

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

ENTERTAINMENT

| 6

NATIONAL

| 7

INTERNATIONAL

| 8

'Fauji's daughter' Preity Zinta on Bollywood stars not condemning Pahalgam attack

Former defence secretary Ajay Kumar takes oath as UPSC chairman

US should 'take' Gaza and turn it into 'freedom zone', says Trump during Qatar visit



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BRIEFLY

Army chief visits forward posts in Kashmir, calls for continued vigilance along LoC



SRINAGAR, May 15 (Agencies): Indian Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday visited forward areas manned by the Dagger Division under the Chinari Corps in North Kashmir, where he interacted with soldiers deployed along the Line of Control (LoC). During the visit, General Dwivedi praised the troops for their courage, high morale, and operational readiness, particularly during the recently executed Operation Sindoor.

He acknowledged their success in asserting dominance along the LoC and applauded their precise actions that led to the destruction of militant camps across the border in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the personnel, the Army Chief urged them to maintain a high state of preparedness and continue their vigilance in the face of persistent security threats. "Remain ever ready to meet any challenge with firm and decisive action," he told the troops.

"All flight connections to Srinagar restored": Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Thursday announced that all flight connections to Srinagar have been restored, urging people from the rest of India to come and visit the Kashmir valley.

"We have opened all schedules (for flights) from today (May 15) – be it Delhi, Mumbai, and other connections have

Turn to page 9

Rajnath Singh arrives in Srinagar; to interact with Army personnel

SRINAGAR, May 15 (Agencies): Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday arrived in Srinagar, where the latter will interact with the Army personnel.

"Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has reached Srinagar this morning. He will interact with troops," the Office of the Raksha Mantri posted on X.

The Defence Minister was accompanied by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

This is the first Jammu



and Kashmir visit of the Union Defence Minister following the Pahalgam terror attack and cessation of hostilities agreement between India and Pakistan.

Meanwhile, following the Operation Sindoor and cessation of hostilities agreement between India and Pakistan, lives have started to turn normal in Jammu and

Kashmir.

The Directorate of School Education, Jammu, announced on Wednesday that schools in certain border areas of Jammu and Kashmir will reopen on May 15.

In relief for students and parents, schools in several areas of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, and Poonch districts will reopen tomorrow after being closed in the wake of hostilities between India and Pakistan.

In Jammu, the Chowki Choura, Bhalwal, Dansal, Gandhi Nagar,

Turn to page 9

3 terrorists killed in Awantipora in second big encounter in 48 hours

SRINAGAR, May 15 (Agencies): Three terrorists have been killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Awantipora. The terrorists were killed in a fierce gunbattle which started early this morning after Police and army launched a joint operation. The encounter started at Nader and Tral area of Awantipora, which is a sub-district of Pulwama, in south Kashmir. This is the second encounter in 48 hours.



The three terrorists were hiding in a residential house and reportedly couldn't resist much.

On Tuesday (May 13), three terrorists were killed in an encounter

with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian. The encounter initially began in Kulgam and then shifted to a forest area in Shopian.

Turn to page 9

BJP holds Tiranga Rally at Srinagar's Lal Chowk to celebrate Op Sindoor

SRINAGAR, May 15 (Agencies): The BJP on Thursday held a Tiranga Rally at Srinagar's historic Lal Chowk to celebrate the success of "Operation Sindoor".

The rally, attended by BJP leaders and party workers, began at Sher-e-Kashmir Park and culminated at Lal Chowk,

a location that has symbolic significance in Kashmir's political landscape.

Holding the national flag, participants raised slogans against Pakistan and hailed the Indian Army and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "This rally at Lal Chowk is a tribute to the Indian

Army and security forces for not only dismantling terror hubs in Pakistan but also showcasing India's strength and resolve," said a BJP leader. "This rally is an expression of our love for the nation."

BJP leader and chairperson of the J&K Waqf

Turn to page 9

SGPC announces Rs 5 lakh aid to families of sikhs killed in Poonch attack

SRINAGAR, May 15 (Agencies): The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee

Turn to page 9

Delhi HC seeks NIA's stand on Engineer Rashid's bail plea in terror funding case

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought the NIA's stand on a bail plea by Baramulla MP Engineer Rashid in a terror funding case.

A bench of Justices Subramonium Prasad and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar issued notice on the parliamentarian's appeal against

a trial court order which refused to grant him bail on March 21.

The bench also asked the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to respond to a separate plea by Rashid challenging the framing of charges in the case.

It clarified that the NIA's reply shall be filed only with respect to the

question of a delay of around 1,100 days in mounting the challenge against the charges.

The court listed both cases for hearing on July 29.

Rashid has been lodged in Tihar jail since 2019 after he was arrested by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities

Turn to page 9

Search operation underway in Reasi after reports of suspicious movement



JAMMU, May 15 (Agencies): Security forces launched a search operation following reports of suspected movement in a forest area of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said.

Turn to page 9

Akhnoor returning to normalcy as people go about their business

JAMMU, May 15 (Agencies): As India and Pakistan reach an understanding for cessation of hostilities, halting escalation of the conflict after the launch of Operation Sindoor, the daily life in Jammu's Akhnoor seems to be getting back on track as people approach normalcy and go about their business.

Bhupendra Singh, who resides in Akhnoor for work, said, "The situation in Akhnoor remains normal after the ceasefire was announced. Shops are opening, and people are returning to their work."

Earlier, the Indian Army took a humanitarian initiative by organising a free medical camp in Narayana village of the

Akhnoor sector, located near the border.

The camp's objective was to provide quality healthcare services to the residents of border areas.

Many locals, including children, women, and elderly citizens, came to the camp. The Army's medical team conducted health check-ups and

Turn to page 9

Schools reopen in border districts of Jammu Region

JAMMU, May 15 (Agencies): Schools in five border districts of Jammu region reopened on Thursday after an eight-day closure following heightened Indo-Pak tensions.

The reopening brought a sense of relief to students, teachers, and parents across the region.

"The schools in five



border districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch reopened today after

restoration of normalcy. However, schools close to the Indo-Pak border

Turn to page 9

GupShup

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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 (Rtd. Estates Officer)** S/o Lt. Sh. Sanjay Chand R/o H.No. 108, Mast Garh, Jammu.

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

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 Jain 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 & Sisters
 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
(Rtd. Estates Officer)

Contact: 9682676396,
7889409103, 7780660630

PRAYER MEETING (UTHALA)

Shaheed Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, MBBS, JKAS (ADDC, Rajouri, J&K) attained martyrdom in the line of duty due to heavy cross-border shelling in the early hours of 10th May 2025 at Rajouri, while selflessly and valiantly serving the Motherland.

Final prayers & condolences (Uthala) will be held on Friday, 16th May 2025, from 12:00 Noon to 1:30 pm at Shri Guru Ravidass Gurudwara, Krishna Nagar, Jammu.

In deep mourning:

Sh. Durga Dass Thapa; Rtd. CSO, BSNL (Father)
Dr. Meenakshi Kandan; Dept. of Pathology, GMC Jammu (Wife)
Ms. Moreesa Thapa (Daughter)
Mr. Ashvritak Thapa (Son)
(Sister & Brother-in-Law)
Dr. Sunita Kumar; Asst. Professor, Physiology, AIIMS Jammu & Dr. Sanjay Kumar Bhasin; Professor, Surgery, GMC Jammu
(Brother & Sister-in-Law)
Mr. Mohinder Kumar Thapa; Sr. Manager, Canara Bank & Mrs. Anuradha; Govt. Teacher (Father-in-law and Mother-in-law)
Sh. Jia Lal; Rtd. Sr. Manager, J&K Bank and Smt. Vidhya Devi; Rtd. Principal
Nieces & Nephews.
Thapa Family & all nears and dears
9419229773, 9419175166, 7889571645, 7889368620.
Note: Car Parking has been arranged at GGM Science College Jammu



Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, JKAS (ADDC, Rajouri, J&K)

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Late Sdr. Janak Kour** W/o Late S. Jaswant Singh (Rtd. Ranger Officer) R/o Lane No. 11, Ashwari Vihar Deel Near Ankur Mohila Hospital, Sank Colony, Jammu.

She left us for heavenly abode on 09/05/2025, in loving memory of departed soul.

Programme:

Arantih Sri Akhand Path Sahib on (Wednesday) 14/05/2025 at our residence at 10:00 AM.

Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib on (Friday) 16/05/2025 at our residence at 11 AM.

Kirtan & Antim Ardas at Gurudwara Singh Sabha Sank Colony, Jammu from 3 PM to 4:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sons & Daughters-in-law
S. Jasvir Singh & Preet Singh
S. Jasvir Singh (Rtd. EME) & Amandeep Kour

Daughters & Sons-in-law
Late Sdr. Jaginder Kour & S. Amer Singh (Retired) S.O Planning Deptt.

Sdr. Harmeet Kour & S. Harjeet Singh (Retired Inspector) (I.B. Deptt)

Sdr. Dalbir Kour & S. Surjeet Singh (Rtd.) F.C.I. Deptt.

Sdr. Sogender Kour & S. Gurdeep Singh

S. Jaspal Singh - Nephew

S. Ravinder Singh - Nephew



Late Sdr. Janak Kour

Grand Daughters & Grand Sons
Miss Ravinder Kour (Canada)
S. Rakesh Kour & Sahi Singh Sani
S. Anand Singh (USA)
S. Param Vir Singh
S. Sanand Singh (Canada)
Mob. No. 9419191244

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Goverdhan Lal Sharma (Rtd. Principal, Ghagwal Wale)** S/o Lt. Sh. Jai Dev R/o H.No. 12-E, Extn. Bharat Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu, who left for his heavenly abode on 5th May, 2025.

The **Uthala** will be held on 16th May 2025 at Prachin Shiv Mandir, Talab Tillo Chowk, Jammu from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Sudeesh Sharma (Wife)

Mr. Keshav Sharma (Son)

Smt. Pooja Sharma & Sh. Sachin Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Smt. Meenakshi Sharma & Sh. Sandeep Sharma (Daughter & Son-in-law)

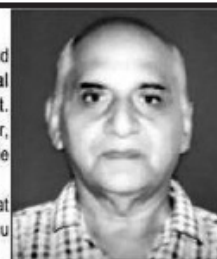
Smt. Uma Devi & Sh. Ankush Proch (Daughter & Son-in-law)

Sh. Shiv Ram & Smt. Prem Lata Sharma (Brother & Sister-in-law)

Sh. K. C. Sharma & Smt. Swam Lata Sharma (Brother & Sister-in-law)

Smt. Krishna & Sh. O. P. Sharma (Sister & Brother-in-law)

MOB.: 9018709682, 9419240012



Sh. Goverdhan Lal Sharma (Rtd. Principal, Ghagwal Wale)

UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI

With heavy hearts and profound grief we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Shakuntla Devi** W/o Late Sh. Janardhan Lal who left for heavenly abode on 1st of May, 2025.

UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI will be held on 17th of May 2025 at our residence Ward No. 10 Sunderbani (Makara) at 3 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Daughter-in-law and Sons

Smt. Neera Sharma and Sh. Sita Ram

Smt. Raj Rani and Sh. Shishu Paul

Smt. Anita Kumari and Sh. Ravi Dutt

Daughters and Son-in-law

Smt. Saroj Bala and Sh. Dharam Paul

Smt. Rama Rani and Sh. Ram Lal

Grand Children:

Vivek, Abhishek, Shobit, Ashutosh, Vikram, Kanchan, Damini, Khushi, Aarav, Aarika



Smt. Shakuntla Devi

TENTH DAY KRIYA

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

Current Residence: Flat No. 115, Akash Kunj apt. 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:-

Pradman Krishan Razdan - Brother

Dulal Razdan - Sister-in-law

Bansi Lal Wadko - Brother-in-law

Amr Raina (Son) and Kusum Raina (Daughter-in-law)

Rohini Raina (Son) and Shivangi Raina (Daughter-in-law)

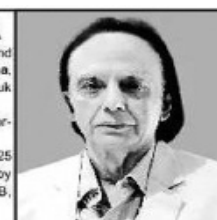
Smt. Jaya Raina (Sister-in-law)

Shri Raj Nath Bamroo - Brother-in-law

Smt. Veena Bamroo - Sister-in-law

Smt. 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 and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr. Ankush Gupta** S/o Sh. Kuldeep Kumar Gupta R/o H.No. 10, W. No 15 behind Raj Palace, Chhar Road, Udhampur.

10TH DAY will be performed on Thursday 15th May, 25 at Shri Mandir, Housing Colony Udhampur (Timing 11 AM to 12 Noon).

KRIYA will be performed on Sunday 18th May, 25 at Devika Ghat Udhampur.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Neha Gupta (Wife)

Anshu Gupta (Son)

Smt. Kanis Devi & Sh. Kuldeep K. Gupta (Parents)

Chachi & Chachu:

Smt. Vijay Gupta & Sh. Yash Paul Gupta

Smt. Anu Mehta & Sh. Kamal Krishan

(Rtd. Asst. Dir. Planning)

Smt. Reeta Gupta & Sh. Sanjay Gupta

Baba & Fati:

Smt. Anur Gupta & Sh. Upinder Gupta

Smt. Supriya Gupta & Sh. Sanjay Gupta

Sisters & Brothers-in-law:

Smt. Anurupa Puri & Sh. Sanjay Gupta

Smt. Sumita Gupta & Sh. Neeraj Gupta

Smt. Ruwail Gupta & Sh. Ashwini Gupta

Sister-in-law & Brother:

Smt. Shilpi & Sh. Anshul Gupta

Brothers & Sisters:

Anish, Anirath, Manishika

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:

Kamal Cloth House, Court Road Udhampur

9149433655, 9419305535, 9469222325,

9419160179



Dr. Ankush Gupta

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, Bermana Colony (Srinagar).

Tenth Day Kriya shall be performed at Muradnagar Ghat (CHOTA HARIDWAR) 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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OBITUARY/ 10th DAY KRIYA

अच्छेद्योऽयमदहोऽयमस्तेद्योऽशोष एव च।
निराः सर्वगतः स्थाणुरचलोऽयः सनातनः ॥

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved father **Shri Makhan Lal Miskeen** S/o Lt. Shri Jiya Lal Bhan, Rtd. Superintendent of Police J&K, originally resident of 44, Karan Nagar, Srinagar left for heavenly abode on 11th May, 2025 (Sunday) at his residence B-101, Anand Lok, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 20th May, 2025 (Tuesday) at Murad Nagar, UP.

Praying for his eternal peace:

Son/ Daughter-in-law

Vijay & Renuka Miskeen (9654370202, 9968004063)

Vinod & Kitty Bhan - Son/ Daughter-in-law

Inder Dha - Son-in-law

Usha & Surjit Razdan - Daughter/ Son-in-law

Babli & Ashwini Koul - Daughter/ Son-in-law

Grandchildren: Varshunn, Varalika & Ashish, Vitasta & Aridaman, Vikran & Arushi

SAMAST MISKEEN & BHAN PARIVAR



Shri Makhan Lal Miskeen

OBITUARY

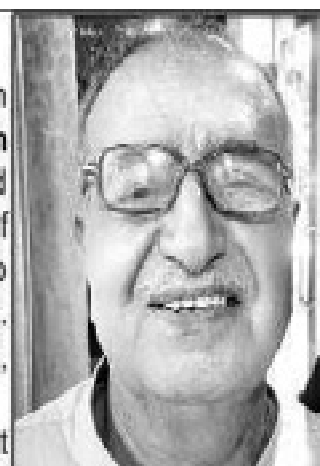
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our Father **Sh. Bhushan Lal Makroo** S/o Late Prabhavati and Manohar Nath Makroo, original resident of Chanapora Srinagar / Anand Nagar, Talab Tillo, Bohri, Jammu at present Flat No. 18035, E Block, 16th Avenue, Gaur City 2, Greater Noida (UP).

The **10th Day Kriya** shall be performed at Chota Haridwar, Murad Nagar, Ghaziabad (UP) at 10 AM on 21st May 2025.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Makroo's / Kakroo's / Mattoo's/ Rayu's

9999768496



Sh. Bhushan Lal Makroo

OBITUARY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF **SMT. JAI RANI LALA (PRABHA)** W/O LT DR. JAWAHAR LAL LALA OF LAL NAGAR, CHANPORA, KASHMIR AND WAS PRESENTLY RESIDING AT 1204, TOWER 4, SHRI SKY GARDENS, SECTOR 16B, GREATER NOIDA WEST ON 10/05/2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA SHALL BE PERFORMED ON 18TH MAY, 2025 (SUNDAY) @ 09 AM AT GANG NAHAR GHAT, MURADNAGAR.

GRIEF STRICKEN

SANTOSH AND T.K.TENG (DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW)

REETA AND BAIJ KISHEN TOSHKANI (DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW)

SUSHMA AND RAKESH PANDITA (DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW)

KONG-POSH BAZAZ (SON-IN-LAW)

JYOTI LALA PANDIT & RAJIV PANDIT (DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW)

MOBILE NO: 9910024003, 9419014297, 9419782159, 9810398083



SMT. JAI RANI LALA (PRABHA)

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow, it is to inform that the **10TH DAY KRIYA** of our beloved **Anglee Raina** W/o Sh. Autar Krishan Dhar R/o Lar, Ganderbal A/P H.No 11 C Sharda Colony Patoli Brahmana will be performed at Muthi Ghat on May 18, 2025, Sunday at 8:00 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sh. Autar Krishan Dhar (Husband)

Brothers-in-Law and Sisters-in-Law

Sh. Surinder Dhar H/o Lt. Pinky Dhar

Smt. Daisy Aga W/o Lt. Dalip Ji Aga

Smt. Sweety Raina & Sh. Autar Krishan Raina

Daughters and Son-in-Law

Smt. Ansoya Dhar & Sh. Amit Bhat

Ms. Akshita Dhar

Grand Children: Kiaan & Manasvi

SAMAST DHAR, BHAT, RAINA, AGA & PANDITA PARIVAR

CONTACT DETAILS: 9419802087, 9811895593, 7006273402, 9419685140



ANGLEE RAINA

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:

‘Shabash!’ Army Chief lauds troops for operational brilliance during Operation Sindoor

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: In a stirring tribute to the valour and professionalism of Indian soldiers, General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), visited forward locations in Srinagar, Uri and Unchi Bassi, including the Dagger Division of Chinara Corps, to personally congratulate and motivate troops for their exceptional performance during Operation SINDOOR.

The visit was a heartfelt gesture of appreciation, focusing not on operational review but on saluting the courage and spirit of troops from all arms and services who played a pivotal role in decisively repelling Pakistani aerial and ground provocations. The COAS praised



their collective grit, high morale, and seamless coordination in countering multiple threat vectors.

Addressing the soldiers, General Dwivedi commended their valour, josh, and unwavering vigilance in

dominating the Line of Control during intense engagements. He lauded their precise and bold actions that resulted in the destruction of terror camps in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (POJK)—a key operational success

of Operation SINDOOR.

The Army Chief also appreciated the humane role played by troops in providing relief and assistance to civilians affected by Pakistan's unprovoked and cowardly cross-LoC shelling, reaffirming the

Indian Army's commitment to protecting not only the borders but also the lives of fellow citizens.

In his address, General Dwivedi exhorted the troops with a spirited “Shabash!”, emphasizing the Indian Army's legacy of honour and its unwavering readiness to meet any future challenge with decisive force. He reaffirmed the Army's resolve to safeguard national sovereignty and maintain a state of high operational preparedness in an ever-evolving threat environment.

The visit significantly uplifted morale and reinforced the deep bond between the leadership and the rank and file of the Indian Army, standing united in defence of the nation

Army conducts lecture on Women Empowerment at Batsiyala



Top News Report

REASI, May 15: The Indian Army in its continued efforts to foster social awareness and community development, conducted an inspiring lecture on Women Empowerment at Batsiyala District Reasi on Thursday.

The initiative aimed to educate and motivate local women and young girls to realize their potential and contribute meaningfully to society.

The lecture covered key aspects of gender

equality, education, skill development self-reliance and opportunities for women in various sectors including the armed forces. It emphasized the importance of breaking social barriers and encouraged women to actively participate in nation building.

Local women, students and community leader attended the session, engaging in interactive discussions and sharing personal experiences.

The Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment

to uplifting remote communities by promoting education and empowerment programs. This initiative is part of Army's broader efforts to support women's rights, social development and awareness campaigns in remote and border areas.

The Army remains dedicated to fostering inclusive growth and ensuring that women play an integral role in shaping a progressive society.

NSF celebrates birth anniversary of Shaheed Sukhdev

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: National Secular Forum (NSF), University Unit organized a programmed in Jammu University, and on the Birth anniversary of Shaheed Sukhdev who laid his life for the country. On the occasion, NSF activists raised slogans “Sukhdev Amar Raha” “Inqilaab Zindabad” “Bharat Mata ki jai”, and they paid tributes to shaheed Sukhdev and garlanded the

portraits of the son of soil.

Ankush Abrol, Jammu Provincial Joint Secretary, JKNC and Former Member BCCI was the Chief Guest while Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary JKNC presided over the function. Vikshay Vashist, State Secretary NSF was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion Ankush Abrol appreciated the initiative taken by the NSF member to remember the martyrs who

have sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country. He also said that Sukhdev Thapar was an Indian freedom fighter who fought against the British government for the freedom of India. He was a member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). He was executed along with Shivaram, Rajguru and Bhagat Singh on 23 March 1931. Sukhdev Thapar was born in Ludhiana, Punjab, British Raj on 15 May 1907 to Ramlal Thapar and Ralli Devi.

He belonged to a Punjabi Khatri family of the Hindu community and he was brought up by his uncle Lala Achinram after the death of his father. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Vikas Sharma said that the real tributes to the martyrs would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction. He exhorted the youth to refrain from drugs and intoxicants.

Dr. Vikas Sharma recalled the planning capability, boldness and feeling of nation-

alism in martyr Sukhdev and stressed upon the youth to follow his ideas. He also stressed upon the youth to shun their self centered outlook and contribute in the development of the nation. Vikshay Vashist, State Secretary NSF also addressed this occasion. Gourav Partap Singh President University Unit delivered the welcome address; Abhishek Uppal Chairman Jammu District unit was delivering the vote of thanks.

Army’s humanitarian efforts and motivational lecture at Model Academy Sagra

Top News Report

POONCH, May 15: Showcasing their commitment to civilian welfare and community engagement, the Indian Army has been providing safety and sustenance to displaced families from Poonch, demonstrating their dedication to protecting and supporting vulnerable populations in times of need.

Community Interaction By engaging with

parents and students at Model Academy Sagra, the Indian Army fosters a sense of trust and cooperation with local communities.

This interaction likely aimed to inspire and motivate the younger generation, emphasizing the importance of education and community service. The Indian Army's initiatives in Sagra reflect their broader mission to promote peace, security, and national develop-



ment. Through their humanitarian efforts and community outreach programs, the

Army strengthens its bond with the people it serves, ensuring a safer and more resilient society

Army provides medical aid to shelling-affected civilians in Dalogra

Top News Report

RAJOURI, May 15: In the wake of the recent shelling during Operation Sindhoor, the Indian Army conducted a humanitarian relief outreach to support the residents of Dalogra and neighboring villages.

The Indian Army unit organized a focused medical distribution program aimed at providing immediate relief to those affected by the hostilities. During the outreach, essential medicines were distributed, and prompt medical care was administered by the unit's



dedicated medical team and unit Nursing Assistant (NA).

The medical intervention successfully attended to 22 individuals from Dalogra, Bathuni, Thakrian, and surrounding areas, addressing injuries and providing much-needed health support to

civilians caught in the conflict.

In addition to medical aid, the Indian Army also actively engaged with villagers to listen and address their grievances, fostering communication and restoring a sense of security and reassurance among the local population. This outreach is part of the ongoing commitment of the Indian Army to ensure civilian welfare alongside operational success.

The Indian Army reaffirms their dedication to safeguarding lives and serving the community in times of crisis, strengthening the bond between the armed forces and the people they protect.

Ashoka Law College mourns passing of faculty member Seema Braroo

Top News Report

KATHUA, May 15: Ashoka Law College is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Seema Braroo, one of the most respected and cherished members of its academic family.

With profound grief and a heavy heart, the institution bids farewell to a woman who was not just a teacher but a

guiding light and foundational pillar of the college.

Braroo was admired for her wisdom, boundless compassion, and unwavering dedication to nurturing and uplifting those around her. Throughout her career, she impacted countless lives—students, colleagues, and the community—through her knowledge, mentorship, and genuine care




for others.

Her integrity, kindness, and spirit of selfless service earned her immense respect and affection. She was

a beacon of positivity, and her presence left an indelible mark on the institution and everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

The college extended its heartfelt condolences to Braroo's family, friends, students, and colleagues. “Her loss is irreparable, but her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come,” said a college spokesperson.



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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) CITY 2nd DIVISION

JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No PHEC/II/ 08 of 2025-26 Dated: 13/05/2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) city 2nd Division ,Jammu invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies / Consortiums between bidder/firm and Financier of “A Class” registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES or any other state Government for “Improvement of water supply by way of execution of components of work(city ii) Strengthening of old unsafe civil structures fencing, construction of Boundary walls at various stations of Jal Shakti PHE City Division No II Jammu

” The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. **Cover 1st** consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions, Scope of work and Technical Specifications and **Cover 2nd** consisting of Financial Bid on item rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

s.n o	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in INR)	Earnest money Deposit in INR	Bid Validit y	Time of Completi on of work (month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Improvement of water supply by way of execution of components of work(city ii) Strengthening of old unsafe civil structures fencing, construction of Boundary walls at various stations of Jal Shakti PHE City Division No II Jammu 1.Repairs to Pump House and other Buildings in different water supply schemes. 2. Improvement and Lifting of Tube wells at Belicharana Canal Head including filling of earth. 3. Repair/ Renovation of compound walls of various Assests at different locations	Rs.111.15 Lacs	2000/-	Rs. 222300.00	180 days	12 months

Position of funds: Approved Under AMRUT 2.0

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) city 2nd Division Jammu.

Critical Dates:

i	Publish Date	13.05.2025
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	13.05.2025 06.00 PM
iii	Bid submission start date	14.05.2025 6.00 PM
iv	Date and time of Bid Closing.	30.05.2025 4.00 PM
v	Date and time of Bid opening	31.05.2025 2.00 PM

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in

2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portalwww.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.

No: PHEC/II/ 590-99
Date: 13/05/2025 DIP/J-1110/25

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) city 2nd Division
Jammu

EDITORIAL

India’s Maleriraptor kuttyi Fossil

In a groundbreaking discovery that has captivated paleontologists and evolutionary biologists alike, a team of researchers in India has unearthed the fossil of a previously unknown dinosaur species, named Maleriraptor kuttyi. This find, dating back approximately 220 million years to the Late Triassic period, is a significant milestone in the study of pre-historic life on the Indian subcontinent. The fossil was discovered in the Maleri Formation, a well-known geological site located in the state of Telangana. This area is part of the Pranhita–Godavari basin, which has yielded numerous important paleontological finds over the years. However, the discovery of Maleriraptor kuttyi marks one of the earliest known examples of a raptor-like predator from this region, making it a key piece in understanding the evolutionary lineage of theropod dinosaurs. According to the team of scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, the fossil includes well-preserved skeletal fragments, including vertebrae and limb bones. The morphology of these bones suggests that Maleriraptor kuttyi was a swift, bipedal predator, likely feeding on smaller vertebrates and possibly insects. Its physical features, such as elongated hind limbs and sharp claws, indicate that it was built for speed and agility—traits commonly associated with later raptors like Velociraptor from the Cretaceous period. One of the most striking aspects of this discovery is the age of the fossil. At over 220 million years old, Maleriraptor kuttyi predates many other known raptor species by tens of millions of years. This indicates that raptor-like predatory dinosaurs may have emerged much earlier than previously believed. The discovery challenges existing theories about the timing and geographical spread of early theropods, suggesting that India played a more central role in dinosaur evolution during the Triassic period than was once assumed. The naming of the species honors T. S. Kutty, one of India’s pioneering paleontologists who extensively explored the fossil-rich regions of central India during the latter half of the 20th century. His foundational work in the Maleri Formation laid the groundwork for future discoveries like this one. The term “raptor” in the name reflects its probable role as a predatory species, while “kuttyi” commemorates Kutty’s enduring legacy in Indian paleontology. This discovery has significant implications for the global scientific community. Not only does it enrich our understanding of dinosaur evolution, but it also enhances India’s reputation as a key region for paleontological research. The find underscores the importance of continued exploration and study in India’s fossil beds, which remain relatively underexplored compared to those in North America, Europe, and China. Researchers are now preparing for further excavations in the Maleri Formation, hoping to uncover additional fossils that may provide more insight into the life and environment of Maleriraptor kuttyi. They are also planning to conduct advanced imaging and comparative analysis with other Triassic-era theropods to determine the species’ exact placement within the dinosaur family tree. As the fossil undergoes detailed examination and classification, the scientific world awaits more revelations about this fascinating predator from the ancient past. For now, Maleriraptor kuttyi stands as a remarkable testament to India’s rich prehistoric legacy and the ongoing efforts to unravel the mysteries of Earth’s distant history.

By: Omkar Dattatray

Bharatiya Janata Party abbreviated, and popularly known as BJP has taken its birth 45 year ago on April 6,1980 and its predecessor is Bharatiya Jana Sangh –BJS. The founders of BJP are late A.B.Vajpayee ,L.K Advani and few other leaders .It is a right wing political party committed to the philosophy of Hindutva and is called saffron party & IS famous for its ideology of cultural nationalism. It is distinguished from other political parties as it does not believe in pseudo secularism, minority appeasement and it believes in justice for all and appeasement to none. It spilt from Janata party .Its headquarters are located at 6 –A Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg New Delhi, India.BJP is the largest political party of not only in India ,but is the largest political party of the world. too .Its membership is in crores and it is running the central government in India as a coalition called NDA or national democratic alliance and it is in office from 1914.BJP along with its allies have won the national elections thrice ,first in 2014,second in 2019 and thirdly in 2024.BJP is an ideological based political party and it is a cadre based and disciplined party.BJP has a checkered successful history of trails and tribulations of more than a half century at its back. The freedom movement of India was polluted by the idea of two nation theory. Due to the appeasement , communal separatism and lack of proper vision of nationalism then leaders accepted the partition of the country on the basis of religion. Due to the strong opposition of the partition ,the congress government under the false allegation of the Mahamata Ghandi Jis murder banned the RSS .Dr.Shyama Prasad Mukerjee strongly agitated against giving the whole Bengal to Pakistan. Consequently Pakistan could get only half of Bengal. On the advice of Gandhi ,Dr.Mukerjee was included in the central cabinet ,but due to India’s subdued policy towards Pakistan and being against the Nehru-Liaqut Pact expressing indifference to the security of Hindus in Pakistan, Dr.Mukerjee resigned from the cabinet. These two contexts gave birth to Jana Sangh –the earlier

By: Vijay Garg

All parents want their child to top up, brighten their name. A parent would like it only, there is nothing wrong with it. Wrong is when this hunger of digits overtakes the child’s ability. If know that the child will not be able to bring much marks, yet pressure is made then it is very dangerous. What does the child want to be, what does he like, what he wants to do, parents just focus their focus on it. Look, the results will come far better than your expectations. Let us know due to stress in children from experts and its solutions. Remove the stress of marks from the mind, better will come results The season of examinations has come. At this time, it is illegal for students to have tension, but when it is assumed that there is no digit then this tension reaches the dangerous root. Points are definitely important, but not life. Points cannot be the basis of life every child wants to top up what is a good thing, but it is also equally left true that every child cannot top up. Then there is nowhere that you are losing something in this blind run of points? What are losing, you probably don’t even have an idea. Both the Vidyathis and their guardians, it is important to understand that marks cannot be the basis of life. Life is too big and gives a lot. This race is

Bharatiya Janata Party @ 45

incarnation of the BJP. Dr Mukerjee met the second RSS Sarsangchalack Shri Guruji and the process of forming the Jana Sangh started. Having been started in 1951 ,the process was completed on October 21,1951, with the formation of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh under the presidency of DR.Shyama Prasad Mukerjee. The rectangular saffron flag was accepted as its flag and Deepak inscribed on it was accepted as the election symbol. In the same inaugural session the manifesto for the first general election was also approved. In its first general election ,the Jana Sangh got 3.06 per cent votes and three MP’s ,including Dr.Mukerjee were elected. Jana Sangh got the status of a national party in the parliament .National Democratic Front was formed under the leadership of Dr.Mukerjee and he was the first informal leader of the Opposition of the country. On May 29,1952 ,Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly accepted the proposal of joining the Indian Federation and on July 24 Nehru –Abdullah Agreement was signed. It was a conspiracy to create a controversy and separate state of Jammu and Kashmir which had already merged with India. Under this ,arrangements for separate constitution ,separate prime minister and separate flags were made for the state. Praja Parished strongly agitated against this and BJS supported it .In parliament Dr Mukerjee delivered a strong speech against it. Agitation became intense in Jammu and Kashmir. In March 1953 ,a Satyagraha was started in Delhi with the demand for complete integration of J&K .On May 11,Dr Mukerjee entered J&K without a permit under Satyagraha ,he was arrested and taken to Srinagar .To enter Jammu and Kashmir ,over 10,750 Satyagrahis participated in the agitation from all over India. On June 23 ,Dr. Mukerjee attained martyrdom and Satyagrahis were withheld.BJP emerged out from ‘Syama Prasad Mukerjee’s Bharatiya Jana sangh. Since 2014 ,it has been the ruling party of the country under the incumbent Prime Minister Narendra Modi .The BJP is aligned with right wing politics and has close ideological and organizational links with RSS –a far right social and cultural organization. BJP’s policies

adhere to Hindutva ,a Hindu nationalist ideology. As of January 2024 ,it is the country’s biggest political party in terms of representation in the parliament of India as well as state legislatures. As already pointed out BJP’s origins lie in the Bharatiya Jana Sangh ,which was founded in 1951 by Indian politician Syama Prasad Mukerjee ,after he left Hindu Mahasabha to form a party as the political wing of RSS. After the emergency of 1975-1977,the Jana Sangh merged with several other political parties to form the Janata Party ,it defeated then incumbent Indian National Congress in the 1977 general elections. After three years in power ,the Janata Party dissolved in 1980 ,with the members of the erstwhile Jana Sangh reconvening to form the modern –day BJP. Although initially unsuccessful –winning only two seats in the 1984 general elections ,it grew in strength on the back of the movement around Ram Janmambhoomi in Uttar Pradesh. Following victories in several state elections and better performance in national elections ,the BJP became the largest political party in the Parliament in 1996,however it lacked a majority in the lower house of parliament, and its government ,under its then leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee ,lasted only 13 days .After the 1998 general election, the BJP-led coalition known as the National Democratic Alliance-NDA under the prime minister Vajpayee formed a government that lasted for a year. Following fresh elections, the NDA government –again headed by Vajpayee –lasted for a full term in office, this was the first non-Congress to do so. In 2004 general election, the NDA suffered an unexpected defeat and for the next ten years ,the BJP was the principal opposition party. Narendra Modi ,then the chief minister of Gujarat, led the party to a landslide victory in the 2014 general election. Modi has since led the NDA government as Indian prime minister in the 2019 general election and with a coalition in the 2024 general election. As of December 2023,the alliance governs 17 Indian states and union territories. The official ideology of the BJP is integral humanism ,first formulated by Deendayal Upadhyaya in 1965.The party advocates social conservatism and a foreign policy cen-

tered on nationalistic principles. During its first stint in national government ,the BJP avoided its Hindu nationalist priorities ,and focused on a largely liberal economic policy that prioritized globalization and economic growth over social welfare. Since returning to government in 2014 ,the BJP government has enacted several priorities of the RSS ,including criminalizing the practice of triple talaq ,and revoking Article 370 of the constitution of India and abrogated J &K’s statehood .The party has frequently spread disinformation and is being condemned by foreign entities for spreading conspiracy theories. India has experienced nationwide democratic backsliding under the BJP’s rule since 2014. There is little doubt that the Hindu nationalist BJP ,which has ruled India uninterruptedly since 2014 ,has become the country’s dominant party. Led by Prime minister Narendra Modi, it has won three general elections decisively and despite losing states, steadfastly expanded its pan –Indian footprint. The BJP’s electoral success is largely attributed to Modi’s charisma and the politics of religious polarization and strident nationalism. The BJP aims at uniting Hindus, who comprise more than 80% of Indians ,and make them vote as one. That is why it downplays caste –which has traditionally divided Hindus and their political allegiances. Whether the BJP will stick together is impossible to predict. It take-no-prisoners style of politics means they have thrown open their doors to defectors—often tainted –from other parties. ”Their idea of India won ,”says Prof Sitapati ,”because they worked as one. ”In short ever since Modi swept to power in 2014,India has seen a resurgence in right-wing Hindu nationalism and it is good for India and its socio-economic and political life

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

Don’t Make Marks Last Target

not to let it dominate your mind. Just have to study with mind and calm mind and always be positive. It is very important to have faith in yourself and it will become a belief only if you are able to study well, keep the points in the mind.?? ‘Goalpost’ is somewhere else the points are definitely related to academic performance. May be by good marks you get admission in a good institute, but it is also important to understand that it is not concerned with your talent at all. It means that less points cannot stop your talent that you are made for. Look at all the successful and great people in the world. There is no one who has topped up but there are some people who could not complete their studies, yet came to the top of the list of the rich in the world. That’s because their goal wasn’t on points, on their own goals. So definitely try to bring good marks, but that’s not the final goal. Pay attention to your potential every child is good at the pave, not necessarily. Every child can bring good marks, it is also not necessary. Every child can crack IIT, medical exam or similar exam, also not necessary. So what to do such children? Take care, God has created every person with a unique ability, which is not based on digits. Just, need to be ahead by recognizing that ability of yourself. The result of the early exam does not determine

your future, so there should be complete focus on how to come marks, what you want to do. Identify the stress of marks so that the students can help with life and exam is always there and can’t even be separated. But nowadays, the fear of ‘exam’ and the stress of ‘marks’ is going on. Their parents also appear very concerned with the child regarding academic performance. The examination of tenth and twelfth is then being viewed as life and death. With the pressure of your boost above the child and many questions by your future, there is a greater pressure of the expectations of the parents. Being a CBSE counselor for years, I have had the chance to see the stress in children and parents quite closely due to exams and marks. How to identify if the child is under stress? Stress is a mental irregularity, with indifference in the child, inferior thought, uninterested in doing any work, sleep disturbances, lack of appetite, exhaustion, and lack of concentration. If the child is not interested in any work, his energy levels are constantly decreasing and his everyday life is becoming absolutely dislocated then all this can be signs of stress. Stress-prone children are often angry, getting angry at talk and talk gets involved in their habit. Due to stress, their mood is often bad and they are reluctant to talk to someone. Negative thinking starts to increase in the child

and his confidence also starts to decrease. What to do so that there is no stress of marks on children? The child does not have the stress of marks, its responsibility is the guardian. The role of parents becomes very important when children are going through a difficult period of exam. Every parent is required to understand the behaviour of their child and do proper solution if the child shows symptoms of stress. Mental health of the child can be improved if it is identified at the earliest times of stress and taken advice of a psychologist or specialist as needed. Parents don’t pressurize the child to remain beaten all the time. Also take care of child entertainment. Especially motivate the child to meet their friends. Many studies have proven that physical activities are helpful in reducing stress. So between the Boost also motivate the child to do physical exercise by stepping out of the house for a while in the evening.

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

AAP J&K UT President condemns derogatory remarks on Col Sofia Qureshi, demands sacking of MP Minister

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: Mehraj Malik, President of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory and MLA from Doda, has strongly condemned the derogatory and objectionable remarks made by Madhya Pradesh Minister Vijay Shah against Colonel Sofia Qureshi. In a statement to the media, Malik described the Minister's comments as an insult not only to a valiant daughter of India but also to the spirit of womanhood and the nation's unity. Malik emphasized that Colonel Sofia Qureshi is a decorated officer and an integral part of the Indian Army's tri-services team, which recently played a key role in the successful "Operation Sindoor"



against Pakistan. She also represented the armed forces in high-level press briefings alongside Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh. "At a time when the entire nation is brimming with pride over the military's success, such disgraceful remarks seek to weaken our national morale and harmony," he said. Calling the Minister's remarks "petty, immoral,

and shameful," Malik questioned how a person holding public office could stoop to such a level of hate and indecency. "This is not just a personal attack—it's an attempt to derail the national spirit and communal harmony. The Prime Minister must demand the immediate resignation of Minister Vijay Shah and initiate strict action against him," Malik demanded. In addition to this, Malik

issued a strong condemnation of the malicious online trolling and targeted vilification campaign against Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his daughter following the ceasefire agreement with Pakistan. "This orchestrated online attack is vile and unacceptable. The Prime Minister must take swift and decisive action against this trolling brigade to ensure the safety and dignity of public servants and their families," he added. Malik concluded by reiterating AAP's firm support for the armed forces, the integrity of India's institutions, and the constitutional values of equality and respect. He appealed to all political leaders to rise above party lines and condemn such divisive and hateful conduct.

Zonal Level Inter-School Girls Competitions witness enthusiastic participation in Chenani



Top News Report

JAMMU / CHENANI, May 15: On the second day of the ongoing Zonal Level Inter-School Competitions organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, Zone Chenani, a vibrant display of athleticism and team spirit was witnessed as girls under the age groups of U-14 and U-17 competed in various sports disciplines. The events were conducted under the patronage of Director Youth Services & Sports, Subash Chander Chibber, with guidance from District Youth Services & Sports Officer Udhampur, Romesh Chander Mishra, and overall supervision of Zonal Physical Education Officer, Chenani, Jyoti Rani. The competitions in

Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Chess, Badminton, and Cricket trials were held at multiple venues with the participation of girls from 27 institutions, amounting to a total of 601 participants. The event not only fostered competitive spirit but also highlighted the commitment of the department towards youth development through sports. Principal of Govt. HSS Chenani, Anchal Singh, interacted with participants and extended his best wishes to all athletes and officials. He commended the field staff for their dedication and successful conduct of the competitions. Encouraging students to embrace sports for physical and mental well-being, he emphasized the role of sports in promoting a healthy

lifestyle and in keeping the youth away from societal evils like drug abuse. The seamless execution of the event was made possible by the combined efforts of the dedicated field staff including PEMs, PETs, and REKs of Zone Chenani. Sh. Anil Verma (PEM) was appointed as the overall in-charge for coordinating the competitions. Among others present were Bikram Singh, Raman Kumar, Yogeshwar, Rakesh Kumar, Mohan Dass, Meena Kotwal, Anita Katal, and several other committed officials who contributed significantly to the event's success. Results: Kabaddi U-17 Girls Final – GHS Chenani defeated Govt. HS Bupp Sarar by 13 points. Kabaddi U-14 Girls Final – GHS

Chenani triumphed over Govt. MS Sangote by 10 points. Kho-Kho U-17 Girls Final – Govt. HSS Sewna outplayed Govt. Girls HS Chenani by 17 points. Kho-Kho U-14 Girls Final – Govt. HSS Sewna again defeated Govt. Girls HS Chenani by 7 points. Chess U-14 Girls Final – Bharti Devi of Govt. HSS Sewna defeated Diksha Sharma of Govt. MS Koyee. Chess U-17 Girls Final – Divya Anthal of Govt. HSS Sewna won against Soni Bhagat of Govt. HS Marothi. Badminton U-17 Girls Final – Govt. GHS Chenani defeated Govt. MS Kulakh. Badminton U-14 Girls Final – Govt. GHS Chenani beat Govt. MS Lower Manta. Following the successful conduct of cricket trials, a U-17 Girls Cricket Team was also formed for participation in the upcoming District Level Competitions. All matches were officiated by technical experts from the Department of Youth Services & Sports, Zone Chenani. The department reaffirmed its commitment to fostering sports culture among students and providing platforms for young talents to shine.

India's Armed Forces forced Pakistan to surrender: Swami Hridayanand Giri

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: Swami Hridayanand Giri Ji Maharaj of Hriday Deep Ashram, Jeevan Nagar, Jammu, stated that India will never tolerate terrorism on its soil. In a press release, he praised the courage and strength of India's three armed forces, declaring that they brought Pakistan to its knees. He claimed that the Indian military's decisive actions left Pakistan with no

option but to seek a ceasefire, which India accepted with a generous spirit. Swami Ji asserted that Pakistan's foreign-acquired weapons proved useless, while India's indigenously developed missiles outperformed them with precision and power. According to him, the Indian forces not only dismantled Pakistan's military infrastructure but also destroyed their airbases. To honour the bravery of the Indian

Army and thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Swami Ji announced that the saint community of Jammu will organize a special gathering on Sunday, May 18 at 11:00 AM. He urged all saints, spiritual leaders, and storytellers to attend the event and spread the message of unity. Emphasizing India's firm stand against terrorism, he called on all communities to remain united in safeguarding the nation's integrity and sovereignty.

Tiranga Rally, a tribute to bravery of Indian Armed Forces: Rajni Sethi

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: The Tiranga, our national flag, is not just a piece of cloth but a symbol of India's pride, unity, and sovereignty. It represents the values, culture, and traditions of a nation where people of diverse religions and backgrounds coexist with harmony. Every Indian holds deep respect for the Tiranga, as it signifies the sacrifices made by countless brave souls for the country's freedom and security. This was stated by Rajni Sethi, Spokesperson, J&K BJP. Rajni Sethi said, "On 22nd April 2025, India witnessed a tragic terrorist attack in Pahalagam, Kashmir, where 26 innocent tourists lost their lives. This inhumane act of terror shook the entire nation. In response to this heinous crime, the Indian government decided to give a befitting reply to the terrorist organizations operating from across the border in Pakistan.

With determination and grit, the Indian Army launched Operation Sindoor, aimed at destroying terrorist camps and eliminating threats to national security". The operation achieved remarkable success. The Indian Army demolished nine terrorist camps, caused severe damage to eleven airspaces, and neutralized over 100 terrorists. This operation showcased the unmatched courage, strategic brilliance, and dedication of our armed forces. The nation salutes the Indian Army for their tireless efforts in safeguarding the country and ensuring that the sacrifices of the victims did not go in vain. To honour the bravery and valor of our armed forces, the people of India have come together to organize Tiranga Rallies across the country, Sethi said. "These rallies, scheduled from 13th May to 25th May 2025, are being held at various places in India, sym-

bolizing national unity and collective strength against terrorism. Citizens from all walks of life are participating, holding the Tiranga high, expressing solidarity with the armed forces, and sending a strong message that India stands united against terrorism", said Rajni Sethi. The Tiranga Rally is not just an event but a movement that reflects the spirit of patriotism, respect for the armed forces, and a tribute to the martyrs. It is a reminder that every Indian is ready to stand firm for the nation's integrity and peace. Operation Sindoor will continue until all terrorist networks are completely demolished. As responsible citizens, it is our duty to support and honor the efforts of our soldiers who risk their lives for our safety. Through this rally, we reaffirm our commitment to a united and strong India, where the Tiranga flies high with pride.

Rehan of Shaheed Manjit Club finds berth in India camp



Top News Report

POONCH, May 15: Yet another young volleyball player of Shaheed Manjit Club, Rehan Parvaiz has been called for the India camp being organised for the CAVA Volleyball Championship to be held in Uzbekistan. Rehan has been short-listed for a specialised coaching camp at the National level proposed by the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) for the under-16 boys. Rehan's name figured

among top young spikers of the country after J&K won gold in the just held 7th Khelo India Youth Games in Bihar. Rehan has just passed his class 10th examinations. Son of Physical Education Lecturer from district Poonch, Rehan, if selected, will be part of the team heading for CAVA Volleyball meet in Uzbekistan. Meanwhile, Chairman of the Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club, Mohd Tariq said that young players are following the footprints of International player, Saqlain Tariq, who plays professional volleyball as member of the Delhi Toofans. He thanked the J&K Sports Council for encouraging talented youngsters from J&K. Volleyball Association of J&K (VAJK), president, Siddharth Daluja and CEO, Kuldeep Magotra also appreciated Rehan for securing berth in the India Camp.

SCJS celebrates Mother's Day, Buddha Purnima with spirit and reflection



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: The Senior Citizens' Joy Society (SCJS) organized a spiritually enriching and emotionally resonant programme to commemorate both Mother's Day and Buddha Purnima Jayanti during its weekly gathering. The event was a thoughtful blend of devotion, cultural significance, and moral reflection, bringing together the members to honor maternal love and Buddhist wisdom. The programme began with a warm welcome and introduction by Chander Mohan Sharma, who set the tone of the event with grace and clarity. Ashok Gupta, President of SCJS, addressed the audience on the importance of Mother's Day. He also recited a touching poem dedicated to mothers, evoking heartfelt emotions and drawing loud applause from the gathering. Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, Chairman of SCJS and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International, delivered a compelling keynote on the

origins, global observance, and significance of Mother's Day. He traced its history back to 1908, when Anna Jarvis in the United States began the initiative, leading to its official recognition in 1914. Dr. Jain emphasized how the celebration serves as a reminder to express gratitude and affection towards mothers through simple gestures, thereby fostering emotional well-being and stronger familial ties. Dr. Jain then shifted focus to Buddha Purnima, delivering an illuminating talk on the life and teachings of Lord Gautama Buddha. He explained the profound relevance of the day, which marks Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana, all believed to have occurred on the full moon day of Vaishakha. Highlighting the core teachings such as non-violence, the Middle Path, and Anatta (non-self), Dr. Jain described Buddha Purnima as not just a religious occasion, but a universal call for ethical living, compassion, and inner peace.

The event saw active participation from SCJS members, including Prof. Virender Gupta, Ashok Khajuria (Secretary), B.B. Sharma, H.C. Vaid, Narinder Wadhwa, Yesh Paul Sharma, Kulbir Khajuria, and Anju Bansal. Kailash Hangar, former President of Mahajan Sabha, was present as a special invitee. During the programme, a brief but serious discussion was held on the ongoing India-Pakistan tensions. Members unanimously lauded the Indian government's strategic and responsible response to provocations from across the border, affirming their faith in the nation's leadership and armed forces. Anju Bansal added a patriotic touch to the occasion with a heartfelt rendition of a patriotic song, stirring national pride among attendees. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by the singing of the National Anthem, maintaining the tradition of SCJS meetings and underlining a deep sense of unity and national commitment.

District Administration Poonch launches "Report to Support" facility for Shelling-Affected Residents

Top News Report

POONCH, May 15: In a committed move to ensure no loss goes unreported and no affected family is left behind, the District Administration Poonch has launched a proactive initiative "Report to Support" to help shelling affected people. This campaign enables residents impacted by the recent cross border shelling to report damages to their

property or livestock directly via WhatsApp for swift assessment and assistance. Tehsil-wise WhatsApp Contact Numbers for Submissions are • Tehsil Haveli: 9906198432 • Tehsil Mandi: 9622249091 • Tehsil Balakote: 7006458657 • Tehsil Mankote: 7006385343 • Tehsil Surankote: 7889810611 • Tehsil Mendhar: 9622347276. It's important to note that reporting through

this medium does not replace the already on ground verification. Instead, this proactive approach empowers residents to inform the administration of their losses directly, ensuring no one goes unattended or overlooked. However, Officials from the District Administration shall still visit the affected areas to carry out formal Minimum Details Required for Report-

ing include (a) Name of the Owner; (b) Muhallah / Ward No (Urban Area); (c) Village / Panchayat (Rural Area); (c) Block and Tehsil; (d) Type of Damage: (Property / Livestock); (e) Contact Number; (f) Photograph of the Damaged Property: (Clear and recent) The people have been advised to ensure the accuracy of the information and pho-

tographs; Only report damages that pertain to your own property or livestock; An official will reach out for spot verification based on the submitted details. This initiative underscores the administration's pledge to fairness, transparency, and timely relief. Your active participation will help the administration deliver support effectively and without delay.

Shah Rukh Khan visits rehearsals of ‘Come Fall in Love-The DDLJ Musical’ in UK

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan paid a surprise visit to the London rehearsal set of “Come Fall in Love – The DDLJ Musical”, the much-awaited stage adaptation of the actor’s 1995 film “Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge”.

Khan, who starred as the beloved Raj in the original Aditya Chopra-directed blockbuster opposite Kajol’s Simran, visited the set ahead of its UK premiere at the Manchester Opera House next month.

The reimagined stage production, which will run from May 29 to June 21, is also directed by Chopra.

Jena Pandya, who plays Simran in the musical, called the meeting a “long lasting memory.”

“Meeting Shah Rukh Khan and having him in the rehearsal room was such an honour. He was so generous with his time and support for the show. Being able to show him some of the iconic scenes that himself and Kajol originally established was an incredible feeling and will be a long lasting memory for me. I can’t wait to head to Manchester next week and put this story on stage,” she said in a statement.



Ashley Day, who plays Rog, an updated take on SRK’s Raj, said the actor greeted the cast and crew with “love and genuine excitement about what we’ve been building”.

“I can’t imagine what it must feel like to see a project-beloved by millions-being reimagined as a musical 30 years later. And yet, he kept asking to see more! The words we shared privately are for one Raj to another Rog-but I will say, he was very happy. It was an unbelievable afternoon. I’ll never forget it,” he added.

The plot of the musical revolves around Simran (Pandya), a young British Indian woman who finds herself engaged to a family friend in India as an arranged marriage. But later falls in love with a British man named Roger (Day).

Music composers Vishal Dadlani and Sheykhari Ravijani, who have created 18 new English songs for the musical, said having Shah Rukh visit the workshop was an “amazingly positive experience”.

“What a wonderful moment in time. Of course, crucially for us,

he loved the songs, the voices and the energy of the performances! He met and engaged with every single person after watching the rehearsals and even re-lived his musical-theatre experiences from his early days.

“It’s safe to say our cast and ensemble will always treasure their time with him. We’re all hoping he makes it to Manchester to watch the show truly take wing at the magnificent Palace Opera House,” said Dadlani.

Ravijani added that Shah Rukh’s visit was something they never imagined.

“I think the entire cast and crew will cherish forever! His aura and sheer presence aside, meeting the original ‘Raj’ was an absolute delight for all of them. Theatre holds a very special place for Mr Shah Rukh Khan as his career began there and every member of the cast and crew could feel his pure love for theatre and the craft.”

Set in the UK and India, “Come Fall in Love – The DDLJ” will also feature Irvine Iqbal, Kara Lane, Harveen Mann-Neary, Millie O’Connell, Kinshuk Sen and others.

‘Fauji’s daughter’ Preity Zinta on Bollywood stars not condemning Pahalgam attack



Actor Preity Zinta responded to an X user asking her to comment on the actors who didn’t condemn Pahalgam Attak on social media. The popular Bollywood star posted a long note, calling herself a ‘Fauji’s daughter’, and sharing how terrorist attacks and anything that questions the country’s sovereignty hit her ‘close to heart’.

The actor didn’t take any names, but maintained that her reality can never be changed, irrespective of how the rest of the film industry chooses to express their concern or not.

“@realpreityzinta #pzchat what’s your opinion & take on so many co-stars & celebrated Bollywood stars not condemning the #Phalagamattak? Nor did they come out in support of our armed forces during #OperationSindoor. We appreciate that you stood for India, but

many in Bollywood did not (sic),” the user asked her.

Zinta replied, “I cannot speak for everyone else, as people process things differently. Being a fauji kid and coming from an army background, these things hit close to my heart, so I am very vocal about how I feel. I have seen the grit, the sweat, the blood, the tears up close. Sometimes I feel Fauji families are a little stronger than the Fauji’s themselves (sic).”

She added, “Have you seen those mothers that give their sons up for our country, those wives that will never see their husbands smile again and those kids that will never have their fathers or mothers guide them through life? This is their reality & this will never change irrespective of others’ opinions or comments, so god bless them all (sic).”

The 50-year-old is known for her performances in many Hindi films, including ‘Dil Se’ (1998), ‘Soldier’ (1998), ‘Dil Chahta Hai’ (2001), ‘Koi... Mil Gaya’ (2003), and ‘Veer Zara’ (2004), in which she played the role of a Pakistani actor.

A lot of celebrities from the Hindi film industry have been facing a backlash for not slamming Pakistan after the Pahalgam terrorist attack of April 22, which claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists, including a Nepali resident. While many stars criticised the Pakistan government for supporting and funding terrorist activities, several stars like Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan wrote nothing on social media.

Bella Hadid admits to struggling with self-confidence, faking smiles at work

Bella Hadid has a hard time looking in the mirror due to her struggles with self-confidence. The 28-year-old supermodel, who is considered the most scientifically beautiful woman on earth, gave her honest confession about body image issues. In a cover story interview with British Vogue, she admitted to covering up her true emotions by faking smiles at work.

“Being a young girl in the world today, or a boy, or anybody, it’s hard to look in the mirror in the morning if you don’t feel confident,” Hadid told the outlet. “When you’re young you’re like: ‘I don’t like this, I don’t like that.’ But then you grow into your 20s and you find people who you love and you find your style,” she went on before admitting that this has not been the case with her.

“I didn’t get that whole fluid thing going through,” Hadid revealed, before explaining that she moved out of her parents’ house when she was “like 17, 18 years old” without fully “knowing or loving” herself. Given the nature of her career, she has had to “stare in the mirror every single day,” which



took a toll on her.

Hadid noted that “just being a human being and having to look in the mirror every single day... does something to your self-confidence and to your soul.” At one point, she said, “I’m a skeleton.” “...because it’s like I have put on that alter ego for a very long time ... It’s almost a mask because when I get home I am just a depletion.”

The British Fashion’s 2022 Model of the Year

explained that she takes on a different personality at work, referring to her alter-ego as “Belinda.” “The girl who’s at work is Belinda. And then the minute that I get home, I’m on the couch, that’s just Bella again. Because Belinda just does her job. She says. She can be crying from 5am to 7am but by the time she gets to work, a smile’s on her face and she’s going to do her job and get through it.”

Tom Cruise brings ‘Final Reckoning’ to Cannes, but won’t bid ‘Mission: Impossible’ adieu yet

Three years after flying into the Cannes Film Festival with “Top Gun: Maverick”, Tom Cruise again kicked up a storm on the Croisette with Wednesday’s premiere of “Mission: Impossible — Final Reckoning”.

Christopher McQuarrie’s latest “Mission: Impossible” installment was the biggest Hollywood tentpole wading ashore in Cannes this year. It, and Cruise, stirred a frenzy at the French Riviera festival, which again played eager host to the American movie star.

Just his arrival outside the premiere, beamed onto the screen in the Grand Théâtre Lumière, drew a response. When Cruise stepped out his car, oohs and applause reverberated through the theatre. Cruise spent several minutes signing autographs for fans lined up on the Croisette.

Some had wondered whether Cruise might make a more daring arrival. When Cruise received an honorary Palme d’Or from the festival in 2022, the “Top Gun: Maverick” premiere included an impressively timed jet flyover.

Instead, on Day 2 of the festival, he and the film’s cast walked the red carpet accompanied



by an orchestra performing Lalo Schifrin’s “Mission: Impossible” theme on the Palais steps. “Bravo!” cheered Cruise.

Though selfies are frowned upon on the Cannes red carpet, McQuarrie took several of the group, which included Hayley Atwell, Simon Pegg, Angela Bassett and Hannah Waddingham.

“Final Reckoning”, the eighth “Mission: Impossible” movie and a follow-up to 2023’s “Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part One”, is again a heap of serving of outlandish stunts in a globe-trotting, world-saving plot that greatly relies on Cruise’s sheer force of will to propel it.

The film, which draws to a close McQuarrie’s extended AI apocalypse tale, drew mostly good reviews following its

screening and garnered a five-minute standing ovation.

“To be here in Cannes and have these moments, as a kid when we were growing up, I really can’t even dream about something like this happening,” Cruise said, addressing the audience. “I’m very grateful for 30 years to be able to entertain you with this franchise.”

Throughout much of the “Mission: Impossible” parade in Cannes, Cruise and McQuarrie lavished praise upon one another. Cruise told McQuarrie, who took over directing the franchise with 2015’s “Rogue Nation” that he looked forward to making “a bunch of other kind of movies with you”.

“When I was a kid growing up, I was one of those kids who didn’t quite fit in. A lot of my life

was imaginative play,” said McQuarrie. “And I got to grow up and have my very own action figure, who was actually willing to do just about every crazy thing I could think of.”

Earlier in the day, Cruise joined McQuarrie midway through the director’s masterclass talk. There was no press conference for the film, which meant Cruise and company faced no questions from reporters.

But Cruise’s surprise appearance allowed the 62-year-old star a moment to reflect on his 30 years with “Mission: Impossible”. As to whether “Final Reckoning” is a last hurrah for him, he demurred, calling it “the culmination of three decades of work”.

“I’d rather just people see it and enjoy,” Cruise said.

Cruise, to no one’s surprise, said he relishes the stunt work in “Mission: Impossible”.

“I don’t mind encountering the unknown. I like the feeling. It’s just an emotion for me. It’s something that is not paralysing,” Cruise said.

Cruise, McQuarrie and Paramount Pictures, which will release “Final Reckoning” in North American theatres on May 23, are hoping the

installment returns the franchise to box-office heights.

“Dead Reckoning Part One” was considered a box-office disappointment, though it ultimately grossed USD 571.1 million worldwide. Still, with production budgets close to USD 300 million for these films, a lot is riding on “Final Reckoning”.

Cruise has been traversing the world — with stops in Japan, South Korea and England in the run-up to Cannes — to drum up excitement. Paramount chief executive Brian Robbins also attended the Cannes premiere.

Cruise and McQuarrie, as they did around the release of “Top Gun: Maverick” (which McQuarrie co-wrote and produced), have made themselves passionate pitchmen for the big-screen experience. McQuarrie on Wednesday granted: “I worry for the fate and survival of cinema.”

“Streaming is in danger of driving the industry into extinction,” said McQuarrie. “The advantage a filmmaker has entering the world is that he doesn’t have the pressure of an opening weekend.”

Indian stars are all set to shine and share powerful stories at the Festival de Cannes 2025

As the 78th edition of the Cannes Film Festival unfurls its crimson carpet from May 13 to May 24, our home-grown celebrities gear up to represent India at this global extravaganza—through soulful stories and sartorial splendour. Celebrating cinema and style, L’Oréal ambassadors Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Alia Bhatt, along with filmmakers Karan Johar and Payal Kapadia are headed to the Cannes 2025. Among actors, Jacqueline Fernandez, Jhanvi Kapoor, Taha Shah Badussha, Nitanshi Goel and Ishaan Khat-

ter are all set to dazzle at the French Riviera. Among seasoned luminaries, Simran Grewal and Sharmila Tagore will be gracing the Cannes red carpet for the very first time. We caught up with some celebs, who would be making an appearance at the Cannes 2025.

Glamour unfiltered: Urvashi Rautela

Known for her bold fashion statements, Urvashi Rautela lit up the Cannes carpet at the Partir un jour screening in an OTT gown, bejewelled crown and parrot-shaped crystal clutch worth over \$5,000. “The

red carpet is my runway,” she laughed. “For me, it’s all about creating a visual moment—I love having fun with fashion.”

In the spotlight: Taha Shah Badussha

After making waves globally with Heeramandi, Taha Shah Badussha is ready to rule the Riviera again, with Paro—his powerful new film on bridal slavery, which is to be screened on May 16. “Cannes is magical for anyone who loves cinema,” he shared. “It isn’t just about flashbulbs and red carpets—it’s a space for powerful stories. And Paro is one such impactful story.”



While the film is close to his heart, so is fash-

ion—and Taha is bringing his A-game. “There

are many designers behind my Cannes

looks. But what truly inspires me is classic aesthetic,” shared the actor.

Art meets heart: Shalini Passi

For philanthropist, fashionista and art connoisseur Shalini Passi, Cannes is a new world. “It’s my first time here and I’m soaking in every moment—be it charity galas, film screenings or fashion soirées,” she shared. Her Cannes wardrobe? “A love letter to Indian heritage—yes, there’ll be sarees and sparkles.”

Laapataa no more: Nitanshi Goel

From dusty lanes in

Laapataa Ladies to the shimmer of the Croisette, 17-year-old Nitanshi Goel is literally living a dream, as she makes her Cannes debut this year. “I’m just a small-town girl with big ambitions. Getting to walk the Cannes red carpet feels surreal,” she beamed.

Founder in fashion: Parul Gulati

As a woman who built her empire strand by strand with Nish Hair, Parul Gulati arrives at Cannes as a founder and a disruptor. “I’m here to celebrate the India that’s bold and unapologetic,” quipped Parul.

Prez Murmu seeks SC opinion on questions arising out of verdict setting deadline for assent to state Bills

Opinion sought under Article 143 which deals with advisory jurisdiction of Supreme Court under which the President is empowered to consult the top court and seek its opinion on questions of law or fact

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): President Droupadi Murmu has sought the Supreme Court's opinion on 14 questions arising out of April 8 verdict fixing deadlines for Governors and the President to take a call on Bills passed by state Assemblies.

In an unprecedented verdict, the apex court had on April 8 restricted the President's discretionary powers on Bills referred by Governors under Article 201 of the Constitution and set a three-month timeframe for her to decide on the bills reserved for her consideration.

The President has sought the opinion under Article 143 which deals with the advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under which the President is empowered to consult the top court and seek its opinion on questions of law or fact.

Article 143(1) reads, "If at any time it appears to the President that a question of law or fact has arisen, or is likely to arise, which is of such a nature and of



such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, he may refer the question to that Court for consideration and the Court may, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report to the President its opinion thereon."

In its April 8 order, the SC while restricting discretionary powers had said, "The President is required to take a decision on the bills reserved for his consideration by the Governor within a

period of three months from the date on which such reference is received. In case of any delay beyond this period, appropriate reasons would have to be recorded and conveyed to the concerned State," a Bench led by Justice JB Pardiwala had said.

"Where the President exhibits inaction in making a decision when a bill is presented to him (her) for assent under Article 201 and such inaction exceeds

the time-limit (of three months) then it shall be open to the State Government to seek a writ of mandamus from this Court," the Bench — which also included Justice R Mahadevan — had said.

Exercising its plenary power under Article 142 of the Constitution, the Bench had declared that the 10 Bills would be deemed to have received the Governor's assent when they were presented to him for the second time after having been passed by the state legislature again.

Now, the President has also sought the top court's opinion on its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution. She has asked the Supreme Court to clarify if its powers under Article 142 were limited to matters of procedural law or extended to issuing directions or orders contrary to or inconsistent with the existing substantive or procedural provisions of the Constitution or any law in force.

PM Modi chairs meeting to boost fisheries production, exports



NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the progress and future plans of the fisheries sector with focus on deep sea fishing and sea food exports.

Fisheries and aquaculture sectors are critical to India's economy and ambitions to rise to USD 5 trillion. These sectors provide livelihoods to approximately 3 crore fishers and fish farmers.

Currently, India is the world's second-largest fish producer, contributing eight per cent to global output, ranks second in aquaculture production, leads in shrimp production and export, and is the third-largest producer in capture fisheries.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh, principal secretary to PM Shanktikanta Das, among other top PMO officials.

Secretary Fisheries Abhilash Likhie made a presentation during the review.

India is the sixth largest marine capture fish producer (1/3rd production being marine) and has immense potential to boost production and exports on account of 13 coastal states and UTs, 11,099 km coastline and exclusive economic zone of 2.20 million sq km.

Since 2015, the government has committed

38,572 crore through key initiatives such as the Blue Revolution Scheme, Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and its sub-scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sahayojana (PM-MKSSY), to drive sustainable growth and development in the sector.

"USD 4,437 million of targeted investment has been made in the sector since 2014-15. The Blue Revolution scheme has received USD 746 million between 2015 and 2020, Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund has received USD 1,074 million between 2018 and 2023; PM Matsya Sampada Yojana 2,770 million from 2020 to now," said officials.

The Government in February 2019 created a separate Department of Fisheries and in June 2019, a new Ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying for holistic development of this important sector.

Recently, the Department of Fisheries notified 17 Fisheries Production and Processing Clusters across the country under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to boost the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector.

These clusters include Coldwater Fisheries Cluster in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir, Saline Water Aqua-

culture Cluster in Sirsa, Haryana, Reservoir Fisheries Cluster in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Tilapia Cluster in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, Wetland Fisheries Cluster in Siwan, Bihar, Pangasius Cluster in Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh, Scampi Cluster in Balasore, Odisha, Brackish Water Aquaculture Cluster in Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh, Sea Cage Cluster in Uttar Kannada, Karnataka, Murrel Cluster in Mancherial, Telangana, Pearl Spot Cluster in Kollam, Kerala, Fishing Harbour Cluster in Gir Somnath, Gujarat, Pearl Culture Cluster Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, Ornamental Fisheries Cluster Madurai Tamil Nadu, Seaweed Cluster, UT of Lakshadweep, Tuna Cluster, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Organic Cluster in Soreng, Sikkim.

The Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), in collaboration with the district administration, will handhold these clusters by engaging with a diverse range of stakeholders, including individual fishers, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Joint Liability Groups (JLGs), Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPOs), fish farmers, processors, transporters, vendors, cooperatives, fishery start-ups and other entities, ensuring holistic development and efficient management of the fisheries and aquaculture value chain.

Rahul Gandhi stopped from entering Ambedkar hostel in Darbhanga

DARBHANGA, May 15 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was on Thursday stopped by police on his way to Ambedkar hostel in Darbhanga, where he was scheduled to interact with students.

When the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha reached outside Ambedkar hostel, his convoy was stopped from entering the premises. He was supposed to interact with students there at the party's 'Shiksha Nyay Samvad' event, a state-wide public outreach programme.

Senior leaders of Bihar Congress asked security personnel to open the main entrance of Ambedkar hostel so that Gandhi can attend the function.

The administration had on Wednesday night allowed 'Shiksha Nyay Samvad', to be held

at Town Hall shortly after the Congress party took exception to permission being 'denied' at the Ambedkar Hostel.

Earlier in the day, leaders of Bihar Congress made it clear that Rahul Gandhi's interaction with students in Darbhanga town on Thursday will be held at the venue chosen by the party and not at the one suggested by the local administration.

In Patna, senior Congress leader Abhay Dubey told a hurriedly convened press conference, "The administration in Darbhanga is acting at the behest of the JD(U)-BJP combine.

Hundreds of students coming from the adjoining districts of Madhubani and Samastipur are being prevented from entering Darbhanga. But the administration should realise



that Rahul Gandhi enjoys the unlimited support of the country's deprived classes."

Dubey also ridiculed the purported claim of the Darbhanga

administration that while seeking permission, the organisers had never specified that they wanted the programme to be held at Ambedkar Hostel.

Former defence secretary Ajay Kumar takes oath as UPSC chairman

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar on Thursday took oath as the chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

The oath of office and secrecy was administered by Lt Gen Raj Shukla (retd), the senior most member of the Commission, an official statement said.

The post of UPSC chairman fell vacant after the completion of Preeti Sudan's tenure on April 29.

The UPSC conducts civil services examinations to select officers for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), among others. Besides the chairman, it can have a maximum of 10 members.

At present, two posts of members are vacant in the commission.

A UPSC chairman is appointed for a term of six years or until attaining 65 years of age.

Kumar is 1985-batch former IAS officer of Kerala cadre.

During his illustrious career of more than 35 years, he has served in key positions in Kerala



as well as at the Centre, said the statement issued by the Commission.

Some of his important assignments in the state were Managing Director, Electronics and Information Technology Department; Principal Secretary, Information Technology Department, it said. At the Centre, Kumar held the significant portfolios of Director, Science & Technology; Joint Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology; Director General, National Informatics Centre; Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology; Secretary, Defence Production, the statement said.

In his last assignment, he served as Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

After completing his Bachelor of Technol-

ogy in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Kumar did his Master of Science in Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota, US and PhD in Business Administration from Carlson School of Management from the same university, the statement said.

He has been instrumental in introducing several e-governance initiatives such as "Jeevan Pramaan" (digital life certificates for pensioners); myGov, Pragati (Prime Minister's video conference); Bio-metric Attendance System; OPD registration system in AIIMS; "Cloud First" policy for government for using cloud service providers, etc, it added.

Kumar has several publications to his credit in various national and international journals.

Five killed as moving bus catches fire in Lucknow

LUCKNOW, May 15 (Agencies): Five passengers, including two children, were killed when a private bus caught fire in the Mohanlalganj area here early Thursday, police said.

They said the incident occurred around 5 am on Kisan Path, a major roadway on the outskirts of Lucknow.

According to sources, the bus was carrying 80 passengers.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Mohanlalganj) Rajneesh Verma said the bus was en route to Delhi from Begusarai in Bihar when it suddenly caught fire.

"Initial investigation suggests that the fire may have started due to a short circuit in the bus' gearbox," Verma



told agency.

Most of the passengers were asleep when the fire started. It spread rapidly and five passengers — two women, two children and a man — died as they were unable to get out in time. Several other passengers sustained injuries

and have been taken to a hospital for treatment, police said.

Police identified the deceased as Lakkhi Devi (55), Soni Mahto (26), Devraj (3), Sakshi (2) and Madhusudan (21).

According to eyewitnesses, the bus did not

come to a halt immediately after the fire broke out. The flames were visible from almost a kilometre away.

Firefighters reached the spot promptly and managed to control the blaze within half an hour. The bus was gutted with only its metal frame

remaining.

Police found that the emergency exit of the bus did not open, trapping passengers sitting in the rear section.

According to authorities, a probe to determine the exact cause of the fire is underway.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the loss of lives in the incident.

"The chief minister has instructed the district administration officials to reach the spot and expedite the relief work and immediately take the injured to the hospital for proper treatment. He also wished for the speedy recovery of the injured," the Chief Minister's Office said in a post on X.

Operations continue after 10 militants gunned down in Manipur's Chandel

IMPHAL, May 15 (Agencies): Operations were underway on Thursday morning after Assam Rifles gunned down 10 militants in an encounter in Manipur's Chandel district, officials said.

The site of the encounter is close to the India-Myanmar international border in the hilly terrain of Chandel district, an official said, adding it is 130 km from the state capital Imphal

and has scant human inhabitation.

Kohima-based Defence PRO told agency, "The operation is still underway on Thursday morning and more information will be shared only when it is over."

When asked about the identity of the militants involved, a central security official said, "The troops are still conducting

operations and the identity is yet to be confirmed."

The Army's Eastern Command said in a post on X on Wednesday, "Acting on specific intelligence on movement of armed cadres near the New Samtal village, Khengjoy tehsil, Chandel district, close to the Indo-Myanmar border, Assam Rifles unit under Spear Corps launched an

operation on May 14."

"During the operation, the troops were fired upon by suspected cadres to which they quickly reacted, redeployed and retaliated in a calibrated and measured manner. In the ensuing firefight, 10 cadres were neutralised and a sizeable quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered," it added.

US should 'take' Gaza and turn it into 'freedom zone', says Trump during Qatar visit

Trump's comments come as Israeli strikes kill over 80 people in Gaza, while Israel says it has approved plans to expand the offensive and spoke of the territory's "conquest".

DOHA, May 15 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he wanted the United States to "take" Gaza and turn it into a "freedom zone", as the Israel-Hamas war rages on in the Palestinian territory.

"I have concepts for Gaza that I think are very good, make it a freedom zone, let the United States get involved and make it just a freedom zone," Trump said during his visit to Qatar.

"I'd be proud to have the United States have it, take it, make it a freedom zone," the US President added.

Trump's comments come as Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli strikes and artillery shelling on Thursday killed at least 82 people in the war-battered Palestinian territory.

Notably, the Israeli government approved plans to expand the offensive earlier this month, and spoke of the "conquest" of Gaza.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed at least 52,928 people in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to figures from the territory's Hamas-run health ministry, which the United Nations considers reliable.

Trump, who is visiting the Gulf nation as part of a three-country Mideast swing, attended a



state dinner held in his honor by Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Wednesday.

During the meeting, the US President urged Qatar to use its influence over Iran to persuade the country's leadership to reach an agreement with the US to dial back its rapidly advancing nuclear program.

He is expected to visit a US base installation on Thursday at the center of American involvement in the Middle East as he uses his four-day visit to Gulf states to reject the "interventionism" of America's past in the region.

The Qatari base houses some 8,000 US troops, down from about 10,000 at the height of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Trump has also used his trip to announce plans to recognize the government of Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa and to ease sanctions on the war-torn country.

The US has deployed more than 1,000 troops in Syria for years to suppress a return of the Islamic State group.

Trump heaped praise on al-Sharaa — who was tied to al-Qaida and joined insurgents battling US forces in Iraq before entering the Syrian civil war — after the two met in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

The president called al-Sharaa a "young, attractive guy. Tough guy. Strong past. Very strong past. Fighter." It was a stark contrast from earlier years, when Al-Sharaa was

imprisoned by US troops in Iraq. Until December, there was a \$10 million US bounty for his arrest.

Al Jazeera mutes critiques during Trump's visit

Qatar's satellite news channel Al Jazeera long has been a powerful force in the Middle East, often taking editorial positions at odds with America's interests in the region during the wars that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks by al-Qaida.

But during Trump's visit to the Gulf Arab nation this week, state-funded Al Jazeera muted its typical critiques of American foreign policy.

The channel, which broadcasts in Arabic and English, broadly covered Trump's visit in a straightforward manner, highlighting it was the first-ever trip to Qatar by a sitting American leader.

Mentions of the Israel-Hamas war, which Al Jazeera often has criticized America over for its military support to Israel, did not include any critiques of US policy. Instead, journalists highlighted Qatar's role as a mediator in the war and aired comments by Qatar's ruler, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, calling for a ceasefire.

Family remains key to social cohesion: UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed

Marking the International Day of Families, Sheikh Abdullah noted that this year's observance holds particular significance with the recent establishment of the Ministry of Family.



ABU DHABI, May 15 (Agencies): Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE's Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Education, Human Development and Community Development Council, affirmed that the UAE remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting families as the cornerstone of cohesive societies and a key pillar of sustainable development.

Marking the Interna-

tional Day of Families, Sheikh Abdullah noted that this year's observance holds particular significance with the recent establishment of the Ministry of Family. This important development reflects the UAE's strategic vision of placing the family at the centre of national priorities, further underscoring its role as a driving force for social and economic progress.

Sheikh Abdullah added, "Since its founding, the UAE has firmly

believed that empowering families is essential to empowering society. Guided by this conviction, the nation has developed an integrated framework across the social, educational, healthcare, and housing sectors to strengthen family stability and support their educational, social, and economic roles."

The UAE, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah noted, believes that human development begins within the family, through the strong bonds that unite its members and the supportive structures that surround them with care, respect, and empowerment.

This highlights the need for collaboration between families and all sectors of society, fostering shared responsibility to nurture confident, ambitious generations who can actively contribute to the nation's development and future progress.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy arrives in Turkey for peace talks with Russia, Putin skips meeting

ISTANBUL, May 15 (Agencies): A low-ranking Russian delegation arrived in Istanbul for peace talks with Ukraine, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Thursday, while a Ukrainian delegation led by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and including other senior government figures landed in the Turkish capital Ankara.

Russian President Vladimir Putin was not part of the Moscow delegation, according to a list released by the Kremlin Wednesday night, prompting criticism from Western officials that the Kremlin isn't serious about the peace effort.

Vladimir Medinsky, an aide to Putin, will lead the Russian team that will also include three other senior officials, the Kremlin said. Putin also appointed four lower-level officials as "experts" for the talks.

Earlier this week, Zelenskyy challenged the Russian leader to meet in person in Turkey to talk about ending the more than three-year war. Zelenskyy said he would travel to Ankara to meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and wait for Putin.

Also in the Ukrainian delegation are Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, and the head of the Ukrainian presidential office Andriy Yermak, the official said.

He spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons as the team had not yet arrived in Ankara.

"Now, after three years of immense suffering, there is finally a window of opportunity," Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said at a NATO meeting taking place separately in Turkey. "The talks in Istanbul



hopefully may open a new chapter."

But Zelenskyy will sit at the table only with Putin, Ukraine's presidential adviser, Mykhailo Podolyak, said.

Details about whether, when and where the Ukrainian delegation might meet their Russian counterparts are still unclear but is expected to be clarified after Zelenskyy and Erdogan meet, according to a Ukrainian official who requested anonymity to speak openly about the day's plan.

Tass said that the talks were to take place in a presidential office on the Bosphorus.

Moscow offered talks instead of a ceasefire

Putin on Wednesday evening held a meeting with senior government officials and members of the delegation in preparation for the talks, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Defense Minister Andrei Belousov, General Staff chief Valery Gerasimov, and National Security Council secretary Sergei Shoigu attended the meeting, among others.

Kyiv and its European allies had urged the Kremlin to agree to a full, unconditional 30-day ceasefire as a first step toward peace. Putin effectively rejected the proposal, offering direct talks between Russia and Ukraine instead.

The Kremlin billed Thursday's talks as a "restart" of peace negotiations that were held in Istanbul in the

first weeks of the war in 2022 but quickly fell apart. Moscow accused Ukraine and the West of wanting to continue fighting, while Kyiv said Russia's demands amounted to an ultimatum rather than something both sides could agree on.

Russia's delegation then was also headed by Vladimir Medinsky.

Putin's proposal came after more than three months of diplomacy kickstarted by US President Donald Trump, who promised during his campaign to end the devastating war swiftly. The Trump administration in recent weeks indicated that it might walk away from the peace effort if there was no tangible progress soon.

Trump had pressed for Putin and Zelenskyy to meet in Istanbul but said Thursday he wasn't surprised that Putin was a no-show. He brushed off Putin's decision to not take part in the talks.

"I didn't think it was possible for Putin to go if I'm not there," Trump said during a roundtable in Doha, Qatar.

The US and Western European leaders have threatened Russia with further sanctions if there is no progress in halting the fighting.

NATO ministers back Ukraine

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha met with US State Secretary Marco Rubio and Senator Lindsey Graham in the Turkish city of Antalya late Wednesday

night. Antalya on Thursday is hosting NATO foreign ministers to discuss new defense investment goals as the US shifts its focus to security challenges away from Europe.

Sybiha reaffirmed Ukraine's support for Trump's mediation efforts and thanked the US for its continued involvement, urging Moscow to "reciprocate Ukraine's constructive steps" toward peace.

"So far, it has not," Sybiha said.

On Thursday morning, Sybiha also met with other European foreign ministers, including his French counterpart Jean-Noël Barrot, who in a post on X reiterated the call for a ceasefire and the threat of "massive sanctions" if Russia doesn't comply.

"We're in a very difficult spot right now, and we hope that we can find the steps forward that provide for the end of this war in a negotiated way and the prevention of any war in the future," Rubio said Thursday.

Finnish Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen, also in Antalya for the NATO talks, accused Moscow of not being willing to engage in a serious peace process.

"We have one chair empty, which is the chair of Vladimir Putin. So now I guess the entire world has realized that there's only one party not willing to engage in serious peace negotiations, and that certainly is Russia," Valtonen said.

Barrot echoed her sentiment: "In front of Ukrainians there is an empty chair, one that should have been occupied by Vladimir Putin," he said.

"Vladimir Putin is dragging his feet and in all evidence does not want to enter into these peace discussions."

"Pakistan ran like a scared dog with tail between its legs": Former Pentagon official



WASHINGTON, May 15 (Agencies): A former Pentagon official, Michael Rubin has said that India targeted terror infrastructure with precision, and it was able to blunt Pakistan's response following the recent strikes. He said that "Pakistan went running to try to achieve a ceasefire like a scared dog with its tail between its legs" after India put their airfields out of commission.

In an interview with agency, Rubin who is currently a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute stated that the Pakistani military cannot shield itself from the full reality of the fact that it "lost very, very badly." He said India has emerged victorious both diplomatically and militarily and mentioned that all attention is now on Pakistan's terrorist sponsorship.

On how he sees strikes

conducted by India on May 7 and whether India was able to achieve what it wanted to convey, Rubin said, "India won this both diplomatically and militarily. The reason why India won diplomatically is all attention is now on Pakistan's terrorist sponsorship."

"The fact that Pakistani officers in uniform attended the funeral of terrorists shows that there is no differentiation between a terrorist and a member of the ISI or the Pakistani armed forces. Basically, the world is going to demand that Pakistan extract the rot from its own system. So, diplomatically, India changed the conversation, militarily, Pakistan is shocked. Look, I'm a historian by training and that means I get paid to predict the past. And one thing that we can say with certainty is that Pakistan has started

every single war with India and yet convinced itself that somehow it has won. It's going to be very different...to convince themselves that they won this 4-day war. The reason is. India was able to, with precision, decimate the terror headquarters and training camps."

"When Pakistan responded, India was able to blunt their response and then when Pakistan continued to try to retaliate, India was able to put their airfields out of commission. Pakistan went running to try to achieve a ceasefire like a scared dog with its tail between its legs. And the fact of the matter is there is absolutely no spin that the Pakistani military can put on what occurred to shield themselves from the full reality of the fact that they not only lost but they lost very, very badly. The question now, however, is what Pakistan will do next. Clearly, there's a problem within the Pakistani military, both because it's a cancer on Pakistani society and because as a military, it's incompetent and so is Asim Munir going to keep his job? Is the ego of Pakistani generals going to trump the future strength and well-being of all of Paki-

stani society? Basically, Pakistan needs to clean house, but it's an open question whether they are too far gone to do that," he added.

As many as 26 people were killed and several others were injured in the terrorist attack that took place in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalagam on April 22.

In response to the Pahalagam attack, Indian Armed Forces launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 and targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, leading to the death of over 100 terrorists affiliated with terror outfits like the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM).

After the attack, Pakistan retaliated with cross-border shelling across the Line of Control and Jammu and Kashmir as well as attempted drone attacks along the border regions, following which India launched a coordinated attack and damaged radar infrastructure, communication centres and airfields across airbases in Pakistan. On May 10, India and Pakistan reached an understanding on the cessation of hostilities.

China says ready to 'expand practical cooperation' with Russian army

BEIJING, May 15 (Agencies): China said Thursday it was ready to "expand practical cooperation" with the Russian army, after President Xi Jinping's recent visit to Moscow for a lavish World War II Victory Day parade.

The two countries have drawn closer in recent years, including since Moscow launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Xi's trip to Russia last week drew ire from Kyiv's allies, who have accused Beijing of giving Moscow economic and political cover to wage a war of aggression. Beijing says it is a neutral party to the conflict and has made indefatigable

efforts for peace. On Thursday, in response to a question linked to Xi's visit asking how China would promote military-to-military ties with Russia, the defence ministry said the relationship was "operating at a high level."

"The Chinese military stands ready to work with the Russian side to further deepen strategic mutual trust, step up strategic communication, and expand practical cooperation," defence ministry spokesman Jiang Bin said in a response posted to social media platform WeChat. The moves would "enrich the content of China-Russia comprehensive strategic

partnership of coordination for a new era", Jiang said.

He added that they would also "contribute to maintaining and strengthening global strategic stability." After a lengthy meeting with President Vladimir Putin on his trip, Xi said China's ties with Russia brought "positive energy" to a turbulent world. He added that both nations stood firm against "hegemonic bullying" -- an apparent swipe at the United States.

Putin, for his part, told reporters he and Xi had held "traditionally warm, friendly" talks and addressed the Chinese leader as his "dear friend."

Rashtriya Bajrang Dal holds protest for boycotting China & Turkey goods in India

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: The Rashtriya Bajrang Dal staged a powerful protest today against China, Pakistan, and Turkey, condemning their support for Pakistan during the recent India-Pakistan conflict.

The protest was led by Rakesh Bajrang, the State President of Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, and included the symbolic burning of effigies representing the three nations.

Addressing the gathering, Rakesh Bajrang stated that during the India-Pakistan war, China and Turkey openly backed Pakistan, with many of the drones used in attacks on Indian soil being manufactured in Turkey. Despite India's goodwill during Turkey's 2023 earthquake—when humanitarian aid



was promptly sent under "Mission Dost" led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi—Turkey has betrayed India by supporting its enemy in a time of war.

He strongly appealed to all Indian citizens to completely boycott Turkish and Chinese goods and tourism. He particularly urged people not to travel

to Turkey as tourists and avoid purchasing Turkish products such as apples, carpets, pottery, and marble. "By buying products from Turkey and China, we are indirectly funding Pakistan's military capabilities," he said.

Bajrang also praised the traders of Mumbai for taking

the lead in boycotting Turkish apples and called for the same initiative to be replicated across the country.

He emphasized that China and Turkey's support for Pakistan makes every purchase from these countries a threat to national security.

The Rashtriya Bajrang Dal also urged the Central Government to impose an official ban on the import of goods from any country that extended support to Pakistan during the conflict.

The protest witnessed enthusiastic participation from several party workers, including Bhanu Sharma, Balbir, Abhirud, Jatin, Divanshu, Kanhaiya, Raja Ganesh, and others, who raised slogans and pledged to support the national call for economic resistance against anti-India forces.

VC SKUAST-J reviews varsity functioning post border disruptions

Top News Report



JAMMU, May 15: Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) chaired a high-level review meeting of statutory officers of the university today to take stock of the academic activities, security arrangements and preparedness across the university campuses in view of recent developments.

At the outset, the Vice Chancellor along with all the statutory officers expressed deep gratitude and appreciation for the valiant efforts of the Indian Armed Forces in their decisive actions against terrorist camps. They lauded the courage and unwavering commitment of the forces in safeguarding the sovereignty and security of the nation during the recent enemy aggression along the borders.

Following this, the Vice-Chancellor conducted a comprehensive review of the University's academic, research, and administrative activities. He also reviewed the ongoing activities under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP)

and Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in Jammu and Kashmir (JKCIP) assessing their progress in the context of recent challenges.

He emphasized the need to develop a comprehensive roadmap detailing both short-term and long-term strategies to ensure academic continuity, research activities, enhance campus safety, strengthen digital learning and improve administrative responsiveness across the university in light of the current disruptions.

Turning to academic matters, the Vice Chancellor expressed deep concern over the disruption in academic, research and extension activities, particularly for students. He directed all Deans, Directors and faculty members to formulate a revised schedule, ensuring that academic and co-curricular activities disrupted during the previous week are rescheduled

over the coming week with extra classroom hours and remedial support so that students are not academically disadvantaged.

In a proactive move, the Vice Chancellor stressed the immediate issuance of Identity Cards to all students to ensure secure and systematic access to campus facilities.

Addressing concerns related to the prevailing high temperatures, he instructed the Security Incharge and Labour Incharge to remain on alert, especially in the university fields to immediately respond to any potential fire incidents that could occur due to scorching heat.

Prof. Tripathi also reviewed the functioning of the university's e-Studio and issued instructions to the Director Extension to ensure it remains fully operational, facilitating digital content creation and virtual outreach programs.

The meeting was attended by all the statutory officers of the university. The meeting concluded with a strong emphasis on coordination, vigilance and commitment among all departments to uphold the academic integrity, safety and institutional resilience of SKUAST-Jammu.

KVK Ramban conducts training under School Soil Health Programme

Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 15: Continuing with its endeavour of promoting soil health through healthy soil management practices in this region, KVK-Ramban conducted another training programme on Soil Health and its Management.

Deliberating upon the training programme,

Dr. Parveen Kumar (SMS Ag. Extension) at KVK-Ramban told that healthy soils are a prerequisite for a rich harvest and the hard fact is that most of the farming community is ignorant of various aspects of soil health like soil testing, collection of soil samples and soil health management.

KVK-Ramban has taken this initiative to sensitize and train stu-

dents on how to collect soil samples and various methods by which soil can be kept in a healthy condition.

Students were also updated on various resource conservation strategies for rainfed regions like Ramban. Practical demonstration on how to collect soil samples and recycling of farm, kitchen and animal waste through production of vermicom-

post were also done.

Students are supposed to at least update the skills of their parents engaged in farming on soil health management. They were also advised to incorporate pulses in their cropping patterns.

Dr. Parveen Kumar further told that a pilot project on School Soil Health has already been undertaken by Department of Agriculture and

Farmer's Welfare in collaboration with Department of School Education and Literacy, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and state governments in selected schools.

These trainings are being conducted under the leadership of Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor and guidance of Prof. Amrish Vaid, Director Extension SKUST-Jammu.

FromPage No: 1

Rajnath Singh arrives in Srinagar; to interact with Army personnel

Jammu zones will be reopening schools. In Samba, the Vijaypur will open schools tomorrow. In Kathua, the Barnoti, Lakhanpur, Sallan, and Ghagwal zones will open the schools.

Likewise, in Rajouri, schools will be open in the Peeri, Kalakote, Thanamandi, Moghla, Kotranka, Khawas, Lower Hathal and Darhal areas. In Poonch, the Surankote and Buffliaz areas will open schools.

Meanwhile, the helicopter services from Katra to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine resumed on Wednesday after being suspended for a week due to the hostilities between India and Pakistan.

Also, the Indian Army have intensified its operation against the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir following the Pahalgam attack.

India launched Operation Sindoor in response to last month's Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed. India's precision strikes in Pakistan and PoJK on May 7 killed over 100 terrorists.

3 terrorists killed in Awantipora in second big encounter in 48 hours

Security forces intercepted the terrorists following an intelligence input.

The Indian Army posted on X, "On 13 May 2025, based on specific intelligence of a Rashtriyas Rifles Unit, about presence of terrorists in general area Shoekal Keller, Shopian, Indian Army launched a search and destroy Operation. During the operation, terrorists opened heavy fire and fierce firefight ensued, which resulted in elimination of three hardcore terrorists. Operation is in progress."

BJP holds Tiranga Rally at Srinagar's Lal Chowk to celebrate Op Sindoor

Board, Darakhshan Andrabi, said the rally was a moment of pride for every Indian.

underway in Reasi after reports of suspicious movement

Acting on information that a woman spotted two suspected persons in Bhaga area of the district Wednesday night, a joint search operation was launched in the forest belt, they said.

The operation is being carried out by the a joint team security forces with aerial support, they said.

Authorities are conducting thorough security measures to ensure the area's safety.

Security forces also continued their search operation in Kathua district for the second day after a woman reported suspicious movement of two persons on Wednesday, officials said.

The joint search operation by police and paramilitary forces was underway in Gaghwal and its adjoining areas, they said.

A local woman told police that two persons wearing army uniforms came to her home and asked for water before leaving, saying they were returning to their "camp," the officials said.

Akhnoor returning to normalcy as people go about their business

distributed free medicines to needy people.

Border camps were also set up to provide food and education for villagers. The locals expressed their opinions on the facilities being provided.

A resident, Praveen Sharma, said, "For the past seven to eight days, we've been forced to seek shelter in camps. Every five to seven years, we have to abandon our homes and flee due to cross-border shelling. We urge the government to provide permanent solutions.

While plots in safer areas have been allocated to some border residents, not everyone has received them. Previously, shelling was limited to a 5-km range, but now shells land beyond 15 km. We demand bunkers to ensure everyone's safety. The administration, especially our SDM, has been instrumental in timely evacuations,

and our transport minister provided vehicles to help relocate people efficiently."

Meanwhile, an encounter broke out between the police forces and terrorists in the Nader, Tral area of Awantipora in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday morning.

The Kashmir police shared a post on their official 'X' handle and informed about the development.

"Encounter has started at Nader, Tral area of Awantipora. Police and security forces are on the job. Further details shall follow", the 'X' post from Kashmir police read.

Schools reopen in border districts of Jammu Region

will remain closed," a senior official from the education department said.

The schools in 30 locations identified as falling close to the Line of Control and International Border will continue to remain shut as a precautionary measure.

In districts where schools reopened, students were welcomed with special morning assemblies focusing on peace and safety.

"We are very happy to return to school after eight days. We feared that the war-like situation might keep us away for a longer time. It's a happy moment to meet our friends again," Urvashi, a student of K C Public School, said.

Alesha, a student of Class 9 at Model Academy, said the Indo-Pak conflict had confined them to their homes as Pakistan shelled their neighbourhood in Rehari.

"We were confined to a safer room on the ground floor as Pakistani shelling hit our neighbourhood. We couldn't step out or meet friends. It was scary. Returning to school now feels like a return to life," she said.

Like them, teachers also felt relieved to return to school. "Peace has returned, and so have our students. We had sleepless nights during the hostilities. It's a huge relief to be back," Jagriti Raina, a teacher at G D Goenka School, said.

Although teachers were connecting with students through online mode over the past week, they maintained that offline mode ensures better connection, attention, and accountability among students.

"Offline mode is always best for both teachers and students, as it offers better connection, attention,

and accountability," Ragni Datta, a teacher, said.

Transport operators also welcomed the resumption of schools, calling it a return to routine life and livelihood.

On Wednesday, the Directorate of School Education issued an official order detailing the reopening plan based on local security assessments. Joint Director Subash Mehta's order outlined which zones in each district would reopen and which would remain closed.

The administration has directed Zonal Education Officers to ensure that schools strictly adhere to safety protocols. Heads of institutions are also expected to coordinate closely with local authorities to ensure smooth and safe academic resumption.

According to the order, in Jammu district, schools will remain closed in Arnia, Bishnah, R S Pura, Miran Sahib, Satwari, Marh, Akhnoor, Jourian, and Khour zones due to prevailing conditions. However, schools will resume in Chowki Choura, Bhalwal, Dansal, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, and Purmandal.

In Samba district, schools will remain closed in the zones of Samba, Ramgarh, and Ghagwal. Meanwhile, schools will reopen in the Purmandal and Vijaypur zones, where conditions have improved.

In Kathua district, Marheen and Hiranagar zones will see continued closure of schools. Schools will reopen in Barnoti, Lakhanpur, Sallan, Ghagwal, and Kathua zones, ensuring that students can resume learning in these areas.

In Rajouri district, schools will remain closed in the zones of Manjakote, Doongi, Nowshera, Dandesar, Sunderbani, Rajouri, and Baljrarallan.

Educational activities will resume in Peeri, Kalakote, Thanamandi, Moghla, Kotrenka, Khawas, Lower Hathal, and Darhal, where normalcy is returning.

In the border district of Poonch, schools will remain closed in Mankote, Mendhar, Balakote, Harni, Nangali, Mandi, Kanuyian, Sathra, and Poonch. However, classes will recommence in Surankote and Buffliaz, where it is deemed safe to do so.

"The Zonal Education Officers concerned shall ensure that all institutions under their jurisdiction adhere strictly to the guidelines issued by the School Education Department and other relevant authorities regarding the safety and well-being of students and staff," the order said.

It further said that heads of institutions are directed to ensure the resumption of academic activities in a smooth and orderly manner, and to maintain regular coordination with the local administration and law enforcement agencies.

Schools were closed in border districts as a precautionary measure in the wake of hostilities between India and Pakistan.

"All flight connections to Srinagar restored": Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu

been restored. People are going through a rough time here, in terms of tourism, economy and business. All flight connections to Srinagar have been restored. Kashmir is safe. We want people to visit here again. We have to stand with Kashmir's economy," Naidu told reporters here.

"The flight operations at Srinagar airport have resumed. I met the locals here who voiced that tourism should be encouraged. The government will take all necessary steps in this direction," he told ANI.

He said that he was visiting Srinagar to review the situation at the airport. He lauded the efforts of the armed forces for their success in Operation Sindoor, saying that the precision strikes on terrorists in Pakistan's territory were a matter of pride. "I have come to Srinagar in my capacity as the Civil Aviation Minister to review the situation at the airport here. Secondly, I want to thank and salute our armed forces for the success in Operation Sindoor, launched in response to the terror incident that happened in Pahalgam. The terror camps were attacked with precision. The armed forces paid attention not to affect civilians (in Pakistan)," Naidu said.

The Union Minister said that he wanted to personally greet officials and staffers at Srinagar, who have shown bravery during the time of recent conflict.

"During the period of tension in the last three weeks, the civil aviation (ministry) had closed airports for reasons of security, including Srinagar airport. I wanted to personally meet our officials and staffers at the airport and encourage them for their bravery," Naidu added.

Randhawa honours CBSE Class 10th & 12th toppers

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: In a thoughtful and encouraging gesture, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Ch. Vikram Randhawa personally visited the residences of the CBSE Class 10th and 12th toppers to honour their academic achievements.

Among those felicitated were Ishan Gupta and Laksh Gupta from Class 12th, and Amay Gupta and Aatharav Gupta from Class 10th, who secured top positions in the recently announced CBSE board results.

MLA Randhawa was accompanied by Mandal Presidents



Nitish Mahajan and Rahul Kumar, along with senior leaders Narinder Gupta, Bharat Bhushan, and other prominent

members of the community. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Randhawa congratulated the students and praised their

hard work and determination. "It gives me immense pride to personally meet these young achievers and extend my heartfelt congratulations. They are an inspiration to many," he said.

The leaders presented certificates and mementos to the students as a token of appreciation.

The visit was warmly received by the families, who expressed gratitude for the recognition and encouragement.

This gesture underscores the commitment of local leadership to promote education and acknowledge the accomplishments of young minds within the community.

ABDPSS promotes value of time and devotion through collective spiritual campaign



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: Recognizing the importance of time and spirituality in shaping a meaningful life, Akhil Bhartiya Dharma Prachar Seva Samiti (ABDPSS) has been running a sustained religious and value-based campaign for the past 20 months across Jammu and other districts. The initiative focuses on utilizing time in the service of God and spreading awareness of Sanatan Dharma.

As part of this campaign, collective recitations of Sundar Kand, Shri Ram Stuti, and Hanuman Chalisa are being organized regularly in various temples. One such devotional gathering was recently held at Ram Mandir, Chhanni Himmat, which began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and the chanting of Vedic mantras, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere.

ating a deeply spiritual atmosphere.

The program was presided over by Sunil Sharma, National Convenor of the Samiti, and the chief guest was Dirmender Pandey. The event witnessed active participation from people of all age groups, including students, youth, and women. The highlight of the evening was a soulful prayer by young students, followed by group recitations and a collective Aarti.

Addressing the gathering, Sunil Sharma emphasized the committee's mission to impart scriptural knowledge, instill values in the youth, and contribute to making India a global spiritual leader. He expressed concern over the increasing threat of drug addiction among the youth due to a lack of moral grounding and reiterated the Samiti's commitment to

cultural and social upliftment.

Over the last year, the Samiti has undertaken various initiatives including free distribution of Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta, Gangajal, organizing Bhagwat Kathas, and hosting Saint Conferences. From Durga Ashtami last year, the committee has intensified its efforts to ensure that every temple in India hosts regular recitations of Shri Ram Stuti and Hanuman Chalisa to help nurture future generations with strong cultural and spiritual values.

The event also saw the presence of several prominent members and supporters of the Samiti including Yash Pal Sharma, Ashok Khanuria, Ranju Bansal, Kewal Krishna Sharma, Bhuvaneshwari Sharma, Ayushman Sharma, Om Prakash Sharma, Pankaj Sharma, Deepak Sharma, Deep Sharma, Rohit Verma, Vimala Gupta, and Simmi Devi, among others.

The movement continues to receive wide appreciation and growing participation across the Jammu region and beyond.

TKM announces 'Mega Summer Celebration' across all dealerships in North India

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: Exciting Offers across Sales, Service, Used Cars, Accessories & More! Toyota is turning up the heat this season with the launch of its 'Mega Summer Celebration' — an initiative across all authorized Toyota dealerships in Northern Part of India.

Be it a plan to buy a new car, servicing existing cars, explore certified used cars, or upgrade the vehicle accessories, it is the customer's moment to steal the deal! Toyota

Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced the launch of its 'Mega Summer Celebration', featuring a host of Awesome offers. Staying true to its "Customer-First" philosophy, the campaign aims to deliver value for customers on purchase of New Toyota Cars, Toyota Car Service and Purchase of Used cars during the summer months.

The Mega Summer Celebration is available across NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal

Pradesh at Toyota's authorized dealerships, and will run from May to June 2025.

Speaking on the campaign, Sabari Manohar, Vice President and Chief Representative – North Region, Sales-Service-Used Car, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "With our 'Customer-First' philosophy, we remain committed to delivering best-in-class experiences to our valued customers. Based on customer insights, we have curated Awesome Summer Schemes on purchase of New Cars & Used cars from authorized

Toyota dealerships. Our customized special service value packages will keep your car cool and road ready. We are confident that this campaign will elevate ownership satisfaction and reinforce the joy of driving a Toyota vehicle."

In addition to these offers, we encourage customers to take simple car care measures to maintain their vehicle's performance during the summer. These include, inspecting tyre and battery health, checking rubber components and replac-

ing them if needed, using car covers or sunshades, and ensuring timely servicing. We also advise safe parking practices, such as avoiding areas near dry leaves, waste heaps, etc. For added comfort and convenience, it is recommended to keep essentials like drinking water, wet wipes, and an umbrella in the car while on the go. TKM wishes all its customers "Happy & Safe Drive this Summer" and look forward to welcoming them to its dealerships this season.

Diva International Foundation organises Blood Donation Camp in Jammu

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: Diva International Foundation, a national NGO, in collaboration with the Border Security Force and supported by the Department of Blood Transfusion, Government Medical College & Hospital (GMC&H), Bakshi Nagar, Jammu, successfully organized a blood donation camp dedicated to a noble cause—supporting the defence forces.

The event commenced with an inaugural ceremony graced by the presence of Amardeep Singh Sasan (CEO, Diva International Foundation), Harbhabe Dev Singh Sasan (Director), Hardiva Deep Kour Sasan (Director), Dr. Meena Sidhu (HOD, Department of Blood



Transfusion, GMC Jammu), along with medical staff, volunteers, and several dignitaries from GMC&H.

Over 50 volunteers came forward to donate blood, showcasing a strong spirit of service and solidarity towards the nation's armed forces. Er. Ajay Bhagat addressed the gathering and lauded the efforts of Diva International Foundation, appreciating their commitment to social ser-

vice and healthcare. Amardeep Singh Sasan expressed heartfelt gratitude to the team of GMC&H, all volunteers, and members of the media for their valuable support in making the event a success.

The programme concluded with the distribution of medals and certificates of appreciation to all participants, acknowledging their contribution and commitment to this noble cause.

BLSKS celebrates 12th Anniversary of Art of Giving with cultural extravaganza

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan (BLSKS), in collaboration with the Volleyball Association of J&K, celebrated the 12th anniversary of "Art of Giving" (AOG) with a vibrant cultural program focused on peace and harmony. The event, part of the 496th regular musical play series titled "NeighbourGood", was held at Durga Bhawan, Janipur.

The program was inaugurated by V.K. Magotra, former Regional Director of the Directorate of Field Publicity, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. Dr. Anju Dogra from the Health Department and J.K. Raina, freelance producer-director, graced the occasion as Guests of Honor.

The theme for this year's AOG celebration—"Neighbour Good: Bringing Good to the Neigh-



bourhood"—aims to inspire individuals to spread kindness and generosity in their local communities. Artists from BLSKS presented a compelling performance showcasing the values of AOG—peace, happiness, harmony, and selfless giving, as envisioned by its founder Prof. Achyuta Samanta, who also founded KIIT, KISS, and KIMS University, Bhubaneswar.

Dr. M.L. Dogra, Chairman of BLSKS, read Prof. Samanta's message and highlighted his far-reaching contributions in education, sports, and social service. He emphasized that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but a product of compassion and selfless love, advocating a harmonious existence with oneself and the universe.

Vijay Kumar Magotra, Gen-

eral Secretary of the Volleyball Association of J&K, praised Prof. Samanta's role in the development of tribal welfare and sports in India. He announced that the J&K chapter of AOG has lined up a series of events—including cultural programs, yoga sessions, and lectures—culminating on May 17, 2025, to mark the 12th anniversary of the movement.

The event featured enthralling performances by Usha Raina, K.K. Joshi, M.C. Kotwal, Bindia Okheda, Raju Bajjal, Kuldeep Raj, Sanjeev Kumar, Janvi Bali, Palak Gupta, and Naiya Digra. Their musical and dramatic presentations effectively conveyed the spirit of AOG and India's rich cultural heritage.

Deepak Kumar concluded the event with a heartfelt vote of thanks, acknowledging the participants and audience for making the celebration a grand success.

SBI Card Partners Apollo HealthCo; Introduces Apollo SBI Card SELECT Card

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer and Apollo HealthCo, which operates Apollo Pharmacy - India's largest retail pharmacy network and Apollo 24X7 - country's leading omni-channel digital health platform, have extended their strategic partnership to introduce a unique, health and wellness focused co-branded credit card - Apollo SBI Card SELECT card, today.

This one-of-its-kind premium credit card has been thoughtfully designed to address the evolving needs of today's health-conscious consumers, offering a compelling blend of healthcare savings and financial rewards. Customers can easily apply for this card digitally on the Apollo 24/7 app and opt to apply via SBI Card SPRINT, by visiting the SBI Card website SBI Card.com.

Customers can also apply for the card at select Apollo Pharmacy stores.

The Apollo SBI Card SELECT cardholders enjoy a rewarding shopping experience on transactions, including pharmacy products, health check-up packages, blood tests, and more through the Apollo 24/7 app and Apollo Pharmacy stores. Cardholders get 10% back as reward points, and additionally up to 15% back as health credits, giving them a total value back of up to 25%. Reward points can be converted into Health Credits, which are redeemable across the entire product range of Apollo 24/7 App and Apollo pharmacy stores.

Apollo SBI Card SELECT card customers receive 1,500 e-gift voucher as welcome benefits, redeemable on the Apollo 24/7 app and at Apollo pharmacy stores. They also enjoy Apollo Circle benefits that provide priority access to

services and special discounts on doctor consultations, diagnostic tests and pharmacy orders on Apollo platforms. Additionally, Apollo SBI Card SELECT card customers also get a complimentary 1-year FITPASS PRO Membership, offering access to a wide network of gyms, fitness classes, and wellness programs, across India.

Salila Pande, MD & CEO, SBI Card said, "At SBI Card, we understand the evolving spending needs and aspirations of today's conscious consumers who are focused on good health and well-being. Our collaboration with Apollo HealthCo to introduce Apollo SBI Card SELECT card is firmly aligned with this need. By offering thoughtful healthcare benefits and valuable rewards, we aim to empower our customers to stay committed to their health and wellness goals, while enjoying varied financial benefits."

Shobana Kamineni, Executive Chairperson, Apollo HealthCo said, "With the Apollo SBI Credit Card, we're introducing a revolutionary financial product designed to seamlessly connect health and wellness with everyday living. By turning everyday spending into health investments, we're making access to care seamless, intuitive, and affordable. It's our way of saying that healthcare should be earned, saved, and accessed just as easily as any other essential. This is the future of health—and we're proud to build it with SBI Card. Together, we will be the health keeper of the nation."

The Apollo SBI Card SELECT card also offers various lifestyle and travel benefits. Customers can avail spend-based annual fee reversal upon achieving annual spends of 3 lakhs. Moreover, customers get a 2-year Priority Pass Member-

ship for international lounge access and four complimentary domestic airport lounge visits per year (maximum one per quarter), adding to the premium experience. Additionally, accelerated earnings of 2 reward points per 100 spent on dining, movies, entertainment, and travel, elevating the customer's lifestyle experience on each transaction.

As an annual milestone benefit, cardholders can avail free comprehensive health check-up on spends of Rs 50,000 within 90 days of joining and annual renewal. Also, on spending Rs 6 lakhs annually, customers are entitled to get a free Noise smartwatch worth Rs 7,999.

The joining and renewal fee of the Apollo SBI Card SELECT card is Rs 1,499 plus applicable taxes. The contactless card is available on both Rupay and MasterCard platforms.

Sharda Temple Construction Committee mourns loss of Aamir Hameed



Top News Report

KARNAH, May 15: The Save Sharda Committee Kashmir (Regd) has expressed deep sorrow over the untimely demise of Aamir Hameed (MMPHW), son of Ab. Hamid Mir, former construction committee member of the Sharda Temple located at LoC Teetwal.

In a heartfelt condolence message, the Chairman of the Committee, Ravinder Pandita, extended his deepest sympathies to Ab. Hamid Mir and his extended family during this difficult time.

"Aamir was a promising young face of the Tangdhar region in Karnah.

He consistently showed a passionate interest in promoting Border and Religious Tourism in the area," said Pandita.

The entire team of Save Sharda Committee stands united with the bereaved family, offering support and prayers as they cope with this immense loss.

Indian team head coach Gambhir offers prayers at Shree Siddhivinayak Ganapati Temple

Head coach of Indian cricket team, Gautam Gambhir offered prayers at Shree Siddhivinayak Ganapati Temple in Mumbai on Thursday

MUMBAI, May 15 (Agencies): Head coach of Indian cricket team, Gautam Gambhir offered prayers at Shree Siddhivinayak Ganapati Temple in Mumbai on Thursday.

On the cricketing front, Gambhir savoured success in March, after months of criticism, largely due to India's shambolic Test performance. India defied the odds stacked against them, rode high on stellar performances and stayed unbeaten to lift the Champions Trophy in Dubai.

India outclassed New Zealand in all facets of the game to stand triumphant with a four-wicket victory. This was India's second ICC title in a span of a year. Under former head coach Rahul Dravid, India scripted a memorable 7-run victory against South Africa in Barbados in the T20 World Cup 2024 final.

India's Champions Trophy story of success came after a



turbulent period which saw India crash out of the race for a spot in the World Test Championship final. It all began after New Zealand orchestrated a historic series whitewash in the subcontinent, which left India's road to the WTC final an intricate affair. After ending up on the wrong side of a 3-0 series defeat, India had to defy the odds in Australia with a series win.

Despite the historic win in the opening game in Perth, India's

hopes of a series win faded with each passing game, and the five-match series ended with Australia reclaiming the Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) after 10 years with a 3-1 series win. India will begin its World Test Championship (WTC) 2025-27 campaign with a five-match series against England in June.

Ahead of the critical England Test series, India received a double blow with the retirement of its batting stalwarts Rohit

Sharma and Virat Kohli.

Virat stunned the cricketing world by announcing his retirement from the format, drawing curtains to a 14-year-long, 123-match big career. 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).

On May 7, Rohit announced his retirement from Test cricket after a career spanning 67 Tests and 11 years. He amassed 4,301 runs at an average of 40.57, with 12 centuries and 18 fifties. His highest score of 212 came during a memorable home series against South Africa in 2019. He finishes as India's 16th-highest run-getter in the longest format.

'Wear whites for Virat': RCB fans launch campaign as Virat Kohli bids farewell to Test cricket



CHANDIGARH, May 15 (Agencies): Cricket icon Virat Kohli has announced his retirement from Test cricket, and fans are not letting the moment pass quietly. As the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) gears up to resume on May 17, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) fans are planning a unique tribute at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

RCB is set to face defending champions

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR).

In an extraordinary campaign now gaining traction across social media, fans are urging everyone attending the game to wear white – the colour of the Test jersey – instead of RCB's trademark red and black.

The gesture is intended to honour Kohli's contribution to Test cricket.

The campaign's message reads as below:

For the next RCB match, could you help spread the word and encourage fans to wear Test whites in the stadium as a tribute to Virat Kohli?

He made so many of us fall in love with Test cricket, and even though I will never get to see him play in whites live, I just want him to know how deeply loved he was in his favourite format.

This gesture could be a powerful way to show that his legacy goes far beyond stats – it lives in the hearts of fans.

Please think about it and help us make it real. It would mean the world to many of us.

I even made a template. I also think we can raise fund to give away the jerseys outside Chinnaswamy. That is our best chance. Even if not jerseys plain white t-shirts should do."

Former Sri Lanka player Dassanayake earns second stint as USA coach

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): Former Sri Lanka and Canada international Pubudu Dassanayake has been appointed as the new head coach of the USA's men's team, as per the official website of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Dassanayake replaces Stuart Law in the top job, after the former Australian batter left the position towards the end of last year after leading the side in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup they co-hosted with the West Indies.

It is the second time Dassanayake has held the role as head coach with the USA, with the 54-year-old having previously enjoyed a three-year stint in charge from 2016-2019.

During that time, Dassanayake helped the USA win their ODI status and establish themselves as a growing nation within the cricketing landscape.

Dassanayake has since held head coaching jobs with Nepal and Canada and helped the latter to their first T20 World Cup appearance last year in the USA and the West Indies.

With the USA already qualified for next year's T20 World Cup in India, Dassanayake is looking forward to leading the side in another global tournament and building on the platform he helped establish last decade.



"It's an honour to return and lead the USA Men's National Team," Dassanayake said, as quoted from the official website of the ICC.

"I'm proud of what we accomplished during my previous time here, and I see tremendous potential in this group to reach even greater heights," he added. "I look forward to working closely with the players and staff to continue building something meaningful for USA Cricket," he noted.

Dassanayake played 11 Tests and 16 ODIs for Sri Lanka towards the end of last century, before moving to Canada and playing in their national side at the end of his playing career.

'It was complete madness, we were crammed into vans': Mitchell Starc's wife recalls Dharamsala IPL halt

MELBOURNE, May 15 (Agencies): Australia women's team captain Alyssa Healy has shared a gripping account of the night of "complete madness" when the IPL match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals was called off midway in Dharamsala due to air raid sirens in neighbouring cities.

The match was halted when Punjab were cruising at 122 for 1 in 10.1 overs with floodlight failure cited as the initial reason. Healy, who is married to Australia and Delhi Capitals pacer Mitchell Starc, was in the stands along with family members of other players.

Assuming it was a minor issue, Healy and the others with her stayed calm at first before things went out of hand.

"Couple of the light towers went out and we were just there waiting. I heard a rumour a couple of seats down that we might have to evacuate the stadium cause the lights gone down," Healy said on the 'WillowTalk' podcast.

"And we are large group of family and extra support staff. And next minute the guy that kind of wrangles the group of us and gets us on the bus comes



up and his face was white.

"And he was like, we need to go right now. And we were saying, 'oh, it's okay'. Like we're probably best off letting everyone else get out of the stadium and like stay here. We're probably safer at the moment. Cause there'll be people going down the stairs everywhere," she added.

Things escalated quickly and they were shuffled into what Healy described as "a holding pen", where the PBKS and DC players were already present.

"Then the next guy came out, his face was white, grabbed one of the children and said 'we need to leave right now'," the

wicketkeeper batter said.

Such was the urgency that Healy recalled Faf du Plessis being in the room without his shoes.

"The boys (players) are there. They're all just waiting there looking stressed. I asked Mitch, 'what's going on?' And he said, 'the town 60 kilometres away had just been smacked by some of the missiles'."

"And so there was a complete blackout in the area, which meant that's why the lights were off because the Dharamsala stadium was like a beacon at that point in time."

It was then that the gravity of

the situation dawned.

India had launched missile attacks on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir a fortnight after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

On the day of the match, a blackout was enforced in several districts including Pathankot, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Mohali in Punjab and Union Territory Chandigarh amid air raid alarms and reports of explosion-like sounds in Jammu.

"So all of a sudden we're crammed into vans and off we go back to the hotel. There was madness. We're sitting on the bus with some of the Punjab players. I think Shreyas was on my bus. It was just like get in a van as soon as you can get out of there," Healy added.

The teams were brought to Delhi through a lengthy road and train journey which involved traversing Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar.

The IPL was suspended for a week but is set to resume on May 17 with most of the foreign players expected to fly back for their respective franchises.

South African stars to delay Test preparations under BCCI pressure: Report

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): South African players are expected to stay in the Indian Premier League (IPL) until the tournament concludes, potentially impacting their preparation for the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia, according to agency.

Agency reported that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) allegedly used its influence to ensure South African players' continued participation.

On May 8, the BCCI suspended the cash-rich league for a week due to cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan. After the cessation of hostilities, the IPL is set to resume on May 17 with Royal Challengers Bengaluru squaring off against the defending champions, Kolkata Knight Riders, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

"One thing we've made

clear, and we are finalizing it with the IPL and the BCCI, is that we are sticking to our original plan when it comes to WTC preparations with May 26 being the latest for the Test guys to come back," CSA's director of cricket Enoch Nkwe said, as quoted from The Sydney Morning Herald.

However, in just few hours, CSA's director Enoch Nkwe changed his stance, saying higher-level talks were happening between CSA, the BCCI, and IPL franchises, suggesting CSA had little choice in the matter.

"Correction - the squad will resume training for the game on June 3rd," he declared.

"The matter is being discussed higher up than me. At ground level, we are focusing on preps for the WTC final," he said.

The IPL is a much

bigger money-maker than the WTC final, which has led to tough discussions about scheduling between cricket boards and IPL franchises.

Cricket South Africa (CSA) initially insisted that their eight IPL players would leave by May 25 to prepare for the final.

Now, players like Kagiso Rabada, Marco Jansen, Aiden Markram, Lungi Ngidi, and Tristan Stubbs may reach England just a week before the final, needing to switch from T20 mode to Test cricket quickly. South Africa's planned warm-up match against Zimbabwe on June 3 might also be affected.

This isn't the first time IPL commitments have affected WTC preparations. In 2023, several Indian players played the IPL final just a week before the Test final. Australia had only one

player, Cameron Green, involved in the IPL playoffs that year.

This time, most of Australia's Test squad will be fresh. Only Josh Inglis, and maybe Mitchell Starc (who might pull out of the IPL after a chaotic exit from India), are still tied to IPL franchises. The rest, including Pat Cummins and Travis Head, will return to India briefly, but their team, Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), is already out of the tournament.

Meanwhile, Australia is holding training camps in Brisbane and will prepare in London before the final begins on June 11. They won't play a practice match but will focus on match-style training.

Elsewhere, Australian pacer Sean Abbott won't return to the Pakistan Super League after a recent flight scare, though Ben Dwarshuis plans to resume playing.

Head coaches defining the ISL 2024-25 season

NEW DELHI, May 15 (Agencies): Head coaches are the cornerstone of any football team, the master strategists and cultural architects. From instilling a winning mentality and nurturing talent to devising tactical game plans and steering their squads toward glory, they are instrumental in defining a team's identity and success, as per the official website of ISL.

The Indian Super League (ISL) has seen head coaches from around the globe leave their mark, guiding their teams with tactical acumen and leadership. From Jose Molina's record-breaking campaign with Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) to Jamshedpur FC's (JFC) resurgence under Khalid Jamil, the 2024-25 season has been shaped by the tactical brilliance and unwavering commitment of these figures on the touchline.

Jose Molina led Mohun Bagan Super

Giant to their first-ever ISL double this season. With several big names in the squad, the Spaniard easily managed the dressing room and guided the Mariners (MBSG) to break numerous league records.

Molina's men accumulated 56 points in the 2024-25 Indian Super League season, becoming the first team to cross the 50-point mark in a single campaign. MBSG's defenders scored 14 goals, making them the first club to register 10+ goals by defenders in a single season. The team also scored 52 goals and kept 16 clean sheets, setting new benchmarks in the league.

Gerard Zaragoza experienced an eventful campaign with Bengaluru FC (BFC), guiding the team to the playoffs and the ISL Cup final. Despite falling short of silverware, the Blues (BFC) showed steady progress under the Spanish head coach and consistently demonstrated their potential

throughout the season.

Under Zaragoza's leadership, Bengaluru FC conceded their first goal of the 2024-25 season after 494 minutes of play, becoming the first team to go over 400 minutes from the start of a season without conceding. The Blues' cohesion and lightning-fast transitions made them one of the most formidable sides this season.

Khalid Jamil has proved his mettle time and again. The Indian head coach guided Jamshedpur FC to a top-six finish for the first time in three years and led them to the semi-finals – a remarkable achievement for a team that had spent recent seasons in the bottom half of the table.

Under Jamil's guidance, Jamshedpur FC delivered impressive performances, relying on tactical awareness, particularly on home soil. The Men of Steel (JFC) showcased structure, discipline, and a resolute mentality under

pressure. Their commitment to an old-school style of football, infused with renewed vigour, set them apart in the league and laid the foundation for something greater in the future.

Manolo Marquez's men finished second to MBSG in the league standings, but FC Goa (FCG) were in the race for the League Shield throughout the season. Their consistent attacking dominance was evident as they scored in 23 consecutive league matches, becoming the first team to achieve this feat and setting a new benchmark in the league.

FC Goa stood out for their versatility and emphasis on collective strength over individual brilliance. Under Marquez's guidance, several emerging talents like Brison Fernandes, Ayush Chhetri, and Hrithik Tiwari made their mark in the league, playing key roles for the Gaurs throughout the campaign.

JKEEGA urges Chief Minister to immediately fill vacant posts in power development department

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: The Jammu & Kashmir Electrical Engineering Graduates Association (JKEEGA), led by General Secretary Er. Sachin Tickoo, held a press conference in Jammu on Thursday, bringing to light the acute crisis caused by the alarming number of vacancies in the Power Development Department (PDD).

The association demanded urgent intervention from Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the In-Charge Minister of PDD.

Flanked by senior office bearers including Er Jahangir Ahmed (Sr. Vice President), Er Vishal Singh Chib and Er Ankush Gupta (Provincial Secretaries), and Er Vipul Sharma, Er Vijay Sharma, Er Rohit Gupta, Er Ravi Karloopia, and Er Sumit Sharma (Organizing Secretaries), Er Tickoo laid out the grim status of staffing across the department.

He revealed that as per the latest data, a staggering number of posts lie vacant: 2 Managing



Directors, 4 Executive Directors, 9 Chief Engineers, 19 Superintending Engineers, 72 Executive Engineers, 148 Assistant Executive Engineers, and 436 Junior Engineers. These vacancies represent nearly 60% shortfall at the Executive Engineer level, leaving major divisions and sub-divisions across J&K functioning on an additional charge basis, thus severely hampering operational efficiency and public service delivery.

“Even crucial divisions like TLMD-III Udhampur (JKPTCL) and TLMD-II Gladni, which power most of Jammu Prov

ince, are being managed by officers holding additional charges, defeating the purpose of administrative accountability and technical oversight,” Er Tickoo stated.

The Association further expressed deep concern over the inordinate delay in the issuance of minutes from the Establishment-cum-Selection Committee meeting held on January 20, 2025, which was supposed to regularize 250 engineers as per the State Administrative Council’s decision dated October 22, 2019.

“Some engineers have even

retired over 15 years ago without seeing justice,” Er Tickoo said.

The JKEEGA criticized the disparity in manpower management, highlighting how other departments have proactively managed retirements and promotions, and even relaxed recruitment rules, while PDD has been left in disarray.

Despite these challenges, Er. Tickoo acknowledged the dedication of PDD engineers and staff who worked relentlessly under hostile conditions, including shelling along the LoC in Poonch, Rajouri, RS Pura, and Kupwara, to ensure uninterrupted power supply across the Union Territory.

JKEEGA made a fervent appeal to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Principal Secretary, PDD, to immediately review the vacancy crisis and take concrete steps to end the additional charge system. They stressed that only a fully staffed and regularized department can meet the growing demands of the power sector and deliver efficient public services to the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dimple leads anti-Pakistan and Turkey protest; demands liberation of POK, Gilgit, Baltistan



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood Jammu Kashmir, spearheaded a high-voltage protest rally in Jammu against Pakistan and Turkey, coinciding with the visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to the Line of Control (LOC). The protest saw the burning of Pakistan flags and effigies, as demonstrators raised strong slogans supporting “Operation Sindoor” and demanding the full integration of POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan into India.

Addressing a large crowd of supporters, Dimple made a fervent appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to continue military operations until Pakistan-occupied territories, including Gilgit-Baltistan, are fully lib-

erated and merged with the Indian Union.

Dimple condemned Turkey’s alleged support to Pakistan by supplying free drones, missiles, and funds. He demanded that the Government of India immediately boycott all Turkish products and ban its trade in India in response to Turkey’s hostile actions against Indian interests.

The protest also included expressions of solidarity with the people of Balochistan, POK, Gilgit, and Baltistan. Dimple extended his full support to their freedom struggle against Pakistan and praised Baloch leader Mir Yar Baloch for his leadership in the resistance.

Welcoming Defence Minister Rajnath Singh’s visit to the border areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Dimple urged the Minister not to halt military operations until terrorist

leaders Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar are eliminated. He emphasized that the true objective of “Operation Sindoor” must be the liberation of all Indian territories under illegal occupation by Pakistan.

Dimple also lauded the brave initiatives of J&K Police Director General Nalin Prabhat, who has intensified anti-terror operations in Kashmir. He demanded that similar operations be immediately launched in the Jammu region to root out Pakistan-backed militants.

The protest was joined by several senior leaders including Bilo Pahlwan, Arun Verma, Mohan Lal, Babu Ram, Vijay Virdi, Rajinder Gupta, and Kala Singh, among others, showing widespread support for the strong nationalist sentiment and Operation Sindoor.

Sculptor Ganesh Sharma’s art works displayed at “Bordeaux Art Gallery” France



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: Well known eminent senior contemporary internationally acclaimed Sculptor Ganesh Sharma’s art works selected and displayed at prestigious International art exhibition “Art for the Sake of Art” organized by “Artists Magazine” France, Paris.

The International art exhibition organized at very popular and prestigious internationally known “Bordeaux Art Gallery” School of Fine Arts around the world, France, Paris, with effect from May 5 to 15, 2025, under the patronage of Dr. Michael Anthony and Dr. Idris Emmanuel.

Amongst the received entries from across the globe Ganesh Kumar Sharma’s two art works selected and displayed with eminent artists from across the world. Sculptor Ganesh Sharma having 45 years’ experience in art playing a pivotal role in spreading and promoting artistic endeavors at State, National and International levels.

Sharma’s artistic legacy extends beyond physical exhibitions with his active participations in Thousands International Online Art exhibitions.

Ganesh recipient of so many International Awards, Honors, Certificates and Honorary Doctorates reflects not just his talent but also the global impact of his art works.

It is to mention here that Ganesh Kumar Sharma, belongs to International border village Sanoora of Samba district and presently residing at Hiranagar of district Kathua.

Neete to lead India’s Women’s Handball team at World Masters Games



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: Neete Kaur, a seasoned athlete from Jammu and Kashmir, will captain the Indian Women’s Handball Team at the upcoming World Masters Games in New Taipei City, Taiwan.

The event, held every four years, is one of the largest international sporting gatherings for veteran athletes from 110 countries competing in 35 sports and 9 para-sports.

This marks a historic moment as Neete becomes the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir to take part in the World Masters Games.

A fitness enthusiast, Neete Kaur follows a strict regimen involving strength training, aero-

bics, and yoga, and she champions a vegetarian lifestyle aligned with the Fit India Movement.

Beyond the field, she leads “Queens Aerobics World,” a fitness club offering both in-person and online classes, and serves as General Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Master Games Association.

India’s contingent of 130 athletes, aged between 30 and 70+, will compete across various sports including judo, swimming, football, karate, and table tennis.

The team is being led by Chef de Mission Vinod Kumar, with George Varghese from Kerala acting as the handball coach and mission coordinator.

President of the J&K Master Games Association, Ranjit Singh Chib, praised Neete’s achievement and expressed hope that her journey will inspire more people in the region to engage in sports, proving that age is no barrier to athletic excellence.

Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Jammu Shines in CBSE Board Exams 2025

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: Maharishi Vidya Mandir (MVM), Jammu has once again demonstrated its academic excellence with an outstanding performance in the CBSE Board Examinations 2025.

Students from all streams—Science, Commerce, and Humanities—have delivered remarkable results, bringing pride to the institution and reaffirming its reputation for quality education.

In the Science stream (Non-Medical), Sehaideep Singh led the way with an exceptional score of 94%, becoming the stream topper. He was closely followed by Tanmay Saraf who scored an impressive 93.8%.

Other top performers include Atindra Kundu with 92.6%, Lakshit Choudhary with 91.8%, Emon Ghosh with 91%, and Pearl Gupta who secured 87.6%. Their consistent efforts and dedication have been applauded by the facul-

ty and school management.

The Medical stream also saw stellar performances, with Sayantika Sasmal topping the list with 92%. Divyanshi Gupta followed with 91.2%, and Runzun Chajgotra scored a strong 90%. Rajveer Singh Bedi with 88.2% and Lavanya Sharma with 87.2% added to the school’s pride, reflecting the strength of MVM’s academic mentoring and student commitment.

In the Commerce stream, Shreya Mehta emerged as the topper with 84%, demonstrating a strong grasp over her subjects. Vaibhav Gupta also impressed with 83.4%, showing a well-rounded academic performance.

The Humanities stream saw Taniya Sharma topping with a commendable 86.2%. Her performance showcased not just academic excellence, but also creative and intellectual depth that MVM nurtures in its students.

Adding to the list of

achievements, in Class 10, young achiever Peeyush Spolia stood out by securing 91%, setting a strong foundation for his academic journey ahead.

The school management, Principal, and teaching staff extended their heartfelt congratulations to all the achievers and their families. These results are a reflection of the hard work and perseverance of the students, the dedication of the faculty, and the support of the parents.

“These results are not just marks; they are milestones,” said the Principal in a congratulatory note. “Each score represents the determination of our students and the unwavering commitment of MVM Jammu towards academic excellence and holistic education.”

Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Jammu continues to uphold its legacy of nurturing responsible, confident, and successful individuals who are prepared to face the challenges of the future.

Orthopaedics Department at CHC Sankoo performs close reduction and short arm cast surgery



Top News Report

LEH, May 15: The Department of Orthopaedics at Community Health Centre (CHC) Sankoo, Kargil, Union Territory of Ladakh, successfully performed a close reduction and short arm cast surgery under local anaesthesia on a 30-year-old male patient, namely Liyaqat, a resident of Sankoo.

The procedure was

carried out by a skilled medical professional comprised Dr. Mohammad Hussain Wazir and Dr. Syed Mohammad Abass, both Orthopaedic Surgeons, with the support of dedicated OT Assistants and an Anaesthesia Assistant.

This successful intervention has brought considerable relief to patients in Sankoo and the entire Suru Valley,

who have expressed their appreciation for the growing availability of advanced medical facilities at CHC Sankoo.

Local residents have lauded the efforts of the Health and Family Welfare Department, Kargil, and praised the dedication of the doctors and healthcare staff at CHC Sankoo for their continued commitment to public health and patient care.

BJP stands firm with victims of cross-border terror: Sat Sharma

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 15: To express solidarity with those affected by cross-border terrorism, Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Sat Sharma (CA) announced that senior leaders of the party will soon be on an extensive tour across the Union Territory.

The initiative is aimed at meeting the families of martyrs and civilians injured or displaced due to unprovoked shelling and mortar attacks from Pakistan. Chairing and speaking at a meeting of senior BJP functionaries at the party headquarters, Sat Sharma CA stated that the BJP stands shoulder to shoulder with those who have suffered due to cross-border hostilities. We remain committed to the spirit of service, support, and nationalism.

He said that as part of this outreach programme, BJP leaders will visit border villages and affected areas, particularly those recently targeted by Pakistani shelling. We want to assure these families that they are not alone. The entire nation stands with them, he said.

Sat Sharma shared that the tour of party leaders will cover the border districts. During their visit, BJP leaders will assess the conditions of the injured, interact with displaced families, and gather direct feedback to raise their issues at the highest levels for effective redressal.

Sat also shared details of his recent tour of Rajouri and Poonch, where he visited forward areas and engaged with residents affected by ceasefire violations. He expressed deep concern over the hardships faced by civilians and lauded their courage and patriotism. He said that the courage shown by our border residents is an inspiration to the nation. It is our moral duty to extend all necessary support to them.

The meeting was attended by senior BJP leaders including BJP Vice-President and MLA Yudhvir Sethi, Baldev Singh Billawaria, Venu Khanna, Praduman Singh, Reema Padha, Rekha Mahajan, Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Balbir Ram Rattan, Jaideep Sambyal, and Ishant Mahajan.

Army conducts Agniveer registration & training camp



Top News Report

DODA, May 15: The Indian Army conducted Agniveer registration & training camp at Doda. A total of 49 youth including one girl aspirant attended the said program.

This initiative aims to support the Indian Government’s effort to inspire & prepare the nation’s youth for a transformative journey of service and skill development as Agniveers.

As part of the ongoing commitment to national development and com-

munity engagement, Indian Army hosted this activity to promote awareness, empower aspirants & enhance community participation.

The purpose of organising the camp was to motivate youth to get enrolled through Agnipath scheme launched by the Indian Government. The Agniveers will be infused into the civil society where they can contribute immensely towards the nation building process.

The Agniveer training & registration drive underscores Indian

Army’s unwavering commitment to patriotic & skilled youth population ready to contribute to Indian’s growth & security.

This event was a noble undertaking by the Army to motivate the youth of our district, further strengthening the bond between the Army and the Awaam.

The participants had glowing reviews and feedback for the event, with many hoping such events to be conducted regularly by Army to prepare the youth better for upcoming recruitment rallies.