



Op Sindoor Not Just Military Action, But Expression of Indian Values: PM Modi

■ HT News Network/UNI

DAHOD, MAY 26 (UNI) Emphasising that cultural values demand action against injustice, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday said Operation Sindoor was not just a military action but a reflection of India's values and emotions.

Without mentioning Pakistan, the Prime Minister said the country born after Partition has focused on hostility towards India and causing harm, an official statement said.

"India, on the other hand, is committed to eradicating poverty, strengthening its economy, and achieving development", Modi said, while addressing a gathering in Dahod, Gujarat.

Questioning whether the nation could remain silent after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, Modi said terrorists had no idea of the consequences of their actions, recalling the brutal-



ity of killing a father in front of his children. He stated that such images still ignite anger across the nation,

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Op Sindoor Halted Only After DGMO Talks At Pak's Request, Jaishankar Clears Air About US Role At Par Panel Meet

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, MAY 26: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday told a parliamentary panel that Pakistan was informed by the DGMO about Indian strikes on terror camps in their territory only after they were executed, sources said.

He also said he never spoke to Pakistan and cleared the air

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Pahalgam terror attackers will face India's full fury: Amit Shah Says no terrorist, no matter where they hide, will escape justice

■ HT News Network



NANDED, MAY 26: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the success of Operation Sindoor has sent the message to not just Pakistan but also the world that no one can mess with India's armed forces, its people and borders.

He was addressing a 'Shankhnaad' rally in Maharashtra's Nanded.

"Operation Sindoor has sent the message to not just Pakistan but also the world that no one can mess with our armed forces, people and borders. Else, the perpetrators will have to face consequences," Shah said.

Calling the Pahalgam attack by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists cowardly, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said in Patna that the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CM Omar Abdullah calls for data-driven planning, district level goals to accelerate development in J&K Chairs high-level meeting of Planning deptt, Sets roadmap for Viksit J&K-2047

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today underlined the importance of setting short-term, district-level goals rooted in data analysis and tailored to the specific needs and potential of each region.

He stated this while chairing a comprehensive review meeting of the Planning, Development & Monitoring



Department at the Civil Secretariat, where detailed presentations were made on three critical initiatives – the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC), District Domestic Product (DDP), and the District Good Governance Index (DGGI).

"What we now require is targeted district-level planning – identifying

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

NIA Arrests CRPF Personnel For Spying For Pakistan

NEW DELHI, MAY 26: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a CRPF personnel for allegedly spying for Pakistan, officials said on Monday. The accused, Moti Ram Jat, was actively involved in espionage activity and had been sharing classified information related to national security with the Pakistan intelligence officers (PIOs) since 2023, they said.

Jat, an assistant sub inspector with the Central

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Thomas Cook Delegation Meets CM Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, May 26: A delegation from the Thomas Cook travel agency called on Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the latter's office here on Monday. Jammu dining guide Jammu and Kashmir tourism

"A delegation from Thomas Cook India's leading travel and forex company called on me today at my office. We discussed strengthening tourism and travel opportunities in Jammu & Kashmir," the chief minister said in a post on X. The meeting comes a month after the Pahalgam terror attack that left 25 tourists and a local guide dead. The incident gave a major jolt to the tourism sector in

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

ACB Jammu Files Case Against Former Director Tribal Affairs, Others In Post-Matric Scholarship Scam

JAMMU, May 26: ACB Jammu registered a case against a former director Tribal Affairs and others over allegations of gross violation of guidelines and releasing of crores of rupees to un-recognised institutes for un-recognised courses while implementing post matric scholarship scheme entitled for ST candidates. Fine dining reservations

According to a statement, the FIR No. 09/2025 u/s 5(1)(c) (d) r/w section 5(2) of J&K

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Heatwave continues as Sgr seethes at 31.8 degree Celsius

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, MAY 26: The heatwave continued across Jammu and Kashmir on Monday with Srinagar recording a maximum temperature of 31.8 degree Celsius.

According to the details shared by the Meteorological (MeT) Department with the news agency—Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded 5.8 degrees Celsius above normal temperature.

The details reveal that Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, has recorded a day temperature of 31.3 degrees Celsius while Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded 30.8 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag recorded 30.8 degrees Celsius while Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, has recorded a maximum temperature of 22.8 degrees Celsius. Further, the Jammu division

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Operation Sindoor's Success Testament To India's Might, Innovations In Defence Sector: LG Sinha

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, May 26: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday attributed the success of Operation Sindoor to India's capabilities and innovations in the defence sector, adding that the military strike showcased the nation's scientific might. Flagging off the Physics Bharat Yatra from Udhampur, Sinha highlighted that Operation Sindoor has demonstrated India's scientific prowess. "It has shown that our scientists,



defence personnel, and jawans are second to none in the world. This victory is a tribute to their dedication. It is also a vindication of our steadfast commitment to self-reliance." Sinha maintained

that India's military might reflects the scientists' resolve to comprehensively strengthen national security and drive the country's economy on a growth trajectory. Fine dining reservations Jammu and Kashmir tourism

"The success of Operation Sindoor reflects India's indigenous defence capabilities, innovations in the defence sector, and technological advancements. Our scientists are unwavering and determined to make historic strides in

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Sakeena Itoo holds meet with DCs of Anantnag, Kulgam, Srinagar districts Exhorts DCs to organise regular public interaction, grievance redress camps

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today held a meeting to discuss the issues raised during her recent visit to various constituencies of Anantnag, Kulgam and Srinagar districts.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat and Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Syed Fakhruddin



nagar, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat and Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Syed Fakhruddin

Hamid. The Minister discussed various on-ground issues raised by the general

18 Civilians Killed, Nearly 2,000 Structures Damaged In Pak Shelling In J&K: BJP

■ HT News Network

Jammu, May 26: As many as 18 civilians lost their lives and nearly 2000 structures, including residential houses and commercial buildings, were damaged in the indiscriminate shelling by Pakistan Army in four days from May 7 along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP said on Monday.

Leader of Opposition in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, undertook a 10-day tour of the border areas along the Line of Control and International Border along with

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Pahalgam terror attack will have least impact on Mela Kheer Bhawani: Div Com Says all Arrangements in place for smooth conduct of religious festival

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, MAY 26: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today conducted an extensive visit to the Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmulla to review preparations for the upcoming annual Kheer Bhawani Mela scheduled for June 3rd.

Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Director Urban Local Bodies, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), SSP Traffic Rural,



ADC Ganderbal, Deputy Director Health Services Kashmir, SE PWD, SE KPDC, Ganderbal, and other senior district officers.

Div Com took a detailed stock of the ongoing arrangements to ensure a smooth and successful observance of the religious event.

During the inspection, Div Com was briefed by DC on key aspects including sanitation, installation of mobile toilets, cleanliness of Tulmulla Nallah, and beautification measures being undertaken in and around the temple

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Dy CM chairs meeting of JKEDI on J&K Startup Policy 2024-27

Calls for prioritizing operational guidelines, funding mechanisms of policy

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Chaudhary, today chaired a high level review meeting held to assess progress on the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 here at the Civil Secretariat Srinagar. Present in the meeting were Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, Secretary in Industries & Commerce and Director, JKEDI, Khalid Jahangir; Managing Director, JKTIPO;



Director Finance, Industries & Commerce; Director Planning, Industries & Commerce; Additional Secretary (A), Industries & Commerce and the Startup team from Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI). Secretary in Industries & Commerce

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

PM

as 140 crore Indians were challenged by terrorism.

Modi declared that he fulfilled his responsibility as the nation's leader, giving full freedom to India's armed forces, who then executed an operation unseen in decades.

He highlighted that nine major terror hubs across the border were identified and destroyed in 22 minutes, and stated that Pakistan's military attempted retaliation but was decisively defeated by Indian forces. He reiterated his deep respect for the valour of India's armed forces, saluting their courage and dedication from the sacred land of Dahod.

The Prime Minister highlighted that a developed India can only be built when both its armed forces and economy are strong. Adding that the government is continuously working in this direction, ensuring national security and economic growth go hand in hand.

The Prime Minister laid foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 24,000 crore in Gujarat.

SHAH

perpetrators would be tracked from wherever they are hiding.

"Pakistan forgot that 11 years ago, there was a Congress government, which has now changed. We responded to the Uri, Pulwana and Pahalgham strikes and struck terror bases," he said.

Referring to Operation Sindoor, Shah said that on May 7, nine terror camps were destroyed in 22 minutes, while India's air defence system ensured that Pakistan's missiles and drones did not touch the country's soil.

On May 9, Pakistan's air defence system was destroyed by Indian armed forces, he said.

"Modiji has declared that there would be retaliation if the blood of innocent Indian civilians is shed. If our women's sindoor is harmed, the response will be bloodier," he said, adding that Operation Sindoor proved the government's commitment to protecting India's borders.

Shah also reiterated that Naxalism would be wiped out from the country by March 31, 2026.

"When Operation Sindoor was underway, under Operation Black Forest by CRPF, Chhatisgarh police and BSF neutralised several Naxalites. Several Naxalites were also arrested and many surrendered," he said.

The Union Home Minister said Modi had ended the Indus Water Treaty, which was signed by former PM Jawaharlal Nehru, and also all trade with Pakistan. "Modi has said trade and terror cannot go together," he said.

Shah slammed the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), saying it had mocked the all-party delegations as "baraat" (wedding party).

"Had Balasaheb Thackeray been alive, he would have hugged Modi. But a Sena (UBT) leader called the delegations a baraata. I don't know what has happened to the Uddhav Sena. They are calling the delegations a baraata even though their own members are a part of it," he said.

Shah also criticised Sharad Pawar for doing "nothing" over the demand for classical language status to Marathi, which he said was fulfilled by Modi. (Agencies)

JAI SHANKAR

about alleged US "interference", saying the decision to halt the military operation was taken bilaterally after a request from the Pakistan side.

Addressing members of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs here, the minister said the cessation of Operation Sindoor was done only after Pakistan DGMO asked for the halting of hostilities and there was no question of US mediation between the two, the sources said.

The Congress and Rahul Gandhi have been targeting Jaishankar, alleging that he had informed Pakistan beforehand about the Indian strikes at terror camps.

The sources said the minister told the MPs at the meeting that only the DGMOs of the countries spoke to each other and no other Indian official spoke with the Pakistani side.

He said the US was urging India to speak with Pakistan and it was told that terror and talks would not go together, he said.

Responding to several queries posed by MPs during the meeting about the halting of Operation Sindoor and the US "interference", the External Affairs Minister told MPs at the meeting that the DGMO had informed his Pakistani counterpart that if they would fire, India would fire back.

He said the targeted strikes at terror camps in Pakistan also hit the morale of Pakistani forces.

The sources said the minister sought the cooperation of all MPs in "exposing" Pakistan across the world. He said that is why the government has sent multi-party delegations of MPs to various countries to put across India's united message against terrorism to the world.

Jaishankar shared pictures of chairing the

Consultative Committee Meeting of MEA on X.

"Discussed Operation Sindoor and India's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Underlined the importance of sending a strong and united message in that regard," the minister also said.

While Foreign Secretary Vikram Mistry gave a presentation on Operation Sindoor to the MPs at the meeting, Jaishankar responded to queries later.

The sources said the Congress members asked the government why India was "hyphenated" with Pakistan by the US and also raised the issue of IMF aid to Pakistan and India's abstention at the meet.

They said the Congress also raised concerns over Pakistan's growing relationship with China. (Agencies)

CM

where the potential lies and where gaps need to be filled. These short-term objectives will cumulatively guide us toward our long-term goal of Viksit Jammu & Kashmir by 2047," he said. The meeting was attended in person by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretaries of Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh, Secretary Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, Talat Parvez, administrative secretaries of other key departments including Social Welfare, Rural Development, Health & Medical Education, and Director Planning. Representatives from NITI Aayog, UNDP, and senior officers from the Planning Department also participated. All Deputy Commissioners and district officials joined the deliberations via video conferencing.

He cautioned against focusing solely on the distant 2047 horizon, emphasizing the need to set medium- and short-term benchmarks that allow for real-time performance tracking and corrective action.

The Chief Minister welcomed the data presented during the meeting, especially insights from Mission Yuva, and called for its integration into sectoral planning across departments.

Referring to Mission Yuva and the DGGI reports, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of using this data constructively. "These findings must improve our planning and programmes. I urge all line departments and district administrations to reorient their schemes in a manner that addresses the issues highlighted by both data sets," he said.

He said that the District Good Governance Index should not be perceived as a ranking of 'good versus bad' governance, but as a barometer of 'good to better' governance. "Districts that have shown strong performance must continue to lead by example, while those that lag must be supported to identify structural gaps and implement reforms. Any such systemic constraints should be immediately brought to the Secretariat's attention for resolution," he added.

Touching upon Jammu & Kashmir's performance in national rankings, the Chief Minister shared a balanced view. "While we are currently ranked second among Union Territories, that comparison is limited given the nature of UTs. What is more important — and encouraging — is our 10th place rank nationally. That shows we're holding our ground, but we must do better," he remarked.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed gratitude to NITI Aayog and UNDP for their sustained technical support. "We request our partners at NITI Aayog to actively share best practices from across India that are replicable in Jammu & Kashmir. We don't need to reinvent the wheel. If something works well in another state, let us adapt it here. Likewise, if we are doing something commendable, let that be shared nationally for wider benefit."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized also the need to preserve the current templates for performance measurement. "Once we have established a template, we must not tinker with it. Changing the goalposts — be it benchmarks, data methodology — which otherwise renders year-on-year comparisons meaningless. Let us retain these standards for continuity, transparency, and accountability in governance," he said.

The Chief Minister reiterated the importance of focused and data-backed governance.

"Let us approach our goals step by step — start with targeted short-term interventions at the district level, scale up to territory-wide strategies, and ultimately work towards the overarching vision of Viksit Jammu & Kashmir 2047," he added.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also released a series of key reports, including the District Domestic Product J&K Report 2022–23, District Good Governance Index 4.0 J&K Report 2023–24, J&K Sustainable Progress Report 2022–23, and the District Progress Report 2022–23.

LG

new areas of science and technology," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The LG lauded the initiative being spearheaded by the Indian Association of Physics Teachers and the National Anveshika Network

of India under the leadership of physicist Padma Shri Dr H C Verma to foster experimental science learning and ignite curiosity, creativity, and scientific temper among students.

Observing that the yatra will cover every district of India, Sinha asserted that it will unify diverse regions under a shared mission to revive the joy of learning science.

"When science is deeply woven into the fabric of society, it not only fosters innovation but can also significantly shape the direction of a nation by improving the quality of life for the entire society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Highlighting how under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's approach towards 'Atmanirbharta' has fundamentally changed, Sinha stated, "Our scientists know that India cannot depend on others to defend her. We have developed our own indigenous capabilities, and our successful strike is a symbol of a resurgent India." Emphasising the need for bringing new scientific advancements to classrooms and laboratories, the Lieutenant Governor urged the teaching community and educational institutions to provide young researchers with a broader canvas and bigger goals for experimentation.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon Indian scientists and engineers around the world to consider returning home, assuring that conditions are now favourable for pioneering inventions and that they can significantly contribute to India's scientific and economic leadership.

"The confluence of Science, Spirituality, and Sanskar has powered India's global standing. We are strategically investing in scientific and technological advancement to make India a leading global scientific power", he said.

He further said that the scientists, innovators, and researchers are determined to reclaim ancient glory and build a developed India by 2047.

"It is our national resolve," the Lieutenant Governor said.

NIA

Reserve Police Force (CRPF), was receiving funds from the PIOs through various conduits, officials said.

The anti-terror agency has arrested Jat from Delhi and is interrogating him, they said.

Meanwhile, the CRPF said it has dismissed him from the service.

Jat came under the scanner in the course of close monitoring of his social media activity by the CRPF, in coordination with the central agencies, during which he was found to have "acted in violation of established norms and protocols," according to a statement issued by the CRPF.

He was handed over to the NIA for further inquiry, it said.

"Concurrently, the individual has been dismissed from service with effect from 21.05.2025, under the relevant provisions of the Constitution of India read with the CRPF Rules," the statement said.

Jat was produced before a special court here which has remanded him to the NIA custody till June 6. (Agencies)

COOK

Kashmir as tourists cancelled their bookings.

ACB

PC Act, Svt. 2006 & section 120-B RPC at P/S ACB Jammu was filed against MS Choudhary, then Director Tribal Affairs J&K, Shanz Akhtar Malik, Catalog Computers, Aquateq Complex Jammu, Humera Banu & Firdous Ahmed, Chirag Institute of IT, Channi Himmat, Jammu, Sham Lal Targotra, JKS Industrial Training institute (ITI), Jindar Mehlu, R.S.Pura, Jaffer Hussain Wani, Ever Green Institute of Computer Technology, Shastri Nagar Jammu, Parshotam Bharadwaj, Global Institute of IT, Janipur Jammu, Ramneek Kour, Pankaj Memorial Charitable Trust for Education and Research, Rajpura Subash Nagar, Puneet Mahajan, Supertech (India) Computer Education, Talab Tillo and others.

The statement reads that during the course of verification, it was revealed that the GOI launched post matric scholarship scheme to ST candidates to complete their education by way of providing financial assistance in the shape of scholarship amounting Rs 18,000 per student plus Rs 2300 maintenance allowance.

"The objective behind PMS scheme was to provide financial assistance to ST students studying at post matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education and reimbursement of compulsory fee to students charged by recognized Institute. The private institutes situated in Jammu managed documents of ST students of far-flung areas and submit same to the office of Directorate of Tribal Affairs, but the officers of Tribal Affairs Department without checking the genuineness of institutes as well as infrastructure/course contents provided by institutes, even without ensuring the end use of scholarship amount, disbursed the scholarship fee worth crores during 2014 to

2018 directly in the bank accounts of these Institutes," it reads.

It added that the verification further reveals that the students against whom payment released neither sought admission nor attended the free computer course. Fine dining reservations

"Some of students though sought admission under the scheme but never attended or partially attended the computer course. However, the benefit in the shape of full tuition fee was credited to the accounts of different computer institutions. Furthermore, one of the institutes, in order to increase the strength, managed the documents of ST students of far-flung areas and filled scholarship forms on their names."

It further reads that some fake bank accounts were opened for ST students without their consent and knowledge, as it was mandatory to fill account number in the form for crediting maintenance allowance directly in the accounts of students.

"Even few institutes were not having proper accreditation with NIELIT, but the fees were disbursed accordingly. By acting in this manner, the officers of Directorate of Tribal Affairs Department, by sheer abuse of their official positions and in criminal conspiracy with owners of Institutes/beneficiaries, by way of manipulating records as well as violating guidelines of Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, misappropriated huge amount of Government funds worth crores during the year 2014 to 2018, as a result of which a huge loss has been caused to the Government exchequer. Further investigation in the case is going on," it added.

BJP

four MLAs — former ministers Sham Lal Sharma and Devinder Kumar Manyal, Narinder Singh and R S Pathania — on directions of the party's central leadership and submitted a detailed report along with recommendations for rehabilitation of the affected families. Jammu dining guideJammu and Kashmir tourism

"Pakistan is famous for its cowardly acts and targeted our civilian areas after our armed forces carried out Operation Sindoor to destroy terror infrastructure on May 7 across the border in retaliation to the April 22 Pahalgalam terror attack," Sharma told reporters at the party headquarters here.

"Fourteen of our civilians lost their lives in Poonch, two in Rajouri and one each in Uri (Baramulla district) and Jammu in the indiscriminate Pakistani shelling," he added flanked by other members of his team.

Sharma said that in addition, 1,500 to 2,000 structures — mostly residential houses — were damaged along with heavy loss to livestock and the agriculture yield in the border areas.

"Operation Sindoor was the reaction of our forces to the act of terror that left 26 persons, mostly tourists, dead. The precise and targeted action brought Pakistan on its knees, but the terror supporting country resorted to indiscriminate attacks on the residential areas on this side of the border," he added, reiterating the government's resolve that Operation Sindoor has only been suspended and any act of terror in future would be considered as an act of war.

Sharma, who is also the general secretary of J&K BJP, said that his team visited all the shelling-hit areas, including Hiranagar, Suchetgarh, Arnai, R S Pura, Chamb, Planwala, Akhnoor, Rajouri, Nowshera, Poonch, Mendhar and Surankote in Jammu region and Uri in Baramulla and Tangdhar in Kupwara district of north Kashmir.

"The 10-day tour culminated the day before yesterday and was witness to heavy damage to structures on the ground besides the loss of lives and the livestock and injuries to many. Despite facing the brunt of Pakistan shelling and incurring losses, we found the border residents satisfied with the response of the Indian forces. They were happy that Pakistan was brought on its knees," he added.

Assuring proper rehabilitation of the shelling victims, Sharma said the Home Ministry has already started the process of providing more underground individual and community bunkers to the border residents and the local administration has already started the process for which the border residents expressed their thanks to the government. Jammu dining guideJammu and Kashmir tourism

The BJP leader said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have already announced one government job for the next of kin of those who lost their lives in Pakistani shelling.

The file of each case has already been prepared and submitted to the General Administration Department for approval, he added.

Sharma further said the Centre has also provided Rs six lakh to families of each deceased persons and adequate relief to those injured, while the Jammu and Kashmir government has also announced an ex-gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh to each of them.

He said that the highest 690 structures were damaged in Pakistani shelling in Poonch followed by 524 in Uri area of Baramulla.

"Some 1,500 to 2,000 structures — both residential and commercial — were damaged in the border areas. The J&K government can

only provide Rs 1.20 lakh under the SDRF norms, but we have recommended a special package in our report to help border residents to rebuild their lives. They will get the money through direct transfer benefits in their bank accounts," Sharma said.

"The BJP is committed to the welfare of the border residents and will ensure that they do not face any problem," he added. (Agencies)

DIV COM

premises.

Div Com stressed on conducting special cleanliness drives and desilting of the canal passing through the temple complex to provide an aesthetically pleasing and spiritually enriching atmosphere for the devotees.

He issued strict directions to enhance and optimize arrangements where needed, with special emphasis on sanitation, accommodation, electricity, water supply, and medical aid.

He also instructed that langars be established only at designated spots within the temple complex to ensure smooth movement and comfort of the pilgrims.

Later, Div Com chaired a high-level meeting with heads of departments and district officers, where he emphasized coordinated efforts for ensuring provision of accommodation, bedding, power, water, medical facilities, decoration of the temple, transport and shuttle services and security arrangements.

ARTO Ganderbal was directed to deploy an adequate fleet of vehicles to ferry devotees from the Central University of Kashmir (CUK) parking area to the shrine, ensuring a hassle-free experience for visitors.

Div Com also inspected the CUK camps at Tulmulla, where pilgrims are to be accommodated during the mela. He directed officials to ensure availability of all essential services including bedding, sanitation and security for the comfortable night stay of the devotees.

DC assured that all necessary arrangements have been augmented to ensure the smooth conduct of the mela.

Meanwhile, the Additional Superintendent of Police Ganderbal was tasked with putting in place fool proof security measures to facilitate a peaceful and safe environment for all attendees of this historic religious festival.

SAKEENA

missioner's to address the same at the district administration level. She asked them to be more responsive while dealing with the issues and concerns of public importance.

She called upon the officers for organising regular public interaction and grievance redress camps at block and tehsil level, highlighting that timely action and accessibility of officers to public are key for enhancing public faith in administrative system.

The Minister further said that consistent communication between the administration and public is key towards ensuring seamless delivery of public services.

The Deputy Commissioners assured the Minister of their commitment towards improving the service delivery and prompt redress of genuine public issues and concerns.

TEMP

witnessed a slight improvement on Friday with Jammu City recording a day temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius.

Banihal, Batote, Katra and Bhaderwah recorded a maximum temperature of 29.1, 27.7, 35.2 and 29.6 degree Celsius, respectively.

Meanwhile, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad has said that from May 27 to 31, the weather would remain generally hot & dry with the possibility of a brief spell of light rain and thundershower at scattered places— (KNO)

DYCM

charge of Director JKEDI, gave a comprehensive presentation highlighting key developments under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, including startup registrations, workshops conducted, awareness initiatives and start-ups shortlisted for seed funding.

The Dy CM was also apprised of various Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed by JKEDI, as a nodal agency for implementation of J&K Startup Policy, with national and state-level institutions aimed at fostering mentorship and knowledge exchange. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officials to initiate collaborations with reputed national and international institutions to mentor and accelerate startups in J&K. He instructed for conducting grassroots level awareness programs in schools and colleges through idea challenges, business plan development camps, seminars and workshops to help the aspiring entrepreneurs get a clarity of thought and fine tune their ideas into potential business models. In a significant move to support early-stage entrepreneurs, the Dy CM directed that co-working spaces at JKEDI's Pampore and Bari Brahmana campuses be made available to the eligible startups.





DC Srinagar chairs comprehensive meeting of Revenue Officers Stresses on further improving functioning of Revenue setup

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting of officers at Meeting Hall of the DC Office here to review the functioning and progress of revenue related matters.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz-Ul-Aziz; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, all Tehsildars and other senior functionaries of the Revenue

department of the district. Meeting aimed to review and enhance the functioning of the District's Revenue Department, focusing on the expediting process of digitization of revenue records and the timely delivery of public services.

At the outset, DC took a detailed review of the Revenue sector with special focus on scanning and digitization of musavvis and other revenue related records of all villages of the district.

On the occasion, DC directed the officials of Revenue Depart-



ment to widen their role and perform duties with an objective to provide better services to the people in a time bound manner as per the guidelines under Public Service Guarantee Act. Dr Bilal stressed on further improving and strengthening the functioning of the Revenue setup in the district. He said that the working approach of the Revenue officials must lead in making a positive contribution to the society. He called for enhanced transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the delivery of public services under the Public Ser-

vices Guarantee Act (PSGA). DC also asked the Revenue officers to actively monitor the process of revenue related activities in respective jurisdictions on a periodic basis, so that people may not face any inconvenience while availing revenue related services.

He also underscored the district administration's commitment to modernizing Revenue records, enhancing public service delivery, and ensuring the protection of government land through coordinated efforts and infrastructure development.

Online gambling destroying our society & corroding our moral fabric : Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir

Urges judiciary to impose ban on this menace

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 26 :A new menace has overtaken us and we are witnessing its growing grip on society-online gambling. As destructive as substance abuse which we are already battling, it's luring thousands into addiction as 'entertainment,' destroying them and their families and corroding our moral fabric.

It demands our immediate attention. The government must act on it, it's their duty. Development is not merely the economic upliftment of people or building infrastructure for them while they are morally and spiritually lowered and lost. That defies its purpose. So comprehensive plan and actions need to be put in place to ensure that these serious concern are addressed on urgent basis.

At the community and social level people also have to be proactive dealing with this. All cannot be left to the Government. Religious scholars have a key role to play in creating moral awareness about these issues in the light of religious teachings and values and disseminate the message among people through all mediums available. Addressing the youth during a Nikah Khutba, where I spoke about the need to build our lives on the foundation of Islamic character, self-control, and social responsibility, in the background of these issues. I also appeal to the judiciary to take serious note of this issue and immediately impose a ban on this menace before more damage is done. (KNS)

Man Dies After Being Hit by Train in Budgam

Budgam, May 26: In a tragic incident occurred this morning on the Mazhoma-Budgam railway line in central Kashmir's Budgam district, where a man lost his life after being hit by a moving train. Reports reaching to Kashmir News Service (KNS) said that the victim has been identified as Ali Akbar, a resident of Sanoora Kali Pora in the Magam area of Budgam. He died on the spot due to the impact.

The concerned authorities have launched an investigation, and further proceedings into the railway incident are currently underway. (KNS)

Tanvir Sadiq Slams Delay in Rajya Sabha Polls, Flags Pending By-elections in Budgam and Nagrota

Srinagar, May 26: Senior National Conference leader and party spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq has strongly criticized the delay in holding elections for the Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu & Kashmir, calling on the Election Commission of India (ECI) to act promptly and uphold democratic principles. "Over six to seven months have passed, yet the Rajya Sabha elections for Jammu & Kashmir have not been conducted. The people of the region deserve representation in Parliament, and the Election Commission must take cognizance of this delay," Sadiq said while speaking to reporters according to KNS correspondent.

He also raised concern over the pending by-elections in Budgam and Nagrota, questioning the selective pace of the electoral process. "By-elections have been conducted elsewhere in the country. Why are they still pending in Jammu & Kashmir?" he asked.

VC KU calls on Sakeena Itoo, discusses upcoming NAAC visit, academic initiatives

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Professor Nilofar Khan, today called on the Minister for Education, Social Welfare and Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, at Civil Secretariat here.

Professor Nilofar Khan apprised the Minister of the upcoming three day visit of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) peer team scheduled from May 29 to 31 regarding assessment of the University.

The Vice Chancellor also briefed the Minister on recent academic reforms and research initiatives undertaken by the University. She highlighted the range of courses being offered at the University's satellite campuses, with particular emphasis on emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence.

Sakeena Itoo appreciated the University's efforts in advancing the academic excellence and promoting innovation across the region. She assured the Vice



Chancellor of the government's full support in further strengthening the institution's mission.

The Minister also extended best wishes for the upcoming NAAC visit and expressed confidence that the University of Kashmir would secure the highest accreditation grade.

SCLSC Campaign: DLSA Srinagar conducts awareness programme on filing SLPs

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized an awareness programme on Monday at Central Jail Srinagar under the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) Campaign in Jails of India for Filing Special Leave Petitions (SLPs).

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

Primary objective of the campaign was to inform jail inmates about their right to access justice through legal aid, specifically in relation to filing Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The programme aimed to identify and support convicts who remain unrepresented despite having valid grounds for appeal and to educate them on the legal remedies available through the SCLSC.

Tasneem Kausar, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, delivered a comprehensive session highlighting the importance of legal



aid for marginalized inmates. She discussed the criteria for approaching the Supreme Court through SLPs and explained the role of the SCLSC in bridging the gap between convicts and justice. She encouraged inmates to seek assistance and exercise their legal rights without hesitation.

Minhaaj Ur Rasool, and Ayesha, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels, of DLSA Srinagar addressed the inmates on the procedural aspects of filing SLPs. They simplified the process, explained eligibility conditions, and provided step-by-step guidance to help inmates understand how to benefit from the legal aid system.

DLSA Budgam convenes review meeting of panel lawyers

Assesses progress of legal aid cases assigned

HT News Network

BUDGAM, MAY 26: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, convened a review, monitoring and mentoring meeting of panel lawyers. The programme was held under the chairmanship of O.P Bhagat, Chairman DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Budgam, and supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman DLSA Budgam and attended by Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary DLSA Budgam; Mubashir Ahmad Wani Advocate and panel lawyers of DLSA Budgam.

Meeting assessed the progress of legal aid cases assigned to panel lawyers over time. In-depth discussions were also held regarding various cases, with a focus on identifying challenges, sharing best practices, and ensuring timely and effective legal assistance for beneficiaries.

Chairman DLSA emphasized the importance of diligent case management, urging panel lawyers to remain committed to upholding the principles of justice and accessibility. During the meeting, progress of several ongoing cases was thoroughly examined and reviewed. Participants engaged in a detailed dialogue on improving case outcomes and enhancing coordination between panel lawyers and the DLSA.

Secretary DLSA highlighted the need for continued efforts to provide equitable and prompt legal aid to marginalized sections of society, reiterating DLSA's mission to make justice accessible to all, and insisted panel lawyers to use legal services management system (LSMS) for upgrading their cases regularly.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from the panel lawyers to strengthen the legal aid framework in Budgam and enhance service delivery.

DGGI 4.0: Srinagar emerges top performing district in J&K in key sectors

District also emerges as a key economic driver under District Domestic Product in J&K

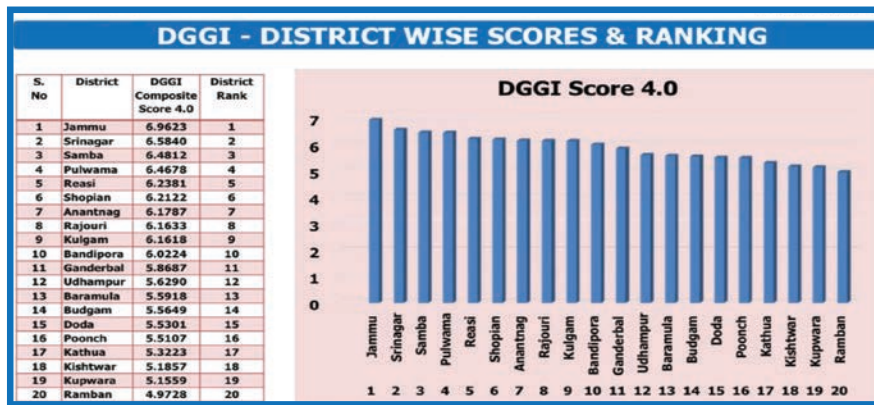
HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: In a significant recognition of administrative excellence, Srinagar district has emerged as the top performing district across Jammu and Kashmir in key sectors for the year 2023-24 under District Good Governance Index (DGGI 4.0).

The district has secured the 2nd rank among the 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir with composite score of 6.5840, and also ranked 1st in the Kashmir division.

District Srinagar has demonstrated strong sectoral performance/ ranking; viz 1st in Industries & Allied Sectors, 2nd in Public Infrastructure & Utilities and 3rd in Environmental Management.

The recognition underscores the District's commitment to efficient public



service delivery, developmental progress, and transparent governance.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat while speaking about the achievements described it a pride moment for Srinagar district

which has been attained through a collective team effort. He also congratulated the officers for their tireless work and urged them to work with added zeal and dedication to retain the top ranks.

Dr Bilal remarked this success as a

result of dedicated data compilation and coordinated execution across the departments.

Pertinent to mention that, the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir released the 4th Edition of District Good Governance Index (DGGI 4.0) for the year 2023-24 here today. The Chief Minister has also congratulated the Deputy Commissioners, applauding the continuous efforts made to strengthen grassroots governance.

In another landmark development, for the first time, estimates of District Domestic Product (DDP) were released by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah in J&K and Srinagar emerged as a key economic driver, ranking 2nd in the J&K with a 14.53% contribution to the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at current prices for 2022-23.

EDITORIAL

What about the agenda of the Gulmarg meeting?

Suspense is brewing among the public circles generally and journalistic circles particularly over the agenda of the meeting proposed to be chaired by chief minister Omar Abdullah on May 28 (Wednesday). The meeting assumes significance since it is being held at the world famous health resort of Gulmarg in North Kashmir. According to the meeting notice circulated by the General Administration Department (GAD) in addition to the cabinet ministers, top notch officers in both the civil and police administration are scheduled to attend the meeting.

As the agenda of the meeting has not been circulated by GAD it remains to be seen what would be discussed in the meeting. People are speculating about the agenda in their own way but no one is sure about the same. There are some who are assuming that the chief minister would seek assistance from both the police and civil administration in running smoothly the affairs of the government. Since the IAS and IPS officers come under the purview of Lieutenant Governor it remains to be seen whether these officers would attend the meeting.

Ever since the Omar Abdullah led government assumed office in October last year there have been many instances where the office of chief minister and office of LG have been at loggerheads. The same has resulted into administrative inefficiency with the public issues having been relegated to the backburner. In an ideal situation offices of CM and LG should work in close coordination so that the issues of the common masses are solved and they will heave a sigh of relief.

On most of the occasions the legislators have been at the receiving end with the bureaucracy calling the shots. Few days back a legislator of National Conference had publicly said that the public representatives don't have the powers to transfer even a Safai Karamachari and not to talk of transfer of top notch officers. It is highly unfortunate that the legislators feel disempowered and in such a situation the common masses are the worst sufferers.

The legislators are looked upon by the people to solve their problems. In the 2024 assembly elections people came out in huge numbers and cast their votes so that their problems were solved. Once the grievances and problems are solved, then only the people can have the confidence that public representatives are concerned about the problems being faced by them. As such it is the responsibility of one and all to give proper protocol to the legislators since they represent the people.

India-Pakistan tensions rise after Pahalgam incident; U.S. voices concern



ER. ISHFAQ KHALIQ

The Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, which resulted in the deaths of 26 civilians, has significantly intensified geopolitical tensions between India and Pakistan. The incident has led to a series of diplomatic, military, and economic responses, marking a notable shift in the bilateral relations of the two nuclear-armed neighbors. In the wake of the 2025 Pahalgam attack, which resulted in the deaths of 26 civilians, India and Pakistan have found themselves at the center of a complex web of international alliances and diplomatic maneuvers. The global response to this conflict reflects a tapestry of historical ties, strategic interests, and regional dynamics.

India's Response

1. Suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT):

India suspended the IWT, a 1960 agreement governing the sharing of the Indus River system, citing Pakistan's alleged support for cross-border terrorism. This move allows India greater autonomy over the use of the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers, potentially impacting Pakistan's agriculture-dependent economy.

2. Diplomatic Measures:

India undertook several diplomatic actions, including:

- Closing the Attari-Wagah border crossing.
- Revoking visas issued to Pakistani nationals under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme.
- Expelling Pakistani military advisors from its High Commission in New Delhi and recalling its own from Islamabad.
- Reducing the strength of diplomatic missions in both countries to 30 personnel each.

3. Military and Cyber Operations:

India launched "Operation Sindhoor," targeting terrorist camps in Pakistan-administered territories. Concurrently, Indian cyber defense groups countered over 1.5 million cyberattacks from Pakistani and allied hacktivist groups, breaching several Pakistani government and institutional systems.

4. Civil Defense Preparedness:

India conducted "Operation Abhaya's," a nationwide civil defense drill across 244 districts, enhancing civilian readiness against potential threats. Activities included air-raid siren tests, blackout simulations, and evacuation drills.

Pakistan's Reaction

1. Denial and Counter-Accusations:

Pakistan denied involvement in the Pahalgam attack, labeling India's suspension of the IWT as "water warfare" and an illegal move. Officials warned that any attempt to stop or divert water flow would be considered an act of war.

2. Airspace Closure:

In retaliation to India's military actions, Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian carriers, escalating to a total airspace closure, affecting regional air traffic.

3. International Appeal:

Pakistan sought an immediate session of the United Nations Security Council to address the escalating tensions and India's suspension of the IWT.

Geopolitical Implications the United States growing concern for India

India has expressed concern over perceived shifts in the U.S. stance, particularly its attempts to balance its relationships with both India and Pakistan during the 2025 conflict. Here's a nuanced breakdown of the situation: The U.S. expressed support for India's fight against terrorism while urging both nations to de-escalate tensions. President Trump emphasized the importance of India and Pakistan resolving issues bilaterally. U.S. Position in the 2025 India-Pakistan Conflict

- While the United States officially condemned the Pahalgam terror attack and expressed sympathy with India, Presi-

dent Donald Trump and other top officials repeatedly stressed:

- The importance of maintaining "good relations with both India and Pakistan."
- That the U.S. was "doing big deals with both countries," hinting at parallel economic and security partnerships.

This neutral tone has been interpreted by some in India as a lack of strong support during a moment of heightened crisis.

2. Strategic Interests in Pakistan

The U.S. has several reasons for hedging its bets:

- Counterterrorism logistics and intelligence in the region still involve Pakistan, especially regarding Afghanistan.
- Ongoing military-to-military cooperation under certain U.S. aid frameworks continues, albeit reduced.
- Geopolitical competition with China may push the U.S. to prevent Pakistan from falling entirely into Beijing's sphere.

3. U.S. Mediation Offer

There were indications from Washington that the U.S. was willing to mediate or facilitate dialogue between India and Pakistan – a position India has traditionally rejected, asserting that all disputes should be handled bilaterally. American diplomats urged India to exercise restraint, particularly after India launched Operation Sindhoor. This was perceived in some Indian circles as pressure to hold back, while not holding Pakistan equally accountable.

The 2025 conflict revealed that:

- India-U.S. ties are strong but not unconditional.
- The U.S. aims to maintain regional balance rather than take sides fully.
- India is increasingly turning toward multi-alignment, strengthening ties with France, Russia, and others, to avoid overdependence on the U.S.

The Pahalgam attack has not only strained India-Pakistan relations but also impacted regional dynamics:

- Water Security: The suspension of the IWT raises con-

cerns about water security in Pakistan, which heavily relies on the Indus River system for agriculture.

- Regional Stability: The involvement of major powers like the U.S., China, and Russia underscores the potential for broader regional instability if tensions are not managed.
- Diplomatic Channels: The reduction in diplomatic engagements and increased military posturing highlight the need for renewed dialogue to prevent further escalation.

Pakistans concern and international isolation

1. International Isolation and Diplomatic Setback

- Diminishing Global Sympathy: After the Pahalgam attack, which India attributed to Pakistan-based terror groups, much of the global community leaned toward supporting India's right to defend itself, leaving Pakistan diplomatically cornered.
- UN Rejection: Pakistan appealed to the United Nations Security Council for intervention following India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). However, the UN largely urged bilateral de-escalation, not condemning India, which was a major blow to Pakistan's narrative.
- Limited Backing: Apart from traditional allies like China, Turkey, and Malaysia, few countries openly supported Pakistan. Even Muslim-majority nations like UAE and Saudi Arabia took neutral positions, calling for peace rather than backing Pakistan outright.

The Pahalgam terror attack has significantly altered the geopolitical landscape between India and Pakistan. The series of retaliatory measures, diplomatic strains, and international reactions underscore the fragility of peace in the region. While both nations have taken steps to assert their positions, the path to de-escalation lies in constructive dialogue and mutual cooperation to address underlying issues and prevent further conflict.

India's Defence drive powers economic growth



SANTOSH SHARMA

The recent hostilities between India and Pakistan have once again highlighted a stark truth: warfare, regardless of its scale or region, exacts a significant economic cost. This has been the case historically, and it continues to hold true today. Waging war is no longer solely about manpower and traditional weaponry; it requires vast financial resources, technological infrastructure, and logistical agility. Modern warfare, as evidenced in the recent India-Pakistan tensions and the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict, is increasingly reliant on cutting-edge systems, cyber capabilities, unmanned vehicles, and precision weapons. The nature of war is evolving—and fast. It is now abundantly clear that a nation heavily dependent on foreign imports for its defence needs stands on precarious ground. The election of Donald Trump in the United States, and the policy shifts it brought, has underscored the geopolitical risks of import reliance in defence sectors, making it clear that self-reliance is no longer a choice, but a necessity.

Amidst this shifting global backdrop, India is waking up to the urgency of building a robust domestic defence manufacturing ecosystem. While the share of manufacturing in India's overall GDP has been declining, a significant exception has emerged in the form of defence manufacturing—a sector that is now showing a gradual, determined upward trajectory. This shift is not merely reactive, but strate-

gic. The dynamics of global alliances have also shifted: China's proactive support to Pakistan in supplying arms and military technology has created an additional layer of urgency for India to bolster its own indigenous defence capabilities.

In recent years, the Indian government has taken serious steps to build these capabilities. India's defence production reached an estimated INR 1.27 lakh crore in the financial year 2023-24, reflecting a staggering 174 per cent increase over the past decade. This growth is not confined to figures on paper but is materialising on the ground, as seen in the increasing deployment of indigenous systems during periods of heightened security threats. Under the overarching umbrella of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) initiative, India has been moving away from its historical dependence on imported defence systems and making significant strides in domestic innovation and production.

One of the cornerstones of India's new defence capability is the BrahMos missile, a result of a joint venture with Russia but now largely indigenised. Known for its speed and precision, the BrahMos has played a vital role in recent precision-strike operations, demonstrating both tactical superiority and technological maturity. The newly inaugurated production facility in Lucknow—part of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor—is expected to manufacture 80–100 BrahMos missiles annually, alongside 100–150 units of its next-generation variants. This facility not only secures India's domestic supply but also positions the country to cater to international demand for high-performance defence equipment.

Equally significant is the Akash missile system, developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and containing over 96 per cent indigenous components. It is

one of India's most advanced and locally produced air defence systems. During recent hostilities, the Akash system proved its effectiveness by accurately intercepting aerial threats at critical moments. More than 250 Indian companies have been involved in producing subsystems and components for the Akash project, making it a textbook case of industrial collaboration, supply chain development, and national security convergence. DRDO is also actively enhancing the system's capabilities and expanding its operational range, ensuring that future versions stay ahead of evolving threats.

Another notable development is the D4 anti-drone system, designed to address the rising threat of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). Developed with inputs from DRDO labs across Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Dehradun, the D4 system can detect, track, and neutralise drones using both soft-kill techniques like jamming and hard-kill measures like lasers. It is a reflection of India's growing research and development prowess in dealing with new-age, asymmetric threats in modern warfare.

Yet, despite this progress, challenges remain. India is the fourth-largest spender on defence globally, after the United States, China, and Russia, and still imports around 40 per cent of its defence needs. Between 2020 and 2024, Russia accounted for 36 per cent of India's arms imports, followed by France at 33 per cent, Israel at 18 per cent, and others making up the rest. India's defence budget has increased substantially—from Rs 2.53 lakh crore in 2013-14 to a projected Rs 6.8 lakh crore in 2025-26. The 2024-25 budget alone allocated nearly Rs 1.7 lakh crore for defence procurement.

Historically, defence manufacturing in India has been dominated by 16 Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs). However, the ecosystem is expanding. Today, it also includes around 430 licensed private com-

panies and approximately 16,000 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) supplying goods and services. By the end of FY24, total defence production had reached Rs 1.27 lakh crore, with nearly Rs 90,000 crore already clocked before the most recent hostilities. This figure excludes the Rs 2.09 lakh crore worth of defence contracts awarded in the current fiscal year—92 per cent of which were granted to Indian companies, with public sector firms like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) playing a major role.

The Defence Procurement Board has also approved purchases worth Rs 4.25 lakh crore, with nearly 90 per cent intended for domestic manufacturing. Significant portions of this future manufacturing will be anchored in the Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Defence Corridors. Private sector giants like the Tata Group have chosen Vadodra, Gujarat, as their manufacturing base, reflecting the growing geographical spread of India's defence industrial network.

However, this progress still represents only a fraction of the resources required to fully modernise India's Armed Forces. Much of the existing equipment remains outdated, often based on legacy Soviet designs, especially in critical areas like troop transport aircraft. The need for advanced early warning systems, cost-effective anti-drone measures, and efficient inventory management is pressing. For instance, the Indian Navy alone is responsible for maintaining a diverse inventory of nearly 400 different types of equipment, including a vast range of ammunition and spares.

In the last two decades, India has begun to allow greater participation from the private sector in defence manufacturing. The emphasis on indigenisation now includes more than 310 specific items in addition to the 2,500 items previously indigenised. The government has released a larger list

of 36,000 items intended for future indigenisation, aiming to achieve full self-reliance in defence manufacturing by 2032. These initiatives are not only important for national security but also for their broader economic impact—stimulating industrial activity, generating employment, and fostering innovation.

Defence sector jobs, unlike those in more volatile industries like technology or consumer services, are largely insulated from economic cycles. This makes them attractive, especially for educated and skilled youth looking for stable employment. As seen in the United States, where the aerospace and defence sector contributes nearly 4 per cent to the GDP and supports about 2 lakh companies and 22 lakh jobs, this sector can be an engine of high-quality employment. In fact, defence-related jobs in the US tend to pay about 50 per cent more than average national wages, due to the high level of skills and training required. Similarly, in the European Union, the defence sector employs over 10 lakh people and saw an 8 per cent increase in new jobs in the past year alone.

India has the potential to develop its own defence economy on a similar scale. However, building a sustainable military-industrial complex is a formidable task. It requires persistent investment in R&D, skilled manpower, and strategic vision. It is not enough for large private companies to invest in the hope of lucrative government contracts. Without a long-term, policy-driven approach to technology development, collaboration, and quality assurance, these investments may not yield the desired results.

Another crucial consideration is India's position in the global defence supply chain. Foreign collaborations and joint ventures have the potential to accelerate India's technological advancements. The government's decision to allow 74 per cent

foreign direct investment (FDI) in approved defence manufacturing units is a step in this direction. Russia's March 2025 offer to co-produce its advanced S-500 missile system in India may be a direct result of this liberalised policy. Such collaborations bring not only investment and technology but also open the door to exporting Indian-manufactured defence equipment to global markets.

However, even as India scales up its defence manufacturing, quality control remains a critical challenge. High-quality production standards are non-negotiable in defence, and any lapse can have dire consequences. There is an urgent need to empower oversight bodies responsible for quality control, ensuring they function with autonomy and integrity. Without this, increased spending and manufacturing volumes may not translate into operational effectiveness or global competitiveness.

Finally, while the economic benefits of a robust defence manufacturing sector are undeniable—especially when other sectors of the economy face headwinds—the government must ensure that the defence supply chain remains secure. A reliable regulatory framework is essential to prevent defence technologies or components from falling into the wrong hands. National security must remain the guiding principle as India moves forward on this transformative path.

In conclusion, India is at a critical juncture. The journey towards becoming a self-reliant defence powerhouse is well underway, but the road ahead is complex and fraught with challenges. With careful planning, sustained investment, and an unwavering focus on quality and security, India can build a resilient, world-class defence industrial base—one that not only secures the nation but also drives its economic future.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

A Tribute to Qari Muhammad Iqbal: A Devoted Servant of Faith



BY MS NAZKI

The passing of Qari Muhammad Iqbal on May 7, 2025, has left an indelible mark on the hearts of those who knew him. A remarkable individual, Qari Iqbal's life was a testament to his unwavering dedication to faith and humanity. Born into a noble and illustrious family known for its strong religious values, Qari Iqbal's spiritual growth was nurtured by his father, Pir Ali Bakhsh, who aspired for him to become a devoted servant of faith, serving humanity beyond religious or national boundaries.

Qari Iqbal's journey began at a tender age, when he was enrolled in a religious school, where his innate devotion to God and piety flourished. He pursued his religious education with zeal, studying at Jamia Qasim-ul-Uloom Sairi Khwaja Poonch, a renowned institution in the border district of Poonch, and later graduating from Jamia Shasthiya-ul-Uloom in Akkalkoa, Maharashtra, in 2003.

As a respected Hafiz of the Quran, Qari Iqbal's recitations were marked by tenderness, captivating audiences and inspiring deep devotion. His melodious and pure voice had a profound impact on those who listened to him.

Beyond his exceptional talent, he was known for his kindness, compassion, and selflessness.

Qari Iqbal's dedication to serving the Quran and propagating Islamic teachings earned him a teaching position at Jamia Zia-ul-Uloom in Poonch shortly after graduation. For years, he selflessly served the institution, inspiring thousands of students across Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir with his guidance and wisdom.

Tragically, Qari Iqbal's life was cut short when a mortar shell from the Pakistan side struck Jamia Muttakh's new building, causing a massive explosion that damaged the roof and walls. Qari Iqbal, who was resting in his room after Fajr prayers, was seriously injured along with four students. Despite efforts to save him, he succumbed to his injuries at Poonch hospital, attaining martyrdom.

Qari Muhammad Iqbal's legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched and inspired. His devotion to faith, humanity, and the Quran is a testament to the power of selfless service and the impact one individual can have on the world. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him, and may his sacrifice inspire future generations to follow in his footsteps.

ESH TAEIR: A Book Full of Devotion and Comedy Literature

BY/ GULFAM BARJI

There is something good in different areas of the Kashmir Valley and these areas are known and recognized because of these qualities. In these districts, the name of Bandipora district of North Kashmir is the leading in literary circles. There is a popular general saying about District Bandipora that there is a treasure trove of water, knowledge and literature in this district. Dilshad Mustafa a leading writer and poet from the valley from the same district belongs to Nowgam Sonawari. Dilshad Mustafa was born on March 15, 1971 in Nowgam Sonawari and was raised in an average family. Dilshad was fond of listening to radio since childhood, and the same hobby attracted Dilshad to poetry since childhood. At the age of 14, Dilshad stepped towards Kashmiri poetry and started writing, as well as Dilshad Mustafa continued to study literary books. In addition to his writings, Dilshad Mustafa used to go to the other neighboring village of Naid Khai to reform the teacher Qadir Naid Khai, in addition Dilshad used to go to the prominent writer, penman and poet of the Valley, Muhammad Ahsan Ahsan, to reform his words. Meanwhile, Dilshad Mustafa passed the drama audition from the then Radio Kashmir Srinagar from all India Radio Srinagar in 1991 and as an actor worked in several popular radio plays. In this journey, Dilshad Mustafa went ahead and passed the drama audition from Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar and made his place in Doordarshan. By participating in dramas, poets and other research programs, Dilshad has been known to the literary world to some extent, and to eliminate his literary tension, Dilshad Mustafa has established a cultural association called Dilshad Cultural Forum and continued to play his literary



thirst for this forum. Finally, Dilshad Mustafa composed a book called "ESH TAEIR" in Kashmiri language. This is the first Kashmiri poetry collection of Dilshad. This poetry collection contains almost a hundred poems of Naat Hammud , Nawha, Manqbat and Humorous poems. The book is officially listed. Where the words are listed in the book, the reflection of the worldly words as well as the Hereafter is reflected in the words of Dilshad Mustafa. Not only that, where Dilshad Mustafa is an expert in writing the Naatya Kalaam he has made serious poetry as well as Humorous poetry which makes a person really forgotten all sorrow and finds peace for a few moments. Thus many comedy words are listed in the book that is repeatedly reciting In this book, Dilshad Mustafa has tested the literature, humor literature and circumstances

in addition to belief literature. Among the prominent literary figures about this book and Dilshad Mustafa, Dr.Wahid Raza, Munawar Parwana, Dr. Arshad Malik, Malik Zahoor Mehdi Kashmiri, Saleem Yuosf, Syed Asadullah Safavi, Mukhtar Ali and Inayat Gul are remarkable. After studying this book, there is no doubt that Dilshad Mustafa is a complete and successful poet. Apart from the book called "ESH TAEIR" Dilshad Mustafa has the content for about 4 books at present and in his short income, Dilshad is trying to bring all the content in the field of books. Dilshad has received many honors and credentials from Government, non government, social and literary associations till date in the literary field and all the details of all these awards and credentials are listed in the same book with colorful photographs. Shah-e-Jeeelan Public School, Ali Asghar

Blood Bank Care Foundation, Kashmir Headlines, Frontline Media, Inder Cultural Forum Sumbal, Payaam International Organization and Block Medical Officer Hajan. In addition, Dilshad Mustafa honored the Best Director at the Annual Drama Festival organized by the J&K Cultural Academy in 1998, the best comedy poet honored by the Gulistan News Channel, the Best Actor Honored by the Inder Cultural Forum Sumbal, the Best Social Worker honored by Health and Family Welfare Department Hajan and Hussaini Blood Bank, the Best Administrator honored by the Dilshad Cultural Forum Nowgam and Best Reporter honored by the Kashmir Headlines and this series of honors and credentials is still underway. Finally, I am very warmly congratulated Dilshad Mustafa for bringing Dilshad Mustafa to his poetry collection "ESH TAEIR"



My Wedding Without My Mother

BY MOOL RAJ

A mother is someone who can take the place of all others but no one can take the place of her. The mother plays a vital and multifaceted role in a wedding, offering emotional support, practical assistance with planning and execution, and ensuring the day runs smoothly, while also being a source of love and guidance for the bride.

A wedding without a mother can be a deeply emotional experience, but it's possible to honor her memory and create a beautiful celebration with other loved ones, such as a father, grandparent, or close family friend walking the bride down the aisle.

I feel empty inside. My mother's death was a really sobering experience I've passed through. It was the most devastating loss in my life.

The memory of my mother will follow me wherever I go, and however far living my dreams with a gentle scent of her perfume and the shimmering of her laugh. She was there to show me how much she cared and She was there when I made my first steps. She taught me to smile and laugh.

Moreover, my mother listened to all my fears and nightmares with patience which can only be admired. She covered my heart and soul with caring love. Her eyes were so soft, wandering, and full of comprehension when they focused on other people.

When joy arrives drenched in sorrow.

In the hustle of wedding preparations, the fragrance of flowers fills

our home. Laughter echoes through newly painted walls. Family and friends gather, clothes are being stitched, and invitations are being sent. But amidst all this joy, there is a silence only I can hear – a silence so loud it drowns the drums and songs.

Because my mother, Smt Nanti Devi is not here.

On the 4th and 5th of June 2004, I am getting married – a day she once dreamed of, longed for and prayed for. But the woman who waited for it the most won't be here to witness it.

She left us on a Friday 18 January 1998 at 4-00am. She breathed her last at in my arms at Village Bhagota Distt and Teh Doda. In that one moment, life split in two: before and after. Since then, every joy has worn a shade of sorrow.

My mother was not just my world – she was its soul. A woman of such generosity that no beggar ever left our home empty-handed. Some families came daily for milk, oil, or clothes – she never turned them away. She fed the hungry, clothed the poor, provide water to thirsty people in forest area of Doli Mandi when she was grazing cattle and treated every guest like royalty. She was the embodiment of warmth, sincerity, and silent sacrifice.

To her children, she was a fortress of love. She would often say, "One day, you will succeed."

That one day is almost here – but her eyes won't see it.

She was so fond of my marriage, always praying for it, dreaming of the day her son would step into a new life. She longed to see us move into our newly built home – what she called her dream mansion. Today,

we live in it, but it feels hollow without her warmth. I am appointed as Teacher. My mother prayed for it day and night. I still remember how her face lit up at the thought, her eyes glowing with dua. That prayer has been fulfilled – but she isn't here to embrace me with pride.

We are trying our best to live by her values – to be honest, to be kind, to stay close to the Gita, to pray regularly, and to serve the poor. She always reminded us: "Never let pride touch your heart, and never let a needy hand return empty."

After she passed, I was lost – emotionally shattered. At that time, I am doing my M.Sc Environment Science from Jammu University. On eve of My Beloved Mother Prof Zahoor ul Din Head Of Department Urdu and than the Controller of Examination University of Jammu extended Date Sheet Environmental Science for one month. I never forget respected Professor, this big step till the last breath of my life. I still remember that at one night, I return back to Swami Vivekananda Boys Hostel in my Room Number 213 for collection of study material keeping my beloved mother alone in Jewal Hotel with my elder brother Mr Dev Raj. I daily asking myself why I do so. But then came a ray of mercy: my Father Sh Gouri Lal who is none more as my father left to Heavenly Abode on 26 November, 2019 a man as pure as a flowing spring. He embraced me with compassion, consoled my aching soul, and guided me back to the light of true person. His love and support became a shelter in the storm. My mother always wanted to meet him, and although that meeting never hap-

pened, I believe their souls are connected through purity.

There are nights I wake up yearning for her scent. There are days I walk into rooms expecting her to call my name. And every day, I feel the ache of not being able to hug her – to hear her soothing voice, just one more time. But this world has its limits. What I can't have here, I pray for in the hereafter.

Oh Lord of the universe – Oh My God, I have only one request:

Let me meet her in next World where is living after keeping me weeping for ever.

Make me a noble soul whose deeds benefit her even there.

Allow me to serve her in the gardens of eternity,

Just as she served us in this fleeting world.

As I take the most important step of my life, I carry a void inside me. While others will dance and celebrate, I will hold back my tears behind a smile. And in that moment, I will whisper to the sky:

Ammi, your son did it. But without you... it hurts.

May God elevate her to the highest ranks of Jannat-ul-Firdous. Aameen.

This heartfelt piece is a tribute to my late mother, Smt Nanti Devi whose absence has left a permanent void in my life. Last but not least I would like to conclude my article by saying-

Days Turn Into Months And Moths Into Years

I Remember My Beloved Mother With Silent Tears.

The Author is a regular columnist and freelance writer

Promote Multilingual Education

VIJAY GARG

The central government has taken an important initiative to promote linguistic diversity of the country. Under this initiative, 'Indian Language Summer Camp 2025' will be held in all 14.5 lakh schools across the country in summer vacations. In this camp children will be given knowledge of one or more Indian languages along with their mother tongue through sports and cultural activities. This summer camp will be one week in which four hours of activities will be conducted daily to connect children with Indian languages, which will lead to a total of 48 hours of training. Certificates will also be provided to the children at the end of the camp. This 'Indian language summer camp of the central government will be able to avail more than 25 crore children. In today's time people have to move from one state to another for employment or better living. Bank employees, Kendriya Vidyalayas teachers and youth employed in the Ity sector often have to go in connection with jobs in Maharashtra, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Tamil Nadu or other states. In such a situation, they face many problems due to the variation of local language and culture. Disputes also arise due to lack of communication. Recently many such videos have gone viral in Karnataka and Maharashtra, with emphasis on talking in local language Marathi and Kannada. It is necessary to respect the mother tongue, but it is not advisable to abuse the outside persons. India is a country full of diversity, where different cultures, religions and languages meet. All languages have equal importance, and people should learn more than one Indian languages. This will not make them face language difficulties when they move to another state. Multilingual people can communicate with different cultures. And can understand each other's thoughts in a better way. Learning more than one language has a positive impact on the brain, according to a research. and get a boost to creativity. Multilingual education promotes mutual understanding and respect between different languages and cultures, which will also promote social unity and harmony in India. It will help preserve the linguistic diversity and heritage of India. Still a large number of people are unaware of the benefit of multilingual education. Indian languages should also be valued with English. Although multilingual education should not be confined to the early years of schooling only, it should be expanded from primary level to higher education.

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

All Jammu & Kashmir Shia Association (AJKSA) Steps Up Ashura Coordination Efforts

Dair E Hussainy (AS) Meeting in Bagwanpora, Srinagar Welcomes Streamlining Measures, Emphasizes Sanctity, Discipline & Unity in Procession Planning

HT News Network

Srinagar, 25th May 2025: In preparation for the upcoming Muharram / annual Ashura procession, a coordination meeting was convened in Srinagar under the guidance of Haji Firdaus Mirza, District President of the All Jammu & Kashmir Shia Association (AJKSA). The meeting saw the presence of AJKSA Srinagar District Secretary Yaseen Mustafa, Youth Coordinator Arshed Sultan, and senior members Syed Altaf, Yaqoob, and Asim Gazi. Representatives from 38 Dairah-e-Hussainy (AS) units who actively participate in the

Ashura procession were also present. The gathering was held to discuss streamlining of this year's Muharram and specifically Ashura processions and ensuring greater discipline, spiritual ambiance, and coordination among all participants. All attendees wholeheartedly welcomed the steps initiated by Molvi Imran Ansari Sahib to bring more structure and sanctity to the movement of Dairahs during the Ashura day events. The AJKSA team also collected feedback from the Dairah-e-Hussainy representatives, which will be reviewed by the President for final approval. Key



suggestions from the ground included:
•Dedicated Movement Time: Each Dairah to be allocated 12

minutes at the Imam Bargah Zadibal to ensure smooth and timely passage.
•Timely Completion: Efforts to

conclude the entire procession by Maghrib Salah, so that preparations for Sham-e-Ghariban can take place with due

sanctity. •Orderly Numbering: All Dairahs to be numbered for better coordination and accountability during movement. •Respectful Participation of Women: A proposal was discussed regarding the restriction on women sitting on ground floors during the procession. This is being considered purely to uphold the sanctity and traditional discipline of Azadari. All community members are urged to understand and support this respectful request. •Avoidance of Inappropriate Food: It was unanimously agreed that modern fast food items like pizzas and burgers do not align with the spiritual

nature of the day and must be avoided. Emphasis was laid on promoting Fakah Shikni, the traditional and humble offering associated with the day of mourning. •NGO and Civil Society Support: Coordination with NGOs and other service organisations was appreciated and will be welcomed for assisting in crowd management, medical aid, and other support services. The meeting concluded with a reaffirmed commitment to preserving the sanctity of Ashura while ensuring the procession proceeds in an organised, safe, and spiritually reflective manner.

DC Ganderbal reviews performances of banks at DLRC



GANDERBAL, MAY 26: A meeting of the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and the District Consultative Committee (DCC) was held today in the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal. The meeting, convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, was aimed at reviewing the performance of banks and line departments for the quarter ending March 2025. Senior officials from the district administration, representatives from various banks and line departments attended the meeting to assess the progress under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP). Lead District Manager, Ganderbal, presented a comprehensive report detailing the bank-wise performance in various key areas, including deposits, advances, and Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR). As of March 31, 2025, the Credit Deposit Ratio of the banks stood at 91.28%. DC expressed concern regarding the low credit dispensation in the agriculture and allied sectors. He emphasized the need for banks to increase credit flow to the agriculture sector to meet the requirements of farmers. He directed banks to improve their credit dispensation strategies and ensure that the agricultural sector receives adequate financial support. Additionally, District Officers of Agriculture and allied Departments were advised to sponsor more credit-linked cases under prominent schemes like the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme to the banks. Further, Agriculture & allied departments along with banks were directed to ensure 100% saturation of PM Kisan beneficiaries under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme. In the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, banks reported significant progress, having exceeded the targets set for the sector under the Annual Credit Plan.

GDC Ramkote organises cleanliness drive

KATHUA, MAY 26: A cleanliness drive was today conducted in the surrounding area of Government Degree College Ramkote. As many as 18 NSS volunteers along with Programme Officer of the Unit Prof. Anu Sharma participated in the drive. The drive commenced from near the college gate, covering the lanes that connect the college to the main road. NSS volunteers removed debris, plastic waste and wrappers of edible products from the pond situated near Badri Narayan Temple promoting awareness about cleanliness of water bodies. The walkways across the pond in the adopted village Ramkote were also cleaned and made litter/single use plastic free. A message of cleanliness and maintaining hygiene near water bodies was spread among the local community for continuous upkeep of public areas ensuring green, clean and plastic free surroundings, a small contribution towards Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The College Principal Rakesh Kumar Koul lauded the NSS volunteers for fostering a sense of shared responsibility for a cleaner environment. Taking part in such activities showcases the power of collective action and engages college youth to inspire others to join a nationwide movement towards a cleaner and greener India, he added. Extended heartfelt appreciation to local authorities and the school administration for their support in making the programme a success.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SHOWKAT AHMAD AHANGAR have changed the name of my daughter Sana Jan to BAREEN SHOWKAT R/o Old Gagrabal Nehru Park Srinagar. Vide Affidavit dated 21-05-2025 before notary public Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my Name and dob has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, 345158351457 as name and DOB 13/04/1996 ASMAT HASSAN while his correct name and DOB IS, 10/03/1995 BISMA HASSAN D/O GH HASSAN BHAT R/O KHAHIPORO 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: BISMA HASSAN DOB 10/03/1995
D/O GH HASSAN BHAT
R/O: KHAHIPORO / TEHSIL KARLGUND QAZIABAD DIST KUPWARA

Sat Sharma asks party cadre in Kashmir to connect with masses along with welfare measures for shelling-affected people

HT News Network

Srinagar, 25 May 2025: J&K BJP President Sat Sharma chaired an important organizational meeting at the BJP office in Srinagar. He was accompanied by BJP National Secretary and MLA Dr. Narinder Singh, as well as J&K BJP General Secretary and MLA Dr. D.K. Manyal. District President Sheikh Salman, DDC Er. Aizaz, and other senior leaders from Srinagar Constituency were present in the meeting. The primary agenda of the meeting was to mobilize the party cadre to help the Pakistan shelling affected people and also to assess the current organizational structure, review on-ground activities, and formulate a strategic roadmap to enhance party outreach and public engagement in the region. While addressing the meeting, Sat Sharma motivated the party leaders to reach out consistently to the shelling affected families and stand with them in their adverse time. He also emphasized the importance of grassroots-level connectivity and urged party workers to engage closely with the people. He highlighted the BJP's



commitment to inclusive development, peace, and progress in the region along with the welfare measures and stressed the need for sustained efforts in spreading the party's message of good governance and national integration. Dr. Narinder Singh, in his remarks, commended the dedication of BJP workers in Kashmir despite various challenges. He shared insights from the central leadership and encouraged party cadres to remain focused on public service, especially in the

areas of education, youth empowerment, along with much needed welfare activities at this time. Dr. D.K. Manyal also addressed the meeting and laid emphasis on strengthening the booth-level organization. He pointed out that the success of any political party lies in the strength of its base and called upon party leaders to hold public outreach programmes along with the regular meetings, to ensure party connectivity and responsiveness.

Govt Of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Public Works (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

NO: T-1/EEA/ 679-82 Dated 26 /05/2025

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Providing of 01 Vehicle i.e Toyota Innova/Innovacrysta/for official Purpose in the office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division AWA-NTIPORA (with Driver).
Reference: e-NIT No: 04/EEA/RNB/ of 2025-26/568-78
It is for the information of all registered civil contractors/firms/Agencies kindly read Providing of 01 Vehicle i.e Toyota Innova/nnova crysta/ Mahindra Scorpio for official Purpose in the office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division AWANTIPORA (with Driver) Instead of "Providing of 01 Vehicle i.e Toyota Innova/Innova crysta/for official Purpose in the office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division AWANTIPORA (with Driver). for the above subjected work and referred NIT advertised vide this office. All other terms and conditions shall remain un-changed.

DIPK-1889/25
Send Dated:-26/05/2025
Pub:- 27-05-25

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

Govt Of Jammu and Kashmir

Office Of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar

Gist of Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-NIT No.06 of 2025-26 dated 26-05-2025

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 Lieutenant Governor Of J&K UT, e-tenders are invited through e-tendering mode from reputed, registered electrical contractors/ workshop holders for Annual Electrical Framework Contract of irrigation/ dewatering/tubewell schemes of Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar and registered with Government of Jammu and Kashmir having up to date Sales Tax Clearance Certificate and relevant experience in work. The e-tenders will be valid for One hundred and eighty days (180) for executing the following contract:-

S. No	Particulars of the work	Qty.	Name of Division	Cost of document/ tender fee (In ₹)	Earnest money (In ₹)	Bid Validity	Duration of contract
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I.	Annual Electrical Framework Contract of irrigation/ dewatering/ tubewell schemes of Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar having jurisdiction in District- Ganderbal, Srinagar, Budgam and Pulwama.	As per requirement	Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar	500	26500	180 days	Upto 31 st March 2026

Head of account: M.H. 2701, 2702, 2711
The Bidding documents consisting of specifications, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the official website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given below:

a.	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	26-05-2025	(1600 Hours)
b.	Period of Downloading Tender Documents	26-05-2025 to 02-06-2025	(1600 Hours) to (1400 Hours)
c.	Document Download End date	02-06-2025	(1400 Hours)
d.	Bid Submission Start Date	26-05-2025	(1600 Hours)
e.	Bid Submission End Date	02-06-2025	(1400 Hours)

Each tender should be accompanied with an Earnest Money in the form of CDR/ FDR/ IBG as detailed above, pledged to the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar. In absence of Earnest Money, the Tenders shall be rejected outright. However, in case of the firms registered with the Department of Industries and Commerce as MSME/ MSE, all the rules shall be applicable to this effect as circulated from time to time by the department /GFR2017.
Any information regarding the tenders can be had from this office on all working days.

DIPK-1858/25
Send Dated:-26/05/2025
Pub:- 27-05-25

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER HANDWARA.

Address: BMO Office, Maidan Chogal, Handwara J&K--193221

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders duly affixed with Revenue Stamps worth Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten only) are invited for Refreshment items/IEC Printing & Stationery Items for the financial year 2025-26 from the Reputed /Registered Firms/Registered Dealers/Hotel/Restaurant owners (having GST registration) should submit their offer .

The tenders completed in all respects should reach the office of the Block Medical Officer Handwara on or before 30-05- 2025 up to 2:00 P.M which shall be opened on the same day in presence of the tenderers / or their authorized representatives who may like to be present at the time of opening. The detailed tender documents can be had from the Office of the Block Medical Officer Handwara. Earnest Money to the tune of Rs.5000/- (Rupees: Five Thousand only) in the shape of CRD/ FDR on any Nationalized Bank duly pledged to the Block Medical Officer Handwara shall have to be enclosed along with the offer without which the tender / offer shall be rejected.

The Block Purchase Committee Handwara reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reasons thereof.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The sealed tenders should be handed over personally at the office of the Block Medical Officer Handwara after obtaining a receipt or can be sent by registered post. Tenders received after the due date shall not be entertained. Postal delay will not be the responsibility of the Department. The Tenders should be accompanied with the following documents.
Earnest Money deposit as prescribed in the tender Notice.
Latest GST No./ Sales Tax/ Vat clearance certificate/ of the preceding year and attested photocopy of PAN of the firm.
Price Bid only (in duplicate) written in words and figures and without any cutting/over writings.
The tender documents should be page marked and bearing signature with seal on each page.
On receipt of the sealed tender document the Technical Bid will be opened in the first instance by the Block Purchase Committee Handwara in presence of the Tenderer(s) or their authorized representative who may wish to be present at the time of opening.
On finalization of the Technical Bids by the concerned expert opinion and recommendation, the financial Bids of qualified tenderers shall be opened there after by the committee.
The rates quoted should be inclusive of all Taxes, Transportation, entry tax, duties and other incidental, handling, installation charges etc.
The rates should be quoted in Indian currency only and price escalation will not be allowed in any case.
The tender should be written neat and clean and without any cutting/over writings.
The tenders should be accompanied with the samples/catalogues of the products quoted.
All the terms and conditions of the NIT shall also form a part of supply order and agreement.
The successful tenderer/s shall have to abide by the standard terms and conditions of contractual obligations as laid down in J & K Financial Code/ Rules and the conditions as per the contract.
The tenderer shall be responsible for the proper packing of the material so as to avoid damage under normal conditions of the transport by rail, road or air and delivery of material in good condition to the consignee at the destination. In the event of any loss, damage, breakage, leakage or any shortage found on checking/inspection/verification of the material by the consignee, the supplier shall be responsible for the same.
In case the goods are not of approved quality and make accordingly to approved sample/catalogue, they shall be rejected and will have to be replaced within a reasonable time by the supplier without extra cost. The rejected supply shall have to be lifted by the supplier immediately at his own risk and cost. If approved supplier fails either to supply the goods of prescribed specification or to deliver the goods within specified period, the purchasing officer shall be at liberty to arrange supplies either through re-tender or otherwise after giving notice to the approved supplier, the Earnest Money deposit and other deposit if any available with the Department shall be retained to make good any loss or extra cost incurred by the department in procurement of those supplies.
100% payment will be made after completion of the work.
The approved supplier shall not sublet the contract or a part thereof to any other Agency.
No conditional tender shall be accepted. The Block Purchase Committee Handwara reserves the right to accept or reject any tender/all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
The rate contract will remain valid till 31/05/2025.

DIPK-1862/25
Send Date: May 26 2025
Pub Date: May 27, 2025

Block Medical Officer
Handwara



DC Poonch inspects Banwat Gundi WSS, Orders Prompt Restoration

■ HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 26: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal conducted an inspection of the Water Supply Scheme at Banwat Gundi, reaffirming the administration's commitment to ensuring uninterrupted water supply to local households. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of timely action and directed the Jal Shakti Department to expedite restoration efforts, ensuring the swift resumption of water services for residents. Officials from the department briefed the Deputy Commissioner that all necessary works have been completed, and the water supply scheme is set to resume in no time. Accompanying the Deputy Commissioner were the XEN Jal Shakti and other officials from the department, who assured immediate compliance with the directives issued. The administration remains focused on resolving infrastructure challenges and enhancing essential public services for the welfare of the community.

ADC reviews drinking water supply scenario in Sub-District Nowshera

■ HT News Network

NOWSHERA, MAY 26: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Nowshera, Pritam Lal Thapa, today convened a meeting with the Jal Shakti Department (Civil and Mechanical) Nowshera Division to review the progress of work on ongoing schemes and assess the status of drinking water supply in the Sub-District. The ADC directed the concerned officers to expedite the execution of schemes and ensure timely completion of all ongoing works. He further instructed the department to address any bottlenecks hindering project progress and maintain strict adherence to quality standards. The status of drinking water supply across different panchayats and municipal areas of Nowshera Sub-District was also reviewed in detail. The ADC stressed the need for prompt redressal of public grievances related to water supply and directed the officers to maintain adequate buffer stock of essential materials to avoid disruptions during the summer season. The ADC urged the Jal Shakti Department to work in close coordination with the local administration to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach every household and that no area remains deprived of potable water. The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (Civil), Assistant Executive Engineer Mechanical, Junior Engineers and other field staff of the department.

SWD, YSS spearhead Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan in Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 26: Department of Social Welfare, in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar, organized a series of impactful awareness events under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) across various educational institutions and Panchayats in the district. Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan, the campaign was actively conducted in Panchayats Lohidar B, Jar Paddar, Patnazi A, and Hidayal, where resource persons and field officers addressed the locals, emphasizing the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of community participation in eradicating this social evil. A significant part of the campaign took place at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Sounder, Upper Primary School (UPS) Pochhal, and Government High School (GHS) Bugrana, where students, staff and community members participated in a solemn Anti-Drug Pledge Ceremony. The pledge reaffirmed their collective commitment to saying "No to Drugs" and upholding a lifestyle rooted in health, discipline, and moral responsibility.

"Bada Khana" hosted by Traffic Police City Jammu

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 26: Senior Superintendent of Police Traffic City Jammu Farooq Qaiser today hosted a "Bada Khana" here in the Conference Hall, DPL Jammu to enhance esprit de corps and strengthen bonds among the officers and officials of the Jammu City Traffic Police. The event was also attended by DIG Traffic Range Jammu, Dr. Haseeb Mughal. Upon his arrival, the DIG Traffic was warmly received by SSP Traffic City Jammu and his team. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Mughal underscored the importance of such events in fostering a sense of belonging and reinforcing shared objectives within the Traffic Police Force. He emphasized that "Bada Khana" goes beyond a shared meal and helps to create a sense of camaraderie and brotherhood among all ranks. He also gave a patient hearing to the feedback given by all the ranks and advised all officers and officials to prioritize their health amidst the prevailing heatwave. Approximately 300 attendees enjoyed the meal accompanied by light music from the Police Orchestra. The event's primary objective was to instill a spirit of unity and dedication towards common goals.

MP Jugal Kishore tours Reasi District to identify places of attraction for promoting heritage, adventure and conventional tourism

■ HT News Network

REASI, MAY 26: Member Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma today conducted an extensive tour of Reasi District to review ongoing developmental projects and identify places of attraction for promoting heritage, adventure and conventional tourism in the region. He was accompanied by Member Legislative Assembly Reasi, Kuldeep Raj Dubey, besides officials from key departments including Tourism, Railways, PWD, PHE and PMGSY. MP Jugal Kishore along with MLA Kuldeep Raj Dubey commenced their tour from the scenic Sullia Park Reasi and covered a wide range of important and culturally rich sites including Bharadhari Bridge Rafting Point, Khansi Patta Mandir, Siyad Baba, Outlet Mata Mandir, Salal Hydroelectric Dam, Chinkah, Khouri, Kanthan, Shiva Guffa. The objective of the tour was to assess the tourism potential of the region, especially to attract pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi and identify strategic inter-



ventions to attract more tourists. Detailed discussions were held at each location to evaluate ways of enhancing infrastructure, improving accessibility, and developing amenities to make Reasi a prominent tourism destination. MP Jugal Kishore Sharma emphasized the

need to align with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat, aiming to make Reasi district self-reliant through tourism-driven growth. "Tourism not only brings visibility to our cultural heritage but also creates employment and business opportunities for the

local youth," he said.

Special focus was laid on promoting adventure tourism such as rafting, which has immense potential in the region. Officials were directed to explore new projects and prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the beautification and development of all visited sites. Discussions were also held with Railway officials regarding developmental works to enhance connectivity and facilitate smoother travel for visitors. The tour marks the beginning of a broader five-year vision to transform Reasi into a vibrant hub of cultural and adventure tourism. "Tourism not only brings visibility to our cultural heritage but also creates employment and business opportunities for the local youth," he said.

Special focus was laid on promoting adventure tourism such as rafting, which has immense potential in the region. Officials were directed to explore new projects and prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the beautification and development of all visited sites. Discussions were also held with Railway officials regarding developmental works to enhance connectivity.

DC Rajouri reviews implementation of LG's directions Assess status of critical infrastructure, safety measures, Disaster Preparedness

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 26: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation of directions issued by the Lieutenant Governor regarding the provision of dedicated power line supply to hospitals, development of critical infrastructure, and the security of important bridges in the district. The DC emphasised the need for uninterrupted power supply to healthcare facilities and other vital installations to ensure seamless services during emergencies. The Power Development Department (PDD) was directed to ensure strict compliance



with the LG's directives. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the ongoing assessment of damages caused to infrastructure, including commercial buildings and cattle sheds, by the Public Works Department (PWD). The DC directed the concerned departments to expedite the process and submit detailed reports for prompt action and assistance to affected

stakeholders. In light of the recent challenges posed by cross border shelling and other emergencies, the DC instructed the Animal Husbandry Department to conduct drills for the safety of livestock, including buffaloes and cows, in vulnerable areas. Recognizing the critical role of community participation in disaster preparedness, the DC directed the Health Depart-

ment to prepare a comprehensive list of blood donors in Nowshera and Rajouri subdivisions, which will serve as an essential resource during emergencies. Further, the DC instructed officers to gather details of requisitioned community sirens and to conduct drills for their effective use in alerting the public during emergencies. The Deputy Commissioner also issued directions for the construction of trenches in both rural and urban areas as a proactive measure to safeguard lives during emergencies. The DC directed the concerned departments to prepare a detailed plan for the reconstruction of damaged Government structures, including Panchayat Ghars, to restore essential services and ensure.

DC Udhampur reviews progress under PMAY-Urban 2.0 scheme

■ HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MAY 26: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today convened a meeting of officers from line departments to review the progress of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 scheme in the district. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, Chief Planning Officer Mohd Iqbal and other senior officers. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure adherence to prescribed guidelines in letter and spirit to cover all eligible and genuine ben-



eficiaries under the scheme. She further instructed the officers to meticulously verify all parameters as per the scheme provisions and to ensure that the benefits reach the rightful beneficiaries. Stressing the importance of public awareness, the DC asked the

officers to organise special awareness camps to educate the public about the scheme and assist them during the application process. She also directed them to proactively reach out to targeted groups and submit progress reports on a weekly basis.

ADDC Poonch reviews implementation of District Capex Budget 2024-25

■ HT News Network



POONCH, MAY 26: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pankaj Magotra today chaired a meeting to assess the status and implementation of projects under the District Capex Budget 2024-25. The meeting primarily focused on works taken up under the PRI, BDC and DDC grants, being executed by departments of Public Works Department (PWD) and Rural Development Department (RDD). Additionally, the ADDC conducted an in depth review of works under the Power Development Department (PDD), Jal Shakti Department, Ground Water Department, District Youth Services and Sports Department and the Health and Education Departments. The ADDC emphasized the need for focused and coordinated efforts to ensure the expedited execution of developmental projects. Stressed was laid on completion of the ongoing works related to the Health and Education departments priority. "Projects affected by disputes, if not resolvable in a practical manner, should be discontinued and not retained in the plan for the year ahead" he said. The Chief Education Officer was specifically instructed to allocate sufficient funds for works so that they are not left incomplete. The ADDC highlighted the importance of rational fund distribution and advised against allocating inadequate funds to individual projects. Further, he instructed that low cost works should preferably be executed by the RDD, considering their capacity to deliver efficiently at the grassroots level. He also directed that all non started works under the District Capex should be reviewed thoroughly. Taking strong note of the lack of progress in certain sectors, the ADDC asked the Ground Water Division to furnish a written report explaining why a significant number of assigned works have not been initiated despite allocation of funds.

Indian Chamber of Commerce Jammu represents and submitted memorandum to Regional Director RBI Jammu Kashmir Ladakh in 66th Empowered Committee Meeting

■ HT News Network

Jammu, May 26, 2025: The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Jammu, under the leadership of its Chairman Rahul Sahai, submitted a detailed memorandum to Sh. Chander Shekhar Azad, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh, during the 66th Empowered Committee Meeting. The memorandum highlighted the pressing economic and sectoral concerns faced by MSMEs in the Union Territory in light of the recent war-like situation. The representation applauded the courage of the Armed Forces and the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for standing strong in difficult times. However, it emphasised that the ongoing

uncertainty and threat of recurrence have deeply shaken the MSME sector and the broader business community across Jammu and Kashmir.

The fallout includes widespread damage to homes in border areas, business closures, grounding of flights and trains, exodus of labour, a collapse of the tourism industry, and an alarming decline in business activity and income. Additionally, concerns were raised over unsecured banks credit limits in case of "Act of War" situation, continued interest charges without proper economic activity, pending GST refunds in treasuries and government scheme payments (such as under Ayushman Bharat), and unsecured properties of insurance claims due to the "Act of War" clause.



In its memorandum, ICC Jammu proposed several critical interventions. These include directing IRDAI to extend war-risk insurance coverage for J&K properties, and ensuring banks refrain from blocking MSME accounts or classifying them as unsecured due to

current instability. The Chamber urged banks to develop new and simplified financial products such as loans against pending Ayushman Bharat dues, solar financing for MSMEs, and hassle-free loans against property in these difficult times. Regarding Treds Sahai suggested audit that why buyers are not registering on treds platforms of RXIL, M1 Exchange etc. Further, the Chamber called for liberal renewal of credit limits, issuance of special stress loans, restoration of ATM withdrawal limits to pre-war levels, six-month interest reimbursements as provided during COVID, and region-specific RBI relaxations in credit restructuring and working capital support and Cibil scores. Addressing the growing concern of cyber threats, ICC Jammu recommended immediate cyber

audits of banking systems and creation of a dedicated Cyber Response Team by banks. Another significant concern raised was the safety of public deposits and bank lockers in war-prone situations. The Chamber sought clarifications and called for enhanced security measures such as relocating lockers to secure zones and basements. Rahul Sahai, while submitting the memorandum, emphasised the urgent need for the RBI's leadership to safeguard MSMEs and restore economic confidence in the region. ICC Jammu reaffirmed its support for the Government of India and appealed for swift action to stabilise the economic environment of Jammu and Kashmir.





Secretary Health reviews preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra: H&MD gears up for robust medical response

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 26: The Health and Medical Education Department today convened a high level meeting under the chairmanship of Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, to review and finalise preparations for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, scheduled to be held from 3rd July to 9th August 2025.

The meeting was attended by Director SKIMS, Directors of Health Services Kashmir and Jammu, Principals of all Government Medical Colleges including SKIMS Medical College Bemina, Managing Director NHMJ&K, Managing Director JKMSCL, Executive Director of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Speciality Hospital, Director Family Welfare and Dr. L Swasticharan besides Deputy Director General (Health Services), Government of India, along with his team.

The Secretary asked the Directors of Health Services, Kashmir and Jammu, to submit comprehensive deployment plans for medical personnel by 30th May 2025.



He directed the JKMSCL to ensure availability and pre-positioning of essential medical stocks at strategically located warehouses near Chandanwari and Baltal.

He asked the concerned for ensuring that the Base Hospitals at Chandanwari and Baltal must be fully operational before well commencement of the annual pilgrimage to manage the devotees effectively.

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already shared a list of 123 medical personnel with DHS Kashmir for deployment during the Yatra.

It was directed that doctors and paramedics shall be deployed well in advance before the start of Yatra 2025. Besides, healthcare personnel shall be relieved only after the reliever joins to ensure uninterrupted services. It was decided

that the telemedicine services will be operational and tested in advance. Besides, training in telemedicine and emergency response will be conducted by the Dho-biwan Institute and SKIMS, with SKIMS Medical College Bemina leading the effort. The Secretary emphasised the need for meticulous preparedness, seamless coordination and timely implementation of all directions to provide efficient and reliable healthcare services to the pilgrims. He asked the concerned for ensuring that the Base Hospitals at Chandanwari and Baltal must be fully operational before well commencement of the annual pilgrimage to manage the devotees effectively.

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already shared a list of 123 medical personnel with DHS Kashmir for deployment during the Yatra.

It was directed that doctors and paramedics shall be deployed well in advance before the start of Yatra 2025. Besides, healthcare personnel shall be relieved only after the reliever joins to ensure uninterrupted services.

Sarabjeet, Faizan qualifies for Asian Softball Championship

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 26: Bringing laurels to the Union Territory and keeping its flag high at the national scene, ace Softball players Sarabjeet Singh Sodhi and Faizan Bashir have been named in the U-23 Men's Softball Indian team for Asian Championship. The duo will represent India in Asia Cup (Men) U-23 Softball Championship scheduled to be held at Softball Stadium, Bangkok, Thailand from June 2 to June 7, 2025. Asia Cup (Men) Softball Championship at Thailand will also be the qualifying event for World Cup (Men) U-23 Softball Championship 2026, if Indian team figure in top two teams in Asian Championship. The selection of the players for National Camp was done during the selection trials at Jalgaon, Maharashtra on January 18 and 19, 2025. Both of them were part of the two National Camps-

DC Baramulla hands-over newly procured Water Tankers to Jal Shakti Deptt

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MAY 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today handed over the keys of two newly procured water tanker vehicles to the Jal Shakti Department, Division Baramulla.

A brief flagging-off ceremony was held at the DC Office Complex in Baramulla, during which the two vehicles were officially inducted into the fleet of the Jal Shakti Department.



Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Joint Director Planning, Senior Engineer and Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department and other officials

were present during the flag-off ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the two water tankers, with capacities of 9,000 and 6,000 litres

respectively, have been procured at a cost of Rs. 55 lakh. The procurement has been made possible through the award money received from NITI Aayog under the Aspirational District Programme. DC further said that these water tankers will greatly enhance the department's capacity to address drinking water scarcity, particularly in areas where piped water supply under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is yet to be commissioned.

Toyota Fortuner, Legender Cross 3-Lakh Sales Mark in India

HT News Network

SRINAGAR: Toyota Kirloskar Motor has announced a major milestone—cumulative sales of 3 lakh units of its flagship premium SUVs, the Fortuner and Legender, in India. The achievement underscores the continued popularity of these models and Toyota's strong hold in the premium SUV segment.

Launched in 2009, the Fortuner is known for its rugged build, powerful 2.8L diesel engine (204 PS/500 Nm), and off-road prowess. With a bold design and high ground clearance, it remains a top choice among adventure seekers and SUV lovers.

The Legender, introduced in 2021, offers a more urban and feature-rich alternative with dual-tone styling, wireless charging, JBL speakers, and premium interiors, combining luxury with performance.

Speaking on the milestone, Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the passionate Fortuner and Legender fan base in India for their unwavering trust in our brand as we celebrate the remarkable 3-lakh milestone of our most admired SUV. The Fortuner and Legender remains a top choice among SUV



enthusiasts who seek a perfect blend of luxury, performance, and reliability. These principles are central to Toyota's global reputation for delivering vehicles that not only last but perform consistently and retain their value over time, thus bringing mass happiness to all." Toyota attributes the success to strong customer trust, reliability, and low ownership costs. The company also credited its "T CARE" ecosystem for enhancing the ownership experience, covering services from purchase to resale. Toyota officials said the milestone reflects the SUVs' enduring appeal and the company's commitment to quality, durability, and reliability. (KNT)

MLA Udampur West inaugurates black topping work on Jib to Padanoo Road

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MAY 26: In a major stride towards strengthening rural infrastructure, the Member Legislative Assembly Udampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta today inaugurated the black topping work on the Jib to Padanoo road, covering a stretch of 1.55 kilometers.

The project, executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) renewal coating scheme, has been undertaken at a cost of 27.90 lakh. This essential work is aimed at enhancing road durability and improving connectivity for the residents of Jib, Padanoo and surrounding hamlets.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA said, "This road is a lifeline for the people of the region. Good roads are the backbone of development and our government at the Centre is committed to delivering quality infrastructure that benefits every household. The improved connectivity will ease transportation, support local trade, and ensure quicker access to education and healthcare facilities."

The event witnessed the enthusiastic presence of several prominent local leaders and dignitaries, including DDC Member Ashu Sharma and others. Their presence underscored the collective commitment of local leadership to the region's development and progress. Residents expressed heartfelt gratitude



to the MLA for his continuous efforts in bringing development to the grassroots. They welcomed the inauguration of the black topping work as a long-awaited and much-needed improvement that will positively impact daily life and the local economy.

The MLA concluded by reiterating his vision for a well-connected, prosperous Udampur and urged citizens to take active part in preserving public infrastructure for future generations. Addressing the gathering, the MLA said, "This road is a lifeline for the people of the region. Good roads are the backbone of development and our government at the Centre is committed to delivering quality infrastructure that benefits every household. The improved connectivity will ease transportation.

RAMP awareness workshop held at Budgam

HT News Network

BUDGAM, MAY 26: Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), in collaboration with the State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) – Grant Thornton Bharat and the District Industries Centre (DIC) Budgam, organized a district-level awareness workshop on the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme at the Regional Extension Training Centre (RETC), Budgam.

SPIU – team delivered a comprehensive presentation on the objectives, components, and key interventions of the RAMP scheme. The session aimed to build awareness among local stakeholders and implementing agencies about the scheme's benefits and opportunities.

The team elaborated on support areas such as market access, skilling, digital empowerment, capacity building, and strengthening of institutions like DICs.

The workshop saw active engagement from over 100 participants, including MSME entrepreneurs, women-led businesses, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), artisans, cultivators, farmers, and emerging enterprises from across the district.

Additionally, key implementing bodies such as DIC Budgam, J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), SICOP, Lead Bank, and the Handloom and Handicrafts departments delivered comprehensive presentations on their respective programs, schemes, and support systems for MSMEs.

The event was attended by senior officials from DIC Budgam including Functional Managers and Industrial Promotion Officers (IPOs), along with representatives from various supporting departments and institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, the officials emphasized the importance of convergence and collaboration among departments to ensure last-mile delivery of schemes under the RAMP program. They encouraged participants to take full advantage of government support for enhancing productivity, formalization, and access to markets and finance.

The workshop concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where entrepreneurs and SHG members shared their experiences, raised queries, and provided valuable feedback. The initiative marks another step towards inclusive and decentralized implementation of the RAMP scheme across J&K.

Forest Guard's Body Recovered After Four-Day Search in Ganderbal

HT News Network

Ganderbal, May 27, : The body of a forest guard who went missing after drowning in a nallah in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district was recovered on Monday, four days after the incident.

The deceased, identified as Shamim Ahmed Mir, 45, son of Ghulam Muhammad Mir and a resident of Batwin, Ganderbal, had drowned in the Sindh nallah at Compartment No. 1, Pari Bal, while performing his official duties on Friday.

Following the incident, a joint search operation was launched by locals, police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), forest department staff, and professional divers. However, despite continuous efforts, the body remained untraced for three days. On Monday morning, locals discovered the body downstream at Gund Roshan, bringing the search to a heartbreaking end. Mir is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Fire Damages Seminary Building in Shopian's Imamsahib Area

HT News Network

Shopian, May 26, KNT: A fire broke out at Jamia Sirajul-Uloom, a prominent seminary in the Imamsahib area of south Kashmir's Shopian district, on Monday, causing damage to part of the religious institution, officials said. Local residents reported that flames erupted from one of the structures within the seminary premises, triggering an immediate response from the local community as well as fire and emergency services. The blaze was eventually brought under control, but not before the affected structure sustained damage. Fortunately, there were no reports of injuries or casualties.

Preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra reviewed in Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 26: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review the preparedness for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025.

The meeting aimed to ensure seamless coordination among all departments and agencies involved in the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage. Key issues discussed included security and traffic management, accommodation for pilgrims, yatra registration facilities, sanitation and fire safety measures. The DC emphasised meticulous planning and timely execution of all arrangements, reiterating that necessary steps must be taken in accordance with established protocols, while incorporating improvements as per current requirements.

The meeting was attended by SSP Jammu, Joginder Singh, SSP Traffic City Jammu, Farooq Qaiser, Additional District Magistrate Ansuya Jamwal and Rakesh Kumar, Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak

grims, yatra registration facilities, sanitation and fire safety measures. The DC emphasised meticulous planning and timely execution of all arrangements, reiterating that necessary steps must be taken in accordance with established protocols, while incorporating improvements as per current requirements.

The meeting was attended by SSP Jammu, Joginder Singh, SSP Traffic City Jammu, Farooq Qaiser, Additional District Magistrate Ansuya Jamwal and Rakesh Kumar, Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak



Dubey, Sub Divisional Magistrate and other concerned district officers.

Special focus was laid on key transit points and venues including Jammu Railway Station and Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas, where arrangements for crowd management, sanitation and accommodation were reviewed in detail. The deployment of paramilitary forces and the roles of nodal officers were also discussed to ensure effective management of the yatra.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to work in close coordination and maintain constant communication to address any issues promptly. He stressed the need for adequate provision of sanitation facilities, toilets and safe accommodation for the pilgrims, along with robust fire safety and crowd management measures. The meeting concluded with the DC urging all stakeholders to maintain high standards of service and hospitality for the visiting pilgrims, and to ensure that all arrangements are put in place well before the commencement of the yatra. Special focus was laid on key transit points and venues including Jammu Railway Station and Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas, where arrangements for crowd management, sanitation and accommodation were reviewed in detail. The deployment of paramilitary forces and the roles of nodal officers were also discussed to ensure

tion and accommodation were reviewed in detail. The deployment of paramilitary forces and the roles of nodal officers were also discussed to ensure effective management of the yatra. The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to work in close coordination and maintain constant communication to address any issues promptly. He stressed the need for adequate provision of sanitation facilities, toilets and safe accommodation for the pilgrims, along with robust fire safety and crowd management measures. The meeting concluded with the DC urging all stakeholders to maintain high standards of service and hospitality for the visiting pilgrims, and to ensure that all arrangements are put in place well before the commencement of the yatra. Special focus was laid on key transit points and venues including Jammu Railway Station and Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas, where arrangements for crowd management, sanitation and accommodation were reviewed in detail. The deployment of paramilitary forces and the roles of nodal officers were also discussed to ensure

cluded with the DC urging all stakeholders to maintain high standards of service and hospitality for the visiting pilgrims, and to ensure that all arrangements are put in place well before the commencement of the yatra. Special focus was laid on key transit points and venues including Jammu Railway Station and Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas, where arrangements for crowd management, sanitation and accommodation were reviewed in detail. The deployment of paramilitary forces and the roles of nodal officers were also discussed to ensure





Op Sindoor not just military action, but expression of Indian values: PM

UNI

DAHOD, MAY 26

Emphasising that cultural values demand action against injustice, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday said Operation Sindoor was not just a military action but a reflection of India's values and emotions.

Without mentioning Pakistan, the Prime Minister said the country born after Partition has focused on hostility towards India and causing harm, an official statement said.

"India, on the other hand, is committed to eradicating poverty, strengthening its economy, and achieving development", Modi said, while addressing a gathering in Dahod, Gujarat.

Questioning whether the nation could remain



silent after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, Modi said terrorists had no idea of the consequences of their actions, recalling the brutality of killing a father in front of his children.

He stated that such images still ignite anger across the nation, as 140 crore Indians were chal-

lenged by terrorism.

Modi declared that he fulfilled his responsibility as the nation's leader, giving full freedom to India's armed forces, who then executed an operation unseen in decades.

He highlighted that nine major terror hubs across the border were identified and destroyed

in 22 minutes, and stated that Pakistan's military attempted retaliation but was decisively defeated by Indian forces. He reiterated his deep respect for the valour of India's armed forces, saluting their courage and dedication from the sacred land of Dahod.

The Prime Minister highlighted that a developed India can only be built when both its armed forces and economy are strong. Adding that the government is continuously working in this direction, ensuring national security and economic growth go hand in hand. The Prime Minister laid foundation stone, inaugurated and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 24,000 crore in Gujarat.

Kharge hits out at Modi govt, says promise of 'achche din' has turned into a 'dreadful dream'

UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 26

Renewing his attack on the Centre, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday alleged that in its 11 years the Modi government has "ruined the country" to such an extent that the promise of "good days" has now turned into a "dreadful dream".

On his social media handle X, Kharge alleged that tall promises have turned into hollow claims and the much-touted slogan of "Achhe Din" (good days) has become nothing more than a "dreadful dream".

"In 11 years, by turning tall promises into hollow



claims, the Modi government has ruined the country to such an extent that the talk of 'good days' has now turned out to be a dreadful dream," Kharge alleged.

Slamming the BJP-led government for failing the youth, women, farmers, weaker sections, economy and for-

eign policy, Kharge said, "Youth: "They promised two crore jobs per year, but today crores are missing from the workforce; Farmers: "Far from doubling their income, farmers were met with rubber bullets; Women: "Reservation comes with conditions, and their safety is in tatters."

Further mentioning about the alleged "government failures", Kharge said, "Weaker Sections: "SC, ST, OBC, and minorities are facing rising atrocities, and their representation is shrinking; Economy: Inflation is at its peak, unemployment is rising, consumption has

stalled, Make in India has flopped, and inequality is at its peak".

With regards to foreign policy, Kharge claimed, "The promise of making India a vishwaguru (world leader) has ended in strained ties with several countries; Economy: Institutions are under attack. The RSS is targeting every democratic pillar. ED and CBI are being misused, and institutional autonomy has been eroded."

Alleging that "every section of the 140 crore population is troubled", Kharge said that this is what the BJP's "Lotus symbol" has done for the country.

Monsoon reaches Mumbai, Bengaluru: IMD

UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 26

The southwest Monsoon has advanced further into several parts of the country, including Mumbai, Bengaluru, and the northeastern states, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

In its latest update, the IMD said the monsoon has advanced further into areas of the central Arabian Sea, Maharashtra (including Mumbai), Karnataka (including Bengaluru), the remaining parts of Tamil Nadu, and parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

It has also advanced over more areas of the



west-central and north Bay of Bengal, as well as the remaining parts of Mizoram and the entire states of Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh. Parts of Assam and Meghalaya also experienced the monsoon onset as of May 26.

The current Northern

Limit of Monsoon (NLM) now passes through Mumbai, Pune, Sholapur, Kalaburagi, Mahbubnagar, Kavali, Agartala and Gopara, among others.

The weather office stated that conditions remain favourable for further advancement of the Southwest Monsoon into

the remaining parts of the central Arabian Sea, more areas of Maharashtra, the rest of Karnataka, and additional parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

It is also likely to progress into the remaining parts of the west-central and north Bay of Bengal, as well as the rest of the northeastern states and parts of sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim during the next three days.

The early and widespread onset is being closely monitored by agricultural and disaster management authorities across the regions concerned, as it plays a critical role in the kharif cropping season.

CJI BR Gavai to inaugurate Indian Council of Arbitration's 3rd Conference in London

UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 26

In a significant step toward strengthening international legal cooperation, the Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) is set to host its 3rd International Legal Conference on 'Arbitrating Indo-UK Commercial Disputes: Synergising India-UK Arbitration practices' on June 5, at the historic Church House, Westminster, in London. Chief Justice of India, BR Gavai will inaugurate the event.

The event will be organised as part of the prestigious London International Disputes Week 2025 (LIDW25).

Besides inauguration by CJI BR Gavai, the Conference will feature keynote addresses by the Union Minister for Law and Jus-



tice, Arjun Ram Meghwal, and Rt. Hon. Lord Briggs, Justice of the UK Supreme Court.

The high-level gathering will bring together a distinguished lineup of legal experts, senior policymakers, institutional heads, and arbitration professionals from both India and the United Kingdom.

Discussions will focus on the evolving dynamics

of cross-border dispute resolution, best practices in institutional arbitration, and the prospects for deeper legal and regulatory convergence between the two jurisdictions.

The conference comes at a strategically important juncture in India-UK legal and economic relations.

It follows the recent finalisation of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement

(FTA) and the Bar Council of India's notification dated May 14, 2025, permitting foreign lawyers and law firms to practice foreign law in India on a reciprocal basis, two landmark developments that are expected to reshape the contours of transnational legal practice.

By addressing the emerging challenges and opportunities in Indo-UK arbitration, the ICA aims to foster a robust, harmonised dispute resolution ecosystem that can effectively support growing bilateral trade and investment.

The event is expected to serve as a forward-looking platform for enhancing legal certainty, institutional trust, and commercial confidence between the two countries.

Israel rejects new Gaza ceasefire deal proposed by US mediators

UNI

JERUSALEM, MAY 26

Israel has rejected a new proposal aimed at halting its offensive in Gaza and securing the release of 10 more hostages, Israel's state-owned Kan TV reported on Monday.

A senior Israeli official from the country's negotiation team told Kan TV that US mediators presented the proposal overnight. It included the release of five living hostages and five deceased, the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza, a 70-day ceasefire, and negotiations toward a permanent ceasefire, according to the official.

The official said Israel



rejected the deal, describing it as a "surrender to Hamas."

Israel has insisted on the so-called Witkoff framework, a deal proposal presented by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in early March, which calls

for the release of additional Israeli hostages in return for a 50-day truce, and a promise to engage in talks on a longer truce. It doesn't mention a withdrawal of Israeli forces or the release of Palestinian prisoners, two of Hamas's key demands.

Another round of indirect talks between Israel and Hamas -- aimed at ending Israel's 19-month-long military campaign and securing the release of the 58 hostages still held in Gaza -- ended on Thursday after Netanyahu recalled the delegation.

Israel ended a three-phase ceasefire agreement in March, following two months of truce during which Hamas released 33 Israeli hostages. It refused to proceed to the second phase and resumed its assault on Gaza.

According to the Gaza health authorities, more than 53,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war began.

NITI Aayog releases report on 'designing a policy for medium enterprises'

UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 26

NITI Aayog on Monday released a report titled "Designing a Policy for Medium Enterprises", offering a comprehensive roadmap for transforming medium enterprises into future growth engines of India's economy.

The report was launched by Suman

Bery, vice chairman, NITI Aayog, in the presence of Dr VK Saraswat, member, NITI Aayog, and Dr Arvind Virmani, member, NITI Aayog.

The report delves into the structural skew in the MSME sector, which contributes approximately 29% to India's GDP, accounts for 40% of exports, and employs over 60% of the work-

force. Despite its critical role, the composition of the sector is disproportionately weighted: 97% of registered MSMEs are micro enterprises, 2.7% are small, and only 0.3% are medium enterprises.

However, this 0.3% of medium enterprises contributes nearly 40% of MSME exports, underscoring their untapped potential as scalable,



innovation-led units.

The report identifies medium enterprises as strategic actors in India's transition towards self-reliance and global industrial competitiveness under Viksit Bharat @2047.

The report underscores key challenges faced by medium enterprises, including constrained access to

tailored financial products, limited adoption of advanced technologies, inadequate R&D support, lack of sectoral testing infrastructure, and a mismatch between training programmes and enterprise needs. These limitations hinder their ability to scale and innovate.

The report emphasizes that unlocking the potential of medium enterprises

requires a shift towards inclusive policy design and collaborative governance. With strategic support in finance, technology, infrastructure, skilling, and information access, medium enterprises can emerge as the drivers of innovation, employment, and export growth. This transformation is pivotal to realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Silent killer ‘hypertension’ affecting over 294 mn people in SE Asia: WHO

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Hypertension or high blood pressure is a silent killer that affects over 294 million people in the Southeast Asia region, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday, ahead of World Hypertension Day.

World Hypertension Day is observed every year on May 17 to raise awareness of hypertension and its serious medical complications.

The theme this year is "measure your blood pressure accurately, control it, live longer". It emphasises the importance of regular and accurate blood pressure measurements.

"Hypertension continues to be a major public health challenge -- a silent killer that affects over 294 million people across the WHO South-East Asia Region," said Saima



Wazed, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia.

"Modifiable behavioural risk factors such as tobacco and alcohol use, high salt intake, physical inactivity, unhealthy diets, and mental stress continue to drive its prevalence," she added.

Wazed noted that the condition continues to be a leading contributor to premature mortality from heart attacks and strokes

in SE Asia.

India alone has over 220 million individuals suffering from hypertension, with nearly one in three adults affected.

Worryingly, Wazed stated that the unmet need -- defined as the gap between those with high blood pressure and those adequately diagnosed, treated, and controlled -- remains as high as 88 per

cent.

"This indicates that 9 out of every 10 people with hypertension are not receiving optimal care," the Regional Director said.

She called for intensifying and implementing initiatives promoting healthy diets, physical activity, tobacco and alcohol control, and reducing salt and trans-fat consumption.

Strengthening collaboration between health programmes -- including maternal and child health, mental health, and infectious disease services -- is also crucial for hypertension and related NCDs.

"With strong political will, community engagement, and innovative approaches, we can reduce the burden of hypertension and move closer to achieving our global goal of reducing premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases by one-third by 2030," Wazed said.

HT-HEALTH

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Digital Life Certificate Campaign has revolutionised pension disbursal, said Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology.

Singh noted that the campaign roped in technology to make it easier for elderly to get their pensions. It also abolished several outdated rules that were hindering the process.

"The Digital Life Certificate Campaign has revolutionised pension disbursal by enabling elderly pensioners to verify their identity using facial recognition technology, eliminating the need for physical visits to bank branches," Singh said.

"Significant strides have also been made in simplifying administrative processes, including the introduction of a single pension form, a unified fellowship



application portal, and the abolition of over 1,600 outdated rules," he added.

Addressing the IAS trainees and civil servants at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, Singh also highlighted several groundbreaking reforms introduced to enhance transparency, accessibility, and efficiency in public service delivery.

He said that to promote inclusivity, government recruitment exams are now conducted in 13 regional languages. The Union Minister also

informed of plans to extend this to all 22 scheduled languages recognised by the Constitution.

Ensuring a level playing field, interviews for certain Group B and C posts have been abolished, promoting merit-based selection.

In addition, Rozgar Melas -- large-scale employment fairs -- have been launched to provide job opportunities and raise aspirations among the youth, Singh said.

Further, Singh underscored the significance of the Swachhata Campaign, which not only optimised

office space but also generated more than Rs 250 crore in revenue from the disposal of scrap materials.

Highlighting initiatives for young officers, Singh spoke about the Assistant Secretaryship Programme, where IAS officers work in central ministries for two months.

"During the Covid-19 pandemic, officers who had undergone this programme displayed greater confidence and adaptability," he noted.

The MoS also mentioned the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration, which now emphasise initiative and impact, rather than individual recognition. Over two dozen regional conferences have been conducted by the ministry across the country -- from Leh to Kanyakumari, emphasising decentralised governance and participatory development.

Indian biotech companies actively developing mRNA-based vaccines, therapeutics: DBT

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Indian biotech companies are actively developing mRNA-based vaccines and therapeutics, said a team of scientists at the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

They were speaking at the 14th Webinar under the 'Webinar Series on Biofoundry and Biomanufacturing Initiative', along with Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

The session focused on "Biomanufacturing for mRNA Therapeutics", a vital component under the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy.

"The BioE3 Policy's vision is to foster high-performance biomanufacturing by supporting sustainable green growth. This approach marks a global



shift toward sustainability, fuelling a 'BioRevolution' with the potential to reshape economies and societies," said Dr. Alka Sharma, Senior Adviser/Sc 'H', DBT.

She also informed that the 14th Webinar in this series focuses on mRNA therapeutics, a key thematic subsector under the policy.

"Several Indian biotech companies and research institutions are actively involved in developing mRNA-based vaccines and

therapeutics," Sharma said, while also highlighting certain challenges plaguing the sector such as product delivery, product stability, and import dependence for raw materials.

Approved by the Union Cabinet and released by the Minister of Science and Technology, the BioE3 Policy aims to position India as a global leader in bio-based innovations.

It focuses on promoting sustainable biomanufacturing in diverse thematic

areas including Precision Therapeutics such as mRNA therapeutics, supporting economic growth while promoting affordable healthcare accessible to the Indian population.

Dr. Varshneya Singh, Scientist 'D', DBT, provided an insightful overview of the mRNA therapeutics subsector.

"mRNA-based therapies represent a groundbreaking advancement in biotechnology, with the potential to tackle a broad spectrum of diseases, including cancer, genetic conditions, and infectious diseases," Singh said.

He provided a SWOT analysis of the subsector, identifying its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Dr. Raghavan Varadarajan, IISc Bangalore explored cutting-edge advances in mRNA-LNP vaccine technology, emphasising its revolutionary role in modern medicine.

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

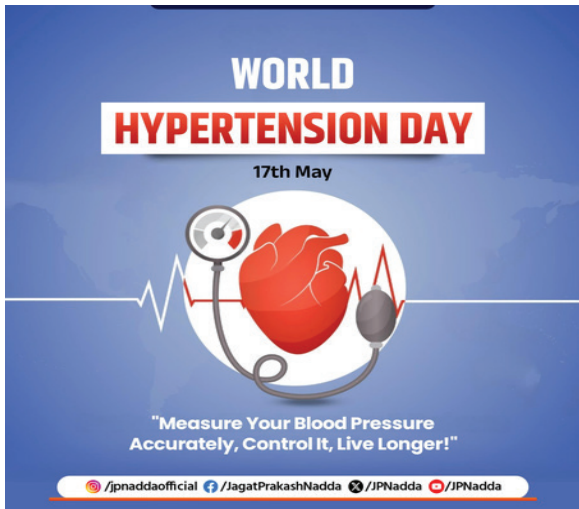
Embracing a healthy lifestyle, eating balanced diet, and monitoring timely can help control high blood pressure, said Union Health Minister JP Nadda on World Hypertension Day on Saturday.

World Hypertension Day is observed every year on May 17 to raise awareness of hypertension and its serious medical complications.

"On World Hypertension Day, we unite to raise awareness about the prevention and management of high blood pressure," Nadda said in a post on social media platform X.

"By embracing a healthy lifestyle with regular exercise, a balanced diet, and timely monitoring, we can control hypertension effectively," he added.

This year's theme is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It,



Live Longer".

It "reminds us that timely monitoring and proper management can save lives and improve overall well-being," Nadda said.

Hypertension, often termed the "silent killer," is a leading risk factor for cardiovascular diseases, leading to heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure. India alone has over 220 million individuals

suffering from hypertension, with nearly one in three adults affected.

Worryingly, many people don't even know about it. This concerning trend is driven by sedentary lifestyles, unhealthy diets, rising obesity, high alcohol consumption, and chronic stress.

Modifiable behavioural risk factors, including tobacco and alcohol consumption, excessive

salt intake, sedentary lifestyles, poor dietary choices, and mental stress significantly contribute to the rising prevalence of hypertension.

The outcomes of uncontrolled hypertension are severe, significantly increasing the risk of heart disease, stroke, kidney damage, and other cardiovascular diseases (CVD).

To combat hypertension, the Health Ministry recently launched the National NCD Screening Drive. During the drive, health officials held "37.36 crore hypertension screening across India" and "4.51 crore are now on treatment for high blood pressure".

Hypertension is diagnosed if blood pressure readings are 140/90 or above on two different days.

It can be prevented by proper diet, exercise, and reducing the amount of salt and oil intake, said the ministry, on X.

Better air, green spaces and urban environment can prevent 1 in 10 asthma cases: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The combination of air pollution, dense urban development and limited green spaces increases the risk of asthma in both children and adults, according to a new study.

Improving these can help prevent one in 10 cases of asthma -- a chronic respiratory condition characterised by inflammation and narrowing of the airways, making breathing difficult.

Previous studies have typically calculated the risk of one environmental factor at a time. The new study combined several environmental factors and described how they together affect the risk of developing asthma.

This provided a better picture of environmental risks, as life in a city usually involves exposure to several environmental risk factors at the same time

Researchers from



Karolinska Institutet, in Sweden, found that 11.6 per cent of asthma cases could be explained by the combination of environmental factors.

In other words, in a favourable environment, approximately one in ten people with asthma would not have developed the disease.

The combination of air pollution, lack of green spaces, and dense urban development was most relevant for the development of asthma.

"This finding is useful for politicians and others

involved in urban planning. The method makes it possible to identify risk areas in existing urban areas, but it can also be used when planning future urban environments," said Erik Melén, Professor at the Department of Clinical Research and Education.

The study covered nearly 350,000 people of different ages, from 14 cohorts in seven European countries.

Information on home addresses of each individual made it possible to link data on various environmental risks in the urban

environment to individual people.

The environmental exposures included were air pollution, outdoor temperatures, and the level of urban density. The assessment was partly based on satellite images showing grey, green, or blue areas, i.e., where there were buildings, green spaces, or water.

During the study period, nearly 7,500 of the study participants developed asthma as children or adults. The researchers found

The researchers next aim to examine blood samples from some of the study participants to identify their metabolome, that is, a composite picture of the body's metabolism and breakdown products.

The purpose is to understand how external environmental factors affect the body, which could provide a better understanding of how asthma develops.

High blood pressure? Dark chocolate, tea may help, says study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

If you are finding it hard to control hypertension or high blood pressure then eating dark chocolate, grapes, or drinking tea may help you, according to a study.

Researchers from the University of Surrey, UK, found that naturally occurring compounds called flavan-3-ols -- found in cocoa, tea, apples, and grapes -- may improve blood pressure and the health of our blood vessels.

The research, published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, analysed data from 145 randomised controlled studies, and found that regular consumption of flavan-3-ols can lead to a reduction in blood pressure readings, particularly in people with elevated or high blood pressure.

In some cases, the average blood pressure-lower-



ing effects were comparable to those seen with some medications, said the researchers.

"The findings are encouraging for those looking for accessible ways to manage their blood pressure and support their heart health through enjoyable dietary changes," said lead author Professor Christian Heiss, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Surrey.

"Incorporating small amounts of commonly consumed foods like tea, apples, dark chocolate, or cocoa powder into a daily balanced diet could provide beneficial amounts of flavan-3-ols," Heiss added.

Flavan-3-ols were also found to improve the function of the endothelium -- the inner lining of blood vessels -- which is crucial for overall cardiovascular health.

This improvement

occurred independently of blood pressure changes, suggesting a broader positive impact on the circulatory system.

"While not a replacement for prescribed medications or medical advice, including more flavan-3-ol-rich foods in a daily routine could be a valuable addition to a healthy lifestyle, especially for those with higher blood pressure. These are findings that, although promising, require ongoing investigation," Heiss said.

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is a major global health concern, affecting an estimated 1.28 billion adults worldwide.

This common, deadly condition leads to stroke, heart attack, heart failure, kidney damage, and many other health problems.

Lifestyle changes like eating a healthier diet, quitting tobacco, and being more active can help lower blood pressure.



West Indies secure ODI series draw against Ireland

UNI
DUBLIN, MAY 26

Keacy Carty scored a second consecutive century in a commanding West Indies victory over Ireland that earned a draw in the one-day international series at Clontarf.

Ireland won the opening match of the series by 124 runs on Wednesday, but Friday's second meeting ended without a result after a two-hour rain delay.

In Sunday's third game, Carty again led the way for the visitors with his unbeaten 170 part of an imposing total of 385, although Ireland's revised target was set at 363 because of a reduction of overs after rain.

With bowlers Jordan Neill and Josh Little unable to bat after injuries sustained during West Indies' innings, Ireland lost eight wickets for 165 and were beaten by 197 runs under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method.



After Ireland won the toss, skipper Paul Stirling put West Indies in to bat despite their tally of 352 on Friday.

Opener Brandon King was caught leg before wicket by Barry McCarthy for just one, but that brought Carty to the crease who produced his second century of the series and bettered his previous best ODI tally of 128 set against England in November, the BBC reported.

Ireland's bowling corps

was depleted by injuries both before and during the series, and Carty feasted on a tiring attack.

The 28-year-old survived a few scares on his way to the huge tally, most notably when on 150 he was bowled by Liam McCarthy only for the delivery to be deemed a no-ball.

He was eventually out for 170 when, off the bowling of Liam McCarthy, he was caught by George Dockrell who had previ-

ously gathered one deep drive but carried across the rope for a six.

With Carty ably supported by captain Shai Hope, who scored 75 off 75 balls, and a maiden international half-century from Justin Greaves, West Indies' 385 was the largest ODI tally

ever scored at Clontarf.

While Stirling's 26 contained three fours and two sixes, when set such an imposing target, Ireland's response was never at the pace required.

Cade Carmichael, who made his international debut in the series, top-scored for the hosts with his 48 coming off 63 balls.

Next up for West Indies will be three one-day internationals and three T20s against England which begin on Thursday at Edgbaston to start Harry Brook's white-ball captaincy for the hosts.

West Indies will return to Ireland for three T20 internationals to be played at Bready next month.

Sikandar Raza flies in to take Lahore to PSL title

UNI
LAHORE, MAY 26

Sikandar Raza hit the winning runs to lead Lahore Qalandars to the Pakistan Super League title, a little more than 24 hours after he was playing for Zimbabwe against England in their Test loss at Trent Bridge. The all-rounder struck a six and a four from consecutive deliveries to take Lahore to victory against Quetta Gladiators with one ball to spare on Sunday.

"I had dinner in Birmingham, breakfast in Dubai, and drove to Abu Dhabi for lunch. Took a flight and had a dinner in Pakistan. This is the life of a professional cricketer. I'm truly humbled and blessed to have the life," Raza, 39, said.

Needing 202 for victory, Raza joined Kusal Perera at the crease with 20 balls remaining and the pair staged an unbroken 59-run partnership to complete the highest chase in a PSL final.

Quetta scored 201-9 after winning the toss, with Hasan Nawaz striking a 43-ball 76, while star Lahore seamer Shaheen



Shah Afridi took 3-24.

Gladiators topped the regular season table while Lahore finished fourth, but the Qalandars won three consecutive knockout games to seal their third title in four years, the BBC reported.

Raza had been batting in Nottingham on Saturday, scoring 60 as Zimbabwe fell to an innings defeat.

The match finishing a day early allowed Raza time to fly back to Pakistan, arriving at the Gaddafi Stadium 10 minutes before the toss.

He dismissed Rilee Rossouw in the first innings, finishing with figures of 1-43, then came to the wicket with Lahore needing 57 from 3.2 overs, having only scored 48 runs since the halfway mark.

The second pairing was ended in dramatic fashion by Shaheen, who removed both batters in the space of four deliveries in the 18th over.

Amir and Abrar Ahmed then fell to consecutive Haris Rauf balls without scoring, meaning Quetta had lost four wickets for two runs.

Faheem Ashraf (28 from eight balls) ensured their innings did not end with a whimper, hammering three sixes and a four from Salman Mirza's last over before being caught off the final ball.

Lahore, who had the advantage of all the play-off matches being staged at their home stadium, saw opener Fakhar Zaman trapped lbw by Abrar for 11 in the fourth over.

Mohammad Naeem (46) and Abdullah Shafique (41) put Lahore in a solid position, but they were facing a formidable required run-rate by the time Bhanuka Rajapaksa was caught off Amir in the 17th over.

That, however, brought Raza into bat, and the Zimbabwean took flight with the bat to win the PSL title for his team.

کروین کلچرل فورم کریک جنرل باڈی ہند اہم اجلاس

فورمکس صدر دفتر اندرابی کمپلیکس پیٹھ منعقد

Syed Shamim Ahamed Shamim and Editor of Kashmir Dispatch Syed Basharat Bereaved.

Uncle Syed Shamsuddin Bukhari rembered on 4th day of his passing away at Muradabad Kreeri

■ HT News Network



SRINAGAR, MAY 26: Muradabad Kreeri May 26 : On the sad demise of the uncle of noted writer Social Worker and Educationist, Syed Shamim Ahamed Shamim and Syed Basharat editor of daily English newspaper Kashmir Dispatch, Editor of daily HEADLINES TODAY express solidarity with the bereaved family in general and Syed Shamim Ahamed Shamim and Syed Basharat in Particular. May Allah rest the departed soul in Jannah

The deceased Syed Shams ud din Bukhari was son of a renowned Literally figure of J&K, Syed Abdul Jabbar Bukhari (KHAMOSH KREERI). Entire Team HT has expressed solidarity with the bereaved family and prayed to Allah for peace to the departed soul and Jannat ul firdous... Aameen



آرٹیکل 25 مئی 2025 بروز اتوار پیر کروین کلچرل فورم کریک جنرل باڈی ہند اجلاس فورمکس صدر دفتر اندرابی کمپلیکس پیٹھ منعقد۔ میٹنگ میں جمادات کفر دمک سائنسز برادریہ سعد الدین سعدی صابن تہ ایوان صدائیں منظر ڈیڑا ایس ایس۔ پی۔ جناب غلام محمد الدین اندرابی صاب وادی ہند معروف شاعر ادیب تہ ماہر تعلیم ہد شمیم احمد شمیم صاب تہ معروف شاعر ممتاز شید صاب موجود۔ تہ نظامی فراہیں دیت جناب ڈاکٹر ربانی صابن انجام۔ جیل کڑمہ زخمی ادبی مرکز کراڑک جنرل سیکریٹری معروف شاعر جناب شمیم تگلای صاب موجود ای فوڈی جنرل سیکریٹری جناب سرور حاشی صابن کو خطبہ انتقام پیش۔ میٹنگ منظر ہدف چھ لاکھ روپے کیلئے طویل محس فوڈی صدر جناب تہ نظامی صابن میٹنگ منظر حاضر تہ آس کو تمام فوڈی ممبر و بچہ محس۔ بہ اتفاق رائے کو فاصلہ نہ جلدی گزھ فوج دویم میٹنگ سپڈی تہ جنرل گزھ صاحب صدر یعنی حاضر یعنی بلان میٹنگ منظر کو تمام ممبر و بن پٹنی خیالات پیش۔ مشہور ماہر تعلیم تہ ادیب جناب پیر معراجین مقامی ان محمد یوسف مقامی صابن ویزھو کریک علی ادبی تہ روحانی فلسفہ تھو دون زسیسہ پائو فورم چتر تھیو 4 وہر پوٹھچھ جودک شکار

KCF Kreeri holds important meeting for rejuvenation of the oldest literary Organisation of North Kashmir

■ HT News Network



MURADABAD KREERI MAY 26: Kruhen Cultural Forum Muradabad Kreeri held its general body meeting at its head office at Andrab Complex Muradabad Kreeri under the leadership of its patron Syed Sad ud din Saidi. Meeting was called by the former Gen Secretary of the forum Syed Sharif Hussain Qadri after the members of the forum felt that this organisation is almost losing its importance day by day.

Almost 75% of the members participated in the meeting and retriared their resolve to work for rejuvenation of the oldest literary Organisation of North Kashmir. Much older than Adbi Markaz Kamraz.

Members have decided that during the next meet elections shall be held and leadership will be handed over to the young and enthusiastic writers of the forum. Patron of the forum Syed sad ud din Saidi stressed upon the young blood to come up and work for rejuvenation of this forum which has been the torch bearer organisation to almost all the literary Organisations of North Kashmir.

