakery, confectionery, milk, meat,

chicken, vegetables, and other essentials are available in the market. DC directed AD, FCS&CA to ensure that the process of ration distribution is com-

pleted before Eid so that people may not face any difficulty in this regard.

Municipal authorities were directed to ensure proper sanitation in towns, mosques and eidgah.

Executive Officers of Municipalities were directed to identify places for proper disposal of offal and to inform people regarding the same.

On the occasion, Traffic police authorities were asked to ensure smooth movement of traffic besides traffic advisory if needed. District Police was directed to make necessary security arrangements and deployments at major shrines, eidgah and the places where needed.

Health department was directed to keep available medical facilities wherever necessary.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; Tehsildars, Executive Engineers of KPDC, Jal Shakti, AD GCS&CA, EOs of MCs, DSHO, CAHO, ARTO, Traffic Police and others concerned.





JMC initiates development of Green Spaces under NCAP

■ HT News Network

Jammu, May 24: Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to deliberate on the prevailing political scenario in the Jammu region and highlight pressing public issues.

During the meeting, the Provincial President apprised the Chief Minister that the people of the Jammu region are generally satisfied with the current dispensation. He stated that the entire cadre of the National Conference—ranging from ministers and party legislators to grassroots workers—has been actively present on the ground, working tirelessly to resolve public grievances and address emerging challenges. Reflecting on the recent India-Pakistan border conflict, Rattan Lal Gupta emphasized that the people have observed the proactive approach of the government and the party. "From yourself to Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, and the rank and file of the party, everyone stood firmly with the people during this time of crisis. They not only monitored the situation closely but also ensured the availability of essential services and relief support to the affected areas," he said.

SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu conducts water rescue exercise at Jia Pota Ghat on banks of river Chenab

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 24: SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu, on the direction of Commandant Zahid Naseem Manhas, conducted a Water Rescue Exercise today in river Chenab near Jia Pota Ghat Akhnoor.

The event formed the part of ongoing 21 day disaster management training being imparted to Armed Police personnel at SDRF 2nd Bn., HQ Jammu.

During the training, the Dy SP Dinesh Gupta briefed the trainees about the necessary precautions to be taken during the water rescue operation. The real time scenario helped to showcase different types of disasters that may occur during Monsoon season like flash flood/landslide etc. All the trainees were practically involved in the water rescue demonstration conducted by J/C Inspector Mohinder Parkash and SI Sudershan Singh.

The team consisted of 15 SDRF personnel. Among others present were SDPO Akhnoor Varinder Gupta; Dy.SP and SHO Akhnoor Inspector Sanjeev Chib and 2 personnel from Health Department.

RAMP awareness programme held at Bhaderwah

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, MAY 24: The District Industries Centre (DIC), under the guidance of General Manager S. Paramjeet Singh, organized a RAMP Awareness-cum-On-Spot Udyam Registration Camp at Community Hall, Bhaderwah. The event was part of the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme to support and empower Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Jammu & Kashmir.

The main goal of the programme was to raise awareness about various government schemes, promote Udyam registration, and support aspiring entrepreneurs. A large number of entrepreneurs participated, including many who registered their enterprises on the spot with the help of representatives from different departments.

Officers from Handicrafts and Handlooms, JKEDI, JKTPO, and CSCs departments took part in the event. Key speakers Tarun Sudan, Jatinder Bharti, and Neeraj Sharma informed participants about the benefits of Udyam registration and guided them through the process.

General Manager S. Paramjeet Singh highlighted the importance of formalizing MSMEs to access financial support, market linkages, and other government assistance. He stated that connecting entrepreneurs with the MSME ecosystem is essential for building a strong and competitive business environment in the region.

The DIC thanked all participating departments and stakeholders and assured that such outreach activities would continue in other parts of the district to support local entrepreneurs.

Electrifying Inter-School Zonal Level Football, Cricket Competitions light up Chowgan Ground Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 24: In a vibrant celebration of youth energy and athleticism the Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar organized thrilling Inter School Zonal Level Competitions in the disciplines of Football and Cricket at the iconic Chowgan Ground Kishtwar. The ground came alive with nonstop action echoing with the sounds of cheering students, determined athletes and spirited competition. Under the banner of Zone Kishtwar an exciting Football tournament for U/14 Boys was conducted. A total of 50 students participated in the event transforming Chowgan Ground into a high voltage arena of dazzling footwork, team coordination and passionate gameplay.

Don't Worry, Everything Will Be Normal: Rahul Consoles School Children In Poonch

■ HT News Network

POONCH, May 24: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Saturday reached out to school students here who lost two of their mates — 12-year-old twins Zain Ali and Urwa Fatima — to Pakistani shelling, consoling as well as encouraging them to "study hard, play hard and make lots of friends".

"Don't worry, everything will come back to normal," he said while interacting with the friends of the two deceased children.

During an hour-long whirlwind tour of Poonch town bruised by heavy shelling from across the LoC during the India-Pakistan military standoff earlier this month, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha interacted with the students of the convent school which lost Ali and Fatima.

Though the school escaped the shelling between May 7 and 10 that left 28 dead and over 70 others injured, its two students died in Poonch town on May 7. They were among the 13 civilians who died in Poonch district the worst-hit by the shelling.

"You've seen a bit of danger, you've seen a bit of a frightening situation. But don't worry, everything will come



back to normal. And your way of responding to this problem should be that you study really hard, you play really hard and you make a lot of friends in school. Okay? Will you do that? Good," Gandhi told the students of Christ School.

His presence at the school brightened up the students who were seen clapping and waving at the former Congress president who shook hands with them. "Big hug to all of you. Love you and thank you," he said before leaving. He visited the families of those who lost their lives in the

shelling and inspected damage to the houses and religious places, including a Gurdwara.

Accompanied by party leaders, including AICC General Secretary in charge of the party's Jammu and Kashmir affairs Syed Naseer Hussain, AICC general secretary G A Mir, J-K Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra and former ministers Vikar Rasool Wani and Lal Singh, Gandhi paid obeisance at Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Jammu dining guide-Jammu and Kashmir tourism

When Gandhi was leaving the Singh Sabha Gurdwara, a man in the crowd expressed his faith in the Congress leader to raise their voice at the national level.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not even mention Poonch (during his address to the nation in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor but we have faith that you will raise our issue," he said after Gandhi halted in his steps to hear the man dodging the security apparatus to come closer. During an interaction with a young girl whose house was badly damaged, she told Gandhi that they were five sisters and their father died 16 years ago. Recounting the horrifying experience, the girl said they were on the ground floor when the shell hit the house and they had a miraculous escape.

Some residents sought Gandhi's intervention in enhancing the compensation for their damaged houses.

Rajouri sets new benchmark for 'Catch the Rain' Campaign Records 3,800 groundwater recharge harvesting structures

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 24: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Jal Shakti Abhiyaan - 'Catch the Rain' campaign, a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at promoting water conservation and rainwater harvesting.

At the outset, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer Sandeep Kumar Sharma briefed the chair that the district has made significant progress under the campaign. He reported that 3,800 groundwater recharge and water conservation/harvesting structures have been successfully uploaded on the Jal



Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) portal. This notable achievement has qualified the district for a national-level award.

Commending the efforts of all departments involved, the DDC emphasized the importance of ensuring the long-term sustainability and quality of the assets created under the campaign. He directed the Jal Shakti, Rural Development, Forest and Agriculture

Departments to ensure proper maintenance of these structures.

He also instructed the departments to thoroughly verify the data uploaded on the JSJB portal and make necessary corrections where required. The DDC stressed the importance of uploading only geo-tagged photographs to ensure accuracy and transparency in monitoring.

In addition, the DDC direct-

ed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to prioritize the desilting of Khuls under the MGNREGA scheme to improve water flow and enhance groundwater recharge in the district.

The meeting was attended by the CPO Rajouri, Maqsood Ahmed, SE Hydraulic Circle Rajouri, ACD, Auqil Naveed, Block Development Officers (BDOs) and Executive Engineers of the Jal Shakti Department. Commending the efforts of all departments involved, the DDC emphasized the importance of ensuring the long-term sustainability and quality of the assets created under the campaign. He directed the Jal Shakti, Rural Development, Forest and Agriculture Departments to ensure proper maintenance of these structures.

DC inspects progress of renovation works at Sports Stadium Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, MAY 24: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh today conducted an inspection of the ongoing development and renovation works here at the Sports Stadium. The visit was aimed at assessing the pace and quality of the construction activities being undertaken to upgrade the stadium's infrastructure for the benefit of local youth and sports enthusiasts.

During the inspection, the DC reviewed the progress of the renovation of the sports ground and issued directions for ensuring a proper and regular water supply to maintain healthy grass cover on the stadium's playing surface. He stressed that a well-maintained



turf is essential for promoting outdoor sports and creating a safe environment for athletes. The DC also inspected the ongoing tile work in the seating area and instructed the executing agencies to maintain quality standards.

He further directed the officials from the PWD (R&B) Department and the

contractor to expedite the pace of work and ensure that all pending tasks are completed within the stipulated timeframe. The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of the project in enhancing the district's sports infrastructure, which will help nurture young talent and promote a culture of fitness and physical activity.

The DC emphasized the need for proper coordination among the executing agencies and called for close monitoring to avoid any delays. He reiterated the administration's commitment to developing modern sports facilities in the district and urged all stakeholders to work diligently towards achieving this goal.

GDC Ramkote organizes maiden J&K Bharat Scouts & Guides Pravesh Training Camp

■ HT News Network



KATHUA, MAY 24: Government Degree College Ramkote successfully organized its maiden Pravesh training camp in collaboration with J&K Bharat Scouts and Guides Jammu, here today.

The J&K Bharat Scouts and Guide conducted the Parvash Function with great enthusiasm and pride, marking the formal induction of new college students into the scouting movement. The Pravesh function, a significant milestone in the journey of every scout and guide, symbolizes the official initiation of young students into the values, discipline, and spirit of the scouting movement including the history, promise, law and other subjects of the training.

The officers from JKBSG, Haroon Malik SHQs, K.L. Sharma HQs Commissioner/IC Rovers and Rangers and Yash Pal District Organizing Commissioner, Samba were welcomed by the Principal of College Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul, faculty Ranger Leader Dr. Vasundra Raj (HOD Sociology) and college students (Rangers).

The programme started with the keynote address by Haroon Malik SHQs JKBSG who emphasized the historical importance of scouting and guiding in developing character, leadership, and service to society. He encouraged the new entrants to uphold the ideals of the Bharat Scouts and Guides and contribute positively to their communities. The programme introduced the students with the motto, salute, sign, and syllabus etc of pravesh training to the students. During the function JKBSG officials distributed certificates to all newly registered students, formally recognizing their entry into the organization. The key highlight of the event was the presentation of a charter to Government Degree College, Ramkote, officially approving the establishment of a One Ranger Unit within the college. The establishment of the one new Ranger Unit is a proud moment, as it opens doors for more young women to participate in nation building activities by way of attending training camps for their holistic development. As many as 35 students from BA semester 2nd and 4th participated in the event.

DC inaugurates Inter- Zonal District Level Chess, Kabaddi Tournament at Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, MAY 24: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh inaugurated the Inter- Zonal District Level Chess and Kabaddi Tournament here today. The DC graced the event as the Chief Guest.

The tournament is being organised by the District Administration Doda in collaboration with the District Youth Services and Sports department (DYSSD).

As part of the event, the participants took a solemn pledge to promote Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (Get rid of drugs before they get rid of you), reinforcing the commitment to a drug-free and healthy lifestyle.

The opening ceremony saw the participation of Zonal Physical Education Officers, field staff, and more than 200 young athletes



representing different educational zones of the district. The event was marked by enthusiasm and discipline, reflecting the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and camaraderie.

The tournament is set to host competitions in Kabaddi and Chess for U 14 and U17 boys and girls, providing them a platform to showcase their sports skills and interact with each other.

The DC lauded the Youth Services and Sports Department for nurturing sports culture and talent at the grassroots level. He emphasized the vital role of sports in personality development, confidence building, and leadership. Encouraging the young participants, he urged them to uphold the spirit of fair play and strive for excellence both on and off the field.



DDC Chairperson reviews RDSS implementation in Ramban, emphasises timeline completion of works

HT News Network

RAMBAN, MAY 24: To review the implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in Ramban district, a high-level meeting was convened here today. The meeting was chaired by Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Dr. Shamshad Shan in the Conference Hall, Maitra. The meeting was attended by DDC Councillors, Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal, Superintendent Engineer PDD, Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineers of STD, JPDCL and NTPC, District Incharge NTPC, AEEs, AGM SJ Transformers, RDSS contractors, and other concerned officials. At the outset, the Chairperson reviewed the area-wise progress and achievements under RDSS. Officers briefed the house on the objectives of the scheme, highlight-



ing its focus on modernizing and strengthening the power infrastructure to ensure

quality, reliable, and affordable electricity supply to the public.

Expressing concern over the slow pace of implementation, the Chairperson instructed the executing agencies to coordinate closely with DDC Councillors to expedite the progress of ongoing works. She underscored the urgency of completing the projects before the onset of the rainy season, which typically hampers developmental activities due to adverse weather conditions. The Chairperson also took note of the challenges affecting the execution of projects, including Right of Way (ROW) issues, delays in forest clearances, and insufficient fund releases. She directed the concerned departments to resolve these impediments on priority to avoid further delays. The Chairperson emphasized the need to execute all RDSS works in a mission mode to improve the power scenario across Ramban district, thereby ensuring

MVD Rajouri challans 32 vehicles, seizes 4 in a major crackdown on violators

HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 24: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, the Motor Vehicles Department Rajouri today carried out a comprehensive enforcement drive to curb traffic violations across the district. The drive was led by ARTO Rajesh Gupta, assisted by MVI Rahul Singh and other staff of the department. During the drive, a total of 32 challans were issued, amounting to a penalty sum of Rs. 67,900. Additionally, 4 vehicles were seized for serious violations. The focus of the enforcement drive was on curbing the illegal practice of carrying goods in passenger vehicles, as well as tackling issues of overloading and overspeeding — which are among the leading causes of road accidents.

DM Reasi reviews NPA cases under SARFAESI Act to expedite resolution

HT News Network

REASI, MAY 24: In a significant step towards expediting the resolution of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and strengthening coordination between financial institutions and borrowers, the District Magistrate Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired a meeting today to review cases under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002. During the meeting, 5 NPA cases were discussed. District Magistrate emphasized the need for streamlining enforcement procedures and promot-



ing mutual resolution of disputes. She stressed that recovery processes must adhere strictly to legal provisions while upholding the principles of transparency, fairness, and sensitivity, especially in cases involving genuine finan-

cial hardship. District Magistrate also urged banks to actively pursue NPA cases with their head offices and explore all feasible settlement options before initiating legal proceedings, which should remain a measure of last resort. Addressing borrowers, the DM called for time-bound repayment plans to resolve outstanding dues and directed concerned officials to bring detailed case reports, along with borrowers, to the next scheduled review meeting. The meeting was attended by ADC Rakesh Kumar, senior officials from various banks operating in the district

Labour Department organises Interactive Meet at CTM Kathua

HT News Network

KATHUA, MAY 24: The Labour Department Jammu & Kashmir today organized an interactive session at Chenab Textile Mills (CTM), Kathua, focused on labour welfare, safety, and awareness of social security schemes. Labour Commissioner J&K Charandeep Singh was the Chief Guest. During the programme, the Labour Commissioner held a detailed interaction with Insured Persons (IPs) under the J&K Employees State Insurance Scheme (JKESIS). Many workers shared their personal experiences on how they and their families have benefitted through the JKESIS scheme — a vital social security initiative providing medical and financial support to the working class. Insurance Medical Officer Kathua, Dr. Neeru Khajuria, delivered a comprehensive presentation highlighting the features, benefits, and eligibility criteria of the JKESIS scheme. She emphasized the importance of timely registration and awareness among workers to fully avail the scheme's advantages. In addition, Roopali Jasrotia, Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central), also gave a detailed presentation on various labour laws and welfare measures in place for the benefit of industrial workers. As part of the event, Charandeep Singh, who is also the Director JKESIS, distributed medical reimbursement claims to

several insured persons, reaffirming the department's commitment to delivering benefits at the grassroots level. U. K. Patnayak, Executive President, CTM, presented an in-depth overview of CTM's operations, the facilities and benefits extended to its workers, and the proactive safety measures in place at the plant. He highlighted the industry's collaborative approach with the government for better worker welfare. The Labour Commissioner also witnessed a mock safety drill conducted by CTM, demonstrating their preparedness and compliance with occupational safety standards. The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 100 workers of CTM, making it a successful platform for awareness, interaction, and strengthening the bond between labour and the administration. Charandeep Singh appreciated the management of CTM for their support in implementing social security schemes and maintaining high safety standards. He urged the industry to continue promoting a safe, respectful, and rights-based work culture. The Labour Department reaffirmed its resolve to enhance the welfare and protection of workers across Jammu & Kashmir through effective implementation of labour laws and schemes like JKESIS.

Kishtwar gears up for Mission Yuva campaign: ADC reviews readiness with key stakeholders

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 24: A meeting of all SBDUs and BHDs members was convened today by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pawan Kotwal in his office chamber to review the preparedness for Mission Yuva in the District. The ADC briefed the stakeholders on the detailed rollout strategy for the campaign, which aims to engage youth across all panchayats. He stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination and directed that awareness camps be conducted at the panchayat level in collaboration with Yuva Doots and the District Employment & Counselling Centre. The ADC instructed all BHD nodal officers (Sub-Divisional Magistrates – SDMs) to monitor the campaign's implementation and track application statuses in their jurisdictions through the Mission Yuva online portal. He also urged all SBDU and BHD members to regularly review progress in their respective areas via the portal. Further, the ADC directed the AD Employment, FM DIC, concerned banks, and the DNO JKEDI to ensure that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for applicants are prepared free of cost using AI-enabled tools available on the Mission Yuva App and Web Portal. In conclusion, he direct-



ed the AD Employment Kishtwar to submit daily progress reports to his office to facilitate real-time monitoring and ensure the smooth execution of Mission Yuva across the district. The meeting was attended by LDM Harsh Rawal, Functional Manager DIC, EO Vinod Shanti besides other concerned staff. He stressed the importance of interdepartmental coordination and directed that awareness camps be conducted at the panchayat level in collaboration with Yuva Doots and the District Employment & Counselling Centre. The ADC instructed all BHD nodal officers (Sub-Divisional Magistrates – SDMs) to monitor the campaign's implementation and track application statuses in their jurisdictions through the Mission Yuva online portal. He also urged all SBDU and BHD members to regularly review progress in their respective areas via the portal.

Mega Scholarship & Career Counselling event held at GDC Kishtwar

HT News Network



KISHTWAR, MAY 24: The Career Counselling and Guidance Cell, in collaboration with the Department of Sociology, organized a highly impactful Mega Scholarship and Career Counselling Event at Government Degree College (GDC), Kishtwar for 12th pass-out and graduate students. The event was held in association with the BGGI Group and under the patronage and able guidance of the college Principal Prof. Basharat Iqbal. The session was convened and coordinated by Prof. Asma Javaid, who also delivered the welcome address. The event covered a range of crucial topics concerning students, including Admission guidance for study abroad programs and scholarship schemes, financial assistance for meritorious students, career opportunities after graduation, Postgraduate admissions across various universities, Prospects in management courses. Adnan Shabir, CEO of BGGI Group and Basharat Bin Shamas served as the key resource persons, providing expert insights into academic and career planning. Principal GDC Kishtwar and Chief Guest of the event, Prof. Basharat Iqbal, addressed the students and commended the organizing team for their dedication to supporting students in their career development. The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 250 students representing local schools and the host college. Faculty members including Prof. Waseem Rasheed, Dr. Usman, Prof. Ashfaq Ahmed Wani, Prof. Sanjay Rakwal, Dr. Shazia Tabassum, Prof. Sanjay, Dr. Hasan Jaleel, Dr. Arshad, and Prof. Burhan Saqid were also in attendance and actively contributed to the program. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Sonika Sen, Head of the Department of Sociology. A token of appreciation was also presented to the Chief Guest. This successful initiative provided a valuable platform for students to explore academic opportunities and career pathways with the support of seasoned professionals.

Bhaderwah: Public outreach, grievances redressal camp held to address VDG, community issues

HT News Network

DODA, MAY 24: A public outreach and grievances redressal camp was organized today at Malani, Manthla under the chairmanship of District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Dhanter Singh Kotwal and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sandeep Mehta. The program witnessed active participation from Village Defence Group (VDG) members of adjoining panchayats, who presented a range of issues and concerns before the officials. The event was attended by Additional SP Bhaderwah Vinod Sharma, ex-sarpanchs, prominent local leaders, and a large gathering of residents. The primary aim of the program was to strengthen coordination between law enforcement agencies and the local community, and to address grassroots-level grievances effectively. Key issues highlighted by the VDG members included the timely disbursement of honorarium, provision and maintenance of weapons, and the need for structured training and support. Officials assured that all grievances raised during the camp would be forwarded to the concerned departments for prompt and time-bound resolution. The outreach initiative also served as a platform for enhancing trust and cooperation between the public and security agencies, especially in sensitive and remote areas. The DDC Chairman and SSP reiterated their commitment to improving public service delivery, ensuring local safety, and promoting responsive governance at the village level.

J&K Forest Department pioneers DGPS adoption, ushering a new era of forest governance

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 24: In a landmark move towards integrating cutting-edge geospatial technology in forest governance, the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department organized a Hands-on Training cum Workshop on Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) here at the Forest Resource Management Centre (FRMC), Narwal, today. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from forest field staff of both Territorial and Non-Territorial divisions falling under the East Circle, Jammu. The event was held under the guidance and presence of senior leader-

ship from the department. The workshop was inaugurated and led by PCCF & Head of Forest Force (HoFF), J&K Forest Department, Suresh Kumar Gupta, alongside other dignitaries including T. Rabi Kumar, PCCF & CEO J&K CAMPA, Chaturbhuj Behera, APCCF & Director JKFR, M.K. Kumar, CCF Jammu and other senior officers. The dignitaries collectively stressed on the strategic importance of DGPS technology in modern forest management. Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Gupta highlighted that DGPS equipment enables high-precision geospatial mapping with millimeter-level accuracy, which is indispensable for accurate demarcation of forest



boundaries, detection and prevention of encroachments and effective

resolution of land-related disputes and court cases.

The workshop was technically conducted by a specialized team from M/s MAPPA, a reputed geospatial solutions provider, under the leadership of Niten Patial, CEO, MAPPA. The training included a detailed presentation on the functionality, field application and data acquisition techniques of DGPS devices, followed by a comprehensive hands-on field training session, allowing forest staff to practically engage with the technology on-ground. This initiative marks a historic milestone for the J&K Forest Department, as it becomes the first and only department in the Union Territory to have successfully procured and operationalized DGPS devices for its

field operations. This adoption is set to revolutionize forest conservation, scientific demarcation and landscape-level planning. By equipping its field personnel with advanced tools and knowledge, the department has reaffirmed its commitment to transparent, accountable and technology-driven governance of forest resources. The precision mapping enabled by DGPS will also significantly contribute to biodiversity protection, ecosystem integrity and legal safeguards for forest land. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks and a strong resolve from all participants to implement the learnings in their respective jurisdictions.



US starts to lift sanctions on Syria

UNI

WASHINGTON, MAY 24

The United States took initial steps on Friday to ease sanctions on Syria, following President Donald Trump's pledge to do so during his Middle East trip.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued a document, known as GL 25, to ease financial restrictions on Syria. GL 25 will enable new investment and private sector activity in Syria, according to a statement of the department. The authorization was designed to "help rebuild Syria's economy, financial sector and infrastructure, in line with U.S. foreign policy interests." The new policy could bring new investment, the provision of financial and other services to Syria, and permit transactions related to Syrian-origin petroleum or petroleum products, the department said, adding it had permitted U.S. financial institutions to maintain correspondent accounts for the Commercial Bank of Syria.

However, the department noted the sanctions relief could only be extended on the condition that Syrian leaders would not offer a safe haven for terrorist organizations and would ensure the security of its religious and ethnic minorities.

Also on Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio issued a 180-day waiver under the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act to facilitate investments and ensure the provision of essential services like electricity and water.

Following the onset of the Syrian civil war in 2011, the United States, along with several other Western countries, imposed stringent sanctions targeting key sectors of the Syrian economy.

In remarks to an investment forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on May 13, Trump announced that he plans to lift sanctions on Syria.

Karnataka CM dons mask amid COVID concerns

UNI

MYSURU, MAY 24

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his son, MLC Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah, were seen wearing surgical masks during the inauguration of an Indira Canteen in Hinkal here on Saturday, amid growing concerns over a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in parts of the country. Isolated spikes in COVID-19 cases in districts such as Belagavi, along with reports of a broader uptick across several parts of the country, have prompted health experts and authorities to advise renewed caution. Karnataka Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has urged citizens to avoid crowded places. Similar advisories have also been issued by the governments of Delhi, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh.

With the national daily case count recently surpassing the 250-mark, medical professionals have called for vigilance without panic.

The Chief Minister, who is 76 years old, is considered part of the vulnerable population bracket. His public adherence to preventive protocol is likely to set an example for citizens at a time when pandemic fatigue has led to laxity in precautionary behaviour.

Health officials continue to monitor the situation closely, with an emphasis on testing and tracking in affected areas.

Water crisis despite 'four-engine' govt, says Atishi

UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 24

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and the Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Atishi on Saturday said that despite the BJP being in power in the national capital, the people of the city are deprived of basic necessities such as drinking water.

Atishi said she has written to Chief Minister Rekha Gupta seeking an appointment with her over the water crisis. "Women standing in queues in front of tankers, children waiting with buckets and pots -- these scenes are now becoming the new identity of Delhi. Did the BJP show the dream of such a Delhi to the people?" She said water supply has been disrupted for 24 hours at some places, making the people angry. "But the government and ministers are silent. Despite the BJP's 'four engine' government in Delhi, the people of Delhi are also deprived of basic needs like water," said Atishi.

"I am writing this letter to you about the severe water crisis in the capital Delhi. We are still in May, the real summer heat is yet to come, but the people of Delhi are struggling with a terrible shortage of water," Atishi said.

Trump threatens 50pc tariffs on EU imports, warns trade talks 'going nowhere'

UNI

WASHINGTON/BRUSSELS, MAY 24

US President Donald Trump dramatically intensified tensions with the European Union on Friday, announcing plans to impose a 50% tariff on all EU imports from June 1, claiming that trade negotiations were stalled and unproductive.

Writing on his Truth Social platform, Trump accused the EU of exploiting the United States for decades, pointing to what he described as an entrenched system of "powerful trade barriers, VAT taxes, excessive corporate penalties, monetary manipulation and unjust lawsuits" that had created an annual US trade deficit of over \$250 billion. He insisted the bloc had been "very difficult to deal with," reports BBC.

PM urges states to join hands for a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047

UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday stressed the need for centre and all the states to come together "like Team India" to accelerate the pace of development across the country.

"We have to increase the speed of development. If the Centre and all the States come together and work together like Team India, no goal is impossible," Prime Minister said, while chairing the 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog here.

Emphasising the shared vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, PM Modi urged all states to align with the national goal.

"We should have the aim of making each state Viksit, each city Viksit, each Nagar Palika Viksit, and each village Viksit. If we work on these lines, we will not have to wait till 2047 to become a developed nation," he said.



He underlined that development must translate into visible changes in the lives of citizens, saying, "Only when people feel the change, it strengthens the change and transforms the change into a movement. We have a great opportunity as a team to fulfil the aspirations of 140 Crore people."

Highlighting the need for inclusive growth, PM Modi called for greater participation of women in the workforce, adding that "we must make laws, policies so that they can be respectfully integrated in the workforce".

As India undergoes rapid urbanisation, he also stressed the importance of building "future ready cities," driven by growth, innovation, and sustainability.

The Prime Minister encouraged states to develop at least one world-class tourist destination, underscoring the importance of tourism as a growth engine.

This year's Governing Council Meeting focused on the theme 'Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat @2047', placing states at the centre of India's long-term development strategy.

In Russia, Indian all-party delegation reiterates zero-tolerance policy toward terrorism

UNI

MOSCOW/NEW DELHI, MAY 24

The Indian all-party delegation led by DMK MP Kanimozhi reiterated its zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and stressed that India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail.

During its meetings in Moscow, both sides agreed on the need to strengthen counter-terrorism measures and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

On Friday, the delegation was in Moscow where they held a number of engagements, including with the two Houses of the Russian Parliament and think tanks.

The visit marks a continuation of India's long-standing effort to strengthen global counter-terrorism frameworks and reinforce its commitment to a multipolar international order.

The delegation held talks with Andrey Denisov, First Deputy Chair of the Committee on International Affairs of the Federation Council, and other Senators.

The dialogue focused on enhancing legislative convergence in the global fight against terrorism. The Indian side drew attention to Operation Sindoor as a response in the country's fight against terrorism.

Later, the delegation had a meeting with Leonid Slutsky, Hon'ble Chair of the Committee on International Affairs of the State Duma, and interacted with Members of the State Duma.

Both sides reaffirmed the historic and time-



tested nature of the India-Russia relationship, underpinned by mutual trust and respect. The discussions covered a wide range of issues including global security architecture, emerging geopolitical alignments, and multi-lateral cooperation.

The Indian delegation underlined the imperative of collective action against terrorism, including the need for credible international mechanisms to deny safe havens, financing, and political justification to terrorist entities.

The delegation then met Andrey Rudenko, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation and held extensive discussions on bilateral, regional, and global developments, with emphasis on the shared commitment to a multipolar and international order.

The delegation also had an insightful interaction with former Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, who heads the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies (RISS). The delegation had detailed exchanges on radicalisation pathways, disinformation ecosystems used by terrorist groups, and state-sponsored propaganda that undermines regional peace.

The two sides agreed on the imperative of nar-

rative frameworks rooted in pluralism, sovereignty, and international law. The two sides agreed on closer think tank collaboration for joint analytical work concerning terrorism's transnational linkages.

These high-level interactions reaffirm the shared commitment of India and Russia to intensify cooperation in the fight against terrorism, promote global stability, and further strengthen their

Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

The delegation conveyed India's resolve to expose and isolate those who employ terrorism as an instrument of state policy and reaffirmed the importance of international solidarity in this regard.

Besides, DMK MP Kanimozhi, the other members of the delegation are: Rajeev Rai, MP, National Secretary and Spokesperson, Samajwadi Party; Capt. Brijesh Chowta (Retd.), MP, BJP; Prem Chand Gupta, Rajya Sabha MP, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD); Ashok Kumar Mittal, Rajya Sabha MP, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP); Ambassador Manjiv Singh Puri, Former Ambassador to the EU, Belgium, Luxembourg and Nepal; Former Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the UN.

India slams Pakistan at UN over hypocrisy of sponsoring terror, speaking about protecting civilians

UNI

NEW YORK, MAY 24

India at the UN on Saturday slammed Pakistan over its hypocritical behaviour of sponsoring terrorist attacks in India and killing innocent civilians and, at the same time, speaking about protecting civilians.

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador P. Harish speaking at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Addressing emerging threats, ensuring the safety of civilians, humanitarian and UN Personnel, journalists and media professionals and enhancing accountability mechanisms" said that for a nation that sponsors terrorism across its borders, to even participate in a discussion on protection of civilians is an affront to international community.

"India has experienced decades of Pakistan-sponsored terrorist attacks across our borders... For such a nation to even participate in a discussion on the protection of civilians is an affront to the international community..." Ambassador Harish said while speaking under the agenda item "Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict



Demolishing Pakistan's arguments he said he was constrained to respond to the baseless allegations of the representative of Pakistan on a number of issues.

Referring to the Operation Sindoor launched by India against Pakistan in the wake of the killing of 26 innocent tourists at Pahalgam in Kashmir by Pakistani terrorists, Ambassador Harish said earlier this month the Pakistani army "deliberately shelled our border villages killing more than 20 civilians and injuring more than 80."

He said there was intentional targeting of places of worship including gurudwaras, temples and convents, as well as medical facilities.

"To preach at this body after such behaviour is grossly hypocritical..." Ambassador Harish said.

Earlier he also lashed out at Pakistan for spreading disinformation about the Indus Water Treaty and said Islamabad had violated the spirit of the Treaty by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India that seek to hold hostage the lives of civilians, religious harmony and economic prosperity.

"We are constrained to respond to the disinformation being carried out by the delegation of Pakistan with regard to the Indus Water Treaty. India has always acted in a responsible manner as an upper riparian state," Ambassador Harish said and added that in the last four decades more than 20,000 Indian lives had been lost in terror attacks, the most recent of which was the dastardly targeted terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam.

SC upholds arrest of K. Rajasekhara Reddy in Rs 3,200 cr AP liquor scam

UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 24

The Supreme Court on Friday upheld the arrest of K. Rajasekhara Reddy, former IT advisor to ex-Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy, in the alleged Rs 3,200 crore liquor scam in the state.

A bench comprising justices JB Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan ruled that Reddy's arrest was carried out in line with constitutional provisions and did not infringe upon Article 22 or the procedural safeguards under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS).

"Authorities are not required to furnish exhaustive details of the offence at the time of arrest. What's essential is that the information must be adequate for the arrested individual to grasp the nature of the accusation," the bench observed while rejecting the appeal.

"We find no substance in the petition. The appeal stands dismissed."

Reddy was taken into custody in April 2025 at Hyderabad airport by the Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. According to the remand order, he was a central figure in an extensive kick-back-linked liquor trade operation in the state.



Challenging his detention, Reddy had approached the Andhra Pradesh High Court through a habeas corpus petition. The High Court, however, upheld the arrest on May 8, affirming that due process had been followed. This led to the present appeal before the Supreme Court.

Appearing for Reddy, senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani argued that the arrest was orchestrated with malice. He noted that Reddy's name was not mentioned in the original FIR and was inserted later through a case diary entry, just two days before the arrest.

He further contended that Reddy had willingly agreed to appear before the CID, under the impression that he was being called only as a witness under Section 179 of the BNS.

Jethmalani also alleged that the arrest grounds lacked specificity and failed to meet the standards laid out in Article 22 and Section 47 of the BNS.

Additionally, he contested the invocation of the Prevention of Corruption Act, pointing out the absence of a valid sanction under Section 17A in Reddy's case.

Countering the claims, senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, representing the State, defended the arrest procedure, asserting that Reddy was given detailed reasons for his arrest both at the time of his detention and during the remand hearing. He emphasised that all procedural safeguards, including the production before a magistrate within 24 hours, had been observed.

After reviewing the submissions, the top court endorsed the High Court's view, stating that the reasons provided for the arrest were sufficient and not superficial.

"On examining the grounds of arrest handed over to the appellant's son at the time of the arrest, we do not find them to be vague or cosmetic. They were meaningful and provided a clear basis for the arrest," the court noted.

NITI Aayog meeting is another "exercise in hypocrisy and diversion", alleges Jairam

UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 24

The Congress on Saturday called the NITI Aayog's Governing Council meeting as "another exercise in hypocrisy and diversion" and questioned the very foundation of the

government's vision of "Viksit Bharat".

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on his social media handle X said, "Today the Governing Council of the NITI Aayog meets under the chairmanship of the PM. It will reportedly review

progress on the so-called Viksit Bharat goal".

"What sort of Viksit Bharat will it be," he asked, "if those in power themselves destroy the bonds of social harmony by their malicious words and deeds?" Highlighting concerns over institu-

tional integrity, he alleged that Parliament, the judiciary, universities, media, and constitutional bodies are being subverted to fulfill "nefarious goals."

"What sort of Viksit Bharat will it be if the values that India has always stood for are sys-

tematically assaulted in full glare of the world? What sort of Viksit Bharat will it be with sharpening economic disparities and inequalities even as wealth continues to accumulate in the hands of a few? What sort of Viksit Bharat will it be if India's

glorious diversities are deliberately sought to be insulted and erased? What sort of Viksit Bharat is it where not only is freedom of speech under threat but freedom of speech is also endangered?" Ramesh questioned.

Fruit, Fluids, and Fasting: A Weekly Ritual for Better Health

A weekly fast consisting of fruits and hydrating liquids like herbal teas, coconut water, and fresh juices can offer a gentle, natural way to reset your system without going completely without food.

Fasting once a week enables a digestive reset as light, fiber-rich fruits are easy on the gut, helping reduce bloating, improve bowel movements, and ease digestive strain.

Fasting encourages the body's natural detox process – including autophagy, where cells clean out waste and repair themselves.

With no heavy meals to digest, your brain gets more energy. Many people report increased mental clarity and a lighter mood.

A lighter day once a week can help regulate insulin, lower calorie intake, and promote fat metabolism – all aiding sustainable weight management.



agement.

Improved hydration and reduced inflammatory foods can reflect in clearer skin and more restful sleep.

Who Can Try It

This fasting method is generally safe for:

Healthy adults seeking a natural wellness habit

People looking to manage weight or digestion

Individuals wanting to break unhealthy food patterns

Those on a detox or spiritual wellness journey
Who Should Avoid It (or Consult a Doctor First)

People with diabetes or blood sugar issues

Pregnant or breastfeeding women

Children and teenagers (unless medically advised)

Those with eating disorders or a history of disordered eating

Individuals with chronic illnesses or on medication

Precautions to Consider
Hydrate generously –

water, herbal teas, and coconut water are essential.

Don't overeat fruits – stick to low-sugar fruits like papaya, apples, watermelon, and berries.

Avoid strenuous exercise on fasting days. Light yoga or walking is ideal.

Break the fast gently the next day with a light, balanced meal.

Listen to your body – dizziness, nausea, or fatigue are signs to stop and consult a professional.

Dengue, chikungunya to become endemic in Europe, need proactive actions to mitigate: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

From sporadic outbreaks of Aedes-borne dengue and chikungunya, the European Union is transitioning towards an endemic state, according to a study, published in the Lancet Planetary Health journal.

The principal vectors of dengue virus and chikungunya virus are Aedes aegypti, the yellow fever mosquito, and Aedes albopictus, the Asian tiger mosquito.

In 2024, there were a total of 304 dengue cases in the European region – a historic peak compared with the combined total of 275 cases in the previous 15 years.

The rising trend suggests the spread of tiger mosquitoes – that transmit these viruses – to farther north due to global warming, said the researchers in Sweden and Germany.

The team cited that



from being mainly confined to tropical regions once, the virus' frequency and severity of outbreaks have increased since 2010. This is due to "rising temperatures".

"Climatic variables emerged as the strongest predictors of outbreak risk, even after accounting for health-care expenditure and imported case numbers," said the team including from Umea University (Sweden) and University of Heidelberg (Germany).

"Warmer summer temperatures were found to substantially elevate outbreak risk, particularly in urban and semi-urban

settings, whereas human travel and mobility were found to facilitate the spread of these two Aedes-borne diseases," they added.

The study is based on an analysis of the spread of the two diseases in Europe over the last 35 years.

According to European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control data, most outbreaks (95 per cent) took place between July and September of 2024, with 64 occurring in the third quarter of the year.

Urbanisation, which provides new habitats for Aedes vectors, also significantly affected outbreak risk, with urban and

semi-urban areas having a higher HR for outbreak events than rural areas, said the team.

"Our findings highlight that the EU is transitioning from sporadic outbreaks of Aedes-borne diseases towards an endemic state. The interval between vector establishment and local outbreaks has substantially shortened over the past three decades and is expected to decrease further," the researchers said.

The study underscored the urgent need for robust public health measures, including stringent vector control, enhanced entomological and disease surveillance, citizen science, and early warning systems.

"In the context of a warming climate, mitigating the transition to endemicity will require proactive, vigilant, and well-targeted public health interventions," the team said.

Amrutanjan Health Care's Q4 net profit falls over 21 pc, expenses rise

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Chennai-based pharma company, Amrutanjan Health Care Limited, on Thursday reported a decline in its net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 2025 (Q4 FY25), with profit dropping by approximately 21.16 per cent to Rs 15.17 crore, compared to Rs 19.24 crore in the previous quarter (Q3 FY25).

The company's revenue from operations in Q4 stood at Rs 135.41 crore, marking a 10.31 per cent increase from Rs 122.75 crore recorded in Q3, as per its stock exchange filing.

However, total expenses surged by 18.05 per cent, reaching Rs 119.37 crore in Q4, up from Rs 101.12 crore in the previous quarter.

The sharp rise in costs appears to have impacted the company's bottom line.



On year-on-year (YoY) basis, Amrutanjan Health Care's consolidated net profit showed a positive trend, rising by approximately 11.14 per cent from Rs 13.65 crore reported in the March 2024 quarter (Q4 FY24).

The company's Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend

of Rs 2.60 per equity share of the financial year 2024-25 (FY25).

This will apply to 2,89,10,630 shares of Re. 1 each, fully paid up.

"If approved at the upcoming Annual General Meeting, the dividend will be distributed to eligible shareholders within 30 days of the meeting," the

company said in its stock exchange filing.

In a key leadership change, the company announced that M Srinivasan will retire from his role as Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, effective May 31.

The company also informed the appointment of Gagan Preet Singh as his successor from June 1. The company affirmed that Singh is not debarred from holding office by any regulatory authority.

On the stock market, Amrutanjan Health Care shares closed nearly flat on Thursday, ending at Rs 715 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), down marginally by Rs 0.40 or 0.06 per cent.

Founded in 1893, Amrutanjan Health Care is known for its Ayurvedic pain relief products and has expanded into various segments such as women's hygiene, cough and cold remedies, and packaged fruit juice drinks.

India, EU to find solutions for marine plastic litter, waste to green hydrogen

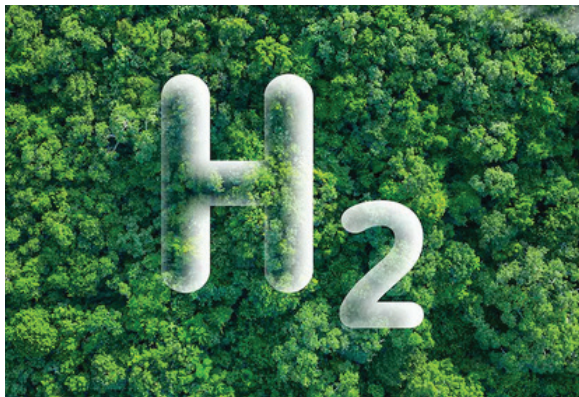
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India and the European Union (EU) have launched two major research and innovation initiatives that focus on marine plastic litter and waste-to-green-hydrogen solutions.

The initiatives were launched under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), established in 2022 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen to strengthen the bilateral partnership on trade and technology.

With a joint investment of Rs 391 crore, the initiatives focus on two coordinated calls in the areas of Marine Plastic Litter (MPL) and Waste to Green Hydrogen (W2GH), co-funded by Horizon Europe – the EU's research and innovation framework programme – and the Indian government.

"Collaborative research



is the cornerstone of innovation. These initiatives will harness the strengths of both Indian and European researchers to develop solutions that address our shared environmental challenges", said Professor Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the government.

Highlighting the increasing momentum of the EU-India collaboration, Herve Delphin, EU Ambassador to India, remarked, "These research calls under the EU-India Trade and Tech-

nology Council demonstrate the dynamism of the EU India partnership, renewed by our leaders in Delhi last February".

"By tackling concrete issues like marine pollution and sustainable energy together, we're driving innovation, circular economy and energy efficiency. Development of cutting-edge technologies in these areas makes both economic and environmental sense. We are committed to a cleaner, more sustainable future that will benefit both the EU and

India," Delphin mentioned. Despite global efforts, marine pollution continues to threaten biodiversity, disrupt ecosystems, and impact human health.

Dr M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said "Marine pollution is a global concern that requires collective action. This joint call will enable us to develop advanced tools and strategies to protect our marine ecosystems."

The second coordinated call addresses the urgent need for sustainable energy solutions through the development of waste-to-green hydrogen technologies.

Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, said that "Advancing waste-to-hydrogen technologies is crucial for our energy transition goals. This collaboration will accelerate the development of sustainable hydrogen production methods."

Feelings of frailty may signal early signs of ageing at 40: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Feeling lonely or older than your age at 40? According to a study, these negative perceptions about ageing could be early signs of frailty, even in your 40s.

Usually associated with older age, frailty is a recognised medical condition, marked by reduced strength, energy, and ability to recover from illness.

Pre-frailty is the reversible transition stage that comes before; however, experts say it's ill-defined and requires more understanding.

The research, published in the journal BMC Public Health, showed that it can begin much earlier with subtle psychological and social cues.

"Many people assume frailty is something that happens when we get much older," said lead author Tom Brennan from Flinders University's



Caring Futures Institute in Australia.

"But our research shows the psychological and behavioural warning signs can emerge decades earlier, in people in their 40s, 50s, and 60s. For example, feeling older than you are, might sound like a throwaway comment, but it turns out it can be a sign that something's not quite right," he added.

For the study, the researchers analysed data from 321 Australian adults aged 40 and over; 60 per cent of participants were classified as pre-frail, 35 per cent as non-frail, and

5 per cent as frail.

The analysis found that both pre-frail and frail individuals were more likely to report loneliness and negative attitudes toward aging, compared to non-frail participants.

"Loneliness was one of the strongest predictors of pre-frailty in our sample, highlighting that social isolation is a critical factor that can affect overall resilience, even in a relatively healthy and mobile population," Brennan said.

Another key finding was that pre-frail individuals commonly reported feeling older than their chron-

ological age, even when physical health markers were within expected ranges.

"Feeling older than you are, can be a meaningful psychological signal," said Brennan. "We need to emphasise the importance of fostering positive attitudes towards aging as this can have a huge impact on how people adjust to their later stages of life."

Brennan said the study highlights an important intervention point that could help to prevent the progression of frailty later in life.

Adopt cleanliness, check mosquito breeding sites to curb spread of dengue

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Adopting cleanliness, checking mosquito breeding sites, and spreading awareness are key measures to curb the spread of dengue, said Union Health Minister JP Nadda on National Dengue Day on Friday.

In a bid to promote awareness about dengue, the Ministry of Health had designated May 16 as 'National Dengue Day' in 2010. This year's theme is "Check, Clean, Cover: Steps to Defeat Dengue". "The theme emphasises the importance of regularly checking for mosquito breeding sites, cleaning surroundings, and covering water containers to prevent the spread of dengue," Nadda said in a post on social media platform X.

Calling dengue a "pressing public health challenge", he urged for active public participation to



"raise awareness and educate people about prevention and early diagnosis".

"With the active participation of communities, health workers, and local bodies, we can significantly reduce the spread of dengue and protect public health," the Union Minister said.

As per data from the National Centre for Vector-Borne Disease Control (NCVBDC) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW),

dengue cases in India have increased from 28,066 in 2010 to over 2.89 lakh in 2023.

In 2025 (as of March), India has already reported more than 16,000 cases, indicating a worrying early trend for the year. This massive and continuing rise highlights the urgency of strengthening our public health systems and response.

"Let us all take a pledge that by adopting cleanliness and spreading public

awareness, we will protect our family and society from a serious disease like dengue. Prevention is the only protection against dengue. Clean India, Healthy India – this is the foundation of a dengue-free India!" said Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel on X. Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav also urged people to "maintain cleanliness, do not allow water to accumulate, and wear full-sleeved clothes".

Dengue is caused by a virus spread by Aedes mosquitoes. These mosquitoes thrive in warm, humid climates.

Increasing climate changes are fuelling more breeding sites of dengue in India. States like Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh have started seeing regular outbreaks a sign that the traditional "dengue belt" is expanding.



Dr. Rafiq Masoodi's Kashmiri poetry collection "BE-PAI-TALASH" released at Tagore Hall Srinagar

Majlis-un-Nisa Sopore organized the event under the patronage of Adbi Markaz Kamraz

ABU HASNAIN
HT CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR MAY 24

A grand literary event was held today at Tagore Hall Srinagar, where-in a Poetry book written by Rafiq Masoodi was released. Organized by renowned Literally organization Majlis-un-Nisa Sopore under the patronage of Adbi Markaz Kamraz Jammu and Kashmir.

During the event, the Kashmiri poetry collection "Be-Pa Talash" by Dr. Rafiq Masoodi—former Additional Director General of Doordarshan Kendra and patron of Adbi Markaz Kamraz, was formally launched.

The event was presided over by renowned educationist, writer, and intellectual Prof. Muhammad Zaman Azurda. Dr. G.N. Itoo, Director of School Education Kashmir, was the chief guest. Other dignitaries on the stage included Prof. Shad Ramzan, Prof. Naseem Shafaie, poet Rafiq Raaz, President of Adbi Markaz Kamraz Muhammad Amin Bhat, and the author himself, Dr. Rafiq Masoodi.

The event was supported by Chaya Group of Hotels, Corpus Enterprises, and Al-Khuddam Hajj & Umrah Services. An audio commentary by Dr. Sohan Lal Kaul was played during the event, and Prof. Shafqat Altaf presented an insightful and thought-provoking paper on the book.

The event commenced with a naat (praise of the Prophet Muhammad) presented by Ghulam Muhammad Dilshad, President of District Cultural Society Pulwama. In his welcome address, Muhammad Amin Bhat congratulated



Dr. Rafiq Masoodi and to the Kashmiri language He highlighted the pivotal praised his contributions and Adbi Markaz Kamraz. role of women in preserv-

ing the Kashmiri language.

Corpus Enterprises presented bouquets and commemorative medals to the guests. In their remarks, Rafiq Raaz, Prof. Naseem Shafaie, and Prof. Shad Ramzan described Dr. Masoodi as a sensitive poet with a new style and lauded the efforts of the literary center in promoting language and literature.

Chief guest Dr. G.N. Itoo expressed his appreciation for Adbi Markaz Kamraz's contribution and congratulated Dr. Masoodi. In his presidential address, Prof. Muhammad Zaman Azurda described Adbi Markaz Kamraz a historic organization and described Dr. Rafiq Masoodi as a stylistic poet of the modern era.

Writers, poets, intellectuals, civil society members, politicians, and a large number of women writers from across Jammu and Kashmir participated in the event. Concluding the literary function, Dr. Rafiq Masoodi delivered a vote of thanks. The proceedings were conducted by the General Secretary of Adbi Markaz Kamraz, Shabnam Tilgami.

CII J&K hosts 2nd Edition of 'SheLeads' in Srinagar

HT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAY 24

In a significant stride toward promoting gender equity and inclusive development, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), J&K, successfully organized the second edition of its flagship initiative 'SheLeads' at Hotel Golden Tulip, Srinagar. Held under the theme "Changing the Narrative," the day-long event brought together distinguished women leaders, policy influencers, industry voices, and young changemakers to highlight the growing role of women in shaping a progressive Jammu & Kashmir.

The event was inaugurated by Ms. Haya Qazi, Co-Convenor of the CII J&K Education Panel and Chairperson of Salvatore International School, who, in her welcome address, emphasized the need to shift mindsets. "Changing the Narrative is not just our theme - it is our mission," she said, underlining the importance of building systems where women lead with confidence, creativity, and courage.

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