



Will Never be Intimidated by Terror : CM Omar Abdullah After Special Cabinet Meet At Pahalgam

HT News Network

PAHALGAM, MAY 27: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today held a meeting of the Council of Ministers at Pahalgam to demonstrate the resolve of the Government to restart normal routine in Pahalgam, send a welcoming message to tourists and to vehemently reject all kinds of violence and attempts to derail peace in Jammu & Kashmir.

This is the first time the cabinet meeting has been convened outside Srinagar or Jammu, during this government's present tenure.

The choice of Pahalgam is aimed at expressing solidarity with the victims of terror attack at Baisaran on April 22, after



which Kashmir including Pahalgam has witnessed a sharp decline in tourist footfall.

This was the 11th Council of Minister's meeting and various agenda items were taken up for

discussion and decision. Omar Abdullah, during his first stint as the CM of the erst-

while J&K state from 2009-14, had convened cabinet meetings in remote areas like Gurez, Machil, Tangdar of north Kashmir and Rajouri and Poonch areas of Pir Panjal region.

The decision to hold this cabinet meeting comes two days after CM Omar on Saturday at the NITI Aayog General Council meeting proposed to revive J&K tourism sector which has been severely impacted by the Baisaran terror attack, suggesting that Parliamentary committees, PSUs & Central Government departments to hold meetings/ conferences in Kashmir to rebuild the confidence among general people



CM Announces a Memorial for Baisaran Victims

Chairs interactive session with tour operators from across the country

PAHALGAM, MAY 27: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today announced to establish a memorial in memory of the 26 victims of last month's tragic terror attack at Baisaran near Pahalgam.

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SEE FULL ON.....PAGE 02

DG CRPF visits Srinagar, takes stock of security and operational preparedness

HT News Network/UNI

SRINAGAR, MAY 27 (UNI) Director General Central Reserve Police Force G P Singh visited Srinagar on Tuesday and reviewed the operational preparedness of the Force.

The DG, who is on a three-day visit of the Valley, proceeded to 181 Bn,



CRPF, Charar-e-Sharif in Budgam district shortly after landing in Srinagar.

The DG, accompanied by Vitul Kumar, Special DG Operations, Rajesh Kumar, ADG J&K Zone, Vineet Brij Lal, IG, Pawan Kumar Sharma, IG, and Mitesh Jain, IG inspected 181 Battalion and deliberated upon the security scenario and Operational preparedness with the

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Heavy downpour brings relief from heatwave; hailstorms wreak havoc

Damage to orchards in south Kashmir, Budgam; MeT predicts more rains till May 31

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 27: The heavy downpour on Tuesday afternoon brought relief to the people from the intense heatwave conditions, causing waterlogging in many areas across Srinagar City. However, the weather also brought hailstorms that wreaked havoc in several areas, especially in south Kashmir



districts and Budgam. According to the news agency—the heatwave conditions persisted across the valley till this afternoon, following which the heavy downpour was witnessed in Srinagar and many other areas, especially in the southern districts. The heavy downpour was followed by a hailstorm, leading to waterlogging in many areas across the city, causing difficulties to commuters and pedestrians alike. The hailstorm

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NEWS BRIEF

Dhul Hijjah Crescent Not Sighted in J&K, Eid-ul-Adha on June 7

SRINAGAR, MAY 27: Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir, Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam, on Tuesday evening announced that the crescent marking the beginning of the Islamic month of Dhul Hijjah was not sighted anywhere in the Union Territory.

Speaking to media persons in Srinagar Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam said, "No credible testimony regarding the moon sighting was received from any part of Jammu

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Woman Dies After Tree Falls Amid Gusty Winds in Tral

SRINAGAR, MAY 27: A woman lost her life after a tree fell on her amid sudden gusty winds in the Tral area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday evening. Sources said that the deceased has been identified as Saleema, a resident of Tral.

The incident occurred when strong winds swept through the area, causing the tree to collapse, they said.

Cognizance of the incident has been taken and further investigation started. It is important to note that parts of Jammu and Kashmir are witnessing gusty winds and heavy rains from the past few

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Security Forces launch anti-terror operation in Kathua

JAMMU, MAY 27: Security forces on Tuesday launched a large-scale anti-terror operation in the upper reaches of Kathua district, following intelligence reports of suspected terrorist movements in the region.

Official sources told the news agency—the operation was launched in Lowang and Sarthal in Bani areas this morning. "It involves a coordinated effort by the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)," they said, adding, "The operation is part of an ongoing area domination exercise aimed at neutralizing

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Atmosphere Of Fear Reduced In Kashmir: Farooq Abdullah

HT News Network



PAHALGAM, MAY 27: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday asserted that the atmosphere of fear in Kashmir has significantly reduced and urged the tourists to visit the valley again to enjoy its beauty.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir also urged the External Affairs Ministry to make efforts for getting revoked the negative travel advisories issued by some countries against visiting J-K. Fine dining reservations Tourism in Kashmir has been hit after the April 22 Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead.

"What happened here (Pahalgam attack) was very sad, it should not have happened. People were coming

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BSF Has Not Let Its Guard Down Along IB, Operation Sindoor On: IG BSF Shashank Anand

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 27: Asserting that Operation Sindoor is on as Pakistan cannot be trusted, Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier, Shashank Anand on Tuesday said the border force has not let its guard down along the International Border.

The IG expressed apprehension of infiltration attempts along the borderline and said the Border Security Force (BSF) remains on high alert.



"We cannot let our guard down. We are maintaining the highest possible vigil along the border," Anand told a press conference on Operation Sindoor here.

He was replying to a question about the possibility of infiltration of terrorists along

the IB under the cover of Pakistani shelling and the security measures taken post Operation Sindoor.

He said a high degree of operational preparedness has been maintained along the border.

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Sakeena Itoo chairs 45th BoDs meeting of JKSCSTBC Development Corporation

Board extends benefits of DFS, ELS to Pahari Ethnic Group, Paddari Tribe, Koli, Gadda Brahmin communities

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 27: Minister for Social Welfare, Education and Health & Medical, Sakeena Itoo chaired the 45th Board of Directors (BoDs) meeting of Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Backward Classes (JKSCSTBC) Development Corporation at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare department, San-



jeev Verma; Secretary Tribal Affairs department, Prassanna

Ramaswamy; Secretary Planning, Development and Monitoring department, Talat Parvez Rohella; DG, Development Expenditure, Sajad Hussain Ganie; MD JKSCSTBC, Ranjeet Singh; representatives of National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC), National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC), National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMFDC),

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Dy CM inspects construction work on transit accommodation at Machbawan, Martand

Emphasises timely execution, creation of reliable housing infrastructure

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, MAY 27: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today visited Machbawan and Martand in Mattan to inspect the construction work on transit accommodation being raised for the Kashmiri Migrant employees under PM package.

The Deputy Chief Minister, after attending the Cabinet Ministers' meeting, conducted field inspection of transit accommodation being created for the Kashmiri Migrant employees. During the inspection, the Dy CM



was informed that out of 15 blocks at Machbawan and Martand, 10 blocks have been completed while 5 blocks

are under progress with over 70 per cent target achieved under the project. Highlighting the importance of timely completion of the project, the Dy CM emphasised on ensuring quality compliance for creation of reliable housing infrastructure.

"It should be our prime concern to ensure expeditious completion of the ongoing projects so that the purpose behind such vital works is met in letter and spirit," maintained the Dy CM.

Choudhary directed for timely completion and strict monitoring of

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Post 'Operation Sindoor' Huma Qureshi to visit at Zero Line today

Actress to interact with armed forces, meet affected families of cross-border shelling

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 27: Bollywood actress Huma Qureshi will be a part of a mega cultural evening to be organised by the Jammu Tourism Department on Wednesday at Octroi Border Outpost on Zero Line in Suchetgarh at Ranbir Singh Pura along the International Border, some 30-kms from here, official sources told the news agency—on Tuesday. Popular for its Wagah-Attari-style structured parade by Border Security Force (BSF)



personnel, the tourist village of Suchetgarh along the IB faced a major blow during the recent military conflict between India and Pakistan.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

CM

"We have been discussing this from day one — a memorial will be set up in Baisaran for the 26 innocent lives lost, as a lasting tribute and a reminder that they will never be forgotten," the Chief Minister said.

Addressing a gathering of travel & tour operators from across the country, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of reviving tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. "In today's cabinet meeting, held here in Pahalgam, the Public Works Department was authorized to grant in-principle approval for this memorial," he announced.

He added that suggestions would be sought to ensure that the memorial is not only magnificent but also dignified and respectful.

Extending heartfelt gratitude to the visiting tour operators, the Chief Minister said, "I thank each one of you for coming to Pahalgam and supporting the revival of tourism. I recognize many of you as those who reignited tourism in the Valley during the most challenging times — when even the locals feared venturing out."

He recalled the early 1990s when tourism first resumed in the Valley with the arrival of groups from Mumbai and Gujarat. "They helped restart tourism and brought it to its peak — until the events of April 22. No matter how strongly we condemn what happened that day, it will never be enough. We lack words to comfort the families of those 26 victims. We can only bow our heads in their memory."

While acknowledging security challenges, Omar Abdullah stressed the need for strict measures. "Although we do not fully control the security apparatus, I believe what happened should never have happened. And we must do everything possible to ensure it never happens again."

On the reopening of tourist destinations post-Baisaran incident, he urged for transparency and openness in communicating with tourists. "Let's not focus on what's closed, but on what's open. I believe it's better to speak the truth rather than have tourists feel misled."

He added, "The process of reopening will begin in a phased manner in the coming days. I visited Betaab Valley myself to assess the situation and to build confidence. Not all destinations will reopen at once, but some will gradually become accessible."

The Chief Minister assured tour operators that they would be consulted throughout this process. "Together with the administration, we will ensure destinations are reopened responsibly, in a timely manner."

On attracting international tourists, the CM said, "In our experience, international guests arrive after domestic tourism shows signs of recovery. The first sign of normalcy is when school children and domestic tourists begin visiting picnic spots again. Once this wave is visible, international bookings will follow. While we must continue to promote globally, I believe a strong focus on domestic tourism will build the right momentum."

Reaffirming his confidence in the revival process, he said, "We have come a long way. What happened, happened. But with your courage and commitment, I am certain we will overcome this and bounce back."

He acknowledged that certain shortcomings exist and assured these would be addressed moving forward. "We are aware of the gaps — and we will act on them."

Tour operators who interacted with the Chief Minister represented a cross-section of travel & operators and bodies such as Raja Rani Travels, Pooja Travels, Heena Travels, Veena World, OffBeat Destinations, KK Tours, Jai Mata Di Travels, Arihant Travels, Madhuchanda Travels, TAFI, Kass Travels, ADTOI, Beckon Tours Pvt Ltd, Trans Global Travels, SHR Harshil Travels (representing OTOAI), Golden Tours (under ETAA), Ajay Modi Travels (Gujarat), Travel Munk (Jain Travel Associations), Thomas Cook, Tamarind, Kraft Vacations, and Travel Lounge.

Delegates from national print and electronic media also interacted with the CM, alongside local tour operators, hoteliers, travel and tourism stakeholders. Present during the session were former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, MLAs from Pahalgam and Bijbehara, Director Tourism, MD JKTCDC, and other senior officials.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister chaired a cabinet meeting in Pahalgam. He described it as more than a routine 'Council of Ministers' session, calling it a strong message against terrorism. "The enemies of peace will not deter our resolve. Jammu & Kashmir stands firm, united, and unafraid."

The Chief Minister also met local delegations led by MLA Pahalgam. "Valuable insights were shared about local issues and aspirations. The support extended by locals during the recent tragedy — to both tourists and the administration — was exemplary," he said.

He also visited Nunwan Base Camp to review preparations for the Amarnath Yatra, interacted with officials on the ground, and emphasized the importance of coordination for ensuring pilgrims' safety and comfort.

The visit to Betaab Valley was followed by an impromptu cycling tour by the Chief Minister from a local hotel to Nunwan Base Camp and back, to promote new initiatives taken by Tourism Department towards sustainable

tourism and eco-tourism, a message strongly advocated by CM Omar Abdullah who also holds the portfolio of Minister for Tourism in J&K.

CABINET

intending to visit J&K in future.

To continue with his efforts to restore normalcy, CM Omar Abdullah shall be taking a meeting of all Ministers and Administrative Secretaries at Gulmarg on Wednesday, which according to an official statement is aimed to alleviate fear, reinforce sense of security and trust, and ultimately pave the way for the revival of tourism in Kashmir and boost economic activities in the region.

ITOO

National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFCDC), National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) and other concerned officers, either in person or through video conferencing.

During the Board meeting, Minister Sakeena, who is also Chairman of the BoDs, minutely assessed the Corporation's progress in promoting social and economic upliftment of the SC, ST, BC and Specially ailed communities across Jammu and Kashmir. She emphasized on the need to enhance outreach programs, streamline the loan disbursement process and ensure transparent implementation of welfare schemes.

Underlining the importance of inclusive growth, Minister Sakeena called for coordinated efforts among various stakeholders to empower marginalized sections through skill development, financial assistance and entrepreneurship support.

The Minister further reaffirmed the Government's commitment towards driving equitable development and reiterated that proactive governance, community engagement and sustained financial inclusion remain central to Omar Abdullah led Government.

During the meeting, the BoDs took some significant decisions for improving the Corporation's efficiency for divulging services to remote and underserved areas, including the introduction of digital platforms for beneficiary support and real-time monitoring of schemes.

In a landmark decision, the Board extended the benefits of Direct Financing scheme (DFS) and Education loan scheme (ELS) of corporation to Pahari Ethnic Group, including Paddari Tribe, Koli and Gadda Brahmin communities.

The BoDs also allowed the Corporation to fill up some urgently required positions on outsourcing basis in consultation with Finance department by following proper procedure laid down by Government.

The Board also approved the draft Annual Accounts of Financial year 2023-24 for onward submission to Statutory Auditor/CAG, besides Budget Estimates for the FY 2025-26 and Actuals for FY 2024-25 were also approved by the Board.

During the meeting, the BoDs also took some significant decisions in the interest of human resource welfare of the corporation.

DYCM

the progress of under construction blocks. The Dy CM directed the executing agency to complete the work on the approach road to the transit accommodation and boundary wall, simultaneously.

DR FAROOQ

here happily. People were busy with their work, they were not asking for government jobs. The situation was such in Pahalgam that there were no rooms available here," Abdullah said here.

The NC chief visited the tourist resort and played golf at the Pahalgam Golf Course along with some friends.

He said while the attack created an atmosphere of fear, the government has taken some steps to improve the security situation in the valley.

"There was an atmosphere of fear, but I feel now the atmosphere of fear has reduced to a large extent. You can see how many people are coming to Pahalgam. I was in Gulmarg, there were 400-500 tourists," he observed.

"Thank God, the fear is now leaving. The government has also taken some steps to make the security system stronger. I think the people should come," he added.

The former Union minister appealed to the Centre to make efforts to withdraw travel advisories issued by several countries against visiting J-K.

"I also request the Central government, the Foreign Minister, that the time has come to remove the block placed by foreign countries on visiting India. Peace has come to both the countries and we are hopeful that peace will continue in the future as well. They should also be given permission to come here as they also want to see this place. Many of them are golfers and I hope they will come," he said, in an apparent reference to Pakistan.

Abdullah said many people play golf and

the game has now got a place in Khelo India games as well. "It is played in Olympics, Commonwealth games and Asian Games, so, now there is a need to have it everywhere. I think our people should come here in large numbers, play this sport so that India gets medals in these games," he said.

Praising Kashmir's natural beauty, he said, "Look at this weather and beauty, I have travelled to various places across the world, but I have not seen such beauty anywhere. I hope the people who watch your channel come here in large numbers, see this beauty and make the country stronger. We should not be afraid, if we are afraid, then we are dead".

On the annual Amarnath Yatra scheduled to begin on July 3, Abdullah said the pilgrimage is very important for us.

"It has been going on for many years. I hope more and pilgrims will come here to have a glimpse of Shankar Bhagvan, Bhole Nath comfortably, and then tell people back home how beautiful this place is," he said.

To a question about J-K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah holding a meeting of his council of ministers, as well as a meeting with tourism stakeholders at Pahalgam later in the day, the NC president said it is important and will send out a message that there is peace.

"One the people will get to know that the whole cabinet is here and there is peace. They will also meet the stakeholders. That will also have an impact because the people here, whether it is the ponywalla, palki wallah, hoteliers, taxiwallah, are bearing the most brunt "These people have taken loans, some have taken it for renovation of houses and hotels, cabs, for horses. I hope that more and more people from our country come here and we show them that we have exhibited hospitality in the past and we will do that in future as well," he said.

Asked about reports of differences in the party especially with its Srinagar Lok Sabha MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, Abdullah said attempts were always made to break his party but the leadership was not worried.

"This is not something new for us. It has been happening. They will continue their attempts. They did it in my time, in my father's time. It is not new for us, we are not worried. Why should we be worried? "We are here to resolve the problems of the people and we will do that Insha Allah (God willing). You see how much change will come to this state in five years," he said. (Agencies)

DG CRPF

commanders on the ground.

In addition to the review of the overall security scenario, the DG's visit also focused on the readiness and preparations of the Force in the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, beginning in the first week of July, a CRPF spokesman said.

The DG then interacted with the Jawans in a Sainik Sammelan and addressed their grievances.

In his address, the DG lauded the personnel for their steadfast commitment to duty and their service to the motherland. He also expressed his confidence that the Force will continue to serve the Nation with zeal and valour.

Returning to Srinagar later that day, the DG interacted with Range DIGs and Commanding Officers of 47 Battalions deployed in the valley in a conference that lasted more than three hours.

WEATHER

causes losses to the farmers in south Kashmir.

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng, in a statement, said that considering the satellite data, the formation of clusters of thunderclouds over northern Pakistan, the model forecast, and wind pattern, it was expected that this would not be a short spell of thundershowers. Hence, an eight-hour estimate was shared, he said.

"As such, multiple spells have already occurred, and intensity has varied from area to area. Now, the strong cloud backup persists, and the cloud movement indicates that these thundershowers will affect many parts of Kulgam, Anantnag, Shopian and Jammu region parts till midnight," Keng said, adding that the gradual improvement in the weather will start from north Kashmir first, and then will be seen over central Kashmir parts.

The temperatures, however, rose at multiple places compared to yesterday. In Srinagar, the mercury settled at 32.2 degrees Celsius while Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded a maximum temperature of 31.3 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam recorded a day temperature of 24.0 degrees Celsius while Kokernag, Kupwara and Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 30.4 degrees Celsius, 30.7 degrees Celsius and 22.0 degrees Celsius respectively.

In Jammu city, the mercury settled at 38.4 degrees Celsius, while other parts, except Katra, recorded below 30 degrees Celsius.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that there is a possibility of the spell of rain and thundershower at scattered to many places, accompanied with intense showers and gusty winds at few places till May 31st.

He added that from June 01 to 03, a brief spell of light rain and thundershower is expected at isolated places.

Meanwhile, in its advisory, the MeT has predicted the possibility of thunder and gusty winds at scattered to many places till May 31—

LG

of Youm-e-Ashoorah. The Lieutenant Governor assured that appropriate action will be taken to address the issues projected by them—

EID

and Kashmir. Mufti Nasir said that the first day of Dhul Hijjah will fall on Thursday, May 29, and Eid-ul-Adha will be observed June 7.

The announcement came after a series of consultations with local religious committees and moon sighting observers across various districts. (JKNS)

TRAL

hours. (JKNS)

SECURITY

potential threats and ensuring the safety of civilians in the region."

They said that security forces are conducting thorough search operations in thick forests and remote areas of Kathua. The operation has been underway for several days, with forces maintaining a high state of alertness to prevent any untoward incidents. "The operation was prompted by credible information regarding the presence of suspected terrorists in the region. The search efforts are focused on dismantling any potential terror infrastructure and ensuring the region remains secure. As of now, the operation has concluded peacefully in some areas, with no reported casualties or engagements with terrorists," they added—

HUMA

Pertinently, Indian armed forces conducted missile strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on May 7 in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead.

In response, Pakistan launched intense mortar and artillery shelling and drone attacks in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and other regions. The two countries agreed to cease military actions on May 10.

This was the first major event at border out post 'Operation Sindoor', in which Indian armed force, lunched multiple strikes and destroyed around nine terrorist camps across border including in Saikot, which is just 11 kilometers from the post.

Jammu Tourism is organising a cultural evening on Wednesday evening at Octroi BoP in which Bollywood actress Huma Qureshi is the special guest," said an official of Jammu Tourism.

He said that the actress will be interacting with the armed forces who have been on the forefront during 'Operation Sindoor' and also with affected families of cross-border shelling.

He stated that the visit is also organised with regards to the revival of the Jammu Tourism and meeting with all the stakeholders of the tourism industry.

"Entry is free for the visitors and we hope with the situation normalised to a larger extent, the tourism sector will soon flourish in Jammu," the official said.

Suchetgarh was opened up for tourism following a renewed ceasefire agreement announced by India and Pakistan in February 2021. That agreement brought major relief to people living along the IB and Line of Control (LoC). India shares a 3,323-kilometre-long border with Pakistan, of which 221 kilometres is the IB and 744 kilometres is the LoC within J&K—(KNO)

BSF

"There were inputs that the enemy may plan to conduct some kind of mischief, cross-border firing, or stage infiltration. We are ready and vigilant," he said.

The IG said Pakistan cannot be trusted. "We believe that it cannot be trusted. Operation Sindoor is on. BSF is ready and vigilant along the IB. We are putting up robust surveillance systems to maintain high vigilance along the border."

Anand also said that BSF women personnel, including Assistant Commandant Neha Bhandari, had shown exemplary courage by manning forward posts.

"We are proposing to name one post in Samba sector after Operation Sindoor and two others after martyrs," he said. Jammu dining guide

Noting that the BSF had foiled infiltration bids in the past, the officials said they had thwarted an infiltration attempt by 40 to 50 suspected terrorists along the IB during shelling with preemptive strikes.

He said the BSF had successfully foiled a major infiltration attempt involving suspected terrorists who were trying to cross

over under the cover of Pakistani shelling in the Sialkot sector.

"We launched preemptive strikes and inflicted heavy losses. The adversary was forced to retreat. Their troops, Rangers, and terrorists suffered casualties," he said.

He said there were consistent inputs about Pakistan planning to facilitate infiltration under the cover of cross-border firing and shelling. "The enemy is reorienting its defences to deal with such situation. We foiled their designs".

He said thag BSF and Army are jointly dealing with tunnel threats. "We are keeping a close watch over every inch of land," the IG said.

Anand, who took over command of the Jammu Frontier on February 7, highlighted the BSF's robust response post the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack on tourists.

"Retaliation was evident after Operation Sindoor. In areas along the LoC in Poonch and Rajouri and the IB in Jammu, we took aggressive postures. Pakistani Rangers confined themselves to posts while BSF stayed on the front foot," he said.

He said the BSF destroyed multiple terror launch pads in Akhnoor, Samba, and RS Pura sectors, including those in Loni, Mastpur, and Chabbra.

"On May 9-10, Pakistan opened unprovoked fire in the Akhnoor sector, targeting BSF posts. In response, we hit the Loni launch pad linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba and caused significant damage," Anand said. Jammu dining guide

DIG Chitterpal Singh said Pakistan used drones and targeted villages like Abdullian using various weapons.

"We responded by destroying several enemy posts, towers, and bunkers. Around 72 Pakistani posts and 47 forward posts were hit. In contrast, BSF suffered no loss of assets or infrastructure," he said.

Referring to the drone threat, Anand said Pakistan had used low-flying drones to drop payloads on BSF posts, resulting in casualties of three personnel.

"We are enhancing surveillance and defensive measures. CIBMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System) has been in place since 2017, and we are integrating more advanced technologies in the coming months," he said.

Anand reiterated the BSF's commitment to both security and civilian welfare. "We encourage farmers along the IB to continue agricultural activities. We ensure their protection and undertake civic action programmes as part of confidence-building measures."

"BSF is India's first line of defence. We do not provoke but will retaliate strongly against any misadventure. Our guard remains up, and our vigilance unwavering," Anand said. (Agencies)

Ex-CJI Khehar, Dancer Shobana Chandrakumar Among 68 Personalities Conferred With Padma Awards

New Delhi, May 27: Former Chief Justice of India Jagdish Singh Khehar, dancer Shobana Chandrakumar, actor Anant Nag and Vice Chancellor of prestigious King George's Medical University Soniya Nityanand were among 68 eminent personalities conferred with the coveted Padma awards by President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday.

A total of 139 distinguished persons were named for the country's civilian awards — Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri — on the eve of the 76th Republic Day on January 25.

The President gave awards to 68 chosen ones on Tuesday in the second civil investiture ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, among others.

During the first investiture ceremony on April 28, President Murmu had conferred Padma awards to 71 personalities.

In the ceremony in Ganatantra Mandap in Rashtrapati Bhavan on Tuesday, President Murmu conferred the country's second highest civilian honour Padma Vibhushan to Justice (retd) Khehar for public affairs while the award for late Kathak dancer Kumudini Rajnikant Lakhia and late legendary folk singer Sharda Sinha were received by Lakhia's grandson and Sinha's son.

The President also handed over nine Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award, during the ceremony to noted personalities which included dancer and actor Shobana Chandrakumar, businessman Nalli Kuppusswami Chetti, archaeologist Kailash Nath Dikshit, dancer Jatin Goswami, actor Anant Nag, and Sadhvi Ritambhara. The award for economist Bibek Debroy and former Maharashtra CM and Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi was received by Debroy's wife and Joshi's son. Leading immunologist and KGMU VC Nityanand, footballer Inivalappil Mani Vijayan, singer Ashwini Bhide Deshpande, actor Ashok Laxman Saraf, mask maker Reba Kanta Mahanta, and musician Ricky Gyan Kej were among the recipients



Secy RDD visits Baltal; reviews preparations for Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025

Emphasises 24/7 monitoring of sanitation services with focus on pilgrim centric service delivery

HT News Network

BALTAL, MAY 27: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today conducted an extensive tour of Baltal base camp to assess the sanitation facilities being put in place along the Sonamarg axis for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY), 2025.

He also visited different camps along the route, starting from Nilgrath Helipad, Baltal Base Camp, Domail Camp and trekked upto Rail-patri Camp to oversee the sanitation arrangements for the upcoming yatra.

He was accompanied by Director

General (DG) Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra; Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Ganderbal, Abdul Majeed; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Ganderbal, Altaf Hussain and other district officers. The Secretary reviewed installation and functionality of various sanitation infrastructures including the toilets, washrooms, dustbins, drainage for grey water disposal, segregation of wet waste site, plastic waste management site and other sanitation facilities on the Baltal axis.

The Secretary examined the installation of dustbins around the base camp and yatra route to ensure effective waste disposal, segregation of waste at source and promote cleanliness among the pilgrims. He



stressed the importance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness and called for implementation of a zero-landfill policy along the entire pilgrimage route.

A total of 6,038 prefabricated toilets and baths (5,033 toilets and 1,005 baths) are to be installed along both the axes and on yatra route. This included installations at the SASB's

permanent base and the Anantnag Railway Station. Additionally, 1,576 Toilets and baths units are designated for operation and maintenance only. The Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department is responsible for a total of 7,614 toilets and baths, comprising 6,609 toilets and 1,005 baths. The Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department is responsible for mobilization of Sanitation Resources which stands at 7,506 of manpower. Of the total resources, 3,584 have been allocated across various operations. Specifically, 1,397 resources are designated for the Baltal Axis, 1,564 for the Pahalgam Axis, and 623 for the Zero Landfill initiative. In terms of district-wise manpower distribu-

tion, the ACP office in Ganderbal has been assigned 1,143 personnel, while the ACP office in Anantnag has 1,871. Additionally, 908 manpower resources shall be deployed along the enroute districts. Besides, over 7506 sanitation workers are being deployed to ensure proper maintenance and cleanliness throughout the Yatra period. The Secretary also issued specific directions for effective greywater management, including construction of adequate soak pits and drainage systems to prevent water logging and ensure environmentally sustainable waste disposal practices. He emphasized the need to ensure clean, safe and efficient facilities for pilgrims, particularly in areas such as sanitation.

Operation of 4 Medical shops in Kulgam closed for violating conditions of licenses

HT News Network

KULGAM, MAY 27: In order to ensure safe and quality medicine reach the general public, as many as 20 inspections were conducted today in several areas of Kulgam district.

On the occasion, inspections were conducted in Gudar, Laisoo, Qasba Khul, D.K.marg, Badi jalan, Sarmarg, Kutamarg, Dandward, Gulzarabad (all remote areas of Dist. Kulgam) and drug samples were lifted for testing and analysis.

4 medical shops were found violating conditions of licenses and rules, and their operations were closed down on the spot.

Chemists of the areas were instructed to follow good pharmacy ethics and abide by the law as a part for better patient health care delivery. All the chemists have already been sensitized to install a robust computerized billing system for the medicine inventory management and to issue bills/ cash memos to patients while dispensing medicine.

Empowering MSMEs: RAMP awareness workshop held at Anantnag

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, MAY 27: In a significant move to boost the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), in collaboration with the Strategic Planning and Implementation Unit (SPIU) - Grant Thornton and the District Industries Centre (DIC) Anantnag, organized a district-level RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Awareness Workshop today at DIC Anantnag.

The workshop was presided over by Nazia Hassan, General Manager DIC Anantnag. Speaking on the occasion, she emphasized the importance of the RAMP scheme for the holistic development of MSMEs in the region. She also highlighted that widespread awareness and outreach are key to enabling local enterprises to access government schemes and incentives. "Workshops like these are instrumental in informing entrepreneurs about opportunities under RAMP and the broader MSME support ecosystem," she noted.

The SPIU team (Grant Thornton) delivered a detailed presentation on the RAMP scheme in Jammu & Kashmir, highlighting its objectives, components, and key interventions aimed at empowering MSMEs. The session was designed to raise awareness among local stakeholders and implementing agencies about the scheme's benefits and opportunities. It covered critical support areas including capacity building, access to credit and finance, skilling, market access, digital empowerment, and institutional strengthening, particularly of District Industries Centres (DICs). Special emphasis was also placed on promoting women entrepreneurship and the formalization of enterprises through digital enablement. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 100 stakeholders, including representatives from JKEDI, Handloom & Handicrafts department, Lead Bank, DIC officials, MSMEs, and women entrepreneurs. A dedicated interactive Q&A session was held to address the queries of MSMEs and officials from various implementing agencies. Entrepreneurs sought clarity on credit access, formalization processes, market support, and inclusion under government-backed interventions, indicating the strong need for continued hand-holding and information dissemination. The event reinforced the Government of Jammu and Kashmir's commitment to fostering an inclusive and growth-oriented ecosystem for MSMEs, ensuring that the benefits of the RAMP scheme reach the grassroots level.

DC Srinagar reviews progress on implementation of Mission Yuva

Assesses performance, achievements of the Yuva Doots

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 27: In order to review the progress on the implementation of Mission Yuva, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex here today.

During the meeting, DC took a detailed appraisal of the progress and performance of the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and Business Help Desks (BHDs) established under Mission Yuva. He also assessed the roles, achievements, and impact of the Yuva Doots on the ground. At the outset, DC underscored the importance of seamless coordination among various departments to provide com-



prehensive support to Nano-Enterprises and MSMEs. He highlighted that the initiative represents a vital step towards boosting self-employment and entrepreneurship across Srinagar district. Deputy Director Employment provided an overview of the structure, roles, and responsibilities of BDUs and BHDs, stressing their significance in facilitating entrepreneurship, business development, and financial linkages.

All stakeholders actively engaged in the deliberations, sharing insights into their respective roles in strengthening the business support ecosystem at both district and sub-division levels. It was informed during the meeting that a total of 190 Yuva Doots have been appointed for District Srinagar, covering all 74 electoral wards. In each ward, three Yuva Doots have been assigned, ensuring coverage of at least four

DC Kupwara reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar- Muft Bijli Yojana

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MAY 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers at D.C Office here to review the progress achieved under PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana in the district. Addressing the meeting, DC impressed upon the officers to make concerted efforts for coverage of maximum beneficiaries under the Muft Bijli scheme so that people in general are benefitted under the scheme which provides huge subsidy for the benefit of the consumers.

She enjoined officers to intensify the IEC campaign of the Yojana so that grassroots level awareness is achieved. She directed to hold joint awareness camps consisting of vendors, banks, departments and various stakeholders ranging from transporters, traders, employees, public representatives and general public to achieve better results for saturation of the Muft Bijli Yojana.

LDM was directed to ensure fast track disbursal of the applications received under the scheme so that maximum households are benefitted.

Commissioner Secretary H&UDD tours Srinagar city; reviews Urban Development projects

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 27: Aimed to oversee and expedite ongoing urban developmental works, Commissioner Secretary Government Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur, today conducted a comprehensive on-ground inspection of various urban projects being executed across Srinagar city. She was accompanied by Commissioner SMC, Dr Owais Ahmad, along with senior officials from SMC and other line departments. The Commissioner Secretary visited key sites that are focal point for Srinagar's urban beautification and infrastructure development. The sites included Tulsi Bagh, Rambagh, Karanagar, Qamarwari and Nallahmar Road in Downtown Srinagar. The primary objective of this extensive visit was to assess the progress on multiple ongoing projects aimed at transforming Srinagar into a more sustainable, environmentally friendly and visually appealing city. The review focused on aspects such as urban beautification, environmental sustainability, infrastructure improvements and public amenities. Throughout the tour, the Commissioner



Secretary actively interacted with the project teams, enquiring about the current status, challenges faced and expected completion timelines. Her hands-on approach reflects commitment in ensuring that developmental works are executed efficiently and effectively. During the visit to Karanagar, she planted a sapling while emphasising the importance of green spaces within the urban settings. Mandeep Kaur emphasized the critical need for timely project completion, urging the agencies to work in a coordinated manner to avoid delays. She highlighted the importance of fostering stronger inter-agency collaboration and stressed increased community participation to ensure that development projects are aligned with the needs.

Sakeena Itoo conducts surprise inspection of Shaheed Himayun Muzzamil Memorial GDC Boys Anantnag

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, MAY 27: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today conducted surprise inspection of Shaheed Himayun Muzzamil Memorial Government Degree College (GDC) Boys Anantnag and assessed the functioning, infrastructure and academic environment of the institution.

During the visit, Education Minister took detailed round of the college campus, inspecting classrooms, laboratories, and other key facilities. She also interacted with the Principal, faculty members and other administrative staff of the college.

During the interaction, Sakeena Itoo highlighted that GDC Boys Anantnag is one of the old and important educational institutions of South Kashmir and therefore no compromise should be made on the quality



of education being imparted here. "Educational institutions like this college is backbone of our youth's future. It is imperative upon us that students have best possible academic environment to nurture their talent," she stated.

During the visit, Minister also interacted with students and took first-hand appraisal from them about quality of education being imparted in college.

Anantnag all set for 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' under Pro-Kharif Initiative

Awareness programme, stakeholder meeting held at KVK Anantnag

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, MAY 27: District Anantnag is gearing up to host the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' (VKSA), a nationwide campaign launched under the Pro-Kharif initiative, scheduled to run from 29th May to 12th June 2025.

The preparations were reaffirmed during an awareness programme and stakeholder consultation meeting held today at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Anantnag. Thredbare discussions with regard to optimum reach of the VKSA were held during the awareness programme. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ishtiyaq Khan, Head, KVK Anantnag, emphasized that the campaign is aimed at sensitizing and empowering the farming community through modern and



scientific agricultural practices. The initiative focuses on enhancing productivity in field crops, pulses, horticulture, and livestock, while also spreading

awareness about various state and centrally sponsored schemes. Dr. Khan further elaborated that the campaign will see the active collabora-

tion of scientists from KVKs, ICAR institutes, agricultural universities, and officials from line and development departments under the Agriculture Production Department. The broader aim is to align with the national vision of making India a 'Viksit Rashtira' (Developed Nation) by fortifying its agricultural foundations. To ensure effective grassroots-level outreach, the campaign will mobilize scientists, technical experts and extension officers to conduct awareness and capacity-building programmes at the village level. Three dedicated expert teams have been constituted to cover three venues daily, targeting approximately 900 farmers each day. The campaign plans to reach 135 main villages and several adjoining hamlets, ultimately covering around 400 villages across Anantnag district.

EDITORIAL

NC should clear the air about its demand for restoration of statehood to J&K

Few days back National Conference organized a meeting of the working committee and during the meeting a host of issues were discussed. At the conclusion of the meeting the spokesman of the party issued a press note and in the same the points of discussion that came up during the meeting were spelt out. For the reasons best known to them, none of the party leaders chose to address a press conference at the end of the meet.

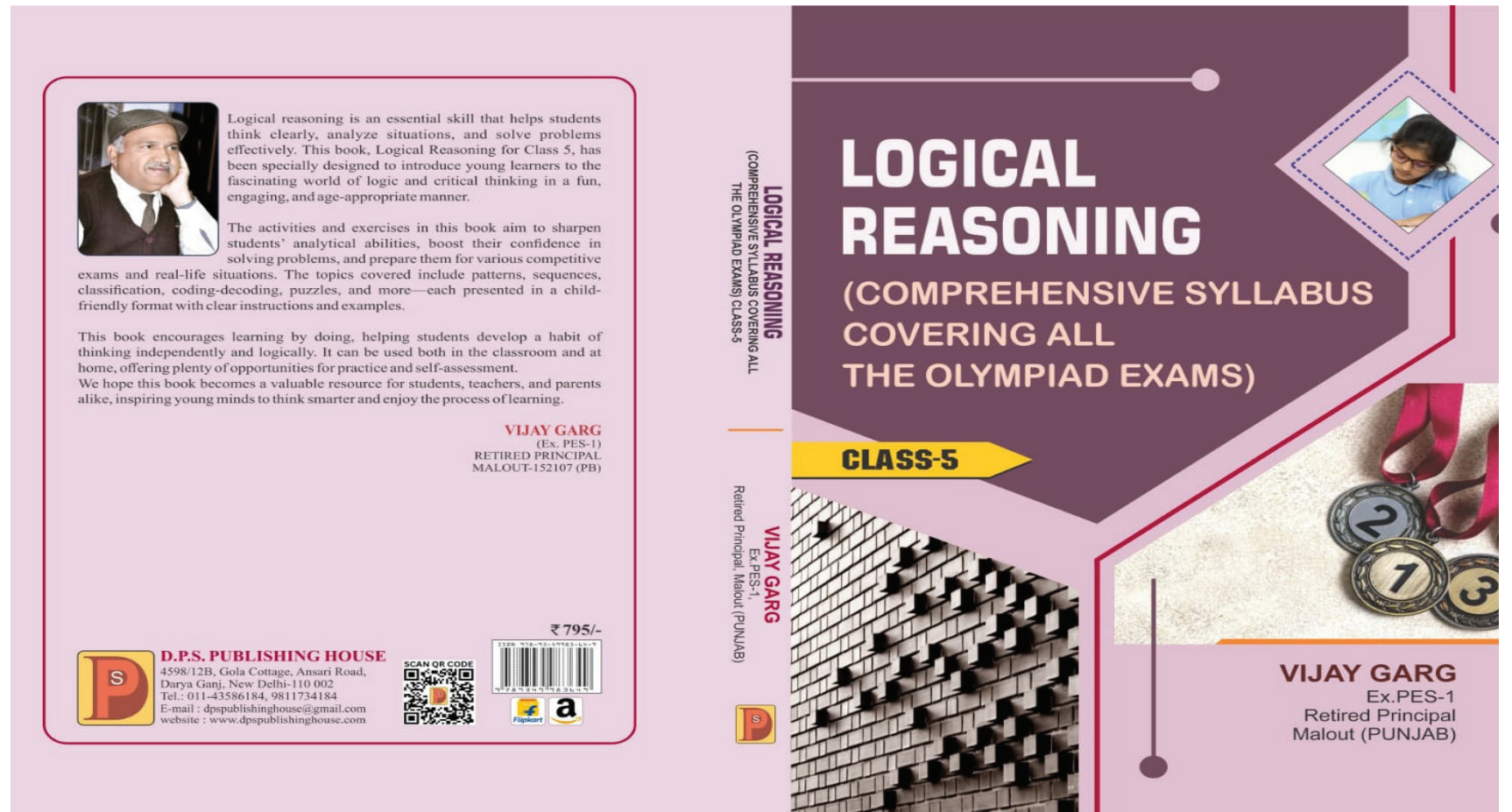
In the press note it was mentioned that the issue of restoration of statehood came up for discussion and it was emphasized that the party leaders would carry out the fight in this regard. This demand came under criticism from the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) leaders with the party national general secretary Tarun Chugh saying that chief minister Omar Abdullah should not have made this demand since the Baisaran-Pahalgam massacre is still fresh. He accused the CM of being an opportunist politician.

Not long ago while speaking in the legislative assembly Omar had said that time is not opportune for demanding restoration of statehood for Jammu & Kashmir. He made this statement during the special session of the assembly convened in connection with the Baisaran-Pahalgam incident. The National Conference leadership seems to be confused about the restoration of the statehood issue and these people seem to be going in the opposite direction about this issue. If Omar is not serious in demanding statehood at this moment of time then how come the party leadership discussed the issue during the working committee meeting?

Restoration of statehood was one of the important pre-poll planks of the National Conference and during the campaign for 2024 assembly elections this issue assumed centre-stage. During the election rallies the party leaders promised that they would strive for the restoration of statehood as and when they came into power. The Omar Abdullah government is more than seven months old and up to this moment of time the central government has not given any indication for restoration of statehood.

In his maiden press conference in Srinagar in January this year the chief minister had claimed that his government would not hesitate to go to the court in case the Government of India does not restore statehood to Jammu & Kashmir within a particular time frame. It remains to be seen what would be the deadline of the time frame as set by the National Conference government in Jammu & Kashmir.

Endorsed with Pride: A Toolkit for Tomorrow's Thinkers



Logical reasoning is an essential skill that helps students think clearly, analyze situations, and solve problems effectively. This book, Logical Reasoning for Class 5, has been specially designed to introduce young learners to the fascinating world of logic and critical thinking in a fun, engaging, and age-appropriate manner.

The activities and exercises in this book aim to sharpen students' analytical abilities, boost their confidence in solving problems, and prepare them for various competitive exams and real-life situations. The topics covered include patterns, sequences, classification, coding-decoding, puzzles, and more—each presented in a child-friendly format with clear instructions and examples.

This book encourages learning by doing, helping students develop a habit of thinking independently and logically. It can be used both in the classroom and at home, offering plenty of opportunities for practice and self-assessment. We hope this book becomes a valuable resource for students, teachers, and parents alike, inspiring young minds to think smarter and enjoy the process of learning.

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BY AUBAIDD AHMAD AKHOON
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"In the garden of knowledge, logic is the fragrance that never fades."

In the formative years of a child's education, it is not just knowledge that matters—but the ability to think, reason, and question. In a world filled with distractions, nurturing logical thinking is like handing our children a compass—so they may navigate life with clarity, confidence, and courage.

This book, Logical Reasoning - Class 5, is a brilliant step in that direction. Authored

by the seasoned educator Mr. Vijay Garg, a man of wisdom and clarity, the book acts not merely as a subject guide, but as a toolkit to awaken the reasoning faculties of our children.

With thoughtfully designed chapters that span analogies, sequences, coding-decoding, puzzles, and Olympiad-level challenges, this book empowers students not just to learn, but to think deeply, creatively, and critically. It builds the essential habit of inquiry, the joy of discovery, and the discipline of independent problem-solving.

As a passionate advocate for educational reform and critical thinking, I believe reasoning is not merely a subject—it is a skill for life. This book transforms complex ideas into enjoyable exercises, turning every page into a mental playground for young learners. With puzzles, anal-

ogies, sequences, patterns, and riddles, it challenges not just the mind—but awakens a spirit of curiosity.

More importantly, it encourages our children to ask why, explore the how, and embrace the joy of solving the what next.

To students: may this book sharpen your intellect and awaken your imagination.

To parents and educators: may this resource serve as a powerful tool to inspire minds and cultivate a deeper love for learning.

A Message to the Students of Kashmir

To the bright, resilient minds of Kashmir—you are the torchbearers of a land that has always cherished wisdom, from the scholars of ancient Sharada Peeth to the poets of timeless verses. Let this book be your companion in kindling that sacred fire of thought.

As you work through these pages, let your thoughts flow as freely as the Jhelum, and your understanding grow as vast as the meadows of Gulmarg. Remember, the ability to think logically will not only prepare you for competitive exams—it will prepare you for life's most important challenges.

Each puzzle solved is a mountain conquered. Each question cracked is a step toward a stronger mind and a brighter future.

To the Parents and Teachers

I urge you to encourage the spirit of inquiry among your children. Praise their questions as much as their answers. Help them see learning not as a burden but as a beautiful process of self-discovery. This book provides you with a resource that supports both school curriculum and Olympiad aspirations.

To Mr. Vijay Garg
With deep appreciation, I commend your lifelong dedication to education. Your expertise and vision have shaped a book that is both accessible and profound. You have not only authored a learning resource—you have gifted a generation the power of thought.

May this book light a thousand minds, and may each of those minds shine back with wisdom, clarity, and compassion.

With warm regards and thoughtful wishes,

Aubaidd Ahmad Akhoun
Columnist | Motivational Speaker
Associate Editor, Education Quill
Manager Operations, Genagogy (Gen Alpha Pedagogy)
In association with Technoglobe Jaipur A Renowned IT Training Institute

Dr Rafiq Masoodi's book 'Bey Pie Talash' released at Srinagar



RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

Adbi Markaz Kamraz, vibrant and the oldest literary organization of Jammu & Kashmir under the patronage of Majlis-un-Nisa Sopore, orchestrated a grand colourful literary event at Tagore Hall Srinagar which unfolded the release of Bey Pai Talash, a Kashmiri poetry collection by Dr Rafiq Masoodi, formal additional director general Doordarshan Srinagar, and patron of Adbi Markaz Kamraz. This glorious function was presided over by renowned educationist, litterateur and distinguished critic Prof Mohd Zaman Azurda, while Director school education Kashmir Dr GN Ittoo was the chief guest on the occasion. The presidium was shared by noted writers like Prof Shad Ramzan, Prof Naseem Shifayy, Dr Rafiq Raaz, Dr Rafiq Masoodi and Mohd Amin Bhat. The entire event which began at 2pm and lasted for three hours, was moderated by Shabnam Tilgami, prominent poet and executive member of AMK. After playing Tarana of AMK, the proceedings of the event unfolded with the recitation of Moulana Jami's famous naatia Kalam Ya Rasool Hashimi, in soulful and appealing voice of Gh Mohd Shad, famous naat reciter of valley. After giving final shape to the pre-

sidium, Mohd Amin Bhat president of AMK, delivered the thoughtful welcome address. He highlighted the contribution of AMK in promoting Kashmiri language and literature, thanked every dignitary for showing their presence in the event and making it more successful. He appealed director school education Kashmir to recommend the school heads for arranging a field trip to Meeras Mahal Sopore, housing our centuries old rich cultural and historical legacy. Pertinent to mention that people from all walks of life had gathered in the jam packed auditorium Hall. Social activists, media persons, editors of several dailies and law makers attended it. After taking respective seats, the presidium members received rousing reception through bouquets and mementoes. Jamil Ansari, composer of the book and Javed Iqbal who designed it's cover were also presented mementoes. Wajid Iqbal, CEO of Corpus Enterprises also presented mementoes to presidium members. This magnanimous literary event was also sponsored by Corpus Enterprises, Al-Khudam Haj and Umrah services and Chaya group of Hotels. Dr Suhan Lal Koul's audio clip, critically analyzing the book by deeply diving into it's contents, examining it's strengths and overall significance was also played on the occasion. It was followed by a thorough, thought provoking and eloquent review read by Prof Dr Shafkat Iqbal, highlighting it's beauties. Soon after the review, the formal release of the book followed in two shifts, first by the family members of author viz his

HT-BOOK REVIEW
By - Rayees Ahmad Kumar

spouse, elder sister, children and grandchildren and then by the presidium. The entire Hall stood up to honor Dr Masoodi at the moment and gave him thundering cheers. Prof Naseem Shifayy besides praising Dr Masoodi, uncovered the challenges, an author encounters while writing a book. She hailed the enduring patience of author's spouse, according to her without that, the dream wouldn't have been realized. Salim Yousuf of Inder Cultural Forum, as a token of love, honor, respect and appreciation offered flower Garland to Dr Masoodi who accepted it wholeheartedly. Distinguished broadcaster and noted critic, Dr Rafiq Raaz, while commenting on the book, underscored it's features and qualities. He deliberated upon various genres of literature, comparatively analyzed Dr Masoodi's two books.

According to him, second one Bey Pai Talash is far better than previous one, depicting how enthusiastically has he studied both. Prof Shad Ramzan, Kashmir University's former HOD of Kashmiri department while speaking on the occasion, felt all proud to have taught and appointed Dr Shafkat Iqbal who earlier had read an extensive and eloquent review. According to Shad Ramzan, Kashmiri has deep roots with some intellectually great nation, which modern researchers need to explore and investigate enormously. He emphasized the importance of mother tongue, preserving our rich legacy of culture and literature. According to him, Socha Kral, Mahmood Gami, Rasool Mir, Sheikh ul Alam and Shams Faqir have used similes and metaphors which no other language of globe encompass. Director school education Kashmir Dr GN Ittoo, though attended the event lately and stayed for a brief period due to his over busy

official schedule, his presence was marked as a major sign of commitment to promote literature and language. Hailing from Doru village of South Kashmir also the birthplace of iconic poets like Rasool Mir and Mahmood Gami, Dr Ittoo reiterated his dedication to help literary organizations in transforming their landscape. He described Dr Masoodi as his mentor who has helped him mastering administrative skills when former used to be secretary cultural academy. Adeel Salim, secretary Jammu Kashmir Cultural academy was felicitated for assuming the charge, probably it was his maiden literary event after assuming the charge. Dr Rouf Adil, recently appointed coordinator of Azad Chair at GDC Bemina Srinagar, was presented a flower bogie and memento to recognize his role and responsibility. Well-known educationist, critic and prominent writer Prof Mohd Zaman Azurda delivered a stimulating and captivating presidential address. He summed up his decades of experience as a university teacher, developing textbooks at school, college and university levels and his role in appointing key teaching positions at varsity in his speech. He applauded Dr GN Ittoo's role in identifying land for constructing office complex of AMK at Kanispora when he was deputy commissioner Baramulla. According to him without his bureaucratic influence, it would have never seen the light of day. He made a comparative analysis of Western and Eastern literatures in his address, reiterated the need to incorporate local litterateurs, cul-

tural and regional legacies in curriculum. He expressed his belief and faith in abilities and vision of executive members of Adbi Markaz Kamraz in making it progress by leaps and bounds. Civil Society Rafiabad, presented a shawl and bouquet to Dr Rafiq Masoodi, the great son of their soil to recognize his efforts and dedication who added one more feather in his cap of praiseworthy accomplishments and made the inhabitants of his birthplace feel proud. At the end, Dr Rafiq Masoodi, who's book was released and hosted the whole function, expressed his gratitude to everyone who attended the literary event and made it a memorable one. He also played an audio clip of UK based Kashmiri Minister of justice in UK parliament, who praised Dr Masoodi and every writer, writing and promoting Kashmiri. He specially mentioned Mehjoor's prayer poem Sahibo Sath Cham Mei Cheani in that clip. Among others, Dr Syed Bashir Ahmad Veeri MLA Bijbehara, Latif u Zaman Deva former bureaucrat, Showkat Hussain Keng prominent religious scholar, Syed Himayun Qaiser, Talha Jahangir, Dr Mehfooza Jan, Mushtaq Bala, Nazim Nazir, Shamshad Kralwari graced the occasion by their presence. Kabab, Shami Kabab the two main dishes of wazwan, the traditional Kashmiri cuisine along with chatpati were served to participants besides hot tea while leaving the hall. A copy of the book, was also distributed among each participant during the function.

Writer is a columnist hailing from Qazigund Kashmir.

Hands that help are holier than lips that pray



BY MOOL RAJ

Life as such is challenging and the humans have made it more complicated because life has fallen into class and categories where the rich are getting richer and the poor are dying for food. It is heart-wrenching to see this situation because people are suffering from hunger, lack of education and being homeless. Life is a matter of privilege because while some live a life of luxury, some just fail to even meet the basic ends of life.

Around your surroundings there might be people who go to bed without food. Now, that is not only painful for the people who suffer but also painful for the hearts and minds that are sensitive. If you are a sensitive human, then you should consider donating some portion of your money to the people who are in need.

You are intelligent and have a good life. Now, that is perhaps something you are gifted with or some unknown force makes you achieve your dreams. But then, you should show gratitude towards the universe because it has given you in life what you want.

It does not make sense to donate to a deity because deities are neither hungry nor need financial help. In fact, you should help fellow humans who are in need. And that would be the most intelligent thing that you could ever do.

Donating would mean showing a sense of responsibility towards the betterment of the world. If you think that all the poverty and the problems would vanish through propagandas that are carried out by various organizations and governments, then you are not thinking in the right direction because propagandas are only ideas. In fact, you need to take the right action now.

And that could be possible only when you start donating now. When you donate money, you psychologi-

cally feel motivated because mind feels happy when it gives. In fact, as the law of nature would have it, the givers will get. That means the more you give, the more you would receive. In brief, that is the law of reciprocation. Moreover we all know, Hands that help are holier than lips that pray.

Undoubtedly, you can donate to some poor people on the street but that would not help because you need to make sure that the money that goes as donation must be distributed properly. Hence, you should donate through a trustworthy person whom you know personally or through any organization that specializes in helping the poor.

Undoubtedly, there could be thousands of such organizations but you should be able to find the right and authentic organization so as to ensure that the money that goes for donation reaches to the poor.

It is time to be a little responsible and grateful because without responsibility you can change the world. You might go on talking about change and helping the poor but the words are not the things. In fact, if you really want to help then you should start donating money to the poor.

It is also very important to encourage the people and to the society to help needy people. They are also a part of our society. To help someone is helping yourself. A needy person; it doesn't mean that they need food or money; might be they need your company, your advice or your time. So try to understand them and to make them happy. We do not know that their blessing will help us when we need it. Always remember, flower always spread its fragrance. Just like this, if we support or help anyone, someone will definitely come to help us when we need it badly.

THE AUTHOR IS A COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

The Eternal Light of Great Teachers: Remembering Rahi Sahib's Enduring Legacy

HT TRIBUTE

The passing of an extraordinary teacher is never just the loss of an individual—it is the fading of a beacon that once illuminated minds, shaped characters, and kindled hope in countless hearts. The recent demise of *Syed Ghulam Mohi Uddin Bukhari, popularly known as *Rahi Sahib*, has left a void in Kashmir's educational and intellectual landscape. Yet, while he may no longer be with us in person, his legacy remains alive in the generations he taught, the values he instilled, and the wisdom he imparted.

A Scholar Beyond Compare

Hailing from Kundoora in Beerwa, Budgam, Rahi Sahib was not just a teacher but a *living institution. Widely revered as the *Ocean of Knowledge" (Ilm ka Darya)*, he stood as one of the most distinguished scholars of English literature that Kashmir has ever produced. His command over language, literature, and philosophy was unparalleled, but what truly set him apart was his ability to *make complex ideas accessible, inspiring, and deeply personal* for his students.

Unlike many educators who merely transmit information, Rahi Sahib *transformed classrooms into spaces of intellectual and moral awakening. His lessons were never confined to textbooks; they were discussions on life, ethics, and human nature. Students didn't just learn Shakespeare or Wordsworth from him—they learned *how to think critically, how to appreciate beauty in words, and how to apply literature's lessons to their own lives*.

A Teacher Who Shaped Generations

One of the most remarkable aspects of Rahi Sahib's influence was that he *taught multiple generations* within families. The author of this piece was fortunate to be taught by him in Class



12, just as their father had been years before. This intergenerational impact speaks volumes about his enduring relevance.

For many students, Rahi Sahib was more than a teacher—he was a *mentor, a guide, and often a father figure*. His door was always open for those seeking advice, whether academic or personal. His humility, despite his vast knowledge, made him approachable, and his generosity of spirit left a lasting impression on everyone who crossed his path.

The Rare Gift of True Education

In today's fast-paced, exam-driven education system, where rote learning often overshadows true understanding, teachers like Rahi Sahib are a *vanishing breed. Modern schooling prioritizes grades over wisdom, competition over compassion, and

certificates over character. Rahi Sahib, however, embodied the *classical ideal of education*—one that nurtures not just the mind but the soul.

He understood that *real teaching is not about filling minds with facts but igniting a lifelong love for learning. His students didn't just memorize poems; they felt them. They didn't just analyze characters in novels; they saw reflections of their own struggles and triumphs in them. This is the mark of a *true educator*—one who doesn't just inform but transforms.

A Legacy That Transcends Time

Great teachers never truly die because their lessons live on in their students. Rahi Sahib's wisdom continues to echo in the classrooms where his former pupils now teach,

in the books they write, and in the values they pass on to their own children. His life was proof that *education is not a profession but a sacred duty*—one that shapes societies and preserves culture.

His passing also forces us to ask: *Who will carry forward this torch of enlightened teaching?* In an age where artificial intelligence and digital learning are reshaping education, will we still have space for teachers who inspire beyond the syllabus? Rahi Sahib's life reminds us that *no technology can replace the human touch of a mentor who cares deeply for his students' growth*.

A Call to Honor His Mission

The best way to honor Rahi Sahib is not just through words but through action. Educators today must strive to emulate his *dedication, his intellectual passion, and his unwavering belief in the transformative power of education. Students, in turn, must recognize the privilege of learning and commit themselves to knowledge not just for career success but for *personal and societal betterment*.

Conclusion: The Light That Never Fades

Rahi Sahib may have left this world, but his light has not been extinguished. It burns in every student who carries forward his teachings, in every mind he opened to new ideas, and in every heart he touched with his kindness.

As the poet William Wordsworth once wrote, "What we have loved, others will love, and we will teach them how." Rahi Sahib taught us how to love learning, how to seek truth, and how to live with wisdom. And in doing so, he ensured that his light would *never truly fade—only multiply in the hearts of those he inspired*.

Rest in peace, Rahi Sahib. Your classroom was the world, and your students, your everlasting legacy.

Summer Vacation means Different to Everyone

VIJAY GARG

By engaging in innovative and educational activities, children can make the most of their summer break, ensuring both physical and intellectual growth.

School students look forward to the arrival of summer vacations with a great deal of excitement. That period is also one of the happiest phases of a student's life. It also becomes imperative that parents recognise the worth of their children's time at this point. They start to worry about how they will ever let their child utilise his time wisely during those days. On the contrary, children are full of energy and anticipation in those months. However, it becomes troublesome for working parents if their kids are younger and highly energetic. Their daily scheduled activities go wild, making it harder for parents to engage their children in meaningful activities.

Though summer vacation means different to everyone, the significance of summer learning should not be ignored. It is a vital component of children's physical as well as academic health. With just 60 days of summer vacation, every day a child does not participate in summer training represents a setback. Nevertheless, parents can engage their children in a variety of new and entertaining activities.

Summer Vacation Courses

The hot Indian summer can be the toughest time to endure for some people, especially kids. They can suffer severely if they stay unprepared to beat the heat.



Parents should be cautious about the meals their children eat during these hot days so that no additional stress is placed on their digestive systems. In order to avoid digestive and dehydration issues, parents can add watermelon, curd, cucumber, coconut water and seasonal vegetables to their children's meal plans.

Children must begin learning about the contemporary technological environment in which they live. Therefore, parents can engage their kids with engaging and innovative learning products. Trends are as follows:

AI and ML course for kids: There are various courses online to introduce children with futur-

istic skillset like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. Any career option kids would choose, this skillsets will be must. Students should opt for courses which consist of Python Coding, Generative-AI prompt writing and Industry Projects like Website & App Building. Kids and parents should not get afraid of new technologies rather take these as an opportunity to outsmart in the future job market. Learning AI tools will upgrade the performance quality of culturally active students also. Learning AI-ML will prepare the students for upcoming innovation and robotics related competitions too. The best outcome will be grabbing an online internship. It will

help the kids become more confident for the future.

Summer specialised Innovation Based Online Experiments: Students and Parents should look for online innovation based experiments or projects which will not only provide a project kit but also consist of live sessions to understand the science and technology of the project. Students should be able to represent the projects in schools too. Some attractive projects could be Laser Home Security System, Rain Water Detection and automatic cloth retrieval machine, Automatic Smart Roof, Parking Occupancy Indicator, Smart Blind Stick etc.

Apart from the ones mentioned above, there are many other innovative activities which can be explored by the parents to increase their children's confidence and interest during summer holidays. Moreover, learning is an endless process. School kids need to gain knowledge about new things every day that are useful for their career and educational growth. Some of the most important knowledge for kids during the vacation will be sustainability, space technology, Electric Vehicle technology, Autonomous Car technology, Flying Taxi system and drone technology etc. Thus, during the next summer vacation, students may simply PLAY. LEARN. EAT. REPEAT by contemplating these mentioned methods of utilising perfect and productive holidays.

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

From Selfies to Solutions: Stop the Poonch Photo-Op

BY MS NAZKI

There are dates that etch themselves into the soul of a region – and for the people of Poonch, those dates now carry the unbearable weight of loss. Sixteen lives were cut short. Over forty-five individuals sustained injuries. Cross-border shelling by Pakistan transformed peaceful homes into scenes of devastation and despair. But amid the horror and grief, what followed next exposed an unsettling reality – the commercialization of tragedy.

Instead of silence and solidarity, the aftermath was marked by a flurry of cameras, staged visits, and photo opportunities. Politicians arrived in convoys, posed with the wounded, made promises, and left behind a trail of press releases. Some admitted they only learned about the shelling through public outcry – a stark reminder of their distance from ground realities.

As the dust settled, a new phrase began echoing across the district: So, take my photo."

This wasn't coming from the victims, but from those who arrived to help – or so they claimed. Relief workers morphed into content creators, ration distributors became influencers, and each interaction with the affected turned into curated content for social media. The grief-stricken watched as their suffering was repackaged for likes, shares, and political mileage. What should have been a moment of unity and compassion was overshadowed by personal promotion.

Lost in this cacophony of cameras and hashtags were the real questions that desperately need answers.

Where is the long-promised construction of permanent civilian bunkers in Poonch town? Why do the hospitals still lack critical infrastructure despite being located in a sensitive border district?

When will quality higher education institutions be established here, so the youth no longer feel forgotten?

Poonch, a region constantly under threat, continues to bear the brunt while the rest of the nation scrolls past headlines. Our soldiers guard these borders with unwavering commitment – yet the civilian population behind them remains under-protected, under-served, and largely ignored.

Turning tragedy into a photo-op is not just insensitive – it is deeply unjust. It is time to shift the focus from selfies to solutions. Poonch is not just a distant corner of the map; it is a frontline that deserves dignity, infrastructure, and lasting peace.

Until justice and development reach its people, no home in the nation can truly sleep in peace

DC Budgam reviews ongoing upgradation works at Charar-i-Sharief Shrine, Dia-Nag Shiv Temple

Directs focussing on heritage restoration and tourism under Archives and Restoration Scheme

HT News Network

BUDGAM, MAY 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today conducted an extensive visit to Charar-i-Sharief Shrine at Charar-i-Sharief area and Dia-Nag Shiv Temple in Budgam area to review the ongoing development and restoration works.

The visit is part of the broader initiative under the Archives and Restoration Scheme aimed at conserving & developing cultural and heritage sites across the district.

During his visit to the revered

Charar-i-Sharief Shrine, DC inspected multiple components currently under execution as part of a major heritage upgradation plan.

Key developments include Devri Path around the shrine, additional Lavatory & Toilet Block, beautification of historic Bada-Talab which includes fencing around the water body contributing to the shrine's aesthetic and environmental revival, upgradation of Shrine Facade, Clock Tower Construction at Charar-i-Sharief area which is under construction, Parking Area which is recently opened and upgraded to facilitate better access for devotees and tourists



Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasised that these interventions aim to preserve the spiritual and cultural essence of Charar-e-Sharief while providing better amenities to pilgrims and visitors.

Later, DC also visited the Dia-Nag Shiv Temple at Budgam, where multiple restoration and beautification works are going on.

Major components include, walnut wood panelling for enhanced aesthetic and structural quality as interiors, external facade which has Devri stone work and RCC-based retrofitting, rejuvenation of spring area which includes complete reconstruction and

installation of structural steel fencing, Gate & Fencing which has reinforced cement concrete with finely chiselled Devri stone work, walkways & paths, signage boards crafted from Devri stone and stainless steel alphabets, park development involving concrete, rough chiseled Devri stone, and structural steel fencing etc.

The DC noted that the restoration of Dia-Nag Temple is about cultural preservation, spiritual renewal, and development of our revered heritage temple.

He further said that upgradation works at Imambara Budgam and Imambara Bemina have also been

Mega awareness event on 'Waste to Wonder, Drug-Free India' held at Doda

HT News Network



DODA, MAY 27: The Municipal Council Doda, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, organized a mega awareness event at Community Hall Doda under the themes "Mera Shehar, Meri Pehchan", "Nasha Mukht Abhiyan", and "No to Drugs, Yes to Life".

The event focused on waste management and the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, featuring a series of "Waste to Wonder" competitions that encouraged students to creatively reuse waste materials.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh graced the occasion as the chief guest. The program was attended by Dy.SP Dar Adil Rishu; DSWO Nodal officer EIC Campaign Tariq Qazi; EO MC Yasir Wani; DIO Ravi Kumar, other officers and a large number of students from various schools.

The DC inspected innovative stalls set up by school students, showcasing products made from recyclable waste. A pledge ceremony was also held to spread awareness against drug abuse and to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among the youth.

A vibrant cultural program was presented by students, promoting social messages through music and dance.

In his address, the DC appreciated the initiative and highlighted the district's efforts under the 'EIC Campaign' to combat drug abuse. He urged the youth to actively participate in constructive activities and emphasized the intelligent reuse of waste to create valuable items. He further mentioned the district's recent achievement of distributing 5,000 school desks made from recycled waste material, terming it as a key milestone under the Waste to Wonder initiative.

The DC commended the creativity and enthusiasm of the students and called for community-wide efforts to achieve a clean, healthy, and drug-free Doda.

DC Poonch reviews PMAY-U Progress, Survey Status under 2.0

HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 27: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a review meeting today to assess the progress of housing construction under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) and to take stock of the ongoing PMAY-U 2.0 survey in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), who also serves as the Nodal Officer for PMAY 2.0, Executive Officers of Urban Bodies of Poonch and Surankote, officials from the City Level Technical Cell. During the review, the EOs briefed the Deputy Commissioner that the survey of 2,764 households in Municipal areas of Poonch and Surankote has been completed. The remaining surveys are scheduled to be completed by May 31, 2025. The DC directed the concerned teams to adhere to the timeline and ensure thorough data collection to support effective implementation of the scheme.

Emphasizing the urgency of expediting construction, the Deputy Commissioner called for accelerated progress on all pending PMAY-U houses, ensuring that eligible beneficiaries are provided housing without delay. He reiterated the importance of timely completion, adherence to quality standards, transparency in execution, and beneficiary satisfaction as central to the success of the scheme.

Certificate Course In Music Starts In Bhadarwah Campus

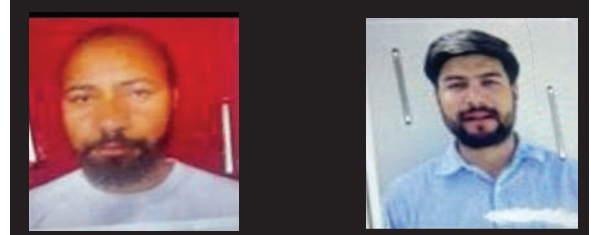
Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhaderwah, May 27: Bhadarwah Campus of Jammu University has started a certification Course of Six-Months in Music under its School of Education programme. The course was formally inaugurated by the Rector of the Campus Prof. Rahul Gupta who was also the chief on this occasion during an impressive function here today.

Addressing the gathering of faculty members, students and staff, Rector Bhaderwah Campus Prof. Rahul Gupta lauded the initiative and emphasized the importance of integrating arts and music into mainstream education.

"A significant milestone in the academic and cultural landscape of Bhaderwah Campus, University of Jammu, was achieved today with the introduction of this course," he said adding, "This reflects the campus's commitment to holistic education that nurtures not only intellect but also artistic sensibilities. Music has the power to uplift minds and connect cultures."

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION
 TERRITORY OF LADAKH AUTONOMOUS
 HILL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL KARGIL
 OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
 TRANSPORT OFFICER KARGIL LADAKH
 TRANSFER NOTIFICATION
 I WANT TO TRANSFER MY VEHICLE
 BEARING REGISTRATION NUMBER
 JK073544 TO MOHD IMTIYAZ ALI S/O
 MOHD ABBAS R/O KANOR. ANYBODY
 HAVING ANY OBJECTION MAY CONTACT
 ARTO KARGIL WITHIN THE PERIOD OF 7
 DAYS.
 MOHD MURTAZA
 S/O MOHD HASSAN R/O CHASKORE JK073
 543 INNOVA, PERMIT NO. 1130CCK



District Admin Samba begins preparations for Baba Chamliyal, Baba Sidh Gorla Melas

HT News Network

SAMBA, MAY 27: Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma today outlined an extensive multi-departmental coordination framework to ensure the seamless conduct of the upcoming Baba Chamliyal Mela and Baba Sidh Gorla Mela, emphasizing the administration's commitment to providing pilgrims with a safe, well-organized, and spiritually fulfilling experience.

At a crucial preparatory meeting held in the DC Office, comprehensive arrangements spanning water supply, sanitation, security, traffic management and public welfare were meticulously reviewed and finalized. The administration has prioritized essential services, with the Jal Shakti Department deploying strategic water tankers across identified locations to prevent any shortage of drinking water, while Block Development Officer and Executive Officer



Municipal Committee have been directed to maintain exemplary sanitation standards.

To enhance visitor experience and navigation, the Tourism Department, in collaboration with the Information Department, will install informative hoardings and banners at strategic locations, complemented by comprehensive signage and well-publicized route plans developed by the Revenue, Police and Transport Departments to facilitate

smooth pilgrim movement.

Security and safety measures form the cornerstone of the arrangements, with thorough reviews of fire safety protocols, traffic regulation systems, and health official deployment ensuring comprehensive protection for all attendees.

The Food Safety Department, working alongside concerned agencies, will establish joint market-checking teams to conduct intensive quality inspec-

tions and monitor pricing of food and essential items, safeguarding consumer interests during the religious gathering. Additionally, various government departments will establish educational stalls at the mela venues to raise awareness about government schemes and welfare programs, transforming the religious occasion into an opportunity for public engagement and service delivery.

The meeting, attended by senior officials including SSP Samba Virender Singh Manhas, ADC Champa Devi, ADC Jagdish Singh and representatives from PWD, PDD, PHE and other key departments, reflects the administration's holistic approach to event management that balances spiritual reverence with modern administrative efficiency, ensuring that thousands of devotees can participate in this sacred celebration with complete peace of mind.

DC Reasi chairs Zila Sainik Welfare Board meeting; assures full support

HT News Network

REASI, MAY 27: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting of Zila Sainik Welfare Board in the VC Hall of the DC Office Complex to review and address the issues of ex-servicemen of the district.

The session was held in the presence of official and non-official members of the Zila Sainik Welfare Board, including Zila Sainik Welfare Officer Captain Kapil Sharma; Adm Comdt SSO Reasi Colonel M. S. Chauhan; ADC Reasi Rakesh Kumar; Dy. SP Headquarters, ALC, CMO, and CEO.

Several important issues were taken up during the meeting, including the renewal and issuance of gun licenses. The Deputy Commissioner assured the attendees that the process is being fast-tracked and advised individuals facing delays to approach the DC office for checking status and any immediate assistance.

On the matter of marriage certificates, the DC informed that revenue officers are issuing the same in a timely manner. She urged ex-servicemen to report any delays promptly so that related benefits, such as financial assistance for the marriage of daughters of ex-servicemen and Veer Naris, can be extended without hindrance.

Other topics discussed included the organization of army rallies, improved access to CSD canteen facilities,



concerns about ECHS clinic services and broader developmental needs for the welfare of ex-servicemen.

Reaffirming her commitment, the DC asked the Zila Sainik Welfare Officer to take unresolved issues to higher authorities and keep her informed so that they can be addressed at the appropriate level.

The meeting highlighted the administration's dedication to the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families. Through continued engagement and proactive measures, the district aims to foster a respectful and supportive environment for those who have served the nation with distinction.

Udhampur: DIPR hosts Symposium, Painting Competition to promote Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MAY 27: The Cultural Unit, Jammu of the Department of Information & Public Relations today organised a Symposium and Painting Competition on the theme 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' here at Little Angels High School to raise awareness among students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The programme was graced by the Vice Principal, Vicky Raina, as the Chief Guest. Esteemed judges for the

event were Pallavi Gupta, Sharda Gupta and Geeta Devi, who carefully evaluated the enthusiastic performances and artworks of the young participants. A total of 11 students participated in the Symposium, passionately expressing their views on the importance of a drug-free society. The first prize was clinched by Fiza Khan, second prize by Adati, third prize by Samriti and consolation prizes were given to Arpana and Divyam. In the painting competition, 10 students showcased their creativity and conveyed strong anti-drug

messages through their artworks. The first prize bagged by Sanchit Singh, second prize by Amulaya Sharma, third prize by Rayyan Javid and consolation prizes were given to Abhinandan Bamotra and Vidushi Sharma. The event was attended by a gathering of students, staff members and officials from the Cultural Unit, Jammu. Addressing the audience, the Chief Guest appreciated the efforts of the Cultural Unit for organising the programmes and encouraged students to act as ambassadors of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being informed that By mistake my son's (Farhan Ahmad Mir D.OB has been wrongly mentioned in his school records. As 02/05/2012 but actual DOB is 06/05/2009 NOW I want apply for its correction if any body having any objection in this regard he/ she may contact Govt Middle school and Iana Pahalgam within 7 days.
 Mohammad Yaseen Mir
 F/O Farhan Ahmad Mir R/O Mandlana Pahalgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being informed that By mistake My DOB in my aadhar card having aadhar card number 482637460010 is wrongly mentioned as 02/01/2005 The actual DOB as per school records is 20/09/2004 NOW I want apply for its correction if any body having any objection in this regard he/she may contact Rubeena Bashir c/o Bashir Ahmad Mir R/O Iaripora Khamal Pahalgam Ph 9622292863 within days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my Name spelling and dob has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, 299862711702 as name seeping and DOB 15/09/2007 Toiba Mohi ud din while his correct name and DOB IS, 03/05/2009 TOBIYA MOHI UD DIN D/O GHULAM MOHI UD DIN BHAT R/O GORIAKER 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: TOBIYA MOHI UD DIN, DOB 03/05/2009
 D/O GHULAM MOHI UD BHAT
 R/O: GORIAKER / TEHSIL HANDWARA
 DIST KUPWARA

Satish Sharma visits Pahalgam, meets, tourists, taxi operators

Reviews driving test, fitness facilities in region

HT News Network

PAHALGAM, MAY 27: Aimed at addressing the concerns of the local transport community, a delegation of taxi owners from Pahalgam today met with Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport and Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma here today. The meeting focussed on long standing issues affecting the taxi operators in the popular tourist destination. During the interaction, the taxi operators submitted a comprehensive charter of demands, highlighting

the key challenges faced by the sector. These included inadequate road infrastructure, limited access to seasonal transportation permits, issues related to route rationalization, the need for improved parking facilities and streamlining of regulatory compliances. The delegation emphasized that taxi services play a crucial role in Pahalgam's tourism-driven economy. They called for greater support from the government to ensure smooth and efficient operations, especially during the peak tourist season. The Minister acknowledged the vital role of taxi operators in facilitating



tourism and local livelihoods. "The concerns raised by the taxi owners are legitimate and deserve immediate attention. We are committed

towards strengthening the transport ecosystem in tourist areas like Pahalgam, which are vital to the region's economy," he stated. The Minister assured the delegation that their demands would be forwarded to the concerned departments for action in a time-bound manner. He also expressed readiness to hold follow-up meetings to monitor progress on the issues raised. As part of his visit, the Minister also held a detailed review meeting with the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Anantnag and other senior officials. The meeting focused on improving

service delivery mechanisms for driving tests and vehicle fitness inspections. The Minister directed the ARTO to explore the feasibility of conducting such services locally to minimize travel and delays for the residents and commercial vehicle owners. "The aim is to bring services closer to the people, ensure transparency and reduce bureaucratic hurdles," the Minister added. He further emphasized the importance of strengthening the digital services and integrating transport facilities with broader IT initiatives under the Digital India mission.

Transport Commissioner visits Kupwara; assesses, addresses public grievances

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MAY 27: Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, today visited Kupwara district to assess functioning of the transport sector besides addressing grievances of the public and the transporters. The Commissioner interacted with the locals and the transporters, who presented their issues and demands. He assured them that their concerns would be resolved on priority, emphasizing the department's commitment towards responsive governance. He also inspected the driving trial ground in Handwara, where he personally monitored the ongoing driving tests. He interacted with the applicants, briefing them on road safety norms and encouraging responsible driving practices.



Later, the Commissioner visited the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Kupwara to discuss key transport related issues raised by the public. One of the major concerns was land allocation for the ARTO Office and a dedicated driving test trial ground which had been promptly addressed by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan. The land has been identified and will be

transferred to the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) on priority basis. Speaking to the media, the Transport Commissioner stated that the objective of his visit was to ensure timely grievance redressal and review the operations of the ARTO Office. He also highlighted the ongoing efforts by the department towards digitising the services, eliminating the need for physical visits to

the transport offices. Vishesh Mahajan was accompanied by RTO Kashmir, Qazi Irfan and ARTO Flying Squad, Muazzam Ali. Later, the Commissioner visited the Deputy Commissioner's Office in Kupwara to discuss key transport related issues raised by the public. One of the major concerns was land allocation for the ARTO Office and a dedicated driving test trial ground which had been promptly addressed by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan. The land has been identified and will be transferred to the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) on priority basis. Speaking to the media, the Transport Commissioner stated that the objective of his visit was to ensure timely grievance redressal and review the operations of the ARTO Office.

DC Kulgam oversees arrangements for Mela Kheer Bhawani at Manzgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, MAY 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today visited Mata Kheer Bhawani Ashthapan Manzgam to oversee the arrangements being put in place for celebration of Kheer Bhawani Mela. On the occasion, DC was briefed by the officers from KPDCL, Jal Shakti, Health and other line departments about the arrangements put in place for smooth conduct of the celebrations. DC instructed the concerned officers to synergize efforts to ensure smooth celebration of Mela Kheer Bhawani and extend all requisite facilities to the devotees. He directed all the officers to ensure appropriate arrangements are put in place for the smooth conduct



of mela. He also instructed ACD to install solar lights, and KPDCL authorities were instructed to ensure proper power back up. DC instructed all departments to ensure elaborated arrangements for the smooth conduct of the religious festi-

tival with a focus on prioritizing devotee comfort. Among others, DC was accompanied by ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri; Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants for Jammu and Kashmir), Dr Arvid Karwani; Tehsildar, Dy-SP, BMO and other officers.

DC Shopian reviews Eid-ul-Adha arrangements

HT News Network



SHOPIAN, MAY 27: In view of the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha festival, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today convened a meeting of officers and stakeholders at Mini-Secretariat here to take stock of the arrangements put in place for celebration of Eid festival across the district. DC said that a special mechanism will be formulated for smooth celebration of the forthcoming festival of Eid, and exhorted upon the concerned officers to work in close coordination for ensuring hassle free Eid in the district. Availability of essential commodities, livestock & poultry birds, magisterial & security arrangements, sanitation services, adequate power and water availability, medical facilities at religious places and other required services were discussed, and officers were instructed to ensure the proper and optimal arrangements. The district administration constituted market checking teams to conduct joint market inspection to check profiteering, black marketing of essential commodities and ensure good market practices. The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR, SDM, ACP, ASP, concerned district officers, Tehsildars and other concerned.

DIC Shopian hosts RAMP awareness programme at Kapran

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 27: With the aim of fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region, District Industries Centre (DIC) Shopian today organized a Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) awareness programme at the Government Higher Secondary School, Kapran. The session witnessed active participation of around 70 aspiring and existing entrepreneurs representing various sectors including handicrafts, handloom, trade, NRLM self-help groups and EDI-trained individuals. The event served as a platform to educate participants on the vital role of Udyam Registration in accessing government incentives, financial support and formal recognition for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). A team of senior officials from DIC Shopian addressed the gathering. Through insightful presentations and interactive discussions, they enlightened the audience about the UDYAM registration process, benefits of formalization and key opportunities available under various government schemes.

'Sumbali Mawas festival' celebrated after 35 years at Nand Kishore Temple in Sumbal

DC Bandipora participates in the festival, ensures its smooth conduct

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, MAY 26: After a gap of 35 years, the traditional Hindu festival 'Sumbali Mawas' was today celebrated with religious fervor at the Nand Kishore Temple in Sumbal. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri visited the temple, participated in the celebrations, and ensured the smooth conduct of the festival. DC also interacted with members of the local Pandit community, who expressed immense joy at the revival of this significant religious tradition. Community members highlighted the spiritual importance of 'Sumbali Mawas', noting that its observance after more than three decades symbolized the revival of heritage besides strengthened cultural unity in the region. The celebrations included special prayers and



rituals dedicated to Nand Kishore Maharaj, marking a spiritually uplifting moment for the devotees. While interacting with the devotees, DC stated that the administration is committed to promoting communal harmony and ensuring that such festivals are celebrated with dignity and full support. DC also interacted with members of the local Pandit community, who expressed immense joy at the revival of this significant religious.

DC Kupwara reviews progress on implementation of e-Office 2.0

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MAY 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a comprehensive meeting to review the progress on implementation of e-Office 2.0 in the district. DC emphasized the importance of adopting e-Office in letter and spirit across the district to ensure transparency, efficiency and timely disposal of official correspondence and files. She directed the concerned officers to expedite the operationalisation of e-Office at Block and Tehsil levels without further delay. All the departments were directed to submit the details of the staff to NIC for onboarding of the officials for e-office 2.0. District Informatics Officer was directed to assess and address any infrastructure gaps urgently and was also directed for redressal of technical issues faced during the operationalisation process by the departments. Ayushi enjoined the officers to make collaborative efforts to ensure implementation of e-office across all blocks and tehsils within the stipulated time frame. She warned the departments about strict action in case of deliberate delaying in the implementation process. All the district officers and other concerned were present on the occasion.



ADC Handwara conducts surprise inspection of NTPHC, schools in Rajwar zone

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MAY 27: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi today conducted a surprise inspection of New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) Wadder Payeen and various Schools of Rajwar Education Zone of Sub Division Handwara. ADC visited New Type Primary Health Centre to inspect health care facilities to patients, and inspected the functioning of Government Boys High School Wadder Payeen, Government Secondary School Wadder Payeen and Middle School Chontwari. The visit to schools aimed to assess the quality of education, punctuality of staff and students, hygiene and other impor-



tant requirements for the safe, smooth and hassle free functioning of the schools. Masoodi inspected the classrooms and other facilities available in the schools and also checked the attendance record of both students and teachers. Attendance sheets were thoroughly checked to scrutinize the accuracy of records in a bid to promote regular attendance among students and punctuality among teachers. He also interacted with the school staff, teachers and students. He encouraged the teachers to focus on their teaching methodologies and gave valuable suggestions to improve the learning environment. The ADC also motivated the students to actively participate in learning activities and maintain discipline within the school premises.

Skill Development Directorate J&K to coordinate ICT Academy-led training programs; Signs MoU

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 27: In a significant move to strengthen Skill Development and faculty training initiatives in Jammu & Kashmir, the Directorate of Skill Development, J&K has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu, a not-for-profit public-private partnership initiative supported by the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu. Under the terms of the agreement, the Directorate of Skill Development, J&K has been designated as the Nodal Agency for implementing ICT Academy-led training programs across affiliated institutions. The MoU outlines a collaborative framework to offer industry-aligned training and capacity-building programs for faculty in the domains of Information Technology, Electronics & Communication, and Management, targeting polytechnic and technical institutions in J&K. Key Objectives of the MoU includes Establishing the Directorate of Skill Development, J&K as the nodal agency for coordinating ICT Academy's Skill Development programs in the region, Conducting 2 to 6 high-impact training programs annually for faculty members to align teaching with evolving industry standards, providing access to ICTACT Research Journals and facilitating participation in national and international conferences, Enabling infrastructure, logistics and academic support for successful program execution. The agreement is valid for a period of five years and will focus on creating a sustainable ecosystem for skill enhancement and faculty empowerment, with scope for future expansion into research and curriculum development.

JKRERA launches crack down on illegal developers in Kathua, Udhampur

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 27: The Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Authority (JKRERA) conducted a series of inspections of illegal colonies in Kathua and Udhampur districts. The inspections were conducted in the presence of Tehsildar Kathua and Naib Tehsildars Udhampur respectively. During the inspection, several colonies in Kathua and Udhampur were inspected including Rakh Badali, Ballian and Kallar in Udhampur and Taraf Tajwal, Taraf Manjli, Chak Diwan Kirpa Ram and Rakh Sarkar Plahi. Tehsildar Kathua was asked to provide detailed revenue records of the inspected colonies. Also, notices were issued to the defaulters, directing them to register with JKRERA. The revenue staff of both Udhampur and Kathua districts has been instructed to ensure that developers register their real estate projects with JKRERA before advertising, marketing, booking, selling, offering for sale, or inviting persons to purchase any plot, apartment, or building, in any planning area. This registration is mandatory under Section 3 of the JKRERA Act and must be completed prior to any such activities.

Speaking on this, Chairperson JKRERA Satish Chandra said "Our aim is to promote transparency and accountability in the real estate sector, protect consumer rights and ensure planned development in accordance with the Unified Building Bye-laws (UBBLs)." He emphasized that these kinds of inspections will help curb the growth of illegal colonies lacking basic facilities. Deputy Secretary, JKRERA Esha Chib, Naib Tehsildar JKRERA Gias-ud-Din among others conducted the inspection.

Doda: On Ground impact of MGNREGA reviewed

HT News Network

DODA, MAY 27: A comprehensive review meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of Assistant Commissioner Development Doda, Manoj Kumar at his office chamber to discuss the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The meeting was attended by Block Development Officers (BDOs) of various blocks across the district. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the status and resolution of court cases pertaining to MGNREGA works. The ACD instructed the BDOs to prepare updated factual reports in all pending court cases and ensure timely representation in legal proceedings to safeguard departmental interests. He stressed the importance of proactive communication with legal authorities and district-level legal cells for the effective handling of litigation. The ACD also reviewed the grievances registered under MGNREGA and directed the BDOs to address public complaints within specified timelines. Emphasis was laid on prompt redressal, transparency in work execution, and ensuring timely payments to job card holders. He also instructed for a proper grievance redressal mechanism to be maintained at the block level with regular follow-ups. Furthermore, the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under MGNREGA—such as timely completion of works, percentage of labour budget utilization, geotagging of assets, Aadhaar-based payment systems, and job card verification—were thoroughly reviewed. The ACD directed all BDOs to focus on enhancing the quality of assets, increasing labour participation.

Dr. Abhijeet lauds India's rise to 4th largest economy, says it reflects Modi Govt's vision

HT News Network

JAMMU, 27 May 2025: In a moment of national pride, J&K BJP Spokesperson Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia, along with Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra and senior leader CA Rajeev Gupta, addressed a press conference at the party office in Trikuta Nagar to congratulate the people on the country's historic rise to become the 4th largest economy in the world, surpassing Japan with a GDP of \$4.19 trillion. "When Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over in 2014, the economic condition of the country was deteriorating. Inflation had reached alarming levels, peaking at 12.3% in 2010. The decade under UPA I and II was marred by rampant corruption, scams, and economic mismanagement. It was rightly termed the 'scam decade,'" he said. "The people were weary of corruption scandals and Modi ji's emergence as a decisive leader with a strong image led to



the BJP's historic victory in 2014," he added. "Many mocked the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme and Jan Dhan Yojana, which has now ensured that the Funds meant for poor, go directly into their accounts without leakage. This is the major achieve-

ments, when compared to what former PM Rajiv Gandhi once admitted that only 15 paise of every rupee reached the poor" He highlighted that over 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty despite numerous global and domestic challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, two

major wars, and an ongoing global economic slowdown. "Modi ji's mantra of 'Aapda Mein Avsar' (Opportunity in Crisis) has turned adversities into stepping stones for growth. Today, overtaking Japan to become the fourth-largest economy is proof that the nation is on the right path," he remarked. CA Rajeev Gupta, presenting a detailed economic overview, stated that India's per capita income has increased sixfold in the last 11 years. "India's GDP growth rate is over 6.5%, the fastest among major economies. Inflation has been brought down to 3.16% as of April 2025, the lowest in recent years. Every sector of the economy, from agriculture to manufacturing and services is registering sustained growth. The average annual income has risen to approximately 1.8 lakh." He also shared updated figures showing India's entry into the top 4 global economies, surpassing Japan and now trailing only the United States, China, and Germany.

Shri Machail Mata Yatra; DC orders robust upkeep of civic amenities put in place for devotees

Reviews arrangements for Shri Mindhal Mata Yatra

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 27: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan today asked stakeholder departments to keep a close tab on availability of civic amenities during Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2025. He asked SDM Paddar to closely monitor functioning of all essential facilities such as drinking water, washrooms, electricity, and other amenities here after taking feedback from a delegation comprising members of Shri Maa Chandi Sewak Sanstha and representatives from the Langar Association, who met him at his office chamber this afternoon.



The members apprised the DC about various issues observed by them during their recent visit to Machail village. The delegation underlined the need for repair and renovation of water facilities and washrooms, provision of separate washrooms for Langars, and proper maintenance of washrooms

at Marail Snaan Ghat, among others. Taking note of the concerns, the DC directed the Executive Engineer, PHE, to establish a 24x7 control room at the district and Gulabgarh Tehsil level to address water supply-related issues. He further instructed to assign individual responsibilities to field employees

to ensure regular monitoring and a smooth Yatra experience. He urged the members of the Sanstha to double-monitor these facilities for effective management.

It is pertinent to mention that the District Administration has, this year, made provisions for more washrooms and Langar sheds at various locations.

Additionally, the DC reviewed the progress of Smart Washrooms- 10 being developed at Machail Bhawan and 12 others enroute from Gulabgarh to Machail.

The DC assured full support from the district administration to the delegation of Shri Machail Mata Sewak Sanstha.

DC Reasi reviews preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025

HT News Network



REASI, MAY 27: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Niidhi Malik chaired a high-level meeting today to review the preparedness for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025. The meeting focused on ensuring seamless coordination among all departments and agencies involved in facilitating the smooth and safe conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted a department-wise review of the proposed works and their current status, particularly focusing on critical departments like PWD, JPDC, Health and Municipality. She instructed all officials to expedite the tendering processes to ensure that infrastructure and services are fully operational ahead of the Yatra's commencement.

She emphasized the importance of meticulous planning and timely execution of all logistics, urging departments to align with established protocols while incorporating improvements based on current needs.

Highlighting the importance of a positive and safe experience for the devotees, the DC stressed the need for well-maintained sanitation facilities, adequate public conveniences, safe and hygienic accommodations, and robust crowd and fire safety management systems. The Health Department was directed to deploy adequate medical staff and arrange for additional personnel as necessary, ensuring uninterrupted healthcare services for the pilgrims. She further added that the conditions of the lodgement centers and washrooms should also be properly repaired.

Concluding the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner urged all departments to work in close coordination and maintain constant communication to resolve issues in real time. She called on all stakeholders to uphold the highest standards of service and hospitality for the visiting pilgrims and ensure that all preparations are finalized well before the Yatra begins.

The meeting witnessed the participation of ADC Rakesh Kumar, CPO Narinder Kumar, SDM Katra Piyush Dhotra, CMO, Executive Engineers, DIO, EOMC and other officials.

Poonch admin initiates process for relief disbursement under SRE scheme

HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 27: The District Administration Poonch has initiated the process to disburse relief under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme to border shelling affected population.

To examine the relief cases, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting here today wherein the verification reports and assessment documents were thoroughly scrutinized to maintain transparency and fairness in the relief process.

The meeting was attended by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Tehsildars,



Chief Animal Husbandry Officer and the District Sheep Husbandry Officer. The Additional Deputy Commissioner briefed the chair that a significant number of cases have been received, examined and subsequently placed before the Committee for consideration. Additionally, several cases were presented by the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer and the District Sheep

Husbandry Officer.

After careful examination, genuine and deserving cases were approved under the respective categories of fully damaged, severely damaged, and partially damaged. The administration reiterated its commitment to ensuring that all affected families receive appropriate assistance based on actual ground level assessments.

NCORD meeting: DC Samba stresses on inter-departmental synergy to strengthen drug control measures

HT News Network

SAMBA, MAY 27: In a continued effort to combat the rising threat of drug abuse, the Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma today chaired the monthly meeting of District Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) meeting here in the DC Complex Nandini Hills. The session underscored the district administration's firm commitment to a unified, multi-departmental strategy aimed at eradicating the drug menace. The high-level meeting brought together senior officials from key departments to assess ongoing anti-narcotics initiatives and formulate a more aggressive and collaborative action plan for prevention, surveillance, and community engagement. Deputy Commissioner Sharma highlighted the crucial role of inter-departmental synergy, stating that only a coordinated approach can effectively dismantle the supply chains and support systems fueling narcotic distribution and abuse.



Among the key directives issued were enhanced medical oversight—mandating strict regulation of syringe and controlled substance sales by the medical and drug control departments—and intensified surveillance, with the police department presenting detailed reports on recent crack-

downs and outlining plans for future operations. Additionally, the meeting called for expanded community outreach through awareness campaigns, sports events, and creative programs targeting vulnerable groups, particularly students and laborers. The DC reiterated the importance

of proactive, preventive measures and urged all departments to amplify youth engagement efforts and provide positive alternatives to at-risk populations. He directed that all decisions taken during the meeting be implemented in letter and spirit, with seamless coordination across departments to achieve the collective goal of making Samba a drug-free district.

The meeting saw active participation from ADC Samba, ACR Samba, SDMs of Vijaypur and Ghagwal, and officers from the Health, Education, Labour and Information departments. Representatives from the police and higher education institutions also contributed valuable insights to the strategic deliberations.

Midlife stress may raise Alzheimer's risk in postmenopausal women: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

High midlife stress may increase the chances of Alzheimer's disease in women after their menopause, according to a study.

Scientists at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, in the US, discovered that high levels of the stress hormone cortisol in midlife can increase amyloid deposition -- a hallmark of Alzheimer's -- in postmenopausal women later.

"The results highlight the importance of identifying early risk factors when biomarkers are detectable but cognitive impairment is absent," said Arash Salardini, Associate Professor at the varsity.

In the study, published in the journal *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, the team analysed data from 305 cognitively unimpaired



participants in Massachusetts, US.

By comparing midlife cortisol levels at the beginning of a 15-year period with disease indicators at the end, the researchers were able to determine that those levels could serve as an Alzheimer's disease biomarker.

No significant associations were observed in males or with tau burden,

referring to the tau protein that contributes to neuronal dysfunction and death.

"Our work shows that considering sex and hormonal status in understanding Alzheimer's disease pathogenesis is important and suggests that stress reduction and hormonal interventions may hold promise for Alzheimer's prevention, especially in at-risk

women," said Sudha Sesadri, from UT Health San Antonio.

Cortisol is a steroid hormone essential for cellular homeostasis, or balance, and the stress response.

In the study, the team hypothesised that cortisol's impact on Alzheimer's pathology would be more pronounced in women, especially after menopause, consistent with some previous findings.

Their results showed that postmenopausal women with high midlife cortisol are at increased risk of Alzheimer's disease. Postmenopausal hormone changes may also amplify cortisol's effects on amyloid, said the researchers.

Salardini called for further studies to determine whether these early amyloid changes translate into clinical symptoms and to clarify the causal role of cortisol in Alzheimer's disease development.

Study links bacterium lurking in gums with heart rhythm disorder

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

People suffering from gum disease may be at an increased risk of developing heart rhythm disorder also known as atrial fibrillation, according to a study.

Researchers from Hiroshima University in Japan found that gum disease-causing bacterium *Porphyromonas gingivalis* (*P. gingivalis*) can slip into the bloodstream and infiltrate the heart.

Once in the heart, it quietly drives scar tissue buildup -- distorting the heart's architecture, disrupting electrical signals, and raising the risk of atrial fibrillation (AFib) -- a potentially serious heart rhythm disorder that can lead to stroke, heart failure, and other life-threatening complications.

Globally, AFib cases nearly doubled in under a decade, rising from 33.5 million in 2010 to roughly



60 million by 2019. Growing evidence suggests that gum disease might be contributing to the surge.

The study, published in the journal *Circulation*, provides the first clear evidence that *P. gingivalis* in the gums can work its way into the left atrium in both animal models and humans, pointing to a potential microbial pathway linking periodontitis to AFib.

"The causal relationship between periodontitis and

atrial fibrillation is still unknown, but the spread of periodontal bacteria through the bloodstream may connect these conditions," said Shunsuke Miyachi, Assistant Professor at the varsity's Graduate School of Biomedical and Health Sciences.

For the study, the team created a mouse model using the bacterium's aggressive W83 strain. They divided 13-week-old male mice into two groups: one had the

strain introduced into the tooth pulp, and the other remained uninfected.

Each was further split into subgroups and observed for either 12 or 18 weeks to track the cardiovascular risks of prolonged exposure.

The results revealed no difference in AFib risk between infected and uninfected mice at 12 weeks.

But by week 18, tests showed that mice exposed to the bacterium were six times more likely to develop abnormal heart rhythms, with a 30 per cent AFib inducibility rate compared to just 5 per cent in the control group.

Further, the team also spotted *P. gingivalis* in the heart's left atrium, where infected tissue had turned stiff and fibrous.

In contrast, the uninfected mice had healthy teeth and no trace of the bacterium in heart tissue samples.

The Hidden Cost of Stress: Signs, Solutions, and When to Seek Help

The fear of artificial intelligence (AI) taking over white-collar jobs, managing monthly expenses, or paying your child's school fees gives many individuals sleepless nights. There are countless reasons one might feel stressed -- whether work-related or personal, involving concerns over health, finances, major life changes, or even a general lack of control. Buy vitamins and supplements



drained or struggle to get through the day despite getting enough sleep, stress might be silently exhausting your mind and body.

2. Mood Swings or Irritability

Feeling easily frustrated, overwhelmed, anxious, or unusually emotional? Stress can disrupt emotional balance and make minor problems feel monumental.

3. Trouble Sleeping

Racing thoughts, difficulty falling asleep, or frequent nighttime awakenings are common indicators that your mind is overworked.

4. Frequent Aches and Illnesses

Stress often manifests physically -- through headaches, stomach issues, muscle tension, or a weakened immune system that makes you fall sick more often.

5. Difficulty Concentrating or Forgetfulness

Struggling to focus, complete tasks, or remember simple things? Your brain may be signaling mental overload.

How to Manage Stress

Breathe Deep: Try

mindful breathing or meditation to calm your nervous system.

Get Moving: Physical activity, even a short walk, releases feel-good endorphins.

Sleep Well: Aim for 7-9 hours of quality sleep. Avoid screens before bed.

Eat Smart: A balanced diet supports mood and energy. Limit caffeine and sugar.

Talk It Out: Share your feelings with a trusted friend, family member, or therapist.

Unplug Regularly: Take breaks from screens and news to give your mind a reset.

Foods That Help Regulate Stress

Avocados: Rich in healthy fats, B vitamins, and potassium -- all support brain health and blood pressure regulation.

Fatty Fish (Salmon, Mackerel, Sardines): Packed with omega-3s that reduce inflammation and anxiety.

Mindfulness can tackle anxiety, say researchers

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Mindfulness can combat anxiety by improving a mental process called cognitive control, according to a new research.

Paying close attention to the present moment without judgment -- the basic idea behind all mindfulness techniques -- can help calm anxiety and improve focus, said Resh Gupta, a postdoctoral research associate with the Mindfulness Science and Practice research cluster at Washington University in St. Louis in the US.

"A lot of research has shown that mindfulness can reduce anxiety symptoms," she added.

"We all experience anxiety, but it can manifest in many different ways. It's a tough problem to pin down," she added in a paper published in *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*.

Gupta and co-authors laid out a new approach to understanding the relationship between mindful-



ness and anxiety. Instead of taking a one-size-fits-all approach, they propose that different kinds of mindfulness practices might be helpful for different varieties of anxiety. The proposed framework should ultimately help us understand how to match anxiety sufferers with more precise treatments.

Todd Braver, a professor of psychological and brain sciences and a co-author of the paper said there is a growing recognition that these practices can be incredibly useful in enhancing psychological

well-being.

"But we still do not fully understand the mechanisms of action by which mindfulness can produce beneficial effects. That's where the scientific research can be so valuable, by helping us more precisely identify why and how certain practices are effective," Braver noted.

People who are hyper-vigilant and experiencing a lot of physical symptoms of anxiety -- rapid heart-beat, sweaty palms, tightness in the chest -- may do better with a different approach.

"For this type of anxiety, a form of mindfulness meditation called open monitoring may be beneficial," Gupta said. "Instead of focusing on one thing, such as the breath, you can observe all internal and external experiences from moment to moment in a non-reactive, non-judgmental way."

Braver is enthusiastic that recent research from the cluster and other institutions will help people gain a greater appreciation of the wide variety of practices that fall under the mindfulness umbrella.

Climate change increases severity of obstructive sleep apnea: Study

AGENCIES
SAN FRANCISCO

A new large study on Sunday claimed that rising temperatures increase the severity of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA).

Published at the 'ATS 2025 International Conference,' the study also found that, under the most likely climate change scenarios, the societal burden of OSA is expected to double in most countries over the next 75 years.

In addition to highlighting the critical importance of limiting global warming, the findings also emphasise the immediate need for strategies to alleviate the health and economic impacts of OSA as it becomes more common and severe, researchers said.

"This study really highlights the societal burden associated with the increase in OSA prevalence due to rising temperatures," said Bastien



Lechat, a senior research fellow at FHMRI: Sleep Health at Flinders University.

Previous cross-sectional studies identified a link between ambient temperature and OSA severity. However, this is the first to explain and describe that connection in detail.

For the study, researchers analysed a consumer database of more than 116,000 worldwide users of an under-mattress sensor validated to estimate OSA severity.

The dataset included

around 500 repeat measurements per user. Researchers then analysed this data against 24-hour ambient temperatures extracted from climate models.

Overall, higher temperatures were associated with a 45 per cent increased likelihood of a sleeper experiencing OSA on a given night.

However, these findings varied by region, with people in European countries seeing higher rates of OSA when temperatures rise than those in Australia

and the United States.

"We were surprised by the magnitude of the association between ambient temperature and OSA severity," Dr Lechat noted.

Researchers then sought to estimate how burdensome the increase in OSA prevalence due to rising temperature is to society in terms of well-being and economic loss.

They conducted modelling including disability-adjusted-life-years, productivity losses, and health economics to estimate the OSA burden under several climate scenarios.

They found that any scenario that involved temperatures rising 2 degrees Celsius or higher would result in a 1.5-fold to 3-fold increase to the OSA burden by the year 2100. They estimated that climate change has already increased the OSA burden by 50 per cent to 100 per cent since the year 2000.

Wearable sensor can monitor obstructive sleep apnea treatment response: Study

AGENCIES
SAN FRANCISCO

A wearable pulse oximeter and connected software platform show promise for monitoring obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) and other sleep-related breathing diseases, according to new research released on Sunday.

The device (pulse oximeter), which is cleared for medical use, was designed for comfort and ease of use; a clinical trial found high rates of utilisation by patients. It could be used to track patient response to OSA treatment over time.

"Investigators in our clinical research trials report how useful longitudinal data are to observe night-to-night variability and the response to treatment of OSA," said Ketan Mehta, head of product and engineering for Connected Wearables at Apnimed.

"One sleep specialist



even reported that it may be better to collect one or two channels of data over 25 nights than 25 channels over one night, which is considered the gold standard with in-lab polysomnography," Mehta added.

Wearable sensors like the Oura ring and Apple Watch that measure biometrics during sleep are widely used by consumers, but are not cleared for medical use.

At the same time, other medical devices used in

sleep studies gather clinically relevant data, but are too cumbersome and costly to use for frequent monitoring.

This tool could potentially expand patient access to care through pulmonologists to manage routine sleep apnea in their patients, instead of having to refer them out to a sleep specialist, he added. The device provides a bridge between these two extremes, he said.

Worn as a ring, the device offers several key differences from other consumer wearables. Notably, it uses transmittance-based photoplethysmography, which has been shown to be more suitable for the proximal phalanx region, provide better signal-to-noise ratio, and is more effective in low perfusion situations.

It also engages in continuous data collection, rather than spot checks, he added.

The device connects to an app that users can access from their smartphone, giving patients access to a subset of the same data as their health care providers.

"These data empower both parties to be informed, and they're able to have more meaningful conversations. This offers the opportunity for shared decision making between patient and provider using digital medicine," Mehta said.

India will weed out terrorism with conviction: PM Modi

UNI
GANDHINAGAR, MAY 27

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that India has made up its mind to weed out the thorn of terrorism and pursue it with full conviction.

Recalling the first terrorist attack on India in 1947, right after the Partition of India into 3 parts, Modi said one part was usurped by Pakistan harboring the terrorists, an official statement said.

He recalled Sardar Patel's vision, emphasising that the Indian Army should not have halted until Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) was reclaimed. However Patel's advice was not heeded.

Modi stressed that this legacy of terrorism has continued for the last 75 years and the terror attacks in Pahalgam was another horrific form of it. He asserted that despite playing diplomatic games, Pakistan repeatedly faced India's military strength in war.

He noted that on three occasions, India's armed forces decisively defeated Pakistan, making it clear that Pakistan could not win a direct military conflict. Acknowledging Pakistan's realisation of its limitations, he stated that the neighboring country resorted to proxy warfare. The Prime Minister



said that trained terrorists were infiltrated into India through systematic military training, aiming to target innocent and unarmed civilians, including those undertaking peaceful pilgrimages.

Highlighting India's deep-rooted cultural values, emphasizing the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which regards the entire world as one family, the Prime Minister stated that India has upheld this tradition for centuries and continues to seek peaceful and harmonious relations with its neighbors.

He remarked that while India has always advocated for peace and stability, the repeated challenges to its strength have necessitated firm responses. Historically, what was termed proxy war has now evolved, especially after the events of May 6.

He asserted that given recent developments, referring to such acts as proxy war would be a

mistake. He emphasised that nine identified terrorist bases were eliminated within 22 minutes, with full transparency ensured through camera documentation, so that no evidence could be questioned domestically.

The Prime Minister categorically stated that the recent incidents prove that this is no longer mere proxy warfare, but a deliberate and calculated military strategy of Pakistan.

He highlighted that following the May 6-7 actions, terrorist funerals were conducted in Pakistan with full honours, their coffins draped in national flags, and even saluted by the Pakistani military. These were clear indicators that these were not isolated terrorist activities but part of a structured war approach. He added that if such strategies are employed, an equally decisive response will be given.

The Prime Minister emphasised that India

has always pursued progress and the welfare of all, offering assistance in times of crisis. However, he remarked that despite these efforts, the nation has often faced violent retaliation.

Addressing the younger generation, he urged them to recognise how the country has been undermined over the decades. Talking about the Indus Water treaty which was put on abeyance, the Prime Minister highlighted issues related to water resources in Jammu and Kashmir, pointing out that although dams were constructed on rivers, proper maintenance and desilting were neglected for sixty years.

He remarked that gates meant for water regulation were left unopened, leading to a drastic reduction in storage capacity—from full utilisation to merely two to three percent. He asserted that Indians must receive their rightful access to water and stated that while significant steps have yet to be taken, initial measures have begun.

Emphasising that India seeks no hostility and aspires for peace and prosperity, Modi highlighted the nation's commitment to progress and contributing to global well-being. He stated that with firm determination, India remains dedicated to the welfare of its citizens.

Rajnath approves AMCA programme through industry partnership

UNI
NEW DELHI, MAY 27

In a significant push towards enhancing India's indigenous defence capabilities and fostering a robust domestic aerospace industrial ecosystem, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme execution model.

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is set



to execute the programme through industry partnership, a Defence Ministry statement said here on Tuesday.

The execution model

approach provides equal opportunities to both private and public sectors on competitive basis. They can bid either independently or as joint venture or as consortia.

The entity or bidder should be an Indian company compliant with domestic laws and regulations.

This is an important step towards harnessing the indigenous expertise, capability and capacity to develop the AMCA prototype, which will be a major milestone towards Aatmanirbharta in the aerospace sector.

The ADA will shortly issue an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the AMCA development phase.

Modi govt's foreign policy a failure: Congress

UNI
NEW DELHI, MAY 27

Dubbing the Narendra Modi government's foreign policy a "complete failure", the Congress on Tuesday said not a single country stood by India during hostilities with Pakistan, leaving the nation "completely isolated".

The party also reiterated its question to the government -- where did the terrorists who killed 26 innocent tourists in Pahalgam disappear?

Addressing a press conference here, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said, "BJP leaders continue to display a narrow mindset and are still indulging in petty politics".

Alleging that everything -- including foreign and defence policy -- has been outsourced to trolls, he



said, "This government is run by trolls, operated by trolls, inspired by trolls-- and the results are for all to see."

Due to the "failure of India's foreign policy", the country now finds itself isolated, with no nation extending support, he claimed.

The Congress spokesperson accused certain BJP MPs of indulging in petty politics even while abroad, despite being part of delegations meant to

present India's viewpoint alongside Opposition MPs. Khera said that not only in the case of Pahalgam, but also in previous attacks, the government has failed to explain what happened to the terrorists involved.

"Instead, the Prime Minister resorts to using movie dialogues -- conduct unbecoming of the high office he holds," Khera said.

Referring to the growing proximity between Paki-

stan and China, Khera said the Government of India has remained silent on the matter, even though such developments do not bode well for the nation.

He said after US President Donald Trump hyphenated India and Pakistan, Middle East countries like Kuwait and the UAE followed suit. Kuwait has lifted its visa ban on Pakistanis and is signing a labour treaty with it -- developments that could adversely affect Indian workers, who currently make up 21 percent of Kuwait's labour force.

He also claimed that the UAE has extended a five-year visa facility to Pakistan. No country has supported India in labeling Pakistan as a terrorist state, and asked whether this does not reflect a weakness of the nation's foreign policy.

75 poorest nations facing China's debt gauntlet, have to pay 25 bn Dollars in 2025

UNI
NEW DELHI, MAY 27

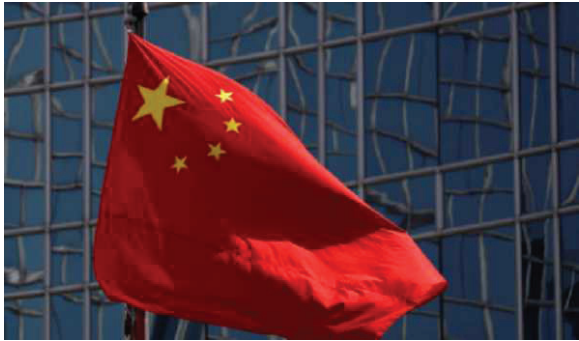
Pakistan is among the 75 poorest countries in China's debt trap under President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and have to repay a record 22 billion Dollars in 2025, a study has said.

"The most vulnerable nations on earth are facing a tidal wave of debt repayments as a Chinese lending boom starts to be called in," report has warned.

Vulnerable countries to pay record 22 bn Dollars this year, mostly relating to loans issued under Xi Jinping's belt and road initiative.

The study, published on Tuesday by Australian foreign policy think tank the Lowy Institute and reported by The Guardian said that in 2025 the poorest 75 countries were on the hook for record high debt repayments 22 bn US Dollars to China. The 75 nations' debt formed the bulk of the total 35 bn Dollars calculated by Lowy for 2025.

"China spent 240 bn Dollars on belt and road bailouts from 2008 to 2021, study finds...Now, and for the rest of this



decade, China will be more debt collector than banker to the developing world," the report said.

The pressure to repay was putting strain on local funding for health and education as well as climate change mitigation.

However, "China's lending has collapsed exactly when it is needed most, instead creating large net financial outflows when countries are already under intense economic pressure," it said.

The loans were largely issued under President Xi Jinping's signature BRI.

The lending spree turned China into the largest supplier of bilateral loans, peaking with a total of more than 50bn Dollars in 2016 -- more than all western creditors combined.

The BRI focused primarily in developing nations,

where governments struggled to access private or other state-backed investment. But the practice has raised concerns about Chinese influence and control and drawn accusations that Beijing was seeking to entrap recipient nations with unserviceable debt. Last month another analysis by the Lowy Institute found that Laos was now trapped in a severe debt crisis, in part because of over-investment in the domestic energy sector, mostly financed by China.

China's government denies accusations it deliberately creates debt traps, and recipient nations have also pushed back, saying China was a more reliable partner and offered crucial loans when others refused.

But the Lowy report said the record high debt now due to China could be

used for "political leverage", noting that it comes amid huge cuts to foreign aid by the Trump administration.

The report also highlighted new large-scale loans given to Honduras, Nicaragua, Solomon Islands, Burkina Faso and the Dominican Republic, all within 18 months of those countries switching diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to Beijing.

China also continues to finance some strategic partners, including Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Laos and Mongolia, as well as countries that produce critical minerals and metals, such as Argentina, Brazil and Indonesia.

But the situation also put China in a bind, pulled between diplomatic pressure to restructure unsustainable debt in vulnerable nations and domestic pressure to recall loans amid China's own economic downturn.

China publishes little data on its BRI scheme, and the Lowy Institute said its estimates -- based on World Bank data -- likely underestimated the full scale of China's lending. In 2021 Aid Data estimated China was owed a "hidden debt" of about 385 bn Dollars.

UBT leader Raut slams Amit Shah over Balasaheb Thackeray remark

UNI
MUMBAI, MAY 27

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP, Sanjay Raut, on Tuesday strongly criticised Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his recent remarks invoking the party founder late Balasaheb Thackeray.

Responding to Shah's statement that "if Balasaheb Thackeray were here today, he would have hugged Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Operation Sindoor," he accused the ruling BJP of insulting the legacy of the Shiv Sena founder and the sentiments of Maharashtra.

Addressing media here, Raut said, "If Balasaheb Thackeray were alive today,



he would have regretted supporting this government. You are insulting Balasaheb Thackeray, and Maharashtra will not forget this insult."

He questioned the government's handling of national security, referencing the recent Pahalgam attack.

"Twenty-six mothers and sisters lost their 'sindoor' (vermillion) in Pahalgam. Who is responsible for this? The Union Home Ministry has failed in its duty. Amit

Shah should resign, and the responsibility for this failure rests with Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he asserted.

He also criticised the political climate in the state, saying, "Mumbai was submerged yesterday, and yet these leaders are busy playing politics. The grief in the homes of those who lost loved ones has not ended, but the government continues to focus on political gains."

Raut went on to accuse the

BJP of breaking the original Shiv Sena for selfish interests.

"You broke Balasaheb Thackeray's Shiv Sena for your own benefit. Would Balasaheb Thackeray have embraced you for that? You are disrespecting his memory," he shot back at Shah.

He also alluded to international developments, claiming, "After US President Donald Trump's warning, the government withdrew from conflict with Pakistan and is now politicising Operation Sindoor. If you have any morals left, resign and do not come to Maharashtra."

Raut concluded by reiterating that Maharashtra would not forgive the perceived insult to Balasaheb Thackeray's legacy.

SC to hear pleas in July on non-payment of MBBS Intern stipends and NEET-PG 2025 two-shift policy

UNI
NEW DELHI, MAY 27

The Supreme Court of India has scheduled the hearing for July on a plea highlighting the non-payment of stipends to MBBS interns across several medical colleges.

The matter was mentioned on Monday before a bench comprising Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice AG Masih by counsel representing the aggrieved students.

The counsel informed the Court that despite a prior listing before Justice

Sudhanshu Dhulia on May 19, the matter did not come up for hearing. "Students are getting zero stipend," the advocate submitted, urging the bench to take up the matter on priority.

In response, CJI Gavai confirmed that the matter would be listed during

the working period of the summer vacation when Justice Dhulia's bench is sitting in July.

CJI Gavai asked, "When is he (Justice Dhulia) supposed to sit in vacation?"

Counsel replied, "July."

CJI Gavai said, "Then we will list it before him."

UNI
PATNA, MAY 27

The Congress on Tuesday said that women of Bihar would be given a monthly assistance of Rs 2,500 if the party is voted to power in the next assembly elections due later this year.

Party's national spokesperson and in-charge of social media Supriya Shrinete said, adding the Dikshit government had started the scheme to deposit Rs 36,000 in bank accounts of mothers on the birth of a girl child in 2008. Girls were also being paid Rs 25,000 for their studies



to roll out a financial assistance scheme for women",

till class 12, she recalled.

"The Congress government in Karnataka offers a monthly assistance of Rs 2,000 to women. Nearly 1.35 crore women are getting the scheme's benefits," Shrinete said. "Similarly, the party government in Himachal Pradesh

gives Rs 1,500 per month to women. In Jharkhand, where Congress was a part of the coalition government, Rs 2,500 were being given to women per month," she pointed out.

She hit out at the NDA government headed by JD-U's Nitish Kumar, saying poverty was rampant in the state. The Congress leader said the socio-economic caste census had revealed that 94 lakh families had a monthly income of less than Rs 6,000. It meant that five crore people were surviving on a paltry sum of Rs 40 per day," she said.

Sindhu, Prannoy advance in Singapore Open

UNI SINGAPORE, MAY 27

Former world champion P V Sindhu snapped her run of first-round exits with a commanding victory to enter the pre-quarterfinals of the Singapore Badminton Open 2025 women's singles event here on Tuesday.

Sindhu, currently ranked 17th in the world, ousted Canada's world No 52 Wen Yu Zhang 21-14, 21-9 in just 31 minutes in her round of 32 clash. The Indian ace had also prevailed over Zhang in their previous meeting at the Spain Masters last year, winning that encounter in straight games as well.

The 2022 Singapore Open champion, Sindhu



arrived in the island nation following four consecutive opening-round defeats in the ongoing BWF World Tour season. Her best result this year had come at the India Open in January, where she reached the quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, Malvika Bansod and Anmol Kharb

bowed out in contrasting fashion. Malvika put up a spirited fight against Thailand's world No 9 Supanida Katethong before going down 14-21, 21-18, 21-11. Anmol Kharb, facing Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medalist Chen Yufei of China, showed resilience but fell short 21-11, 24-22.

In the men's singles, H S Prannoy staged a brilliant comeback to defeat Denmark's Rasmus Gemke 21-19, 16-21, 21-14 in a grueling encounter that lasted one hour and 12 minutes. The world No 34 Indian showcased his trademark grit to progress to the next round.

However, Priyanshu Rajawat, despite a strong start, lost to Japan's 2023 World Championships silver medalist Kodai Naraoka 14-21, 21-10, 21-14.

In mixed doubles action, Paris 2024-bound Tanisha Crasto and her partner Dhruv Kapila were ousted by China's Cheng Xing and Zhang Chi in straight games, 21-18, 21-13.

Lallianzuala Chhangte eyes Asian qualification

UNI KOLKATA, MAY 27

The AFC Asian Cup is the pinnacle of football in the world's biggest continent, as Asia's very best turn up on the grand stage every four years, it presents an opportunity to rub shoulders with them and prove your mettle.

Winger Lallianzuala Chhangte's first experience at the showpiece event was in Qatar last year.

Despite things not going India's way as they suffered three defeats, Chhangte proclaimed how big of a learning curve the AFC Asian Cup was for him and the entire squad, and how the Blue Tigers are taking those learnings forward as they battle for qualification for the 2027 edition.

"We were in the same group as some of the best countries in Asia (Australia, Uzbekistan and Syria). Even though the last Asian Cup wasn't the best experience, individually, I learned a lot in terms of making the right decision at key moments. As a team, I believe that that setback shaped our character and built us into better players and better human beings as well," Chhangte told the aiff.com.

"Now, we're really looking forward to the next challenge. Right now, our main focus is to qualify for the Asian Cup again," he said.

India will play Hong Kong in the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Quali-



fiers Final Round on June 10 in Kowloon City. Before that, the Blue Tigers will play a preparatory friendly against Thailand on June 4 in Pathum Thani.

"The atmosphere in the camp is really positive right now. Everyone is focused, motivated, and ready to give their best every single day, especially after the setback against Bangladesh. Everyone wants to turn things around. Even the staff, physios, doctors, and masseurs have been so great with us, pushing us in every way they could. The camp has a lot of energy - good and healthy competition, which is great," Chhangte said.

With 42 caps for the national team, the 27-year-old Chhangte is one of the most experienced players in the Indian squad. Among the current lot who are training in Kolkata, only Sunil Chhetri and Sandesh Jhingan had made their international debut before the Mizo winger. He was just 18 when he donned the India shirt at the 2015 SAFF Championship in Thiruvananthapuram, and also scored a stunning brace against

expectations are high, it shows that you are not a normal player. I'm not trying to be pompous, of course, but when you've been delivering for your club and country, the expectations get higher from the fans, the coach and your teammates as well. I like that, and it pushes me to work even harder. Every single day on and off the pitch, the way I look after myself, the way I work - it's all about being an example, especially for the young players," Chhangte said.

"We are privileged to have great senior players around us like Sandesh bhai and Chhetri bhai. Personally, I've learned a lot from them as well," he said.

With 46 goals, Chhangte is the second-highest Indian scorer in ISL history behind Sunil Chhetri. In the current Blue Tigers squad too, apart from Chhetri, nobody has scored more goals for India than Chhangte (eight). Each of those goals has something in common - the celebration.

"I'm a believer, and every time I score a goal, I look up to the sky and say, 'God, that was you'. Because sometimes when I score, I know where it came from. Sometimes it just pops into my leg, and I simply don't know where it came from. So I just point to the sky and thank God for being gracious, for his blessings, and for being by my side every time I step onto the pitch," Chhangte shared.

Earps announces shock England retirement after losing place

UNI LONDON, MAY 27

England goalkeeper Mary Earps has announced her shock retirement from international football - just five weeks before the Lionesses begin their European Championship defence in Switzerland.

The 32-year-old played a significant role in the Lionesses winning Euro 2022 but had recently lost her starting place to Chelsea keeper Hannah Hampton.

Earps made 53 senior appearances over eight years for England, also winning the 2023 Women's Finalissima with her country before helping them reaching the final of the 2023 Women's World Cup, the BBC reported.

"I had hoped that Mary Earps would play an important role within the squad this summer, so of course I am disappointed," England manager Sarina Wiegman said.

Earps said, "This is the right time for me to step



aside and give the younger generation an opportunity to thrive.

"Winning the Euros in 2022 was the best day of my life, and I'm rooting for the girls to do it again this summer."

Earps - who left Manchester United to join French side Paris St-Germain last summer - also wrote on social media: "It has been the greatest honour and privilege of my life, to wear this badge and represent my country.

"I wish I could do it forever, but sadly all good things must come to an end."

Earps was voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 2023, having won the Golden Glove for the best goalkeeper at the 2023 World Cup - held in Australia and New Zealand.

She also won the Best FIFA Goalkeeper award in 2022 and 2023.

"My journey has never been the simplest, so in true Mary fashion, this isn't a simple goodbye - right before a major tournament," she said.

"Nonetheless, I know this is the right decision. There are so many dimensions to this decision, the

details of which aren't important right now.

"This is a new era and a new England team, and I'm looking forward to watching them this summer.

"I know that while this won't make sense to some who are reading this, you can trust that I would not be doing this unless I thought it was absolutely the right thing to do, as much as it hurts."

On several occasions, Earps has called for change in women's football.

She challenged Nike in 2023 after the kit supplier failed to produce any replica England goalkeeper shirts ahead of that year's World Cup, an incident she described as "hugely hurtful."

In confirming the end of her England career, she said: "I have given everything, my heart and soul.

I left it all out there on the pitch and did my best to help systemic change of it. I have no regrets."

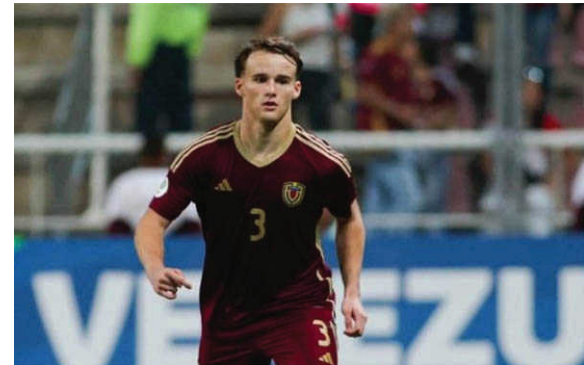
Teenager Milani called up by Venezuela for World Cup qualifiers

UNI CARACAS, MAY 27

Uncapped Lazio teenager Alessandro Milani has been named in Venezuela's squad for World Cup qualifiers against Bolivia and Uruguay, the Venezuelan football federation said.

Milani has not yet made his first-team debut for Lazio, but has impressed with his performances at left-back for the Italian club's under-20 team.

The 18-year-old represented Italy, the country of his birth, at youth



level before switching allegiance to Venezuela - where he has family ties and holds citizenship - earlier this year. Apart from Milani, there were few

surprises in manager Fernando Batista's squad.

The Argentine strategist included Pachuca striker Salomon Rondon, Inter Miami playmaker Telasco

Segovia and Santos midfielders Tomas Rincon and Yeferson Soteldo on his 29-man list.

Venezuela will host Bolivia in Maturin on June 6 before facing Uruguay in Montevideo four days later.

The Vinotinto is currently seventh in the 10-team South American qualifying zone with four matchdays left.

The top six teams will automatically qualify for next year's World Cup, while the seventh-ranked side will dispute an intercontinental playoff.

Hartley back with England after shifts in garden centre

UNI LONDON, MAY 27

Tom Hartley is England's forgotten man of 2024, the leading wicket-taker on the tour of India in the winter, he took nine wickets in the all-timer of a win in Hyderabad but has not featured since England returned home.

When Ben Stokes' side were playing their Tests in Pakistan in October, the left-arm spinner was listening to Test Match Special while working a shift at the family garden centre.

"I have found my plant knowledge has come on loads," he tells BBC Sport.

Hartley, 26, could make his England return this week in the one-day international series against

West Indies, which starts on Thursday at Edgbaston.

He has had a decent start to the season with Lancashire but has still been putting in the hours amid the perennials.

"It is a 5am or 5:30am wake-up, walk the dogs, water the plants and then set up jobs for the staff, supervise and help where



I can," Hartley said.

"They clock off at 5pm and I get organised for the next day.

"It probably is too much and I feel myself getting tired at times.

"If my on-field wasn't going well I would have to change things but I am doing all right on the field at the minute so it must be helping me."

The garden centre - Hartley's Nurseries to give it its proper name - is 10 miles or so outside of Liverpool and is a sixth-generation family business.

Hartley's father, Bill, won 4x400m gold at the European Championship in 1974 and later took on the company. The plan remains that Tom will do the same one day.

"My dad helps me out a bit but you have got to learn on your feet," he said.

"It is a bit of trial and error. Some prefer a lot of sunlight, some prefer the shade.

"It settles me on the field knowing there is something for me there after cricket and it takes the pressure off a little bit.

"If you have a bad game or season it is not the end of the world."

Hartley holds no hard feelings over his England omissions since India.

After the series concluded in Dharamsala coach Brendon McCullum, the one to call him last week to inform him of his recall, said "you would have taken that at the start of the

winter".

Lancashire's Evertonian, who was originally picked because of his similarities to India's tall left-arm spinner Axar Patel and was smashed by Yashasvi Jaiswal in an opening nine-over spell which cost 63, is inclined to agree.

"It beat any of my expectations," he said.

"To say you have a Test five-for and debut it is something you can always fall back on."

On returning to the UK, Hartley had his appearances for Lancashire in the County Championship limited by the arrival of Australia spinner Nathan Lyon.

This winter his appearances were limited by a broken hand - an injury picked up on England Lions' tour of Australia.

He turned out for his club side Ormskirk in the Liverpool and District league to keep his arm turning over at the start of the season, as he had done at the end of the 2024 campaign.

"I came away tired in the face from laughing so much," he said.

Pakistan spinner Sadia Iqbal claims No 1 bowler ranking

UNI DUBAI, MAY 27

Pakistan celebrated on Tuesday as left-arm spinner Sadia Iqbal re-claimed her position at the top of the ICC Women's Bowler Rankings.

Iqbal was one of the leading performers at last year's ICC Women's T20 World Cup and rises one spot on the rankings for T20I bowlers to claim top billing after England spinner Sophie Ecclestone sat out her side's recent T20I series at home against the West Indies.

Ecclestone's absence caused a re-shuffle at the top of the T20I bowler rankings, with Iqbal re-claiming the position at the top of the charts she briefly held during last year's T20 World Cup.

While Ecclestone drops to fourth on the latest T20I



rankings charts, the news is better for England teammate Lauren Bell after she improves 13 spots to jump to sixth overall on the back of her seven wickets for the series against the West Indies.

Compatriots Linsey Smith (up 37 spots to 41st) and Issy Wong (up 32 places to equal 62nd)

also make gains up the rankings for T20I bowlers following some good performances against the West Indies.

The big winner on the rankings for T20I batters is Hayley Matthews, with the West Indies captain making some inroads on Australia's dominance at the top of the rankings following her Player of the Series efforts against England, an ICC report said.

Matthews scored 177 runs at an average of 88.50 across the three games in England and rose two spots to second overall on the latest rankings to put pressure on long-time No.1 ranked batter Beth Mooney.

Mooney now holds a relatively small advantage over Matthews at the top of the batting rankings, with Australia's Tahlia McGrath dropping to third

overall due to the gains made by the West Indies star.

A trio of England batters also make eye-catching improvements up the batting chart, with Nat Sciver-Brunt, Heather Knight and Sophia Dunkley all rising the rankings following some decent performances with the bat against the West Indies.

Sciver-Brunt rises five places to ninth, Knight jumps seven rungs to equal 17th, while Dunkley improves eight spots to go to equal 29th after 108 runs from three knocks against the West Indies.

Matthews increases her lead at the top of the rankings for T20I all-rounders, with the West Indies skipper also claiming three wickets for the series against England to go alongside her lofty haul of runs.

Paramount Importance of Coordination, Teamwork in Educational Administration : G N Itoo, DSE Kashmir

Says school timings adjusted due to heat wave, currently no plan to declare summer vacations

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MAY 27: Directorate of School Education Kashmir, in collaboration with the Chief Education Officer Baramulla, today organized a one-day orientation programme for newly promoted Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) and Headmasters at Boys Higher Secondary School Baramulla.

Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo, was the chief guest on the occasion. In his address, Dr. Itoo emphasized the evolving role of educational leaders in shaping effective institutions. He highlighted the need for strong managerial acumen, transparency in governance, and a deep commitment to academic excellence.

He advised the officers to stay updated with departmental policies and administrative procedures to ensure smooth functioning of their respective zones and schools.

Dr. Itoo further stressed the importance of coordination and teamwork in educational administration. "You must all strive to be good managers. Coordination and collaboration are key for any head of institution, this is essential for achieving success," he stated. He encouraged the newly pro-



moted officers to lead by example and build a positive work culture that fosters accountability, innovation, and student-centric growth.

Various speakers also addressed the gathering, including the Joint Director Education North Kashmir, Chief Education Officer Baramulla, and Chief Accounts Officer, Directorate of School Education Kashmir. They shared insights on administrative protocols, financial procedures, and effective school governance, offering practical guidance to help the officers perform their roles efficiently.

The orientation programme focused on enhancing the administrative, financial, managerial, and supervisory capacities of the officers. Participants found the sessions informative and appreciated the opportunity to interact with senior officials and experts, calling the programme a valuable step towards professional empowerment.

Later, while interacting with the media, Dr. Itoo said that since school timings had already been adjusted due to the heat wave and the weather was now gradually improving, there is currently no plan to declare summer vacations.

CEO Bandipora Appreciated as able Administrator, for his Teacher Friendly Approach.

■ HT News Network

Bandipora, May 27: CEO Bandipora has set an example for smooth conduct of administrative affairs of the Educational Institutions of the district. Probably for the first time any administrative officer has been appreciated for issuing transfer order of the teachers as the same has been done in tune with ground/school level requirements. Purely done for the benefit of the students and smooth and hassle free delivery of services by the teachers. The transfer order has drawn widespread appreciation across the length and breadth of the teaching community as well as parents.

Time has repeatedly proved that sincere work draws applause and acknowledgement ever and always. An example has again been set by Chief Education Officer (CEO), Bandipora while issuing transfer order of teachers of the district.

The CEO has recently issued the transfer list of as many as 75 general line teachers, which as per the ground reports was done with all fairness and transparency. Almost all education zones of Bandipora district including farflung and boarder subdivision Gurez were touched purely as per the teacher student ratio and previous performance of the teachers, besides taking consideration of needs of education institution all over the district.

Teacher community has acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of the CEO, Bandipora for his tireless efforts, dedication and teacher friendly approach.

Empowering Future Champions: Sports Equipment Distributed to Government School Children in Kakapora

Sports Equipment Distributed to Government School Children in Kakapora

■ MUSHTAQ ULISLAM

Pulwama, May 27: In a vibrant ceremony held at Government Middle School, Lalhara, BJP leader and former Pulwama district president, Mohd Lateef Bhat, took a significant step towards promoting the mental and physical development of school children by distributing sports equipment to ten promising students from government schools across the Pampore constituency.

The event, which emphasized the critical role of sports in holistic education, saw the participation of several young athletes and community



leaders. The distribution drive aims to encourage school children to actively engage in sports, helping them build discipline, teamwork, and physical fitness alongside academic

excellence. Prominent dignitaries who graced the occasion included Advocate Minha Lateef Bhat, DDC Member Kakapora; Mohd Shafi Wani, former General Sec-

retary; Farooq Ahmad Wani and Raj Mohd Wani, both former constituency presidents; and Nazir Ahmad, ex-Sarpanch of Ggalbugh. Their presence underlined the collective commitment of local leadership towards youth development and grassroots sports promotion.

Speaking at the event, Mohd Lateef Bhat highlighted the importance of nurturing young talent and equipping them with the necessary resources to excel not only in academics but also in sports. "Today's children are tomorrow's leaders. We must invest in their growth, both mentally and physically," he said.

GDC Vijaypur hosts seminar on Financial Literacy

■ HT NEWS NETWORK



SAMBA, MAY 27: NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) of Government Degree College Vijaypur, in collaboration with Reserve Bank of India, Jammu hosted a seminar on Financial Literacy under the supervision and guidance of Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Ashu Vashisht. More than 50 college students participated in the activity with great enthusiasm, fervour and zeal. The event commenced with the welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Anoop Kumar Bhagat, HOD Sociology.

The first technical session on the topic 'Reserve Bank of India and its Role' was deliberated upon by Manager of RBI, Jammu Amandeep Singh. He briefed the students regarding financial literacy as ability to understand and effectively use various financial skills, including personal financial management, budgeting and investing. He further added that if one is financially illiterate.

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