

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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**Huma Qureshi says casting agent told her to 'do younger parts' after Maharani**

**PM Modi greets people of Sikkim on statehood day**

**Want to meet Putin as soon as we can set it up: Trump**



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RNI No. JKENG/2010/39369

Regd. No. JK-435

Vol.-12 Issue-134 Pages-12 Rs.-2/-

## BRIEFLY

### 14-year-old girl rescued from child marriage in Udhampur

JAMMU, May 16 (Agencies): Police and the district task force on Thursday rescued a 14-year-old girl who was forced into child marriage in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, officials said. The rescue operation was carried out at Patangarh Latti in Udhampur district following a tip-off received at the the child helpline, they said. Despite prior advisories issued by Udhampur Police, the marriage was reportedly solemnised on May 5.

Acting on a recommendation by the Child Welfare Committee, the girl has been declared a "child in need of care and protection".

The girl has been shifted to a child care home for her safety and well-being, the officials said. An FIR will be registered under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, against all the individuals involved in facilitating the illegal marriage, police said.

### Mehbooba warns against 'weaponizing water' after Omar backs Tulbul Project

SRINAGAR, May 16 (Agencies): Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti on Friday strongly criticized J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for advocating the revival of the Tulbul Navigation Project amid ongoing India-Pakistan tensions.

"At a time when both nations have just stepped back from the brink of war—with Jammu and Kashmir once again paying the highest price through loss of innocent lives, destruction, and suffering—such provocative statements are deeply irresponsible," she said.

Mehbooba emphasized that the people of J&K deserve peace and stability, not political moves that risk further conflict. "Weaponizing water—a source of life—is not only inhumane, but it also threatens to internationalize an issue that must remain strictly bilateral," she added.

Earlier, Omar Abdullah had shared an aerial view of the Wullar barrage and suggested that the project can be revived as the Indus Water Treaty had been 'temporarily suspended'. The project started in the early 1980s had to be abandoned under

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## India set to sharpen military edge with Rs 50,000 cr budget surge post 'Operation Sindoor'

NEW DELHI, May 16 (Agencies): India's Defence preparedness may receive a major financial push, with government sources indicating a likely Rs 50,000 crore increase in the nation's military budget following the successful execution of 'Operation Sindoor'.

A report in NDTV quoting government sources stated, the additional funds are expected to be allocated through a supplementary budget later this year, potentially pushing the total Defence outlay beyond the Rs 7 lakh crore mark for the first time.



The Union Budget for 2025-26, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, had already earmarked a record Rs 6.81 lakh crore for Defence. This figure marked a significant

9.2 per cent rise from the previous year's Rs 6.22 lakh crore.

If the additional allocation is approved, it will further underscore the government's strategic

priority towards military modernisation and national security.

Sources revealed that the extra funds will be channelled into key areas such as research and development, procurement of advanced weaponry, replenishment of ammunition stocks, and acquisition of state-of-the-art military hardware.

The proposal is likely to be tabled for parliamentary approval during the Winter Session.

Since the beginning of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure in 2014, Defence spending has

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## Div Com Kashmir among 58 officers transferred in major bureaucratic reshuffle



SRINAGAR, May 16 (Agencies): In a major reshuffle, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued a transferring and posting order of 49 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) offi

cers and 9 Indian Police Service (IPS) officers across different states and union territories with immediate effect. The concerned officers are from various cadres, including

Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, and others.

The bureaucratic reshuffle is aimed at optimizing administrative efficiency and addressing the needs of different regions.

Some notable transfers include:

- Ashish Chandra Verma (1994) from Delhi to Jammu & Kashmir
- Anil Kumar Singh (1995) from Delhi to Jammu & Kashmir
- Sudhir Kumar (1999) from Delhi to Mizoram
- Dilinga Kaur (2000)

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## Ambulance driver braves shelling to save lives in Rajouri



RAJOURI, May 15 (Agencies): In a remarkable display of courage and commitment, an ambulance driver and his team risked their lives to rescue injured civilians during intense shelling by the Pakistani army on Rajouri town and its surrounding

areas on the morning of May 10.

According to officials, the Health and Medical Education Department had established an ambulance control unit at the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) office in Rajouri, where five ambulance doctors were

stationed on round-the-clock duty.

At around 5:15 AM, on-duty ambulance driver Mohammad Sayeed Wani received an urgent call from the control room: the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri had been injured in his government quarter.

Undeterred by the ongoing shelling, Wani, accompanied by a co-driver and a nursing assistant, rushed to the location and evacuated the injured officer, who unfortunately succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.

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## Locals start returning home in Poonch's Salotri village as India-Pakistan tensions ease

POONCH, May 16 (Agencies): Displaced border residents on Friday started returning to the last village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch's Salotri after a recent understanding between India and Pakistan ended days of heightened tension between the two countries.

The shelling, which affected districts in Jammu and Kashmir

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## CHOUBARSI

CHOUBARSI of our beloved Sh. Sanjeev Sharma (Babloo) S/o Sh. Bansilal Sharma (SBI) will be held on 18th May (Sunday) at our residence H. No. 336, Lane No. 10, Shakti Nagar, Jammu at 10:00 am. SHEJ CEREMONY will be at 12 noon followed by lunch. GRIEF STRICKEN Mother & Father Smt. Santosh Sharma & Sh. Bansilal Sharma Wife Smt. Pratibha Sharma Brother & Sister-in-law Sh. Rajesh Sharma & Smt. Rohini Sharma Sister & Brother-in-law Smt. Renu Sharma & Er. Janak Sharma Kids Akshar Sharma Madhav Sharma Anandita Sharma Aryaveer Sharma Contact Number 9419121027, 8899971677, 9419285647



Sh. Sanjeev Sharma (Babloo)

## Punjab Police busts ISI-controlled, Pak-Based narco-smuggling module; One arrested

CHANDIGARH, May 16 (Agencies): Punjab Police on Friday said it has busted a Pakistan-based and ISI-controlled narco-smuggling module and arrested its Indian operative with 85 kg of heroin.

The module was being operated by a UK-based drug handler, police said.

"In the biggest drug seizure of 2025, @TarnTaranPolice busts a cross-border, #ISI-controlled-#Pakistan based narco-smuggling module operated by #UK-based drug handler Lalli and arrests his #India-based operative, Amarjot Singh @ Jota Sandhu, resident of Vill. Bhitwada, Amritsar Rural and recovers 85 Kg Heroin," Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav

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## NATIONAL DENGUE DAY

16<sup>TH</sup> May, 2025

Theme: "Check, Clean, Cover: Steps to Defeat Dengue"

### DENGUE

- Dengue is a viral disease.
- It is transmitted by the bite of Aedes mosquito.
- Dengue Fever is a severe, flu-like illness.
- Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) & Dengue Shock Syndrome (DSS) are more severe forms of disease, which may cause death if left untreated.

### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- High fever.
- Frontal headache.
- Pain behind the eyes which worsens with eye movement.
- Muscle and joint pains.
- Rashes on the body.
- Pain abdomen.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Bleeding & low B.P in severe cases.

### PREVENTION

- Avoid water stagnation in & around the house.
  - Change the water in air coolers, flower/plant pots, bird baths once a week. Discard junk items like coconut shells, tyres, disposable cups/bottles etc.
  - Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
  - Use mosquito repellents/ Anti mosquito creams.
  - Do not wear clothes that expose arms and legs.
  - Use mosquito nets while sleeping.
- Use netted screens for doors & windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes.



ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY  
STATE MALARIOLOGIST/SPO NVBDCP, J&K,  
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU

DIP/J-1155/25



**TENTH DAY/KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Smt Veena Jamwal** W/o Subash Singh Jamwal & D/o Sh. Krishan Singh R/o E-405, Sainik Colony, Jammu.

**TENTH DAY** will be performed on 17-05-2025 (Saturday) at 10 AM at our residence E-405, Sainik Colony.

**KRIYA** will be performed on 20-05-2025 (Tuesday) at 12:30 PM at our residence E-405, Sainik Colony.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Subash Singh Jamwal - **Husband**

Ananya Jamwal - **Daughter**

Vishavdeep Singh Jamwal - **Son**

**Sister-in-law**

Asha Sambyal W/o Lt. Sh. Jagjeet Singh Sambyal

Jyoti W/o Parkash Singh

Usha Sambyal W/o Jagbir Singh Sambyal

**AND ALL OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS MOB: 9419103625, 9682515715**



**Smt Veena Jamwal**

**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow we inform about sad demise of **Smt. Usha Braroo** W/o Late Shri Kishen jee Braroo, (erst-while R/o Channapora, Srinagar, A/P, Sec. B1, Lane No. 1, Laxmipuram, Chinnore, Jammu.

**Tenth day kriya** will be performed on May 17, 2025 at Muthi Ghat, near the office of Director School Education, Jammu followed by **assembly** at 0830 am at the same venue.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

(Sons & Daughters in law)

Ritesh Braroo & Ritika Sharma

Nikhil Braroo & Priyanka Sharma)

(Brother in law & co-sister in law)

Sh Ashok Kumar Braroo & Smt Prana Jee

**Grand Children**

Garima & Priyansh,

Samast Braroo Parivaar, Sharma's, Kaw's, Panditas, Dhar,s.

**All Nears & Dears.**

**9419000147, 7780894071, 7298418272, 9910472611, 9797809553**



**Smt. Usha Braroo**

**TENTH DAY**

With deep grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **SH. OM PARKASH** S/o Lt. Sh. Amar Nath (Retired Bank Manager) who left for his heavenly abode on 10th May 2025. The **TENTH DAY** will be performed at Deva Palace, Preet Nagar, Near Petrol Pump, Nanak Nagar Road, Jammu on Monday i.e on 19th May 2025 and **SATSANG** from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Asha Hans (Wife)

**Son-in-Law & Daughter**

Deepak Kumar & Anu

Sheetal Kumar & Usha

**Sons & Daughters-in-Law**

Amit Hans & Dimple Kumari

Vishal Sharma & Era Ratta

**Grand Children:** Chahal Bangotra,

Hitakshi Hans, Debanshi, Kyra,

Lavakshi.

**M.No: 9419191305, 9622216392,**

**7889674676**



**SH. OM PARKASH**

**KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Sheetal Joshi** (W/o Sh. Satish Kumar Joshi) who left for her heavenly abode on 7 May, 2025.

**Kriya** will be performed on 17 May, 2025 (12:30 PM) and thereafter **Uthala** will be performed at 5 PM at our residence MCJ 1306 Lane No.13, Rajpura Mangotrian, Jammu.

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-**

Sh. Satish Kumar Joshi - **Husband**

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Smt. Swati Joshi & Sh. Sorabh Gupta

Smt. Shweta Joshi & Sh. Balinder Bardwaj

**Son & Daughter-in-law**

Sh. Sahil Joshi & Smt. Mehak Sharma

**9419156958, 7535041993**



**SMT. SHEETAL JOSHI**

**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**

**Bhog & Antim-Ardas**

**-Kirat Kour** W/o S. Kehar Singh Bijral (ex parden) (Bagu nalla, Batote)

-Departed peacefully for his heavenly abode on 11th May, 2025

**Kirtan and Antim Ardas** will be performed at (Baggu nalla) Batote at Sant Mela Singh Gurudwara 19th May, 2025 (11am to 12:30pm)

**Sons and Daughter-in-laws**

Gurmeet Singh and Satbir Kour

Paramjeet Singh and Ramneek Kour

Jasmeet Singh and Davinder Kour

**Daughter and Son-in-law**

Ravinder Kour and Ravinder Singh



**Kirat Kour**

**TENTH DAY / KRIYA / UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Vikrant Soodan** S/o Late Sh. Mohinder Kumar Soodan R/o Tawi Vihar Colony H.No. 9, Lane No. 32.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on 16-05-2025 (Friday) at our above mentioned residence at Sidhra at 11:00 am.

**Kriya** will be performed on 17-05-2025 (Saturday) at 12:00 noon at our residence (address mentioned above).

**Uthala** will be held on 17-05-2025 (Saturday) at 5 pm at our residence Sidhra (Tawi Vihar Colony).

**Grief Stricken**

**Mother & Father**

Lt. Smt. Swarna Devi W/o Lt. Sh. Mohinder Kumar Soodan

Smt. Jyoti Soodan - **Wife**

**Bhabhis & Brothers**

Smt. Seema Soodan & Sh. Sarjeev Kumar Soodan

Smt. Gulshan Soodan & Sh. Naveen Kumar Soodan

**Loving Daughter - Geeta**

**Mobile Nos: 9797456105, 9086359846**



**Sh. Vikrant Soodan**

**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, Dhar Road, Udhampur.

**10TH DAY** will be performed on Thursday 15th May, 25 at Shiv 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)**

**Adithyan Gupta (Son)**

Smt. Kamini Devi & Sh. Kuldeep Kr. Gupta (Parents)

**Chachi & Chachru:**

Smt. Vijay Gupta & Sh. Yash Paul Gupta

Smt. Anu Mehta & Sh. Kamal Krishan

(Res. Ass. Dir. Planning)

**Smt. Raveet Gupta & Sh. Sanjay Gupta**

**Sus & Fati:**

Smt. Asha Gupta & Sh. Upender Gupta

Smt. Supriya Gupta & Sh. Sanjay Gupta

**Sisters & Brothers-in-law:**

Smt. Anjumai Puri & Sh. Sanjeev Gupta

Smt. Sumita Gupta & Sh. Neeraj Gupta

Smt. Ruwail Gupta & Sh. Ashwin Gupta

Smt. Rupali Gupta & Sh. Ganesha Gupta

**Sister-in-law & Brother:**

Smt. Shalini & Sh. Anshul Gupta

**Brothers & Sisters:**

Anish, Anirath, Manishika

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:**

Kamini Cloth House, Court Road Udhampur

914843165, 941930553, 946922235,

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. Bansil 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. Bansil 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,**

**OBITUARY/ 10th DAY KRIYA**

अच्छे दो समय मदाहो समय मलेचो शोष्य ऐव च।  
निरा-सर्वगत स्थानुचलो सं सनातनः॥

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that our beloved father **Shri Makhan Lal Miskeen** S/o Lt. Shri Jiya Lal Bhan, Retd. 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**

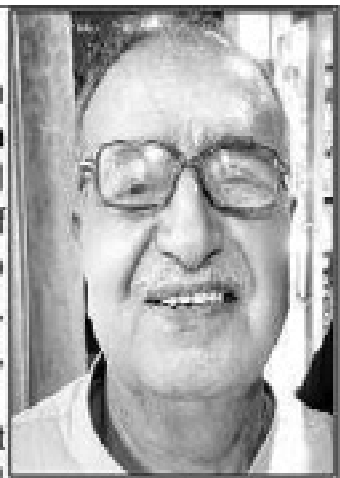
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our Father **Sh. Bhushan Lal Makroo** S/o Late Prabhavati and Manohar Nath Makroo, original resident of Chanapora Srinagar / Anand Nagar, Talab Tillo, Bohri, Jammu at present Flat No. 18035, E Block, 16th Avenue, Gaur City 2, Greater Noida (UP).

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:**

Smt. Laxmi Shari Bhat W/o Late Shri Arjan Nath Bhat - **Badi Mummy**

Smt. Dulani & Shri Pushkar Nath Bhat - **Mother & Father**

Mrs. Meenakshi Bhat - **Wife**

Master Ekanish Bhat - **Son**

**Sisters & Brothers in-Law**

Mrs. Bharti & Sh. Ramesh Bhat

Mrs. Kukla & Sh. Suneel Raina

Mrs. Vity & Sh. Subash Raina

Mrs. Bunty & Sh. Rakesh Bhat

**Sister-in-Law and Brothers**

Chandu & Bharat Bhushan Bhat

Indu & Kuldeep



# Omar Abdullah slams Mehbooba Mufti over tulbul navigation issue

SRINAGAR, May 16 (Agencies): A war of words broke out on Friday between Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti over the former's call to revive the Tulbul Navigation Barrage project on Wullar Lake in view of the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

While Mehbooba termed Abdullah's remarks as "irresponsible" and "dangerously provocative", the chief minister hit back saying she refuses to acknowledge that the IWT was a "historic betrayal" with the people of J-K because of her "blind lust" to score "cheap" publicity points, and please some people across the border.

In a post on X on Thursday, Abdullah had wondered if work can resume on the Tulbul Navigation Barrage project on Wullar Lake in view of the suspension of the IWT.

"The Wullar lake in North Kashmir. The civil works you see in the video is the Tulbul Navigation Barrage. It was started in the early 1980s but had to be abandoned under pressure from Pakistan citing the Indus Water Treaty. Now that the IWT has been 'temporarily suspended' I wonder if we will be able to



resume the project," Abdullah posted on his personal X handle.

He said the Tulbul project, if completed, can help in using Jhelum for navigation purposes.

"It will give us the advantage of allowing us to use the Jhelum for navigation. It will also improve the power generation of downstream power projects, especially in winter," he added.

The Centre had last month put the Indus Water Treaty — under which India and Pakistan used to share water — in abeyance in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack.

However, the PDP chief Friday took a dig at the chief minister, saying his call to revive the proj



ect was "deeply unfortunate".

"J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's call to revive the Tulbul Navigation Project amid ongoing tensions between India & Pakistan is deeply unfortunate," Mehbooba, a former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J-K, said in a post on X.

She said such statements were not only "irresponsible" but "dangerously provocative" as well.

"At a time when both countries have just stepped back from the brink of a full-fledged war with Jammu and Kashmir bearing the brunt through the loss of innocent lives, widespread destruction and immense suffering such statements are not

only irresponsible but also dangerously provocative.

"Our people deserve peace as much as anyone else in the country. Weaponising something as essential and life giving as water is not only inhumane but also risks internationalising what should remain a bilateral matter," the PDP president said.

Following the remarks, Abdullah hit back, saying the PDP president's refusal to acknowledge that the IWT was a "historic betrayal" with the people of J-K was due to her "blind lust" to score "cheap publicity points" and "please" some people sitting across the border.

"Actually what is unfortunate is that with your blind lust to try to score cheap publicity points & please some people sitting across the border, you refuse to acknowledge that the IWT has been one of the biggest historic betrayals of the interests of the people of J&K," he posted on X.

The J-K CM said he has always opposed the treaty and will continue to do so.

"Opposing a blatantly unfair treaty is in no way, shape, size or form warmongering, it's about correcting a historic injustice that denied the people of J&K the right to use our water for ourselves," he added.

# Op Sindoor: Lt Gen Katiyar lauds high spirit of troops in Jammu, Samba



JAMMU, May 16 (Agencies): Western Command Army Commander Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar on Friday lauded the valour and high spirit of troops during his visit to Jammu and Samba locations. Fine dining reservations

"Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar, Army Commander Western Command, accompanied by GOC Rising Star Corps, visited forward locations

in Jammu and Samba, interacted with troops, including personnel from BSF," the Rising Star Corps posted on X.

It further posted, "He commended their valour, high josh, and vigilant actions during #OperationSindoor and lauded the precise and punitive response given."

"Army Commander exhorted all ranks to stay vigilant & mission-ready," it further said.

Meanwhile, White Knight Corps in a post on X said, "#GOC and all ranks of #WhiteKnightCorps salute the unwavering courage of #Braveheart Subedar Major Pawan Kumar, who made the supreme sacrifice during #OpSindoor."

"His valour and dedication to duty will always be remembered. We continue to stand with the bereaved family in their hour of grief," it wrote.

## Mortar shell found in village on Jammu outskirts, Defused

JAMMU, May 16 (Agencies): Security forces detected and defused a mortar shell in a village on the outskirts of Jammu, officials said on Friday. Jammu dining guide

They said the mortar shell was fired from Pakistan during the recent military standoff.

Locals found the heavy shell near the fields in a village in the Bishnah area and informed police, the officials said.

A bomb disposal squad was called to the spot and defused the shell, they said.

## Adv Mohabat Ali demands immediate release of post-matric scholarships for ST students

JAMMU, May 16: National Conference Student Union (NCSU) leader and social activist Advocate Mohabat Ali has urged the administration to immediately release the pending Post-Matric Scholarships for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students.

He emphasized that many universities and colleges have reopened their admission process for the academic year 2025-26, but students from the tribal community are unable to proceed with their admissions due to the non-disbursal of scholarships, which have been pending for the past five months.

"ST students are heavily dependent on these scholarships for continuing their higher education. A large number of them belong to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and cannot afford fees without financial support," said Advocate Mohabat Ali.

He appealed to the Tribal Affairs Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Javed Ahmed Rana, to issue necessary directions to the concerned departments for the early release of scholarships.

"Timely release of these scholarships is crucial to ensure that students from the tribal community are not deprived of their right to education," he added.

## Swift action after Pahalgam attack led to killing of 6 terrorists in last 48 hours: Security Forces

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 16: The security forces on Friday said that the swift and coordinated response by several security agencies following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack led to elimination of six terrorists in the last over 48 hours in Shopian and Pulwama districts.

Inspector General of Police Kashmir, V K Birdi while addressing a press conference in Awantipora, said that after any terror strike, such operations are critical and the Pahalgam incident triggered an intensified combing and intelligence-led mission across south Kashmir.

"These operations were launched promptly and were based on credible inputs. Cooperation among security agencies and rapid



follow-up ensured that terrorists involved were swiftly tracked down and neutralised," he said.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Army's Victor Force, Major General Dhananjay Joshi said that no matter where terrorists attempt to hide, whether in upper forested regions or in civilian residential areas, they will be tracked and eliminated.

He said that these two operations were different from each other and one in Keller area was in an upper area and it was very challenging given the difficult terrain, while in Tral it was in a residential area and operation was conducted after all civilians were safely evacuated.

"We will not allow terrorists to find safe havens in any part of the Valley. Our commitment

is clear—we will go after them wherever they are hiding," he said.

He added that one of the 6 terrorists neutralised, namely Shahid Kuttay, was involved in two major attacks, including an attack on a German tourist.

Inspector General of CRPF, Mitesh also stressed that these operations would not be possible without the support and cooperation of the local population. He appealed to the public to continue their cooperation and help security forces with timely information.

"Public support is vital for the success of such anti-terror operations. Every piece of information matters. Our aim is not only to neutralise terrorism but also ensure that peace prevails permanently in the region," he said.

## Escort vehicle of AICC Gen Sec Ghulam Ahmed Mir collides with truck; one injured

RAMBAN, May 16 (Agencies): An escort vehicle part of the convoy of AICC General Secretary and MLA Ghulam Ahmed Mir met with an accident near Peerah on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on Friday, leaving one security personnel injured.

An official told news agency JKNS that the

mishap occurred when the security escort vehicle, moving as part of Mir's convoy, collided with a truck moving ahead near Peerah area of Ramban district.

The collision was forceful enough to cause damage to the front portion of the escort vehicle. The accident took place as the convoy was en route towards Kashmir.

Although Ghulam Ahmed Mir was travelling in a separate vehicle and remained unharmed, one of his Personal Security Officers (PSO), who was in the escort vehicle at the time of the crash, sustained injuries.

Injured officer was given immediate first aid at the site and later shifted to a nearby hospital

for further treatment. His condition is stated to be stable.

Police and highway authorities rushed to the spot shortly after the accident and managed to clear the route to ensure the safe passage of the remaining vehicles in the convoy. A case has been registered and further investigation into the incident is underway, official said.

## District Kathua resumes Inter-Zone District Level Sports Tournament with enthusiasm

### Top News Report

KATHUA, May 16: Following the reopening of schools in District Kathua, the Department of Youth Services and Sports has successfully resumed its sporting activities by launching the long-pending Inter-Zone District Level Sports Tournament. The competitions, focused on the upper zones of the district, began with renewed energy and excitement across six

zones.

The spotlight was on U-14 boys' competitions held at Naaz Ground, Billawar, where young athletes from various zones demonstrated their sporting spirit and talent across multiple disciplines. A total of 293 boys enthusiastically participated in the event, competing in games such as badminton, kabaddi, kho-kho, and volleyball. The events were conducted under the over-

all supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Kathua, Sh. Sunil Singh Sambyal, who ensured smooth and fair conduct of the matches. In badminton, Zone Billawar triumphed over Zone Bhaddu, winning the match by 2-0 sets. The kabaddi match between Zone Mahanpur and Zone Bani was a close contest, with Zone Mahanpur edging out the victory by 2 points. In an exciting game of

kho-kho, Zone Basohli showcased superior teamwork to defeat Zone Bani by a margin of 7 points. In volleyball, Zone Bani emerged victorious against Zone Billawar, claiming the win with a 2-0 set victory. The successful kickoff of the tournament marks a promising revival of grassroots sports in District Kathua and reflects the administration's commitment to youth development through sports.

## CM Omar Abdullah urges Govt to arrange additional haj flights from Srinagar to clear backlog

SRINAGAR, May 16 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday urged the Centre to arrange additional Haj flights from Srinagar to clear the backlog of pilgrims caused by the closure of airports during the military standoff between India and Paki-

stan. "I have taken up with the government of India the urgent need to arrange additional Haj flights from Srinagar to clear the backlog of 1,895 pilgrims caused by recent flight disruptions," the chief minister said in a post on X.

Abdullah said ensuring a smooth and timely pil-

grimage for Haj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir was the government's priority.

Thirty-two airports, including Srinagar, were shut from May 9 due to the military standoff between India and Pakistan.

Flight operations resumed on May 13.

## FIR registered for violation of prohibitory orders in Doda


JAMMU, May 16 (Agencies): The Doda Police have registered an FIR (No. 111/2025) against Haq Nawaz Nehru, a resident of Doda, for allegedly making irresponsible statements on social media in violation of prohibitory orders issued by the District Administration.

The FIR has been lodged under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for remarks purportedly made in contravention of District Magistrate's Order No. 980-89/DM/Doda, dated May 3, 2025. The order strictly prohibits individuals, groups, digital platforms, or organizations



from making, publishing, or disseminating hate speech, objectionable content, or any irresponsible statements—whether in public or through print, electronic, or social media—in order to maintain public order.

Authorities have reiterated their commitment to preserving peace and communal harmony in the district. They have also issued a stern warning that strict action will be taken against anyone found violating such directives.

 <b>OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&amp;B) DIVISION REASI</b> Mail ID:- <a href="mailto:xenpwdrandbreasi@gmail.com">xenpwdrandbreasi@gmail.com</a>	
<b>CORRIGENDUM</b>	
<b>Subject:-</b> 1. CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NUMBER ELEMENTARY ACR IN MS SEELA DISTRICT REASI( PAB 2024-25).	
<b>Reference:-</b> This office e-NIT No. 04 of 2025-26 Dated 24-04-2025	
Due to poor response the dates for above said e-NIT subject of work is hereby extended as per detail given below:-	
Read as <b>Bid Submission End Date</b> 22-05-2025 up to 16.00 P.M <b>Date &amp; time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)</b> 24-05-2025 at 12.00 noon in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi	Instead In <b>Bid Submission End Date</b> 14-05-2025 up to 16.00 P.M <b>Date &amp; time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)</b> 16-05-2025 at 12.00 noon in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Reasi
<b>DIP/J-1153/25</b>	
<b>SD/-</b> (Er. Bhopinder Kumar Banotra) Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Reasi.	
<b>No:-</b> 1073-77 <b>Dated:</b> 14/05/2025	



EDITORIAL

World Peace

World peace remains one of the most cherished yet elusive goals of humanity. It signifies a world free from conflict, violence, and war, where individuals, communities, and nations coexist in harmony, guided by mutual respect, justice, and cooperation. In an era marked by unprecedented technological advancement and globalization, the pursuit of world peace is not only a moral obligation but also a practical necessity for the survival and prosperity of the planet. The concept of peace is not merely the absence of war, but the presence of conditions that promote dignity, human rights, and sustainable development. Peace must be built on the foundations of social justice, economic equality, education, environmental stewardship, and respect for cultural and religious diversity. True peace involves addressing the root causes of conflict—poverty, inequality, discrimination, and lack of access to basic services—rather than merely responding to its consequences. Historically, the world has witnessed the devastating impact of conflict, from the two World Wars to ongoing regional tensions in parts of the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe. These conflicts have claimed millions of lives, displaced communities, and stunted development. Despite global efforts through organizations like the United Nations, wars and internal strife continue to pose serious threats to global stability. The rise of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, cyber warfare, and ideological extremism further complicate the peace landscape. Education plays a critical role in promoting world peace. By instilling values of tolerance, empathy, critical thinking, and global citizenship, education equips individuals to resolve differences peacefully and contribute positively to society. Peace education, when incorporated into curricula, can foster a generation that is less inclined toward violence and more committed to dialogue and understanding. Diplomacy and international cooperation are essential tools in the peace-building process. Through dialogue, negotiation, and multilateral agreements, countries can resolve disputes without resorting to violence. Regional alliances, peacekeeping missions, and confidence-building measures are practical steps that contribute to reducing tensions. Successful examples include the European Union’s efforts in maintaining regional stability and the peace accords that ended long-standing conflicts in Colombia and Northern Ireland. Economic development and inclusive growth are also crucial for sustaining peace. When people have access to jobs, healthcare, and education, and feel that their voices are heard in governance, the chances of conflict decrease significantly. Sustainable development goals (SDGs) promoted by the United Nations emphasize the interconnectedness of peace, development, and human rights. Countries that invest in human development are often better equipped to manage internal tensions and avoid the eruption of violence. Equally important is the role of civil society and grassroots movements. Local leaders, NGOs, faith-based organizations, and community groups often act as peacebuilders on the ground, especially in regions where state institutions are weak. Their work in mediation, reconciliation, and community engagement helps heal divisions and prevent conflicts from escalating. Technology and media also play a double-edged role. While misinformation and hate speech can incite violence, digital platforms can also be powerful tools for peace advocacy, cross-cultural exchange, and awareness campaigns. The global youth, connected through social media, have the potential to be ambassadors of peace, using their platforms to promote unity, activism, and change. In conclusion, world peace is not a distant utopian dream but a tangible goal that can be achieved through sustained efforts at all levels—individual, local, national, and international. It requires political will, inclusive policies, and a shared commitment to humanity. In a world increasingly interdependent, the peace of one nation affects all. Building world peace is, therefore, not only a noble ideal but an essential strategy for a secure, just, and prosperous global future.

From Pulwama to Pahalgam India made to bleed

By: Omkar Dattatray

From Pulwama tragedy to Pahalgam terror attack ,India was deeply wounded and made to bleed by Pakistan sponsored and supported terrorists. The modus operandi of Pakistan’ states and its military policy of bleeding India by a thousand cuts has remained same from Pulwama to Pahalgam. Rightly Pulwama and Pahalgam terror attacks attracted widest condemnation and resolve to revenge the mayhem from its sponsors .In both the terror attacks ,India suffered gravely as in case of infamous Pulwama terror attack of February 14th ,2019 and the recent terror attack on innocent tourists on 22rd April 2025 after more than three year ’s from Pulwama act and India responded decisively in both these terror attacks. Pulwama terror attack and the recent Pahalgam terror attack are very dastardly and despicable acts which hit our CRPF and unarmed and innocent tourists and the Pakistani involvement is crystal clear and Modi government and India’s army has given a befitting replay and given a lesson to terrorists and their Pakistani sponsors. In Pulwama terror attack as well as Pahalgam carnage Pakistani terrorists have unleashed mayhem and killed our 40 CRPF Jawans and 25 innocent tourists respectively for no fault of theirs. People of India were shook by these dastardly and savage acts of terror which spilled blood of our CRPF men and unarmed and innocent tourists .Indians and its army has shown resilience and bravery and attacked the terrorist bases in POK and this time in Pakistan and POJK. Whole nation has grieved and were in anger and asked the government to take revenge and give justice to the martyred Jawans and martyred tourists. The 2019 Pulwama attack occurred on 14th February 2019,when a convoy of vehicles carrying Indian security personnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was attacked by a vehicle –borne suicide bomber at Lethapora in the Pulwama district of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. The attack killed 40 CRPF personnel as well as the perpetrator –Adil Ahamd Dar who was a local terrorist from Pulwama. The responsibility of the attack

was claimed by the Pakistan –based Islamist terrorist group ,Jaish-e-Mohammed. Rightly India blamed neighboring Pakistan for the deadly attack. At that time the relations between the two countries of India and Pakistan nosedived and resulted into India Pakistan military standoff. Subsequently, Indian investigations identified 19 accused and by August 2021,the main accused along with six others have been killed and seven had been arrested. Indian military responded with what is called Balakot airstrike. On February 26,twelve Mirage 2000 jets of the Indian Air Force crossed the line of control and dropped bombs into Balakot ,Pakistan .India claimed that it attacked a Jeish-e-Mohammed training camp and killed a large number of terrorists ,reported to be between 300 and 350. Now after recent Pahalgam terror attack Indian defense forces carried “Operation Sindoor” and with missiles and drones attacked nine terrorist hideouts and camps in POJK and Pakistan killing over 100 terrorists including some dreaded terrorists. Thus India took the revenge of killing 25 innocent tourists in the world famous scenic spot Pahalgam and the dastardly attack was condemned by all irrespective of religion. All the political parties and people urged the government to take a stringent action against terrorism and bring the culprits of the Pahalgam attack to task by giving severest punishment to the inhuman savages who stooped so low and martyred our tourists with sadistic pleasure by identifying them on the basis of Religion. It is so savage that our sisters and mothers Sindoor was destroyed by killing their husbands before their wives and there cannot be more savage attack than this. Pahalgam terror attack was unparallel and unprecedented as it was perhaps the first time in the history of terrorist ravaged Kashmir, that tourists were killed after parading them on the basis of religion. India attacked the terrorist hideouts in POJK and Pakistan and that country instead of helping India in its fight against terrorism chose to strike our civilian localities in boarder areas and even in cities as well as our military installations and air bases. India defense forces responded to the Pakistani retaliation and destroyed its five air basis

and thus crippled the enemy. After three days of retaliations and counter responses Pakistan requested America to ask India for ceasefire. Accordingly Trump telephoned PM Modi and PM Pakistan Sarief and its military chief general Munir .After this development Pakistan DGMO contacted Indian DGMO and requested for a ceasefire. Pakistan foreign minister and Indian defense minister Rajnath Singh agreed on a ceasefire and the governments of India and Pakistan fixed the date of 10 May 2025 and 5pm as per Indian standard time as the time to implement ceasefire. India agreed on ceasefire on its own terms and made it crystal clear that any terrorist act in future in which Pakistani involvement is identified will be construed as an act of war and India will have the right to strike Pakistan and POJK. Hardly had the ink on the ceasefire agreement dried ,Pakistan again resorted to unprovoked missile and drone attacks at many places and military installations of India and to such acts, India responded with full force and might and strike so deep inside the territory of Pakistan and made her to lick the dust. Now from two ,three days there is completed ceasefire from both sides and Pakistan has not thereafter violated the ceasefire agreement. But Pakistan cannot be trusted and she cannot be taken at her face value. Thus Modi government has categorically stated that Indian government has only paused the strikes on Pakistan and she can resume it in future after observing the Pakistani attitude and her violation of the ceasefire agreement. Rest the IWT will continue to remain suspended and it implies that India and PM Modi is very tough on Pak terrorists and they can cross boarders if Pakistani forces will violate the sanctity of the ceasefire agreement in future and in that case India will be within its right to strike Pakistan. India has only paused its Operation Sindoor and has not ceased this operation fully. After violating ceasefire just within few hours on 10 May, she is now implementing it strictly and it seems that chief of Pak army general Munir is on his knees and it will be seen how will the India respond to any ceasefire violations by Pakistani army and how maximum punishment is accorded to Pak sponsored terrorists

and their Pakistani backers. Modi has unequivocally stated a number of times after the ceasefire that India reserves the right to respond to any retaliation and it will be the Pak army bases which will be targeted in case that country violates the current ceasefire. Pakistan has seen the might and power of the operation Sindoor and in future we will continue it to target the fountains of terrorism and the terrorist acts on our soil by the local terrorists and Pakistani handlers will also be dismantled and these terrorists will have to pay a heavy price for any act of terrorism. Whole world including Pakistan has seen the power of Sindoor and now it is hoped that sanity may prevail on Pakistan so that she will desist from sponsoring and exporting terror to India. India should also follow the policy of bleeding Pakistan with a thousand cuts and an eye for eye and tooth for toot should be applied in case Pakistan tries to violate ceasefire in future and therefore tit for tat should be our response to any misadventure by Pakistan and then and then only our interests and sovereignty is upheld and we cannot take any risk so far as Pakistani attitude is concerned. We have full faith in our defense forces as they have shown their strength in India-Pakistan standoff and war recently. Rest from Pulwama to Pahalgam ,it is our blood which has spilled and socked our land with blood of the innocents. Enough is enough, no more bloodbath in future and for this all of us should cooperate with the government and break the back of terrorism and for that if we have to cross the LOC and IB no problem should be there .India has the prowess and might that it can wipe out Pakistan from the map of the globe. So Pakistan should mend its behavior and desist from backing terrorism in India and that will be the litmus test for Pakistan’s reformed attitude.

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

Decreasing Greenery, Increasing Hazards

By: Vijay Garg

Recently, a forest harvesting spread over about four hundred acres in the Kancha Gachibowli area of Telangana drew the attention of the entire country to its attention and attention. The Supreme Court took suo moto cognizance of this sensitive issue. A bench of Justices BR Gavin and Justice Agustin George Christ made a sharp note in the matter asking the state government a number of stern questions and banned any kind of activity in the area until the next hearing. The court clearly asked what emergency was finally created due to which the forest had to start in such a hurry? Was the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate taken for this project and whether the deforestation was duly taken permission from the Forest Department ? The case came to light when the registrar of the Telangana High Court sent some pictures related to this harvesting to the Supreme Court, which clearly saw the cutting and ground levelling activities of trees through heavy machines. Those photographs also clarified that this work was being carried out at night. The location is the Hyderabad University Pass, where the Telangana government was planning a construction plan of a grand iti park, but the same area is also the natural habitat of many types of wildlife, including peacocks, deer and other protected species. A heartbroken video on social media came into the spotlight, with dark bulldozers moving and hearing fearful sounds of the morons around. It shocked the conscience of the common masses. The video was get-

ting clear that not only the trees, but the entire ecosystem is being brutally murdered. This forest was not merely a group of green trees but a shelter of thousands of organisms. Even in another case over the wildest felling of trees illegally by a temple management, the Supreme Court made strict remarks in the past, saying that no one allows cutting of trees like this. It is not only wrong from the environmental point of view but also unacceptable in religious terms. Even in that case, the 16194 Supreme Court. Had asked why there is so much compulsion to cut trees and whether the state has obtained environmental impact assessment certificate? Just a few days ago, the apex court took a strong stand for each tree carrying a fine of Rs. one lakh for each tree, even over hundreds of trees illegally cut around the Taj Mahal in Agra. The court said that cutting large numbers of trees is worse than killing a human being, so no mercy should be shown on those who harm the environment. The apex court had admitted to the rampage of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in that case, saying that 454 trees were cut in Dalmia Farm, Mathura-Vrindavan, which is a serious environmental crime. The committee had recommended a fine of Rs. one lakh per tree (total Rs. 4.54 crore) for this act. These observations of the Supreme Court of the country on the harvesting of trees illegally at large put forth the protection and environmental responsibilities of trees across the country. The Supreme Court initiative has expected that such destructive efforts will be held strongly and will curb the tendency to sacrifice nature in the name of development. The court has made a

clear message from these decisions of itself that the felling of trees should not be taken lightly. These court decisions are also messages for areas in the country where trees are being indiscriminately harvested. Pollution situation in Delhi has become critical due to the felling of trees. Human life is dependent on trees only because from these we get oxygen. Oxygen present in the atmosphere is considered to be oxygen. According to environmental experts, we must plant so many trees around us so that at least for our family, we can fulfill oxygen ourselves. A person needs a considerable amount of oxygen throughout the day, that’s why environmentalists say plantation tax is necessary to produce oxygen for ourselves otherwise just as we drink water by buying a water bottle today, our coming generation will be constrained to buy pure air bottles in the coming time. If there will be no oxygen in the atmosphere, life will end on the earth, so it is a great demand for time to emphasize more and more plantation.” According to a rapt, a healthy tree leaves so much oxygen every day, giving six-seven people an oxygen, but in the absence of enough trees, the same tree now has to give oxygen to about 20 people. In fact, the amount of oxygen used to be in the atmosphere earlier has come down to ten percent in the absence of trees. As a result, the lungs have started causing infection problems with asthma and heart disease due to not getting enough oxygen. Large shady trees like neem, banyan and peepal, who are 50 years old or older, get up to 140 kg of oxygen daily. According to environmental experts, trees of about

two hundred years old peepal, neem, banyan, etc. secrete enough oxygen daily. In such a situation, it is not hard to predict how heavy damage the environment is caused by cutting such a shady old tree. That is why such shady trees have been the ancient Indian tradition of planting in their surroundings. Neem, Banyan and Tulsi, etc., leave oxygen for more than 20 hours a day, while Peepal then secretes oxygen for more than 22 hours a day. Bamboo trees produce 30% more oxygen than any other tree. Depending on the price of oxygen found from a healthy tree, the tree costs several lakh rupees annually. Lack of clean air In people are trapped in the trap of diseases, their fertility is bearing. Functionality is also affecting cancer, heart disease, asthma, bronchitis, lung infection, pneumonia and number of paralysis patients are increasing rapidly. Large share of people’s earnings costs only on treatment. Nonetheless, given the rapidly occurring climate change and the decaying state of pollution, it now needs to understand that the greatest contribution in the oxygen present in our atmosphere is that of tree-plants itself. So they have to be saved.

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



## Tribute paid to Dr. Krishnaswami Kasturirangan at Sant Ishwar Bhartiya Vidya Mandir



### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 16: A heartfelt tribute was paid on Friday to the late Dr. Krishnaswami Kasturirangan at Sant Ishwar Bhartiya Vidya Mandir Higher Secondary School. The event was marked by the presence of Bal Krishna, Sangathan Mantri of Vidya Bharati North Region, who led the tribute ceremony. Also present on the occasion were Satish Mittal, Treasurer of Bhartiya Shiksha Samiti

Jammu & Kashmir; Shiv Kumar, President of the School Management Committee; District President Mam Chand; members of the management committee; School Principal Renu Sharma; and the entire teaching faculty. In his address, Bal Krishna highlighted the remarkable life and legacy of Dr. Kasturirangan, describing him as a visionary scientist, educationist, and the chief architect of the National Education Policy 2020. He emphasized Dr. Kas-

turirangan's pivotal role in shaping the future of education in India and lauded his contributions to the country's space program through his leadership at ISRO. "We have lost one of the nation's finest scientists," he said. "Dr. K. Kasturirangan's work in education, science, and space will forever inspire generations." The event also saw enthusiastic participation from students, who paid homage through poetry recitations and debates reflecting on Dr. Kasturirangan's life and contributions. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by the School Principal, Renu Sharma, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries and attendees. She remarked that the lives of such great personalities serve as a guiding light for students and educators alike.

## Randhawa conducts public outreach tour in Sanjay Nagar Sector 4

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: Continuing his commitment to grassroots governance and citizen engagement, MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa on Friday conducted a comprehensive public outreach tour in Sanjay Nagar Sector 4 Extension. The visit aimed to assess local infrastructure, listen to public grievances, and ensure coordinated efforts among key departments. The MLA was accompanied by senior officials from various departments including the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Power Development Department (PDD), and Public Health Engineering (PHE), who took note of the issues raised by residents and assured prompt redressal. Mandal President Ritika



also joined the tour, along with prominent local leaders Narinder Koki, Vinod Singh, Karnail Singh, Sahil Gupta, Darshan Singh, Manjeet Singh, and other dignitaries. Their presence highlighted the collective commitment of the party and administration toward improving civic amenities and addressing public concerns effectively. During the tour, several issues were discussed including sanitation, street lighting, water

supply, and road maintenance. Ch. Vikram Randhawa directed the concerned officials to expedite pending works and emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability in service delivery. Residents of the area expressed appreciation for the proactive approach of the MLA and urged for regular follow-ups to ensure timely completion of development works.

## RC Subramaniam participates in Special Abhishek Ceremony at Tirupati Balaji Temple



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: A special Abhishek ceremony was held today at the Tirupati Balaji Temple in Majeen, Jammu, where RC Subramaniam, Superintendent of the Balaji Temple, paid obeisance alongside other dignitaries and devotees. Those present included Sai Krishna Temple Inspector Ramesh Babu, Pandit Amit Shukla, Secretary of CTF Sachin Gupta, Vivek Gupta, and Sanjay Sareen.

The devotees participated in the ceremonial Abhishek of Lord Venkateswara, which is performed every Friday at the temple. Prayers were offered for the welfare and prosperity of the nation. Expressing his devotion, Sachin Gupta said, "It is a matter of pride and joy that a magnificent Tirupati Balaji Temple has been established here in Jammu. This sacred site allows us to experience the rich spiritual and cultural essence of South India right here in the north. The temple's

presence boosts spiritual tourism and offers a divine experience amidst the scenic Shivalik forests." He further urged devotees, especially those who are unable to visit Andhra Pradesh, to visit this temple and seek the blessings of Lord Venkateswara Swamy. On the occasion, RC Subramaniam appealed to the Transport Commissioner to initiate a dedicated bus service to the temple for the convenience of devotees. He also emphasized the need to start a Bharat Darshan Bus Service from this location to promote spiritual tourism and spread awareness about the temple's significance. The event concluded on a devotional note, with attendees praising the temple's atmosphere and calling for greater public participation in its spiritual activities.

## NSS Unit "Prabha" of GDC Ramgarh organizes online awareness lecture

### Top News Report

RAMGARH, May 16: With an aim to cultivate mindfulness and promote peaceful coexistence, the NSS Unit "Prabha" of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized an online awareness lecture on the theme "The First Step to Peace is Awareness". The lecture was conducted via Google Meet under the esteemed guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal of the College. The resource person for the session was Prof. Brham Dutt, NSS Programme Officer, who also coordinated the event. Addressing the students virtually, Prof. Dutt stressed that peace cannot be achieved externally unless it is first developed within. He explained that awareness—of one's thoughts, emotions, and surroundings—is the first and most essential step in nurturing peace. He further elaborated on the importance of mindfulness, empathy, and

emotional intelligence, especially in today's fast-paced and often stressful environment. The interactive online session saw active participation from students who reflected on their personal experiences and asked insightful questions related to handling stress and conflict peacefully. The session was attended virtually by faculty members including Dr. Snobar, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Priya Sharma, Dr. Shivali Panigotra, Anjali Devi, Dr. Susheel Kumar, and Sayema, along with a large number of enthusiastic NSS volunteers and students. In her closing remarks, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol commended the efforts of the NSS Unit and appreciated Prof. Brham Dutt for initiating such a meaningful conversation. She highlighted that creating a peaceful society begins with conscious individuals and encouraged students to make awareness a part of their daily lives.

## GDC Neeli Nallah organizes HIV and STI awareness activities

### Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 16: Red Ribbon Club Government Degree College (GDC) Neeli Nallah, Udhampur with IQAC, organized HIV and STI awareness activities in collaboration with J&K Aids Control Society in which an awareness lecture was organized and a rally was conducted from the college premises adopting the village Neeli Nallah under the able guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora, Principal of the college. The program aimed to educate students about the causes, symptoms and prevention of HIV/AIDS. An awareness lecture was organized in which Dr. Sunil Tanoch, HOD Sociology, made aware the students as well as the staff present, about this infection. He enlightened that HIV and STIs are significant public health concerns worldwide. It attacks the body's immune system, making it difficult to fight off infections. He further said that by educating ourselves and others, we can work towards a society that is

better equipped to fight against this deadly disease. A rally was also organized from the college premises on Friday raising the slogans "Fight the Virus, Not the People" and "Prevention is Better than Cure". It was accompanied by Dr. Sunil Tanoch along with Dr. Akhter Hussain, Dr. Mubariq Mahire, Dr. Muntazir Bhat and Dr. Sha-meema. The rally started from the college premises and went to adopted village "Neeli Nallah" spreading awareness on HIV/AIDS and fighting stigma and discrimination against people living with this infection. The rally focused to create awareness among the local community and stakeholders about this deadly disease and to bridge the information gap in the adopted village, strengthen the community's understanding of HIV prevention, stigma reduction. These activities were convened and organized by Dr. Sunil Tanoch, HOD Sociology, Convener of Red Ribbon Club. Others present in the program were Assistant Prof. Rekha Sharma and Assistant Prof. Shaista Yasmeen

Akhnoor Sports Club pays homage to martyrs of Operation Sindoor

paying rich homage to our brave soldiers who gave supreme sacrifice while fighting against terrorists and their supporters in the neighbouring country, Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, Dharam Paul Gupta, President of the Club asserted that the Club of the nation shall always be indebted to our brave soldiers of the Army, Navy and Air Force whose integrated efforts eliminated the terrorists and gave a big blow to their supporters by decimating their terror supportive infrastructure. We salute to our bravehearts.

### Top News Report

AKHNOOR, May 16: Akhnoor Sports Club, an NGO devoted to promotion of sports activities in the memory of Lieut Thakur Dass Sharma, 1965 Indo-Pak war martyr, held a two minute silence to pay homage to the martyrs of Operation Sindoor against terrorists and their supporters and prayed to God to bestow peace to the departed souls and enough courage to the bereaved families to bear this unbearable shock and pain. While speaking after

## Youth Congress Nowshera donates blood for nation



### Top News Report

NOWSHERA, May 16: Youth Congress Unit Nowshera Assembly led by President Ravinder Singh Chouhan organised a blood donation camp at SDH Nowshera today as per instructions of IYC National President Shri Udhay bhanu chib ji and J&K Incharge IYC Shri Maan Singh Rathore. President Assembly Youth Congress Nowshera Ravinder Singh Chouhan organized a

blood donation camp as part of ongoing mission of the youth Congress to donate for nation. The event witnessed active participation from several senior leaders and youth leaders including DCC Vice President and Ex councilor Vijay Bakshi, JKPCC Member Satpal Sharma, DCC General Secretary and Spokesperson, General Secretary Bar Association Nowshera Adv Gourav Prashar, Dr Naresh Sharma,

Inder Dass, Jagan-nath Sharma, Sudesh Sharma, Veenesh Chibber, Chetan Bali, Navneet Bali, Arjun Singh, Paramjeet Singh, Kamaljeet Choudhary, Ex panch Sanjeev Kumar, Laksh Solan, Sanjeev Kumar, Deepak Raj, Kapil Choudhary among others. A total of 20 units of blood were donated by dedicated volunteers for the injured people in Pak shelling undergoing treatment in different hospitals. Chouhan said that Youth Congress workers are ready to donate more blood, as and when required for the needy especially for the sake of nation. The call for this was given by IYC for blood donations from time to time in different areas from the day the situation on borders had become tense.

## GDC Ramgarh Hosts Lecture on Stress Management under Red Ribbon Club

### Top News Report

RAMGARH, May 16: The Red Ribbon Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized an insightful and empowering lecture on "Stress Management: Building Resilience in Today's World" under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal of the College. The session aimed to raise awareness about mental health and equip students with practical tools to manage stress effectively, especially in the face of academic pressure and the challenges of modern life. The event was coordinated by Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Convener of the Red Ribbon Club, and featured a dynamic and interactive lecture delivered by Ashok Kumar, who served as

the Resource Person for the day. His session emphasized the importance of emotional well-being, self-care practices, and mindfulness in handling everyday stress. During his lecture, Kumar explained the biological and psychological impacts of stress, highlighting how unmanaged stress can affect both mental and physical health. He shared practical strategies such as deep breathing exercises, time management techniques, physical activity, positive self-talk, and the value of maintaining healthy relationships. Kumar also addressed the increasing stress levels among youth due to digital overload, societal expectations, and uncertainty about the future. The session

encouraged open discussion, with students sharing their experiences and asking questions about dealing with anxiety and academic pressure. The resource person patiently addressed each concern, encouraging students to seek help when needed and not to suffer in silence. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from both faculty and students. Esteemed faculty members present included Dr. Snobar, Prof. Brham Dutt, Dr. Neeraj Bargotra, Priya Sharma, Anjali Devi, Dr. Susheel Kumar, and Sayema. The lecture concluded with a collective affirmation to prioritize mental well-being and foster a supportive environment in educational institutions.

## J&K Govt leaving no stone unturned for UT prosperity: MLA Pardesi

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 16: Ahsan Pardesi, Member of the Legislative Assembly from Lal Chowk and representative of the National Conference, today inaugurated Kongposh Wazwan—a distinguished new restaurant in Peer Bagh, Srinagar, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir—dedicated to celebrating and promoting authentic Kashmiri cuisine. During the inauguration ceremony, MLA Pardesi commended the ongoing initiatives spearheaded by Chief Minister Janab Omar Abdullah, noting the state's commendable efforts to strengthen and empower the business community. Addressing the media, Pardesi underscored the government's unwavering commitment to supporting entrepreneurs, stating, "Even amidst prevailing circumstances, we are leaving no stone

unturned to ensure the development and prosperity of the state." The occasion also highlighted the outstanding role of Hockey J&K in the sporting development of the Kashmir Valley. MLA Pardesi assured President of Hockey J&K Gurdeep Singh and Organizing Secretary Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani affirmed, "We are committed to providing outstanding opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir so they can bring pride and recognition to the state and the nation." They further expressed optimism that the J&K Sports Council will maintain its tradition of steadfast support to athletes across the region. Present at the inauguration alongside MLA Ahsan Pardesi were President of Hockey J&K Gurdeep Singh, Organizing Secretary Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani, internationally renowned hockey player Shakir Ahmed, and several other esteemed personalities from the local community.

the tournament originally scheduled for June 2025 at Srinagar's Polo Ground, announcing its rescheduling to September 2025 in light of current circumstances. In a joint statement, President Gurdeep Singh and Organizing Secretary Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani affirmed, "We are committed to providing outstanding opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir so they can bring pride and recognition to the state and the nation." They further expressed optimism that the J&K Sports Council will maintain its tradition of steadfast support to athletes across the region. Present at the inauguration alongside MLA Ahsan Pardesi were President of Hockey J&K Gurdeep Singh, Organizing Secretary Raja Ghulam Nabi Wani, internationally renowned hockey player Shakir Ahmed, and several other esteemed personalities from the local community.



## Anurag Kashyap slams Netflix, Prime Video content: They're worse than television

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, who believed that streaming platforms like Netflix and Amazon would bring creative freedom to Indian cinema, has now expressed disappointment with their current state. In a recent interview, Kashyap remarked that the content being produced is "worse than television" and shared insights into the kind of feedback he often receives.

Anurag Kashyap directly named streaming giants like Netflix and Prime Video and how they are primarily focused on subscriptions and profits, strictly following algorithm-driven decisions.

In an interview with agency, the director looked back on his collaborations with Netflix, the crime drama series 'Sacred Games' and 'Lust Stories'. He said, "When we did 'Sacred Games' and 'Lust Stories', when Netflix came in, we thought this was an opportunity. And it seemed like an opportunity; we created some very good work



with them. And then, slowly, roughly around the time of Covid, everything turned around again. Now what they're doing is worse than television. Now you go in there, and they want to dumb you down. At the end of the day, all these companies, whether it's Netflix or Amazon or Apple, they're coming to India because data is the new oil."

"Subscription is what they're looking for. With a 1.4 billion

population, they want to maximize their subscription. They want to reach out to everyone, they don't want to offend anyone. They don't want to create art or cinema, they're creating content. They're creating content to feed to everybody, the man on the street. And they're very happy that people are watching their shows on a cellphone," he added.

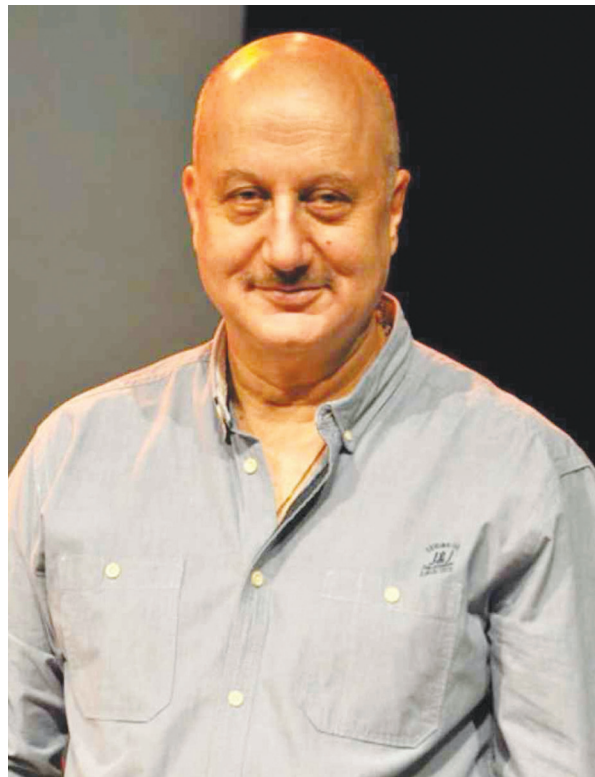
Anurag Kashyap previously

revealed that a third season of 'Sacred Games' was in the works but was scrapped by Netflix following the backlash faced by Prime Video's 'Tandav'. He was also working on an adaptation of the book Maximum City, a project close to his heart, which was unfortunately cancelled too, leaving him disappointed.

In the same interview, the director was also asked about the current state of the industry, to which he said, "The industry is very confused. If there was a dependency on the Khans still, then it would be working. They aren't doing anything original, and they don't know what to do right now. They're still figuring their path out, and when you hit rock bottom is when you start to evolve. Bollywood is in a downward phase, and it'll evolve."

On the work front, Kashyap's last directorial 'Kennedy' is awaiting an Indian release date, while he was recently seen as an actor in 'Rifle Club' and 'Viduthalai Part 2'.

## Anupam Kher set for Tanvi The Great screening



Legendary actor Anupam Kher is in France for the 2025 Cannes Film Festival, where his film Tanvi The Great is set to be

screened on May 17. The film also marks his return to direction after many years.

Kher, who has been sharing moments from

his time at the festival with his fans, took to his Instagram account to introduce two writers of the film, Abhishek Dixit and Ankur Suman. In the video, Kher says, "Here, our film Tanvi The Great is going to have its world premiere on the 17th. But I thought I'd introduce you to two other writers of this film... So, let me introduce you first. This is Abhishek Dixit ji. And this is Ankur Suman ji..."

Kher has also been posting several photos from Cannes. Earlier in the day, the actor shared a series of pictures all decked out in a suit. One of the pictures also featured debutant Shubhangi Dutt, who plays Tanvi in the film.

He captioned the post, "You CAN try to look good in CANNES! Hai Na?? #TanviTheGreat #WorldPremier".

## Huma Qureshi says casting agent told her to 'do younger parts' after Maharani

Actor Huma Qureshi has diverse projects added to her filmography, with projects such as Maharani and Tarla shining bright. But the actor has revealed getting a phone call from a casting agent discouraging her to take on such mature roles, and made a request that left her stunned.

Huma shared her views during a session at a conclave. She was speaking at 'The Maharani of Reinvention: Breaking Stereotypes, Empowering Women' session at India Today's Indo-UAE Conclave.

Huma said, "After the success of Maharani and Tarla, which has got me immense love, one casting director called me and said, 'You are such a beautiful woman. Why are you ageing yourself by playing these characters? There are so many other makers who want to work. Try to do younger parts.' I am like, 'Why does this burden of playing younger parts always fall on girls? Why are we expected to try to look younger than who I am? I have done my fair share of singing and dancing around the trees, but if a great script comes my way, I should say no to it because I am afraid of portraying someone a few years older than me'."

The actor added, "The



problem is either I can do multiple cosmetic surgeries and sit at home and wait for certain filmmakers to call me, or I can go and work with those makers who are making all these interesting scripts, and they want to work with me. This has been a huge shift when you start taking control of your own life choices and narratives."

Huma Qureshi's upcoming project

Huma will be next seen in Subhash Kapoor's Jolly LLB 3. The movie also features Akshay Kumar, Arshad Warsi, Amrita Rao and Saurabh Shukla in pivotal characters. The actor

will soon be back with the fourth season of her OTT show Maharani, in which she is seen in the role of a politician, Rani Bharati. The first season premiered on SonyLIV in 2021, with the second season released in 2022. The third season was released on SonyLIV on March 7, 2024. The release date of the fourth season is not out yet. Maharani has been created by Subhash Kapoor and is directed by Saurabh Bhav. It also stars Amit Sial, Vineet Kumar, Pramod Pathak, Kani Kusruti, Anuja Sathe, Sushil Pandey, Dibyendu Bhatnagya and Sohum Shah.

## AICWA, FWICE urge film industry to boycott Turkey, Azerbaijan over its pro-Pakistan stance; filmmakers weigh in

Indian film bodies have urged the industry to stop shoots in Turkey and Azerbaijan after both countries expressed solidarity with Pakistan during the recent Indo-Pak tensions.

The All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) and the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) have also issued press releases asking to boycott shooting in Turkey and also its artistes from working in India. The FWICE has further gone ahead and sent letters to the I&B Ministry and OTT giants in India, demanding the removal of Turkish shows.

Bollywood's tryst with Turkey

Several Indian films like Guru (2007), Race 2 (2013), Dil Dhadakne Do (2015), Tiger Zinda Hai (2017) were shot in Turkey, giving the country a boost in economy and tourism. A source reveals, "When an Indian film is shot in Turkey, even a schedule of 2-4 days costs somewhere around 5 crore to 6 crore. With big stars and huge production houses, the cost can go up to 30 crore to 40 crore. The cost largely depends on the location



they choose but this is a blanket amount."

Speaking about the call for a boycott, Suresh Shyamal Gupta, President, AICWA tells us, "AICWA has only one demand that Indian films should not be shot in Turkey or Azerbaijan. Secondly, anyone from Turkey or Azerbaijan who is working in India, we should ban them and their visas should be cancelled. We will also write to India's Foreign Ministry regarding this matter."

BN Tiwari, President, FWICE, says, "Our first principle is nation first. You are giving weapons which are harming people who are innocent. We cannot tolerate all this. Humne jo letter likha hai wo puri film industry ko bheja hai and our plan is to write a letter to the government too that Turkish artistes jo yaha kaam karte hai unko turant bhagaya jaaye yaha se. If some-

one (from within the industry) supports them, we will boycott them and issue a non cooperation notice."

Meanwhile, filmmakers too weighed in on the call for a ban. Director Anil Sharma, known for his blockbuster film Gadar, says that no amount of creative satisfaction is bigger than love for the country. "Yeh appeal nahi bhi ho toh bhi filmmakers ki responsibility hai to stand for India. Jo bharat ke saath hai, hum uske saath hai. Main ek script likh raha tha (son) Utkarsh ke saath and usme Turkey was a location but after this incident we decided we won't go. It is a very beautiful country and as a filmmaker it is worth shooting there but no creative satisfaction is bigger than India's interest and the love for our country."

Producer Tanuj Garg adds, "As Indian filmmakers, we are mindful

not just of the creative and logistical aspects of shooting abroad, but also the larger sentiment at home. While countries like Turkey and Azerbaijan have much to offer, we believe that it's important to align our choices with the mood and sensitivities of our audience and nation. Until there's a more positive shift in sentiment and bilateral warmth, we will be cautious about pursuing shoots in these regions."

The Kashmir Files director Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri too agrees with this decision as he says, "I think it is a just decision and this is how everybody should behave in war. In modern times, war is not when the armies are marching inside each other's borders. War is also at various levels like info war, cyber war, narrative war. So, in that case obviously if we are calling Pakistan an enemy country, so anybody who is supporting them in traditional terms of combat, they are termed as enemy countries." Vivek adds, "I don't see why we should shoot in countries which are not even relevant. We are not going to lose anything. I think it's the right decision. This (boy-

cott) should be done by lots of voluntary organisations, travel agencies, and the people of India. Stand up for India, stand united. Wars are not won at only borders today, wars are won at the narrative playing field."

Filmmaker Onir says he has a "mixed point of view" and wonders why is there's a call for boycotting just Turkey and Azerbaijan and not China? "I have mixed response because in any conflict there will be different sides. China has also been supplying arms. How come we are not banning everything with China? If you see Pakistani weaponry, doesn't the ban have to be uniform because it's from China and the US."

He adds, "At the same time I was extremely hurt as an Indian citizen that at the time of the war, Turkey was supplying arms to Pakistan. In this war, without any camouflage, China has been supporting Pakistan. So why only Turkey and Azerbaijan are being banned? As a filmmaker or tourist I would not be comfortable going to a country that supports Pakistan directly during the time of conflict."

## Patralekhaa says desperation for work, anxiety made her do bold role in Love Games

Actor Patralekhaa, who made her Bollywood debut opposite Rajkumar Rao in the 2014 film 'CityLights', recently opened up about her role in Vikram Bhatt's 'Love Games'. She candidly admitted that she took on the role out of fear of missing out, as she was struggling to find work at the time.

In an interview with Bollywood Bubble, Patralekhaa was asked whether she would agree for a bold role like that in Love Games again. She responded saying, "No, I wouldn't do it again. You know, that Patralekhaa from

10 years ago was a very different, much younger girl. For her, it was very important to keep working. She was basically, perhaps I was, dealing with some kind of anxiety issues, like 'I need work'. I didn't realise it back then, but I acted out of desperation."

The 35-year-old continued to explain, "The Patralekhaa I am now wouldn't do that. And let me be clear—there's nothing wrong with the film itself. They made what was written in the script. But could I do justice to it? No. Was I the right person for that film? No. That was on me. I should have



thought about it and not taken it out of fear - fear of losing a project. Because the truth is, I

didn't have work. So I honestly blame myself for that decision."

In the 2016 erotic

thriller 'Love Games', Patralekhaa starred alongside Gaurav Arora and Tara Alisha Berry in lead roles. Co-produced by the Bhatt brothers and Bhushan Kumar, the film drew negative reviews from viewers and critics alike and eventually tanked at the box office.

Patralekhaa's last screen presence was in the film 'Phule', with Pratik Gandhi. The film, directed by Anant Mahadevan, is based on the lives of Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule. Up next, she will be seen in 'Suryast', also starring Lara Dutta.

## 'Love You Puttar': Sham Kaushal shares heartfelt birthday note for son Vicky Kaushal



As Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal turns a year older today, he received a heartwarming birthday note from his father, veteran action director Sham Kaushal.

Sham Kaushal shared a heartwarming video on Instagram beautifully capturing the father-son bond, drawing warm responses from fans and fellow celebrities.

In the video, Vicky and his father are seen walking side by side on a beach, smiling and synchronising their steps.

"Father is the happiest person in the world to see his son moving ahead of him in life... Love u Puttar. Wish u a very Happy Birthday. Feeling proud and blessed to have u as my son. Rab di meher bani rahe. Jor di jhappi," Sham Kaushal captioned the post.

Fans chimed in the comments section and wished the 'Chhaava' star on his special day.

"Happy Birthday Vicky bhai and stay blessed," one fan wrote.

"Truly, you're a blessed soul to have a son like Vicky ji -- such a humble, grounded, and family-oriented person," another fan wrote.

Vicky, who turned 37 today, was last seen in 'Chhaava', which gained momentum at the box office.

Looking ahead, Vicky is set to appear in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming film 'Love and War' alongside Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor.



# PM Modi greets people of Sikkim on statehood day

NEW DELHI, May 16 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday greeted people of Sikkim on its statehood day, lauding its strides in diverse sectors.

He said on X, "Warm greetings to the people of Sikkim on their Statehood Day! This year, the occasion is even more special as we mark the 50th anniversary of Sikkim's statehood!"

He added, "Sikkim is associated with serene beauty, rich cultural traditions and industrious people. It has made strides in diverse sectors.

May the people of this beautiful state continue to prosper."



# IMF must rethink assistance to Pakistan: Rajnath Singh

BHUJ (GUJ), May 16 (Agencies): India on Friday called on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to reconsider its USD one billion assistance to Pakistan, suggesting that Islamabad could use it for terror funding.

In an address to military personnel here, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India does not want that the funding it gives to IMF should be used directly or indirectly to create terror infrastructure in Pakistan or any other country.

"I believe that in today's time, any kind of financial assistance to Pakistan is nothing less than terror funding," he said.



"India would like that IMF reconsiders its assistance of one billion dollars to Pakistan and refrains from giving any kind of assistance in future," he said.

Singh said in Operation Sindoor, India's armed forces not only dominated the enemy but also succeeded in decimating them.

Lauding the Indian Air Force for spearheaded the campaign against terrorism effectively, he said. "Our Air Force has touched new and greater heights with its valour, courage and glory".

Singh arrived at the Bhuj Air Force station this morning to review overall security situation.

The Air Force base here was one of the military infrastructure that Pakistan targeted during the four-day confrontation between the two militaries.

# India contributing to climate action with the urgency it demands: Bhupender Yadav

NEW DELHI, May 16 (Agencies): India is deeply committed to contributing to climate action with the urgency it demands, despite its minimal role in the climate crisis, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said on Friday.

Addressing the first edition of 'Sagarmatha Sambaad', a global dialogue on climate change and its impact on mountainous regions, the minister said the global carbon budget is rapidly being depleted with developed nations continuing to disproportionately grab the meagre remaining share.

The global carbon budget is the amount of carbon dioxide that can be emitted into the atmosphere while keeping the rise in average global temperature since the industrial revolution below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Yadav said the developed countries' commitments to providing climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building have been profoundly neglected, intensifying the climate crisis for which they bear far greater responsibility.

The dialogue, he added, is not just a forum for discussion but a call for collective concerted action.

"India, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, is deeply committed to contributing to climate action with the urgency it demands, despite our minimal role for the crisis it faces," Yadav said.

He said that India is walking the talk on climate action, integrating sustainability into the very fabric of its development



ment paradigm, guided by Mission LIFE, an initiative focusing on the sustainable and mindful use of resources.

The minister said the Himalayas bear a significant part of the burden of the environmental crisis.

"We in India, with our significant Himalayan territory, witness these impacts firsthand. We share the concerns of the mountain states and their people. Our environmental futures are intrinsically linked," he said.

But, he stressed, these futures also depend on the collective action of all nations in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

He said that South Asia has been responsible for only 4 per cent of global cumulative carbon dioxide emissions until 2020, despite being home to nearly 25 per cent of the global population.

The minister expressed hope that the dialogue would pave the way for enhanced scientific cooperation on climate change in mountain regions, building climate resilience and ensuring adequate and predictable climate finance for mountain nations.

He said India is committed to working closely with Nepal and all Himalayan nations, as well as with other global partners, on the issue.

Yadav also mentioned that as part of the 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' campaign, 1.42 billion saplings have been planted in India, including 72.1 million trees in the Indian Himalayan Region.

The country also has a dedicated national mission focused on sustaining the Himalayan ecosystem, promoting climate-resilient agriculture and enhancing disaster preparedness.

# SC dismiss PIL alleging circulation of deepfake videos of Col Sofiya Qureshi



NEW DELHI, May 16 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a PIL alleging circulation of AI-generated deepfake videos of Colonel Sofiya Qureshi. The PIL sought setting up of a court-monitored expert panel for drafting a model law to deal with such online content.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh agreed with the petitioner-in-person Narendra Kumar Goswami that it was a "serious issue" but said that similar issues are being dealt with by the Delhi High Court by a bench headed by the chief justice.

"We are not saying that it was not a serious issue but the Delhi High Court has been hearing this issue for a couple of years. If we entertain this petition, the high court will stop hearing the pending matter and all its hard work over the years will go in vain. It will be appropriate, if you approach the Delhi High Court," the bench said.

Goswami said he was disturbed with the circulation of deepfake videos of Qureshi, who was part of the team which gave briefing on Operation Sindoor.

He submitted that numerous fake videos of the Army officer were being circulated online.

The bench said that these cyber criminals are so faster than the regulating authorities that before the petitioner goes out of the courtroom, a new video will come up.

The top court asked the high court to accord audience to the petitioner and hear his suggestions on the issue.

"We do not deem it necessary to entertain this petition and initiate a parallel proceeding. The petitioner is relegated to Delhi High Court with liberty to seek his impleadment as intervenor and assist in the pending matter," the top court said while dismissing the PIL.

# India enriched enormously by integration of Sikkim: Jairam Ramesh

NEW DELHI, May 16 (Agencies): On the 50th anniversary of Sikkim's statehood, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday said India has been enriched enormously by the integration of Sikkim and the state has a number of impressive achievements to its credit.

The Congress general secretary in-charge communications said the 36th Constitution Amendment Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on April 23, 1975, and by the Rajya Sabha three days later.

Subsequently after the President's assent, the 36th Amendment was enacted and on May 16, 1975—exactly fifty years ago—Sikkim became the 22nd state of India with special provisions for it and its people enshrined in Article 371-F of the Constitution, he recalled. "The Republic of India has been enriched enormously by the integration of Sikkim. The state has a number of impressive achievements to its credit," Ramesh said.

P.N. Dhar's book called Indira Gandhi, the 'Emergency' and Indian Democracy (2001) is the topmost insider's account of how the merger happened, he said.

"My own Intertwined Lives: PN Haksar and Indira Gandhi (2018) has two fascinating notes written in the early 1970s by Haksar, who was then the PM's chief aide, which formed the backdrop to what was finally accomplished in 1975," Ramesh said on X.



# CRPF officer killed, three injured as lightning strikes during anti-naxal operation in Jharkhand

Sources said the lightning struck while the team was moving through the Saranda forests of Chaibasa during an anti-Maoist operation.



RANCHI, May 16 (Agencies): In a tragic turn of events, a CRPF officer lost his life after being struck by lightning during an anti-Maoist operation in the Saranda forests of Chaibasa. The incident occurred around 5:30 pm on Thursday while it was raining heavily.

The officer, M Prabo Singh (46), a second-in-command of the 26th battalion, was seriously injured in the lightning strike and later died during treatment on Friday at MKCG Medical College and Hospital. He had recently been posted in Jharkhand and was a resident of Manipur.

Three other personnel were critically injured in the same incident. They include CRPF Assistant Commandant Subir Mandal and two Assistant Sub-Inspectors from the Jharkhand Jaguar force, Sudesh and Chandlal Hansda. All four were part of a joint team of CRPF and Jharkhand Police on an operation in the Maoist-affected Baliva forests of Chaibasa.

Sources said the lightning struck while the team was moving through the area. After hearing their screams, nearby personnel rushed to help and found the injured officers on the ground. They were first taken to the hospital in Paralakhemundi, and later, those in critical condition were shifted to MKCG Hospital.

Locals reported that the forest is a known hideout for Maoist commanders, and thousands of IEDs have been planted in the region to prevent the entry of security forces. Since the operation began in November 2022, six security personnel have died, and 20 others have been seriously injured in blast-related incidents. Nearly 22 civilians have also lost their lives due to IED explosions in the region.

Despite the dangers, police officials said that the joint forces are continuing their mission and have already established several temporary camps in Maoist-controlled areas. The operation was launched after intelligence reports suggested that senior Maoist leaders, including Misir Besra and Patiram Majhi alias Anal Da, are hiding in the strategically important Kolhan forest area.

"We are trying to locate the relatives of the family to determine the reason and circumstances leading to the incident," police said.

# Nitish Kumar flags off 166 deluxe buses in Bihar, 20 reserved for women

The remaining 144 buses will run across inter-regional routes, serving both male and female passengers throughout the state

PATNA, May 16 (Agencies): In a major boost to Bihar's public transport system, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday flagged off 166 new deluxe buses, including 20 exclusively reserved for women passengers.

The ceremony took place at the CM's official residence at 1 Anne Marg in Patna, in the presence of Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, and Road Transport Minister Sheela Kumari.

Of the total fleet, 20 buses have been earmarked exclusively for women and will operate in Patna and select other districts, offering a safer and more inclusive travel option for female commuters.

The remaining 144 buses will run across inter-regional routes, serving both male and female passengers throughout the state.

The fleet comprises both AC and non-AC buses, designed to offer enhanced comfort, affordability, and reliability. Ahead of the inauguration, the Chief Minister personally inspected the buses to review safety and comfort features.

"This initiative is part of the state government's commitment to making public transport more accessible and inclusive, particularly across rural, urban, and semi-urban areas," said a senior official from the transport department.

The new buses are expected to strengthen inter-district connectivity, reduce commuter congestion, and provide upgraded services to daily passengers. The introduction of women-only buses also reflects the state's growing focus on gender-sensitive infrastructure and women's empowerment.

The Bihar government plans to further expand its public transport network in the coming months, with a focus on safety, punctuality, and digital integration.

In parallel, the Nitish Kumar-led government is also prioritizing road infrastructure. The Rural Works Department alone is set to invest Rs 25,000 crore in road repairs in 2025. The Chief Minister stressed the importance of continuous monitoring, prompt grievance redressal, and rigorous maintenance to ensure quality roads.

The state's Road Construction Department is also undertaking several key infrastructure projects to improve connectivity across Bihar.



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## Israeli strikes kill at least 64 people in Gaza as Trump wraps up his Middle East visit

*At least 48 bodies were taken to the Indonesian Hospital, 16 to the Nasser Hospital, after overnight strikes hit near Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis, health officials said.*

GAZA, May 16 (Agencies): Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip on Friday killed at least 64 people, hospitals said, as U S President Donald Trump wraps up his Middle East visit that skipped Israel and offered no prospect for a ceasefire in the war-battered territory.

At least 48 bodies were brought to the Indonesian Hospital and another 16 bodies were taken to Nasser Hospital, health officials said, as strikes overnight into Friday morning hit the outskirts of Deir al-Balah and the city of Khan Younis.

A doctor at the Indonesian Hospital in the northern city of Beit Lahia, who requested anonymity, told agency that 30 dead and dozens of wounded, mostly children and women, had arrived at the hospital.

Mohammed Saleh, acting director of Al-Awda Hospital in Jabalia, told AFP that the hospital had received five dead and "more than 75 injured" as a result of the bombardment.

"The Israeli occupation bombed the house next to mine, hitting it directly while its residents were inside," Yousef Al-Sultan, 40, from the al-Salatin area, west of Beit Lahia, told agency, reporting "air strikes, artillery shelling and gunfire from quadcopter drones."

"There is a massive wave of displacement among civilians.



Fear and panic grip us in the middle of the night," he said.

The widespread attacks across northern Gaza come as Trump finishes his visit to Gulf states but not Israel.

There had been widespread hope that Trump's regional visit could usher in a ceasefire deal or renewal of humanitarian aid to Gaza. An Israeli blockade of the territory is now in its third month.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the strikes.

The strikes lasted hours into Friday morning sending people fleeing from the Jabaliya refugee camp and the town of Beit Lahiya and followed days of similar attacks that killed more than 130 people, according to Gaza's health ministry.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed earlier

in the week to push ahead with a promised escalation of force in Israel's war in the Gaza Strip to pursue his aim of destroying the Hamas militant group, which governs Gaza.

In comments released by Netanyahu's office Tuesday, the prime minister said Israeli forces were days away from entering Gaza "with great strength to complete the mission. It means destroying Hamas."

It was unclear if Friday's bombardment was the start of the operation.

The attacks come as Israel enters its third month of blockading Gaza, preventing food, fuel medicine and all other supplies from entering, worsening a humanitarian crisis.

Israel claims that the blockade aims to pressure Hamas to release the hostages it still holds and that it won't allow aid back

in until a system is in place that gives it control over distribution.

Hamas still holds 58 of the roughly 250 hostages it took during its Oct. 7 attack on Israel, with 23 believed to still be alive, although Israeli authorities have expressed concern for the status of three of those.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 53,000 Palestinians, many of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Almost 3,000 have been killed since Israel broke a ceasefire on March 18, it said.

Earlier this week, a new humanitarian organisation that has US backing to take over aid delivery in the Gaza strip said it expects to begin operations before the end of the month — after what it describes as key agreements from Israeli officials.

A statement from the group, called the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, identified several US military veterans, former humanitarian coordinators and security contractors that it said would lead the delivery effort.

Many in the humanitarian community, including the UN, said the system does not align with humanitarian principles and won't be able to meet the needs of Palestinians in Gaza and won't participate it.

## Want to meet Putin as soon as we can set it up: Trump

*Trump underscored that current diplomatic efforts will likely stall unless he and Putin engage directly*



WASHINGTON, May 16 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump on Friday said he plans to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin "as soon as we can set it up," suggesting that his personal involvement is essential to resolving the Russia-Ukraine war, agency reported.

Speaking at the end of his West Asia tour, Trump underscored that current diplomatic efforts will likely stall unless he and Putin engage directly.

His remarks came just ahead of a scheduled meeting between Russian and Ukrainian officials in Turkey—the first in-person talks since the

early stages of the conflict. Despite the significance of the event, the United States has downplayed the possibility of any real breakthrough, and Trump expressed similar doubts.

"Nothing" is going to happen on Ukraine until he and Putin meet, he said, positioning their meeting as a turning point in the stalled peace process, reported agency.

"I think it's time for us to just do it. I said, you know, they all said Putin was going and Zelenskyy was going. And I said, If I don't go, I guarantee Putin is not going, and he didn't go. I understand that -

but we're going to get it - we're going to get it done. We're going to get it done. 5,000 young people are being killed every single week on average, and we're going to get it done," Trump said, citing the human cost of the war.

When asked when the meeting could take place, Trump replied, "As soon as we can set it up. I was going to - I would actually leave here and go. I do want to see my beautiful grandson, and we'll be doing that." His daughter Tiffany Trump gave birth on Thursday, marking his 11th grandchild, agency reported.

Trump also weighed in on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's absence from Thursday's talks. "He didn't show up because he heard Putin wasn't going," he said.

Trump added, "He wasn't going if I wasn't there and I don't believe anything's going to happen, whether you like it or not, until he and I get together."

## Expedition organizers say two climbers have died on Mount Everest

KATHMANDU, May 16 (Agencies): An Indian and a Filipino climber have died while climbing Mount Everest as hundreds of climbers are attempting to scale the world's highest peak, expedition organizers said Friday.

The Indian climber, identified as Subrata Ghosh, died on Thursday just below the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) summit of the peak while he was returning from the top.

The other climber, identified as Philipp Santiago, 45, from the Philippines, died Wednesday while he was headed to the summit. He had reached Camp 4, which is the highest camp on the mountain, and was preparing for the final bid to reach the summit.

Bodha Raj Bhandari of



the Nepal-based Snowy Horizon Trek and Expedition, which equipped and organized the expedition, said the bodies were still on the mountain and it was yet to be decided if and when they would be brought down.

Retrieving bodies is both expensive and difficult as it takes many people to drag them down the icy slopes of the mountain.

The spring climbing season began in March

and ends at the end of May.

May is the best month to climb the peak and climbers get only a few opportunities when the weather conditions improve, allowing just time for them to try attempt scale the peak.

Everest was first climbed in 1953 by New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Nepali Sherpa Tenzing Norgay. More than 300 people have died on Everest since then.

## Nepal PM Oli underlines need for global collaboration to save mountain ecosystem

KATHMANDU, May 16 (Agencies): Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Friday underscored the need for honest dialogue, sharing of mutual knowledge, and taking collective action to prevent the effects of climate change, especially in the mountainous region.

Oli was speaking at the inaugural session of the three-day Sagarmatha Sambaad (mountain dialogue) themed 'Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity' being organised here. More than 350 national and international personalities, including India's Minister for Environment Bhupender Yadav, were present at the event.

He said the event was held with the understanding that preserving the Himalayas means preserving the Earth, the oceans, and humanity itself.



"Our homes are being washed away by landslides. Floods and droughts arrive unexpectedly, yet we remain strong. Our emissions are low, but our contributions to environmental conservation are significant. We hope that this dialogue becomes high—high in moral clarity, strong intellectual courage, and a firm shared vision to create a beautiful future," Oli said, as he underlined the need for global collaboration to save the mountain ecosystem.

In her opening remarks, Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba hoped that the event would foster greater cooperation and political will and result in impactful action for combating the spectre of climate change.

"The tragedy is that the Himalayas are facing an unprecedented stress test in real time today, exposing not only the fragile nature of our mountain ecosystems but also glaring evidence of the lack of meaningful global climate action.

"Mountain communities everywhere are especially vulnerable as they depend on nature for their daily lives. Climate-induced disasters are shaking the very foundation of their existence and livelihood," she said.

Noting that the cascading impacts of global warming and climate change far exceed "our capacity and resources to mitigate them," Deuba called for "predictable and adequate climate finance as we require greater resources to implement our national and local action plan".

India's environment minister Yadav underscored the need for transboundary cooperation between Nepal and India in the area of conservation of big cats, including snow leopards, "considering the importance of high-altitude biodiversity and mountain landscape" of

both countries.

He noted that South Asia is "responsible for only 4 per cent of cumulative global carbon emissions despite being home to almost 25 per cent of the global population".

In his keynote speech, Mukhtar Babayev, representative of the President of Azerbaijan, said, "Melting glaciers and ice sheets are causing sea level to rise at an alarming rate, posing a risk for 10 per cent of the world population in the coastal area from South Asia to South Sahara in Africa. It is threatening the very existence of small islands in the Pacific and the Caribbean."

Over 300 participants, including climate experts, environmental activists, government officials, diplomats, and media persons, will attend the three-day event, which will conclude on Sunday.

## New Jersey Transit train engineers go on strike, leaving some 350,000 commuters in lurch

NEW JERSEY, May 16 (Agencies): New Jersey Transit train engineers went on strike Friday, leaving an estimated 350,000 commuters in New Jersey and New York City to seek other means to reach their destinations or consider staying home.

The walkout comes after the latest round of negotiations on Thursday didn't produce an agreement. It is the state's first transit strike in more than 40 years and comes a month after union members overwhelmingly rejected a labour agreement with management.

"We presented them the last proposal; they rejected it and walked

away with two hours left on the clock," said Tom Haas, general chairman of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.

NJ Transit CEO Kris Kolluri described the situation as a "pause in the conversations".

"I certainly expect to pick back up these conversations as soon as possible," he said late Thursday during a joint news conference with New Jersey Gov Phil Murphy. "If they're willing to meet tonight, I'll meet them again tonight. If they want to meet tomorrow morning, I'll do it again. Because I think this is an imminently workable problem. The question is, do they have

the willingness to come to a solution."

Murphy said it was important to "reach a final deal that is both fair to employees and at the same time affordable to New Jersey's commuters and taxpayers".

"Again, we cannot ignore the agency's fiscal realities," Murphy said.

The announcement came after 15 hours of non-stop contract talks, according to the union. Picket lines are expected to start at 4 am Friday.

NJ Transit — the nation's third-largest transit system — operates buses and rail in the state, providing nearly 1 million weekday trips,

including into New York City. The walkout halts all NJ Transit commuter trains, which provide heavily used public transit routes between New York City's Penn Station on one side of the Hudson River and communities in northern New Jersey on the other, as well as the Newark airport, which has grappled with unrelated delays of its own recently.

The agency had announced contingency plans in recent days, saying it planned to increase bus service, but warned riders that the buses would only add "very limited" capacity to existing New York commuter bus routes

in close proximity to rail stations and would not start running until Monday. The agency also will contract with private carriers to operate bus service from key regional park-and-ride locations during weekday peak periods.

However, the agency noted that the buses would not be able to handle close to the same number of passengers — only about 20% of current rail customers — so it urged people who could work from home to do so if there was a strike.

Even the threat of it had already caused travel disruptions. Amid the uncertainty, the transit agency canceled train

and bus service for Shakira concerts Thursday and Friday at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

The parties met Monday with a federal mediation board in Washington to discuss the matter, and a mediator was present during Thursday's talks. Kolluri said Thursday night that the mediation board has suggested a Sunday morning meeting to resume talks.

Wages have been the main sticking point of the negotiations between the agency and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen that wants to see its members earn wages comparable to other passenger rail-

roads in the area. The union says its members earn an average salary of \$113,000 a year and says an agreement could be reached if agency CEO Kris Kolluri agrees to an average yearly salary of \$170,000.

NJ Transit leadership, though, disputes the union's data, saying the engineers have average total earnings of \$135,000 annually, with the highest earners exceeding \$200,000.

Kolluri and Murphy said Thursday night that the problem isn't so much whether both sides can agree to a wage increase, but whether they can do so under terms that wouldn't then

trigger other unions to demand similar increases and create a financially unfeasible situation for NJ Transit.

Congress has the power to intervene and block the strike and force the union to accept a deal, but lawmakers have not shown a willingness to do that this time like they did in 2022 to prevent a national freight railroad strike.

The union has seen steady attrition in its ranks at NJ Transit as more of its members leave to take better-paying jobs at other railroads. The number of NJ Transit engineers has shrunk from 500 several months ago to about 450 today.



# J&K Kalarippayattu team receives hero's welcome after shining at KIYG 2025

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: The Jammu & Kashmir Kalarippayattu Team returned to a warm and jubilant reception after an impressive showing at the Khelo India Youth Games 2025, held in Bihar. The team made the Union Territory proud with their skillful performances in various categories of the traditional Indian martial art, Kalarippayattu, drawing admiration from martial arts enthusiasts across the country.

A standout among the performers was Nitin Kumar, who secured a bronze medal in the Chuvadukal (Boys) event, earning accolades and praise from the martial arts community. His performance was a key highlight of the event for J&K.

Other team members also delivered



strong performances. Anandika Sangotra and Adarishta Manhas secured the 5th position in the Long Staff Fight (Girls) category, while Nitin Kumar and Pratham Vaid claimed 6th place in the same event (Boys). In the Chuvadukal (Girls) category, Misthi Sharma finished at the 7th position, while Manvi Sharma and Aapurti

Saini took the 8th position in Long Staff Fight (Girls). Pratham Vaid and Chirag Puri also gave a commendable performance in the Sword and Shield event, displaying technical skill and determination.

The team was greeted with garlands, cheers, and applause upon their arrival at Jammu Railway Station, where family members, sup-

porters, and well-wishers gathered to celebrate their success. The joyous welcome marked a proud moment for the state's martial arts community and highlighted the growing popularity of Kalarippayattu in Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking to the media, Danish Sharma praised the athletes, saying, "Our players have made the entire Union Ter-

ritory proud with their discipline, courage, and dedication. Their success is a testament to the power of traditional martial arts and the resilience of our youth. We will continue to promote Kalarippayattu and provide more platforms for our athletes to shine nationally and internationally."

The Jammu & Kashmir Kalarippayattu Association extended heartfelt thanks to the J&K Sports Council, the Indian Kalarippayattu Federation, and all those who supported the team's participation in the Games. The team's performance marks a crucial step forward in establishing Kalarippayattu as a prominent sport in the region and inspiring future generations to embrace the ancient martial tradition.

# Aryans Group of Colleges & Livasa Hospital, Mohali sign MoU for training and placement



## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh & Livasa Hospital, Mohali have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide enhanced clinical training opportunities, internship and placement for healthcare students. The MOU was signed between Livasa hospital, Mohali, represented by Ms. Neha rampal, AGM HR, Group Head Talent Acquisition and Harpreet Singh Saini, Deputy Manager HR and Nidhi Chopra, Principal, Himanshi, Nursing Coordinator, Aryans Institute of Nursing.

It is worth mentioning that recently Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria has awarded Aryans Group of Colleges for Excellence in Paramedical and nursing education. Where Education Minister, Punjab S. Harjot Singh Bains was the Guest of Honour The award

was received by Dr Anshu Kataria, Chairman, Aryans Group.

Nidhi Chopra said the MoU aims to provide hands-on clinical exposure to students pursuing healthcare programs, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical experience. WHO estimates the world will face a significant shortage of 10 million health workers by 2030. This collaboration will empower students with the skills and expertise required to excel in the healthcare industry, Nidhi mentioned.

It is to be mentioned that Aryans Institute of Nursing is already running B. Sc. Nursing, GNM & ANM approved from Punjab Government & INC New Delhi affiliated to Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (BFUHS), Faridkot & Punjab Nurses Registration Council (PNRC), Mohali, respectively.

The Paramedical courses including Radiology, Cardiac Care, Operation Theatre, Anesthesia, Medical Life Sciences are under IKGPTU, Jalandhar. B. Pharma & Physiotherapy are affiliated to MRSPTU, Bathinda & PCI, New Delhi while D. Pharma approved by Punjab Govt. Certificate courses including Home Care Helper, Operation Theatre Attendant, Ambulance & Hospital Attendant are also available under Punjab Govt.

# GGM Science College hosts webinar on 'Media Literacy in the Age of Deepfakes'

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: The Department of English at GGM Science College, Jammu, successfully organised an insightful and thought-provoking webinar titled 'Media Literacy in the Age of Deepfakes' on Friday.

Conducted via Google Meet, the event was held under the patronage

of Dr. (Prof.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of the college, and the guidance of Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Head of the Department of English. It was specially curated for students enrolled in the Journalism skill course, with the objective of equipping them to navigate the rapidly evolving digital media landscape.

The keynote speaker

for the webinar was Dr. Ravia Gupta, Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Jammu.

Dr. Gupta, a seasoned expert in media education and communication research, is affiliated with the FactShala University Network—a collaborative initiative supported by Internews, Google News Initiative,

and DataLEADS, aimed at promoting news and information literacy among students.

In her session, Dr. Gupta shed light on the growing menace of deepfakes, misinformation, and AI-manipulated media, emphasizing the urgent need for media literacy in today's information-saturated world.

She stressed the importance of cultivat-

ing critical thinking, practicing rigorous fact-checking, and verifying sources, all of which are vital skills for emerging media professionals.

Drawing from the FactShala curriculum, she introduced engaging modules such as 'Super Searchers in the Time of AI' and 'Critical Thinking & Media Literacy in the Age of Deepfakes', which helped contextu-

alize the topic through real-world case studies and interactive discussions.

Participants were actively engaged throughout the session, taking part in hands-on exercises designed to improve their ability to identify manipulated content and understand the broader implications of misinformation.

The webinar fostered

a collaborative learning environment, encouraging students to reflect on their media consumption habits and their role in promoting truthful, ethical journalism.

Faculty and students alike lauded the initiative, recognising its relevance and educational value in the current digital era.

The session underscored the college's

dedication to fostering digital citizenship and upholding the values of responsible journalism in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The webinar was coordinated and conducted by Prof. Akanksha Parihar and Prof. Varun Arya from the Department of English, whose efforts ensured the event's success and impact.

# FromPage No: 1

## India set to sharpen military edge with Rs 50,000 cr budget surge post 'Operation Sindoor'

seen a steep upward trajectory.

In 2014–15, the Defence Ministry was allocated Rs 2.29 lakh crore. The current budget not only dwarfs that figure but also represents the largest allocation among all ministries, constituting 13 per cent of the national budget.

The momentum for the proposed increase comes in the wake of 'Operation Sindoor', India's decisive military response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam.

The operation, which targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir, demonstrated India's growing military capabilities and strategic resolve.

'Operation Sindoor' has also drawn attention to the Indian military's integration of indigenous defence systems with advanced technologies.

Notably, the operation showcased the effectiveness of India's air defence architecture, including the indigenous Akash missile system, often compared to Israel's Iron Dome.

In a related development, India also tested a new anti-drone weapon called Bhargavastra. Designed as a low-cost counter-drone system operating in 'hard kill' mode, it employs micro-rockets to neutralise aerial threats.

The system underwent successful trials at the Seaward Firing Range in Gopalpur, Odisha, earlier this week, with officials confirming that all test objectives were met.

## Div Com Kashmir among 58 officers transferred in major bureaucratic reshuffle

from Andaman & Nicobar Islands to Delhi

- Pandurang K. Pole (2001) from Delhi to Delhi
- Vijai Kumar Bidhuri (2005) from Jammu & Kashmir to Delhi
- Chanchal Yadav (2008) from Delhi to Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- Sachin Shinde (2009) from Delhi to Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- Vinod P. Kerle (2008) from Delhi to Mizoram
- Ramesh Verma (2009) from Goa to Delhi
- Kristina Mohan Uppu (2009) from Delhi to Puducherry
- ASIFS Rati Prakash (2011) from Andaman & Nicobar Islands to Puducherry
- Smitha B (2011) from Andaman & Nicobar Islands to Puducherry
- Naveen S I (2012) from Delhi to Jammu & Kashmir
- A. Bedunchchezhiyan (2012) from Puducherry to Delhi
- Arun Kumar Mishra (2013) from Goa to Delhi
- Krishna Kumar Singh (2012) from Arunachal Pradesh to Delhi
- Suraj G. Gadkar (2013) from Jammu & Kashmir to Goa
- Yetindira M Maralabhavi (2013) from Ladakh to Goa
- Shakent UI Rehman Rather (2013) from Jammu & Kashmir to Goa
- Pardeep Kumar (2013) from Jammu & Kashmir to Chandigarh
- Rahul Sharma (2013) from Jammu & Kashmir to Ladakh
- Bunuel Anchipaka (2014) from Delhi to Goa
- Binunya Saurabh (2014) from Arunachal Pradesh to Delhi
- Choudhary Mohammad Yasin (2015) from Jammu & Kashmir to Puducherry
- Vikranth Raja A (2015) from Lakshadweep to Puducherry
- Bhadrwai Neeraj (2016) from Arunachal Pradesh to Delhi
- Talo Petem (2016) from Arunachal Pradesh to Delhi
- Ehriktok Balaesnbhu (2016) from Ladakh to Jammu & Kashmir
- Sarmistha G. Sahu (2017) from Ladakh to Ladakh
- Ajun Mahajan (2018) from Lakshadweep to Goa
- Shreha Suraksha (2018) from Goa to Arunachal Pradesh
- Ashin Chandru A (2019) from Goa to Arunachal Pradesh

- Yamshani B (2019) from Arunachal Pradesh to Arunachal Pradesh
  - Shreya Singhal (2020) from Goa to Arunachal Pradesh
  - Mahima Madan (2021) from Delhi to Jammu & Kashmir
  - Ananath Dwivedi (2021) from Delhi to Jammu & Kashmir
  - Singh Bazara (2021) from Jammu & Kashmir to Ladakh
  - Soma Sekhar Apparao Kotturu (2021) from Puducherry to Lakshadweep
  - Rakesh Kumar (2021) from Jammu & Kashmir to Ladakh
  - The IPS officers transferred include:
  - B. Shanker Jaiswal (2001) from Delhi to Lakshadweep
  - Keshav Ram Chaurasia (2003) from Delhi to Goa
  - Omvir Singh Bishnoi (2004) from Goa to Delhi
  - Raj Kumar Singh (2004) from Chandigarh to Delhi
  - Dhirendri Kumar (2004) from Mizoram to Delhi
  - Pushpendra Kumar (2006) from Delhi to Chandigarh
  - Umesh Kumar (2009) from Jammu & Kashmir to Delhi
  - Ashok Malik (2006) from Delhi to Mizoram
  - Sameer Sharma (2011) from Lakshadweep to Jammu & Kashmir
  - The order is signed by Rakesh Kumar Singh, Under Secretary to the Government of India, and has been circulated to various government departments and officials. The transfers are expected to take effect immediately.
- ## Ambulance driver braves shelling to save lives in Rajouri
- But Wani's efforts didn't stop there. Throughout the morning, he continued to respond to multiple emergency calls, rescuing injured civilians from several locations, including industrial areas and nearby villages.
- His bravery and selfless service have drawn widespread praise across the region.
- The shelling, which began at 5:00

AM and lasted for nearly three hours, resulted in three deaths—including the senior officer—and left seven others injured.

"I was the first ambulance driver on duty and responded immediately after receiving the SOS call," Wani said. "I was accompanied by a co-driver and a nursing assistant. We rushed to four different locations under heavy shelling to rescue the injured."

He added, "It was a team effort, and the motivation from our officers kept us going. We didn't think about ourselves—even a single thought of personal safety could have made us hesitate."

Chief Medical Officer Rajouri, Dr. Manohar Lal Rana, called the actions of the ambulance teams that day "heroic."

"Ambulance drivers across the district responded in an unimaginable manner and carried out evacuations under heavy shelling," the CMO said. "We are proud to have such dedicated men on our team."

## Locals start returning home in Poonch's Salotri village as India-Pakistan tensions ease

along the Line of Control, resulted in significant damage to homes and infrastructure as well as the loss of civilian lives.

The village people thanked the government for the understanding between India and Pakistan.

Amjid Ali, a resident of Salotri village, said, "We live here and we saw something like this happening for the first time. The government had provided everything for our safety, but still, we were scared after witnessing the situation between the two countries. The Indian Army also provided us with all the safety and took care of us. The complete village was left empty after the situation. We are back here in our village as there is peace again."

Another villager Haji Juniet urged the government to build bunkers there.

"Around 400 people stayed here. When the fire started, the people left the village. The administration took care of us, and the SHO heard our problem. Today, we have returned to our village. But there is one problem here that we don't have bunkers here. Pakistan border is near, but here there are no sufficient bunkers. I request that the government build bunkers here. We urge both countries that war is not the solution, as people die in such situations. The people who say that war should take place, but we live here, and it is very difficult for the people who stay in the border areas," he said.

Yesterday, the Indian Army carried out a door-to-door assistance drive in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, especially in areas near the Line of Control (LoC) that were severely affected by recent Pakistani shelling.

As part of the outreach effort, Army jawans distributed essential supplies, including medicines and rations, to civilians impacted by the cross-border hostilities following Operation Sindoor, which was launched in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, including a Nepali national.

Troops from the Army's Romeo Force also interacted with locals to understand their needs and provide reassurance during the ongoing security situation.

The Indian Armed Forces responded firmly to the aggression, targeting several military positions across the border. Later, both countries agreed to stop the firing and military action after Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) contacted his Indian counterpart.

Operation Sindoor was India's decisive military response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. Launched on May 7, Operation Sindoor led to the death of over 100 terrorists affiliated with terror outfits like the Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizbul Mujahideen.

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 11 airbases in Pakistan.

After this, on May 10, an understanding of the cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan was announced.

## Punjab Police busts ISI-controlled, Pak-Based narco-smuggling module; One arrested

posted on X.

The Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is Pakistan's military intelligence agency.

Yadav said Amarjot was receiving consignments from smugglers across the border and supplying drugs across Punjab. His residence served as a major stash point for the network, the police chief said.

DGP Yadav said an FIR has been registered and further investigations are ongoing to trace backward and forward linkages.

"We are actively pursuing leads and expect more arrests and recoveries in the coming days," he said. Punjab Police remains unwavering in its war against drugs, "and such recoveries reaffirm our resolve to make Punjab drug-free", he said.

## Mehbooba warns against 'weaponizing water' after Omar backs Tulbul Project

pressure from Pakistan citing the Indus Water Treaty.

"Now that the IWT has been "temporarily suspended" I wonder if we will be able to resume the project. It will give us the advantage of allowing us to use the Jhelum for navigation. It will also improve the power generation of downstream power projects, especially in winter," Omar had said.



## VKMI & IYA organise health awareness program for common man in stressful life

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI), in collaboration with the Indian Yoga Association (IYA), organised a comprehensive Health Awareness Programme as part of the ongoing celebrations for International Yoga Day 2025.

The event, held at Channi Himmat, aimed at promoting holistic health for the common man through the principles and practice of yoga.

The program was gracefully coordinated by Pardeep Gupta (Deepu), General Secretary of Panch Mandir Trust, who made all necessary arrangements. Proceedings were conducted by Chander



Mohan Sharma, General Secretary of VKMI. Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, President of VKMI and State Chairman of IYA, led the session and delivered an in-depth presentation on how yoga can help maintain physical, mental, and spiritual well-being in today's stressful lifestyle. His insights on practical yoga practices such as Asanas, Pranayama,

and Meditation were highly appreciated by the audience.

Dr. Jain emphasized the importance of daily practice, proper guidance, a balanced diet, digital detox, and routine medical checkups as essential tools for a healthier life. "Yoga is not just a fitness routine, but a way of life that empowers even the common man to lead a balanced, peaceful, and

meaningful existence," he noted.

Ashok Gupta, Vice President VKMI, introduced key members of both VKMI and IYA, including Narinder Wadhwa, Yesh Paul Sharma, Kulbir Khajuria, Dr. Jain, Anju Bansal, and CM Sharma.

The event was attended by dignitaries from civil society and various walks of life, including Jitender Awl, President

Panch Mandir, Inder Mohan Gupta, Vice President, Anil Gupta Senior Vice President Chamber of Commerce, Rajkumar Gupta, Ravinder Shawney, Ram Lal Langar, Trustee Jammu Yatri Bhawan, Muqaddar Shawney, Tammana Gupta, Neelam Gupta & Mahak Mahajan.

A special moment was marked by the joyful celebration of Pardeep Gupta's birthday, with Dr. Jain presents a poetic life sketch in his honor—an emotional and well-received highlight of the program.

The session concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks by Mr. CM Sharma, expressing gratitude to all guests and participants for making the event a success.

## AAP-J&K slams BJP over "Double Standards," demands action against UP Minister

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Jammu & Kashmir has launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of practicing "double standards" by insulting a woman army officer while simultaneously holding Tiranga Rallies in the name of honoring the bravery of the Indian Armed Forces.

In a strong statement issued today, AAP-J&K condemned the derogatory remarks made by Madhya Pradesh Minister Vijay Shah against Colonel Sofia Qureshi, a decorated woman officer of the Indian Army. The party stated that such disrespectful comments not only

insult a brave soldier but also hurt the dignity of women, the honor of the armed forces, and the unity of the nation.

AAP leaders highlighted the irony and hypocrisy of BJP leaders organizing patriotic events like Tiranga Rallies—seen as tributes to the valor of Indian soldiers in Operation Sindoor—while allowing their own ministers to demean military officers. They questioned how a person in a position of responsibility could make such "immoral and hateful" comments, especially during a time when the nation is celebrating the success of a crucial military operation.

The party further slammed the BJP high command's silence on the issue and called it

an endorsement of the minister's objectionable views. AAP-J&K has demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh immediately seek Vijay Shah's resignation and initiate strict disciplinary action against him.

"The BJP must prove its respect for the armed forces through action, not hollow slogans," the statement read, adding that decisive action was necessary to preserve communal harmony, national unity, and the dignity of India's defense personnel.

The statement was issued by the Media Incharge, AAP Jammu Province, urging the government to act before public trust is further eroded.

## ACB registers case against Incharge Headmaster GMS Jandreli, others for misappropriation of funds

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday registered case against Sajjad Hussain, Teacher, (Incharge Headmaster) of Government Middle School (GMS), Jandreli, Zone Chassana, Abdul Aziz, Contractor and others for misappropriation of funds.

"The ACB has registered a case FIR No. 01/2025 in Police Station ACB Udhampur under sections 5(1) (d) r/w 5 (2) of J&K P.C Act, Svt. 2006 and section 120-B RPC against a public servant Sajjad Hussain, then Teacher (Incharge Headmaster) of GMS Jandreli, Zone Chassana, District Reasi, Abdul Aziz, Contractor and others and started investigation," ACB official said.

Official added an enquiry was conducted by ACB against abovenamed government official after receipt of a report from Director School Education Jammu substantiating therein the allegations of misappropriation of funds and use of substandard material in school building of Middle School Jandreli, Zone Chassana.

It surfaced during the course of probe that funds to the tune of Rs 11.50 lakhs were released in favour of Sajjad Hussain under SSA scheme for construc-

tion of School Building of Middle School Jandreli by then ZEO Chassana during the period 2016-17, official said adding that the construction work was carried out by Sajjad Hussain through contractor Abdul Aziz without observing codal formalities/norms meant for the purpose, besides withdrawal of funds etc.

During spot visit by the Engineering Wing of ACB, many short comings were observed like cracks between slab and beams, non-execution of electric work, face lifting, cement flooring, and fixing of glass strips, door/window/shutter etc.

Apart from, non-maintenance of cash book as well as payment made without following the codal procedure etc. are also observed as a result of which a loss to the tune of Rs 1,65,634.86 has been caused to Govt. exchequer, official said.

By acting in the manner, the Sajjad Hussain, teacher (I/C Headmaster), by abuse of his official position and in league with contractor Abdul Aziz and others executed the substandard work of aforesaid school building, thereby conferred undue benefit to contractor and others and corresponding gain to himself, official said adding that further investigation in the case is going on.

## Tejinder asks party cadre to work tirelessly to address public issues on ground

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: A meeting of the Officer bearers Jammu and Kashmir Youth National Conference (JKYNC) was held today at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, under the chairmanship of Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President, JKYNC.

In his address, Tejinder Singh strongly condemned the acts of terrorism and cross-border aggression and those who lost their lives in cross border firing in Poonch and border areas. The gathering observed a moment of silence to honor their memory. He lauded the Indian security forces for giving a befitting reply to Pakistan's provocations and praised their unwavering commitment in safeguarding the nation.

The Provincial President urged the Central Government to come



forward and provide comprehensive support to the shelling affected families, including adequate compensation and rehabilitation measures.

Expressing serious concern over the rising menace of drug addiction in Jammu and Kashmir, he stressed the urgent need for a coordinated effort involving law enforcement, civil society, and community leaders to

curb the drug culture and protect the youth from its harmful consequences.

Tejinder Pal Singh asked the party cadre to remain focused, disciplined, and connected with the people at the grassroots level. He urged them to work tirelessly to address public issues, spread awareness about the party's vision, and stay away from distractions that hinder collective prog-

ress.

Tejinder Pal Singh further stated that under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the National Conference continues to work tirelessly for the progress and prosperity of the Union Territory. The party remains steadfast in its mission to ensure peace, development, and opportunities for all, he added.

Nitish Gowsami Vice President Jammu

Province YNC,, Sahil Kerni District President Jammu Urban YNC and Hameed Choudhary reiterated the National Conference's commitment to fulfilling its poll promises, with a particular emphasis on job creation. They highlighted that the party has pledged to provide one lakh jobs to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, and that the process to implement this promise is already underway.

Among those who were present included: Muzamil Malik, Jaseen Yashan, Majid Iqbal Naik, Fareed Choudhary, Bilal Malik, Ankush Angral, Vishal Dogra, Viraj Mahanoori, Rohit Dogra, Navi Sambyal, Jatin Sambyal, Deepak Sharma, Ashi Jamwal, Farman Mohd, Sanjeev Thappa, Ragbir Bhagat, Deepak Thappa, Sahil Banotra, Ragbir Bhagat, Dharamveer Chand and others.

## Zorawar launches spiritual music album "Pal Pal Shukrana"

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: Chairman Team Jammu and prominent BJP leader, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, today formally launched the much-awaited devotional musical album titled "Pal Pal Shukrana." The album features spiritually uplifting tracks performed by the acclaimed singer Sandhya Sharma, who is widely recognized for her remarkable contributions to devotional music.

"Pal Pal Shukrana" is a heartfelt expression of faith and gratitude, highlighting Sandhya Sharma's profound devotion

and exceptional vocal artistry. Having previously lent her voice to numerous celebrated Dogri devotional songs, Sandhya brings sincerity and depth to this album, which aims to inspire spiritual reflection and devotion among its listeners.

The album's evocative lyrics have been meticulously crafted by Sanjay Vidrohi, whose poetic sensibilities capture the essence of thankfulness and reverence. The musical composition by Sahil Nath, skillfully blend traditional devotional melodies with contemporary musical elements, creating a sound that is both time-

less and accessible.

Direction of the album was led by KK Malhotra, whose visionary approach has successfully brought the spiritual themes to life through a harmonious integration of music and visuals. The creative synergy between the director, musicians, and vocalist has resulted in a production that not only appeals to the ears but also touches the soul.

Speaking at the launch event, Zorawar Singh Jamwal expressed his wholehearted support for the project, stating, "It is a privilege to present 'Pal Pal Shukrana,' a devotional collection that celebrates faith and



gratitude, deeply resonating with the spiritual heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

This album stands as a testament to the enduring power of devotion in our lives."

"Pal Pal Shukrana" is more than just a collection of songs; it is a spiritual journey that connects listeners to their roots while encouraging mindfulness and

thankfulness. With the growing popularity of regional music, this album stands out as a beacon of cultural pride and religious devotion.

The launch event was graced by the presence of notable personalities including Bani Singh from Om Sai Creation, Poonam Wadhwa, Ashok Kumar, and Surinder Sharma, among others.

## IGNOU launches BA (Hons.) in Home Science

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has introduced the much awaited BA (Hons.) in Home Science (BAFHSC), under its Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) from the upcoming July 2025 admission cycle. This program aims to provide students with a more in-depth understanding of the Home Science discipline. The BA Home Science program is designed to meet the demands of quality education and equip students with employable skills in the field.

The programme will be offered to the candidates who have qualified 10+2 in any discipline from a recognized board. The programme is being offered in ODL mode only. However, the study material will be available in both print as well as digital mode.

IGNOU's FYUP offers a heap of possibilities for the learners. The programmes launched earlier include Bachelor of Commerce (BCOMF), Bachelor of Arts (Economics), Bachelor of



Arts (History), Bachelor of Arts (Political Science), Bachelor of Arts (Psychology), Bachelor of Arts (Public Administration), Bachelor of Arts (Sociology), Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology), Bachelor of Science (Biochemistry), Bachelor of Arts (English), Bachelor of Arts (Hindi), Bachelor of Arts (Sanskrit), Bachelor of Arts (Urdu), Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Arts (Facilities and Service Management), Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy), and Bachelor of Arts ( Journalism and Digital Media) and more.

According to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, a four-year undergraduate degree will feature multiple entry and exit options. Upon completing one year, students will obtain a certificate, a

diploma after two years, a bachelor's degree after three years, and an honours bachelor's degree after four years.

The BAFHSC programme will take up discipline specific core topics like Fundamentals of Human Development, Fundamentals of Food and Nutrition, Resource management, Extension Education, Early Childhood Care and Education, Family Meal Management, etc.

Admissions are open twice a year, in the July and January admission cycles, through the official SAMARTH portal of IGNOU <https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in> in the link of which is available on the National website of IGNOU [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in).

In a press statement, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu, Dr. Sandeep Gupta stated that main objectives of the programme are to enhance knowledge, skill and competencies in the field of Home Science and that the aspiring students must enroll themselves when the admission link is thrown open for July 2025 admission cycle.

## Defence Accounts Pensioners Welfare Association holds meeting

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: A meeting of Defence Accounts Pensioners Welfare Association Jammu was held in the Community Complex of PCDA(NC) Jammu Cantt, which strongly condemned the terror attack in Pehalgam and committed to stay united irrespective of their religious differences.

The meeting observed 2-minute silence in memory



of the Pehalgam 27 martyrs, ADC Rajouri, BSF Sub Inspector, JCO, Rifleman and civilians (killed in indiscriminate shelling by Pakistan) by calling out their names and prayed for their Atma to attain Moksha.

Besides, the meeting hailed the Indian Armed Forces for inflicting heavy damage on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and hitting key military infrastructure in retaliation to the attacks by the Pakistan.



## IPL resumes with the RCB vs KKR face-off; Virat Kohli's outing in focus

**RCB are second on table with 16 points from 11 matches and KKR are sixth with 11 points from 12 games**

BENGALURU, May 16 (Agencies): Brought to a halt by the recent India-Pakistan border tensions, the IPL will resume on Saturday with Royal Challengers Bengaluru taking on Kolkata Knight Riders in a high-stakes contest where the spotlight will firmly be on Virat Kohli following his recent Test retirement.

The unexpected 10-day break has left both the RCB and the KKR with different goals to achieve and common challenges to hurdle over.

The RCB are second on the table with 16 points from 11 matches, and a win here can propel them to the playoffs.

KKR are sixth on the table with 11 points from 12 games, and a slip-up will evaporate the defending champions' hopes of making the knockouts.

They are also faced with the challenging task of hitting the pre-break intensity straightaway at the Chinnaswamy stadium.

The hosts are coming off a four-match winning streak while the tourists have managed to stitch two victories in three matches before the league came to a grinding halt. Questions remain on whether they can regain that competitive edge after a passage of uncertainty.

But RCB are better-placed to surmount these difficulties, and the sight of skipper Rajat Patidar batting rather fluently at nets might have soothed a lot of nerves.

Patidar had injured his finger during the home match against Chennai Super Kings, forcing



him to wear a splint.

The hosts also have most of their foreign recruits back in the hut after returning home in the wake of the Indo-Pak military face-off.

The likes of Phil Salt, Lungi Ngidi, Tim David, Liam Livingstone and Romario Shepherd are available for this match and beyond.

The jarring notes will be the injury-enforced absence of Devdutt Padikkal and pacer Josh Hazlewood.

RCB will also hope that Mayank Agarwal, who has replaced Padikkal in the line-up, will rise to the occasion.

Hazlewood has a shoulder injury and the franchise has not yet given clarity on his availability.

The Kohli factor

However, the loudest cheers will be reserved for Kohli, who announced his retirement from Test cricket earlier this week.

If social media calls are anything to go by, the faithfuls are planning to don the white jersey to honour a batter who lorded

over the traditional format.

However, Kohli does not require such external motivation to stoke his inner fire and, rest assured, the 36-year-old will be eager to churn out some impactful knocks, perhaps a silent riposte after rather abruptly ending his Test career.

The Knight Riders, riddled with their own issues, might just be the opponents that Kohli needs to vent a few strands of frustration, if indeed there are any.

Worries for KKR

Batting has been KKR's Achilles Heel this season as apart from captain Ajinkya Rahane and young Angkrish Raghuvanshi, none of their batters have managed to contribute consistently.

They would like a few more runs from the bats of Venkatesh Iyer, Andre Russell and Rinku Singh.

However, the KKR bowling line-up of Varun Chakravarthy, Sunil Narine, Vaibhav Arora and Harshit Rana has held its own despite being on the expensive side on occasions.

But they will be deprived of the presence of experienced England all-rounder Moeen Ali, who has been ruled out of the IPL with viral fever, if the pitch here has retained its grip seen during the previous matches.

The pitch factor

The Chinnaswamy track so far has shown an affinity towards the bowlers with pacers and, at times, spinners getting rather unanticipated help in the form of bounce and bite.

But the prolonged interval and the swiftly setting in monsoon might have had their effect on it, leaving the teams to reshape their strategies accordingly.

Teams (from):

Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Phil Salt, Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar ©, Mayank Agarwal, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Tim David, Krunal Pandya, Romario Shepherd, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Suyash Sharma, Josh Hazlewood, Yash Dayal, Rasikh Dar Salam, Manoj Bhandage, Jacob Bethell, Swapnil Singh, Liam Livingstone, Nuwan Thushara, Lungi Ngidi, Mohit Rathee, Swastik Chikara, Abhinandan Singh.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Manish Pandey, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Rinku Singh, Luvnith Sisodia, Quinton de Kock, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Sunil Narine, Andre Russell, Ramandeep Singh, Anukul Roy, Venkatesh Iyer, Varun Chakravarthy, Harshit Rana, Vaibhav Arora, Mayank Markande, Umran Malik, Anrich Nortje, Spencer Johnson.

Match starts at 7.30pm.

## Pro Kabaddi League Season 12 player auction set for May 31-June 1

**Mashal Sports is excited to announce the upcoming Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 12 player auction, scheduled to take place on May 31 and June 1 in Mumbai, as per the PKL press release**



MUMBAI, May 16 (Agencies): Mashal Sports has announced the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 12 player auction is scheduled to take place on May 31 and June 1 in Mumbai.

The season 12 auction comes after the successful conclusion of Panchkula Season 11, which saw Haryana Steelers win the trophy for the first time after beating three-time champions Patna Pirates in the final on December 29, 2024.

The league's journey began in 2014, and over the past 11 Seasons, there have been 8 different champions. Season 11 of Panchkula - held from October 18, 2024, to December 29, 2024 - was a significant milestone, as the league entered its second decade, which further solidifies Panch-

kula's position as one of India's premier sporting leagues, enabling sustained growth and interest in kabaddi.

The upcoming player auction for Panchkula season 12 gets the ball rolling for yet another glorious chapter of rivalries, a passionate title defence, and the unmatched energy of kabaddi fans from across India, and the globe.

Anupam Goswami, Business Head of Mashal and League Chairman of Pro Kabaddi League, said in a statement, "We are happy to announce the dates for the Panchkula Season 12 Player Auction."

The Panchkula Player Auction is the launch pad for our teams to demonstrate their strategy, determination, and ambition to become

high-performers for the upcoming Season. It also serves as a platform to showcase the wealth of global talent for India's indigenous sport. We look forward to seeing how teams tap into our rich talent pool to build their squads at the upcoming Panchkula Season 12 Player Auction."

Under the aegis and sanction from the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI), Mashal Sports and JioStar have built Panchkula into one of India's most successful sports leagues. The competition consists of the largest number of matches among all sports leagues in India. The Pro Kabaddi League has transformed India's indigenous sport of Kabaddi and its athletes on the national and global stage.

## Roundglass Tennis Academy athletes win five medals at Khelo India Youth Games

MOHALI, May 16 (Agencies): Roundglass Tennis Academy (RGTA) athletes showcased total dominance, winning five of the six available medals in Boys Tennis at the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) being held at Patna, Bihar. Shanker Heisnam, representing Manipur got the better of Arjun Rath, representing Haryana to win the gold in the singles category.

Arjun Rath then won gold in the doubles category while Aditya Mor won the silver. Hitesh Chauhan and Armaan Waalia, representing Punjab won the bronze in the doubles event, as per the KIYG press release.

Shanker, who was unseeded for the tournament, downed third seed Arjun in straight sets 6-2, 6-1 in the gold medal match. He had earlier got the better of his counterpart Hitesh Chauhan in the quarterfinals 6-3, 6-3. Arjun qualified for the gold medal match, beating first seed Arnav Paparkar of Maharashtra 7-6(4), 6-2, while Shanker got the better of Gujarat's Samarth Ujjaval Sahita 3-6, 7-6 (2), 3-0 (retd.) in the semi-finals.

In the doubles category, second seeds Arjun Rath and Aarjun Pandit combined to secure the gold medal, beating Aditya Mor and Tavish Pahwa of Haryana 3-6, 6-3, 11-9. Hitesh Chauhan and Armaan Waalia, who were beaten by Rath and Pandit in the semi-finals, then went on



to win the bronze medal match against Delhi's Praneel Sharma and Rian Sharma 6-4, 6-2 in straight sets.

Renowned coach and Technical Director of Roundglass Tennis Academy, Aditya Sachdeva and the team have been training the players at the Academy and have helped them hone their skills and improve their game.

Speaking about the boys win coach Sachdeva said as quoted by the KIYG press release, "Everyone at the Roundglass Tennis Academy is very happy with the achievement of the boys and this victory comes in sync with our vision of Long-Term Athlete Development, wherein we emphasize the importance of nurturing the young players for the future. At RGPTA, we prioritize the wholistic growth of our athletes, both on and off the court. Our guiding principle is to consider the psychological well-being and happiness of the athletes as integral to our plans, alongside their performance on the court."

## Was sad and angry when I was not picked and then called up as injury replacement: RCB skipper Patidar

BENGALURU, May 16 (Agencies): Rajat Patidar, who is leading Royal Challengers Bengaluru this IPL, revisited the 2022 season when he was left "sad" and "angry" after being ignored by the franchise despite assurances, only to be called up later as an injury replacement.

Patidar also admitted that being handed over the captaincy by the inimitable Virat Kohli ahead of IPL 2025 did put him under pressure, but supportive words from the legend calmed him.

Patidar has been one of RCB's middle-order mainstays this season, scoring 239 runs in 11 games as the southern franchise aims for a maiden men's IPL title.

"I had got a message (ahead of the mega auction for IPL 2022) that you be ready... that we will pick you. I had a little hope that I will get another chance (to play



for RCB). But I wasn't picked in the mega auction. I was a little sad," said Patidar on an RCB Podcast.

However, the 31-year-old Madhya Pradesh cricketer didn't have to wait long to again wear the RCB colours as one of his state-mates got injured. But Patidar was not really keen on coming back to Bengaluru, knowing that he would hardly get an opportunity to play in a star-studded lineup.

"I (had) started playing in my local matches in Indore (after not get-

ting picked in the auction). Then, I got a call that 'we are picking you as a replacement for Luvnith Sisodia', who was injured. To tell you frankly, I didn't want to come as a replacement because I knew that I won't get a chance to play there, and I always feel that I don't want to sit there (in dugout)."

"I wasn't angry. It was like, if they didn't pick me (during the auction), then I won't get it (get to play). I was angry for a while but then I was normal," said Patidar, who led Madhya

Pradesh to the 2024-25 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy final.

Being handed over the reins of a side that has the iconic Kohli in its ranks did put pressure on Patidar, but the star batter's backing gave him confidence.

"I had a lot of questions like, there are so many (big players) in the team. Virat Kohli is such a big player, how will you do it under him. I know how supportive he is about this (captaincy change)."

"I knew I have his full support. Like I said, this is a learning for me, it's an opportunity for me. So, I will learn as much as I can from him. Because no one has the experience and ideas that he has in every role—be it batting, as an individual and as a captain," said Patidar.

The day he was unveiled as the RCB skipper was one of the most memorable days for Patidar and he says

he went "completely blank" while receiving the plaque from Kohli.

"I have seen him (Kohli) since I started watching TV, in the IPL, off the field, in the Indian team... To take that thing (captaincy plaque) that he has been doing for so many years... and he is giving it to me with his own hands."

"When he was giving it to me, I was a bit worried about how to take it. I was completely blank about what to do. He told me to hold it. I held it. After that, I was looking at him like, what should I do?"

"Then he said a couple of words like, 'you deserve it, you earned it'. So I felt a little bit okay. I mean when he said this to me then I became normal in that situation. I learn from him as much as possible. So I think that was a special moment... the way he introduced me to so many fans."

## “Hopeful of making a comeback in Sri Lanka series”: Taskin Ahmed provides an update on his injury

NEW DELHI, May 16 (Agencies): Ahead of the Bangladesh tour of Sri Lanka, right-arm seamer Taskin Ahmed provided an update on his injury, where he said that he's recovering well and will probably be available for selection in the upcoming series..

Taskin hasn't played for his country since the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in February, with the 30-year-old continuing his rehabilitation from an Achilles injury

before he aims to return to competitive cricket in the coming weeks.

The right-arm recently returned from London following a meeting with specialists for his injury and has commenced bowling in the nets as he aims to make comeback during Bangladesh's multi-format series in Sri Lanka that commences on June 17 with two Tests in Galle and Colombo ahead of six white-ball fixtures during July.

"It's just part of the rehabilitation process's what's going on right now. Our cricket board's physio and trainer, along with a specialist from the UK, have come together to set up a rehab plan," Taskin said as quoted by ICC. "So far, five sessions have been completed. I've also started light bowling. It's difficult to set a specific date for my comeback. Right now, we're targeting the Sri Lanka series in June and if everything



goes well. So far, there is no complaint, and if things continue like this, I'm hopeful of making a comeback in that series," he added.

Bangladesh recently announced that former Australian fast bowler Shaun Tait will join the Asian side as their new fast bowling coach, with the 2007 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup winner replacing the outgoing Andre Adams on a contract that runs until November 2027.

Tait was renowned for bowling with express pace and Taskin is keen to lean on the knowledge of the Australian ahead of next year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

"He (Tait) was a very good fast bowler and played a lot for Australia. The best part is, we have a lot of T20 cricket this year, and he played T20s in the modern era and has experience in major T20 events. He must have some good

insights into the game, and hopefully, his experience will help us," the fast bowler said.

"When you're in the national setup, a coach can help with game awareness and some technical aspects, but bowlers mostly have to coach themselves. However, when you have a big personality like Tait around, things become easier and hopefully his inclusion will benefit us," the year-old player concluded.



## JKMEF delegation meets Principal GMC Jammu to discuss issues of CHC Block RS Pura employees

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: A delegation of Jammu Kashmir Medical Employees Federation (JKMEF), led by President Jaswinder Singh and Chairman Sushil Sudan, on Friday met Principal Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, to discuss issues faced by employees of CHC Block RS Pura.

The meeting was convened to address challenges arising from the dual administrative control of the DHS Jammu



and Principal Medical College Jammu, which has resulted in budgetary constraints and delayed salary dis-

bursements, adversely impacting the financial stability of health workers. It was highlighted

that salaries of health employees have been pending for the last three months. After a frank and productive discussion, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta ordered the immediate release of the budget to clear the pending salaries.

Jaswinder Singh expressed gratitude to the Principal and further appealed to the Director Health services Jammu Dr Abdul Hamid Zarger, Administrative Secretary of Health, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, to ensure regular monthly

salary payments in a timely manner in the future.

Those who were present at the meeting were Perfulat Singh General Secretary, Bharat Bhushan President JKGPA, Bahadur Singh Working President JKMEF, Shaffket Hussain Sheikh District President JKGPA, Harpal Singh President X-Rays Association, Bikram Randhawa, Tejinder Singh, Yogesh Raj, Beant Singh, Labha Ram, Ritu Kumari, Mita Kumari, and Jasbir Singh.

## Haj Committee of Ladakh facilitates airlift of 240 Haj pilgrims from Ladakh amid flight cancellation



### Top News Report

LEH, May 16: The Haj Committee of Ladakh has successfully facilitated the airlift of 240 Haj pilgrims from Ladakh via two SpiceJet flights—SG 5211 and SG 5233—from Srinagar to Delhi and onward to Madinah Munawwarah. Flight No. SG 5109, which was originally scheduled to transport the pilgrims on May 9, 2025, had been canceled due to prevailing situation at the Srinagar Embarkation Point. Alhamdulillah, all pilgrims have now safely arrived in Madinah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. At the Haj House, Srinagar Embarkation Point, the atmosphere was filled with emotion and heartfelt prayers as pilgrims from both Kargil and Leh districts departed on their sacred journey.

The pilgrims were flagged off by Mohd Ali Majaz, Chairperson, Haj Committee UT Ladakh; Haji Nazir Ahmad and Mirza Hussain, Members, Haj Committee UT Ladakh; Dr. Shujat Ahmad, Executive Officer, JK Haj Committee; Haji Ali, Haj Officer, Haj Committee UT Ladakh; along with the supporting staff.

The Chairperson expressed heartfelt gratitude to Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Minority Affairs (Haj Division), Government of India; Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh; F.A. Khan Suri, Consul General of India, Jeddah; Shahnava C, Chief Executive Officer, Haj Committee of India, Mumbai; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners/CEOs of

LAHDC Kargil and Leh; Superintendent of Police (Traffic), Kashmir and Ladakh; and the Executive Officer (Nodal Officer, Embarkation Point), JK Haj Committee, Srinagar for their timely intervention and support in arranging additional flights.

Special thanks were also extended to the Airport Authority of India, Srinagar; personnel of the National Security Force, JK Police, JK Home Guard; the Health Departments of JK and Ladakh UTs; SpiceJet Airlines; JK SRTC staff; and the staff of the JK Haj Committee, Srinagar, for their steadfast logistical support.

The Haj pilgrims of Ladakh expressed deep appreciation to the Chairperson and all officials involved for their swift and effective response in securing the necessary travel arrangements.

## GDCT pays homage to Shaheed Zakir Hussain



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: In a show of solidarity with the family of Cross-Border Shelling victims, members of GDCT led by its Patron-in-Chief Haji Abdul Hamid Choudhary and accompanied by Chairman Arshad Ali Choudhary, General Secretary Er. M. Sadiq Azad, Financial Advisor Ch. Bashir Ahmed Noon, Sr. Trustees Ch. Shoukat Javed, Advocate Aslam Khan &

Ch. Mohammad Amin, visited the residence of Shaheed Zakir Hussain today on Friday and expressed their deep shock and concern over the unfortunate loss of an innocent life due to shelling from across the border and injury to the other family members. They expressed their heartfelt condolences with the grieved family, offered dua-e-maghfirah for the deceased and prayed to Almighty

Allah to grant Jannatul-Firdous to the noble departed soul of Shaheed Zakir Hussain, prayed for early recovery of injured family members and also prayed to the Almighty to give enough strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. The Members also ensured steadfast support from Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust, Jammu to the affected family in this hour of need.

### “Urges swift compensation for Poonch, Rajouri families”

## Entire nation will remain indebted to sacrifices of brave border residents: Raman Suri

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Executive Member Raman Suri on Friday addressed the recent Indo-Pak conflict's impact on the border areas of Poonch and Rajouri besides other areas in Kashmir acknowledging the loss of lives and property while praising the unwavering spirit of the affected communities. He emphasized the urgent need for the government to provide prompt compensation to help families rebuild their lives.

“The loss of lives in the border areas due to the recent conflict is irreparable, and our hearts go out to the families who have suffered. Yet, the courage and resilience displayed by the people of Poonch, Rajouri, and some border areas of Kashmir as well as areas like Samba and Jammu, are truly exemplary. Their unity and determination in the face of adversity stand as a testament to their patriotism. The entire nation is indebted to these brave families for their sacrifices,” Suri stated.

Following India's decisive action in destroying terrorist camps in Pakistan and occupied Jammu and Kashmir, tensions along the border are gradually easing, and normalcy is returning to the region. Suri commended the government's decision to reopen schools in most areas, except for a few sensitive border zones, ensuring that students' education remains uninterrupted. “This timely decision ensures that the academic session begins on schedule, and students of classes 10th and 12th will face no delays in receiving their certificates,” he added. Raman Suri highlighted the unity and patience demonstrated by residents during the period of heightened tension. Despite Pakistan's shelling targeting residential areas in Samba, Jammu, Poonch, and Rajouri, causing damage to homes and livelihoods, the local communities have shown remarkable fortitude.

“Within a day or two, the people of these areas have set an inspiring example of resilience, sending a powerful message of unity and courage to the nation. They have stood firm in support of the country under the most challenging circumstances,” he said.

## Dimple alleges breakdown of online government services, demands urgent relief measures in J&K



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: President of Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple, has raised serious concerns over the reported failure of more than fifteen government department websites in Jammu and Kashmir. In a press statement, Dimple claimed that online platforms for key departments like Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Power Development Department (PDD), and Public Health Engineering (PHE) have been inaccessible for the past 15 days, severely affecting public services. Dimple urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take immediate notice, stating that since the Pahalgam incident, “all progress and prosperity in Jammu &

Kashmir has come to a standstill.”

Highlighting the impact of the online outage, Dimple alleged that essential public work related to revenue, JDA, JMC, and PDD has been completely paralyzed. He particularly criticized the PDD, claiming its online billing portal is non-functional and that consumers are receiving conflicting electricity bills — with online and paper statements showing different amounts. He also raised serious allegations of financial mismanagement, asking where deposited funds are going, citing a lack of accountability. He condemned the issuance of two electricity bills in a single month with inflated charges and demanded an immediate halt to the prepaid smart metering system. “Poor families don't have smart-

phones, are illiterate, and can't navigate mobile apps,” he said, emphasizing the digital divide impacting vulnerable communities. Dimple demanded the government provide free 200 units of electricity per month, 12 cooking gas cylinders annually and double ration for all citizens. He warned of mass agitation if these demands are not met. Further, Dimple pointed to civic neglect in Jammu city, claiming that 15,000 main roads and their streetlights remain defunct for over a month, plunging areas into darkness. The JMC website, he said, is also down — halting services like birth and death certificates, sanitation complaints, and approval of building maps. He criticized the failure of door-to-door garbage collection and alleged that overflowing drains, damaged sewer systems, and blocked manholes have made life miserable for citizens. In a final appeal, Dimple called for free electricity and water for all residents and demanded speedy disbursement of cash relief to families affected during Operation Sindoor and drone attacks.

## BJP activist Kaith with many supporters participate in Tiranga Rally

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 16: The Bharatiya Janata Party's Activist R.L. Kaith accompanied by a large number of followers, participated in ‘Tiranga Rally’ organised at Indhira Chowk, on Tuesday to honour the courage and sacrifice of Indian armed forces following the successful ‘Operation Sindoor’ in response

to horrific Pahalgam terror attack. Kaith said the object of this Tiranga Rally is to pay tributes to armed forces which dismantled air bases, struck nine terror headquarters of banned Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen, in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and demonstrated India's strength.

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