

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, MAY 06, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Parth Samthaan's emotional comeback transforms him from a fan to a forensic sleuth

"Have sought to institutionalize and routinize taking care of Indians abroad": EAM Jaishankar

"Will do everything to support India in its efforts against terrorism": US House Speaker Mike Johnson



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BRIEFLY

Pakistani intruder arrested along LoC in Poonch

JAMMU, May 6 (Agencies): A Pakistani intruder was arrested along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

The intruder, who is in his early 20s, was taken into custody by Army troops soon after he entered into this side from across the LoC, they said.

The arrested individual was whisked away for questioning and further details are awaited.

Falling stone kills one, injures another at quarry site in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, May 6 (Agencies): A labourer died and another was injured after a falling stone hit them at a quarry site in North Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday.

Official said that the incident took place at a quarry in the Waterkhani area of Drugmulla, where a stone fell, injuring two labourers.

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Officials in Jammu review plan to enhance facilities for Amarnath Yatra

JAMMU, May 16 (Agencies): Authorities in Jammu have reviewed a development plan to enhance civic amenities for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, officials said on Tuesday.

The review focused on improving infrastructure and sanitation to ensure a smooth experience for thousands

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Jal Shakti worker dies after slipping from hill in Mandi

POONCH, May 6 (Agencies): A daily wage worker with the Jal Shakti Department died after he slipped and fell from a hill while repairing a water pipeline in the Mandi area of Poonch district on Tuesday.

An official told that the incident took place around 11:00 AM when

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Govt notifies cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims Nationwide

NEW DELHI, May 6 (Agencies): The government has notified cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims nationwide, under which they will be entitled to a maximum amount of Rs 1.5 lakh per accident per person.

According to a gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the scheme has come into force with effect from May 5, 2025.



"Any person being a victim of a road accident arising out of the use of

a motor vehicle, occurring on any road, shall be entitled to cashless

treatment in accordance with the provisions of this scheme," the notification said.

The National Health Authority (NHA) shall be the implementing agency for the programme, in coordination with police, hospitals and State Health Agencies etc.

"The victim shall be entitled to cashless treatment at any

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Innocents must not suffer during Pahalgam attack probe: CM Omar Abdullah



SRINAGAR, May 6 (Agencies): Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that efforts to catch those responsible for the recent Pahalgam attack must not cause hardship to innocent civilians in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to media persons in Srinagar, the Chief Minister said: "We all understand the situation here. It will take

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Soldier among four killed after passenger bus falls into gorge in Poonch

MENDHAR/JAMMU, May 6 (Agencies): Four passengers including a soldier were killed and 44 others injured when a private bus skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Tuesday, officials said.



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Security heightened, vehicles checked in Poonch, Rajouri amid rising border tensions



POONCH, May 6: (Agencies): Amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan after the deadly Pahalgam attack, security has been heightened in multiple areas in the valley, including in Poonch and Rajouri districts, with police officials setting up vehicle check points

■ Turn to page 9

JMC raids warehouse in Jammu, Seizes 40 metric tonnes of polythene



JAMMU, May 6 (Agencies): The Jammu Municipal Corporation has seized about 40 metric tonnes of polythene from a warehouse here as part of a crackdown on storage and distribution of banned materials, an official said on Tuesday. JMC Commissioner Devansh

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Indo-Pak Tensions: Nation-Wide Mock Drill Tomorrow; Security Heightened

NEW DELHI, May 6 (Agencies): The Indian government is holding series of high-profile meetings amid the rising tensions with Pakistan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting on Tuesday with NSA Ajit Doval for the second day in a row. On Monday, Doval and Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh met the Prime Minister in response to the recent Pahalgam attack that claimed 26 lives. This discussion followed closely on the heels of his meeting with Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh the previous day and another



with Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, two days earlier.

In a sweeping move following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives, India has imposed a total ban on all imports

and transit of goods from Pakistan, citing national security concerns. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued a gazette notification on Saturday, invoking the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act,

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Srinagar Police, Tourist Police, SDRF conduct mock drill in Dal Lake for emergency preparedness

SRINAGAR, May 6 (Agencies): In a joint initiative to strengthen emergency response capabilities, Srinagar Police, in collaboration with the Tourist Police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), conducted a mock drill in Dal Lake on Tuesday.



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GupShup

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TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Subash Chander Kotwal** (Reld. Dy. Registrar, University of Jammu) S/o Late Smt. Nand Kumari Kotwal & Late Sh. Pritam Chand Kotwal, who left for heavenly abode on Friday 25th of April 2025.

Tenth Day will be held at Ved Mandir, Jammu on Sunday, 4th of May 2025 at 8 AM.

Kriya will be performed at our residence, Lane No. 1, Lower Karan Nagar, Jammu on Wednesday, 7th of May, 2025 at 11:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Suresh Kumari - Wife

Tejvsi Singh - Son

Daughter & Son-in-law

Mrs. Deepika & Mr. Rohit Luthra

Mrs. Priyanka & Mr. Malikit Singh

Brothers & Bhabhis

Smt. Neena & Late Sh. Suresh Kotwal

Smt. Anju & Sh. Sunil Chander Kotwal

Smt. Kalpana & Sh. Vipin Kotwal

Grand Children : Rudra Dev, Angad Dev, Viraj Singh Kotwal, Yuvaan Kotwal

Ph.No.: 9086125643, 6005801261



Sh. Subash Chander Kotwal
(Reld. Dy. Registrar at Jammu University)

SATSANG

We are immensely grieved to announce the sad and untimely demise of beloved Son-in-law of Manjit Singh Mehta (Jawahar Nagar) currently residing at Jeevan Nagar, Rani Bagh

We request you to attend his **Ardas Satsang** on 7th May 2025 (Wednesday) and pray for his peace and well being in heaven.

Time : 4PM-5:30 PM

Venue: Gurudwara Digiana Ashram, Jammu

Manjit Singh Mehta and Family

6005184737, 9419835697



Gurpreet Singh
(Honey)

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **RAJRANI BHAT**.

TENTH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 8TH MAY 2025 FROM 8 AM TO 10 AM AT GAURI SHANKAR TEMPLE NEW PALAM VIHAR GURGAON.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Omkar & Rajkumari Bhat

Avtar & Shobha Bhat

Ashok & Sudha Bhat

Kishni Kaul

Krishan & Veena Khosla

Grand Children & Great Grand Children

Ph: 7006474732, 9810616194, 9312658554



RAJRANI BHAT

PRAYER MEETING

To seek peace for the departed noble soul of our beloved **Devinder Mengi** S/o Late Dr. M.L. Mengi, join us in a prayer meeting, on 7th May 2025 (Wednesday) at Shiv Mandir, Sector 3, Trikuta Nagar, from 5 PM - 6 PM.

Grief Stricken:

Wife

Mrs Vivienne Mengi (France)

Daughter and Son-in-law

Mrs. Anita & Robin Wing (Florida)

Sister-in-law & Brother

Mrs. Prabha & Lalit Mengi (CE Reld)

Sister:

Mrs. Vijay Kohli (W/o Late Sh. J.P. Kohli)

Mengi's, Kohli's & Abrol's

Mob. No. 9419108296, 9469099773



Devinder Mengi
10.6.1939 - 25.4.2025

TENTH DAY / KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret the sad demise of **Sh. Nagar Mal Gupta** S/o Late Sh. Jiwan Mal on 25/4/2025.

The **10th Day** will take place on 4/5/2025 at 11.00 am at Mahajan Hall Kathua.

The **Kriya** will take place on 7/5/2025 at 10.00 am at our residence Ward No. 4, Near Sat Sarovar Mandir, Kathua.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Surishta Gupta (Wife)

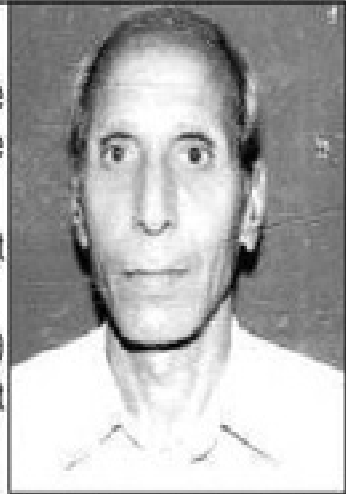
Sh. Tarsem Gupta (Brother)

Sh. Ram Pal Gupta (Brother)

Sh. Brij Mohan Gupta (Son-in-law)

Arun Gupta (Son)

Amnisha Gupta (Son)



Sh. Nagar Mal Gupta

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sudden demise of Smt. **Dulari Thusoo**, wife of Late Shri Girdhari Lal Thusoo on April 28, 2025, at House No. 191, Lower Roop Nagar, Jammu (near Green Land Palace).

Tenth Day Kriya will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 8:30 AM at Muthi Ghat, Jammu (near Office of the Director School Education).

Grief Stricken:

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Kanwal Thusoo & Pinki

Opendar Thusoo & Vijay Kumari

Daughter & Son-in-law

Sushma & Rajinder Mujoo

Kunal, Aanchal, Utkarsh, Karan, Aishani, Pulkit, Ainesh- **Grandchildren**

Vivaan- **Great-Grandchild**

Thusoos, Mozas, Dhars, Kauls, Saproos & Mujooos

9868393772, 9419329995, 8054537659



Smt. Dulari Thusoo

10TH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform that **10th Day** of our beloved **Ex. Capt. Sh. Parveen Singh Ji** S/o Late Sh. Puran Singh Ji R/o Ward 49, Rajput Mohalla, Channi- Rama, Jammu will be performed on Monday 05th May 2025 at our residence at 10:00 AM.

The **KRIYA** will be performed on Thursday (08th May 2025) at Channi Rama Park near our residence from 8:30 AM onwards.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sudarshna Jamwal -Wife

Sons and Daughters-in-law

Sh. Suneet Singh Jamwal & Lt. Smt. Nisha Jamwal

Sh. Goverdhan Singh Jamwal & Smt. Yogita Jamwal

Daughter and Son-in-law

Smt. Anita Sambyal & Sh. Avinash Singh Jamwal

Grand Sons and Grand Daughters

Mrs. Shipra & Mr. Aditya Chopra

Mr. Pawan Singh Jamwal

Ms Kamakshi Jamwal, Harshvardhan Singh Jamwal, Divanshi Jamwal

CONTACT NO'S : 9906109606, 9906303933



Ex. Capt. Sh. Parveen
Singh Ji

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved father **Lt Sh. Autar Krishan Kachroo** S/o Lt. Sh. Radha Krishan Kachroo of Sangrampora Sopore A/P 117 (B) Kashmiri Colony Hiranki Delhi on 28th April 2025.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 7th May 2025 at 8 AM Sector 18 Rohini Delhi (near Telephone Exchange)

Grief Stricken

Smt. Usha Kachroo (Wife)

Bhabies and Brothers

Smt & Sh H K Kachroo 9971561771

Smt & Sh B K Kachroo 9540767797

Son in laws and Daughters

Sh Rakesh Ji Wali & Smt. Sudha Wali 7011317053

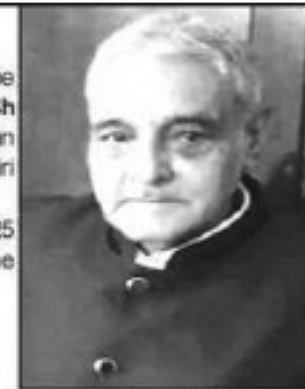
Sh Vinay Ji Sood & Smt. Kanchan Sood 9315179982

Smt. Shanta Chatta (Sister)

Smt. Nirmala Raina & Sh V K Raina (Sister & B.L.L)

Grand Children

Mishtee, Nakul, Yash



Lt Sh. Autar Krishan
Kachroo

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

Our beloved **Sanjay Sharma** S/o Late Comrade Shiv Kumar R/o 325 Shastri Nagar Jammu passed away on 26-04-2025.

10th Day will be performed at our residence 325 Shastri Nagar Jammu on 5-5-2025 (Monday) at 11.00 AM.

Kriya will be held at our residence 325 Shastri Nagar Jammu on 6-05-2025 (Tuesday) at 1.00 PM.

Uthala will be performed on 07-05-2025 (Wednesday) at Ram Mandir, Shastri Nagar from 5 to 6 PM.

Grief Stricken

Ratna Devi -Mother

Brothers & Sister-in-laws

Sanjeev Sharma & Palvi Sharma

Rajeev Sharma & Sunila Sharma

Mob. 9419144712, 9419785396

Sisters & Brother-in-laws

Sandhya Sharma & Late Anil Gour

Anjali Sharma & Vipin Sharma

Seema Sharma & Rajesh Mansotra



Sanjay Sharma

MOORNING/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Karmyogi Smt. Vijay Bharti Raina** W/o Sh. Mahkan Lal Raina originally resident of Batagund Krendigam, A/P lane No 5, H.No 12, Sarswati Vihar Anand Nagar Bhoir Jammu on 1st May 2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 10th May, 2025 (Saturday) at Muthi Ghat near Director Education Office.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh Mahkan Lal Raina (Husband)

(Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law)

Smt. Uma Shori & Sh. Badi Nath Raina

Smt. Sanjay Raina (Sister-in-law)

Smt. Ruby & Sh. Kuldeep Raina (Daughter-in-law & Son)

Smt. Reena & Sh. Ashok Raina (Daughter in law & Son)

Smt. Beaudy & Sh. Sanjay Raina

Smt. Nancy & Sh. Mahesh Krishan Pandita (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Smt. Daisy & Sh. Manoj Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Smt. Jyoti & Sh. Sanjay Pandit (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Smt. Rita & Sh. Suresh Bazzaz (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Smt. Anju & Sh. Vijay Koul (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Smt. Indu & Sh. Sunil Tickoo (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Smt. Soniya & Sh. Bipin Pandita (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Smt. Vineeta & Sh. Satish Bhat (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Grand Children: Uchay, Yutika, Tanish, Prateek, Mani, Lavanya, Danika, Urvasi, Sahil, Sindhuja

SAMAST RAINA PARIVAR



KARMYOGI SMT VIJAY
BHARTI RAINA

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform you of the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Darshana Devi** wife of Lt. Sh. Babu Ram R/o H.No. 33, Mohalla Paharian, Jammu, who left us for heavenly abode on 25th of April, 2025.

The **10th Day** shall be performed at Mahajan Hall Shalamar Road, Jammu on 4th May, 2025 from 10 AM to 11 AM.

Uthala will be performed on 7th May, 2025 from 4 PM to 5 PM at Mahajan Hall, Shalamar Road, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Ramesh Chander Gupta & Balbi Gupta

Ajay Kumar Gupta & Neelika Gupta

Daughters & Sons-in-law

Veena & Sh. Madan Lal

Anju & Sh. Chander Mohan

Ritu & Sh. Ravinder Gupta

Monika & Sh. Parashotam Lal

Grand Daughters & Grand Sons-in-law

Sunniya & Sachin Gupta

Surbi & Naren Gupta

Grand Children: Anvi Gupta, Ananya Mahajan,

Shivansh Mahajan

Great Grand Children: Ritihri, Aadvik, Tyakash, Kriehna

Contact No: 9419105306, 9419263339



SMT. DARSHANA DEVI

TENTH DAY KRIYA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE MOURN THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED **SH. MOTILAL RAINA WANGNEO (BAJJAAN)** S/O SH. AMAR NATH RAINA WANGNEO (ORIGINAL RESIDENT OF MALIK ANGAN, PATCH KADAL, SRINAGAR) ON 28TH APRIL, 2025 AT GURGAON.

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 7th MAY AT GAURI SHANKAR MANDIR, SECTOR 109, NEW PALAM VIHAR, GURGAON, FOLLOWED BY SHRADDHANALU SABHA AT 12:30PM AT NIRVANA COUNTRY CLUB, SECTOR 50, GURGAON.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

DEEPAK & SHEETAL RAINA (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)

ARCHANA & ALOK MATHUR (DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW)

PROMILA & MANOJ KAUL (DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW)

NEENAKSHI RAINA & NIHAL KAUL (DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW)

SHIBAN & NANCY RAINA (BROTHER & SISTER-IN-LAW)

SURINDER & ASHARAINA (BROTHER & SISTER-IN-LAW)

VIJAY KAK (SISTER)

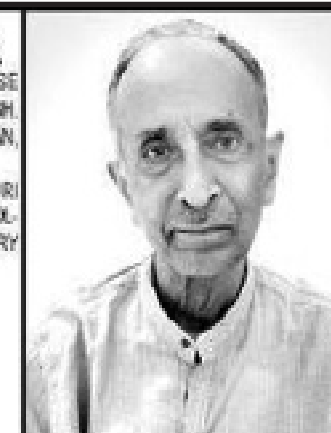
RENU & DEEPAK DHAR (SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW)

DOLLY & ANIL TUTOO (SISTER & BROTHER-IN-LAW)

GRAND CHILDREN : ARUSHI, KSHITIJ, ARNAV, DHANISHTA, KRISHA, GAURAV, SHREYA

FAMILY MEMBERS, DHAR PARIVAR (IN-LAWS), KAUL PARIVAR, MATHUR PARIVAR

PHONE NO. 88 10401923, 833831401, 9871728754, 9871713410



SH. MOTI LAL RAINA
WANGNEO (BAJJAAN)

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Father **Sh. Triloki Nath Raina** S/o Late Sh. Sudershan Raina originally from Razdan Mohalla Handwara Kashmir A/p 34-B Om Nagar Udhaywala Jammu on 02-05-2025.

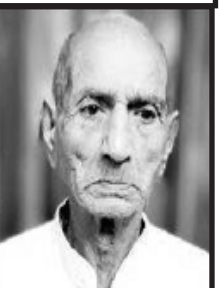
TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 11-05-2025 (Sunday) at Muthi Ghat at 8 AM

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Raina's, Koul's, Pandita's, Tickoo's, Kachroo's, and Dhar's

Bushan Lal Raina (Son)

MOBILE NO: 9103253103, 9086395626



Sh. Triloki Nath Raina

10TH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you the sad demise of our beloved father, **Shri Dev Khosla** son of Late Shri B D Khosla, who departed for his heavenly abode on Friday, 25th April 2025.

The **10th Day** will be held at our residence village Dhok Waziran (near Sainik School Nagrota) on Sunday, 4th May 2025

The **Uthala** will be observed on Wednesday, 7th May 2025 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM

In Grief:

Smt. Sudesh Khosla (Wife)

Sameer Khosla and Kamal Jeet (Son and Daughter-in-law)

Simmi Dasari and Dr. Dipesh Dasari (Daughter and Son-in-law)

Shivani Dogra and Jeet Dogra (Daughter and Son in law)

Grand children : Reet, Hemant, Mitaksh, Shweta and Dr. Arush (Grand Son in law)

Empowering Youth, Enabling Enterprises: JKTPO, JKEDI launch ESDP in Samba under RAMP

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 6: In a significant move to promote entrepreneurship and skill development across the Union Territory, the Managing Director of Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), Sudershan Kumar, along with Director of Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Khalid Jahangir, on Tuesday formally inaugurated the first Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under the World Bank-funded RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) initiative at JKEDI in Samba district.

The Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program (ESDP) under the RAMP initiative has commenced on 5th May 2025 in the districts of Ramban, Reasi, Samba, Udhampur, Anantnag, Bandipora, Budgam, Kulgam, Kupwara, and Shopian. In rest of the districts the ESDP will be rolled out from 13th May 2025.

This programme is a part of a broader initiative being implemented across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir, with the objective of nurturing entrepreneurial spirit among the youth and providing them with tools to establish and manage sustainable business ventures.

While addressing the participants, MD JKTPO Sudershan Kumar extended his gratitude



to JKEDI for successfully completing the first batch of the Management Development Programme (MDP) and initiating the ESDP simultaneously in all districts of J&K. He encouraged the aspiring entrepreneurs to become job providers and play a proactive role in making Jammu and Kashmir a thriving hub of entrepreneurship and innovation.

Director JKEDI, Khalid Jahangir, provided an overview of the ESDP and highlighted the institute's pivotal role in promoting self-employment and building a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region. He reaffirmed JKEDI's commitment to empowering local youth through

capacity-building initiatives and encouraged aspiring entrepreneurs to seize opportunities, offer innovative solutions, and adopt advanced technologies in their entrepreneurial endeavors.

The ESDP Batch-1 at the JKEDI Samba Centre has commenced with 35 participants, including students from ITI Samba, Polytechnic College Samba, and Government Degree College (Commerce), Samba, with 12 female candidates. Under the RAMP initiative, a total budget of Rs 1.5 crore has been allocated for 108 ESDP training programs, aiming to reach 3,240 beneficiaries across Jammu and Kashmir. Each training program is

designed to build foundational business skills and entrepreneurial capacity. The four-week training includes modules on enterprise management, marketing strategies, business simulations, market surveys, and field visits, equipping participants with practical knowledge and entrepreneurial competencies to launch and sustain their own businesses. JKEDI is the implementing agency for both ESDP and MDP in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme is a World Bank-supported initiative aimed at improving the performance of the MSME sector across India. In Jammu and Kashmir, the RAMP programme is being implemented under the leadership of MD JKTPO Sudarshan Kumar and overall supervision of the Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme focuses on strengthening institutions, enhancing market access, reducing regulatory burden, and facilitating financial access for MSMEs.

The inauguration of the ESDP at Samba signifies a milestone in the RAMP journey in J&K, as it seeks to empower youth, enhance employment opportunities, and build a robust foundation for inclusive economic growth in the region.

Samba police nabbed drug peddler with 18.52 grams heroin like substance

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 6: Intensifying its drive against drug smugglers & peddlers, Samba Police on Tuesday arrested a drug peddler in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ramgarh and recovered 18.52 grams approximately heroin (chitta) like substance from his possession.

As per report, acting on an information received through reliable sources, a police party headed by SHO PS Ramgarh under the supervision of SDPO Vijaypur and under the overall supervision of SSP Samba, intercepted a motorcycle bearing registration No. JK21K-1079 near Mahal Adda which was coming from Nandpur side and moving towards Ramgarh.

During checking, 18.52 grams approximately heroin like substance was recovered from the rider of the bike, police official said.



The drug peddler identified as Younas Khan, son of Makhan, resident of Palli Chak Murar, tehsil Bishnah, district Jammu has been arrested and contraband item

has also been seized, official said adding that a case FIR No 32/2025 U/S 8/21/22/25 NDPS Act was registered at PS Ramgarh and investigation started.

Kavinder urges public vigilance, participation in MHA-ordered Mock Drill

Calls for Unity, says no force in the world can harm a United India

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: Senior BJP Leader and Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta has urged the people of Jammu & Kashmir to remain vigilant and participate in the nationwide mock drills ordered by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on May 7, in the wake of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of innocent 26 Hindu tourists. He condemned the cowardly act of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and said that such acts will never succeed in breaking the unity and resolve of the Indian people.

In a statement issued to the press, Kavinder Gupta said, "The mock drills being conducted are essential for assessing the preparedness of security agencies and ensuring public safety.



People must not panic but understand that these drills are in the national interest. We must cooperate fully with authorities, follow advisories, and stay alert to any suspicious activities in our surroundings."

The senior BJP leader reiterated that the nation stands united in the fight against terrorism. "We must show the enemies of the nation that India is not afraid. Desh Hai Toh Hum Hain— our existence and freedom depend on the strength of our nation. Let us

stand by our forces, our government, and every citizen working to protect Bharat Mata," he asserted. Kavinder praised the efforts of security forces in swiftly responding to threats and emphasized the need for the public to remain cautious without spreading rumours or fear. He appealed to youth and civil society to come forward and help in maintaining communal harmony and security awareness.

"As responsible citizens, let's not just mourn — let us act. Stay cautious, report anything unusual, and strengthen the spirit of nationalism. Together, we will defeat the evil designs of our enemies," he said.

The senior BJP leader said that no force in the world can harm a united India and that these difficult times must become a reason for even greater national solidarity.

BSP J&K welcomes caste-based census initiative



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: A meeting of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Jammu & Kashmir - Union Territory unit, was held today at the party headquarters in Narwal Pain, Satwari, Jammu. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Charanjeet Chagotra, Vice President of BSP-JK.

During the meeting, the party appreciated the Union Government's historic decision to conduct a caste-based census across the country. The BSP welcomed this move, emphasizing that the exercise

must be conducted in a transparent and time-bound manner, with the final report published in the public domain for accountability and informed policymaking.

This is the first time since Independence that a caste-based census is being conducted, particularly those led by the Congress party, have failed to acknowledge this need, thereby denying justice to SCs, STs, OBCs, and minorities.

The BSP cautioned the current Union Government not to repeat the past mistakes of misleading the OBC community. The party reaffirmed that it is closely monitoring the process and will not hesitate to expose any injustice or negligence.

The party recalled the relentless efforts of Manyawar Kanshi Ram Ji, who had earlier mobilized the OBC community for the "Jail Bharo Andolan" at Boat Club, New Delhi, demanding a caste-based census and 27% reservation for OBCs. Under the leadership of Bahen Kumari Mayawati Ji (National President, Former CM & MP), BSP continues to uphold the principle of "Jiski Jitni Sankhya Bhari, Utni Uski Hissedari"—a fair share in accordance with population strength.

Retirees Police League District Jammu holds monthly meeting; key issues discussed, tribute paid to Pahalgam victims

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: The monthly meeting of the Retirees Police League District Jammu was held today under the chairmanship of Karanjit Singh, President of the League. The meeting witnessed the participation of several distinguished retired police officers and focused on important issues concerning the welfare of ex-police veterans. Deepak Singh Salathia, DIG (Retd), also attended the meeting and patiently listened to the concerns raised by the retired personnel. He assured the members that he would project these issues to the concerned authorities for appropriate redressal.

At the outset, the members unanimously condemned the "cowardly and brutal" killing of innocent tourists in Pahalgam by Pakistani terrorists, allegedly supported by the Pakistan army and ISI. Floral tributes were paid to the departed souls as the gathering observed a

moment of silence in their memory. Members strongly demanded stringent action against Pakistan and the perpetrators of terrorism.

The participants urged the Police administration to engage with ex-legendary and experienced police officers to strategize and learn from their expertise in counter-terrorism and militancy operations.

A key issue raised was the need for availability of free medicines and better medical facilities for both serving and retired police personnel in all government and police hospitals. Members pointed out that the high cost of medical treatment is beyond the reach of many retired personnel and emphasized that facilities similar to those provided to other defense forces should be extended to police retirees.

The members also proposed that regular meetings of retired police officers should be organized at the zonal and district police headquarters to foster engagement and

address welfare concerns.

Prominent police veterans present at the meeting included Sh. Deepak Singh Salathia (DIG Retd), Ch. Chirag Din IPS, Kr. Ranjit Singh IPS, SSP M. L. Mehra, SPs S. R. Datta, Ch. Gulzar, D. D. Sharma, B. L. Kaul, DSPs Mohinder Singh, P. L. Bali, Daljit Singh, Kamal Sharma, J. S. Chib, Senior Vice President Kr. Yoginder Singh, Shamsheer Singh Parihar, Ch. Vijay Nagyal, Ch. Bhag Ram, Insp. Mohd Sadiq (Vice President), Insp. Taj Mohd, Dhian Singh, Avtar Singh, Balwinder, Kirpal Singh, V. R. Bali, Satpal (Cashier), Manohar Lal Ratta, Ramesh Sharma (Office Secretary), Dhian Singh, Satpal Singh, Ashok Kumar, Ashok Kumar (Office Incharge), N. K. Bali, and others.

The meeting concluded with a vegetarian lunch. Members expressed their gratitude to the Zonal and District Police for providing logistical support to successfully organize the monthly gathering.

Truck loaded with wooden logs seized by Samba Police

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 6: Samba Police has seized a truck loaded with wooden logs in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ghagwal which was being transported in violation to J&K Forest Produce Transit Rule 2020.

A Police party headed by SHO PS Ghagwal during special Naka near Jatwal, intercepted a Truck bearing registration No. PB06BH-2502 for checking which was coming from Jammu side, official said.

During checking, official said, wooden logs were found laden inside the truck which was being transported in violation to J&K Forest Produce Transit Rule 2020.

The driver of truck has been identified as Yaqoob, son of Noor Mohd, resident of Chamba (Himachal Pradesh), official said adding that the truck was seized and handed over to Forest Department Samba for further legal proceedings.



MoU between AIIMS, Viklang Samiti is beacon of hope for disabled: Raman Suri

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: Raman Suri, Executive Member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), today said that the landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Vijaypur and Bhagwan Mahavir Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), Jaipur is a transformative step toward empowering the disabled in Jammu & Kashmir.

This agreement, aimed at providing prosthetic limbs and assistive devices free of cost, is a beacon of hope for thousands of differently-abled individuals in the region, offering them the opportunity to lead dignified and independent lives.

The MoU marks a significant expansion of prosthetic limb services in the state, which were previously limited to the Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, in collaboration with the Red Cross. With over 50,000 individuals in Jammu & Kashmir unable to walk due to disabilities, the lack of adequate facilities has long deprived many of access to life-changing prosthetic solutions. While the government has introduced several welfare measures for the disabled, serious efforts to restore their mobility have been limited.

Raman Suri emphasized that this initiative addresses a critical gap in healthcare and rehabilitation services for the differently-abled. "This MoU is a game-changer for the disabled in Jammu & Kashmir. For decades, the absence of widespread, accessible prosthetic facilities has left thousands without hope. The partnership between AIIMS Vijaypur and BMVSS, an organization with a stellar 50-year legacy of transforming lives through affordable and innovative assistive devices, will bring new life to those who have been marginalized by their disabilities," said Raman.

The new facility at AIIMS Vijaypur will provide end-to-end services, including

the manufacturing and fitting of prosthetic limbs and calipers on-site.

This comprehensive approach will ensure that beneficiaries receive timely and high-quality support tailored to their needs. The initiative is particularly significant for residents of the state's border areas, where landmine injuries have left many individuals without limbs.

Over the past two decades, the GMC Jammu centre has provided artificial limbs to several such victims, but the scale of the new AIIMS facility promises to benefit thousands more.

Raman lauded BMVSS for its unparalleled contributions to the welfare of the disabled, noting that the organization's expertise and commitment will complement the government's vision of inclusive development.

"The efforts of BMVSS have changed lives across India, and their collaboration with AIIMS Vijaypur will amplify their impact in Jammu & Kashmir. This initiative aligns with the BJP's commitment to ensuring that no citizen is left behind, regardless of their physical challenges," he added.

The provision of prosthetic limbs and assistive devices free of cost is a commendable step that will alleviate the financial burden on economically disadvantaged families. By enabling the disabled to walk again, this initiative will not only restore their mobility but also their confidence, dignity, and ability to contribute to society.

Raman expressed optimism that the success of this program will inspire further efforts to address the needs of the differently-abled across the country.

The BJP executive member extended his heartfelt gratitude to AIIMS Vijaypur, BMVSS, and all stakeholders involved in this noble endeavor. This MoU is a testament to the power of collaboration in driving meaningful change and underscores the government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of every citizen.

EDITORIAL

RED CROSS
ACTIVITIES

The Red Cross, known worldwide for its humanitarian service, plays a critical role in disaster relief, health care, and community welfare. In the context of increasing global challenges such as natural disasters, pandemics, and socio-economic inequalities, it becomes imperative to enhance and expand the activities of the Red Cross to meet growing needs effectively. Improving Red Cross activities involves strengthening outreach, building capacity, ensuring sustainability, and fostering community participation.

One of the primary steps to improve Red Cross activities is to widen the organization's outreach. Many vulnerable communities remain unaware of the services and resources available through the Red Cross. Conducting awareness campaigns at schools, colleges, workplaces, and through local media can educate the public about the organization's mission, emergency services, and volunteer opportunities. Interactive sessions, first aid training workshops, and mock drills in collaboration with local authorities can create a well-informed and prepared society.

Additionally, leveraging digital platforms—web-sites, social media, mobile apps—can enhance visibility and engagement. Sharing real-time updates, success stories, and volunteer testimonials online can inspire more people to get involved and contribute, either as volunteers or donors.

The Red Cross's strength lies in its volunteers. Improving volunteer recruitment and retention is key to expanding its activities. A structured volunteer management program that includes regular training, capacity building, and recognition mechanisms can motivate volunteers and enhance their skills. Providing specialized training in disaster response, psychosocial support, emergency medical care, and community resilience equips volunteers to handle diverse challenges efficiently.

Moreover, partnerships with educational institutions to introduce Red Cross youth clubs can nurture a new generation of volunteers with a sense of civic responsibility. Integrating practical activities like first aid competitions, leadership workshops, and community projects within these clubs fosters life-long commitment to humanitarian service.

Given the increasing frequency of natural disasters, improving disaster preparedness is crucial. The Red Cross can invest in creating community-based disaster risk reduction programs, mapping vulnerable areas, and developing early warning systems. Pre-positioning essential supplies, setting up mobile medical units, and training local volunteers as first responders ensure faster and more effective relief operations.

In addition, periodic review and simulation exercises involving local government agencies, NGOs, and communities can test the readiness of disaster management plans and identify gaps for improvement. Establishing quick communication channels and coordination frameworks with other stakeholders enhances the efficiency of emergency responses.

Beyond disaster relief, the Red Cross has a vital role in improving public health and social welfare. Expanding activities such as blood donation drives, health check-up camps, immunization campaigns, maternal and child health programs, and community sanitation initiatives can address persistent health challenges in underserved regions.

To make these initiatives sustainable, the Red Cross can collaborate with local health departments, NGOs, and international agencies for funding, technical support, and knowledge sharing. Setting up mobile clinics in remote areas ensures healthcare access to marginalized populations. Encouraging community health volunteers to act as liaisons between the Red Cross and residents fosters trust and local ownership.

The scope of Red Cross activities can be significantly improved through partnerships with government bodies, corporate sectors, educational institutions, and civil society organizations. Such collaborations can provide additional resources, expertise, and innovation for humanitarian projects. For example, corporate social responsibility (CSR) partnerships can fund medical equipment, ambulances, and infrastructure for health services and disaster relief.

Launching fundraising campaigns through both traditional events and online crowdfunding platforms can diversify funding sources. Transparent reporting and showcasing the impact of donations encourage continued support from donors and partners.

Incorporating technology into Red Cross activities can enhance service delivery and efficiency. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for disaster mapping, data-driven decision-making for relief distribution, and mobile applications for volunteer coordination streamline operations. Telemedicine services can extend medical consultations to remote or disaster-affected areas, while digital payment systems facilitate quick and transparent financial aid transfers to beneficiaries.

A sustainable approach to improving Red Cross activities lies in empowering communities to participate actively in planning, implementation, and monitoring of projects. Community members should not be mere beneficiaries but partners in humanitarian efforts. Establishing local committees, training community leaders, and integrating indigenous knowledge with scientific approaches create culturally relevant and effective programs.

Community feedback mechanisms, such as surveys or public meetings, ensure that activities align with actual needs and expectations. This participatory approach builds trust, accountability, and resilience, ensuring that Red Cross interventions have a lasting positive impact.

Caste Census: Short-Term Gains, Long-Term Effects

By: Shikha Mukerjee

The Narendra Modi government has chosen to go down a very perilous path, a road less travelled, in fact, avoided, by previous governments, including his most loathed ones led by the Congress, by announcing that there would be a universal head count of the castes of all Indians, along with the Census, whenever that happens. Or rather, as Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi have bluntly pointed out, whenever the Modi government coughs up the money.

Money, however, is not enough to throw at the problem that is finding a reasonably accurate methodology for enumerating the caste of about 1.4 billion Indians. The task of choosing the best methodology for the enumeration is Mr Modi's job; the precedent was seriously imperfect. The Socio-Economic Caste Census of 2011 produced so many flaws that it could never be released in its entirety. The Congress and the partners of the INDIA bloc have been gifted an arsenal of heavy-duty weapons to deploy against their common target: the Modi government and the BJP. The mystery is why did Mr Modi, the astute strategist that he is, pick on the caste census now? Since neither Mr Modi nor the BJP are leaking any clues on what was so urgent about the caste census in April 2025, there can only be speculation.

The caste census is a hornet's nest. There may be short-term political advantages for the government that is brave enough to take on this difficult job, as in the forthcoming Bihar Assembly elections. If the announcement was timed to give the BJP's campaign momentum in the messy and intensely competitive electoral politics of Bihar, it points

to a certain desperation. If the purpose is of turning the caste census decision into a brave and bold step by the Modi-led BJP as the new "issue," that could dominate the narrative and drown out other voices raising different issues, it is a gimmick and not a substantive commitment to the idea of inclusion.

Voters and politicians in Bihar are canny; the chances are they will get a handle on the intentions behind the announcement and draw their own conclusions. If there is a perception that the caste census announcement lacked honest purpose, it could turn out to be a risky political gamble for the BJP and Mr Modi. The announcement does steal some of Nitish Kumar's thunder; in 2021, he called for a caste census; after Mr Modi said states could do it because the Centre would not, Bihar said it would get a Socio-Economic Survey of Castes done. The survey was completed in 2023; reservations went up to 65 per cent and there was a 10 per cent quota for Economically Weaker Sections. The Bihar caste survey also revealed that of the 17 per cent Muslims in the state, 73 per cent were poor and from the backward castes, otherwise known as "Pasmandas".

Committing to a caste census may have been the BJP's carefully considered move to trump Nitish Kumar in the caste-ridden politics of Bihar in the hope that it would yield large benefits in terms of the number of seats the party could capture from the Janata Dal (United). It may even have calculated there could be additional pickings from Tejashwi Yadav's RJD as well as smaller and discomfort-causing caste formations like Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party and Hindustani Awam Morcha of Jitan Ram Manjhi. Perhaps that may work, if

it is backed up by the government making a push to be transparent on how the caste census will be done. The devil is, as always, in the detail. Like the proverbial stone chucked at the hornet's nest, the caste census, with all its complexities, will chase Mr Modi for the rest of his third term. The announcement was the easy part; the rest is seriously challenging for a government that has a very cavalier style, being disdainful of the Opposition and dismissive of alternatives proposed from the other side. The detail is the identification of castes and the listing. The 2011 SECC reportedly produced a list of a mind-boggling 46 lakh castes. The SECC adopted a self-reporting methodology, that is, individuals were listed as identified by themselves as members of their caste; the operative word being "identified themselves". The result is a nightmare listing of sub-castes and confusing identifications. It's for the Modi government to disclose the details, because that is one process where it cannot resort to its favoured routines of preferring opacity and non-disclosure to spilling it all out for everyone to see. The politics of caste is the politics of inclusion, of which reservation has been foregrounded, but it is not the only issue in a civilisation riddled with hierarchy, prejudices, privileges by birth, acute sensitivity about identities all of which have contributed to the structural inequality and associated deprivations that complicate the issue of representation and democratic participation. One example will serve as an illustration. In its desperation to woo OBC and Dalit voters in the 2019 Lok Sabha election and the crucial 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, the Modi government and the BJP left nothing to chance. In one go, Mr Modi added 43 ministers of various

ranks to his government in July 2021; of the people who joined, 27 were OBCs, 12 were from the Scheduled Castes and eight were from the Scheduled Tribes; of these 13 ministers were from Uttar Pradesh. The selection of ministers was on the basis of under-representation of a specific sub-caste in the Modi government. Appropriating Maharaja Suheldev, an icon of the Rajbhar OBC caste, and his incorporation as an 11th century defender of the Hindu faith against invading Muslim armies is how the BJP weaponises caste in its ceaseless search for election dividends. The incorporation of specific sub-caste icons and the wooing of specific Dalit sub-castes has become part of BJP's election playbook. Mr Amit Shah has been credited by experts and party leaders as the mastermind who can stitch election victories by micromanaging sub-caste identities. It is ridiculous to imagine that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat meeting Mr Modi after the caste census announcement was to express serious disapproval. The RSS may in theory be ideologically disapproving of giving primacy to the fragmented reality of Hindu identity, but in practical terms, the Sangh knows exactly how the caste system operates and why it is politically necessary to leverage the divisions. Now that the stone has been cast, it is for Mr Modi and the BJP to handle the hordes of hornets that will aggressively compete in the identity politics of the caste census.

(Shikha Mukerjee is a senior journalist based in Kolkata)

Oh Twelve Ounces of Sindu Water!

By: Omkar Dattatray

When GOI took the historical and unprecedented decision of the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty of 1960 post Pahalgam terrorist attack, I am reminded of the good old days of 1951 after the independence of the nation when India government asked Pakistani high commission to send India twelve ounces of Sindu-Indus water for use in the re-consecration and purification of Somnath temple Gujarat. The Pak high commission arranged twelve ounces of Sindu water for Pakistan for the consecration of the famous Soomnath temple and send it to India. The Indus Water Treaty has stood the test of time during three wars with Pakistan, Kargil incursion, Uri attack and Pulwama attack, but it has been suspended over the Pahalgam massacre. It is pertinent to note that the twelve ounce of Indus/Sindu water from Pakistan landed the Nehru government in row and in a precarious situation and Nehru said that he was not aware of this water from Pakistan and ordered that in future any such thing should get the approval of the prime minister and he disapproves of that action of bringing a small quantity of Indus Water from Pakistan. Prime minister J.L.Nehru disapproved the bringing of Indus water from Shind river Pakistan for re-consecration purpose of Somnath temple, but the 12 pounce of the Indus water from Pakistan had already come. In fact Indus water is central to Consecration ceremony of Somnath temple to the suspension of the Indus water treaty between India and Pakistan. Nehru thought that his fledgling government's secular credentials were at test and people will question the secular doctrine of the then Indian government. Nehru was a super secularist and in his scheme of secularism, Hindu sensitivities, feelings and interests did not matter. It is also in the fitness of things to mention

that River Indus is connected with the great Indus valley civilization. Remember Somnath temple which is dedicated to Lord Shiva was destroyed, looted and desecrated many times and some believe it was done 20 times by Muhammed Gaznavi and it is said that there were 18 doors to the original Somnath temple and Muhammed Gaznavi took these doors to Gaznavi and also got constructed a big masque with the foundation stone stolen from Somnath temple. When there was rule of Ranjit Singh in India, this ruler extended borders of the country and defeated Afghan ruler of that time and asked him to restore those 18 doors stolen to Gaznavi. The Afghan ruler of that time informed Ranjit Singh that all golden jewelries had been removed and stolen and there remained only wooden frames and the Afghan rulers got those 18 doors dispatched to India. As there was no space in the Somnath temple, so these 18 wooden doors were kept in Golden temple premises complex in Amritsar. Nehru was not in favor of the construction of the Somnath temple and opposed its construction. It was the then home minister Sardar Patel and another minister M.K Munshi who embarked on the plan of construction of the Somnath temple much against the wishes of Nehru. The prime minister Nehru also did not agree to the plan of then president Dr Rajindera Prasad to visit Somnath ji temple at its inauguration, but he made a visit to the temple as for this purpose as Hindu. Such was the anti Hindu bias and virus in the first congress Prime minister Of India. The controversy over the use of Indus River water from Pakistan for the consecration of the Somnath temple in India during the early 1950s is a compelling episode that weaves together religious symbolism, diplomatic negotiations, and the secular principles of the Indian state. The Somnath temple situated in Gujarat state holds immense religious importance in Sanatan Dharma. It had been destroyed and rebuild several

rather many times throughout the history, symbolizing the resilience and faith. After independence, Sardar Valliabhbbhai Patel, India's first deputy prime minister initiated the reconstruction of the temple in 1947. He was of the view that restoring Somnath would serve as a symbol of India's cultural resurgence and national pride. The project was funded by public donations in accordance with Mathma Gandhi's advice that the state should not finance religious endeavours. Thus a trust was founded to oversee the construction under K.M.Munshi.PM Nehru a staunch secularist was apprehensive about government's association with the temple's reconstruction. He strongly believed and wrongly so that state involvement will in religious activities could undermine secularism which was dear to Nehru even at the cost of Hindu interests. Nehru even wrote letters to president Dr Rajindra Prasad not to participate in the inauguration ceremony of the temple. Despite Nehru's objections, Prasad attended the ceremony in 1951, emphasizing that he was doing so in his personal capacity and not a representative of the state. Simultaneously, India and Pakistan were engaged in negotiations over the sharing of the Indus River waters, a critical resource for both countries. The IWT signed in 1960, allocated the three eastern rivers [Ravi,Beas,Sutlej] to India and the three rivers[Indus, Jehlum, and Chenab]to Pakistan. During the consecration of the Somnaive temple, there was a proposal to collect water from various rivers, including the Indus, to purify the temple. The gesture was intended to symbolize unity and the pan-Indian nature of the temple. However inclusion of Indus water,sourced from Pakistan, became a contentious issue because of ongoing tension. Some political experts argued that using water from Pakistan, especially amidst tensions and negotiations over Indus Water Treaty, was inappropriate. Nehru was concerned that such actions could be perceived as the Indian state endorsing a particular religion, conflicting with the secular principles he championed. Now after 65 years from the signing of the IWT between India and Pakistan, an extraordinary situation has arisen in the wake of the most gruesome terrorist attack in Pahalgam which cost us 26 lives of tourists including a local Muslim,GOI decided to suspend the IWT to show Pakistan a lesson. Mind the IWT had survived three wars, Kargil incursion and the intense tensions between the two nations, but this time in an unprecedented move Indian government headed by PM Modi unilaterally announced the suspension of the TWT. It created a furor and resentment in Pakistan, but Modi is determined to implement his decision of suspension of IWT.In short Indus water is central to the political developments in 1950-51 and today's very tense situation created in the wake of Pahalgam terror in which Pakistan was involved and thus as a revenge suspension of Indus Water Treaty. Yes in 1950/51 after independence in the connection of re-consecration of Somnath temple only 12 ounce of water was sought and brought from Pakistan and it landed the secular credentials of Nehru government in question .The bringing of meager 12 ounce of Indus water from Pakistan created a flutter and row in Nehru government. Thus the 12 ounce of Indus water from Pakistan.

(The author is a columnist, social, KP activist &Freelancer)

JKTF appreciates outstanding achievement in Class 10th Result

Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 6: The Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) extended its heartfelt appreciation to Mehmood Ryaz Bhat, the dedicated incharge Headmaster of High School Mangit, Ramban, and State Vice Chairman Teachers Forum, for his outstanding achievement in leading his students to excel in the Class 10th results.

This remarkable feat is a testament to the tireless efforts and commitment of the teaching staff at High School Mangit, despite operating in a challenging and remote area.

Located in one of the most far-flung and hard-to-reach zones of Ramban district, High School Mangit faces significant challenges, including a shortage of subject-specific teachers.

However, under the visionary leadership of Mehmood Ryaz Bhat, the school has demon-



strated that with determination and hard work, even the most daunting obstacles can be overcome.

The commendable results achieved by the students are a direct reflection of the dedication and expertise of the school's masters, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that their students receive the best possible education despite the adversities.

JKTF State President Mohd Ashraf congratulated Mehmood Ryaz Bhat and the entire team of High School Mangit on this remarkable achievement.

"This accomplishment is not just a reflection of the school's hard work but also a beacon of hope for other educational institutions in similarly challenging areas. It underscores the importance of committed leadership and the role of teachers in shaping the future of our students," Ashraf stated.

The Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum commends Mehmood Ryaz Bhat for his inspirational leadership and for being a role model for educators across the state. His ability to motivate both his students and staff, despite the challenges posed by the school's remote location and resource constraints, is truly commendable.

The Forum also appreciated the collective effort of the teaching staff at High School Mangit, whose dedication and perseverance have been instrumental in achieving this success.

This achievement is

particularly significant given the context of High School Mangit's location and the challenges it faces.

The school's success story serves as a powerful reminder of the impact that committed educators can have on their students' lives, even in the most difficult circumstances.

It also highlights the need for continued support and recognition of the efforts of teachers and educational leaders who work in challenging environments.

The Jammu Kashmir Teachers Forum called upon educational authorities and policymakers to take note of such exemplary achievements and to provide necessary support and resources to schools in remote and hard-to-reach areas.

By doing so, we can ensure that all students, regardless of their geographical location, have access to quality education and opportunities to excel.

Hands on Training on "Procurement through GeM" conducted at SMVDU

Top News Report

KATRA, May 6: Government E Marketplace, Jammu and Kashmir, conducted a one day Hands-on Training on the topic, "Procurement through GeM" at SMVDU for all Heads of all Schools along with their dealing assistants, all PIs [having budget allocations], Heads of all Sections/common facilities, all DRs, ARs & SOs, AAO, ASO, and administrative staff of Engineering wing.

The aim was to provide practical training to the Faculty and Staff members on Procurement through GeM Portal, with special focus on Tendering. Mr. Neeraj Gupta, JKAS, Finance Officer inaugurated the workshop.

During the inaugural ceremony, Neeraj Gupta, Finance Officer, SMVDU laid great emphasis on the use of GeM portal for all kinds of procurement.

The resource person Amir Ali, Senior Assistant Director GeM elaborated on the basic scope of GeM and why it was created.

Sarthak Khoda, Business Facilitator-J&K for GeM, gave a detailed presentation along with hands-on training session on Tender creation and uploading on GeM.

The participants shared the practical difficulties being faced by them while working on GeM and the resource persons tried to resolve most of their issues.

The Training was coordinated by Stores and Purchase wing of the University.



Felicitation ceremony held at GPJ for winners of Grand Techne Competition 2025 organized by BFGI

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: A grand felicitation ceremony was organized in the auditorium of Government Polytechnic Jammu to honor the winners of the prestigious Grand Techne Competition 2025, organized by Baba Farid Group of Institutions along with academic toppers from Government Boys Polytechnic Jammu, Government Women Polytechnic Jammu, and NITS Polytechnic.

The event was graced by several distinguished dignitaries. OP Bhagat, Director, Skill Development Department, Jammu & Kashmir, presided over the function as the Chief Guest. Dr. MP Poonia, Former Vice Chairman of AICTE and Campus Director of Baba Farid Group of Institutions (BFGI), was the Guest Speaker and Guest of Honour.

Suket Gupta, Secretary, JKBOTE, attended as the Special Guest. Also present on the occasion were Kuldeep



Singh Bhatia, Registrar JKBOTE; Reeta Kundal, Deputy Registrar; Talat Mahmood, Principal of the host college; Amandeep Singh, Dean BFGI; and Gaurav Singh, Deputy Dean BFGI.

In his keynote address, Dr. Poonia delivered a powerful and motivational talk on "Youth Empowerment through Affordable, Quality Education and Employment." He encouraged students to develop their skills, pursue innovation, and contribute to building a self-reliant and progressive India.

Chief Guest OP Bhagat appreciated the dynamic participation of students and praised Baba Farid Group of Institutions for organizing the Grand Techne Competition, emphasizing the critical role of such initiatives in fostering creativity, technical aptitude, and innovation.

Principal Talat Mahmood, in his welcome address, reiterated the institution's dedication to promoting holistic development and skill-based learning through events that bridge the gap between theory and practice.

The ceremony showcased the exceptional talent of students across multiple competitions. In the IC Engine Assembly & Disassembly, the Automobile Department of Government Polytechnic Jammu emerged victorious, with the Mechanical Department of NITS Polytechnic as runner-up.

In the Hackathon, Government Polytechnic Jammu claimed the top spot, while NITS Polytechnic was runner-up.

The Circuit Designing competition was won

by the Instrumentation & Control Department of Government Polytechnic Jammu, with Government Women Polytechnic Jammu securing second place. In AutoCAD Designing, Vaidehi Charak from the Mechanical Branch of GPJ took first prize, and Vinay Dogra of NITS Polytechnic was the runner-up.

All winners received a cash prize of Rs 3,100 and a memento, while runner-ups were awarded Rs 2,100 along with a memento. Toppers from all three institutions were also felicitated for their academic excellence.

The proceedings of the program were smoothly conducted by Jasdeep and Sakshi, who served as anchors for the event.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks and an inspiring message to the students to continue striving for excellence in academics, innovation, and personal growth.

BTSM celebrates 26th Foundation Day of Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch at Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch (BTSM) celebrated its 26th Foundation Day at Talab Tillo, Jammu on Tuesday. During the event, BTSM activists cut a cake and pledged to fight wholeheartedly for the organisation's cause.

On this occasion, Dr. Vivek Sharma, State president BTSM, addressing the gathering, said that when the forum was established in Dharamshala on May 5, 1999, the independence of Tibet could not even be thought of at that time.

At that time, the talk of Tibet's independence seemed impossible. Still, today I feel very proud to say that the demand for Tibet's independence has spread worldwide after rising from Dharamshala.

The talk of Tibet is being heard all over the world, and Bharat Tibbat Sahyog Manch has done the work to carry out this work.

He said that the journey of 26 years is a great achievement in itself. Forum workers need to know that Tibet was never a part of China, and China was never a natural friend of India.

He alluded to BTSM plans to spread awareness of Tibet and promised to continue to work for the Tibetan cause. In conclusion, he stated that Tibet was once a free country and has never been part of China.

Further, he stated that the BTSM's 26-year tenure has been very positive. He expressed confidence that a day will come when Tibet and Kailash Mansarovar will be liberated through the platform's efforts, which will also enhance India's security.

Dr Rajesh Sharma, Vice President of BTSM



KC Public School students shine at Dharohar Fest at SKV Gwalior

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: Sixteen students of KC Public School (KCPS) made a mark in the 8th edition of the prestigious Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Dharohar Festival which was hosted at Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, Gwalior recently.

The cultural festival was a celebration of India's diverse heritage, and this year, it proudly showcased the vibrant traditions of Assam as its theme state.

The festival was graced by Dr. B. Kalyan Chakravarty, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, who was the Chief Guest for the occasion where participating schools from across the country joined the event namely Birla Public School,



Pilani ,DPS Pathankot, L.K. Singhania Education Centre, Gotan, Mayo College Girls School, Ajmer, Sunbeam School, Mughal-sarai, The Assam Valley School etc. creating a lively atmosphere on the beautiful SKV campus, where peacocks and peahens freely roamed, adding to the charm of the surroundings.

KC Public School was represented by sixteen girls from classes 9th to 12th with escort teacher Shobhna Sethi, Cultural Coordinator of the School.

The three days festival commenced with a mesmerizing performance of Satriya Nritya, a classical dance form of Assam rooted in devotional storytelling introduced by Srimanta Sankardev in the 15th century.

Among the art events,

event was Watercolor on Paper, in which Kamakshi Verma participated enthusiastically showcasing the beautiful sights of Kaziranga National park.

Nividha Singh and Abida Jain represented their school with powerful performances that fused mythological themes and traditional Assamese melodies.

Culinary arts were celebrated in the Rondhon Shoili segment, where Anadika Pandoh and Kavya Mahajan showcased the rich food culture of Assam. A wide array of vegetarian dishes made with local ingredients were prepared in authentic Assamese style-delicacies like Dahi Chiwda, Pittha, Bhaja, and Potato Pitika delighted both the palate and the senses.

Save Sharda Committee mourns passing of Founder Member Ramesh Arora

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: The Save Sharda Committee Kashmir has expressed its heartfelt condolences on the demise of Ramesh Arora, a founder member of the organization, former Member of Legislative Council (MLC), and Senior Additional Advocate General.

In a press release, the Committee shared its sorrow and extended deep condolences to the family of the late



Ramesh Arora during this difficult time. The Chairman of Save Sharda Committee remarked, "Ramesh Arora was not just a great thinker, poet, and social worker, but also a personal family friend. With his passing, we have lost not only a founding member but also a devoted follower of the Sharda mission."

Other founding members, including Lt. Gen. (Retd) Ata Hasnain and Advocate Vinod Trisal, also conveyed their deepest condolences to the bereaved family, honoring Arora's significant contributions to the Committee and his dedicated service to society.

‘Magician, superstar, and icon’: Shah Rukh Khan makes Met Gala debut in Sabyasachi ensemble

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan made a smashing debut at the Met Gala 2025 in an all-black bespoke menswear crafted by celebrated designer Sabyasachi, who also made an appearance at the fashion fundraising gala.

Wearing a crystal-studded pendant shaped as the letter ‘K’ in one of the necklaces around his neck, in a nod to his nickname ‘King Khan’, and a dandy cane, the actor blew kisses and struck his signature arms-wide-open pose on the blue carpet of the starry event, held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on Monday night.

The theme of this year’s Met Gala is “Superfine: Tailoring Black Style” and Sabyasachi said he interpreted it by “highlighting Black Dandyism as a self-

expression that defies societal, racial and gender norms”.

“Shah Rukh Khan is one of the greatest superstars in the world. A cinematic hero, his blockbuster performances and leading-man charisma have created a legendary international fan following.

“My interpretation of the Black Dandy is demonstrating his super stardom on a global stage. Dressed in classic menswear with the maximalist flourish of Sabyasachi, Shah Rukh Khan is a magician, superstar, and icon. Period,” the designer said in a statement shared on his brand’s official Instagram page.

For his first appearance at the Met ball, Shah Rukh Khan wore a floor-length elongated coat in Tasmanian superfine wool with monogrammed, Japanese horn buttons.



“The coat is hand canvassed, single breasted with a peak collar and wide lapels. Paired with a crepe de chine silk shirt and tailored superfine wool trousers. A pleated satin kamarbandh completes this bespoke look,” the designer further said.

Not just clothes, Shah Rukh also flaunted a custom stack designed by Sabyasachi and complemented with The Bengal Tiger Head Cane crafted in 18k gold with tourmalines, sapphires, old mine cut and brilliant cut diamonds.

The superstar reached New York on Saturday and his collaboration with Sabyasachi was confirmed by Pooja Dadlani, his manager, on Monday morning.

She shared two Instagram Stories with the logo of Sabyasachi’s label with “King Khan” and “King Khan. Bengal Tiger” as captions.

Diljit Dosanjh brings royal Punjabi heritage to Met Gala in his debut



Months after selling out stadiums across the globe on his music tour, Punjabi singer-star Diljit Dosanjh walked the Met Gala 2025 blue carpet in his debut dressed in a regal white ensemble in an apparent homage to the Maharaja of Patiala. The outfit was designed by American-Nepalese designer

Prabal Gurung, who previously dressed Bollywood star Alia Bhatt for the fashion charity event held annually in New York at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Representing his Sikh roots, Diljit wore an ivory and gold sherwani, along with a tehmat, bejewelled turban adorned with a

white ‘kalgi’ and a lion-headed, jewel-studded kirpan. He also flaunted a cape with the silhouetted map of Punjab and letters in the Punjabi script Gurmukhi embroidered on it.

Diljit’s team shared a series of videos of the Punjabi superstar’s appearance at the gala on its official Instagram page.

“HISTORY #diljitdosanjh #metgala #diljit,” was the caption of one of the posts featuring the singer climbing down the stairs as he leaves the hotel for the Met ball.

A video of the “Amar Singh Chamkila” actor twirling his moustache was captioned as: “He wore a Legacy #diljit #metgala #diljitdosanjh.”

Diljit, who has emerged as one of the popular Indian artistes around the world in the last few years, confirmed his attendance at the Met Gala 2025 on Sunday via social media.

‘I knew long ago’: Adnan Sami opens up about leaving Pakistan

Singer Adnan Sami has once again taken a strong stand against Pakistani Army, revealing that his decision to leave the country was rooted in deep disillusionment with the military establishment. In a recent post on X, Sami shared a conversation with a group of young Pakistani men he had in Baku, Azerbaijan.

“Met some very sweet Pakistani boys while walking on the beautiful streets of Baku,” he wrote. “They said, ‘Sir, you are very lucky. You left Pakistan at a good time. We also want to change our citizenship. We hate our army. They have destroyed our country!’ I replied, ‘I knew this long ago!’”

Born in the UK to a Pakistani father and an Indian mother, Sami moved to India in 2001. After initially living in India on a visitor visa and holding dual citizenship (Pakistan and Canada), he formally became an Indian citizen in 2016. Since then, the celebrated singer has been vocal about his criticism of Pakistan.



The latest post comes amid heightened tensions between following the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, which left 26 people dead. Termining the incident a “horrific crime against humanity,” Sami joined many others in publicly mourning the incident.

Recently, after a journalist referenced India’s advisory for Pakistani nationals to leave the country post the Pahalgam attack, former Paki-

stani Information and Broadcasting Minister Fawad Chaudhry took a dig on X, asking, “What about Adnan Sami?”

Sami fired back, writing, “Who is going to tell this illiterate idiot!”

In another response, he called Chaudhry a “dumb***” and said, “My roots are from Peshawar, not Lahore. To think that you were Minister of (Mis) Information and have no knowledge about any information!”

Parth Samthaan’s emotional comeback transforms him from a fan to a forensic sleuth

Parth Samthaan is stepping into a world he once watched wide-eyed as a teenager — CID, one of Indian television’s longest-running and most iconic crime shows. But this time, he’s not just a fan. He’s a lead.

“I still remember sitting with my parents and shouting iconic dialogue, ‘Daya, darwaza tod do!’ from the couch,” he laughs. “To now being a pivotal part of the show — it’s surreal. Like life coming full circle.”

For Parth, this isn’t just a project — it’s a rebirth. Known for winning hearts in shows like Kaisi Yeh Yaariaan and Kasautii Zindagii Kay earlier, he returns to the small screen after years of struggle, silence, and self-discovery.

The Hidden Years Parth’s rise was meteoric. As Manik Malhotra in Kaisi Hain Yeh Yaariaan, he became a national heartthrob overnight. Fan clubs swelled, social media buzzed, and TV had found its newest star.



But behind the scenes, things weren’t as seamless.

“After the show, I wanted to explore films — it felt like a natural progression,” he says. “But many of the projects I signed were shelved. I faced professional setbacks and personal heartbreak at the same time. It was confusing, lonely, and terrifying.”

The break wasn’t intentional — it was the result of dreams that didn’t pan out. “There were nights I questioned everything. I wondered if leaving television had been a mistake.”

Rock Bottom to Resilience

What kept him going? “My family,” he says instantly. “They reminded me who I was when

I forgot. And my fans — some of them kept messaging me even when I wasn’t active. Their love pulled me back.”

He began rebuilding — mentally, physically, and emotionally. Slowly, a stronger, wiser Parth began to re-emerge.

The Re-Emergence His second innings began with Kasautii Zindagii Kay, where he portrayed Anurag Basu. It reignited his stardom and reached a broader audience.

His Bollywood debut alongside Sanjay Dutt and Raveena Tandon in Ghudchadi soon followed — a dream realised.

Now, with CID, he returns to TV with a thrilling twist. “I’m playing a tech-savvy forensic expert. It’s intense, layered, and so different from what I’ve done before,” he shares. “There’s action, emotion, and brain work — just the kind of challenge I craved.”

The Secret Behind the Smile

Parth credits his comeback to discipline, con-

sistency, and self-belief. “Even when no one’s watching, showing up for yourself matters,” he believes.

Today, his routine includes shoots, work-outs, rehearsals, and the occasional bingeing on cheesecake. When time permits, he loves to re-read The Alchemist — “It always reminds me why I began.”

The Bigger Picture Beyond fame, Parth is clear about his purpose. “I want my story to give hope. Not every path is linear. Sometimes, detours teach you the most.”

His message to those stuck

“Don’t be afraid to pause. Sometimes, the break is what makes the bounce-back powerful. You’re not late, you’re just loading.”

As CID gears up to enthrall a new generation, Parth Samthaan isn’t just returning to television — he’s rewriting his story, one clue, one case, and one courageous comeback at a time.

Lady Gaga sets record for the highest-turnout at a concert by a female artiste

Lady Gaga held a free concert at Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro recently, performing tracks from her massive catalogue of hits for an estimated crowd of 2.5 million.

The gig, which was the pop superstar’s first in Brazil in almost a decade, shattered the record for the most-attended concert by a female artiste in history, which had previously been held by Madonna.

“Nothing could prepare me for the feeling I had during last night’s show — the absolute pride and joy I felt singing for the people of Brazil. The sight of the crowd during my opening songs took my breath away. Your heart shines so bright, your culture is so vibrant and special, I hope you know how grateful I am to have shared this historical moment with you,” wrote Gaga in an Instagram post, celebrating the event.

“An estimated 2.5 million people came to see me sing, the biggest crowd for any woman in history. I wish I could share this feeling with the whole world. I know I can’t, but I can say this, if you lose your way, you can find your way back if you believe in yourself and work

hard. You can give yourself dignity by rehearsing your passion and your craft, pushing yourself to new heights, you can lift yourself up even if it takes some time,” she continued.

“Thank you, Rio, for waiting for me to come back. Thank you, little monsters all over the world. I love you. I will never forget this moment. Paws up, little monsters. Obrigada. Love, Mother Monster,” Gaga added.

Gaga acknowledged the historic moment during her concert, telling the Copacabana Beach crowd, “Tonight, we’re making history.”

“Thank you for making history with me,” she added to fans. “The people of Brazil are the reason why I can shine.” The star took another emotional moment to celebrate the crowd elsewhere during the evening. “Your freedom is so vast ... your joy, your love, your spirit. May it be heard around the world tonight! 2.5 million people,” she told fans, as per concert footage shared on X.

The musician started her historic show with the 2011 track Bloody Mary, and went on to perform a combination of her classics and



songs off of her latest album, Mayhem.

Madonna’s concert was also the first by a female artiste to exceed a crowd of 1 million, per Guinness World Records. The overall record holder for the biggest concert crowd is still held by Rod Stewart, as per Guinness, according to People.

Kiara Advani flaunts baby bump in custom Gaurav Gupta couture at Met Gala

Actor Kiara Advani, who is expecting her first child with husband and her “Shershaah” co-star Sidharth Malhotra, debuted in a custom-made Gaurav Gupta couture titled “Bravehearts” at the 2025 edition of the Met Gala.

Making the Met Gala debut, as both an artist and mother-to-be, feels incredibly special, said Kiara.

“When my stylist, Anaita (Shroff Adajania), approached Gaurav to design my look, he created ‘Bravehearts’, a vision that honours the transformative phase I’m stepping into connecting it beautifully to this year’s dress code Tailored for You,” the actor said in a statement.

“Mama’s first Monday in May,” the actor earlier captioned her pictures on Instagram from the event, billed as fashion’s biggest night, held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

The theme of this year’s Met Gala is “Superfine: Tailoring Black Style” and Gupta said his design piece for the actor from “Bravehearts” was about all kinds of transformation: emotional, physical, and generational.

“In creating this piece for Kiara, we wanted to honour her motherhood and pay homage to the bold



elegance of Black style. The look bridges continents and his-tories, merging a deep symbolism with the radical refinement of Black dandyism,” the designer said in a post shared on his official Instagram page.

“A tribute to defiance, legacy, and new beginnings. Bravehearts is built on the spirit of the Black Dandy - those who challenged norms and reshaped culture with grace, strength, and individuality,” he added.

Kiara, who posed for the shuttbugs at the Met Gala as she caressed her baby bump, looked radiant in the monochrome garment with a gold sculpted breast-plate with two hearts — “mother and child, connected by an abstract umbilical cord”.

The look also paid homage to the late André Leon Talley, legendary fashion editor and Black icon, through a dramatic double-panelled cape—a nod to his iconic silhouettes and influence on the fashion world.

“She is enveloped in a dramatic white cape echoing André Leon Talley’s 2010 Met Gala look, the piece is both armour and offering,” Gupta further said.

“Inspired by the legacy of André Leon Talley, we reflected on what it means to show up with intention, individuality, and strength. This is a silent tribute to that — it’s a reminder that everything we do paves the way for the next generation,” added Kiara.

Sidharth, who accompanied Kiara to New York, shared one of her photographs from the gala on his Instagram Stories.

“Both Bravehearts,” he wrote in a nod to his wife and their unborn child.

NSA Doval meets PM Modi amid tensions with Pakistan over Pahalgam attack

NEW DELHI, May 6 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi met National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Tuesday morning amid continuing tension and speculation over India's military response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

This is the second time the Prime Minister has been briefed by the NSA in the past 48 hours, and it comes a day before state governments will conduct mock security drills - for the first time since the 1971 war with Pakistan - for "effective civil defence in the event of a hostile attack".

Mr Modi has held multiple high-level meetings - with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, NSA Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, and the Army, Navy, and Air Force chiefs - over the past few days, accelerating talk of military action against the Lashkar terror group.

Last week the Prime Minister met Mr Doval and General Chauhan, and gave the armed forces 'complete freedom to decide on the mode, targets, and timing' of India's military response.

The April 22 Pahalgam attack - in which 26 people, mostly civilians - were killed was the worst terrorist incident in India since the 2019 Pulwama attack, in which 40 soldiers were killed.



The Resistance Front, a known proxy of Pakistan-based Lashkar, claimed the attack.

In addition, Delhi has also said it has proof the Pakistan deep state - frequently called out for support of cross-border terrorism - was once again involved in planning a terror attack on India.

The Pakistan government has denied any connection with the Pahalgam attack, and demanded an independent, international investigation into India's claims.

Islamabad has also sought to drum up support from the global community - which had condemned the attack and backed India - at a closed-door meeting of the United Nations Security Council this week.

However, the UNSC seemed disinclined to offer Pak support, news agency ANI said, instead asking tough questions over the involvement of the Lashkar-e-Taiba. The Council reportedly also questioned Pakistan over

the targeting of civilians and tourists in Pahalgam.

At the meeting Pakistan also reiterated its "commitment to peaceful, cooperative relations with all our neighbours, including India" and called for "mutual respect and sovereign equality".

Nevertheless, since the attack there has been continuous and unprovoked firing - for 12 consecutive days - from the Pakistan side of the Line of Control, to which Indian forces responded with proportion.

In its first round of responses India announced diplomatic restrictions, including revoking visas for Pakistan nationals and suspending the 65-year-old Indus Waters Treaty, or IWT.

Suspension of the IWT was a critical step since the Indus and two of its tributaries irrigate nearly 80 per cent of Pakistan's farms. The IWT also prohibited India from constructing additional storage facilities that, in

theory, could be filled to cut off, fully, all water supply to Pakistan.

However, now that this treaty is on hold, India has begun increasing storage levels, building new dams, and creating additional hydroelectric projects, all of which will reduce, or affect, supply.

Pakistan responded by suspending visas to Pakistan and suspending the 1972 Simla Agreement, and warning India that putting the IWT on hold would be viewed as an 'act of war'.

Both countries have also shut border crossings and closed their respective airspaces.

Tension between India and Pakistan has ramped up since Pahalgam. The international community, however, remains hopeful that a non-military solution can still be found.

John Bolton, the US National Security Advisor in Donald Trump's first term, told agency that India is "entitled to retaliate and try to eliminate terrorist threats" to its sovereignty and people.

However, it is imperative, he also said, that India set a record for the rest of the world - that it had tried to everything to ensure a peaceful resolution to this long-standing problem.

“Have sought to institutionalize and routinize taking care of Indians abroad”: EAM Jaishankar



NEW DELHI, May 6 (Agencies): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar emphasised the importance of taking care of Indians living abroad. He recalled the numerous situations in the past decade, where evacuations were carried out to bring back Indians.

In his address at the launch of the Global Access to Talents from India (GATI) event in New Delhi on Tuesday, Jaishankar spoke about government's efforts, including establishing an effective grievance portal and creating a responsive fund for the needs of the vulnerable.

Jaishankar said, "It is natural that as more Indians travel abroad, that the expectations they have of their Government are carried with them. The last decade has brought up numerous situations where evacuation operations had to be undertaken. But even as a routine exercise, our citizens legitimately expect to be backed up in difficult situations. It may be a quick replacement of a lost passport."

"Or the predicament of those who not paid their wages, or mistreated by their foreign employers. It can be cultural situations where the rights of Indians are not adequately respected. These baskets of issues have gained salience in our diplomatic endeavours. From establishing an effective grievance portal to creating a responsive fund for the needs of the vulnerable, we have sought to institutionalize and to routinize taking care of Indians abroad. It is only then that they will have the confidence to

fully explore the global workplace," he added.

He said that Central Government has initiated skill training, vocational education and professional preparation efforts for the Indian workforce to be more productive in the contemporary era.

Highlighting government's efforts, he said, "Our Government today has initiated a range of skill training, vocational education and professional preparation efforts for the Indian workforce to be more productive in the contemporary era. However, the magnitude of opportunities before us are so large that it takes a 'whole of the nation approach' to be fully realized. This is an effort in which the contribution of every stakeholder is valuable and welcomed."

"As we contemplate our engagement with the world, as India moves up to become the third largest economy, much of this will be people-centric. Our talents and our skills will not only be a resource we have to bring to the table but will be very much part of our branding and of our reputation. A more interdependent and technology-driven world, with all its challenges and needs, will only put a greater premium on it. It is up to us to make the most of these times and we look forward to working with you in that regard," he added.

He discussed the need for talent abroad and mentioned how there is availability in India. Jaishankar spoke about his recent conversation with Japan's Speaker who backed an action plan that would create

a concrete and predictable flow of Indian skills to his country.

Jaishankar said, "Let me emphasize that these are not hypothetical possibilities or even prospects that are somewhere on the horizon. The need for talent abroad is a situation that is actually upon us today. Let me give you some concrete examples. Only yesterday, and the Japanese Ambassador is sitting here before me, the Speaker of Japan was here to advocate an action plan that would create a concrete and predictable flow of Indian skills to his country. It would help take forward the SSW - the Specialized Skill Workers Agreement - that we had concluded a few years ago. Let me give you another - Israel - as an example, where there is already a flow of workers in different domains."

"Mauritius has a similar demand, and has concluded an understanding with us. Malaysia has opened up many more sectors to Indian skills, especially construction. We have traditionally been a source country for Singapore, and their requirement will upgrade even as their economy does. The German Chancellor was here last October, and he spoke of increasing the employment Visas for Indians by 4x. My counterparts in Italy, and again I note the Ambassador here before me, in Spain, in Austria, in Greece, have all shown appetite to tap into our human resources pool as urgently and effectively as possible. This, I emphasize, is just the tip of the iceberg, and we must prepare for what is below the waterline. My short point is that there is a demand in the world, an availability in India and the basic groundwork done to enable Indian talent to gain global access is there. Now, how well they do that and what will be the scale - I think that is upto us," he added.

ED conducts searches in Ahmedabad in scam related to mismanagement of Waqf properties

AHMEDABAD, May 6 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday conducted multiple searches in Gujarat as part of a money laundering investigation linked to alleged financial irregularities and misuse of certain Waqf properties in the state, official sources said.

A case has been filed by the agency under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) taking cognisance of a Ahmedabad Police FIR field against one Salim Khan Jumma Khan Pathan, Mohammad Yasar Abdulhamiya Sheikh, Mehmod Khan Jumma Khan Pathan, Fezmohamad Pir Mohammad Chobdar and Saheed Ahmad Yakubhai Sheikh. The accused had

"illegally" claimed to be trustees of the Kanch Ki Masjid Trust and Shah Bada Kasam Trust, the agency said.

About nine premises of the accused and their associates are being raided across Gujarat by the Ahmedabad zonal office of the federal probe agency, the sources said.

The accused entered into "fraud" lease agreements, extorted rents from tenants, and submitted "false" affidavits to the Waqf Board, according to agency sources.

The ED suspects that the accused built shops on Trust's land and collected rent and committed "fraud and conspiracy" against the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and Waqf Board for "person-

al" gains.

Sources said a plot of land located adjacent to the 'Kanch Ki Masjid' was originally owned by the Kanch Ki Masjid Trust.

This land, according to sources, was given to the AMC years ago with an agreement that it would be used for the construction of two Urdu schools.

The "intent" was to provide education to local children of classes 1 to 7.

The school was damaged during the 2001 earthquake and later demolished in 2009.

About 150-200 houses and 25-30 shops were built here "illegally" between 2008 and 2025.

Rent was collected by the accused persons every month from these immovable assets but



not deposited into the trust's account.

The accused are alleged to have siphoned off the trust money and land which was originally meant for community welfare, according to the sources.

The accused submitted a "forged" affidavit to the Waqf Board at Gandhinagar in 2024 to falsely claim trusteeship.

This was reportedly used to mislead both the board and the AMC, the ED suspects.

Woman Naxalite killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district

RAIPUR, May 6 (Agencies): A woman Naxalite was killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district amid the ongoing massive anti-Naxal operation in the area, a senior police official said on Tuesday.

The gunfight took place on Monday in the forest around Karregutta hills along Chhattisgarh-Telangana border, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range, Sundarraj P told agency.

With this encounter, the bodies of four women Maoists have been recovered in the area since security forces launched the operation, involving some 24,000 personnel from different units, on April 21, he said.

A .303 rifle was also recovered from the encounter site on Monday, Sundarraj said.

On April 24, three women Naxalites were killed on Karregutta

Hills and a huge cache of weapons, explosives and other materials was recovered.

The ongoing operation, said to be one of the biggest counter-insurgency actions launched in Bastar region, involves personnel of the District Reserve Guard, Bastar Fighters and Special Task Force, all units of the Chhattisgarh police; Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and its elite unit CoBRA, among others.

The operation was launched following inputs about the presence of senior cadres of the 'battalion number 1' -- considered to be the strongest military formation of the Maoists -- and leaders of the Telangana state committee of the Maoists in the area.

The densely forested area with a series of hills is said to be the base of the battalion

no 1, according to the police.

Intelligence suggests that several senior Maoist cadres have either been killed or seriously injured during the operation, said Sundarraj.

Hundreds of Naxalite hideouts and bunkers have been destroyed so far and a huge cache of explosive materials, detonators, food stock and items of daily use have been seized, he said.

At least six security personnel belonging to STF, DRG and CoBRA were injured in separate incidents of pressure IED blasts.

All of them were out of danger, Sundarraj said.

As many as 146 Naxalites have been killed in separate encounters in the state so far this year.

Of them, 129 were killed in the Bastar division comprising seven districts including Bijapur.

Man kills wife, gets caught transporting her body in Pune district

PUNE, May 6 (Agencies): A man allegedly killed his 26-year-old wife and was caught transporting her body on a scooter in Maharashtra's Pune district on Tuesday, police said.

Based on a tip-off, a patrolling team of police intercepted the 28-year-old accused, who was riding his two-wheeler



in the Nanded City area in the wee hours of the

day, an official said. He said the team

found the woman's body stuffed in a gunny sack.

The accused, Rakesh Nishar, allegedly strangled his wife Babita at their apartment in the Dhayari area after a domestic dispute, the official said.

He said, "The police control room received a call around 1.30 am

about a man transporting a body on a scooter. A patrolling team intercepted the vehicle and found a woman's body stuffed in a gunny sack." The official said Nishar, a labourer from Uttar Pradesh, was arrested under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Five killed in truck-car collision in Karnataka

The victims were from Sagar in Shivamogga district, who were on their way to Bagalkot

HUBBALLI, May 6 (Agencies): Five people were killed, including three women, in a collision involving a truck and a car on Tuesday morning.

According to police, the accident occurred near Ingalahalli cross on the outskirts of the district headquarter town of Hubballi.

The victims were from Sagar in Shivamogga district, who were on their way to Bagalkot.

The bodies have been shifted to the Karnataka Medical College and Research Institute for autopsy.

A case has been registered and investigation is on.

Six killed in road crash in UP's Shahjahanpur

SHAHJAHANPUR, May 6 (Agencies): Six persons were killed in a head-on collision between a motorcycle and a car in Madnapur area here, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place near Kawilpur village on the Bareilly-Etawah road on Monday night, Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajesh Dwivedi said.

The impact of the collision was so severe that the motorcycle's fuel tank exploded and caught fire, he said.

While car occupants Sudhir (40) and Sonu (18) died on the spot, the four

motorcycle riders -- Ravi (20), Akash (20), Dinesh (19), and Abhishek (19) -- were rushed to a hospital in a critical condition but succumbed to their injuries.

The SP said the motorcycle riders were residents of Tilhar town and had gone to attend a feast in a nearby village in Madnapur area. The car occupants, residents of Bareilly, were on their way to attend a wedding in Giradharpur village in the same area.

Police have sent the bodies for post-mortem.

“Will do everything to support India in its efforts against terrorism”: US House Speaker Mike Johnson

Johnson also spoke about the trade deal between India and the US and expressed hope that the trade negotiations will work out well between two nations.

WASHINGTON, May 6 (Agencies): US House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson has said that US will make every effort to support India in its fight against terrorism. He called India a “very important” partner for the US in so many ways.

In his remarks at the Congressional briefing at the Capitol Hill, Johnson also spoke about the trade deal between India and the US and expressed hope that the trade negotiations will work out well between two nations.

When asked about his message for India who has been at the receiving end of cross border terrorism for past several decades, Mike Johnson said, “Look, we have great sympathy for what’s happening over there and we want to stand with our allies. I think India is a very important partner to us in so many ways. I hope that the trade negotiations will work out well between the two countries. No one asked me about tariffs, I’m glad. Yes, but a critically important relationship for us and such a large population in such an important country. And India has to stand against terrorism there as well.”

“We’ll do everything we can in



the US to support those efforts. And I think that’s all part of this relationship as it develops. The Trump administration clearly understands the importance of that relationship and clearly understands the importance of the threat of terrorism. And so I think if that threat is increased, I think you’ll see the administration, my belief is that they will focus more energy and resources and time to help assist with that. That’s certainly our hope,” he added.

The Trump administration has expressed support for India in its fight against terrorism following the recent attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam on April 22 which claimed the lives of 26 people and injured several others.

On April 30, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and reaffirmed the United States’ commitment to cooperate with India against terrorism.

Expressing his sorrow for the lives lost in the “horrific terrorist attack” in Pahalgam, Rubio also encouraged India to work with Pakistan to “de-escalate tensions” and maintain peace and security in South Asia, US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said in a statement.

In a statement, Tammy Bruce said, “Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar today. The Secretary expressed his sorrow for

the lives lost in the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam, and reaffirmed the United States’ commitment to cooperation with India against terrorism. He also encouraged India to work with Pakistan to de-escalate tensions and maintain peace and security in South Asia.”

On April 23, US President Donald Trump held a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on and offered his condolences at the loss of lives in a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. Trump condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam and expressed full support to India to bring to justice the perpetrators of this “heinous attack.”

In a post on X, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, stated, “President Donald Trump @realDonaldTrump @POTUS called PM @narendramodi and conveyed his deepest condolences at the loss of innocent lives in the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. President Trump strongly condemned the terror attack and expressed full support to India to bring to justice the perpetrators of this heinous attack. India and the United States stand together in the fight against terror.”

Moscow airports shut amid Ukraine drone attacks on second straight night

MOSCOW, May 6 (Agencies): Ukraine launched an overnight drone attack targeting Moscow in a second night attack in a row, prompting the closure of all airports in Russia’s capital for several hours, officials said early on Tuesday. According to Moscow’s Mayor, Sergei Sobyenin, at least 19 Ukrainian drones were destroyed on their approach “from different directions,” causing no major destruction or injuries.

However, Russia’s aviation watchdog Rosaviatsia said flights were halted at all four airports that serve Moscow for several hours overnight to ensure air safety. Airports in a number of regional cities were also closed.

Three major Telegram news channels that have links to Russian security services -- Bazaar, Mash and Shot -- said a drone struck an apartment building near a major road in the south of Moscow, smashing windows. There were no reports of casualties.

So far, Ukraine has not issued any state-

ment on the matter, but per a agency report, Russia has also carried out drone strikes in the Kharkiv and Kyiv areas. The report quoted the governor of Ukraine’s Odesa region, Oleh Kiper, saying that one person was killed in a drone strike.

The consecutive attacks came ahead of Moscow marking this week the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet Union and its allies over Nazi Germany in World War Two. Russian President Vladimir Putin declared last week a three-day ceasefire from May 8-10 to mark the anniversary.

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskiy called the measure pointless and offered an unconditional ceasefire for at least 30 days in line with a US proposal launched in March.

It is the second night in a row that Russia has reported a drone attack by Ukraine. Russia’s defence ministry said it had destroyed 26 Ukrainian drones overnight.

Since the start of the war that Russia launched more than three years ago, Kyiv

has launched several drone attacks on Moscow. Its biggest attack on the Russian capital in March killed three people.

In the Voronezh region that borders Ukraine in Russia’s southwest, at least 18 drones were destroyed, causing small damage in a non-residential building and a children’s playground, the regional governor said early on Tuesday.

While Russia’s air defence units destroyed 10 drones over the southern Pena region, with no damage or injuries reported, a regional governor said on Telegram.

The full scale of the attack on Moscow and the rest of Russia on Tuesday was not clear. There was no immediate comment from Kyiv about the latest drone attack.

Ukraine says its drone attacks are aimed at destroying infrastructure key to Moscow’s overall war efforts and are in response to Russia’s continued assault on Ukrainian territory, including residential areas and energy infrastructure.

Australian health authorities issue warning over wild poisonous mushrooms

SYDNEY, May 6 (Agencies): Health authorities in Australia’s second-most populous state have issued a warning over wild poisonous mushrooms.

The Department of Health in Victoria on Tuesday warned the state’s 7 million residents to be vigilant as poisonous mushrooms become more widespread in the Australian autumn and winter.

It said that death cap mushrooms and yellow-staining mushrooms become more evident in Victoria during the autumn as the weather becomes wetter and cooler.

Chief Health Officer Christian McGrath said that it is important for Victorians to remove any wild mushrooms growing in home gardens to avoid young children and pets coming into contact with them.

“Adults and children should not touch wild mushrooms with their bare hands,



let alone eat them, and animals should be kept well away from them,” he said.

McGrath said that anyone who collects and consumes wild mushrooms of unknown species is putting themselves at risk of poisoning, serious illness and death.

“Unless you are an expert, do not pick and eat wild mushrooms,” he said.

The Department of Health said that initial symptoms of poisoning can include stomach pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Bangladesh court issues new arrest orders against detained Hindu leader Chinmoy Das

DHAKA, May 6 (Agencies): A Bangladesh court on Tuesday ordered the arrest of detained Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das in four more cases, a day after the court took a similar action against him in a murder case.

Chattogram Metropolitan Magistrate SM Alauddin Mahmud issued the order after a virtual hearing, state-run BSS news agency reported.

A former ISKCON leader, Das, was arrested at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on November 25 last year in a seditious case over alleged defamation of the national



flag. His bail petition was rejected by a Chattogram court, which sent him to jail the next day.

His arrest sparked widespread protests, with his followers demonstrating in Dhaka and other places.

The four cases on which the court took action on Tuesday include obstruction of

police duties at the Kotwali police station and attacks on lawyers and justice seekers, according to Assistant Public Prosecutor Md Raihanul Wazed Chowdhury.

“The court granted the plea to show him (Das) arrested after the hearing,” news portal bdnews24 quoted Chowdhury as saying.

Das was presented to the court virtually for the hearing, considering his “security and overall situation,” an official was quoted as saying by the report.

Security was beefed up at the Chattogram court premises since Tuesday morning in anticipation of the virtual hearing, BSS reported. Security was also heightened in front of the Chattogram jail, it added.

On Monday, the court ordered Das’ arrest in connection with the murder of assistant government prosecutor Saiful Islam Alif, who was hacked to death during the violent protest sparked by the Hindu

leader’s arrest.

On April 30, a High Court bench ordered Das’ release on bail. However, the decision was challenged before the Appellate Division’s chamber judge Justice Rezaul Haque, who stayed the ruling.

Earlier, the lawyers of the Hindu community leader had failed to secure bail for him as the lower court in Chattogram denied their petitions.

“The allegation of disrespecting the national flag is baseless, as it was not a national flag,” top defence counsel Apurba Kumar Bhat-tacharya earlier said.

Bangladesh’s former prime minister Khaleda Zia returns to country after treatment in UK

DHAKA, May 6 (Agencies): Bangladesh’s ailing former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Tuesday returned to the country from London after four months of medical treatment, according to media reports.

Zia went to London on January 8 for advanced medical care and was admitted to The London Clinic. After being discharged from the clinic, the BNP chairperson moved to her eldest son Tarique Rahman’s residence, where she has been receiving treatment.

A Qatari royal air ambulance carrying Khaleda and her entourage landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 10:42 am, BNP Media Cell member Sayrul Kabir Khan was quoted as saying by the Dhaka agency.

Her two daughters-in-law – Tarique Rahman’s wife Zubaida Rahman and the late Arafat Rahman Coco’s wife Syeda Sharmila Rahman – are accompanying her.

The plane had departed from London’s Heathrow Airport at 4:20 pm local time. Tarique had driven his mother to the airport and seen her off, according to Khaleda’s private physician, Prof AZM Zahid Hossain.

The 79-year-old three-time prime minister has long suffered from liver cirrhosis, kidney disease, heart problems, diabetes, and arthritis.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, along with several senior party leaders, arrived at the airport around 8:30am to receive Khaleda.

Talking to reporters at the airport, Fakhrul expressed the hope that the return of party chairperson Khaleda Zia would facilitate the



restoration and advancement of democracy in the country.

“She went abroad for treatment after years of suffering under fascist oppression. With the fall of fascism, she was finally able to receive proper medical care. After nearly four months of treatment, she is returning home today. It’s a matter of great joy for us and the people,” the BNP leader was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune.

Preparations have been completed at Khaleda’s Gulshan residence, Feroza, agency reported.

Security has been tightened around the walled compound, with police and members of the Chairperson’s Security Force (CSF) stationed at the premises.

Supporters have been instructed to stay on the pavements, carrying national and BNP flags, and avoid blocking roads. A large number of police, army, Rapid Action Battalion, Armed Police battalion and Ansar members have been deployed on the roads and near the airport area, the report said.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) also issued a notice on Monday, warning of potential traffic congestion in the Gulshan-Banani area due to excessive crowds gathering to welcome Khaleda.

In March, Bangladesh’s Supreme Court upheld a High Court ruling that acquitted Zia in a corruption case in which she was sentenced to seven years in jail by a lower court. Zia was convicted in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case in 2018 by a Dhaka court. The court sentenced her to seven years imprisonment and fined her Taka 1 million.

Zia now stands acquitted in both the Zia Orphanage Trust and Zia Charitable Trust cases, in which she had previously been convicted and sentenced, Maksud Ullah, a lawyer for the BNP chairperson, was quoted as saying by The Daily Star newspaper.

The BNP chairperson was lodged in the Old Dhaka Central Jail on February 8, 2018, after the Dhaka court sentenced her in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government temporarily released Zia from jail after 776 days through an executive order, suspending her sentence on March 25, 2020, with conditions that she would stay in her house and not leave the country.

On August 6 last year, after the ouster of the Hasina regime, Zia was freed by an order of President Mohammed Shahabuddin.

Zia served as the prime minister of Bangladesh from March 1991 to March 1996, and again from June 2001 to October 2006.

France ‘strongly’ condemns Israel’s Gaza conquest plan

PARIS, May 6 (Agencies): France’s foreign minister said on Tuesday that Paris “very strongly” condemns Israel’s new military campaign in the Gaza Strip.

His comments come a day after Israel’s military said expanded operations in Gaza would include displacing “most” of its residents, after the country’s security cabinet approved a

plan that an Israeli official said will entail “the conquest of the Gaza Strip and the holding of the territories”.

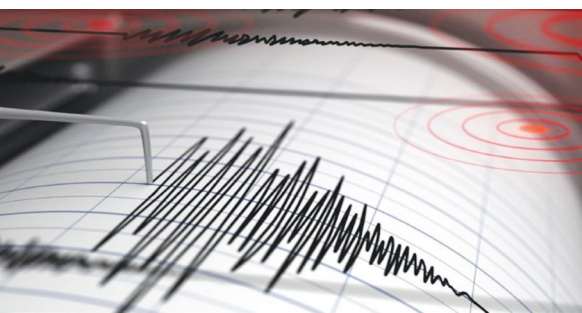
“It’s unacceptable,” French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said in a radio interview, adding the Israeli government was “in violation of humanitarian law.”

Israel’s decision comes as the United Nations and aid organ-

isations have repeatedly warned of the humanitarian catastrophe on the ground, with famine again looming after more than two months of a total Israeli blockade.

Nearly all of the Gaza Strip’s 2.4 million people have been displaced at least once during the war, sparked by Hamas militants’ October 2023 attack on Israel.

Magnitude 4.7 earthquake strikes western Indonesia



JAKARTA, May 6 (Agencies): A 4.7-mag-

nitude earthquake struck west of Tobelo,

Indonesia, on Tuesday, the Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency reported.

The agency said that the quake’s epicentre was located 85 kilometres from Tobelo district at a depth of 123.9 kilometres.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Yoga & HIV Awareness Camp held at GDC Sidhra to promote holistic health



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: A grand initiative to promote physical well-being and public health awareness was held successfully today with a Mega Yoga Camp coupled with an HIV Awareness Camp organised by NSS unit and Red Ribbon Club of GDC Sidhra in collaboration with Ayush department J&K at Diamond Public School Bajalta. The event attracted hundreds of participants from diverse age groups, all united under the mission of fostering a healthier, more informed community.

The Mega Yoga Camp featured expert yoga instructors viz. Vandana Sharma and Jyoti Bala from Ayush Department J&K who led participants

through a range of sessions focused on improving flexibility, mental peace, and overall wellness. From beginner-friendly poses to advanced breathing techniques, the camp catered to all levels of experience.

In parallel, the HIV Awareness Camp offered free counseling and educational sessions. Healthcare professionals were present to provide valuable information about prevention, treatment, and the importance of regular testing. Informative and interactive talks, and personal Q&A sessions were conducted to dispel myths and encourage open conversations around HIV.

Speaking at the event Dr. Himani Bhutyal, medical officer and coordinator yoga camp in view of upcoming International

Yoga Day said, "This camp is not just about physical fitness, but about empowering individuals with knowledge and resources to take charge of their health. Yoga builds resilience, and awareness saves lives."

The dual initiative was applauded for addressing both the physical and public health dimensions of wellness, reflecting a holistic approach to community care.

The event was a grand success and well organised by Dr Purvaiya Hans NSS Programme

Officer and Dr Mussarat Choudhary , Convenor Red Ribbon Club with great support from their teams under the able guidance of Dr G S Rakwal, Principal of the college. The whole programme was attended by college faculty viz., Prof Shonima Malhotra and Dr. Pooja Sharma alongside medical officers viz., Dr Sarika and Dr Anita from Ayush department Bain Bajalta and faculty members of the host school with great support from their Principal Mr Joginder Singh.

Pak has been shaken from within due to fear of PM Modi's action, says Kaith

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: Pakistani government, the master of terrorists, has been shaken from within and it is becoming lean from the fear of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's action. The manner in which the Prime Minister Modi has authorized the Indian Army to take appropriate steps against terrorism by convening a meeting of the Commanders and Chief of Defense Commanders of the three armies, including Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Security Advisor Ajit Doval, it seems that India cannot tolerate any kind of attack on its sovereignty, said the BJP Activist R.L.Kaith.

Kaith further said that Pakistan carried out such a barbaric act in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025, which has been condemned by the whole world and Pakistan's Defense Minister Khwaja Asif is saying that Pakistan has been nurturing terrorists for more than thirty years.

GDC Ramgarh organizes cleanliness drive

Top News Report

RAMGARH, May 6: In a commendable effort to promote cleanliness and hygiene, the "Prabha" NSS Unit of Govt. Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized a cleanliness drive on the college campus. The drive was held under the patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal of the college, and aimed at contributing towards the vision of Swachh Bharat, making the college a cleaner and healthier place to study.

The initiative saw active participation from the entire student community, who, along with NSS volunteers, enthusiastically engaged in cleaning the college campus. The students also raised slogans of "Swachh Bharat Shreshth Bharat," showing their commitment to the cause.

Addressing the par-



ticipants Principal Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol highlighted the crucial link between cleanliness (Swachhta) and health during the drive. She emphasized that maintaining cleanliness is not just about keeping the surroundings tidy, but also about fostering a sense of responsibility

and environmental care among students.

"Cleanliness is a fundamental requirement for a healthy community," she stated, adding that consistent efforts in maintaining cleanliness can significantly impact the environment and serve as a model for the broader community.

FromPage No: 1

Falling stone kills one..

Both were taken to hospital, where one was declared dead on arrival. The other is undergoing treatment.

The deceased has been identified as Habibullah Malik, a resident of Drugmulla.

Police said a case has been registered and further investigation is underway.

Soldier among four killed ..

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed their grief over the accident.

Abdullah rushed his cabinet colleague and MLA Mendhar Javed Ahmad Rana to the scene to oversee the relief efforts.

The bus was on its way to Mendhar from Ghani village when its driver lost control around 9.20 am and the vehicle rolled down into the gorge, the officials said. Locals immediately launched a rescue operation and were joined by police, Army and CRPF personnel.

The officials identified the deceased as 45-year-old Mohd Majeed, 55-year-old Shakeela Begum and 50-year-old Mohd Haneef of Ghani village and 60-year-old Noor Hussain of Kasblari. Majeed, a soldier posted in Assam, had come to his village on leave.

Hussain and Majeed were found dead on the spot by the rescuers, Begum died on the way to GMC Hospital Rajouri and Haneef succumbed during treatment at GMC Rajouri, they said, adding the condition of seven more injured persons was stated to be "critical".

Mendhar Block Medical Officer Ashfaq Choudhary said five critically injured persons were referred to the Jammu Government Medical College (GMC) hospital for specialised treatment.

"We have mobilised all the 15 ambulances on getting information about the accident and the injured were shifted from the scene with the active assistance of police, CRPF, Army and local volunteers," the doctor said.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident.

"Pained by the loss of lives due to tragic road accident in Poonch. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. I pray for a speedy recovery of those injured in the accident," he said.

The chief minister also expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the swift and complete recovery of all those injured in the accident.

"... Immediate directions have been issued to ensure the best possible medical care and full support to those affected. I have also requested (minister) Javed Rana to visit the site and personally oversee the relief efforts," Abdullah said in a post on X.

Earlier, Rana said the government will provide all necessary support to the accident victims.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic bus accident... I have spoken to Divisional Commissioner Jammu and instructed him to ensure immediate assistance, including airlifting critically injured to GMC Jammu. JK Government will provide all necessary support to those affected," Rana said in a post on X before leaving for Poonch.

Officials in Jammu review plan...

of devotees expected to participate in the annual pilgrimage to the revered 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, they said.

The 38-day yatra is scheduled to commence on July 3 from the twin routes the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steeper Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

The first batch of pilgrims will leave the Jammu base camp on July 2. Divisional

Commissioner of Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, chaired a meeting to review the development plan for augmentation of civic amenities and renovation work for the yatra en route Jammu division, an official spokesperson said.

He said the meeting, attended by senior officers of various departments here on Monday, discussed the execution of the identified works according to the approved work plan.

The divisional commissioner directed the district administrations and concerned heads of departments to float tenders for the work at the earliest, the spokesperson said.

He said the district-wise work approved included repair, renovation and augmentation of basic ameni-

ties such as power, water, and toilet facilities at the various lodgement centres in the districts en route the annual holy pilgrimage from Kathua to Banihal in Ramban district.

The senior official directed the power department to start work for providing electricity supply to the lodgement centres and Yatra camps at Lakanpur Kathua, Bhagwati Nagar Jammu and in Chanderkote Ramban and illumination work

. He asked the Jammu Municipal Corporation and the deputy commissioner to start the process for tenders of works at the yatra camp in Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu. The health department was asked to stock medical supplies and keep ambulances ready at yatra camps and lodgement centres, the spokesperson said.

He said the Public Works Department was asked to look after the installation of waterproof hangers and temporary sheds at the yatra camp in Bhagwati Nagar. The deputy commissioners of Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur and Ramban were asked to monitor the progress of work for its quality execution and timely completion, the spokesperson said.

‘PM had intel 3 days before J&K...

He added, "There is an intelligence failure, the government has accepted it and they will resolve it. If they knew this, why didn't they do anything?...I got information that three days before the attack, an intelligence report was sent to PM Modi, and therefore he cancelled his programme to visit Kashmir, I also read this in a newspaper..."

Srinagar Police, Tourist Police..

The exercise simulated rescue operations in the event of boat capsizing and drowning incidents, police said.

The drill comes in the wake of two recent boat capsize incidents in the lake over the past month, triggered by high-velocity winds, which resulted in the death of a local resident.

The team of Srinagar Police, Tourist Police and SDRF personnel, equipped with necessary resources and gear, practiced rescue and response procedures in real-time with the aim to mitigate effective rescue and response measures during contingent situations in accordance with established guidelines and safety protocols.

SDRF teams have also enhanced capacity building and logistical support to contain any future contingencies.

During the mock drill, senior officers SSP Enforcement, SP Zone East Srinagar, SP HQ Srinagar, DySP HQ Srinagar and DySP SDRF were present to monitor the preparedness exercise.

"This mock drill underscores the commitment of the Jammu & Kashmir Police in ensuring prompt and effective responses to emergencies, thereby, strengthening overall public safety and preparedness in the region," police said.

JMC raids warehouse...

Yadav, who led the operation in Rajiv Nagar area of Narwal on Monday night, said the seized polythene appears to be single-use plastic, which is banned in the Union Territory.

He said investigations are underway to identify those involved in the storage and intended distribution of the polythene.

"The material will be sent to the Pollution Control Committee for laboratory analysis to confirm its composition. By appearance, it seems to be single-use polythene, but we will wait for lab results to confirm," Yadav said.

He said individuals present at the warehouse fled the scene upon seeing the JMC team.

Officials said a truck fully loaded with polythene was found parked at the warehouse, alongside a substantial quantity of polythene stored inside the premises.

The team also uncovered a large stock of gutka packets during the raid.

Tourists call Kashmir...

natural beauty and the serene Dal Lake. Known as "heaven on earth," the region continues to attract visitors, who are reassured by the safe environment and the warm hospitality of the locals.

Tourists are urging others to explore the valley, appreciating not only its landscapes but also the warm, cooperative spirit of the locals.

Faizan Ansari, a tourist visiting the valley, shares

his experience."People of Kashmir are cooperative and well qualified, there is no issue...Right now, the situation is very good...I want to say to all tourists not to cancel your trip, you should visit Kashmir," he told agency.

Another tourist from Mumbai told ANI, "This is a very good place, that's why Kashmir is called heaven on earth. Everybody should visit this place...the situation here is very safe and people are nice...it is like a home away from home."

Earlier, a tourist from Gujarat's Vadodara Vikram Bhai Vyas told ANI, "I don't feel good about leaving today. I've had a great time here. The hoteliers have supported us throughout our stay. We felt no fear, and locals have been welcoming. Tourists must visit — there is no fear as such."

Meanwhile, visuals from Pahalgam's Baisaran valley — the site of the attack — tell a different story. Once teeming with tourists, the area now shows sparse movement, limited to a few civilians and patrolling security forces.

Security agencies and Jammu and Kashmir authorities have intensified their crackdown on those linked to the attack.

Earlier today, the Indian Army responded to unprovoked small-arms fire from Pakistani positions across the Line of Control (LoC) during the night of May 5 to early hours of May 6, as per the Indian Army.

The Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked small-arms firing from posts across the Line of Control in areas opposite Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Naushera, Sunderbani and Akhnoor in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian army said in a statement, "During the night of 05-06 May 2025, Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked small-arms firing from posts across the Line of Control in areas opposite Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Naushera, Sunderbani and Akhnoor in J&K. Indian Army responded in a proportionate manner."

Jal Shakti worker dies after..

the worker, identified as Mohd Bashir (52), son of Ali Mohd and a resident of Bandi Kama Khan, was working on a pipeline at Khariyan Saiklu.

"He lost balance and slipped from the hill, sustaining serious injuries to his head and other parts of the body," the official said.

Police, along with locals, rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to Sub District Hospital Mandi, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Police have taken cognizance of the incident further investigation started.

Security heightened, vehicles ..

Pakistani forces along the Line of Control (LoC), which was responded by the Indian forces accordingly.

Visuals from Poonch and Rajouri showed security forces checking vehicles randomly, asking IDs from the people and sometimes checking bags of people too.

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Indian Army responded in proportionate manner." On May 4 too, Indian Army had responded to the unprovoked small arms firing across the Line of Control (LoC) in areas opposite Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Nowshera, Sunderbani, and Akhnoor areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

On April 30, India closed its airspace to all aircraft registered in Pakistan and those operated by Pakistani airlines, according to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), another major step following the April 22 terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam in which 26 people were killed.

India issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM), confirming the closure of its airspace to all Pakistani-registered, operated, or leased aircraft, including military flights, from April 30 to May 23 (estimated duration).

On April 29, the Director General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan talked over the hotline to discuss the unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistan, as per defence sources.

Sources said India warned Pakistan against the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Pakistan Army along the LoC and the International Border.

Innocents must not suffer..

time. We must ensure that innocent people of Jammu & Kashmir are not affected in our efforts to catch those involved in the Pahalgam attack. We have conveyed this concern."

He urged that operations to trace the culprits be carried out with caution to avoid any inconvenience to the general public.

When asked about his recent meeting with the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister declined to share details "Keep my meeting with the PM as such. Let it remain between us, what we talked about in the meeting."

Govt notifies cashless..

designated hospital for an amount up to one lakh fifty thousand rupees per victim for a maximum period of seven days from the date of such accident," it added.

According to the notification, the treatment under this scheme (Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025) at a hospital other than a designated hospital shall be for stabilisation purposes only and shall be as specified by the guidelines.

As per the notification, the State Road Safety Council shall be the nodal agency for implementation of the scheme for that state or Union Territory and would be responsible for coordinating with the National Health Authority for adoption and utilisation of the portal for onboarding of designated hospitals, treatment of victims, payment to the designated hospital on treatment and related matters.

The notification also said that the central government will constitute a steering committee to monitor the implementation of the scheme.

On March 14, 2024, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) had launched a pilot programme to provide cashless treatment to road accident victims.

Indo-Pak Tensions: Nation-Wide..

1992, and the current Foreign Trade Policy 2023 to enforce the prohibition.

Armies on the both side of the borders are at high alert and deployment has been increased multifold. While Pakistan has claimed that India is preparing for an attack, the Narendra Modi government appears to be getting ready for any misadventure by Islamabad. The Union Home Ministry of India has now issued a order asking states to conduct a mock drill for civil defence preparedness. This will enable the civilians to learn ways to protect themselves in case of any attack.

BJP Asks Its MPs To Participate In Mock-Drill

A nationwide mock drill is set for May 7, 2015, in 244 districts of the country. The BJP Parliamentary Party office has asked all BJP MPs to participate in the drill as ordinary citizens and cooperate with local administration. State presidents are also requested to work with senior office bearers and district presidents to ensure smooth execution: Sources

Punjab To Conduct Mock Drills Tomorrow

The state of Punjab will conduct the mock drills on May 7 between 9 pm and 9:30 pm. This comes after the Ministry of Home Affairs ordered states to conduct security mock drills and review emergency response preparedness.

India Gears Up For War-Like Situation

In a boost to civil defence preparations amid tensions with Pakistan, the Union Home Ministry has decided to organise Civil Defence Exercise and Rehearsal across 244 categorised districts on May 7. According to a letter written to Chief Secretaries, the Union Home Ministry said the exercise aims to assess and enhance the readiness of Civil Defence mechanisms across states and Union Territories. The exercise is planned up to the village level.

JK UT Junior and Senior teams selected for T10 National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: The Jammu and Kashmir Tennis Ball Cricket Association has announced a 38-member contingent comprising junior and senior boys and girls for participation in the upcoming T10 Junior/Senior National Tennis Ball Cricket Championship, scheduled to be held at Nagpur from 9th to 11th May 2025. The teams were selected following rigorous selection trials conducted at MA Stadium, Jammu, from 5th to 6th May 2025.

The Association expressed confidence in the selected players, stating that the contingent represents the best



talent from the Union Territory and is well-prepared to compete at the national level. The selection process witnessed enthusiastic participation from across the region, with players showcasing impressive skills and sportsman-

ship.

The Senior Men's Team includes Shan Irfan, Umer Manzoor, Shahida Bashir, Faizan Reyaz, Irfan Rafiq, Zee-shaan Nabi, Yasir Riyaz, Kamran Ahmad, Sajid Ali, Amir Suhail, Azwar Nasir, Faiz Farooq, and Zair Parvez.

The Senior Girls' Team features Rabiya Ashraf, Rutba Ashraf, Shahida Jan, Bushra Batool, Sundas Muzaffar, Seher Showkat, Kousar Jan, Mir Mariya, and Tabinda Rasheed.

The Junior Boys' Team comprises Mohammad Muzeeb, Rajveer Singh,

Musaib-ul-Din, Kunooz Manzoor, Burhan Gulzar, Mohit Fayaz, Sirhan Gulzar, Fazil Ali, Musaib Mohammad, Vihaan Gadoo, and Bazif Aulum.

The contingent will be led and guided by an experienced support staff, including Showkat Ahmad Ganie, Raja Mohd Shafi Kulley, Farooq Ahmad Salroo, and Shaista Akhter, serving as coaches and managers.

The association extended its best wishes to the players and officials, expressing hope that the teams will bring laurels to Jammu and Kashmir through their performances at the national championship.

GDC Kathua honours sports achievers of 2024-25 at felicitation ceremony

Top News Report

KATHUA, May 6: The Sports Board of Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua organized a grand felicitation ceremony to honour the outstanding student-athletes who brought laurels to the college in various inter-college and inter-university tournaments held during the academic session 2024-25.

The event was organized in the college's smart classroom and was graced by worthy Principal of the College, Prof. Seema Mir, as a chief guest and senior faculty members of the college, Dr. Sanjay Karupia, Prof. Neelam Bhagat, Prof. R. K. Pandita, Prof. Shalini Sharma, Prof. Rakesh Jasrotia, Dr. Ram Singh and Dr. Yash Paul Sharma.

The ceremony commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial



lamp followed by the Saraswati Vandana. The ambiance was filled with pride and celebration as more than 80 athletes were recognized for their remarkable achievements in various sports such as football, Gatka (male & female), badminton, kabaddi, Kho-kho (male & female), boxing, wrestling, grappling, handball, power lifting, athletics (male & female).

These students had participated and

excelled in diverse Inter-college and Inter-university Tournaments and brought laurels to the college by winning top three positions.

In her welcome address, the Convener of the Sports Board, Prof. Shivani Kotwal provided a detailed account of the sports activities undertaken during the year. She highlighted the notable victories of the GDC Kathua teams, including the Football (female), Gatka (male)

and badminton (male).

All the sports achievers participated in various above mentioned categories were felicitated with track suits in recognition to their excellence and contribution to the college's glory.

Prof. Seema Mir in her address, congratulated the awardees and praised their unwavering commitment, teamwork, and determination. Prof. Mir emphasized the importance of sports in holistic development.

Shiv Sena comes out in support of Himanshi, demands strict action against traitors of country



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: Along with teaching a strong lesson to the terrorists, strict legal action should be taken against the so-called nationalists who are engaged in destroying the fabric of unity and integrity of the country by dividing Hindus and Muslims and against those who troll and make insulting comments on martyr Lieutenant Vinay Narwal's wife Himanshi on social media, stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena UBT Jammu-Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that brutality vs brutality is supporting Pakistan's agenda.

Some people are proving their nationalism by attacking Kashmiris whereas their behavior is anti-national and also an attack on mutual brotherhood, unity and integrity.

At the same time, the appeal by Himanshi (wife of Haryana's Lieutenant Vinay Narwal, who was martyred in the Pahalgam attack) for strict punishment for the culprits and maintaining mutual unity is also not being digested by some so-called nationalists. Strict legal action should be taken against those trolling her on social media.

He said that how can the sacrifice of local youth Adil Hussain of Pahalgam be forgotten, many other local people have provided every possible help including food, shelter and transport to the tourists during this tough time.

Sahni said that the Pahalgam attack is proof of a huge security failure. Despite the passage of 2 weeks, we have not been able to reach the culprits of Pahalgam. At the same time, claims like terrorism will end after the removal of Article 370 have been exposed.

JKHCBAJ honours its members who have been elected to J&K's Legislative Assembly

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association Jammu (JKHCBAJ), organised a felicitation ceremony in the Jammu wing of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, to honour its members who have been elected to the J&K's Legislative Assembly, including Advocate Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (MLA Thanamandi), Advocate R.S. Pathania (MLA Udhampur East), and Advocate Arjun Singh Raju (MLA, Ramban).

The event commenced with a welcome by K. Nirmal Kotwal (President, JKHCBAJ), Baldev Singh (Vice President), Pardeep Majotra (General Secretary), Anshu Mahajan (Joint Secretary), Rahul Aggarwal (Treasurer), and a host of senior and young advocates. MLAs were presented with bouquets, shawls, and mementos, symbolizing the Bar's deep respect and admiration.

In his address, President Kotwal

expressed profound pride in the Bar Association's legacy, noting that the election of three of its own to the Legislative Assembly stands as a testament to the Bar's enduring commitment to public service and justice.

A highlight of the event was announcement of funds for development of Bar Halls by the all the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The members, also addressed the gathering, sharing heartfelt reflections on their journeys and reaffirming their dedication to the cause of justice.

This celebration was not merely an event, but a luminous chapter in the Association's history-a day when the legal fraternity's commitment to public service and the spirit of unity soared to new heights. T

he evening echoed with the promise that, as the Bar continues to nurture leaders, its legacy will illuminate the path of justice for generations to come.

ABVP Jammu Kashmir urges students, youth to participate in 'Civil Defence Mock Drill'

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has called upon youth and students to enthusiastically participate in the 'Civil Defence Mock Drill' being organized nationwide by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 7 May 2025.

In light of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, and the rising cross-border security threats including cyber attacks and hostile activities, this nationwide mock drill is a vital step towards

strengthening civilian and institutional preparedness.

This drill will include testing of air raid warning sirens, crash black-out exercises, rehearsals for safe evacuation of civilians, and training of youth and general public in safety measures during emergencies. Additionally, strategic camouflage techniques will be practiced to conceal critical installations such as radar stations and power plants.

ABVP believes that national security is not solely the responsibility of our armed forces, but

a shared duty of every citizen, especially the youth. Our schools, colleges, and universities must become centers of awareness, alertness, and preparedness.

ABVP urges students, youth, and educational institutions across the country to participate actively in this 'Mock Drill', take the training seriously, and contribute to building a vigilant, disciplined, and secure Bharat.

ABVP Jammu Kashmir State Secretary Sannak Shrivats stated, "ABVP welcomes the 'Civil Defence Mock Drill'.

736 students participate in Inter-School Zone Level Tournaments in district Ramban



Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 6: In a vibrant display of youth talent and sporting enthusiasm, the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), Ramban, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner, Ramban Baseer-Ul-Haq Choudhary and Supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Jagdish Raj Sharma, organized Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions across various zones of the district. The events witnessed active and spirited participation by a total of 736 students from both government and private schools.

In Zone Batote, the competitions were conducted in Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, and Badminton for boys under the age categories of U-14 and U-17. The event was hosted at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Batote, and was inaugurated by the school's Principal, Dev Raj Sharma. On the occasion, Zonal Physical Education Officer, Joginder Paul Gupta, presented a memento to the Principal as a token of appreciation. A total of 519 students from the zone participated, showcas-

ing remarkable enthusiasm, skill, and sportsmanship throughout the competitions.

In Zone Gool, the Inter-School Zonal Level Athletic Meet and Wrestling competitions for boys under the age categories of U-14 and U-17 were organized at Government Degree College, Gool Moila. The event drew a participation of 217 students, all of whom exhibited commendable athletic ability and dedication.

The field staff of both Zone Batote and Zone Gool played a crucial role in the successful execution of these sporting events, with their active involvement and commitment being widely appreciated.

The competitions not only highlighted the growing interest of students in physical education and competitive sports but also reflected the DYSS Department's consistent efforts to foster a healthy sporting culture in the district. Events like these provide young athletes with vital exposure and a platform to demonstrate their talents, helping pave the way for future sporting achievements.

New National Digital Library inaugurated in Malout, promises boost for students

Top News Report

MALOUT, May 6: A state-of-the-art National Digital Library was inaugurated today on the second floor above the Liberty Showroom, near the BSNL Telephone Exchange in Malout, offering students a modern and conducive environment for academic preparation.

The facility is equipped with air conditioning and Wi-Fi to ensure a comfortable and connected study space. In addition to infrastructure, the library will provide students with guidance for various competitive and academic examinations.

Speaking on the occa-



sion, Vijay Garg (Retired Principal), Ashok Narang, and Dheeraj Gupta expressed enthusiasm about the initiative, noting that seats are limited but student registrations have been steadily rising since its launch. They highlighted that the library is already gaining popularity and is poised to become a valuable resource for students in the Malout

region.

"This library will prove to be a boon for the area, providing students with the facilities and academic support they need to excel," said Garg. The National Digital Library aims to foster a learning ecosystem where students can access digital resources, prepare for exams, and benefit from expert guidance under one roof.

Army conducts lecture on Drug Abuse and Narco Terrorism at Shikari



Top News Report

REASI, May 6: The session aimed to educate the local youth and community members about the harmful effects of drug addiction, its impact on society and ways to combat this growing menace.

Army officials along with medical professionals, highlighted the physical, psychological and social consequenc-

es of drug abuse and encouraged the youth to adopt a healthy and disciplined lifestyle.

The lecture was well received by the community with participants actively engaging in discussions and seeking guidance on rehabilitation measures and preventive strategies. The initiative also emphasized the role of families, educators and society in curbing drug

abuse and ensuring a brighter future for the younger generation.

The Indian Army remains committed to social welfare initiatives, fostering awareness and empowering local communities through education and engagement programs. Such efforts reaffirm the Army's dedication to building a drug-free, healthy and prosperous society.

Virat Kohli reveals how ex-SA wicketkeeper helped him overcome short ball issues during initial RCB days

Virat was speaking on the RCB Podcast's latest episode, released on the franchise's YouTube channel

BENGALURU, May 6 (Agencies): Star Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Virat Kohli revealed how ex-South African wicketkeeper-batter Mark Boucher had the "biggest impact" on him during his early days with the franchise and helped him overcome difficulties in playing short balls.

Virat was speaking on the RCB Podcast's latest episode, released on the franchise's YouTube channel.

Speaking about Boucher, Virat said that he came with a mindset that he is going to help Indian players and saw a bit of potential in him. He also said that Boucher told him that he would be doing himself a "dis-service" if he did not go on to play for India in all formats.

"So he figured out what my weaknesses could be. If I wanted to go to the next level, this is what I need to do without me asking him anything. And he said, okay, I have seen you play this, that, and the other. We need to work on this, that and a couple more things. I was like, okay. So he took me to the nets," he said.

"He said, you need to work on the short ball. No one is going to give you a chance in international cricket if you cannot pull the ball. And I remember it was in a game we were playing in Chennai or Kolkata, one of the venues, where he told me that when I come to commentate in India four years from now, if I do not see you playing for India, you would do a disservice to yourself," he added.

Virat said that his conversations with Boucher left him stunned and pushed him to keep getting better.

"He had a massive impact on me in those early years.



I was very realistic about my abilities. Because I had seen a lot of other people play. And I did not feel like my game was anywhere close to theirs. The only thing that I had was the determination and the willingness that if I wanted to make my team win, I was willing to do anything," he said.

Boucher played for RCB from 2008-10, when Virat was slowly finding his feet in international cricket and had not played Test cricket for India. In 27 matches, Boucher made 388 runs at an average of 29.85, with a half-century.

Virat said that it was his determination to win the games for India and his fighting spirit that earned him a place in the Indian team and the backing of then skipper MS Dhoni and coach Gary Kirsten.

"Gary and MS made it very clear to me that we are backing you to play at number 3, and this is what you can do for the team and what you represent on the field, your energy, your engagement, that is of biggest value for us. So I was asked to play that way. I was not seen as an outright match-winner. But I had this thing of I am going to stay in the fight. I am not going to give up. And that

is what they backed. So that very thing that God blessed me with, that helped me to improve my game, my technique, everything," he said.

Virat admitted that while he was never the most "technically sound" or "naturally gifted", his desire to "be the best" and keenness to learn helped him get better.

On playing for the franchise initially, Virat said that he was extremely nervous around the team's Indian seniors such as Zaheer Khan, Anil Kumble, and Rahul Dravid, and felt the fear to work hard and behave well. On the other hand, he did not feel that kind of connection with the foreign legends initially.

"I became close to Zak (Zaheer Khan) because he more or less took me under his wing and really made me comfortable. And we formed a great relationship from then on, which continues to be. The foreign stars, I did not have a taste of sharing the same space with them. Because I had never played with them," he added.

"These legends obviously had played so many games with them, against them over so many years. So they had some sort of a communication or a connection, you can say. But

I had none. So I did not really understand that dynamic initially. But with the Indian legends, I was very, very nervous. That I need to be working hard. I need to be well-behaved. I mean, for me, the only icebreaker could be cricket conversations."

"Because beyond that, I did. So I've always been this way. I did not feel like I could ask them anything about their own personal lives or, you know, try to push my way into asking them what's going on and what about this and that. I was like, no. Once things evolve naturally, then yes, maybe you can open up more about different aspects of their lives or you want to share yours. But yeah, cricket conversations was the only thing that kept the communication going."

"And I think everyone was trying to understand this dynamic. Now, suddenly these legends are playing with their colleagues from different countries. And now you have this infusion of these young, brash individuals all in the same change room."

"So I think it was a bit much for everyone to process. But I think from year two onwards, everyone became more in sync and more at ease with each other. And things started really evolving from then on," he concluded.

In the ongoing IPL, Virat is at the top of run-scoring charts with 505 runs in 11 matches at an average of 63.12, with seven half-centuries and the best score of 73*. His strike rate is 143.46. His team is at the top of the table with eight wins and three losses and will play Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in Lucknow on May 9.

IPL 2025: Rohit Sharma 79 runs away from becoming 2nd player to reach this milestone



MUMBAI, May 6 (Agencies): Mumbai Indians (MI) star batter Rohit Sharma is just 79 runs away from becoming the second player ever to register 7,000 runs in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

The former MI skipper, who led the Blue and Gold franchise to the IPL glory five times, could reach another milestone of his glittering T20 career if he gets another big score against Gujarat Titans (GT) at Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday.

Currently, Rohit is the second-highest run-getter in the tournament's history, with 6,921 runs at an average of 29.83 and a strike rate of 132.00. He has hit two centuries and 46 fifties in 262 innings throughout his IPL career.

At the top is Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Virat Kohli, who has made 8,509 runs in 263 matches and 255 innings at an average of 39.57, strike rate of over 132.60, with eight tons and 62 fifties.

Rohit kickstarted his career with the Deccan Chargers, playing for them from 2008-10, scoring 1,170 runs in 45

matches and 44 innings at an average of 30.79, strike rate of over 131. His best score was 76*, and he scored eight fifties for the side.

For MI, he has made 5,751 runs in 222 matches and 218 innings at an average of 29.64, a strike rate of over 132, with two centuries and 38 fifties. Rohit is also just three sixes away from becoming the first Indian player and overall second after Chris Gayle (357) to touch the 300-sixes mark in the league's history. In the ongoing season, Rohit has made 293 runs in 10 matches and innings at an average of 32.55, with a strike rate of over 155 and three half-centuries. His best score is 76*. After struggling to score in the first half of these 10 games, with just 56 runs, the Hitman roared back with 234 runs in his next five innings, with three half-centuries at an average of 58.50.

Ahead of the match, head coach Mahela Jayawardene said that the Hitman converting his starts into big scores is giving the team an advantage. "The openers do play a very valuable part in establishing

the tone. Especially with the batting line-up that we have, when we get a good start, it always complements us for the rest of the innings. And that is what we wanted to do.

"The way Rohit's been converting his starts right now gives us a lot of advantage, and Ryan (Ricketton) has been enjoying batting with him as well. He is getting billingual experience out there in the middle," he said.

Squads: Gujarat Titans Squad: Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill(c), Jos Buttler(w), Washington Sundar, Rahul Tewatia, Shahruxh Khan, Rashid Khan, Ravisrinivasan Sai Kishore, Gerald Coetzee, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Ishant Sharma, Mahipal Lomror, Anuj Rawat, Arshad Khan, Sherfane Rutherford, Manav Suthar, Kumar Kushagra, Gurnoor Brar, Nishant Sindhu, Kulwant Khejroliya, Karim Janat, Jayant Yadav, Dasun Shanaka

Mumbai Indians Squad: Ryan Rickelton(w), Rohit Sharma, Will Jacks, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya(c), Naman Dhir, Corbin Bosch, Deepak Chahar, Trent Boult, Jasprit Bumrah, Karn Sharma, Raj Bawa, Satyanarayana Raju, Robin Minz, Reece Topley, Mitchell Santner, Ashwani Kumar, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Krishnan Shrijith, Raghu Sharma, Arjun Tendulkar, Bevon Jacobs.

IPL 2025: Ban on Rabada for using prohibited drug is lifted after he completes 'treatment program'

NEW DELHI, May 6 (Agencies): The provisional ban on South African pacer Kagiso Rabada for using a prohibited recreational drug has been lifted after he completed a "substance abuse treatment program" during the suspension, making him available for his IPL franchise Gujarat Titans.

According to a statement from the South African Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS), Rabada, who has already linked up with the Gujarat Tians after serving his suspension, can now take the field.

GT will take on Mumbai Indians in Mumbai on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old was tested during the SA20 league in January and the lifting of suspension also makes him available for the World Test Championship final against Australia next month.

"Mr. Rabada tested positive for a Substance of Abuse and was subsequently notified of the allegation of his doping offence on 1 April 2025. A provisional suspension was imposed and Mr. Rabada returned immediately to South Africa from India," the release stated.

"As per the South African Anti-Doping Rules specifically pertaining to Substances of Abuse, the player was offered an opportunity to complete a substance abuse treatment program. After Mr. Rabada satisfactorily com-

pleted two sessions of his treatment program, his provisional suspension ended. The player has effectively served a one-month period of ineligibility and may now resume participation in sport," it added.

Cocaine, heroin, MDMA and cannabis fall in the category of 'Substances of Abuse' for which Rabada was sanctioned. The abuse of such drugs can lead to a maximum of four-year ban but if a sportsperson can prove that the use occurred out-of-competition and is not related to performance enhancement, the suspension could be reduced to three months. The athlete's ban can be further brought down to two months if he/she is willing to undertake a treatment program that is approved by South African Anti-Doping body.

The South African pacer had left the league last month after playing two games for Gujarat Titans, citing personal reasons. GT had bought him for Rs 10.75 crore.

Rabada, who has played 241 international games for the Proteas across formats including 70 Tests, apologised for his actions.

"Moving forward, this moment will not define me. I will keep doing what I have always done, continuously working hard and playing with passion and devotion to my craft," he had said.

DC need to make bold decisions, should go back to Fraser-McGurk: Piyush Chawla

MUMBAI, May 6 (Agencies): Following the Delhi Capitals (DC) washout, Indian spin veteran Piyush Chawla expressed doubts over the Blue and Red team's hopes for the playoffs, saying that they look in danger of losing their chance of reaching the final four stage.

After a low-scoring innings at Uppal Stadium, DC managed to escape a potential loss and walked away with one point to their names, keeping their playoff hopes alive. After win in their first five matches, DC has been shaky, with just a win, four losses and a no result in their next games.

Speaking on the 'Match Centre Live' on JioHotstar, JioStar Expert Piyush talked about changes in DC's opening line-up and



backed Jake Fraser McGurk to play again after a string of failures.

"When KL Rahul opened (against CSK), it was a forced change because Faf du Plessis was injured. Rahul was meant to bat at number three or four to anchor the innings during pressure situations. DC has already tried six or seven combinations at the top. Their biggest bet was Jake Fraser McGurk, which didn't

pay off recently. But I feel they should go back to him -- if he fires, he can give you explosive start in the powerplay. If he does not, it is no different from what is already happening," he added.

DC's opening partnership has averaged 20.18 this year, the worst among all teams. On top of that, there is no stability in the opening line-up, with six different combinations tried.

Jake Fraser McGurk (55 runs in six innings with the best score of 38), Abishek Porel (191 runs in seven innings at an average of 27.28 with a fifty), Faf du Plessis (168 runs in six innings at an average of 28.00 with two fifties), KL Rahul (77 against Chennai Super Kings) and Karun Nair (65 runs in five innings at an average of 13.00 with no scores of 20 or more) have been tried out as openers in different combinations.

Piyush said that for DC, it is a time to take bold decisions.

"They are in a do-or-die situation. A team that once looked like the first to seal a play-off spot is now in danger of missing out entirely. It is going to be really tough. In their last six games, they've lost four. While the game was not completely over for DC against SRH, it

looked like it was heading SRH's way based on the total they posted. The next three games are critical and they need to win at least two -- ideally all three -- and for that to happen, their experienced players must step up and deliver," he concluded.

Coming to the match, after being reduced to 29/5, knocks from Tristan Stubbs (41* in 36 balls, with four boundaries) and Ashutosh Sharma (41 in 26 balls, with two fours and three sixes) took DC to 133/7. SRH could not chase as the game was washed out.

DC is in the fifth spot with six wins, four losses, and a no result, giving them 13 points. SRH is in the eighth spot, with three wins, seven losses, and a no result, giving them seven points.

West Indies reveal squad for upcoming ODIs against Ireland, England

ST JOHN'S, May 6 (Agencies): West Indies have named a strong 15-member squad for their upcoming ODI tour of Ireland and England. The Caribbean side will travel to Europe later this month for a total of six ODI contests against Ireland and England, with the matches to form a crucial path towards the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 2027, as per the ICC.

Hard-hitting dasher Shai Hope will captain the side after he was

once again named skipper, while a nucleus of top-order batters including Brandon King, Evin Lewis and Keacy Carty are joined by teenage star Jewel Andrew following his eye-catching efforts at last year's ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup, where he made 207 runs in four matches at an average of 69.00, striking at almost 110 with a century and half-century.

The 15-player squad is similar to the playing group that registered

an impressive 3-0 clean sweep over Bangladesh in the three-match ODI series at the end of last year, with left-hander Shimron Hetmyer the notable absentee as he continues to ply his trade in the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the Rajasthan Royals.

West Indies coach Daren Sammy is looking forward to the tour and wants his side to continue the momentum they got from series victories over England and Bangladesh last year as



they head towards the next 50-over World Cup that is set to be staged in South Africa, Zimbabwe

and Namibia in 2027. "These matches form a critical component towards the 2027 World

Cup, and there are signs of the team building consistency following the series sweep against Bangladesh and the win over England late last year," Sammy said as quoted by the ICC.

"We expect the conditions to be challenging, but we are creating a culture and mindset which emphasize playing the brand of cricket that is taking us closer to some of our overall objectives," he added.

The West Indies also announced some

changes to their coaching staff, with former quick and 2012 T20 World Cup winner Ravi Rampaul replacing Kiwi James Franklin as bowling coach, while Ireland great Kevin O'Brien will provide some assistance to the group during the three matches against his old side.

West Indies ODI squad: Shai Hope (c), Jewel Andrew, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Amir Jangoo, Alzarri Joseph, Shamar

Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd

Series schedule: First ODI v Ireland: May 21, Dublin. Second ODI v Ireland: May 23, Dublin. Third ODI v Ireland: May 25, Dublin. First ODI v England: May 29, Birmingham. Second ODI v England: June 1, Cardiff. Third ODI v England: June 3, The Oval.

Tourists call Kashmir ‘HEAVEN ON EARTH’, praise safety and hospitality during Dal Lake visits

SRINAGAR, May 6 (Agencies): Amid heightened security following the Pahalgam terrorist attack that claimed 26 lives, tourists are once again flocking to Kashmir, captivated by its natural beauty and the serene Dal Lake. Known as “heaven on earth,” the region continues to attract visitors, who are reassured by the safe environment and the warm hospitality of the locals.

Tourists are urging others to explore the valley, appreciating not only its landscapes but also the warm, cooperative spirit of the locals.

Faizan Ansari, a tourist visiting the valley, shares his experience. “People of Kashmir are cooperative and well qualified, there is no issue...Right now, the situation is very good...I want to say to



all tourists not to cancel your trip, you should visit Kashmir,” he told agency.

Another tourist from Mumbai told ANI, “This is a very good place, that’s why Kashmir is called heaven on earth. Everybody should visit this place...the situation here is very safe and people are nice...it is like a home away from home.”

Earlier, a tourist from

Gujarat’s Vadodara Vikram Bhai Vyas told ANI, “I don’t feel good about leaving today. I’ve had a great time here. The hoteliers have supported us throughout our stay. We felt no fear, and locals have been welcoming. Tourists must visit — there is no fear as such.”

Meanwhile, visuals from Pahalgam’s Baisaran valley — the site of the attack — tell a dif-

ferent story. Once teeming with tourists, the area now shows sparse movement, limited to a few civilians and patrolling security forces.

Security agencies and Jammu and Kashmir authorities have intensified their crackdown on those linked to the attack.

Earlier today, the Indian Army responded to unprovoked small-arms fire from Pakistani

positions across the Line of Control (Loc) during the night of May 5 to early hours of May 6, as per the Indian Army.

The Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked small-arms firing from posts across the Line of Control in areas opposite Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Naushera, Sunderbani and Akhnoor in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian army said in a statement, “During the night of 05-06 May 2025, Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked small-arms firing from posts across the Line of Control in areas opposite Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Naushera, Sunderbani and Akhnoor in J&K. Indian Army responded in a proportionate manner.”

Bagalamukhi Bhandara organized at Upper Gummat



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: Bagla Mukhi Jayanti was celebrated on Tuesday under the chairmanship of National Conference Leaders Amit Gupta and Jugal Gupta, organized a grand Bagla Mukhi Bhandara at Upper Gummat, which was inaugurated by former Minister and Zonal President JKNC Babu Rampaul, who was chief guest and presided over by City SP Vivek Shekhar.

Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC and Former Member BCCI Ankush Abrol, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu Dis-

trict and Zonal Secretary JKNC and SHO Bus Stand Vikas Dogra were the guests of honor. The religious and community event witnessed the presence of prominent political figures, Youth, Shopkeepers, marking a significant occasion of spiritual and social harmony.

Addressing the gathering, Babu Rampaul lauded the efforts of the organizers for fostering communal harmony and upholding the rich cultural traditions of the region. He highlighted the importance of such gatherings in strengthening societal bonds and promoting interfaith

unity. Speaking on the occasion, Vivek Shekhar said that Bagalamukhi is one of the ten Mahavidyas (great wisdom Goddesses) in Hinduism. Bagalamukhi Devi smashes the devotee’s misconceptions and delusions (or the devotee’s enemies) with her cudgel. He is also known as Pitambar.

Other prominent present on the occasion include Rahul Mahajan, Davinder Sharma, Adv Lovesh Bharat, Amit Gupta, Surinder, Ashwani, Rahul Gupta, Amit Sharma, Sunny Mahajan, Cheetan Singh, Hemraj and others.

Dimple leads santi-Pak protest, demands strong action against Pakistan

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: In a bold show of defiance, Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, led a large anti-Pakistan protest following recent firing incidents along the border.

The protest, which took place on the Jammu Kashmir National Highway at Rehari Chungi BC Road, saw protesters burn Pakistan and ISI flags, as well as effigies of Pakistan’s Prime Minister and Lashkar-e-Taiba chief Hafiz Saeed. Addressing the crowd, Dimple strongly urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take decisive action against Pakistan, calling for a declaration of war. He demanded the Indian government issue orders to the Chief of Defense Staff (CDS) and the military to initiate military action, including



taking “revenge” from Pakistan and liberating regions like Pahalgam, POK (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir), Gilgit, and Baltistan from Pakistan’s control.

Dimple, a vocal advocate for Jammu and Kashmir’s statehood, accused Pakistan of harboring terrorist mastermind Hafiz Saeed, who is allegedly protected by Pakistan’s security agencies, including the ISI and military forces. He also declared that

Jammu Kashmir stands united with Prime Minister Modi and the Government of India in their decisions against Pakistan. “People, especially the youth, will stand with the Indian Army and security forces,” Dimple said, urging the crowd to rally behind the Indian military in the event of a conflict. He also reiterated his demand to bring back POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan as integral parts of Jammu Kashmir and India.

The MHA has outlined several measures as part of the mock drills, including operationalization of Air Raid Warning Sirens, training for civilians and students on civil defense measures, implementation of crash blackout measures, early camouflaging of vital installations, and updating and rehearsing evacuation plans.

The protest saw the participation of several senior leaders, including Happy Kumar, Suny Kumar, Rocky Kapoor, Narender Chowdrey, Sanjay Kumar, Sanjeev, Baba Gupta, Ricky Singh, Harjiet Singh, Gola, Raja, and many others, all of whom voiced their support for Dimple’s demands. The rally expressed solidarity with the Indian Army and security forces, calling for a unified stance against Pakistan.

Govt orders inclusion of 6-year-olds, widows, divorcees in J&K PDS

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has directed the inclusion of children aged six and above, along with left-out eligible beneficiaries, in the Public Distribution System (PDS), as per a new order issued by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs.

The Government Order reads, children attaining the age of six years are to be included in respective ration categories AAY, PHH, NPHH, or Exclusion under family ration cards or households. Additionally, any eligible person left out from the PDS will now be covered under existing norms.

The order also states that any reported case of a widow or divorcee not already included in the PDS will be provided a separate ration card under applicable categories, based on financial status and in line with National Food Security Act (NFSA) rules.

The decision is aimed at ensuring comprehensive coverage and support for all deserving citizens under the Public Distribution System in J&K.

SMVDU holds kit and certificate distribution ceremony for soft skills training program



Top News Report

KATRA, May 6: The SMVDU Skill Hub Centre organized a Kit and Certificate Distribution Ceremony at the Central Workshop, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

The event was part of the Basic Soft Skills Training Program, run under the Skill Hub Center, in collaboration with BOSCH. Training kits were distributed to the newly enrolled candidates, while certificates were awarded to the participants of the previous batch who successfully completed the course.

The ceremony was graced by Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, who praised the program’s positive

impact on the local youth.

Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs, emphasized the importance of skill development in today’s job market. Dr. Y Anand, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering and Dr. Anurag, Head of the School of Languages appreciated the efforts of the Skill Hub Centre and encouraged the youth to make full use of such opportunities.

Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Associate Professor School of Mechanical Engineering and Coordinator of the Skill Hub Centre, highlighted the program’s focus on equipping youth with essential soft skills to enhance employability and confidence.

Additionally, the SMVDU Skill Hub Centre is expanding its efforts to empower youth through skill development.

Under the PMKVY 4.0 scheme, two new training batches are currently running: Electrician Domestic Solutions and Assistant Carpenter.

This expansion is a proud moment for SMVDU as we contribute to the nation’s skill development mission, helping more youth gain valuable skills for a brighter future.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Er. Deepak Byotra, who acknowledged the support of all involved in making the event and training programs a success.

World Asthma Day: Empowering students and schools to take control of Asthma at Galaxy Public School

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: In commemoration of World Asthma Day, a health workshop was held at Galaxy Public School in Jammu, organized by the team of RBSK Jammu Urban, Rotary Club Jammu Baahu, and SUP-PORT NGO. The event aimed to raise awareness about asthma and empower children and young people to manage their condition more effectively.

The camp was inaugurated by CMO Dr. Harbaksh Singh and Social Reformer Rtn. Dr. Navneet Kaur. Dr. Harbaksh Singh, in his inaugural speech, highlighted the importance of World Asthma Day, which is observed globally every year on the first Tuesday of May. This year’s theme, “Make Inhaled Treatments Accessible for ALL,” emphasizes the need for equitable access to asthma care and treatment. He stated, “This day reminds us of the global effort to combat asthma, a leading non-communicable disease affecting millions worldwide.”



Rotarian Dr. Navneet Kaur, a prominent social reformer, also addressed the gathering, urging schools and communities to prioritize asthma care. She emphasized the importance of educating students on recognizing asthma symptoms and triggers, enabling timely medical intervention to prevent serious complications. “Openly discussing asthma in schools can dispel myths and create a supportive environment for students living with the condition,” said Dr. Kaur.

Dr. Nikhil, the lead of the RBSK Jammu Urban team, further added, “By educating both students and staff about asthma triggers like allergens and pollutants, we can create a healthier learning environment.”

The event also included a health and screening camp, where

around 200 students were screened for various health conditions. A significant discovery was made during the screening: a child was found to have congenital heart disease, which could benefit from early intervention by RBSK doctors.

As part of the event, the school also organized a plantation drive to combat air pollution, a growing concern as the weather warms up, bringing with it increased air pollution and high pollen counts. The children were educated on steps to reduce exposure to polluted air, along with tips for managing hay fever. In addition, awareness sessions on anemia, menstrual health, the HPV vaccine, and good touch/bad touch were conducted by Dr. Navneet Kaur.

The Chairman of

Galaxy Public School, Arun Kumar, emphasized the importance of tackling air pollution and called on the government to adopt stricter air quality targets in line with World Health Organization guidelines. “We are fighting for everyone’s right to breathe clean air,” he stated.

J&K Auto retail market shows modest growth in April 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 6: The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) Jammu has released its Vehicle Retail Data for April 2025, revealing a modest overall growth in the Jammu and Kashmir auto retail market.

According to the data, the 2-Wheeler (2W) category experienced a slight growth of 1.13%, reaching 8,835 units in April 2025, compared to 8,736 units in the same month last year. The 3-Wheeler category saw a notable rise of 18.24%, with 966 units sold in April 2025, up from 817 units in April 2024.

However, the Commercial Vehicle category faced a decline of -5.84%, with 1,144 units sold in April 2025, down from 1,215 units in April 2024.

Similarly, the Passenger Vehicle category experienced

a minimal decrease of -0.12%, selling 5,000 units in April 2025, compared to 5,006 units in the previous year. The Tractor Vehicle category, on the other hand, posted a healthy growth of 14.19%, with 346 units sold in April 2025, up from 303 units in April 2024.

In total, the retail sales for April 2025 amounted to 16,291 units, marking a 1.33% increase compared to 16,077 units in April 2024.

Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairperson of FADA Jammu, acknowledged the mixed performance across vehicle categories. He noted that while the month of April 2025 saw a decline in commercial and passenger vehicles, growth was observed in the 2W, 3W, and Tractor segments. “The new financial year started modestly with an overall growth of 1.33% YoY in April,” said Aggarwal.

Looking ahead, Aggarwal highlighted a complex landscape for May 2025 across all segments. He pointed out that in the 2W category, the demand from the marriage season and post-harvest period could drive inquiries, although tightening credit from financiers—due to higher CIBIL scores and increased down-payment requirements—may limit accessibility for some customers.

Additionally, the summer heat and school holidays could suppress showroom visits, although the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) predicts milder conditions compared to last year.

In the Passenger Vehicle segment, retail costs are expected to remain steady but subdued, as consumers await new model releases and contend with higher financing costs. The commercial vehicle segment is

predicted to remain flat, affected by slower e-commerce growth, heightened competition from electric three-wheelers, and a high base effect from previous sales figures. Nevertheless, OEM incentive schemes and upcoming infrastructure projects may provide some relief.

Aggarwal remained cautiously optimistic about the outlook for the industry.

He emphasized that demand is likely to remain uneven, but disciplined inventory management, targeted incentives, and a potential easing of borrowing costs could help the industry maintain momentum. “Despite challenges, the auto industry can navigate this period with a balanced approach,” he concluded.

The data reflects a mixed but resilient automotive market in Jammu and Kashmir as it moves into the second quarter of 2025.