

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Shalini Passi to make her debut as author in 2026

Will Modi govt conduct Kargil Review Committee-type exercise on Pahalgam, asks Cong

Anthony Albanese sworn in as PM, Australia's Labor government gets second term



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BRIEFLY

Flight operations resume at Srinagar airport after 6 days suspension

SRINAGAR, May 13 (Agencies): Flight operations at Srinagar Airport resumed on Tuesday after being suspended for several days due to the prevailing security situation, officials confirmed.

An official told the JKNS news agency that operations officially restarted today following several days of suspension.

"An Air India flight from Delhi landed at Srinagar Airport at 12:49 PM," the official said.

Earlier in the day, officials announced that flight services at 32 airports, including Srinagar, would resume shortly.

CBSE declares class 12 results

SRINAGAR, May 13 (Agencies): The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has declared class 12th results on Tuesday, today. A staggering 88.39% percentage of students have cleared the examination with an increase of 0.11% from the last year results, as per an official source.

Girls outperformed boys, with a pass percentage of over 91%, surpassing boys by 5.94 percentage points.

According to an official, "The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has declared the Class 12 results, with 88.39% of students passing the exams. This marks a 0.41% increase from last year. Girls outperformed boys, with a pass percentage of over 91%, surpassing boys by 5.94 percentage points."

Kishtwar DM bans sale of fuel in bottles, cans

SRINAGAR, May 13 (Agencies): The District Magistrate of Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan (JKAS), has ordered a complete ban on the sale of petrol and diesel in bottles, cans, or any unauthorised containers

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Omar Abdullah visits Pakistani shelling-affected area in Kupwara

KUPWARA, May 13 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the Pakistani shelling-affected area in Kupwara on Tuesday.

Heavy cross-border shelling by Pakistan had caused damage to homes and religious sites in J-K's Kupwara, Uri, and Poonch. Locals vowed to stand with the Indian army despite the attacks.

Meanwhile, after India and Pakistan came to an understanding on the cessation of hostilities, life is slowly returning to normalcy in Jammu and



Kashmir.

However, local residents of a border village in the Samba district feared the Pakistan army after blasts were heard on Monday night and splinters hit one of

the houses.

The roof and kitchen of the affected house have been damaged after shelling by Pakistan.

Dalbeer Singh, a local, said that there was constant fear due to shelling

by Pakistan.

"We were clueless last night, but we heard noises. We saw in the morning that this had happened. However, there is not much damage. We were all at home when the explosion happened. The police came later and took stock of the situation. There is an environment of fear," Singh said.

Earlier on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the forces had been given full freedom to wipe out terrorists.

In his address to the Nation, PM Modi said,

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Three terrorists killed in encounter with security forces in Shopian

SRINAGAR, May 13 (Agencies): Three terrorists have been killed in a fierce encounter with security forces in the Shukroo Keller forest area in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Tuesday, police said.

A police official told Greater Kashmir that the encounter broke out after the police and security forces launched a search operation in the area following specific inputs about the presence of terrorists.

He said the encounter broke out after the hiding terrorists opened fire on

the security forces.

As per initial reports, he said, two to three terrorists are believed to be trapped in the area.

Three terrorists killed in encounter with security forces in Shopian

Another official said that as per initial reports three militants have been killed in the gunfight. He said the bodies have been recovered from the site of the gunfight. "Two of them are foreigners while one is a local terrorist," he added.

We will update the story as more details are available.

Schools, Colleges in Kashmir except those in Border Districts reopen

SRINAGAR, May 13 (Agencies): All schools and colleges in Kashmir except those in the border districts reopened on Tuesday following a suspension of hostilities between India and Pakistan, officials said.

Education institutes in Kupwara, and Baramulla districts, and those in the Gurez sector of Bandipora would remain closed for now, they said.

According to the officials, Kashmir University will resume classes on Wednesday.

Schools, colleges and universities in the Union Territory were temporarily shut last week in view of the military standoff between India and Pakistan.

However, in a pause in the standoff, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday ordered the reopening of educational institutes across the Union Territory, except for those in the border districts.

At least 14 die after drinking spurious liquor in Punjab; 7 held



CHANDIGARH/AMRITSAR, May 13 (Agencies): At least 14 people have died in Punjab's Amritsar district after allegedly consuming spurious liquor, leading to the arrest of seven accused, officials

said on Tuesday.

Police said six people have been hospitalised with complications caused by hooch.

The deaths occurred in villages — Bhangali, Patalpuri, Marari Kalan and Therewal, said the

officials. Police probe revealed that methanol, which was used for preparing the hooch, was procured in bulk online.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said those responsible for the deaths of innocent people in the villages in Majitha would not be spared. "These are not deaths, these are murders," he said in an X post.

The Amritsar district administration deployed medical teams who are going door-to-door in the affected villages to check on people who

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J&K Security agencies release posters of 3 Pak terrorists in Pahalgam attack

SRINAGAR, May 13 (Agencies): Security agencies have put up posters of the three Pakistani terrorists believed to be behind the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed the lives of 26 civilians. The posters, which carry the message 'Terror Free

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Essential services functioning smoothly in Poonch, Says District Administration

SRINAGAR, May 13 (Agencies): The District Administration of Poonch on Monday assured residents that all essential services, including healthcare, supplies, and utilities, are functioning without disruption and that there is no shortage of essential commodities across the region.

In a statement, the administration confirmed that hospitals through-

out the district are fully operational with adequate stocks of essential medicines and drugs. "Ambulance services are readily available to provide timely medical support," authorities said, adding that banking services are running smoothly and all ATMs are sufficiently stocked with cash.

Officials reported that there is stable availability of all essential com-

modities, including food grains, petrol, diesel, and LPG. "The supply chain is intact, and no shortages have been reported from any part of the district," they said.

The Power and Water Supply departments have successfully restored all major supply lines, with regular electricity and clean drinking water now being provided to residents.

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J&K hospital cracks whip against staff for leaving post during Indo-Pak conflict

RAJOURI/JAMMU, May 13 (Agencies): The Government Medical College (GMC) and Hospital in Rajouri has said it will not release salaries of several of its staff members who were found absent from duty during the armed conflict between India and Pakistan, an official said on Tuesday.

The punished workers



include faculty, consultants, senior residents, junior residents, staff nurses, paramedical staff, technical staff, ministerial staff, multi-

tasking staff, interns, and many others who fled the town on May 7, the order read.

"Furthermore, the said period shall be treated as unauthorized absence, and appropriate entries shall be made in their service records/service books in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations,

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TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Ashok Kumar Sadhotra (Retd. Estates Officer)** S/o Lt. Sh. Sanjay Chand R/o H.No. 108, Mast Ghat, Jammu.

Tenth Day will be held on 12-05-2025 (Monday) at 11:12 Noon at Brahman Sabha, Paras, Jammu.

Kriya will be performed on 15-05-2025 (Thursday) at 12:00 Noon at our residence (address mentioned above).

Kriya will be performed on 15-05-2025 (Thursday) at 12:00 Noon at our residence (address mentioned above).

Uthala will be held on 15-05-2025 (Friday) at 4:00 PM at Jan Sabha, Kadi Janni, Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Anita Sadhotra - Wife
Aryanam Sadhotra - Son
Mrs. Arzoo Sadhotra - Daughter
Mr. Mukul Mahajan - Son-in-law
Brother-in-law & Sister-in-law
Sh. Kuldeep & Smt. Sheetal Verma
Sisters & Brothers-in-law
Lt. Sh. Veena & Sh. Vijay Chopra
Smt. Kanta Mangi & Lt. Sh. Bhola Nath Mangi
Brothers & Bhabhis
Lt. Sh. Madho Lal & Shobha Sadhotra
Lt. Sh. Raj Kumar & Lt. Kamlesh Sadhotra
Lt. Sh. Mohan Lal & Sunita Sadhotra
Sh. Kishore Kumar & Anu Sadhotra



SH. ASHOK KUMAR SADHOTRA
1954-2025
(Retd. Estates Officer)

Contact: 9682676396,
7889409103, 7780660630

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Master S. Teja Singh S/o Late S. Himmal Singh Ji R/o F-88, Sector-14, Nanak Nagar, Jammu**, who left for heavenly abode on Monday 5/5/2025.

In loving memory of departed soul.

Programme

Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib on (Monday) 12/5/2025 at our residence at 9:30 AM.

Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on (Wednesday) 14/5/2025 at our residence at 10 AM.

Kirtan & Antim Ardas at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Nanak Nagar, Jammu from 4 PM to 5:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sdr. Harbans Kour - Wife
Bhabhi & Brother
Sdr. Harbans Kour W/o Late S. Tarlok Singh
Brother & Bhabhi
S. Gurbachan Singh & Sdr. Inder Kour
Sons & Daughters-in-law
S. Sarbjit Singh & Sdr. Harvinder Kour
S. Ranbir Singh & Sdr. Sumit Kour
Sdr. Avinash Kour & S. Iqbal Singh - Daughter & Son-in-law
Mob.: 9858009208, 9796870634



Master S. Teja Singh

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, it is inform you that our revered mother **Smt. Reeta Devi W/o Lt. Sh. Surinder Kumar Bhat** originally resident of Gurd Gushi Kupwara at present TRT Phase 4 Community Hall Purkhoo Camp Jammu left to Vaikuntha Dham on 05/05/2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed at Sharda Colony Ghat Patoli Near Shiv Mandir on Wednesday 14/05/2025 at 9 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Son & Daughter in law
Anubhav Bhat (Vinu) & Rashi Bhat
Daughter & Son in law
Neeru Bhat & Kuldeep Kumar Raina
Neha Bhat
Meenakshi Bhat
Devar & Devrani
Pawan Kumar Bhat & Shanu Bhat
Sister in law & Brother in law
Daily Bhat & Roshan Lal Bhat
Children: Karan



Smt. Reeta Devi

AND SAMAST PARIVAR
MOB: 9821970965,
9622395357 & 9796244244

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved father **S. Chatter Singh Ji S/o Late S. Raja Singh Ji R/o F-56 Shastri Nagar, Jammu** who left for heavenly abode on Tuesday 6/5/2025.

Programme:
Arambh Sri Akhand Path Sahib on (Tuesday) 13/5/2025 at our residence at 9 AM

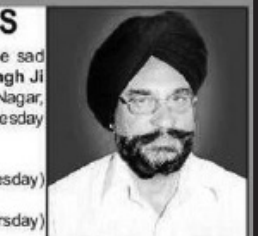
Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on (Thursday) 15/5/2025 at 9 am at our residence.

Gurbani Vichaar & Shabad Kirtan:
10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, at Gurudwara Baba Fateh Singh Ji Sanjay Nagar, Jammu.

Antim Ardas - 12:30 PM followed by Guru Ka Langer.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Sdr. Simer Kour (Wife)
Sons & Daughter in law
Dr. Tejinder Singh & Dr. Jagmeet Kour
S. Arvinder Singh
Son in law & Daughter
Er. Jaipal Singh & Dr. Baljinder Kour.
Ph: 9419183182, 9906065193



S. Chatter Singh Ji

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we mourn the sad demise of my beloved mother **Smt. Asha Ganjoo W/o Shree Hriday Nath Ganjoo** on May 5, 2025 at 12:30 pm, originally resident of Rajbagh Srinagar/ currently residing at Nirala Estate Tower 9, Flat No 1704, Greater Noida West Ghautam Budh Nagar UP 201306.

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed on May 14, 2025 at Murad Nagar Ghat at 09:00 am and Assembly at Residence at 10:30 am.

Grief-Stricken

H. N. Ganjoo: Husband
92667 43085

Son & Daughter-in-law:
Bhawesh Ganjoo: 9971400046 / Neelam Ganjoo: 9971615507

Daughter & Son-in-Law
Pamila Swain & Suwendu Swain

Sister in Law: Prabha Ganjoo W/o Lt. O. N. Ganjoo
Pushpa Ganjoo W/o Lt. T. N. Ganjoo.

Malun: Sunita and Suveer Jad
S/o Lt. N. N. Jad (Brother)
Grand Sons: Vedant Ganjoo, Shiv Saidutt, Sai Shivdutt
Samasth Ganjoo & Jad Parivar



Smt. Asha Ganjoo

Mourning from Malyun Side

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Bua (Lt. Smt. Gouri Jigri) W/o Lt. Sh. Arjan Nath Saraf of Mohalla Nazuk Anantnag Kashmir at present Lane No. 1, Anant Vihar, Lale- Da-Bagh, Jammu on 09/05/2025

Mourning from Malyun Side is being observed at Lane. No. 1, Anant Vihar Lale-Da-Bagh Jammu.

Grief Stricken

Sister & Brother-in-Law
Smt. Sheela Ji & Mohan Lal Pandita

Niece-in-Laws & Nephews
Smt. Pummy & Sh. Ashok Koul
Smt. Sweetly & Sh. Suresh Koul
Smt. Sunita & Sh. Ravinder Koul

Phone Numbers: 9006077110, 9419115660



Lt. Smt. Gouri Jigri

CONDOLENCE MEETING

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa (Additional DDC, Rajouri)** who achieved martyrdom in cross border shelling at Rajouri on 10/05/2025 while performing his duties for the Mother nation. We salute his dynamism and intellect.

A Condolence meeting/Prayer will be held on 14th May 2025 (Wednesday) from 12 noon to 1 pm at Sansar Palace, Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN

(Father in Law)
Sh. Jia Lal Basntra, Retd. Sr. Manager JK Bank

Smt. Vidhya Devi, Retd. Principal (Mother in Law)
Er. Ashish Kunder, AEE, Hydraulics (Brother in Law)

Smt. Sonika Jungal, Teacher (Sister in Law)
Shubhrit Kunder (Nephew)
Maanya Kunder (Niece)

And Basntra Family
7006632401, 9419158013, 9419158018, 8005230264



Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa
(Additional DDC, Rajouri)

PRAYER MEETING

Our beloved mother **Smt. Rajrani Bhat** passed away peacefully on the 29th April 2025 at New Delhi Gurgaon.

The **prayer meetings** shall be held at Shri Shiv Mandir Management Trust Sector -3, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu on Wednesday 14th May 2025 from 5 PM to 6 PM.

IN GRIEF :-

Omkar & Raj Kumari Bhat
Avtar & Shobha Bhat
Ashok & Sudha Bhat
Kishni Kaul
Krishan & Geeta Khosa

Grand Children
Great Grand Children
SHALIMAR CARPETS INDUSTRIES
Bari Brahmana Jammu.

Mob.: 9797598176, 9419186326 & 7006474732, 9419186201



Smt. Rajrani Bhat

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr. Roop Kishen Koul S/o Shri Narayan Kaul** (originally from Raj Bagh, Srinagar) on 8th May 2025.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on Saturday, 17th May 2025 at 10:00 AM at Ganga Ghat, Muradnagar.

This will be followed by a Prayer Assembly at our residence: C-260, Block C, Sushant Lok Phase-1, Gurugram from 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM

IN GRIEF :

Kaul Family
Ph : 9953120132 , 9625206765



Dr. Roop Kishen Koul

10TH DAY, KRIYA AND UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of beloved **Smt. Santosh Kumari, Wd/O Late Sh. Krishan Lal, R/O 261, Bharat Nagar, Rehari Colony, Jammu** who left for heavenly abode on 04-05-2025 (Sunday).

TENTH DAY will be performed at our residence on Tuesday (13-05-2025) at 12:00 pm.

KRIYA will be performed at our residence on Friday (16-05-2025) at 12:00 pm.

UTHALA will be performed at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony on Friday (16-05-2025) From 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sarita Kumari & Sh. Narinder Singh - Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Nimmi Devi W/O Late Sh. Mohinder Singh - Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Pushpa Devi & Sh. Krishan Lal - Daughter & Son-in-law
Karan Singh & Ruhi Raina - Grand Son & Daughter-in-law
Jaidev Singh & Amandeep Kour - Grand Son & Daughter-in-law
Arjun Singh & Mehak - Grand Son & Daughter-in-law
Sandeep Singh - Grand Son

Ruhi Rajput & Sahil Katal - Grand Daughter & Son-in-law
261, Bharat Nagar, Rehari Colony, Jammu
Ph. 9682698323, 7006471972, 9906639508



Smt. Santosh Kumari

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform that 10th Day Kriya of our beloved Mother/Badi Mom **Smt. Sharda Devi W/o Late Sh. Roshan Lal Khar R/o Mattan Anantnag Kashmir** at present H.No.236, Sector-2, Gangyal, Jammu will be performed at Muthi Ghat Jammu on 15-05-2025 Thursday from 6.30 AM to 9.30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Anita & Pintoo Kumar Watal

Grand Children:

Smt. Anmol & Amolak
Anuj Watal & Vibuti Bhat
Mob: 7889632413, 9419355681



SMT. SHARDA DEVI

OBITUARY/TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **Mr. Vivek Bhat (Rinku Jee)** S/o Shri Pushkar Nath Bhat of Bongund, Verinag, Anantnag at present Street No. 126 H.No.10888 R. K. Vihar Udhaywala near Yogoda Ashram Jammu, on 09-05-2025.

The **10th Day Kriya** will be performed on 18th May 2025, Sunday at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education, at 8:30 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Laxmi Shari Bhat W/o Late Shri Arjan Nath Bhat - Badi Mumy
Smt. Dulari & Shri Pushkar Nath Bhat - Mother & Father
Mrs. Meenakshi Bhat - Wife
Master Ekanash Bhat - Son
Sisters & Brothers-in-Law
Mrs. Bharti & Sh. Ramesh Bhat
Mrs. Kukla & Sh. Suneel Raina
Mrs. Vity & Sh. Subash Raina
Mrs. Bunty & Sh. Rakesh Bhat

Sister-in-Law and Brothers
Chandu & Bharat Bhushan Bhat
Indu & Kuldeep Bhat
Anjali & Vikas Bhat

Kartika, Kirti, Ayush, Palak, Krishiv, Parth, Sheena, Nitya, Piyush & Harshul
Smast. Bhat Parivar of Bongund Verinag
9796405211, 9419191940, 8082588217, 09501448200



Vivek Bhat (Rinku Jee)

ADH-BARKHI

IN LOVING MEMORY OF **SH. RAJESH KUMAR RAINA II**. SIX MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE YOU LEFT US FOR YOUR ETERNAL JOURNEY. YOUR MEMORIES ARE STILL FRESH AND WE FEEL YOUR PRESENCE EVERYWHERE EVERYTIME.

ADH-BARKHI OF MY BELOVED HUSBAND **LATE SH. RAJESH KUMAR RAINA S/O LATE SMT & SH. HARI KRISHAN RAINA** WILL BE PERFORMED AT OUR RESIDENCE ON 14-05-2025 (WEDNESDAY) 12:00 NOON AT BASANT NAGAR PALOURA NEAR JAGGI DARBAR BANQUAT HALL.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
SMT. SUMAN LATA (WIFE) 7006376036
MR. MEHUL RAINA (SON) 7006447158
SMT & SH. RAKESH RAINA (BROTHER)
SMT & SH. VIJAY KUMAR SADHOTRA (BROTHER IN LAW)



LATE SH. RAJESH KUMAR RAINA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our loving **Shri Ashok Kumar Raina**, husband of Smt. Lakta Raina, erstwhile resident of Nazuk Mohalla, District Anantnag.

Current Residence: Flat No. 115, Akash Kunj aptt, sector-09, Rohini, Delhi on 07-05-2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA shall be performed on 16th May, 2025 (Friday) @ 07 am at Sector- 18 Rohini Ghat, followed by **PRAYER MEET** @ 12 noon in Aggarwal Bhawan, Block B, Prashant vihar, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi-85.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-
Praduman Krishan Razdan - Brother
Dulast Razdan - Sister-in-law
Bansi Lal Wadko - Brother-in-law
Amit Raina (Son) and Kusum Raina (Daughter-in-law)
Rohini Raina (Son) and Shivangi Raina (Daughter-in-law)
Smt. Jaya Raina (Sister-in-law)
Shri Raj Nath Bamroo - Brother-in-law
Smt. Veena Bamroo - Sister-in-law
Smast: Raina, Razdan, Bamroo Parivars
MOB: 7428397666, 9654770345, 9999563505, 9860513639, 9018633546



LATE SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAINA
1951-2025

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Sh. Dheeraj Dubey S/o Lt. Sh. Shiv Parkash Sharma R/o H.NO.6, New Plot, Jammu.**

10th Day will be performed on Tuesday, 13th May 2025 at our residence at 11:00 am.

KRIYA will be performed on Wednesday, 14th May 2025 at our residence at 2 pm.

UTHALA will be performed on Friday, 16th May 2025 at our residence from 3 pm to 4 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

DUBEY FAMILY & DATTA FAMILY
9419197517, 9149455609



Sh. Dheeraj Dubey

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, it is to inform that our revered mother **SMT. PITTI JIGRI W/o Late Sh. Raghu Nath Bhat** originally resident of Kalasa Bandipur (Kmr), at present H. No. 23/2, A-Block, Roop Nagar Enclave, Jammu breathed her last on 05-05-2025 at 11:45 am.

The **TENTH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director of School Education, Jammu on 14-05-2025 (Wednesday) at 9 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sharda Navan & Geeta Bhat (Son & Daughter-in-Law)
Manu Karawal & Late Asha Mitt (Son & Daughter-in-Law)
Pawan Kumar Bhat & Shana Bhat (Son & Daughter-in-Law)
Rouder Mal & Veena Malia (Son-in-Law & Daughter)
Grand Children
Sandeep Bhat & Neha (Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-Law)
Samir Bhat & Anju (Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-Law)
Sumeet Karawal & Rakshita (Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-Law)
Ashish Karawal & Megha (Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-Law)
Ashay Bhat & Priyanka (Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-Law)
Vibhal Malia & Ritika (Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-Law)
Vikas Malia & Himanshi (Grand Son & Grand Daughter-in-Law)
Great Grand Children: Dalish, Sami, Nitya, Kalrav, Mehaan, Vibhaan, Laksh & Gunav.
MOB. 9419132819, 9419132818, 9419143426, 9622103726



SMT. PITTI JIGRI

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Veena Safaya**, wife of **Sh. Bansi Lal Safaya** on 9th May 2025, resident of Tower-1, Flat No 71, Palm Olympia Society, Gaur City 2, Noida Extension, Uttar Pradesh-201009, originally from Shastri Nagar, Bemina Colony (Srinagar).

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Muradnagar Ghat (CHOTA HARDIWAR) on 18th May 2025 at 08:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt. Sham Rani Safaya (Mother-in-Law)
Sh. Bansi Lal Safaya (Husband)
Sumit Safaya & Parineta (Son & Daughter-in-Law)
Swarna Safaya & Rahul Pandita (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Prisha Safaya (Grand Daughter)

(M): 9717085111, 7838015672, 7503527883
SAMASTH SAFAYA's, PEER's PARIVAR



Smt. Veena Safaya,

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Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh today announced additional 600 Family Bunkers in border areas of Kathua

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh today announced additional 600 Family Bunkers besides the existing over 2,000 and an automated centralised Siren system for border areas.

In a day-long tour of the areas along the International Border (IB), Dr. Jitendra Singh held a series of meetings, including with the District administration led by Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas, with public representatives including MLAs and DDC Members, following which he held an open interaction with the border dwellers.

Pertinent to mention that Kathua was the first in the country to experiment with family bunkers in border areas, when the issue was taken up by Dr. Jitendra Singh as Member of Parliament soon after Shri Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister.

As a result, over 2,000 Family bunkers have been built for the people living along the border areas in the last 6 to 7 years. The utility of these bunkers was realised during the recent Operation Sindoor. The people living in the border areas chose to shift into these bunkers instead of moving to any distant shelters, as they found these Bunkers more comfortable and also secure. Each of these bunkers is virtually like



a small living apartment with all the amenities in place.

In response to public demand to have more of such bunkers, Dr. Jitendra Singh consulted the administration and immediately issued directions for construction of 600 additional Family bunkers immediately and later on, if required, construction of more similar bunkers.

In response to another demand that quite often the information regarding the blackouts was obtained through social media because the siren was not audible enough, Dr. Jitendra Singh issued directions that modern technology should be used instead of manually operated sirens. For this purpose, he said, an automated centralised siren system will be installed which will be controlled from the District Headquarters and whenever required, it will start operating spontaneously and the Siren will be

blown out through local outlets at each of the border villages.

In addition, Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that soon after the Operation Sindoor was launched, district Kathua was provided with 39 medical ambulances considering the vulnerability of the border dwellers. In addition, 02 more Critical Care Ambulances were made available in Government Medical College, Kathua, he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, all this has been possible because the border villages, which had remained totally neglected over the years, were given the highest priority by Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi. It was during the last 10 years, he said, that high quality road network upto the zero line of the International Border, where there were no roads before 2014. Similarly, there were no Mobile Towers in the border villages

and the same have also been installed only in the last 7 to 8 years, he added, so that the children and professionals did not suffer disadvantage due to lack of internet or connectivity.

Dr. Jitendra Singh appreciated the coordinated and joint effort put in by the district administration and civil society in meeting the challenges posed in the face of drone attacks by Pakistan, and he said this is truly an example of the whole of government plus whole of society approach. Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that one important highlight of the one week of turmoil in the region was that it gave us an opportunity to vindicate that whatever has been done in the last few years was for the benefit of the nation and the people, which includes construction of roads and mobile connectivity along the border areas.

Similarly, Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that

in the age of technology warfare, Operation Sindoor was also an opportunity for India to prove to the world the kind of superior technology prowess, she had acquired in last one decade, He said, all the equipment including UAS (Unmanned Aerospace System) has been set up only in the last 10 years after Prime Minister Modi came. Not only this, he said, it is also a vindication of the mantra of Aatmnirbhar Bharat, which Modi gave soon after becoming Prime Minister, because each of the equipment used during these challenging few days was totally indigenously developed.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, while operation Sindoor has raised the morale of the border dwellers to the new height and given them the confidence that they were totally protected and safe in the technology rich India of Modi, at the same time, the world also has seen a trailer of India's incredibly rising capacities and prowess.

Among those who participated in public interaction were MLA Vijay Kumar Sharma, Vice Chairman DDC Raghunandan Singh Babloo, DDC Abhinandan Sharma, former OBC Chairman Rashpal Verma, senior leader Prem Nath Dogra, Asha Nand, Bakshi, Ravi Kumar and others.

Modi govt must not be politically penalised for exploring peaceful means: Mehbooba Mufti



SRINAGAR, May 13 (Agencies): Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said the Narendra Modi-led government should not be "politically penalised" for exploring peaceful means and the opposition must rise above politics to support genuine efforts for peace and stability.

"I appeal all the opposition parties to resist the urge for knee-jerk criticism or political point-scoring. Just as the Pahalgam incident united voices from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, there is need to build a national consensus around a peace process that safeguards national interests," Mufti said in a post on X.

She said leaders like

former Prime Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh proved that cross-border engagement is possible even in tense times, without compromising security or sovereignty.

"The Modi government should not be politically penalised for exploring peaceful means. This is a time for bipartisan statesmanship, not division. The opposition must rise above politics and support genuine efforts for peace and stability," Mufti said.

Criticising some TV news channels, the PDP president said those who criticise the ceasefire from the comfort of air-conditioned studios and drawing rooms should spend time with their families on the borders to truly understand

the daily reality of death and destruction.

In an earlier post on X, Mufti said the media was "distracting" the country.

"While fanatic mobs in our country are vandalising shops, bulldozing mosques and digging up graves to punish the long dead Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, across the border his namesake Air Vice Marshal Aurangzeb Ahmed is training his forces for modern air warfare," the PDP chief said.

"High time that India wakes up to the toxic narratives being amplified by television channels that have dangerously distracted the country from its real challenges and priorities," she added.

Dr Jitendra visits GMC Jammu, inquires about injured

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Tuesday visited the Government Medical College, Jammu Hospital to enquire about the patients admitted there with injuries sustained during Pakistan shelling in the last few days, particularly following operation Sindoor.

Accompanied by the Principal, Dr Ashutosh Gupta, Dr Jitendra Singh went to different wards where the injured have been hospitalised and also went to the intensive care unit, where two more seriously injured patients have been admitted.

Later talking to media persons, Dr Jitendra Singh placed on record his appreciation of the medical college staff, including the doctors and the nursing staff for their prompt and dedicated service which had made it possible that not a single mortality had happened among those who were admitted with injuries following the Pakistan aggression. He also appreciated the upgraded facility available in the hospital as a result of which not a single patient had to be referred to any other hospital outside Jammu.

As a medical professional himself, Dr Jitendra Singh said that all the patients hospitalised in GMC Jammu were con-

vulsing very satisfactorily and soon in a position to be discharged. He said, he was apprehensive about one patient in the Intensive Care Unit who was in a hip surgery for injury but had unfortunately succumbed to a fat embolism which led to a sudden deterioration in his condition with neurological complications. This patient, he said, is given all critical care management and considering that he is young and suffering from no comorbidities could also be fortunate enough to recover and go home like others.

Later on, the Principal and the staff of the Medical College took Dr. Jitendra Singh around the various new facilities developed in recent years. Dr Jitendra Singh said, he felt particularly proud to see all this because he had himself been a part of this institution for several decades.

Later on, before when Dr Jitendra Singh was about to leave the premises, several members of the Nursing Staff came to meet him and said it was nostalgic to meet him because many of them had been his trainees and junior medical staff and today they are proud to meet him while they were holding top positions in their respective hierarchy.

The nursing staff wanted an exclusive photograph which the Minister obliged.

Ranveer Sharma secures 96% in CBSE Class 10 Examination



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: We are thrilled to announce that Ranveer Sharma, a student of J&K Police Public School, has achieved an outstanding 96% in the CBSE Class 10 examination. Ranveer, son of Santosh Kumar and Bhupinder Kaur, is a testament to the power of hard work and dedication. Ranveer's remarkable score is a reflection of his unwavering commitment to his studies and the guidance of his parents and teachers.

Ranveer humbly attributes his success to the support of his family and educators, acknowledging the crucial role they played in his achieve-

ment.

With his impressive performance in Class 10, Ranveer is set to work even harder to improve his scores in Class 12, driven by his determination to achieve his goals and make his parents and teachers proud.

Ranveer maintains that there is no shortcut to success, and hard work never goes unrewarded. I am grateful to my parents and teachers for their unwavering support. I will continue to work diligently to excel in my future endeavors and make them proud.

"We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ranveer Sharma on his outstanding achievement. His success is an inspiration to his peers and a testament to the excellent education provided by J&K Police Public School. We wish Ranveer all the best for his future endeavors and look forward to seeing him achieve great heights.

Gurez Schools to Remain Shut on May 14; Staff Told to Report

SRINAGAR, May 13 (Agencies): Authorities have directed all teaching and non-teaching staff posted in Gurez Zone to report to their duties on May 14, while classwork will remain suspended.

According to an offi-

cial communication from the office of the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora, the classwork in all schools across the Gurez zone shall remain suspended for May 14.

However, "all staff members posted in the

zone Gurez shall report to their duties," it stated.

The order aims to ensure administrative preparedness, even as educational activities remain halted. All staff members have been asked to comply without fail.

Schools reopen in Chenab Valley after 5-day closure amid ceasefire restoration

Top News Report

BHADERWAH: Normalcy returned to the Chenab Valley region of Jammu and Kashmir as schools reopened on Tuesday after a five-day closure prompted by cross-border hostilities. The reopening follows an understanding reached between India and Pakistan to honor the ceasefire agreement, bringing relief to the residents of Bhaderwah, Doda, Ramban, and Kishtwar districts.

The region had remained tense since May 9, when Operation Sindoor was launched, targeting terror sites across the

border in Pakistan and Kashmir-occupied Kashmir (PoK). With the easing of tensions, educational institutions, except those in sensitive border areas, were allowed to resume functioning.

In Bhaderwah, the atmosphere was filled with joy as students returned to their classrooms after the break. School authorities, both government and private, welcomed students with flowers and sweets, creating a warm and festive environment. At Atkhaar Public School Bhaderwah, children expressed their happiness and eagerness to resume their studies.

Students across schools voiced a united message of peace, saying that they do not want war, as it disrupts their education and creates fear. They appealed to both nations to uphold the ceasefire agreement to ensure a stable and safe environment for learning.

The students also thanked the government for restoring peace and taking swift action to reopen schools, which they said was crucial for their academic progress and emotional well-being. The resumption of classes brought visible joy to the children and a sense of normalcy back to the valley.

GGF J&K appeals for Shaurya Chakra for Dr. Raj Kumar Thappa

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: A delegation from the Gandhi Global Family (GGF) J&K visited the residence of the late Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thappa, to offer heartfelt condolences to his family. Dr. Thappa tragically lost his life in the line of duty due to cross-border shelling in Rajouri.

GGF J&K President Dr. S. P. Varma, expressing profound sorrow, acknowledged Dr. Thappa's exemplary service and selfless commitment to his duties. "His sacrifice for the nation will never be forgotten," Dr. Varma stated, affirming GGF's soli-



darity with the bereaved family during this difficult time.

Recognizing Dr. Thappa's dedication, Dr. Varma made a formal appeal to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor and Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir to recommend his name for the Shaurya Chakra, India's gallantry award. In support of this appeal, a reso-

lution endorsed by Padma Shri awardees from Jammu will be submitted to the authorities for their further recommendation to the Government of India.

In honour of Dr. Thappa's legacy, Dr. Varma also proposed to institute an annual memorial award in his name, alongside an annual memorial lecture to commemorate his service and sacrifice.

A two-minute silence was also observed by the delegation. The GGF J&K delegation included Dr. Robert Robin Gill, Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Dr. Alka Sharma, Daniel Nair, Dr. Nitin Sharma, Mrs. Renu Anthony, Manish Joshi, Avinash Chaudhary, and Er. Ankush Varma.

EDITORIAL

Tuberculosis
Elimination Campaign

Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be one of the most significant public health concerns in India. The country accounts for nearly 27% of the global TB burden, making it the highest in the world. Despite being a curable and preventable disease, TB causes thousands of deaths annually in India. To combat this, the Government of India has launched an ambitious plan to eliminate TB by 2025—five years ahead of the global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 2030.

The Government introduced the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for TB Elimination (2017–2025), which is the foundation of the TB elimination campaign. The strategy is based on four key pillars—Detect, Treat, Prevent, and Build (DTPB). Under this framework, efforts have been made to improve the early detection of TB using modern diagnostic tools like GeneXpert and TrueNat, which are faster and more accurate. Active case-finding campaigns are regularly conducted to detect TB patients, especially in vulnerable communities.

To support treatment, India has implemented the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, which provides 500 per month as nutritional support to TB patients during the course of their treatment. The treatment regimen under the Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course (DOTS) has been strengthened and expanded. For patients suffering from multi-drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB), special drug regimens and follow-up mechanisms are in place. The Government has also focused on prevention strategies such as TB Preventive Treatment (TPT), contact tracing, and the integration of TB care with HIV, diabetes, and other co-morbid conditions.

Technology has played a crucial role in this campaign. The Nikshay portal, a digital platform, helps monitor patients in real time and ensures that their treatment is being followed properly. It tracks case notifications, follow-ups, and patient support systems across the country. The integration of digital health tools has improved accountability and helped bridge gaps in the healthcare delivery system.

A major focus of the TB elimination campaign is community participation and public awareness. The Government has encouraged former TB patients—called TB Champions—to share their recovery stories and motivate others. The Ni-kshay Mitra initiative, launched under the Prime Minister’s TB Free India Campaign, allows individuals, NGOs, and private entities to “adopt” TB patients and support them with nutrition, counseling, and other basic needs. This people-driven movement is critical in reducing stigma and ensuring that patients feel supported throughout their treatment.

Recognizing the importance of the private healthcare sector, where many TB patients initially seek treatment, the campaign emphasizes Public-Private Mix (PPM) models. Through these collaborations, private practitioners are encouraged to notify TB cases and follow standardized treatment protocols. International support from organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), Global Fund, and USAID has further strengthened India’s TB elimination framework.

Innovation is another important pillar of India’s TB campaign. The country is investing in research to develop better diagnostics, vaccines, and shorter treatment regimens. Institutions like the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are working on various fronts to improve TB control measures through science and technology.

However, several challenges remain. Stigma, lack of awareness, and poor health-seeking behavior continue to prevent many TB patients from getting timely help. The rise of drug-resistant TB, urban overcrowding, and undernutrition are major hurdles. The COVID-19 pandemic also caused a significant setback, as it disrupted TB diagnosis and treatment services across the country.

Moving forward, India must continue to strengthen its primary healthcare infrastructure, ensure treatment adherence, and expand its awareness programs. Special attention is needed for high-burden and remote areas. Addressing social determinants of health—such as housing, nutrition, and education—will be essential to sustaining progress.

In conclusion, the TB elimination campaign in India is a comprehensive and multi-sectoral effort that shows strong political will and public engagement. With consistent focus, innovation, and community participation, India is steadily moving toward its goal of becoming TB-free by 2025. This campaign not only aims to save millions of lives but also sets a global example in the fight against infectious diseases.

Recognition of Indian Philosophy & Gita by UNESCO

By: Omkar Dattatray

One are the days when Indian culture and philosophy was looked down upon and it has become a history many years ago and Western nations have ceased to label Indian’s as the snake charmers. Indian’s are by and large best innovators and have acquired new and ever new skills and they as such are adventures and science friendly and are excelling in science and technology and as such have got recognition by the prestigious world /international organization. Recently Indian culture, philosophy, culture, tradition has got a quantum jump when UNESCO has given recognition to the treasure trove of knowledge and wisdom which is Bhagwat Gita which is also called song celestial. Along with Gita ,Indian Natyashastra was also recognized and added to UNESCO’s Memory of world Register. It is by any and every standard not an ordinary development but it is really a great feat for Indian cultural heritage and philosophy. Indian government ,its leaders and political parties along the spectrum have welcomed the recognition accorded to Indian scripture –Bhagwat Gita and Bhartiya Nirtyashastra and this amounts to recognition to Indian culture and philosophy and the UNESCO deserves all praise and commendation for according recognition to Gita and Nirtyashastra. It is no less than an great achievement of the country. But we should not be complacent but strive hard to get the attention of the western world and for this we should continue our march on the path of prosperity ,technology and we should cherish our culture and value system and not allow our youth to be westernized under the garb of modernization. No doubt we have to learn science and latest technology from the west, however the west has to learn culture and philosophy from India. It is a matter of joy that Indian’s

no longer are looked down upon as fatalists only but the international community should appreciate our rich cultural heritage and our religious traditions and customs. In past India had the privilege of being a world leader and in common parlance as Vishwaguru and in future Indian will again acquire such an exalted status of Vishwaguru in future due to the selfless efforts of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his NDA government. Our political parties without any exception should not indulge in blame game but make concerted efforts to get the exalted status of Vishwaguru in the future and all this will give due respect to the feelings and aspirations of the people. Recently ,the manuscripts of the Bhagavad Gita and BharataNatyashastra were added to UNESCO’s Memory of the world Registers .This recognition marks their significance in preserving cultural heritage of India at global scale. UNESCO initiated the Memory of the World Programme in 1992.Its goal is to safeguard documentary heritage globally. This includes manuscripts, oral traditions , and archival materials of outstanding universal value. The programme aims to prevent collective amnesia and ensure accessibility to documents. The Memory of the World Register is updated biennially ,featuring entries from various countries. It is in the fitness of things to underline the importance of Bhagvad Gita and Bharats Natyashastra and for their significance, world appeal and universal applicability, these books were added in the Memory of the World Registers .The Bhagavad Gita is a 700 –verse scripture embedded in the Mahabharata .It is a dialogue between Krishna and Arjuna ,addressing moral dilemmas before a great war. The Gita synthesizes various philosophical traditions including Vedic ,Buddhist, and Jain thoughts. Its teachings on duty, righteousness and devotion have influenced countless readers and thinkers globally. Gita is a trea-

sure trove for the whole humanity and it is so good that the value and significance of this Indian scripture has been recognized and appreciated worldwide and the UNESCO recognition is a step in this direction. Gita is a philosophy and shows the way of life and asks people to perform their allotted duties and works without any attachment to the fruits of their work. It in a way shows people their duties ,responsibilities and shows how the people can get salvation from the cycle of recurrent birth and death. Along with Gita, another Indian text called Natyashastra has also been included in the Memory of world Register and thus accorded due place in the world heritage, culture and philosophy. Natyashastra is an ancient treatise on performing arts ,attributed to sage Bharata. It consists of 36,000 verses detailing the principles of dharma ,performances , and aesthatics. The concept of ‘rasa’ is central to its teachings ,stressing the emotional experience of art .This text has deeply shaped Indian theatre ,dance, and music ,serving as a foundational guide for artists. With the recent additions ,India now has 14 entries in the Memory of the World Register and these include-1---IAS Tamil Medical Manuscript collection-1997. It is the first Indian entry in UNESCO’s World Register. It includes 564 Tamil medical texts on palm leaves. It is stored at the Institute of Asian Studies Chennai. It contains Siddha and Ayurvedic knowledge –how to make medicines from herbs.2–Saiva Manuscript-2005–Ancient texts related to Shaivism –Agamas hymns ,local temple legends. It also includes Siddha medical knowledge. Date book to 6th century CE till colonial era. It is preversed in Pondicherry by French Institutes.–3 Rigveda-2007. Oldest known version exists today –Shaakala Shakha. It contains 10,552 mantras in 10 mandla –books .It is preserved at Bhandarkar Oriental Reserch Institute ,Pune.4–Tarikh-

e-Khandan–e Timuriyah-2011.5–It also enlisted Lagukalacharratantra rajatika Vimalaprabha -2011.6–Shantinatha Charitra -2013.7-Gilgit Manuscript 2017.-8-Maitreyavyakarna -2017.–9-Abhinavagupta Manuscripts 2023.-10 –Ramcharitmanas 2024. 11-Panchtantra -2024.–12 –Sahridayaloka –Locana 2024.and recently the inclusion of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita-2025 and Bharat Munis Natyashastra2025 which is 13th and 14th inclusion in UNESCO’s Register of Memories. Bhagvad Gita is a sacred Hindu scripture-conversation between Lord Krishna and Arjuna at the battle ground. It is part of Mahabharata and contains 700 verses. It discusses action, devotion ,and inner wisdom. It influenced Indian thought deeply. Bharat Muni’s Natyashastra is the oldest book on Indian performing drama,dance and music. It is still followed by classical performers. It is a fundamental text in Indian aesthetics. The inclusion of the Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra in the Memory of the World Register puts stress on their global relevance .These texts have been translated into numerous languages and studied worldwide. Their philosophical insights and artistic principles continues to inspire scholars ,artists, and spiritual seekers across cultures. To conclude it can be said that a foreign authority ,thinker and writer Ashburn had said many years ago ,”Burn all libraries of the world ,for their essence is in Bhagvad Gita” So great is the importance and relevance of this great treatise of the world and rightly it has been given due recognition by the UNESCO.

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

The world of books is changing these days

By: Vijay Garg

The history of books is very interesting. Earlier it was believed that the process of printed books started in 1448 AD, when Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press. But later this was proved wrong. . However, there were books even five thousand years ago, but they were not like today. Those old books were written on white clay tablets. The remains of these early books have been found in places like Sargan, Babil etc. In Babel, which we call Babylonia today, about two and a half thousand such books have been found. They have been classified into various subjects like astrology, grammar, medicine etc. The first traveler from China, Fa Hyan, came to India between 399 and 414 AD. In his travelogue, he has highlighted the existence of libraries in educational centers. Another Chinese traveler, Hiunsang, visited India between 629 and 645 AD. He made an educational tour of Central Asia and India in 1500. He mentioned books written by hand on strips of silk cloth, banquet papers, leather and square pieces of wood. However, by then, paper had been invented during the Han Dynasty of China. A man named Cai Lun is considered to be the inventor of paper. But from there, it took a long time for it to reach other countries. When paper came into existence, it was used to write books. Gutenberg printed the first book, the Bible, from his printing press in 1448 AD. For a long time, this Bible was considered the first printed book. But in the latter half of the nineteenth century, this honor was given to the ‘Diamond Sutra’ found in a monastery in Tibet. This is a Buddhist scripture, which has been translated from the Pali language into Chinese. In fact, long before Johannes Gutenberg, Buddhist monks had invented a method of printing. In this method, the material to be printed was written upside down on square pieces of wood. Then, except for the ink part, the rest of the surface of the wood was hollowed out and made low. Many such stamps had to be made

for a book. This was a very laborious work, but when the stamps were ready, it became easy to print 100-50 copies of the books. This was a great achievement for the world of books about twelve hundred years ago. The Diamond Sutra was printed in 868 AD using this printing method. Books have a long tradition. It is called the storehouse of knowledge. Books have become a means of changing this world. The teachings of the Gita preached by Lord Krishna in the Mahabharata are preserved in the form of a book today. The Bible, Quran, Ramayana, Vedas are holy scriptures. But the form is of a book. Books are famous in the country and abroad. English historian and philosopher Thomas Carlyle has said about books - Whatever the human race has done, thought, achieved or happened, all this is preserved in the magical pages of books. + That is, books are the document of humanity. Books show man the path of life, suggest new ways of living. English writer Dorothy Whipple presents this fact in this way - - Books are lighthouses, which have been erected in the vast ocean of time. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a great devotee of books. His statement is - I will welcome good books even in hell, because it has the power that wherever they stay, heaven will be created there. - This means that books play the role of true guides and sources of inspiration in our lives. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru used to say - +We cannot even imagine the world without books.4 In fact, books play an important role in the overall transformation of personality. Some scholars have called books the eyes of civilization.

The best time to make friends with books is childhood. Once a friendship is made at this age, it is permanent for life. Academician D.S. Kothari was a big supporter of providing age-appropriate books to children. In his words- Reading children’s literature broadens the intellectual horizon of the child and makes him more sensitive to the visible environment. It instills curiosity and a sense of responsibility in children towards nature, environment and the living and non-living elements of

the environment. Literature plays an important role in connecting with social concerns and human values. Books want to say something, want to be with you. The importance of books has been underlined in this poem. If you read it, you will know, yes! Every aspect has been covered in the book. But it is also a truth that these days the appreciation of books has decreased a lot. We became friends with books because the elders of our family and neighborhood used to read books. Seeing them, we also started turning the pages of books. Then a time came when we descended into the world of books. Now the time has changed. Society has moved away from books. From the old to the young, even after Karna, children are busy with mobile phones. The words in which lives used to beat, are now losing their strength in the pages of books locked in the cupboard. Nowadays, the world of books is changing its form. Earlier, there were many books - of religion, of karma, of knowledge-science, anecdotes, share-poetry, novels, philosophy, history, from Khand-poetry to epics... But now everything can be found in a photo mobile, tablet or laptop. Just keep the world of unlimited data intact! That is, the world of books has now reached the digitalized era. The power of words has changed from books to online. Now the era of e-books is coming. Candle editions of books have started coming. These can be read only on the device. National level courses are available online. The world of books has started changing rapidly. Thus, questions are being raised on the existence and usefulness of traditional books. Will the form of books remain a mere memory of the past in the coming times? Whenever we talk about books, knowledge and literature are at the center of it. Society is moving away from books. But is this change, the internet and devices that have come between the book and the reader, part of a natural evolution? This is a matter of serious debate, but this new medium cannot be dismissed outright. In the coming time, literature, entertainment and knowledge will be provided through it. A new path of science will emerge.

We cannot go back to the past. But it is also a question to consider whether this new medium will be able to replace the role of books in providing knowledge, entertainment and culture? The answer to this can only be negative. Books not only provide knowledge and entertainment, but also increase mental power. Whereas electronic medium weakens our mental power. The most problematic thing is that we cannot establish a deep unity with this medium. Therefore, while reading an e-book, we are away from the desired state of sensation and visualization. In this situation, reading

The material presented cannot leave a deep impression on our psyche. It may entertain and inform us, but not knowledge and culture. When a text is read with deep concentration and full awareness, it remains in our mind for a long time and influences our thoughts. With this visualization, the reader’s past experience recreates it. In this re-creation, he gains knowledge, which, when combined with his behavior, creates culture. In reality, a person’s behavior is their culture. This entire process cannot be done as easily and systematically through e-books or videos as it is done by reading traditional books. This is the reason why educationists and intellectuals are constantly making efforts to bring back books that are being removed from society. If there are no traditional books, the development of the human spirit will stop and inertia will increase. Therefore, efforts are being made to create interest in reading children’s literature among children at the primary education level. In the ‘Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan’, the ‘Active Library’ campaign was launched in primary and upper-primary schools. Training was done.

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

Kavinder backs PM Modi's doctrine: 'terror & trade cannot go together'

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, on Tuesday strongly endorsed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's firm stand against terrorism and Pakistan's double standards, declaring that "Terror and Trade cannot go together."

Reacting to the PM's historic address following the success of Operation Sindoor, the BJP stalwart said the message from New Delhi is loud and clear — India will not tolerate terrorism in any form, and any nation that harbours terrorists will face the consequences.

"The Prime Minister has unmasked Pakistan



before the world. It is not just a sponsor of terrorism, but a victim of its own poisonous policies. The terrorists it nurtured are now swallowing its foundations. India's response has changed — it is bold, precise and resolute," he said while chairing a meeting of Party colleagues at BJP Headquarters in

Jammu.

Prominent among those who were present in the meeting including, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Parduman Singh, Gopal Mahajan, Veenu Khanna, Ved Parkash Sharma, Sunil Prajapati and Puneet Mahajan.

The former Deputy Chief Minister has praised PM Modi for

outlining a "new normal" in India's counter-terrorism approach No dialogue or trade with terror sponsors;

No tolerance for nuclear blackmail and no distinction between terrorists and those who support them.

Kavinder noted that the destruction of terror camps during Opera-

tion Sindoor and the neutralization of over 100 dreaded terrorists demonstrated India's military superiority and strategic clarity. "Pakistan's nuclear threats are now ineffective. We've shown the world that India will act decisively on its own terms. The airbases of the enemy were dismantled, and their so-called infrastructure of terror lies in ruins," he added.

Kavinder said, "Peace cannot be achieved through submission, but through strength and clarity. PM Modi has shown the way — if Pakistan wants to survive, it must dismantle its terror infrastructure completely. There is no space for talks or trade under the shadow of terror."

Rupesh Mehra appointed National Vice President of Rashtriya Valmiki Sena

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: In a significant development, Rupesh Mehra, a respected and influential figure of the Valmiki community, has been appointed as the National Vice President of Rashtriya Valmiki Sena. The announcement was made by Mahant Guruji Raju Chandel, National Chairman of the organization, along with Founder President Surendra Singh Chandel.

The decision to appoint Mehra was taken with the unanimous consent of the organization, recognizing his longstanding dedication to the upliftment of the Valmiki Samaj through various social and religious ini-



tatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Chandel praised Mehra's efforts, stating, "Rupesh Mehra ji has been continuously working for the betterment of the Valmiki community. His contribution and popularity made him the natural choice for this key position."

Founder President Surendra Singh Chandel added, "Mehra ji has always worked selflessly for the society and

guided the youth with vision and commitment. I firmly believe he will elevate the organization to new heights."

In his acceptance speech, Rupesh Mehra expressed gratitude and reaffirmed his commitment to serve the Valmiki Samaj. "I will work day and night as a dedicated worker for my community. My mission is to guide our youth and inspire them to contribute positively to both society and the nation," he said.

The Rashtriya Valmiki Sena expressed confidence that under Mehra's leadership, the organization will witness strengthened unity and progressive initiatives aimed at the welfare of the Valmiki community.

J&K administration salutes the Martyrdom of ADDC Raj Kumar Thapa, JKAS

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: Jammu and Kashmir administration expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences on the martyrdom of Raj Kumar Thapa, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, who laid down his life during cross-border shelling while serving the nation with unwavering dedication.

Thapa was a highly respected and committed officer known

for his integrity, discipline, and people-centric approach. His contribution during the Budhal crisis in Rajouri stands out as a shining example of administrative courage and responsiveness. Amid heightened tensions and difficult terrain, he played a crucial role in coordinating relief, maintaining peace, and ensuring the safety of civilians. His leadership in those testing times earned him immense respect across all sections of society.

His martyrdom is an irreparable loss not only to the civil administration but to the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The J&K administration stands in solidarity with the family of Martyr Thapa in this hour of grief and honours his sacrifice with deep reverence.

The memory of his service and sacrifice will continue to inspire generations of public servants and citizens alike.

Pakistan is a tail that can never be straightened: Shiv Sena

Nothing less than hell to terrorism & return of POJK acceptable: Sahni

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: Terrorist country Pakistan has always been known for its evil nature, deceit and backstabbing. Just 3 hours after the ceasefire agreement, once again on Sunday night, drones flying across the border in some areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab have proved that the tail called Pakistan can never be straightened, stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that they are not against any kind of war but is surprised that how bullets and words could be possible together.

Sahni said that even in the Gita, war has been justified for ending injustice, terrorism and restoring peace.

He said that for the last 77 years, Pak sponsored terrorism is shedding innocent blood by



dancing the dance of terror in Jammu and Kashmir. To give a befitting reply to this, thousands of Indian army and security forces personnel have made the supreme sacrifice.

Sahni said that India declared ceasefire without teaching Pakistan a lesson and without wiping out the terrorists, which has caused great anger among the countrymen.

However, while addressing the countrymen yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has talked about postponing 'Operation Sindoor' for some time and giving Pakistan a chance

to improve.

Sahni said that every Indian wants to see the return of POJK to India and all the terrorists like Hafiz Saeed, Masood Azhar and Dawood going to hell. The Prime Minister's anger and attitude are also giving such indications.

Sahni has demanded from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to give government jobs to the families of the common citizens who lost their lives due to Pakistani shelling during the war and proper compensation to those who suffered financial loss.

Sahni said that the party's national president and former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray was very concerned about the loss of life and property due to shelling and drone attacks in the residential areas of Jammu and Kashmir from across the border.

He has been taking information about the well-being and conditions of the people through phone from time to time and has instructed the local unit to provide all possible help to the victims.

Sahni also raised sharp questions on the claims of forced mediation by US President Trump and said that President Trump is a businessman, he can never become a peace ambassador like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela. On this occasion Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi, Sr vice president Sanjeev Kohli, Balwant Singh were present.

IYC organizes Blood Donation Camp



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: In a strong show of solidarity and humanitarian spirit, the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) organized a blood donation camp at Bee Enn Hospital, dedicated to supporting those affected by the escalating, war-like conditions in Jammu and Kashmir being a part of "Jammu Unites to Save Lives Through Emergency".

Blood Donation Drive initiated by Rtn Dr Navneet Kaur a noted Social Reformer Secretary General Indian Society for Blood Transfusion and Immunohematology J&K Chapter.

Under the theme "Donate Blood, Save Lives — Stand with J&K," the initiative drew significant & highly spirited participation from youth volunteers, local citizens, and members of civil society.

More than 50 units of blood were collected and are being directed toward emergency needs, including those impacted by the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, Divyansh Verma, State General Secretary JKPYC said, "At a time when our fellow citizens in Jammu and Kashmir face uncertainty and distress, it is our moral responsibility to stand with them. This blood donation drive is not just about saving lives—it's a message of unity, peace, and compassion from the youth of India."

The IYC emphasized that the camp was not only a health initiative but also a symbolic act of national solidarity. Medical support was provided by Bee Enn Partner Organisation supported by ISBTI,

SUPPORT & YBA, ensuring the safety and efficiency of the blood collection process.

The Indian Youth Congress pledges to continue such efforts, reaffirming its dedication to social service and its resolve to stand with people during times of crisis.

Secretary General ISBTI Rtn Dr Navneet Kaur lauded and appreciated the dedicated spirit of the youth and the team of IYC, camp organisers and the team of blood Bank.

Dr Kaur stated "Blood donation embodies our sacred traditions of Seva and Sahyog. In this critical hour, I appeal to every citizen: your voluntary donation is both service to mankind and duty to the nation. Each unit can save lives in emergencies and sustain our Thalassemia warriors."

Anmol Cultural Club distributes fruits to migrants in Rajouri's Border Camps

Top News Report

SUNDERBANI, May 13: In a heartfelt gesture of solidarity, NGO Anmol Cultural Club, led by its President Zorawar Singh Khalsa and executive members, distributed fruits to hundreds of migrant families who have taken shelter in relief camps set up in Bajabain and Kangri, Tehsil Baripattan of Rajouri district. These families were displaced from border areas due to recent intense cross-border shelling.

On the occasion, Pres-



ident Zorawar Singh highlighted the gravity of the situation in Rajouri and Poonch districts, which recently witnessed heavy artillery shelling from Pakistani

forces. He noted that for the first time since the 1999 Kargil War, such deep and widespread shelling was reported in villages located inside the Line of Control

(LoC), including those near district headquarters.

Singh expressed concern over the fear and displacement caused by the ceasefire violations and reaffirmed the NGO's commitment to supporting affected civilians. "We stand with our people in these difficult times. Our NGO has been actively engaged in social service since 2003 and will continue working for the welfare of those impacted by cross-border hostilities," he said.

Executive members

of the NGO added that Anmol Cultural Club has always stood by the Indian Army and paramilitary forces, extending full cooperation in times of need. They reiterated their resolve to continue humanitarian aid and relief efforts for communities suffering due to the ongoing ceasefire violations.

The fruit distribution drive was a symbol of care, aimed at providing some relief and encouragement to the affected families during this challenging time.

Army provides relief to shelling affected border areas of Poonch

Top News Report

POONCH, May 13: Continuing its outreach efforts, the Indian Army extended humanitarian assistance to families residing in border villages of Poonch District, impacted by enemy shelling.

Recognizing the hardships faced by civilians due to ongoing security operations and harsh terrain, the Army organized relief distribution campaigns to supply essential

medicines and ration kits to needy locals.

The aid focused on providing immediate medical support, including first-aid supplies, common medicines, and consultations by Army medical personnel.

Alongside this, ration containing staples such as rice, wheat flour, pulses, sugar, salt, and cooking oil were distributed to ensure food security for the affected families.

This initiative underscores the Indian Army's commitment not only to national

security but also to the welfare of civilians in conflict-prone and remote areas. Local villagers expressed gratitude for the timely support, which helped alleviate shortages and fostered a sense of safety and solidarity.

The outreach reflects the Army's broader approach of "winning hearts and minds" through civic action, especially in regions where access to government services is limited due to geographic and security challenges.

Actor Amit Sadh, who will be seen in Pune Highway next, says he thrives on challenges

Acting happened due to a challenge! And this is that 'bring-it-on' trait in him that helped Amit Sadh cement his place in the entertainment industry. Twenty-three years down the line, the actor has done it all — television soaps, reality TV, films and OTT. Traversing mediums with élan, Amit now has an enviable body of work that includes cinematic gems like Sultan, Gold and Breathe.

Amit is all enthused about his upcoming film Pune Highway, a murder mystery woven in a friendship story. Slated to release later this month, Amit speaks about his character, "Khandu is a regular guy who wishes well for everyone but he is also ambitious." The film, which marks theatre veteran Rahul DaCunha's debut as a film director also has Bugs Bhargava Krishna in the driving seat.

How was it working with two directors? "To be honest, it never felt like two people are directing this project. They were so much in

sync. From day one, we were clear about what we were expected to deliver!"

The film's team has many theatre veterans apart from its directors. There is Jim Sarbh and Rajit Kapoor. Amit loves theatre, though he has not acted much on stage. "I love watching plays, but for me acting has largely been confined to the screen."

In Pune Highway, he finds a gripping narrative that explores the fragility of friendships when tested by unforeseen circumstances. "Playing this role has been one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences in my career. It's a story that speaks to anyone who has ever valued friendship," Amit shares.

Talking of friendships, the Kai Po Che! actor wouldn't name anyone in particular, but shares how friendship adds meaning to his life. "I am fortunate to have made friends world over!"

For Amit, life is not a constant flow of highs and lows. "I am still working towards my



high. Yes, I have done some wonderful projects, and I am chasing more!"

As for the lows, he has none actually. "I consider the tough times as my preparation ground. For a bystander, what may look like a downfall, to me it is a journey upward. Look, from being a nobody I am

here in the industry for all these years, working with good people and doing great work!"

When not facing the camera, Amit loves reading and travelling. So much into reading that he does not mind opening six books simultaneously. Among the life-altering ones, "Mitch Albom's Tuesdays with

Morrie and Stories of Your Life and Others by Ted Chiang are books that I have really enjoyed and recommend."

Motorcycling is his another passion. A documentary, titled Motorcycles Saved My Life in 2024, was made under the banner of his production house Gully Gladiators.

Amit will also be seen in another film, Main, where he plays an encounter specialist. But all eyes are on Pune Highway for the moment. "It's a blend of suspense and emotional depth with a universal theme. The film must work so that we can bring more such projects!"

Mumbai

People call it City of Dreams. For me it's been a city that makes one come to terms with reality. I came here without any connection, without much knowledge. I have found the people, the path, and the purpose — all here. That said, I love Chandigarh and the geris I have had! — Amit Sadh

Cannes set to open with 3-film salute to Ukraine, honorary Palme d'Or for Robert De Niro

The 78th Cannes Film Festival opens on Tuesday with expectations running high for what could be a banner edition.

All of the ingredients — an absurd number of stars, top-tier filmmakers, political intrigue — seem to be lined up for the French Riviera spectacular. Over the next 12 days, Cannes will play host to megawatt premieres including those of "Mission: Impossible — The Final Reckoning", Spike Lee's "Highest 2 Lowest" and Ari Aster's "Eddington".

Things get underway on Tuesday with the unveiling of Juliette Binoche's jury, a three-film tribute to Ukraine and the opening night film, Amélie Bonnin's French romance "Leave One Day". At the festival's opening ceremony, Robert De Niro will receive an honorary Palme d'Or, 49 years after "Taxi Driver" won Cannes' top prize.

Cannes is coming off a 2024 festival that produced a number of eventual Oscar contenders,

including "Emilia Perez", "The Substance", "Flow" and the best picture winner, "Anora". Asked if he's feeling the pressure this time around, festival director Thierry Frémaux said the only kind of pressure he believes in is in beer. (Beer on tap in France is "bière à la pression.")

"Indeed last year was a beautiful year," Frémaux said Monday. "But at the very time when I was with (journalists) as the festival started, we didn't know if it was going to be a good year or not."

This year's Cannes Film Festival, the premier international cinematic gathering, is unspooling following US President Donald Trump's call for tariffs on movies made overseas. While Frémaux expressed sympathy to the cause of strengthening local movie production, he said it was too soon to comment on the still-unformed plans.

"It's far too early in the game," said Frémaux. "But if I say one thing here at the Cannes Film

Festival, we wouldn't want the American cinema to cease to be strong. And right now, it's very strong."

Cannes will follow up Tuesday's festivities with the return on Wednesday of Tom Cruise to Cannes. Three years after he brought "Top Gun: Maverick" to the festival, he's back with the latest "Mission: Impossible" movie.

Twenty-two films will vie for Cannes' top prize, the Palme d'Or. Those films include Wes Anderson's "The Phoenician Scheme", Richard Linklater's "Nouvelle Vague", Lynne Ramsay's "Die, My Love", Joachim Trier's "Sentimental Value", Kelly Reichardt's "The Mastermind", Oliver Hermanus' "The History of Sound", Julia Ducournau's "Alpha" and Jafar Panahi's "A Simple Accident".

Binoche will be leading the jury that pick Palme d'Or winner, along with jurors including Halle Berry and Jeremy Strong. The festival closes May 24.

Tom Cruise surprises fans in London as he stands on the roof of BFI IMAX

Hollywood star Tom Cruise never leaves a chance to wow his fans with his action avatar.

Past weekend, he visited London to receive the honorary BFI Fellowship. Ahead of the honour, the Mission: Impossible actor was photographed on the roof of one of the city's most iconic buildings, BFI IMAX.

Tom Cruise's Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning will hit the theatres on May 23.

Before that, Cruise's film will be screened at Cannes. The movie will play Out of Competition on May 14 with Cruise, director Christopher McQuarrie, and the cast walking the famous red carpet.

Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning sees Cruise reunite with McQuarrie from a screenplay he wrote with Erik Jendresen. Cruise stars with Hayley Atwell, Ving Rhames, Simon Pegg, Esai Morales,



Pom Klementieff, Henry Czerny, Mariela Garriga, and Angela Bassett.

In the movie, Cruise's character Ethan Hunt must face his most dangerous enemy yet in the form of an AI known as the Entity. It rounds out the plot set up in the pre-

vious film, with Hunt now in possession of the key necessary to defeat the Entity. Before he can do that, he must collect his team to find the sunken Russian submarine that houses the source code needed to destroy the technology.

Selena Gomez slammed after report says her firm didn't pay staff, mom took loan

Singer-actor Selena Gomez is facing backlash after a recent report claimed that her mental health startup has been unable to pay its employees and has also reduced their health benefits. Selena, one of the richest musicians in the world, has been criticised online after a Forbes report claimed that her mother took a loan to pay off some of the business debts.

Forbes reported over the weekend that Wondermind, a mental health startup cofounded by Selena Gomez, is facing a financial crisis. The report said that the startup 'is being kept afloat by Gomez's mom and Wondermind's CEO Mandy Teefey'. She reportedly told staff on Thursday that she took out a loan against her home to pay back its outstanding debts. An insider has since told People that this claim is



false. Forbes added that employees have been paid for one missing paycheck, but another is still pending.

The report quoted a spokesperson of Wondermind saying that the situation has been 'rectified'. "Like many startups, Wondermind has been working through its own set of growing pains," the spokesperson told Forbes in a written statement, adding that "in the coming days we will be transitioning into a new chapter for Wondermind, and continuing our important work in mental fitness that helps hundreds of thousands of people."

Last year, Bloomberg listed Selena among its list of billionaires in the entertainment world, estimating her net worth at \$1.3 billion. Other estimates range from \$700 million to \$1 billion. Regardless, Selena remains one of

the wealthiest people in entertainment. Due to this, the singer faced a huge amount of trolling online.

On Reddit, one person commented, "Billionaires billionaring again." Another added, "It's ridiculous Selena started this company and can't even be assed to meet or pay her employees or to do even basic promo for her own company. She is one of the richest people in America, this is unacceptable."

There were many comments criticising Selena for her apparent non-involvement in the startup. "If she's that invested in the charity she should just fund it. If she's not then give the employees plenty of notice and wind it up. Not paying them is unacceptable," wrote one Reddit user.

Selena has not commented on the matter so far.

Shalini Passi to make her debut as author in 2026

Cultural curator Shalini Passi of "Fabulous Lives Vs Bollywood Wives" fame will make her debut as an author next year, Penguin Random House India has announced.

Billed as a "bold, unapologetic and deeply personal narrative", the currently untitled book will highlight the moments that shaped Passi's life and the principles that continue to guide her.

The book, to be released under PRHI's 'Ebury Press' imprint, was acquired from Preeti Chaturvedi of The Sunflower Seeds, a literary consulting company.

"Who says you can't be glamorous and game-changing? My book is my love letter to fabulous, fearless living with heels on, heart open, and art everywhere. And I am truly grateful that I

found the right partners in this journey.

"A big thank you to Preeti Chaturvedi and The Sunflower Seeds who believed in the power of this idea and also to my publishers-Penguin Random House India who are committed to creating impact through this book," Passi said in a statement.

Passi, 49, is the Delhi-based art collector and philanthropist, well-known for championing the intersection of art, craft, architecture, and fashion in contemporary culture.

She made her streaming debut on Netflix's hit reality show "Fabulous Lives Vs. Bollywood Wives", which went on to win best reality/non-scripted series at the 2025 IIFA Awards.

From her early life



to her emergence as a key figure in India's contemporary art and design landscape, the book charts a path of bold choices, boundary-breaking ideas, and an unwavering belief in living life on one's own terms.

According to the publisher, the book blends memoir and manifesto to deliver a powerful message: "live life on your own terms".

"Shalini Passi is bold, fearless, and has always lived life on her own terms. Inspirational, practical and irreverent, this book will be a ready reckoner for anyone who wants to make the most of life's opportunities and stay happy," added Milee Ashwarya, publisher and senior VP, Adult Publishing Group at PRHI.

Imtiaz Ali, Onir, Rima Das, Kabir Khan's 'My Melbourne' wins Best Film at UK Asian Film Festival

"My Melbourne", helmed by four acclaimed filmmakers — Imtiaz Ali, Onir, Rima Das and Kabir Khan — has secured the Best Film award at the 27th UK Asian Film Festival.

Produced by Mitu Bhowmick Lange in partnership with Vic-Screen and Screen Australia, "My Melbourne" has also won a Special Festival award celebrating 'Longing and Belonging' at the festival, according to a press release.

The shorts in the film include "Emma" by Das, "Jules" by Ali, "Nandini" by Onir and "Setara" by Khan. The films are reflective of varied themes of diversity, including gender, race, sexuality and disability.

"Working on 'My Melbourne' was a deeply enriching experience. To see it being honoured in this way reaffirms the importance of stories that explore human emotions beyond geographical limits. It is a proud moment for all of us," Ali said in a statement.

Khan said, "Cinema has the power to bridge cultures and foster empathy", and this anthology is a testament to that.

"I am truly grateful to have been part of a project that brings such meaningful narratives to life and gets recognised on a global platform," he added.

"My Melbourne" had its world premiere at the 15th Indian Film

Festival of Melbourne. It was later screened at the MAMI Film Festival in India in 2024.

Das called the film's recognition "special" and said the project "was born out of a desire to reflect the nuanced, everyday realities of migrants and their emotional journeys".

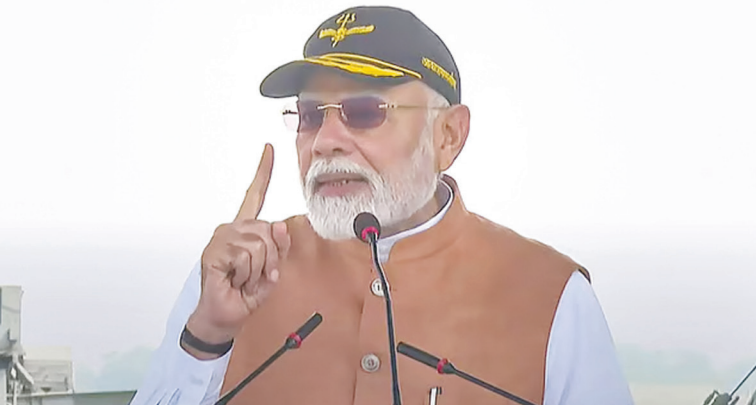
She added, "This recognition is special because it tells us that these personal stories are also universal."

Onir said, "This project was close to my heart because it gave us the opportunity to tell stories that matter—stories that cross boundaries and touch the universal emotions of longing and belonging. I am humbled and proud to be part of this beautiful journey."

No place in Pakistan where terrorists can hide, ghar mein ghush kar maareng: PM’s address at Adampur airbase

Reiterating India’s aggressive policy on cross-border terrorism, PM Modi said that “the Armed Forces will enter the homes of terrorists and strike.”

ADAMPUR, May 13 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that India has shown its strength by giving a strong reply not only to terrorists but also to the Pakistani army that backs them. Addressing the air warriors in Adampur air base in Punjab, PM Modi said, “Jis Pakistani sena ke bharose ye aatanki baithe the, Bharatiya sena, Bharat ki Air Force aur Bharatiyon ne us Pakistani sena ko bhi dhool chata di hai. (The terrorists who were relying on the Pakistani Army, the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force, and Indians have made that Pakistani Army bite the dust).”



He further hailed the Armed forces, saying that they have also “shown the Pakistani military that there is no place left in Pakistan where terrorists can sit and breathe in peace.”

Reiterating India’s aggressive policy on cross-border terrorism, the Prime Minister said, “Hum ghar mein ghushkar mareng aur bachane ka ek mauka tak nahi denge. (We will enter their homes and strike, and we won’t

even give them a chance to escape.)” He also issued a warning about India’s modern military capability, saying that “our drones, our missiles, just thinking about them will keep Pakistan sleepless for days.” PM Modi, who in an address to the nation on Monday, said that Operation Sindoor is India’s new normal, reiterated the message today. PM Modi said, “India’s ‘Laxman Rekha’ against terrorism is crystal clear now. If another terror attack occurs now, India will give a reply – a solid reply. We saw this during surgical strike, during air strike. Now, Operation Sindoor is India’s new normal.”

Defence Minister reviews security situation a day after violations along several sectors



NEW DELHI, May 13 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajiv Singh held a meeting on Tuesday with the top military brass to review the security situation. The meeting came a day after the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan spoke over the hotline, emphasising their commitment to ensuring that both sides “must not fire a single shot or initiate any aggressive or inimical action.” However, just hours

after that understanding between the two military officials, suspected drones were sighted near Samba in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as in areas around the Suranussi ammunition dump in Jalandhar. The Army was engaging, said officials. “A small numbers of suspected drones being observed near Samba in J&K. Being engaged. There is no need to be alarmed,” the Army said. This came even as several cities in Punjab, including Amritsar and

Jalandhar, experienced a blackout amid threat of air raids from the neighbouring country. The DGMOs — India’s Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai and Pakistan’s Maj Gen Kashif Abdullah — spoke around 5 pm on Monday. Referring to the ongoing tensions, the Army stated that the DGMOs agreed “both sides must consider immediate measures to ensure troop reduction at the border and forward areas”. Among those present at the meeting with the Defence Minister were Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh Tripathi, Vice Air Chief of IAF Air Marshal Narmadshwar Tiwari, and Defence Secretary R K Singh.

Life sentence for 9 convicts in Tamil Nadu’s 2019 Pollachi sex assault case

CHENNAI, May 13 (Agencies): Six years after nine men were accused of sexually assaulting and blackmailing several women in Tamil Nadu’s Pollachi, a court has pronounced them guilty. Sessions court Judge R Nandhini Devi found the men guilty of gangrape and repeated rape. The judge ordered life sentences for all nine convicts - Sabarirajan alias Rishwanth, 32, Thirunavukarasu, 34, T Vasantha Kumar, 30, M Sathish, 33, R Mani alias Manivannan, P Babu, 33, Haron Paul, 32, Arulanantham, 39, and Arun Kumar, 33. They have been at the Salem Central Prison since their arrest in 2019 in the sensational case that gripped the nation. This morning, they were brought to the court in Coimbatore under heavy police security; vigilance was intensified across the city. The court complex and other key locations were heavily guarded. Over 200 documents and 400 items of electronic evidence, including forensic-validated videos of the assaults, were presented during the trial. “The survivors’ testimonies, supported by digital proof, were pivotal. No witnesses turned hostile, and the Witness Protection Act ensured their identities and safety,” said the public prosecutor. However, he said only eight survivors officially reported the crimes they were subjected to, underscoring the fear of societal stigma and retaliation. Women’s rights activists welcomed the convictions but demanded a systemic follow-through. “This verdict is a relief, but survivors need compensation, counselling, and government job assurances to rebuild their lives,” said a member of the Tamil Nadu Women’s Collective.

The Pollachi Case A chilling pattern of exploitation, involving at least eight women, including a college student, was exposed when the Pollachi case surfaced in 2019. The survivors were sexually assaulted, filmed, and blackmailed for sexual favours and money between 2016 and 2018. Nine men were charged under stringent sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including rape, gangrape, repeated rape of the same survivor, criminal conspiracy, sexual harassment, and blackmail. The convicts filmed their acts of sexual assault and used the footage to coerce victims into continued exploitation, the police said. The case was initially probed by the Pollachi police, but it was transferred to the Tamil Nadu Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID), and later to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) amid demands for an impartial inquiry. During the probe, a pattern of systemic abuse was uncovered, with the survivors alleging that the accused threatened to leak their videos to their families and communities if they refused to comply. The trial also drew scrutiny as a litmus test for justice in cases of gender-based violence, particularly those involving prolonged coercion and institutional delays. Women’s rights advocates and civil society groups closely monitored the proceedings, emphasising the need for accountability where survivors often face stigma and procedural hurdles. The AIADMK, which was then in power, had faced criticism for alleged attempts to cover up the case and the late filing of the FIR. It had then denied the charges, and the party had then expelled one of the accused then.

Will Modi govt conduct Kargil Review Committee-type exercise on Pahalgam, asks Cong

NEW DELHI, May 13 (Agencies): The Congress on Tuesday said its repeated demands for a Prime Minister Narendra Modi-chaired all-party meeting and a special session of Parliament assume even greater urgency and importance in light of the statements from Washington DC. The opposition party also asked whether the Modi government will conduct an exercise similar to the Vajpayee government that set up the Kargil Review Committee on July 29, 1999, three days after the Kargil War ended. “Three days after the Kargil War ended, the Vajpayee Government set up the Kargil Review Committee on July 29 1999. Its report was tabled in Parliament on February 23, 2000 although sections of it have remained classified – as indeed they must,” Congress general secretary in-charge Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X. The Committee was chaired by India’s strategic



affairs guru K. Subrahmanyam, whose son is now India’s External Affairs Minister, he said. “Will the Modi Govt now conduct a similar exercise on Pahalgam, notwithstanding the NIA probe?” Ramesh said. “Given the statements from Washington DC, the INC’s repeated demands for an all-party meeting TO BE CHAIRED BY THE PM himself and for a special session of Parliament – which is now scheduled to meet at least two and a half months from now – assume even greater urgency and importance,” he said on X. Ramesh’s remarks come a day after President Donald Trump reiterated his claim that his

administration stopped a “nuclear conflict” between India and Pakistan, telling the South Asian neighbours that America will do a “lot of trade” with them if they end hostilities. “On Saturday, my administration helped broker a full and immediate ceasefire, I think, a permanent one between India and Pakistan, ending a dangerous conflict of two nations with lots of nuclear weapons,” Trump said at the start of a press conference in the White House where he announced that he will set 30-day deadline for drugmakers to lower cost of prescription drugs. He started the briefing by describing the

historic events that took place over the last few days in the Indian subcontinent. India and Pakistan reached an understanding on Saturday to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. Indian government sources in New Delhi have been maintaining that the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect. They said no third party was involved. Trump said that India and Pakistan were going at it hot and heavy, and it was seemingly not going to stop. “I’m very proud to let you know that the leadership of India and Pakistan was unwavering, powerful, but unwavering in both cases, having these they really were from the standpoint of having the strength and the wisdom and fortitude to fully know and to

understand the gravity of the situation,” Trump has said. The US President said he told India and Pakistan that America will do “a lot of trade” with them if they stop the conflict. “And we helped a lot, and we helped also with trade. I said, ‘Come on, we’re going to do a lot of trade with you guys. Let’s stop it. Let’s stop it. If you stop it, we’re doing trade. If you don’t stop it, we’re not going to do any trade’”. Trump added that “People have never really used trade the way I used it, that I can tell you. And all of a sudden they (India and Pakistan) said, I think we’re going to stop”. “And they have, and they did it for a lot of reasons, but trade is a big one. We’re going to do a lot of trade with Pakistan. We’re going to do a lot of trade with India. We’re negotiating with India right now. We’re going to be soon negotiating with Pakistan, and we stopped a nuclear conflict,” Trump said.

‘Overwhelmed, successor Justice Gavai will uphold SC values’: CJI Sanjiv Khanna demits office

NEW DELHI, May 13 (Agencies): Overwhelmed by the rich accolades on his last day at the Supreme Court, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Tuesday said he was certain his successor CJI-designate Justice B R Gavai will uphold values of the Supreme Court, fundamental rights and the basic constitutional doctrines. The ceremonial bench comprised the outgoing CJI, Justice Gavai, and Justice Sanjay Kumar, showcasing a rare moment of reflection, celebration, and reverence, not just for Justice Khanna’s contributions, but the legacy of his uncle, former Supreme Court judge Justice H R Khanna, he took forward. The CJI called Justice Gavai his “biggest support” while expressing confidence in the latter’s leadership and commitment to constitutional values. “What to say about justice and CJI designate B R Gavai, we got elevated the same year. Here we are in the collegium, and thereafter, we have interacted on several occasions. And I must say, he has been my biggest support. And I am sure that you have in Justice Gavai an excellent chief justice who’s going to uphold the institution and who’s going to uphold the fundamental rights who’s going to uphold our basic doctrines which we have adopted and applied,” he said. In his parting remarks, Justice Khanna expressed gratitude, reflecting on the memories he carries from his years in the judiciary and said, “I am overwhelmed.” “I carry with me a lot of memories. Memories

that are very nice and will remain with me throughout my life,” he said. Emphasising the role of the bar and the bench in earning public trust, he shared, “The judiciary is not just judges; it includes the bar. You are the conscious keepers of the system.” CJI Khanna lauded the collegiality among judges from diverse regions and backgrounds, saying such diversity allowed for richer deliberations and more nuanced decisions. “Another thing is the biggest plus factor in this court. We have judges from different parts of the country, and they with different thought processes, different backgrounds, they are able to when we discuss, we are able to find a lot of solutions. We were able to find out the right path,” he said. Justice Gavai, who would assume the CJI office on May 14, said Justice Khanna “embraced his legacy” and built his own. He called it not a farewell but a transition and said, “What ends today is not a career, but the beginning of another.” Justice Gavai acknowledged the weight of legacy Justice Khanna bore as the nephew of Justice H R Khanna, the lone dissenter in the 1976 ADM Jabalpur case who stood for constitutional rights during the emergency. “To walk in the shadow of such a name is no small task,” he said, “but Justice Sanjiv Khanna did more than uphold that legacy he made it his own.” Justice Gavai praised his predecessor for his clarity, moral conviction, and commitment to fundamental rights, describing his judgments as “simple, elegant, and imbued with constitutional



values”. He also recalled their collegial relationship, noting their shared journey from elevation to the Supreme Court to collegium deliberations. “It has been a privilege,” he said, “and I extend my heartfelt gratitude.” Justice Sanjay Kumar, who sat alongside the CJI for over 10 months, reflected candid and heartfelt insights into Justice Khanna’s working style. “He doesn’t make notes. Everything: page numbers, paragraph numbers, contents come from memory,” he said. Highlighting the outgoing CJI’s calm and patient demeanor with lawyers, Justice Kumar said, “Even when advocates came unprepared, he never lost his temper. Instead, he gently urged them to come prepared next time.” The judge was all praises for Justice Khanna’s “single-minded focus and clarity of thought”. “He approached every problem, whether judicial or administrative, with sincere intent

and relentless commitment,” he said. Justice Kumar added, “Sitting with him, I learned that I also had to inculcate pragmatism into that perspective.” Recalling one such occasion, the judge said a case he had to author would have otherwise remained pending if not for Justice Khanna’s words of wisdom. “I would have perhaps kept it pending. This was a procedural matter, and I was to write the judgment. When I discussed it with him, he pointed out that if I kept it pending, cases all over the country would just pile up, and that was not a good situation,” he said. When it came to the bar, Attorney General R Venkataramani said CJI Khanna added “immense value” to the court. “Your lordship leaves a void not easily filled. Like a river flowing quietly, you accomplished much with grace,” he said. The judgments, the CJI penned, were stated to carry “impeccable logic, simplicity, and elegance”. He underscored Justice Khanna’s firm commitment to liberty, fairness, and institutional integrity aside from the values he upheld without personal bias, whether in procedural justice or constitutional interpretation. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta commended the CJI’s legal acumen and clarity in judgment. “Even if litigants lost, we lawyers felt enriched. We always left with a new insight,” he said, “as your verdicts were crisp, clear, and always enlightening.” He

praised Justice Khanna’s ability to maintain the distinction between legal judgment and academic treatise, consistently delivering concise and impactful rulings. The Supreme Court Bar Association president and senior lawyer Kapil Sibal apart from other bar members and lawyers showered praises on the outgoing CJI. A lawyer said the week saw country’s two greats hang their boots, one of whom was the CJI and the other cricketer Virat Kohli. “You are the streak across the sky that is never forgotten,” Sibal said. Sibal called Justice Khanna “a beacon of light” who elevated the stature of the court. Saying he symbolised the best in a judge, Sibal went on, “Your intuitive sense of justice, your transparency, and your encouragement to young lawyers will not be forgotten. You’ve set a standard for generations to come.” Reflecting on Justice H R Khanna’s historic dissent in the ADM Jabalpur case, Sibal drew a parallel and said, “Today, that dissent echoes louder than the forgotten majority. And you, Justice Khanna, have carried that flame forward.” “You may be retiring from the bench,” said another senior lawyer, “but your service to the Constitution is far from over.” Justice Khanna was elevated as the 51st Chief Justice of India on November 11, 2024, and demitted office on May 13, 2025. His tenure, though brief, was marked by landmark decisions, transparency initiatives, and a steadfast commitment to judicial accountability and constitutional morality.

Anthony Albanese sworn in as PM, Australia's Labor government gets second term

SYDNEY, May 13 (Agencies): Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was sworn in for a second term on Tuesday, alongside his ministers, after a landslide win at a national election he said had returned the largest centre-left Labor government since federation in 1901.

Albanese's Labor Party rode a voter backlash against global instability caused by US President Donald Trump's policies to a come-from-behind victory on May 3.

The opposition conservative Liberal Party, whose leader Peter Dutton lost his seat at the election, selected Sussan Ley as its new leader on Tuesday, a party spokeswoman told reporters.

Ms Ley will become the first woman leader of the federal Liberal Party, which lost city seats in Sydney and Melbourne to women who ran as independent candidates with policies



supporting climate change and gender equality in the last two elections.

"Australia spoke very clearly to the Liberal Party," Liberal Senator Linda Reynolds told reporters on Tuesday after Ms Ley's win.

The Australian Electoral Commission is yet to finalise vote counting in several seats, although Labor has claimed at least 92 seats out of the 150-

seat House of Representatives.

It was the largest Labor caucus since Australia was formed by the federation of six former British colonies in 1901, Albanese said on Monday.

Albanese and his ministers were sworn in at a ceremony at Government House in Canberra, conducted by Governor-General Sam Mostyn.

The key roles of treasurer, foreign affairs, defence and trade

are unchanged. In new roles, Michelle Rowland was sworn in as attorney-general, Murray Watt as environment minister, and Tanya Plibersek as social services minister.

Business Council of Australia chief executive Bran Black said in a statement the ministry showed stability, adding that industry wanted to see reform of environment laws.

"With one in four jobs being trade dependent, it's crucial that business and government continue to secure new opportunities abroad to grow our economy at a time of geopolitical uncertainty," said Black.

Albanese will travel to Indonesia on Wednesday, and will attend the inauguration mass of Pope Leo XIV on Sunday in Rome, where he said he would also hold meetings with other leaders including European Union president Ursula von der Leyen to discuss trade.

9 Malaysian paramilitary officers killed in truck-lorry crash



KUALA LUMPUR, May 13 (Agencies): At least nine members of a Malaysian paramilitary force were killed on Tuesday when their transport truck collided with a lorry, emergency services and media said.

It happened when the unit was returning to the northern Malaysian city of Ipoh after guarding a Hindu festival, Perak Emergency Services said in a statement.

"A police truck collided with a truck carrying gravel, trapping three victims in the front with 15 others in the back," the statement said.

Initial reports said eight members of Malaysia's Federal Reserve Unit were killed, plus the driver of their vehicle. A ninth paramilitary member later died of his injuries, news reports said.

"Two others remain in critical condition and a

further seven are being treated for moderate injuries," Perak police chief Bakri Zainal Abidin told agency.

Police arrested the 40-year-old lorry driver in connection with the accident, he added.

Malaysia has one of the highest road accident death tolls in Southeast Asia, with somebody dying in a car accident almost every two hours, agency reported in March.

Pakistan says 11 military personnel killed, 78 others injured during military confrontation with India

ISLAMABAD, May 13 (Agencies): Pakistan on Tuesday said that 11 military personnel were killed and 78 others injured during the recent military confrontation with India.

In a statement, the military also claimed that 40 civilians died and 121 others were injured in the "unprovoked and reprehensible dastardly attacks" by India on the night of May 6-7.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on Saturday to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

While defending the motherland, 11 personnel of Pakistan's armed forces were killed and 78 others were wounded, the Pakistan military said.

The victims from the Pakistan Air Force include Squadron Leader Usman Yousuf, Chief Technician Aurangzeb, Senior Technician Najeeb, Corporal Technician Farooq and Senior Technician Mubashir, it said.

Naik Abdul Rehman, Lance Naik Dilawar Khan, Lance Naik Ikramullah, Naik Waqar Khalid, Sepoy Muhammad Adeel Akbar and Sepoy Nisar were among the army personnel killed in the strikes, it added.

The military also claimed that 40 civil-



ians, including seven women and 15 children, were killed and 121 others injured in strikes by India on the night of 6-7 May.

In response, the Pakistan Armed Forces "mounted a resolute response under the banner of 'Marka-e-Haq', delivering precise and notch-up retributive strikes through Operation Buniyad Marsoos," the statement said.

Pakistan's armed forces, together with the people of Pakistan, pay solemn tribute to the deceased civilians and military personnel, it said.

"Let there be no ambiguity: any attempt to challenge Pakistan's sovereignty or territorial integrity, ever again, shall be met with a swift, full-spectrum, and decisive response," it said.

Libya armed group leader among six killed in Tripoli clashes

TRIPOLI, May 13 (Agencies): Overnight clashes in Libya's capital killed at least six people, an emergency medical service said Tuesday, with local media reporting that an armed group leader was among the dead.

Agency reporters heard heavy arms fire and explosions in several areas of the capital Tripoli from 9:00 pm (1900 GMT) on Monday as violent clashes between rival armed groups rocked the city.

"Six bodies have been retrieved from the sites of clashes around Abu Salim" in Tripoli, the Emergency Medicine and Support Centre said.

Libya's Al-Ahrar television and Al-Wasat news website said that Abdelghani al-Kikli, leader of the Support and Stability Apparatus, was killed.

The reports said he was likely ambushed in Abu Salim, a southern district of the capital where his influential armed group is based.

Authorities had urged residents to stay indoors before saying several hours later that the fighting had been brought under control.



Local media said clashes broke out in the southern suburbs between armed groups from Tripoli and rivals from Misrata, a major port city 200 kilometres (125 miles) east of the capital.

Libya is struggling to recover from years of unrest following the NATO-backed 2011 uprising that led to the overthrow and killing of longtime leader Muammar Gaddafi.

The North African country is currently divided between a UN-recognised government in Tripoli and a rival administration in the east, controlled by

the Haftar family.

The Tripoli-based government announced in a statement early Tuesday that a "military operation" to restore "security and stability" in the capital had been successful.

Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah, in a post on social media platform X, thanked government forces "for restoring security and asserting the state's authority in the capital."

"What was accomplished today shows that official institutions are capable of protecting the homeland and preserving the dignity of its citizens,"

Dbeibah said.

He hailed the security forces' actions as "a decisive step" in the fight against "irregular" armed factions.

Despite relative calm in recent years, clashes periodically break out between armed groups vying for territory. In August 2023, fighting between two powerful armed groups in Tripoli left 55 dead.

Several districts of the capital and its suburbs announced that schools would be closed on Tuesday until further notice.

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya called for calm. "UNSMIL is alarmed by the unfolding security situation in Tripoli, with intense fighting with heavy weaponry in densely populated civilian areas," it said on X.

It urged "all parties to immediately cease fighting", warning that "attacks on civilians and civilian objects may amount to war crimes."

"UNSMIL fully supports the efforts of elders and community leaders to de-escalate the situation."

Saudi crown prince welcomes Trump to kingdom as US leader begins four-day Middle East tour

RIYADH, May 13 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump opened his four-day Middle East trip on Tuesday by paying a visit to Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, for talks on US efforts to dismantle Iran's nuclear program, end the war in Gaza, hold down oil prices and more.

Prince Mohammed warmly greeted Trump as he stepped off Air Force One at King Khalid International Airport in the Saudi capital and kicked off his Middle East tour.

The two leaders then retreated to a grand hall at the Riyadh airport, where Trump and his aides were served traditional Arabic coffee by waiting attendants wearing ceremonial gun-belts.

Fighter jet escort The pomp began before Trump even landed. Royal Saudi Air Force F-15s provided an honorary escort for Air Force One as it approached the kingdom's capital.

Trump and Prince

Mohammed also were taking part in a lunch at the Royal Court, gathering with guests and aides in an ornate room with blue accents and massive crystal chandeliers.

Several major business executives were invited to the event, including Blackstone Group CEO Stephen Schwarzman, BlackRock CEO Larry Fink, and Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk.

Musk is also leading the Department of Government Efficiency, a controversial second term effort tasked with slashing waste, fraud and abuse in the US government.

Later, the crown prince will fete Trump with a formal dinner. Trump is also slated to take part Tuesday in a US-Saudi investment conference.

"When Saudis and Americans join forces, very good things happen — more often than not, great things happen," Saudi Investment Minister Khalid al-Falih said.

Oil production Saudi Arabia and fellow OPEC+ nations

have already helped their cause with Trump early in his second term by stepping up oil production. Trump sees cheap energy as a key component to lowering costs and stemming inflation for Americans. The president has also made the case that lower oil prices will hasten an end to the Russia-Ukraine war.

But Saudi Arabia's economy remains heavily dependent on oil, and the kingdom needs a fiscal breakeven oil price of \$96 to \$98 a barrel to balance its budget. It's questionable how long OPEC+, of which Saudi Arabia is the leading member, is willing to keep production elevated. The price of a barrel of Brent crude closed Monday at \$64.77.

"One of the challenges for the Gulf states of lower oil prices is it doesn't necessarily imperil economic diversification programs, but it certainly makes them harder," said Jon Alterman, a senior Middle East analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in



Washington.

Qatar and UAE next

Trump picked the kingdom for his first stop, because it has pledged to make big investments in the US, but Trump ended up traveling to Italy last month for Pope Francis' funeral. Riyadh was the first overseas stop of his first term.

The three countries on the president's itinerary — Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — are all places where the Trump Organization, run by Trump's two elder sons, is developing major real estate projects. They include a high-rise tower in Jeddah, a luxury hotel in Dubai and a golf course and villa complex in Qatar.

Trump is trying to demonstrate that his transactional strategy for international politics

is paying dividends as he faces criticism from Democrats who say his global tariff war and approach to Russia's war on Ukraine are isolating the United States from allies.

He's expected to announce deals with the three wealthy countries that will touch on artificial intelligence, expanding energy cooperation and perhaps new arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The administration earlier this month announced initial approval to sell \$3.5 billion worth of air-to-air missiles for Saudi Arabia's fighter jets.

But Trump arrived in the Middle East at a moment when his top regional allies, Israel and Saudi Arabia, are far from neatly aligned with his approach.

Trump's decision to

skip Israel remarkable, expert says

Before the trip, Trump announced that Washington was halting a nearly two-month US air-strike campaign against Yemen's Houthis, saying the Iran-backed rebels have pledged to stop attacking ships along a vital global trade route.

The administration didn't notify Israel — which the Houthis continue to target — of the agreement before Trump publicly announced it. It was the latest example of Trump leaving the Israelis in the dark about his administration's negotiations with common adversaries.

In March, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wasn't notified by the administration until after talks began with Hamas about the war in Gaza. And Netanyahu found out about the ongoing US nuclear talks with Iran only when Trump announced them during an Oval Office visit by the Israeli leader last month.

"Israel will defend itself by itself," Netanyahu said last week fol-

lowing Trump's Houthi truce announcement. "If others join us — our American friends — all the better."

William Wechsler, senior director of the Rafik Hariri Center and Middle East Programs at the Atlantic Council, said Trump's decision to skip Israel on his first Middle East visit is remarkable.

"The main message coming out of this, at least as the itinerary stands today, is that the governments of the Gulf ... are in fact stronger friends to President Trump than the current government of Israel at this moment," Wechsler said.

Restarting efforts to normalise Israel-Saudi ties

Trump, meanwhile, hopes to restart his first-term effort to normalize relations between the Middle East's major powers, Israel and Saudi Arabia. Trump's Abraham Accords effort led to Sudan, the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco agreeing to normalize relations with Israel.

But Riyadh has made clear that in exchange for normalisation, it

wants US security guarantees, assistance with the kingdom's nuclear program and progress on a pathway to Palestinian statehood. There seems to be scant hope for making headway on a Palestinian state with the Israel-Hamas war raging and the Israelis threatening to flatten and occupy Gaza.

Prince Mohammed last week notably hosted Palestinian Vice President Hussein Sheikh in Jeddah on the sheikh's first foreign visit since assuming office in April.

Hussain Abdul-Hussain, a research fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said the crown prince appeared to be subtly signaling to Trump that the kingdom needs to see progress on Palestinian statehood for the Saudis to begin seriously moving on a normalization deal with the Israelis.

"Knowing how the Saudis telegraph their intentions, that's a pre-emptive, 'Don't even think of asking us to show any goodwill toward normalization,'" Abdul-Hussain said.

Know importance of education from Ambedkar’s life: Balbir

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson and former vice chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir SC, ST, BC Development Corporation, Balbir Ram Rattan, emphasized that the life of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar stands as a timeless example of how education can become a powerful instrument of social transformation.

He was speaking about how Dr. Ambedkar’s journey continues to serve as a beacon of hope and motivation for generations, particularly for those from marginalized communities with BJP SC Morcha senior activists.

Balbir highlighted that Dr. Ambedkar, born in 1891 into a socially disadvantaged Dalit family, faced severe caste-based discrimination from an early age. Despite the societal and institutional barriers placed in his path, he displayed unwavering determination to acquire



education. His relentless pursuit of knowledge took him across the globe, earning doctorates from prestigious institutions such as Columbia University and the London School of Economics. This was an extraordinary accomplishment at the time, especially for someone coming from a background that was largely denied access to even basic education.

He added that Dr. Ambedkar did not view education

merely as a means of personal advancement. Instead, he used his education as a tool to fight for justice, equality, and the rights of millions of oppressed people. Having a deep understanding of law, economics, and political science, Ambedkar played a crucial role in framing the Constitution of India and laying the foundations for the nation’s democratic and inclusive governance.

“Education was not just a per-

sonal achievement for him—it was his weapon against injustice,” Balbir said. He underlined that Dr. Ambedkar believed that knowledge could dismantle centuries-old structures of oppression and replace them with systems based on fairness, dignity, and opportunity for all.

Balbir further stated that Ambedkar’s life story serves as a powerful reminder that access to education can change destinies—not just of individuals, but of entire communities. He urged youth, particularly those from marginalized sections of society, to draw inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar’s life and to recognize education as the key to empowerment and social reform.

Balbir was speaking on the significance of education in Ambedkar’s life with the senior activists of BJP SC Morcha including G. R. Bhagat, Hans Raj Loria, Jagdish Raj Kaith, Girdhari Kal Dogra and others.

Army executes robust civil support operations in ceasefire-affected area at Mankote



Top News Report

POONCH, May 13: In the wake of unprovoked ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) in Mankote, the Indian Army has launched a multi-faceted humanitarian assistance and relief operation to support the civilian populace adversely impacted by hostile cross-border activity. Demonstrating unwavering resolve and operational agility, the Indian Army Battalion swiftly mobilized resources to mitigate the hardships faced by residents of border villages.

In a meticulously coordinated effort with the civil administration, mobile

medical teams rendered first-line trauma care and primary treatment. Medical support, including emergency first aid and stabilization procedures, has been provided to assist the affected locals.

The Army team interacted with the family of the late Mrs. Balwinder Kaur, offering condolences and assuring them of any possible assistance.

The Army has established logistical corridors to deliver critical relief material, including dry rations, potable water, and hygiene kits. The team visited houses damaged by artillery shelling, assuring residents that efforts would be made to restore normalcy in the area.

Heightened patrolling, reconnaissance missions, and area domination patrols have been intensified to neutralize residual threats and reassure civilians. These proactive measures have significantly enhanced the psychological morale and security confidence of the affected communities.

The Indian Army reiterates its enduring commitment to national security and the humanitarian imperative of protecting civilian life.

Crime Branch registers four major fraud cases involving over Rs 2.46 crore

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: Crime Branch has booked Managing Director (MD), Directors, Partners of four private companies and others for duping Rs. 2.46 crores on different pretexts from the innocent people of Jammu.

Four separate FIRs have been registered by CB against Chandigarh, Bathinda (Punjab) and Uttar Pradesh based companies for committing big frauds and swindling huge hard-earned money from Jammu people, CB official said.

“On the written complaint lodged by Vinod Kumar Dubey, Prop of Dravya Fruit Traders, Narwal, Jammu, CB registered an FIR against accused persons namely Shounak Maria, Geetika and Varun, all partners of firm Xpert Cold Chain Solutions (XCCS) and Arihantam Technologies Pvt. Ltd., situated at Zirakpur, Chandigarh for duping Rs. 1.71

Creore approx on the pretext of establishment of banana ripening plant (cold store) at Narwal,” official said.

Official added CB registered an FIR against one Yogesh Awasti, son of Sanjay Awasti. Resident of Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP & others on a written complaint of Gurbachan Singh, son of Late Hari Singh, resident of Miran Sahib, Jammu for duping Rs. 25.00 lakh on the pretext of providing flats in Delhi.

Another case has been registered by CB against Rishab Jain, son of Jagdish Rai Jain, Sarika Jain, wife of Rishabh Jain, resident of 1326, Nai Basti Bathinda, Punjab and others, all Directors of M/S Jain Allied Health and Hygiene Products Ltd. having operational office at J-20, Krishna Kunj, Laxmi Nagar Delhi on a written complaint of Domesht Gupta, son of Ram Pal, resident of Narwal Pain Satwari, Jammu for duping Rs. 19.25 lakhs on pretext

of doing business and supplying goods in the form of baby diapers, sanitary napkins, hand wash and other hygiene products, official said.

Yet another FIR has been registered by CB against Mohd. Taj Khan, son of Haji Juma Khan, resident of 816-A East Extension Green Avenue Trikuta Nagar, Lane No.01, Jammu Tehsil Bahu on written complaint of Mohd. Yusuf Pathan, resident of Gulmarg Colony, Bathandi and Ashraf Ali Sheikh, resident of Verinag, Anantnag, Kashmir for duping an amount of Rs. 30.66 lakhs on the pretext of providing land in Jammu, official said.

Sr. Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu Benam Tosh confirmed that four separate cases viz. case FIR No. 25/2025, case FIR No. 26/2025, case FIR No. 27/2025 and case FIR No. 28/2025 have been registered at P/S Crime Branch EOW Jammu and investigations are underway.

PDF chief Hakeem Yaseen urges long-term peace plans, seeks compensation for cross-border shelling victims

Says let shepherds in Budgam return to pastures

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 13: President of the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, on Tuesday welcomed the recent ceasefire and restoration of normalcy in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the security forces for their firm response during the crisis, which helped de-escalate tensions and safeguard civilian lives.

In a statement issued to the press, Hakeem Yaseen emphasized that the fight against terrorism must continue with full force until it is completely eradicated. However, he stressed that the pursuit of peace

must be accompanied by long-term plans that prioritize the well-being of the region’s residents, particularly those living in vulnerable border areas.

“The return of calm is a welcome development, but the government must now shift focus to the rehabilitation of border residents who have suffered immense losses due to cross-border shelling,” Yaseen said.

He called for an urgent and comprehensive assessment of the damage to homes and properties and demanded that affected families be provided with adequate compensation and assistance for reconstruction.

“The government has a moral and constitutional responsibility

to not only ensure the safety of its citizens but also to restore their dignity and means of livelihood,” he stated.

The PDF chief further highlighted the plight of the Gujjar, Bakerwal, and Chopan communities, whose seasonal migration to highland pastures is essential for their survival.

He raised concern over the continued restrictions in these areas, which have prevented shepherds from accessing traditional grazing lands for their cattle, sheep, and goats.

“While combating terrorism is absolutely necessary, it should not come at the cost of our own people’s livelihoods,” Yaseen said. “These communities have depended on these pastures for gen-

erations.

Their exclusion from these areas threatens their only source of income, pushing them deeper into poverty.”

He emphasized that while tourism and civilian movement may understandably be restricted in sensitive zones due to security concerns, the needs of local residents—especially those engaged in traditional occupations like pastoralism—must be handled differently and with empathy.

“Seasonal migration during the summer months is not a luxury but a survival strategy for these marginalized communities,” Yaseen pointed out. “In a region already battling high unemployment and economic uncertainty, cutting off such a vital

source of sustenance will only worsen social unrest.”

Urging the authorities to lift the restrictions on these grazing areas, he called for the immediate restoration of access to traditional pastures.

“The fight against militancy should not translate into a fight against our own people.

Let the shepherds return to their respective areas.

Their lives and livelihoods matter too,” Yaseen asserted.

He reiterated that lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir can only be achieved through a balanced approach—one that combines strong security measures with inclusive development, economic support, and protection of the rights of all communities.

FromPage No: 1

Omar Abdullah visits Pakistani shelling-affected area in Kupwara

“Every terror organisation now knows ‘ki hamari behano, betiyon ke maathe se Sindoor hatane ka anjaam kya hota hai.”

PM Modi said Indian Air Force, Army Navy, Border Security Force and India’s paramilitary forces are constantly on alert.

“After the surgical strike and air strike, now Operation Sindoor is India’s policy against terrorism. Operation Sindoor has carved out a new benchmark in our fight against terrorism and has set up a new parameter and new normal,” he said.

“First, If there is a terrorist attack on India, a fitting reply will be given. We will give a befitting response on our terms only. We will take strict action at every place from where the roots of terrorism emerge. Secondly, India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail. India will strike precisely and decisively at the terrorist hideouts developing under the cover of nuclear blackmail,” he added.

PM Modi said India will not differentiate between the government sponsoring terrorism and the mas-terminds of terrorism.

Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7 to strike multiple terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir in retaliation for a deadly attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam on April 22 in which 26 tourists were killed.

In addition to eliminating over 100 terrorists, the strikes targeted 11 Air bases inside Pakistan and inflicted significant damage on their military capabilities. The air, land and sea operations were carried out with calibrated restraint, with an emphasis on minimising civilian casualties.

At least 14 die after drinking spurious liquor in Punjab; 7 held

might have consumed spurious liquor.

Amritsar Deputy Commissioner Sakshi Sawhney confirmed the death of 14 people and said most of the victims were daily wagers.

Police received information about the deaths on Monday night.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Border Range) Satinder Singh said seven people, including the main accused, have been arrested and a probe was underway.

Five of the seven arrested have

been identified as Prabhjit Singh, the main accused, Kulbir Singh, Sahib Singh, Gurjant Singh and Ninder Kaur, police said.

Sawhney, along with Satinder Singh and Jalandhar Rural Police Senior Superintendent of Police Maninder Singh visited the affected villages. They also met the families of the victims.

“We deputed medical teams as soon as we got information about it (hooch tragedy). Our teams are visiting door to door. Even though those who consumed it are not symptomatic, we are insisting that they be admitted in the hospital for medical checkup,” the DC told reporters here.

She said the victims had consumed the spurious liquor either on Sunday or Monday and started vomiting. “We completely stand by the affected families and assure them of our full support,” the DC said.

SSP Singh said the main accused, Prabhjit Singh, had got supplies of 50 litres of methanol that he diluted and sold to people in two-litre packets.

“We are tracing and seizing each and every packet,” he said.

The grilling of the main accused revealed that one Sahib Singh ordered methanol online and then distributed it, police said, adding a case has been registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and

the Excise Act.

J&K Security agencies release posters of 3 Pak terrorists in Pahalgam attack

Kashmir’, have appeared across multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir’s Shopian district.

The posters announce a reward of Rs 20 lakh for anyone who provides credible information on the terrorists involved. The agencies have assured that the identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential.

Essential services functioning smoothly in Poonch, Says District Administration

“Previously affected areas have witnessed prompt restoration of services,” the administration added.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch,

Vikas Kundal, reassured the public of the administration’s continued commitment to their welfare. “All departments are working in close coordination to ensure uninterrupted support and assistance,” he stated.

Meanwhile, Revenue authorities have commenced the assessment of damages in areas affected by recent cross-border shelling. Based on these reports, the administration has promised appropriate relief measures to support the impacted families.

The district authorities urged residents to stay calm, adhere to official advisories, and reach out for assistance via the District Emergency Operation Cell (DEOC) at 01965-220888 or the Joint Control Room (PCR) at 9086253188 / 01965-220258.

J&K hospital cracks whip against staff for leaving post during Indo-Pak conflict

” Principal, GMC Rajouri Prof (Dr) A S Bhatia said in the order.

The facility serves as a key medical institution for the entire Pir Panjal region spread across border districts of Rajouri and Poonch — both worst-hit in the artillery and

mortar shelling by Pakistan.

At least 20 of the total 28 deaths in the conflict in Jammu and Kashmir were reported from the two districts, with over 50 others injured.

The dead included Rajouri Additional District Development Commissioner Raj Kumar Thappa, who lost his life when a shell hit his residential compound in Rajouri town on May 10.

Kishtwar DM bans sale of fuel in bottles, cans

across the district.

DM Kishtwar issued an order which read, “Citing serious threats to public safety and potential fire hazards,” stating that petrol pumps and fuelling stations were reportedly selling fuel in such containers, which is illegal and dangerous. The order, issued under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, has come into immediate effect.

“Any person or fuel station found violating this order will face strict action under law,” the District Magistrate said.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, has been directed to ensure full enforcement. The order has been communicated through public platforms and official notice boards of all concerned offices for widespread awareness.

BPTP Chairman and Managing Director Kabul Chawla receives IGBC Fellow Award for sustainable contributions

NEW DELHI, May 13 (Agencies): Kabul Chawla, Chairman and Managing Director of BPTP Ltd., has been conferred with the highly esteemed IGBC Fellow Award by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the advancement of the green building movement in India. The award ceremony took place on 9th May' 2025 at the iconic BPTP Capital City in Noida, a landmark IGBC Platinum certified project recognized for its commitment to sustainable development and green building practices.

K.S. Venkatagiri, Executive Director, CII-Green Business Centre, presented the award to Chawla in a special ceremony.

Stating on the occasion, Kabul Chawla, Chairman and Managing Director, BPTP, expresses his gratitude by saying, "It is a profound honour to receive the IGBC Fellow Award. I am deeply grateful to the IGBC for this recognition, which reflects the collective vision and dedication of the entire BPTP team. Sustainability is not just a responsibility, but a core value that drives our approach to real estate development. At BPTP, we believe that curating sustainable, future-ready spaces is an essential move for the well-being of our communities and the planet. This award inspires us to continue innovating and setting new standards in sustainable urban development, ensuring that our projects not only meet today's needs but also safeguard the environment for generations to come. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners, stakeholders, and IGBC for their trust and support on this journey."

The IGBC Fellow Award is one of the premier recognitions in India's green building move-



ment. It honours individuals and organizations demonstrating exemplary contribution to sustainable built environments. BPTP Capital City, the venue for this year's ceremony, stands as a demonstration to the evolutionary impact of green building initiatives. Located at Sector 94, Noida, the project features IGBC Platinum Certification, premium office spaces, and state-of-the-art amenities that represent the future of sustainable business workplaces in India.

The IGBC has been at the spearhead of the country's green building movement, annually recognizing pioneers who have stepped up in environment and sustainable stewardship. The IGBC Fellow Award is a tribute to Kabul Chawla's unparalleled commitment and contribution in shaping India's sustainable built environment.

About Kabul Chawla, Chairman and Managing Director, BPTP Limited: Kabul Chawla is a dynamic and visionary entrepreneur who has played a transformative role in shaping the landscape of Indian real estate. As the Chairman and Managing Director of BPTP Limited, he has led the company from its inception to become one of the most recognized and trusted names in the real estate sector, particularly across the Delhi-NCR region.

With deep roots in Haryana and an entrepreneurial spirit that defines his journey, Chawla ventured into real estate in the early 2000s with a mission to redefine urban living and infrastructure. Under his leadership, BPTP grew rapidly, delivering innovative residential and commercial projects across Gurugram, Faridabad, Noida, and Delhi. His foresight and strategic approach helped BPTP secure some of the most prominent land parcels and successfully develop integrated townships, plotted developments, high-rise luxury apartments, and commercial developments.

A hallmark of Kabul Chawla's leadership has been his relentless focus on customer satisfaction, design excellence, and project delivery. He was among the early proponents of building environmentally friendly, self-sustained communities with world-class amenities, setting new benchmarks for lifestyle-centric developments.

One of his most notable achievements includes the development of BPTP Capital City - a flagship project envisioned to be a next-generation mixed-use destination with an IGBC Platinum-rated office tower featuring a top-notch tenancy profile. The project underscores his commitment to sustainability, smart design, and

future-ready urban planning.

His people and leadership skills have also been instrumental in building a strong, dedicated team of over 1000 professionals who share his vision and passion. This collective strength has been a driving force behind BPTP's continued success and ambitious growth trajectory. He believes in empowering people, fostering a collaborative culture, and nurturing talent - values that are deeply embedded in the company's DNA.

Despite the complexities and evolving dynamics of the Indian real estate sector, Chawla has remained steadfast in his commitment to quality, innovation, and trust - values that continue to guide BPTP's growth. His journey is a true inspiration for young entrepreneurs looking to make a mark in infrastructure and real estate development.

With a legacy spanning over three decades, Chawla's contribution to the urban transformation of North India is both impactful and enduring. As BPTP gears up for its next phase of growth, his visionary leadership continues to steer the company toward excellence, sustainability, and community-focused development.

BPTP is one of India's largest real estate developers, known for its innovative and customer-centric approach to creating world-class residential and commercial spaces. With a strong presence in Delhi-NCR, the company has delivered 24,500 homes and numerous landmark projects that blend modern architecture, premium amenities, and sustainable living solutions. BPTP remains committed to excellence, transparency, and, shaping urban landscapes with projects that redefine contemporary living.

Markets drop in early trade after sharp rally in previous session

MUMBAI, May 13 (Agencies): Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty dropped in early trade on Tuesday, a day after recording a sharp rally, amid the emergence of profit-taking.

The 30-share BSE benchmark gauge Sensex, declined by 497.5 points to 81,932.40 in early trade. The NSE Nifty dropped 117.2 points to 24,807.50.

Later, the BSE benchmark index quoted 788.62 points down at 81,641.28, and the Nifty traded with a cut of 209.90 points at 24,714.80.

From the Sensex firms, Infosys, Eternal, Power Grid, Kotak Mahindra Bank, ICICI Bank, HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services and Nestle were among the major laggards.

Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance and Tata Steel were the gainers.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225

index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index were trading in the positive territory while Hong Kong's Hang Seng quoted lower.

US markets ended significantly higher on Monday. The Nasdaq Composite surged 4.35 per cent, S&P 500 jumped 3.26 per cent and Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 2.81 per cent.

"It is important to understand that the sharp 916-point surge in Nifty was not caused by institutional activity. The combined FII and DII buying yesterday was only Rs 2,694 crore. This means the market surge was triggered by short-covering and HNI plus retail buying," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

The agreement between the US and China to reduce tariffs for 90 days signals the possibility of the end of the trade war between the US and China, he said.

"This augurs well for the global economy," Vijayakumar added.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.23 per cent to USD 64.81 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 1,246.48 crore on Monday after a day's breather, according to exchange data.

Benchmark indices recorded their biggest single-day gains in absolute terms on Monday, skyrocketing nearly 4 per cent, after India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop military actions and the US and China announced a deal to lower tariffs significantly.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 2,975.43 points or 3.74 per cent to settle at a more than seven-month high of 82,429.90 on Monday. The 50-issue Nifty of NSE skyrocketed 916.70 points or 3.82 per cent to close at 24,924.70.

Retail inflation declines to 6-year low of 3.16% in April: Govt data

NEW DELHI, May 13 (Agencies): Retail inflation declined to a nearly 6-year low of 3.16 per cent in April, mainly on account of subdued prices of vegetables, fruits, pulses, and other protein-rich items, and remains within the comfort zone of the Reserve Bank.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation was 3.34 per cent in March and 4.83 per cent in April 2024. It was 3.15 per cent in July 2019.

Food inflation in April was 1.78 per cent, lower than 2.69 per cent in the

preceding month and 8.7 per cent in the year-ago month.

The Reserve Bank, which has been mandated to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side, has slashed the key interest rate by 50 basis points in two tranches as the price situation improved.

The central bank has projected the CPI inflation for the financial year 2025-26 at 4 per cent, with Q1 at 3.6 per cent; Q2 at 3.9 per cent; Q3 at 3.8 per cent; and Q4 at 4.4 per cent.

Early-life growth proved important for height in puberty, adulthood

LONDON, May 13 (Agencies): Growth patterns during a child's first two years of life may shape pubertal growth and adult height, but have little effect on pubertal timing, according to research presented at the first Joint Congress of the European Society of Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) and the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE).

The findings emphasise the significance of early-life growth, which could be used to forecast future growth, development, and health.

It is well established that the early-life growth period -- from conception to approximately two years of age -- is crucial in determining long-term health outcomes later in life. However, previous research has mainly focused on weight due to its widespread data availability, and the differences in pubertal growth, pubertal timing and adult height between individuals have not yet been explained by early growth.

Now, in this study, researchers from Sweden analysed data on the height measurements, birth characteristics and parental heights of 4,700 individuals with Nordic ethnicity, born in 1974 and 1990, from the GrowUp Gothenburg Cohort.

Using the Quadratic-Exponential-Pubertal-



Stop (QEPS) model to assess growth patterns, the researchers found that early-life growth accounted for about 38 per cent of the variation in pubertal growth, but the height changes during puberty explained only about 9 per cent of the variation in adult height.

About 67 per cent of the difference in adult height between individuals was determined by early life, about 67 per cent was by childhood growth, whereas about 60 per cent was attributed to birth size and 37 per cent to the average height of both parents.

"Surprisingly, the timing of puberty was not significantly influenced by early-life growth which suggests that, while early-life growth plays a significant role in growth during puberty and in determining final adult height, other factors such as genetics and the environment may be stronger determinants of pubertal timing," said first author Dr Carin Skogastierna from the University of Gothenburg and Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Sweden.

Previous studies have also shown similar asso-

ciations between early-life growth and adult height. However, these associations have never been studied using the QEPS growth model -- a model that allowed the researchers to examine specific growth stages separately. "With the QEPS growth model, we were able to study specific early growth and specific pubertal growth, separately from the ongoing 'basic' growth for the first time," said Dr Skogastierna.

Dr Skogastierna said, "We are continuing to work to understand how early-life growth relates to wellbeing, health and socio-economic status later in life, and how this information may be used alongside efforts to support early-life monitoring and healthy lifestyle changes to prevent disease."

"It is important to note that if poor early growth is associated with reduced wellbeing in adolescents and a higher risk of disease and death in adulthood, such findings could further emphasise that healthcare aimed at young children is a good socio-economic investment for society," she added.

Antibiotics from human use are contaminating rivers worldwide: Study

WASHINGTON DC, May 13 (Agencies): Millions of kilometers of rivers around the world are carrying antibiotic pollution at levels high enough to promote drug resistance and harm aquatic life, a new study warns.

The study estimated the scale of global river contamination from human antibiotics use. Researchers calculated that about 8,500 tons of antibiotics -- nearly one-third of what people consume annually -- end up in river systems around the world each year even after in many cases passing through

wastewater systems.

Published in PNAS Nexus, the study is the first to estimate the scale of global river contamination from human antibiotics use.

"While the amounts of residues from individual antibiotics translate into only very small concentrations in most rivers, which makes them very difficult to detect, the chronic and cumulative environmental exposure to these substances can still pose a risk to human health and aquatic ecosystems," said Heloisa Ehalt Macedo, a post-doctoral fellow in geography at McGill and lead

author of the study.

The research team used a global model validated by field data from nearly 900 river locations.

They found that amoxicillin, the world's most-used antibiotic, is the most likely to be present at risky levels, especially in Southeast Asia, where rising use and limited wastewater treatment amplify the problem.

"This study is not intended to warn about the use of antibiotics -- we need antibiotics for global health treatments -- but our results indicate

that there may be unintended effects on aquatic environments and antibiotic resistance, which calls for mitigation and management strategies to avoid or reduce their implications," said Bernhard Lehner, a professor in global hydrology in McGill's Department of Geography and co-author of the study.

The findings are especially notable because the study did not consider antibiotics from livestock or pharmaceutical factories, both of which are major contributors to environmental contamination.

"Our results show that antibiotic pollution in rivers arising from human consumption alone is a critical issue, which would likely be exacerbated by veterinarian or industry sources of related compounds" said Jim Nicell, an environmental engineering professor at McGill and co-author of the study.

"Monitoring programs to detect antibiotic or other chemical contamination of waterways are therefore needed, especially in areas that our model predicts to be at risk," he added.

Study finds how obesity linked to long Covid

SYDNEY, May 13 (Agencies): People with excess weight are more likely to experience long-term neurological and mental health symptoms after Covid-19, including headache, vertigo, smell and taste disorders, sleep disturbance, and depression. This research is done by Edith Cowan University (ECU) Centre of Precision Health visiting PhD scholar Debora Barbosa Ronca.

"We anticipated some level of association between excess weight and post-Covid-19 symptoms based on prior evidence linking obesity with worse Covid-19 long-term outcomes. What stood out was the consistency of

findings across a wide range of neurological and neuropsychiatric symptoms -- including memory problems, depression, sleep disturbances, and sensory impairments. While we did not perform subgroup analyses by ethnicity, the inclusion of studies from 23 different countries suggests the global relevance of our findings," said Ronca.

Excess weight has been associated with the development of long Covid or Post-Covid-19 condition, as proposed by the World Health Organization.

While the mechanisms behind the negative association between excess weight and long Covid is yet to be con-



firmed, Ronca noted that it could be linked to an exaggerated inflammatory response predisposed by excess fatty tissue in the body. Moreover, fat tissue helps the SARS-CoV-2 virus enter the body and may store the virus, allowing it to spread.

Some studies have shown that long Covid symptoms could persist

for 12 months or longer, necessitating the need for long-term medical interventions.

"These symptoms of long Covid can significantly impact quality of life and may linger for months. As we face overlapping public health challenges in the post-pandemic era, such as long Covid, mental health issues,

and rising rates of obesity, it's essential to develop personalised and multidisciplinary care strategies to better support affected individuals," shared Ronca.

"Physicians and healthcare professionals should be aware that individuals with excess weight may be at higher risk of experiencing long-term neurological and mental health symptoms following Covid-19. This population may require closer monitoring and multidisciplinary care approaches. Integrating concomitant weight management, mental health support, and rehabilitation into post-Covid care plans could improve patient outcomes."

Virat Kohli, Anushka Sharma visit spiritual guru Premanand Maharaj in Vrindavan

After retiring from test cricket on Monday, the star batter met renowned spiritual leader Premanand Maharaj at Vrindavan Dham on Tuesday.

VRINDAVAN, May 13 (Agencies): A day after announcing his retirement from the Test arena India's star batter Virat Kohli reached Vrindavan with his wife Anushka Sharma on Tuesday.

The couple call on renowned spiritual leader Premanand Maharaj at Vrindavan Dham to seek his blessings. The couple are known to be followers of Swami Premanand Maharaj and have been seen in Vrindavan often.

Kohli's decision to hang his test boots marked an end to an illustrious 14-year-old career which saw him dominate a variety of conditions, regions, and opponents in whites, both as a batter and captain.

In his Test career, the 36-year-old made 123 appearances in white clothing, scoring 9,230 runs at an average



of 46.85, with 30 centuries and 31 fifties in 210 innings and the best score of 254*. He is India's fourth-highest run-getter in the format, behind Sachin Tendulkar (15,921 runs), Rahul Dravid (13,265 runs), and Sunil Gavaskar (10,122 runs).

Kohli made his Test debut in June 2011 against the West

Indies. While his first Test tour was a massive disappointment with just 76 runs in five innings, a young Virat made a name for himself with some serious, counter-attacking knocks in the coming days.

His rise as a Test player started with his maiden ton against Australia at Adelaide in 2012,

when he made 116 in 213 balls. Between 2016 to 2019, Virat had one of the strongest batting primes ever for a Test cricketer, piling up 4,208 runs in 43 Tests at an average of 66.79, with 16 centuries and 10 fifties in 69 innings and the best score of 254*.

This also included seven double centuries, most by a captain in Test cricket history. However, the 2020s have not been great for the superstar batter, having made just 2,028 runs in 39 Tests at an underwhelming average of 30.72, with just three centuries and nine fifties to show in 69 innings.

His numbers received a boost from a fine 2023, where he made 671 runs in eight Tests at an average of 55.91, with two centuries and two fifties in 12 innings.

Australia leaves IPL return decision to players ahead of WTC final

SYDNEY, May 13 (Agencies): Cricket Australia on Tuesday said it will support its players' "individual decisions" on returning to the Indian Premier League (IPL), even as the resumption of the T20 tournament is set to clash with preparations for the World Test Championship (WTC) final.

The BCCI on Monday decided to resume the IPL season across six venues from May 17 with the final slated for June 3.

The development leaves Australia's and South Africa's Test regulars in a dilemma, as the WTC final between the two nations is slated to begin on June 11 at Lord's.

Following the announcement that the IPL will resume on Saturday, Cricket Australia

will support players in their individual decisions whether to return to India or not," CA said in a statement.

"Team management will work through preparation implications for the World Test Championship final for those players who choose to play in the remaining IPL matches.

"We are maintaining communication with the Australian government and BCCI around security arrangements and safety."

The IPL was suspended last Friday due to a military conflict between India and Pakistan.

According to the revised schedule, the tournament would end just eight days before the WTC final in London where Australia face South Africa.

In the wake of the unrest, several Aus-

tralian players, including skipper Pat Cummins and fast bowler Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood have returned home.

Only a few former players like Ricky Ponting and Brad Haddin, who are part of coaching setups, remain in India.

Other coaches, including Justin Langer and Mike Hussey, have returned home amid the rising border tensions.

Australian Test players currently involved in the IPL who are likely to be impacted include captain Cummins and Travis Head (both Sunrisers Hyderabad), Starc (Delhi Capitals), and Hazlewood (Royal Challengers Bengaluru).

While SRH are out of the playoff race, second-placed RCB are well-positioned to qualify, and fifth-placed DC remain in contention.

“He was definitely one of the main players”: Sarandeep Singh on Virat Kohli’s test retirement

NEW DELHI, May 13 (Agencies): Delhi head coach Sarandeep Singh highlighted that Virat Kohli was a key player for India and he felt Kohli was well prepared this time to perform well in the England tour next month.

Singh noted that there is always a little pressure on Virat, but he was mentally prepared for the challenge.

"He was definitely one of the main players, so he had to play there. He was well-prepared this time he is going to perform well in England. Because he was the main player. He was the one who scored a 100 in Australia. Other than that, the game was not going well. So, there is always a little pressure on Virat. He was mentally prepared," Sarandeep Singh told agency.

Singh also felt that India don't have replacements for Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in test cricket, and said both batters are among the greats of Indian Cricket. "It will definitely affect



them. I believe that we still don't have replacements for Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. They are one of the greats. And they will remain greats. Let's see who takes their place. The match-winning players who used to play, who had the passion to win the match. Their 14 years of career is not a small thing. To play in all three formats. To play in a good position is commendable. Now, the responsibility will increase on the youngsters. Let's see who the player is who can take the captaincy," he added.

On Monday morning,

Virat took to Instagram and penned a note that stirred the hearts of many. He confirmed that the days of speculation had turned into reality by closing the curtains on his 14-year-long Test journey. With Virat's exit, the Indian Test setup is threadbare in terms of experience playing on the UK's green, blushing pitches.

In a journey that redefined the demands of the game, Virat's unparalleled contributions saw him rack up 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85, with 30 centuries and 31 fifties and finish as India's fourth-highest run-getter in the format.

Australia announces squad for WTC final against South Africa

Cameron Green's return to the Test squad after back surgery has been confirmed, with spinner Matt Kuhnemann also included, as Australia on Tuesday revealed their squad for their WTC defence and subsequent Caribbean tour.

SYDNEY, May 13 (Agencies): Defending champions of the World Test Championship (WTC), Australia, named their squad to face South Africa in the WTC finals next month at Lord's, as per a release from Cricket Australia.

Cameron Green's return to the Test squad after back surgery has been confirmed, with spinner Matt Kuhnemann also included, as Australia revealed their squad for their WTC defence and subsequent Caribbean tour on Tuesday.

Sheffield Shield player of the final, Brendan Doggett, has been named a travelling reserve for the 15-player squad, which otherwise features no major surprises from outside the group that beat Sri Lanka 2-0 and India 3-1 last summer.



Pat Cummins' side is seeking to become the first nation to win multiple WTC finals when it faces South Africa at Lord's from June 11.

Cummins and Hazlewood have overcome injuries that kept them out of the Sri Lanka tour and the Champions Trophy earlier in the year, with both returning to action via the Indian Premier League.

Australia won four of its

six series to clinch a spot in its second straight WTC final. It also drew 2-2 with England in the 2023 Ashes and 1-1 with West Indies during the 2023-24 home summer.

South Africa topped the standings with eight wins from 12 Tests for a points percentage of 69.44, while Australia's was 67.54 with 13 wins from 19 matches.

"The team finished the WTC cycle with an

impressive series victory in Sri Lanka following an equally strong summer in defeating India for the first time in a decade," selection chair George Bailey said.

"Those series capped a consistent performance across the two-year cycle and now presents us with the incredibly exciting opportunity to defend the World Test Championship."

"It means a lot to the

group to reach the final, and they are very much looking forward to the challenge South Africa will present at Lord's," Bailey added.

Selectors have opted for the same squad for three Tests in the Caribbean with Beau Webster retained as the preferred allrounder following a strong start to his Test career, while Sam Konstas is back in the mix after leaving Sri Lanka early to finish the domestic season with NSW.

Australia squad for WTC final: Pat Cummins (c), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas, Matt Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Beau Webster. Travelling reserve: Brendan Doggett.

Make Jasprit Bumrah Test captain: Sunil Gavaskar rubbishes workload concerns

NEW DELHI, May 13 (Agencies): Indian cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar has backed Jasprit Bumrah to take over as India's next Test captain, brushing aside concerns over the pacer's workload. Gavaskar's remarks come at a time when the selectors are preparing to name Rohit Sharma's successor, with India scheduled to play a five-match away Test series against England starting June 20.

With both Rohit and Virat Kohli retiring from Test cricket in the span of five days, the leadership mantle is up for grabs. Bumrah, who has previously led India in the red-ball format, has emerged as a top contender due to his recent performances and calm leadership style. Gavaskar believes that as a fast bowler, Bumrah is best equipped to manage his own workload and make on-field decisions that align with his physical demands.

"Who better to know what is the workload for himself than himself? If you appoint somebody else, they would always want an



extra over from Bumrah. If he is your No. 1 bowler, he will himself know that 'yes, this is the time I must take a break'. To me, it has to be Jasprit Bumrah only. I know all these kind of speculation going around his workload and all that. Give it to him so that he knows how many overs to bowl, when to take him off, when to sort of rest. That would be the best thing," Gavaskar said.

"He (Bumrah) may not have to miss a Test match. If you give it him, he might know when to stop before his body starts to



crumble. For me, give it to him. After the first Test, there is an eight-day gap. There's enough time to recover. Then, there are two back-to-back Test matches. That's fine. There's then another gap. If you give him the captaincy, he will be the best person to know when to bowl," he added.

Bumrah had earlier captained India during the 2022 Birmingham Test against England and again during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25. Under his leadership, India secured a commanding 295-run win over

Australia in Adelaide—their biggest win by runs in Australia—and he also led the side in the Sydney Test earlier this year when Rohit sat out.

However, recent reports have suggested that Bumrah may have ruled himself out of contention for the role, citing the difficulty of committing to all five Tests due to workload management. The selectors are now reportedly considering Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant as the primary candidates for the position. Gill, who already serves as vice-captain in white-ball cricket, has impressed with his leadership in IPL 2025 before the tournament's suspension.

Despite this, Gavaskar remains firm in his stance that Bumrah should be handed the responsibility. He believes that giving the captaincy to the pacer would allow him to better judge when to push and when to pull back, both for himself and the team.

With the BCCI selection meeting expected soon, the leadership question remains wide open.

Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu fined 10 per cent of her match fee for breaching ICC Code of Conduct



COLOMBO, May 13 (Agencies): Sri Lanka's skipper Chamari Athapaththu has received a penalty of 10 per cent of her match fee for violating Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct, as per the ICC website.

The incident took place during the final group stage game of the recently concluded tri-series in Sri Lanka, with the hosts facing South Africa in Colombo. The Proteas emerged victorious in a high-scoring fixture.

Athapaththu was found to have breached Article 2.2 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during an International Match."

In addition to this, one demerit point

has been added to Athapaththu's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period.

The incident occurred in the 32nd over of South Africa's innings, when after being hit for a four by Annerie Dercksen, Athapaththu took off her sunglasses and smashed them to the ground, breaking them into several pieces.

The charges were levelled by on-field umpires Anna Harris and Dedunu de Silva, third umpire Lyndon Hannibal and fourth umpire Nimali Perera.

There was no need of a hearing as Athapaththu admitted the offence and accepted the sanctions proposed by Michelle Pereira of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees. Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

The tri-series was eventually won by India, who defeated Sri Lanka, the tournament hosts in the final by 97 runs. Mandhana was awarded player of the match for her century in the finals, and Sneha Rana was named Player of the series, as she grabbed 15 wickets in the Tri-series.

AJBRCEAK delegation meets Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma, seeks safety, transfer policy for Jammu-based reserved category employees

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: A delegation of the All Jammu Based Reserved Category Employees Association Kashmir (AJBRCEAK), led by its President Anil Radha, met with Hon'ble Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma Ji, Minister for Youth and Sports, Transport, and Food & Supply Departments. The delegation apprised the Minister of the pressing issues and demands concerning the safety, security, and working conditions of Jammu-based reserved category employees posted in the Kashmir division.

During the meeting, President Anil Radha voiced deep concern over the insecure and tense environment, especially in border



areas, where many of the employees originally reside. He emphasized that the current atmosphere of fear and psychological distress has made it extremely difficult for these employees to carry out their duties effectively. He urged the government to take immediate steps to ensure their safety and

security while working in the Kashmir division. Deepak Kumar, a member of AJBRCEAK, demanded the early notification of a Comprehensive Transfer Policy, referencing that an empowered committee has already been constituted for this purpose. He stressed that the policy should be

implemented at the earliest to bring relief to the affected employees. Another member, Hemraj Lakhotra, highlighted the need for safe and secure accommodation for all Jammu-based reserved category employees at the district level within the Kashmir Valley. He also requested that these

employees be adjusted in safe zones or district headquarters to reduce the risks associated with their current postings.

The delegation included Ram Krishan, Virender Mohan, Rakesh Kumar, Ravi Kumar, Anil Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Deepak Sharma, and others, all of whom supported the demands and expressed hope that the government would take swift and positive action to address their concerns.

Minister Satish Sharma gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them that their demands would be examined seriously, and appropriate steps would be taken to safeguard the interests of the employees.

Randhawa conducts surprise visit to PHE Pumping Station in Sainik Colony amid public complaints



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: In response to mounting complaints from the residents of Chowadhi, Chatha, and Sunjwan regarding erratic water supply and service negligence by the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, MLA Bahu, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, conducted a surprise inspection on Tuesday at the PHE pumping station locat

ed in Sainik Colony, Jammu.

During the visit, MLA Randhawa inspected the functioning of pumping machinery, reviewed maintenance records, and directly engaged with the on-duty staff to assess ground-level operations.

Locals from nearby areas expressed their frustration over irregular water supply, frequent pump failures, delayed grievance redressal,

and inadequate pressure during peak hours.

"Residents of these areas are suffering, especially in the ongoing summer season. Clean and consistent water supply is a basic necessity and cannot be compromised," said Randhawa.

"Strict instructions have been given to the department to resolve these issues on priority and ensure regular updates to the public."

The MLA also assured residents that follow-up inspections will be carried out and any departmental lapses will be dealt with firmly.

He reiterated his commitment to improving civic amenities and acting swiftly on citizen grievances.

J&K Volleyball team wins historic gold at Khelo India Games 2025; Karan Rajput felicitated



Top News Report

REASI, May 13: In a proud and historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir, the state's volleyball team clinched the gold medal at the Khelo India Games 2025 held in Patna.

This remarkable victory has brought immense joy to the Union Territory, marking a significant achievement in its sporting history.

Among the standout performers was Karan Rajput, a talented player from Zone Pouni, who

played a crucial role in the team's success. In recognition of his contribution, Tehsildar Pouni, Sahil Randhawa, honored Karan in a special felicitation ceremony held at Tehsil Pouni.

Expressing his pride, Karan Rajput stated, "We are immensely proud to have secured the gold medal in this championship. It is a moment of great pride for all of us. The team prepared rigorously, and this victory is a testament to the hard work and determination of the

players, coaches, and support staff."

He further added that the achievement not only brings glory to J&K but also underscores the rising popularity of volleyball in the region.

The felicitation ceremony was attended by several dignitaries and well-wishers, including Kuldeep Singh (Father of Karan Rajput), Deedar Singh, President, DGPC Reasi, Prakash Singh, Ex-Sarpanch, Mari, Vikas Gandontra, Social Activist, Bholi Devi, Physical Education Lecturer, Madan Mohan (PEM), and Opinder Pal Singh, Physical Teacher.

They all extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Karan for his exceptional performance and inspiring achievement.

This victory is expected to boost the morale of young athletes across the Union Territory and encourage greater participation in sports.

Ramban Administration flags-off batch of Hajj Pilgrims



Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 13: Amid elaborate arrangements by the District Administration under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, on Tuesday, flagged off a batch of 33 Hajjis, including 11 female pilgrims, from Ramban District to Srinagar for their onward journey to the holy pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

The ACR Ramban Shokat Hayat Mattoo congratulated the Hajj pilgrims on their opportunity to embark on this sacred journey.

He extended his best wishes for a safe and secure pilgrimage and earnestly appealed to them to pray for the

peace and prosperity of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

While interacting and giving a warm send-off, the ACR extended good wishes to the pilgrims and expressed hope for their comfortable journey. He also wished them well-being, success, and smooth conduct of the Hajj-e-Baitullah.

Meanwhile, a special prayer was held, gathering a large number of people who prayed for the successful completion of the Holy Haj tour by the pilgrims.

Tehsildar Deep Kumar, ARTO Kuldeep Singh, religious leaders and other officers, prominent citizens, and relatives were also present on the occasion.

Shiksha Niketan celebrates 114th Birth Anniversary of Dev Dutt Mengi

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: In a fond and heartfelt remembrance, Shiksha Niketan Senior Secondary School, Jeevan Nagar, Jammu, celebrated the 114th Birth Anniversary of its esteemed Founder Principal, late Dev Dutt Mengi, on Tuesday. The occasion was observed with great spiritual fervour and deep respect, reflecting the institution's unwavering gratitude and admiration for the values and vision imparted by its founder.

The school organized a special Pooja ceremony to mark the day, seeking the divine blessings of Maa Saraswati. The event was graced by Principal Rameshwar Mengi, Director of RMPs Rakshan Mengi, Director of Shiksha Niketan Gandhi Nagar and Pushp Vatika Risheek



Mengi, and Headmaster of Shiksha Niketan Jeevan Nagar Harish Sharma. Incharges of the Primary, Middle, High, and Higher Secondary wings, along with teaching and non-teaching staff, also participated in the solemn ceremony, which served as a spiritual tribute to the guiding force behind the institution.

During the ceremony, Principal Rameshwar Mengi delivered the welcome address and paid glowing tribute to late Dev Dutt Mengi. He highlighted his academic and humanitar

ian contributions, stating that his noble vision and commitment to education laid the strong foundation on which the school continues to flourish. His ideals of discipline, integrity, and service remain deeply embedded in the ethos of Shiksha Niketan.

The commemorative event concluded with a Preeti Bhoj (Langer), a symbol of unity, humility, and togetherness. The occasion not only honored a great educationist but also reaffirmed the school's commitment to carrying forward his enduring legacy.

Rajesh Gupta visits GMC Jammu to inquire about Poonch drone attack victims

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: Senior National Conference leader Rajesh Gupta today visited Government Medical College Hospital (GMC) Jammu to enquire about the well-being of civilians injured in the recent Pakistan drone missile attack in the Poonch sector. He was accompanied by Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal of GMC Jammu, who provided detailed information on the medical condition and treatment of the injured.

Pt. R.C. Sharma, State President of Akhil Bharatiya Bharashtachar Nirmulan Sangharsh Samiti (ABBNS), Jammu & Kashmir, also joined the visit, expressing solidarity with the victims and their families.

During the visit, Gupta expressed his deep concern over the inhumane attack and praised the unwavering bravery and professionalism of the Indian Armed Forces. He stated, "Operation Sindoor is a decisive initiative aimed at elimi



nating militancy and dismantling terrorist training camps operating across the border."

Gupta issued a stern warning to Pakistan, urging it to cease its nefarious and inhumane designs, and to immediately stop supporting militant activities. "If Pakistan continues on this destructive path, it risks being wiped off the world map," he said.

Highlighting the successful retaliatory efforts of the Indian Armed Forces, Gupta said, "The destruction caused on the Pakistani side has been significant and has compelled Pakistan to rethink its strategy and agree to a ceasefire." He added that these strategic actions have sent a clear and

powerful message reaffirming India's unwavering commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Gupta also lauded the resilience and unflinching support of the border residents, stating that their courage during such testing times has greatly bolstered the morale of the security forces. He emphasized that the sacrifices and efforts of both the Armed Forces and civilians play a crucial role in maintaining peace and security in the region.

The National Conference stands in full solidarity with the victims and salutes the valiant efforts of the Indian Armed Forces in defending the nation.

DYSS condoles sudden death of its employee 'Varinder Sharma'

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: The officers and the officials of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K, Joint Director YSS office Jammu and District YSS office Jammu, observed a two-minute silence to condole the sudden and sad demise of Varinder Sharma, a responsible employee of the Department.

The condolence meeting was chaired by the Director General Youth Services and Sports, Rajinder Singh Tara, wherein a solemn tribute was paid to Sh Varinder Sharma, a dedicated Physical Education Master and Judo Coach, who left an indelible mark on the sports fraternity of J&K.

Sharma's untimely passing on Monday after a brief illness has left a void in the department, and his colleagues and friends are deeply saddened by the loss. As the Incharge Warden of the Youth Hostel Nagrota Jammu, Sharma's commitment to his work and his passion for sports has inspired countless young athletes. His humility, expertise, and dedication earned him immense respect and admiration within the department.

Commissioner Secretary to Government Youth Services and Sports Department, Sarmad Hafeez in

his condolence message said, "Varinder Sharma was a responsible official, who served the Department in different capacities, yielding better results. May his noble soul rest in peace."

The Director General YSS expressed profound grief over Sharma's sudden demise, remembering him as a capable employee who made significant contributions in nurturing young talent and taking care of the departmental assets as Incharge Warden of Youth Hostel Nagrota.

"Varinder Sharma will always be remembered for his humility and dedication towards his work. His sudden demise is personal as well as the professional loss to the Department. He immensely contributed in smooth and successful conduct of 68th National School Games hosted by the Department. May Almighty grant peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss," the Director General said.

Joint Director YSS Jammu, Ved Prakash while describing the official as energetic and brave, lauded his contribution in sports promotion.

All present in the meeting prayed to the Almighty to bestow peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Mission Director JJM J&K urges Jal Shakti (PHE) divisions to expedite scheme completion under JJM



Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 13: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah, on Tuesday convened a review meeting of Jal Shakti (PHE) Divisions of J&K through virtual mode.

The meeting was attended by chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Kashmir, Superintendent

ing Engineers of respective circles in J&K, Executive Engineers of all civil and Mechanical divisions and the officers in Mission Directorate.

At the onset, MD enquired about the status of Water Supply Schemes in the areas affected by recent situation. The chair was informed that as per the field reports the water

supply schemes in whole J&K are functioning normally.

The MD also took a division wise review of scheme completion under JJM. He reaffirmed the ending 2025 deadline for project completion. He directed the recently posted Superintending Engineers to assess the ground situation and review the progress of works fortnightly so that the timelines set for scheme completion are adhered in letter and spirit.

The chair also discussed Har Ghar Jal certification of reported villages in the last year and water quality monitoring and surveillance being undertaking by the water testing laboratories in the UT.

KSS commends government and armed forces, condemns targeting of Vikram Misri

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 13: The Kashmir Sahayak Samiti (KSS), in its Executive Body meeting held today, strongly lauded the decisive role of India's national leadership and the Armed Forces in responding to the recent acts of terrorism against innocent civilians.

The Samiti expressed deep appreciation for the "bold and effective military operations" led under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, describing them as a befitting reply to terrorism sponsored across the border. KSS also commended the Prime Minister's diplomatic efforts to raise global awareness about terrorism, particularly in the context of the ongoing challenges faced by the nation and the Union Territory for the past 35 years.

In a firm statement, KSS called for the

immediate suspension of all diplomatic and cultural ties with the enemy nation until it dismantles its terror infrastructure and officially recognizes the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits.

The organization also issued a strong condemnation of the malicious online trolling and targeted campaign against Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his family. KSS highlighted Misri's unwavering service to the nation, noting that as a Kashmiri Pandit and a senior diplomat, he has brought pride to the community through his professionalism and dedication.

"To single out a committed diplomat like Vikram Misri for abuse in the name of national interest is not only unfair but deeply unacceptable," the Samiti stated, urging national unity and support for individuals serving the country with integrity.