

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Ensuring safety of citizens govt's prime objective: CM Adityanath

Netanyahu says Israel to control all of Gaza after launch of new ground assault

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BRIEFLY

Rest of schools in 30 border areas in Jammu Region reopen

JAMMU, May 19 (Agencies): Schools along the India-Pakistan border in Jammu reopened on Monday as normalcy has begun to return to the region.

After remaining shut for almost 12 days in the aftermath of the recent hostilities between the two countries, schools falling in 30 locations close to the Line of Control and International Border reopened in Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts.

India had launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting nine terror hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, in retaliation to the April 22 terror attack that killed 26 people in south Kashmir's Pahalgam.

The heavy cross-border shelling and air strikes that followed had pushed both the countries to the brink of war, triggering widespread fear and precautionary shutdowns. The two countries agreed for a pause in hostilities on May 10.

While most schools in Jammu region reopened by May 15, those in close proximity to the borders had remained closed to ensure students' safety as India continued to keep vigil.

"Rest of the schools along the Line of Control and International Border reopened today," said an official on Monday.

Zonal education officers have been instructed to ensure that safety and security guidelines are strictly adhered to in their respective jurisdictions, he said.

Two held for leaking sensitive information to Pak's ISI

CHANDIGARH, May 19 (Agencies): Punjab Police on Monday said it has arrested two persons for allegedly sharing sensitive military information with Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI.

Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said, "In a counter-espionage operation, the Gurdaspur police thwarted an attempt to compromise national security by apprehending two persons involved in leaking sensitive military information."

In a post on X, Yadav said, "On 15th May 2025, credible intelligence inputs indicated

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2 terrorist associates arrested in Shopian joint operation, Arms recovered

SHOPIAN, May 19 (Agencies): In a joint operation, the Indian Army's 34 Rashtriya Rifles, Special Operations Group (SOG) Shopian, and CRPF 178 Battalion apprehended two terrorist associates in the DK Pora area of Shopian district, Jammu and Kashmir. The security forces recovered two pistols, four grenades, 43 live rounds, and other incriminating materials from their possession.

Shopian Police have registered an FIR, and further investigation is underway to probe their links and activities.

This action marks a significant milestone in the ongoing investigation



tion into unlawful and subversive activities in the region. It highlights the Shopian Police's dedication to neutralising threats to national security and maintaining peace and order.

On May 13, three terrorists affiliated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)

were killed in the Shukroo forest area of Keller in South Kashmir's Shopian district, police sources confirmed.

According to a top police official, a massive cordon-and-search operation was launched in the forests of Keller after receiving specific

input about the presence of some terrorists in the region.

As security forces launched a combing operation in the Shukroo forest area of Keller, terrorists hiding in the region opened fire on the joint team of police and army personnel, triggering a fierce gunfight.

In the ensuing exchange of fire, three terrorists affiliated with the LeT were neutralised. However, the identities of the slain militants are yet to be officially confirmed.

Earlier in April, following the Pahalgam attack, Srinagar Police

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17000 teachers yet to get B.Ed. training in Kashmir: DSEK



SRINAGAR, May 19 (Agencies): The Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Dr G N Itoo on Monday

said that around 17000 teachers were untrained in the School Education Department (SED). Itoo was talking to

reporters on the sidelines of a function organised at Institute of Advance Studies in Education (IASSE) M A road Srinagar to release the 4-C lesson planning for teachers. The four Cs include - Consider, Co-construct, Clarify and Consolidate. All these Cs are aligned with 21st century teaching skills.

Meanwhile G N Itoo said the department is training all the left out untrained teachers in a phased manner.

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Four held for immoral trafficking in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, May 19 (Agencies): Four people, including a woman, was arrested for immoral trafficking in Baramulla district of Jammu and

■ Turn to page 9

Two die as fierce windstorm wreaks havoc across Kashmir



SRINAGAR, May 19 (Agencies): A powerful windstorm swept across the Kashmir Valley late Sunday night, leaving a trail of destruction, widespread power outages, and at least two deaths.

The Meteorological Department had earlier warned of moderate to intense thundershowers accompanied by strong gusty winds reaching speeds of 40-60 kilometers per hour.

The most tragic incident was reported from South Kashmir's Shopian district, where a father and daughter lost their lives after a massive tree fell on them

outside their residence in Gadarchowgan Keller. The deceased have been identified as Reyaz Ahmed and his young daughter Sabia. Local residents said they had stepped out to secure loose items in their yard when the tree came crashing down.

From north to south, nearly every district in the Valley experienced damage from the storm. The winds uprooted trees, toppled electric poles, blew away the rooftops of dozens of homes and mosques, and shattered glass signboards and hoardings in several towns.

In Srinagar city, large hoardings collapsed onto parked vehicles and sidewalks, while flying tin sheets from rooftops caused injuries in several localities. At least five people were admitted to hospitals in Srinagar and Anantnag with storm-related injuries, though none were reported to be in critical condition.

Massive damage was reported to the apple orchards and nurseries across Budgam, Pulwama, Tangmarg, and Baramulla. In the Karewa belt of Pulwama, farmer Bashir

■ Turn to page 9

Operation Sindoor | Indian Army foils Pakistan's drone attack on Golden Temple with precision

AMRITSAR, May 19 (Agencies): In a powerful testament to the Indian Army's vigilance and strength, soldiers deployed along the international border in Amritsar, Punjab, shared critical updates on Operation Sindoor, a decisive military response to Pakistan-backed terrorism.

A soldier of the Indian Army recounted a recent engagement, "At this time, we are a part of Operation Sindoor... On the night of 8-9 May, they suddenly fired on us and tried to infiltrate. We fired accurately at the enemy and foiled



their infiltration attempt. The result of our firing was that by the morning, the enemy came on their knees and hoisted a white flag on their post. We assure our countrymen that as

long as the Indian Army is deployed on the borders of the country, no one can raise their eyes towards this country..." Another soldier stationed at a well

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Mehbooba Mufti asks J&K CM to engage youths instead of ex-servicemen in static guard duties

SRINAGAR, May 19 (Agencies): Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday asked the Jammu and Kashmir Government to reconsider its decision to engage 4,000 ex-servicemen, instead of fresh recruits, for static guard duties at vital installations. Fine dining reservations

In a letter to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, she said this is in view of the rising unemployment in the Union Territory.

"I am writing to express my deep misgivings and concern regarding your government's recent decision on deploying 4,000 ex-servicemen to guard critical infrastructure across Jammu and

Kashmir. While we value the service and discipline of our veterans, this move raises serious questions, especially because it comes at a time when lakhs of educated yet unemployed youth are struggling to find opportunities in J-K," Mufti said in the letter.

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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

10TH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief we inform the sad demise of **Smt. Phoola Koul Wali** W/o Sh. Jai Krishan Wali originally from Checki-Raj-Wali, Vessu, Ananinagat present H.No 107, Lane 1A, Roop Nagar Enclave, Jammu on 13th May 2025.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** will be performed at Muthi Gath, near The Directorate of Education on 22nd May 2025.

The **ASSEMBLY** will be held at 8:30 am at the Muthi Gath.

IN GRIEF

Sh. Jai Krishan Wali - **Husband**

(Daughters-in-Law and Sons)

Smt. Rimple Bhan Wali and Sh. Kamal Wali

Smt. Basanti Raina Wali and Sh. Sushil Wali

(Daughter and Son-in-Law)

Smt. Durga Koul and Sh. Sunil Pandita

Smt. Sarita Koul (Sister-in-Law)

(Sister-in-Law and Brother-in-law)

Smt. Nancy Bhat and Sh. Ashok Ji Bhat

Smt. Girja Bhat and Sh. Jawahar Lal Bhat

Smt. Khema Wali and Sh. Ravinder Razdan

Keshvi, Karan and Vaibhav (Grand Children)

Samast Wali Parivar of Checki-Raj-Wali.

Sh. Jai Krishan Wali - 9149504435

Sh. Kamal Wali - 9906905010

Sh. Sushil Wali - 9796667067



Smt. Phoola Koul Wali

TENTH DAY

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt Shanti Devi** W/o Lt. Kapoor Chand R/o Biyawa, Kunzer, Baramulla A/P H. No. 26/D. Sec-1, Lane-2, Durga Nagar Jammu on 15-05-2025.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 24-05-2025 at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education, Jammu at 8:30 am.

Grief Stricken:

Sh. Moti Ram & Smt. Dasha Devi (Brother & Bhabhi)

Sh. Babu Ram S/o Lt. Mangat Ram (Brother)

Smt. Shakti Sharma W/o Lt. Bansal Sharma (Sister)

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Sh. Virender Kumar & Smt. Saroj Najawan

Sh. Shammi Kapoor & Smt. Daisy Najawan

Sh. Ravinder Kumar & Smt. Deepa Najawan

Daughter & Son-in-law

Sh. Shami Mahajan & Smt. Renu Mahajan

Grand Children

Chahal, Daksh, Sarvi, Tushar, Gauranshi, Nshu, Ashu

Ph. No. 7006113164, 9858050432, 7005225110



Smt Shanti Devi

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Jai Kishori Raina** W/o Late Sh. Gopi Nath Raina originally from Chattabal Srinagar P/A H.No. 90, Lower Laxmi Nagar Sarwal Jammu.

Tenth Day Kriya will be held on 26th May, 2025 (Monday) at Muthi Ghat (8 AM).

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Lalita Shouri Raina

Daughter-in-law & Sons

Smt. Veena Ji & Saroj Kumar Raina

Smt. Ushaji Raina - **Daughter-in-law**

Smt. Kanta & Lalit Khazanchi

Grand Children:

Smt. Sheeba Tickoo & Samir Tickoo

Smt. Nidhi Raina & Aditya Raina

Smt. Vaishali & Aditya Kachroo

Smt. Diksha & Shailan Mattoo

Smt. Mimica & Rahul Khazanchi

Grief Stricken:-

Samast Chattabali, Dhar, Parmoo, Saraf Parivar

M.No: 9419184840, 9622155869



SMT. JAI KISHORI RAINA

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Satish Kumar Bhat** S/o Anand Ram Bhat of Rajghat Baramulla A/P Block No. 47, Lane No. 8/9, Flat No. 2, Jagti left for heavenly abode on 16/5/2025.

Tenth Day shall be performed at Muthi Ghat, Jammu on Sunday 25/5/2025 at 9.00 am.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Gudi Bhat (Wife)

Smt. Sheela Bhat W/o Late Kanya Lal Bhat

Smt. & Sh. Ashok Bhat

Smt. & Sh. Hari Krishan Bhat

Smt. & Sh. Tej Krishan Koul

Smt. & Sh. Arun Bhat

Smt. & Sh. Shrawan Bhat

Smt. & Sh. Mahesh Koul

Mob.: 7889644842, 9419141454, 9082862816, 9419189542, 7006480435



Satish Kumar Bhat

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our mother **Smt. Nirmala Koul Arzbeigi** (Veena Jee, Picha) W/o Late Pran Nath Koul (Arzbeigi) R/o Sathoo Bar Bar Shah Srinagar, Presently at H.No. 25, Puraan Nagar, Bhagwati Nagar, Near Yatri Bhawan Jammu on 11th May 2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director Education Office on 20th May 2025.

Assembly at 9 AM**GRIEF STRICKEN**

Daughter in law and Sons

Mrs. Shami and Vijay Koul (Arzbeigi)

Mrs. Purnima and Mr. Sanjay Koul (Arzbeigi)

Mrs. Sangita and Mr. Arjun Koul (Arzbeigi)

Grand Children

Bhubanesh, Sujal, Pamika, Rayan, Tanishka

Samast Parivars: Koul (Arzbeigi), Thaploo, Dass, Kandoo, Pandita, Munshi, Bhat, Kachroo, Jalla, Warkoo, Razdan, Wali, Sapru.

7006979072, 9419112130, 7006311692



Smt. Nirmala Koul Arzbeigi
(Veena Jee, Picha)

OBITUARY

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform about sad demise of **Sh. Dwarika Nath Bhat** S/o Late Sh. Sansar Chand Bhat R/o Dever Tral, A/P RZF 43, Gali No-3, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi -45 on 17th May 2025.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed on 26th May 2025 (11.00 am) at Upper GANGA, canal road Muradnagar

Yusufpur, Manota, Uttarpradesh, Sh. Dwarika Nath Bhat

Grief Stricken

Son and Daughter in law

Smt. Monika Bhat & Sh. Raj Kumar Bhat

Smt. Daisy Bhat & Sh. Manoj Bhat.

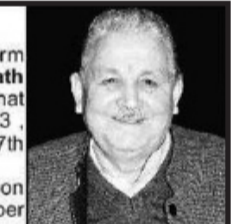
Daughter and Son in law

Smt. Renu Bhat & Sh. Prince Jee Bhat

Smt. Vijay Marhatta & Sh. Chaman Lal Marhatta

Grand Children: Priyanka, Purvashi, Nisha, Sahil, Esha, Shreya, Nikun, Namish

Mob: 7053631651, 7051076445 (Only Whatsapp call)



Sh. Dwarika Nath Bhat

TENTH DAY

In Loving Memory of **LT. Sh. Ghan Chand Sharma** (Guddi) S/o Lt. Sh. Sunder Dev Sharma R/o H.No.82, Sec-11, Lane-4, Narak Nagar, Jammu.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Ghan Chand Sharma** (Guddi) on 11th May 2025.

Tenth Day: Tuesday, 20th May 2025, Time: 11:00 am. At: Shiv Mandir, Sec-1 near Chib Sweet Shop, Narak Nagar, Jammu.

Your presence will be greatly appreciated as we come together to perform the rituals and offer our prayers for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Grief Stricken

Devar & Devrani

Gourav Sharma & Priyanka Sharma - Sons

Brothers & Bhabhis

Sh. Kanta Sharma W/o Lt. Sh. Puraan Chand Sharma

Mrs. Sarita Sharma & P. Koushik Sharma

Mrs. Sarita Sharma & Sh. Veer Prakash Sharma

Mrs. Monika Sharma & Sh. Leela Raj Sharma

Mrs. Sagna Sharma & P. Mool Raj Sharma

Sisters & Brothers-in-law

Mrs. Siroo Devi & Sh. San Chand Sharma

Mrs. Neelam Sharma & Sh. Ramon Sharma

Mother-in-law & Father-in-law

Smt. Swarna Devi & Sh. Som Dutt



LT. Sh. Ghan Chand Sharma
(Guddi)



Smt. Vishno Khajuria

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Vishno Khajuria** W/o Late Sh. N.N. Khajuria R/o 3/163, Shant Nagar, Jammu on 19th May 2025.

10th Day will be observed on May 19, 2025 (Monday) at our residence at 11 AM.

Kriya will be performed on May 20 (Tuesday) at 12 Noon at our residence.

Uthala will be performed at Geeta Mandir Bakshi Nagar, Jammu on May 26 (Monday) from 5 PM to 6 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Devar & Devrani

Sh. Yoginder Pal Khajuria & Smt. Veena Khajuria

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Er. Ajay Khajuria & Smt. Kanchan Sharma

Er. Vinay Khajuria & Smt. Preeti Khajuria

Daughters & Son-in-law

LT. Smt. Kanchan Sharma & Sh. Subash Mansotra

Smt. Suman Sudan & Dr. Faendra Sudan

Nephew & Niece -in-law

Vikas Khajuria & Priyanka

Grand Children: Tania Khajuria & Hitesh Sharma - Grand Daughter & Son-in-law

Abhishek Khajuria, Tushar Khajuria, Tapas Sudan, Sidhart Sharma & Arushi Khajuria

9419200501, 9419113883



Smt. Vishno Khajuria

OBITUARY/ 10th DAY KRIYA

ਅਚੇਤੋਧਮਦਾਹੋਧਮਦੇਚੋਧੋਧ ਏਵ ਚ।
ਨਿਰ-ਸਰਗਤ ਸ਼ਾਮੁਰਚਲੋਧ ਸਨਾਨ:॥

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

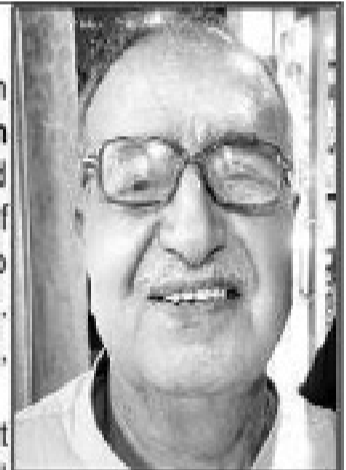
With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our Father **Sh. Bhushan Lal Makroo** S/o Late Prabhavati and Manohar Nath Makroo, original resident of Chanapora Srinagar / Anand Nagar, Talab Tillo, Bohri, Jammu at present Flat No. 18035, E Block, 16th Avenue, Gaur City 2, Greater Noida (UP).

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

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Vishno Khajuria** W/o Late Sh. N.N. Khajuria R/o 3/163, Shant Nagar, Jammu on 19th May 2025.

10th Day will be observed on May 19, 2025 (Monday) at our residence at 11 AM.

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Grief Stricken

Devar & Devrani

Sh. Yoginder Pal Khajuria & Smt. Veena Khajuria

Sons & Daughters-in-law

Er. Ajay Khajuria & Smt. Kanchan Sharma

Er. Vinay Khajuria & Smt. Preeti Khajuria

Daughters & Son-in-law

LT. Smt. Kanchan Sharma & Sh. Subash Mansotra

Smt. Suman Sooden & Dr. Faendra Sudan

Nephew & Niece -in-law

Vikas Khajuria & Priyanka

Grand Children: Tania Khajuria & Hitesh Sharma - Grand Daughter & Son-in-law

Abhishek Khajuria, Tushar Khajuria, Tapas Sooden, Sidhart Sharma & Arushi Khajuria

9419200501, 9419113883



Smt. Vishno Khajuria

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the untimely demise of our beloved **Sunamika** W/o Sh. Ashutosh Raina. Originally from K.P. Road, Anantnag, presently residing in Virginia, USA, where she left us on May 15, 2025.

Condolence is being held at H.No. 209/P, Sector-2, EWS Colony, Lower Roop Nagar, near Green Land Palace, Jammu. The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 24.5.2025 (Saturday) at 9 am at Muthi Ghat Near Director School Education department, Jammu.

Grief Stricken:

Sh. Ashutosh Raina - **Husband**

Ananya Raina - **Daughter**

SIA files chargesheet in Surankote Temple Grenade Attack *Pakistan-based terrorist among two charge-sheeted*

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir has filed a chargesheet in connection with the grenade attack on a temple in Surankote that occurred on November 15, 2023.

The chargesheet has been filed against two individuals namely Abdul Aziz, son of Late Abdul Rehman, resident of Hari Safeda, Surankote, District Poonch, and Nazir Ahmed alias Naziroo alias Ali Khan, son of Late Khursheed Ahmed,

a Pakistan-based terrorist who also hails from Hari Safeda, Surankote, SIA official said.

"Investigations have revealed that Abdul Aziz carried out the grenade attack on instructions received from Nazir Ahmed, who is currently operating from Pakistan. Nazir Ahmed had exfiltrated to Pakistan in 2001, where he joined the proscribed terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) and later became associated with the Jammu Kashmir Gaznavi Force (JKGF)," official said.

Towards the end of 2022, official added, Nazir Ahmed

re-established contact with Abdul Aziz, his relative, through encrypted messaging applications using Pakistan-based numbers.

During this time, official said, Nazir radicalized and recruited Aziz into HM/JKGF, instructing him to carry out grenade attacks in District Poonch to further the terror outfit's agenda and ideology.

Nazir Ahmed not only indoctrinated and recruited Abdul Aziz but also supplied him with hand grenades and detailed instructions for the execution of the attack through encrypted communication channels, official said.

The investigation reveals a wider conspiracy by the Pakistan-sponsored Hizbul Mujahideen to destabilize the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The act aimed to spread terror, incite communal violence, and undermine public peace by creating fear among the common people.

The filing of the chargesheet underscores the SIA's unwavering resolve to dismantle terror networks and safeguard the peace and security of Jammu and Kashmir.

LG Sinha reconstitutes Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

SRINAGAR, May 19 (Agencies): The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has reconstituted the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and nominated nine distinguished personalities, from various walks of life, as members for three years. A notification approving the reconstitution of the board was issued by the Lieutenant Governor, who is also the Chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board.

The nine members include Sudha Murty,



Mahamandaleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Dr Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd.), Baleswar Rai,

IAS (Retd.), Gunjan Rana, Dr. K.K. Talwar, Kulbhushan Ahuja, Lalit Bhasin and Suresh Kumar Sharma.

Search Operation underway in Rajouri following reports of suspicious movement

JAMMU, May 19 (Agencies): Security forces launched a search operation following reports of suspected movement in the border belt of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said on Monday.

A search operation in the forest belt of Poonch district is also underway.

Acting on information that a woman spotted three suspected persons in Nowshera area



late Sunday night, a search operation was launched in the area, they said.

The operation is being carried out by a joint team of security forces, they said.

Overnight blaze destroys 12 shops, 4 residential houses in Bandipora's Sumbal Market

SRINAGAR, May 19 (Agencies): A devastating fire engulfed the main market of Sumbal in North Kashmir's Bandipora district during the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, reducing at least 12 shops and four residential houses to ashes, officials said.

An official said that soon after the fire broke out, fire tenders from Sumbal and Naidkhai, along with Jammu and Kashmir Police and local residents, started a joint rescue operation to control the blaze. Despite prompt efforts, the fire rapidly spread, prompting reinforcement from Safapora and Batwina fire stations.

After hours of intense firefighting, the flames were finally brought under control. While assets worth crores were saved, property worth lakhs was

destroyed in the blaze.

The gutted houses belonged to Bashir Ahmad Wani, Son of Mohammad Sultan, Abdul Hameed Wani, Abdul Hameed Khanday, and Nazir Ahmad Khanday, all residents of Sumbal.

Officials said the cause of the fire is unknown. Thankfully, no casualties or injuries were reported. Police have taken cognisance of the incident and started an investigation.

Meanwhile, Nazir Ahmad Reshi, President of Trade Federation Sumbal, expressed deep sorrow over the incident and extended solidarity to the affected families. He urged the Bandipora District Administration to provide immediate relief and compensation to the victims.

Army provide emergency medical aid to local civilian in Remote Region Dhakikot

Top News Report

RAJOURI, May 19: On 19 May 2025 at approximately 1645 hours, a local civilian sustained a crush injury to his abdomen after a heavy stone (weighing around 45-50 kg) accidentally fell on him while he was engaged in house construction.

The injured individual was brought to the Regimental Aid Post (RAP) of Indian Army by local residents during an ongoing operation in the area. The Regimental Medical Officer (RMO) promptly administered emergency first aid, including pain management and supportive care.

After stabilization, the individual was referred to Government Hospital, Kotranka for further evaluation, including X-ray and ultrasound, to rule out any internal injuries or complications. The individual's vital parameters were found to be within normal limits, and his



condition was reported as stable.

The swift and professional response by the Army medical team highlights its continued commitment to the welfare and well-being of the local populace.

Hardcore criminal booked under PSA

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 19: Acting tough against criminals, Samba Police booked a hardcore criminal under the Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA) and lodged him in District Jail Kupwara.

The hardcore criminal namely Mehboob Akhter, son of Shamas Din, resident of Doodla Tehsil Basohli district Kathua at present Bari Brahmana district Samba has been booked under PSA after obtaining formal detention order from the District Magistrate Samba. The booked criminal has been subsequently

lodged in District Jail Kupwara.

The said criminal is involved in nineteen cases registered against him at different Police Stations of district Kathua, district Samba, district Reasi and district Jammu viz PS Basohli, PS Lakhampur, PS Kathua, PS Rajbagh, PS Hiranagar, PS Bari Brahmana, PS Ramgarh, PS Samba, PS Katra and PS Gangyal.

The repeated criminal activities of the said hardcore criminal have posed a serious threat to public peace and tranquillity in the district and adjoining areas.

Civil Defence Jammu organizes awareness camp for NCC Cadets at Nagrota



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: A one-day awareness camp was successfully organized by Civil Defence, Jammu at the NCC Camp, Nagrota, aimed at educating youth on life-saving techniques and disaster preparedness. The programme, held under the supervision of Dy. Controller Civil Defence, Jammu, Dy. SP Zia-ul-Haq, saw the enthusiastic participation of 300 NCC cadets from the 1st Battalion, Srinagar.

The cadets were imparted training on First Aid, Firefighting, CPR, and other vital emergency response techniques by experts from the Civil Defence team. Live demonstrations accompanied the sessions to provide hands-on experience and better understanding of preventive and rescue measures in the face of both natural and man-made disasters.

Speaking on the occasion, Dy. SP Zia-ul-Haq delivered an insightful lecture on Disaster Management, highlighting the crucial role played by the Civil Defence organization in safeguarding communities

during emergencies. He emphasized the importance of preparedness and active participation in civil defence initiatives.

Paramjit Kumar, Chief Warden, Civil Defence Jammu, also addressed the cadets and elaborated on the responsibilities and significance of Warden Services within the Civil Defence framework. Col. Souravh Saxena, Commandant 1st NCC Battalion, expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Civil Defence team in organizing the informative and practical programme. He acknowledged the importance of such training for cadets in developing a sense of responsibility and readiness during emergencies.

Also present at the event were Sh. R. Vijay Magotra, Dy. Chief Warden Civil Defence Jammu, and staff members of the NCC Nagrota Camp, who contributed to the successful execution of the programme.

The camp concluded with a vote of thanks and a shared commitment to fostering a more disaster-resilient society through awareness and preparedness.

Bovine smuggling attempt foiled; two smugglers arrests, four bovines rescued

Top News Report

SAMBA, May 19: Continuing its drive against bovine smugglers and their propagators, Samba Police on Monday foiled bovine smuggling attempt in the jurisdiction of Police Station Ramgarh, arrested two bovine smugglers and rescued four bovines from the clutches of bovine smugglers. The vehicle used in the illegal transportation of bovines was also seized.



As per report, acting on reliable information regarding smuggling of bovines in an Auto load carrier bearing registration No. JK02CW-1995, a Police team headed by SHO PS Ramgarh intercepted the aforesaid vehicle at Jhang for its checking.

During checking of the vehicle, four bovines were found inside the

vehicle which were tied in a cruel manner and were being transported illegally without any valid permission, police official said.

The bovine smugglers identified as Atar Ali, son of Jamat Ali, resident of Kiryani Talab Narwal district Jammu and Gulzar

Ahmed, son of Bhag Ali, resident Nawabad Sunjwan district Jammu have been arrested, official said adding that a case FIR No. 33/2025 under section 223 BNS, 11 PCA Act was registered at Police Station Ramgarh and investigation started.

Retired police personnel pledge support to J&K Police

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: The second monthly meeting of the Retired Police Personnel was convened on Monday under the chairmanship of Karanjit Singh, President of the Retirees Police League, District Jammu, at the League's office in Gandhi Nagar.

The meeting witnessed active participation from numerous retired police veterans and focused on key issues concerning pensioners and their role in community security.

The primary agenda of the meeting was to reaffirm the League's unwavering support to the J&K UT Police in countering the current security challenges posed by Pakistan-

sponsored terrorism. The retirees unanimously expressed their willingness to serve whenever called upon, leveraging their training and experience in critical situations.

Highlighting a pressing concern, the veterans urged the administration to streamline the renewal of weapon licences for ex-police personnel.

They appealed for a simplified verification process or suggested that weapons be issued directly to retirees at the Village Defence Committee (VDC) level, citing their proven capability in handling arms and their widespread presence across localities as a potential security asset.

The meeting also saw participation from offi-

cers of Police Station Gandhi Nagar, facilitating a fruitful interaction on strengthening community policing and strategies to address security threats in the region, especially considering the presence of VIPs and vital installations nearby.

Large number of legendary retired Police Veterans including SSP Suresh Kumar Sharma, Mohd Sadiq Vice President, Taj Mohd Inspectors Office Secretary Ramesh Sharma V R Bali Kirpal Singh Coordinator and Bhram Datt SIs attended the meeting. The meeting concluded on a cordial note with a tea session, reinforcing camaraderie and a collective resolve to contribute to the safety and security of society.

JKHCBAJ pays Shardhanjali on demise of Sr Adv P S Dutta

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: A Shardhanjali Samroh was held on Monday which was presided over by K. Nirmal Kotwal, President JKHCBAJ to mourn the sad demise of Senior Advocate P.S. Dutta (Former President, JKHCBAJ) who left for heavenly abode on May 17, 2025.

The members of the abstained from work in all the Courts including High Court, Subordinate Courts, Tribunals and Revenue Courts, Forums.

Senior Advocate P.S. Dutta's contribution to the Bar remembered by all the senior and young lawyers present in the Shardhanjali Samroh.

The legal fraternity bids farewell to a truly exceptional lawyer.

With his departure, the Bar has lost not only a well experienced Advocate but also a pillar of wisdom, integrity and dedication. His absence will be deeply felt by colleagues as his contributions have felt an incredible mark on the profession. The legacy, he has left behind will continue to inspire future generations of Lawyers.

K. Nirmal Kotwal, President JKHCBAJ, said that Senior Advocate P.S. Dutta was a mentor



par excellence. Many of the finest minds in the legal field today, including noted environmentalist M.C. Mehta, who too hails from Surankote had the privilege of being guided by him in his formative years. Dutta Sahab produced judges, nurtured talent, built the future of the Bar through his tireless efforts by mentoring junior lawyers.

His generosity with his time and wisdom, even up to his last breath, was a rare and admirable quality.

The senior advocates who spoke in the Shardhanjali Samroh including Adv. D.K. Khajuria (Former President, JKHCBAJ), Sr. Adv. M.K. Bhardwaj (Former President, JKHCBAJ), Sr. Adv. Sunil Sethi (Former President, JKHCBAJ), Sr. Adv. U.K. Jalali, Sr. Adv. Mohd. Aslam Goni, V.B. Gupta,

K.K. Kundan, Radha Sharma, Deepika Mahajan, S.S. Ahmed, C.S. Gupta, M.R. Qureshi.

The Shardhanjali Samroh was attended by the worthy of lawyers, including seniors and young members of the Bar.

All the members present in the Shardhanjali Samroh observed two minutes silence for peace of noble soul of Dutta and prayed to almighty to provide strength and courage to the family in this hour of crises. Office bearers of J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu including Baldev Singh, (Vice President), Pradeep Majotra, (General Secretary), Anshu Mahajan, (Joint Secretary) and Rahul Aggarwal, (Treasurer) were present in the condolence meeting, and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

EDITORIAL

GUARDIANS
OF PEACE

The Indian Army continues to stand as a symbol of courage, resilience, and national pride. In the face of mounting internal security challenges, cross-border threats, and natural calamities, the Army remains ever-ready — adapting its strategies, embracing modern warfare techniques, and winning the trust of the people.

In Jammu & Kashmir, particularly in the border districts and hinterlands, the Army remains on high alert. In recent weeks, intensified counter-terrorism operations have led to the successful neutralization of multiple infiltrators along the Line of Control (LoC). Intelligence-based operations, supported by drone surveillance and night-vision capabilities, have allowed units to intercept terrorist movement and prevent attempts to disrupt peace.

The Army’s relentless vigilance in sensitive sectors such as Rajouri, Poonch, Kupwara, and Baramulla has prevented major terror incidents. Area domination patrols, road opening parties, and cordon-and-search operations (CASO) are being executed regularly. The synergy between the Indian Army, paramilitary forces, and Jammu & Kashmir Police has significantly improved response time and ground coordination.

Beyond counter-insurgency efforts, the Army continues its mission to build trust with the local population through a wide array of civic action programmes. Under its “Sadbhavana” initiative, the Army organizes medical camps, sports events, computer literacy classes, and career counseling for youth. These efforts aim to bridge the gap between the people and the armed forces, especially in remote and conflict-prone areas.

Recently, in a remote village near Machil sector, an Army unit conducted a free medical camp that provided healthcare support to over 400 villagers. In Kupwara, the Army sponsored a girls’ volleyball tournament which witnessed enthusiastic participation and sent a strong message of empowerment and unity.

When natural calamities strike, the Army is often the first to respond. During flash floods in Ramban and cloudbursts in Kishtwar, Army personnel were deployed to assist in evacuation, relief distribution, and restoration of essential services. Helicopters airlifted stranded villagers and essential supplies, showcasing the Army’s unmatched readiness in disaster response.

In recent snowstorms along the Zojila and Gurez sectors, Army rescue teams braved sub-zero temperatures to save stranded civilians, proving once again that the Indian Army is not just a protector in war but a savior in peace.

In recent years, the Indian Army has embraced modern warfare technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI), satellite surveillance, cyber defense, and unmanned aerial systems (UAS). Special Forces and infantry regiments are now equipped with high-end equipment that enhances combat efficiency and troop safety.

The introduction of indigenous technologies through the “Make in India” initiative has boosted self-reliance in defense preparedness. Advanced rifles, bulletproof gear, surveillance drones, and battlefield management systems are being deployed rapidly along operational frontlines.

The Army’s core values of Service Before Self are exemplified every day by its personnel. From officers to jawans, the spirit of sacrifice and discipline runs deep. Each soldier patrolling a snow-covered pass or manning a post in hostile terrain represents the unmatched bravery of our armed forces.

Martyrs who have laid down their lives in the line of duty are remembered with pride and honor. Their sacrifice inspires not just the armed forces but every Indian to stand firm in the face of adversity.

The Indian Army continues to carry the torch of valour, integrity, and service. Whether it is defending the nation’s borders, combating terrorism, aiding civilians in disasters, or training the next generation of soldiers, the Army remains steadfast and dedicated.

In every operation and every act of kindness, the Army reinforces its role not just as a force of defense, but as a pillar of national unity and development. As tensions and challenges evolve, one thing remains constant — the Indian Army in action, always ready, always reliable.

By: Omkar Dattatray

It is in the fitness of things to throw light on what the government’s foreign, programme means. Governments foreign outreach programs are initiatives made to engage country’s and organisations diplomatically and globally, with the aim of promoting diplomatic relations, sharing information, and fostering cooperation on various issues. Such programs can take many forms including diplomatic missions, cultural exchanges, and collaborations on research and development. In fact India has decided to send all -party delegations across the world to counter terrorism. MPA has said that India will send seven all party delegations to key countries and permanent members of the United nations except China who has backed Pakistan in the recent conflict with India. These delegations of the parliamentarians will be sent across the world to impress upon the foreign countries and give message of India’s zero tolerance to terrorism following Operation Sindoor after Pahalgam terror attack of 22rd April. These delegations will visit member countries of UNSC except China and will also tour strategic countries and give strong message of India’s national and combined resolve to fight terrorism and of having a zero tolerance against terrorism. India hold the view that terrorism is unacceptable on whatsoever basis and it has no place in the modern day world and there should be zero tolerance to terrorism so that it is decimated fully from the world and globe cannot remain under the perpetual threat of terrorism and world countries should support India in its fight to Pak sponsored terrorism whose roots are in POJ and Pakistan. The

outreach all-party delegations will also counter Pakistan’s fake narrative on Kashmir and present the truth before the world so that it will condemn terrorism in any part of the world. Narrative of Pakistan on cross boarder terrorism will also be exposed by presenting factual things about the Pakistani involvement in cross boarder terrorism. It will also be impressed upon the world and UNSC that Pakistan is the epi-centre and mother of terrorism and terrorism any where is directly linked with Pakistan. These all -party delegations will visit USA, UK, UAE, Japan & South Africa besides other key countries in order to given India’s resolve and promise as well as commitment to zero tolerance against terrorism. The main aim is to present uniformed national stance against terrorism.

It is the innovative idea and thinking as well as the brain child of Prime minister Narendra Modi that India is going to embark on a new programme of exposing Pakistan internationally. In this regard India has constituted few groups of the parliamentarians and they also include the MP’s of the opposition parties and they will set on foreign tour to inform, educate and expose cunning Pakistan in the global community so that right information is given to the word about Pakistani mischief after India resorted to the strike on the terrorist hideouts and camps in POJK and Pakistan. Ours was a precision attack only on the terrorist camps in Pak and POJK and no civilians were attacked. But to India’s great dismay, Pakistan instead of providing a helping hand to India in her fight against terrorists, choose to attack military as well as civilian targets, thus forcing India to respond. Then the standoff turned into a conflict which saw and drone

attacks by both countries upon the others military installations and as a result five air bases of Pakistan were destroyed by India and Pakistan also inflicted some damages in Udhampur air base and at some other places. In these attacks and counter attacks Pakistan was forced to ask for a ceasefire on the fourth day of the conflict and she pleaded to US to use its good offices to persuade India to agree on the ceasefire and American president Donald Trump played a crucial role in making both India and Pakistan to agree and implement ceasefire immediately and thus major atomic catastrophe was averted and both countries heaved a Sieg of relief and conflict between India and Pakistan came to an end in a very short period of four days. Indian governments public outreach programme in the foreign countries will expose Pakistan and its support to terrorism and it will make the whole world aware about Pakistan’s link with dreaded terrorists and India’s striking at the very hub and nerve centre of terrorism in Pakistan and it will turn international opinion in favour of India. Governments foreign outreach programme is aimed at making foreign countries aware about India’s firm commitment of zero tolerance to terrorism. It also aims to make the foreign countries aware about the Indian government’s resolve to fight terrorism in all its manifestations and forms. Zero tolerance to terrorism is India’s policy to fight terrorism and Pak supported terrorism in India and also to strike at the very roots of terrorism in Pakistan and POJK. Despite the fact that India has to ceasefire in its conflict with Pakistan, but India reserves right to attack the terror hideouts in Pak and Pak occupied Kashmir. India has in fact kept Pakistan on

probation and it will be watched how Pakistan will behave after the ceasefire agreement. It will also be made known to several countries and permanent members of the UNO except China that India will regard any Pak sponsored terror on India’s soil as the act of war and as such she reserves its right to strike at the root of terror even in Pakistan. All-party delegations will include ruling NDA MP’s and the MP’s of Opposition INDIA alliance. These delegations will senior diplomats and will brief foreign governments as well as international organisations about Pahalgam terror attack of 22rd April., India’s Operation Sindoor and broader approach to combating terrorism. These delegations will also impress upon the UNO to declare TRF as a global terrorist outfit so that action against it will be taken and the world will support India on its fight against terrorism. These outreach programmes will also ensure that Pakistan is diplomatically isolated and India is supported by the foreign countries in her fight against terrorism. These all - party delegations to foreign countries are the bipartisan approach of the Modi government and resembles well to the 1994 all party delegation to UNHRC led by A.B. Vajpayee. In short, such all-party delegation as outreach to foreign countries will make the countries across the world aware about India’s commitment and resolve of zero tolerance to terrorism and to isolate Pakistan on the diplomatic front.

(The authorise columnist, KP activist & Freelancer)

Rethinking parenting and education in a changing world

By: Vijay GarG

In today’s fiercely competitive and fast-changing world, education is often considered the foundation of a child’s future. Across India and indeed globally, academic achievement is frequently regarded as the most reliable indicator of success. Parents go to great lengths to ensure their children excel, investing in private tutoring, enrolling them in competitive exams, and tracking every grade with meticulous attention. While such efforts are driven by love and ambition, this narrow focus on academics can be limiting.

A child is not a container to be filled with facts, but a unique individual whose personality, emotional well-being, and character must be nurtured. As the saying goes, “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” Parenting, therefore, extends far beyond report cards. It is a long-term responsibility that encompasses emotional support, value-building, and preparing children to navigate life’s inevitable ups and downs.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed many cracks in our educational and parenting frameworks. With schools closed and routines disrupted, parents had to assume multiple roles: educators, emotional anchors, and constant companions. In India,

this challenge was compounded by the digital divide—many children, particularly in rural or economically disadvantaged communities, lacked access to online education. This dual burden—academic continuity and mental well-being—brought into sharp focus the need for a more holistic and inclusive approach to parenting and education.

Today, the world values more than just academic knowledge. Employers and institutions are increasingly seeking individuals who exhibit creativity, emotional intelligence, adaptability, and critical thinking. India’s National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognises this evolution, promoting a well-rounded educational model. But policies alone cannot drive change. It is parents who must embrace and embody these principles at home, encouraging children to explore their interests—be it music, sports, art, or entrepreneurship—and helping them build a strong sense of self-worth and purpose.

Mental health, once a hush-hush topic, is finally being acknowledged in mainstream parenting conversations. Studies reveal that India has among the highest rates of anxiety and depression among adolescents. Much of this stems from intense academic pressure, limited family communication, and a lack of emotional validation. In the age of social media, children are constantly exposed

to unrealistic standards and comparisons, further increasing their stress levels. Here, the parent’s role is critical. Being a patient listener, fostering open dialogue, and normalising failure as part of growth can transform a child’s outlook. Character development and values are another crucial aspect of parenting. Schools can only do so much in instilling ethics and good behavior. It is at home that children learn about honesty, kindness, respect, and empathy—by observing their parents. In a world often defined by polarisation and division, these qualities are not just desirable, but essential. Parents must lead by example, because children imitate far more than they obey.

In the digital era, guiding children’s online behavior has also become a core responsibility. With learning and leisure now deeply intertwined with technology, parents need to ensure their children develop responsible digital habits. Teaching them to identify reliable information, engage respectfully online, and set boundaries on screen time is vital—especially in a country like India, where digital literacy often lags behind digital access.

Cultivating social skills such as teamwork, empathy, and communication at home helps children thrive in real-world situations. In an unpredictable world shaped by climate change, economic instability, and shift-

ing job markets, resilience and adaptability are key life skills. These cannot be learned solely from textbooks. Parents must encourage independent thinking, creative problem-solving, and the ability to bounce back from setbacks. Life doesn’t always go as planned—and children need to understand that failure is not a dead-end, but an invitation to grow stronger.

In many Indian households, especially among the middle class, academic success is still viewed as the primary path to a secure future. While this belief has merit, it should not come at the cost of creativity, curiosity, or emotional well-being. Around the world, parenting models are evolving—Scandinavian approaches emphasise child-led learning, while American systems increasingly integrate mental health and inclusivity. Indian parents, too, must embrace a balanced path that combines timeless values with modern insights.

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

Rohini, Naresh complimented for their sons' tremendous exam performance

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: Couple Rohini Kumari and Naresh Kumar hailing from Tehsil R.S.Pura's Village Chohala, was complimented today by the Kaith Biradari for their sons' tremendous exam performance.

Biradari Member R.L.Kaith said to their children: Priya, Vipul and Jattin,"You have been sincere and diligent since day one and never failed to amaze us



with your dedication. So proud of you! Congratulations and best wishes for your life."

Voice of India honours Dr. Rohit Koul with prestigious "Community Impact Award 2025"



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: Voice of India Foundation (VOI) is privileged to announce Dr. Rohit Koul, the distinguished Director and CEO of People's Hut Foundation, as the recipient of the esteemed Community Impact Award 2025. The award was presented by Mr. Ranjit Roy, Director of Voice of India Foundation, at a ceremony held in West Bengal.

This prestigious award recognizes Dr. Koul's exceptional dedication, visionary leadership, and profound positive impact on communities through the tireless work of People's Hut Foundation. Under Dr. Koul's guidance, People's Hut Foundation has been instrumental in providing vital healthcare services, spearheading impactful social initia-

tives, offering crucial support during crises to numerous underserved populations.

Mr. Ranjit Roy, Director of Voice of India Foundation, lauded Dr. Koul's unwavering commitment and the tangible difference People's Hut Foundation has made under his direction. "It's the sheer Dedication and determination of people like him who are change-makers and contribute to society in a true sense," Mr. Ranjit Roy added while praising Dr. Koul's work and the impact of People's Hut Foundation's work during the award ceremony.

Dr. Koul while attending the ceremony virtually, in his acceptance speech, expressed his gratitude for the recognition and dedicated the award to the entire team of People's Hut Foundation, acknowledging their tireless efforts and shared commitment to serving humanity. He also reiterated the foundation's ongoing mission and vision of empowering communities.

The "Community Impact Award 2025" by Voice of India Foundation stands as a testament to Dr. Rohit Koul's exemplary leadership and the significant contributions of People's Hut Foundation in creating positive and sustainable change within communities. This recognition will undoubtedly serve as further inspiration for their continued impactful work.

Parihar from Kishtwar bags Mahila Suraksha Samman

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: Sanjeev Parihar from Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir was given Mahila Suraksha Prerak Saman 2025 at the welcome ceremony of Jagte Raho Bharat Yatri organised at the residence of former MP , Late Shyamacharan Gupta at Prayagraj by International Human Rights Association Prayagraj chapter. The Award was conferred to him by chairman of the association Devendra Kumar Sharma. Sanjeev Parihar a social activist and president social reforms and charitable organisations, Kishtwar is known for his selfless services towards down trodden, weaker sections, and under privileged section of the society. He is associated with various socio religious organizations is running an orphanage at Kishtwar. He bagged the Mahila Suraksha Award for his selfless services in the welfare of women folk especially in far - flung areas of J&K. The awards were



given to various personalities for their services in different fields who included social activists and media person. Eight women were honored with Mahila Shakti Samman while 11 social workers along with 23 media representatives were given Mahila Suraksha Prerak Samman.

"Democracy on Wheels" Campaign launched to foster electoral awareness among youth

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: In a groundbreaking step to promote democratic awareness and active civic participation among students, Cluster University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Election Commission of India and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, UT of J&K, launched the IEC Van "Democracy on Wheels". The campaign, the first of its kind in the region, commenced from GGM Science College, Jammu, signaling a major initiative in voter education and youth engagement.

The campaign is being monitored by Prof. (Dr.) K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, and Akhter Hussain Qazi (JKAS), Nodal Officer (SVEEP), UT of J&K.

The launch event was formally conducted by Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of GGM Science College, in the presence of senior faculty mem-



bers including Dr. M. S. Saini, Dr. Ashaq Hussain (Associate Dean, DSW and University Nodal Officer for Election Awareness), Prof. Chaman Lal, Prof. Pankaj Gupta, Prof. Altaf Ahmed, and members of the college's SVEEP Committee.

Welcoming the initiative, Prof. (Dr.) Romesh Kumar Gupta stated, that our students are

tomorrow's leaders. Hosting this campaign helps instill democratic values and a strong sense of civic duty. We aim to encourage them not only to be aware but to become ambassadors of democracy within their communities.

In his message, Prof. (Dr.) K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor CIUJ, emphasized,

that India's democracy thrives on the participation of its youth.

This campaign is a step towards nurturing informed citizens who understand and value their role in shaping the nation's democratic future. Echoing this vision, Akhter Hussain Qazi (JKAS) added, that SVEEP is committed to strengthening electoral literacy across all sec-

tions of society. The Democracy on Wheels initiative reflects our resolve to engage young voters and spread the message that every vote counts and every voice matters."

Dr. Ashaq Hussain, University Nodal Officer for the campaign highlighted that the campaign is about turning awareness into action.

The specially equipped IEC Van, fitted with LED displays, will visit various colleges affiliated with Cluster University. It will showcase educational videos and digital content on the voting process, the importance of electoral participation, and democratic values.

He further added that the "Democracy on Wheels" campaign will continue its outreach in the coming weeks, in line with the objectives of the SVEEP program, aimed at enhancing electoral engagement and building a culture of participative democracy through education and outreach.

Langar is a noble mean of serving humanity: Balbir



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary of Guru Ravidas Vishwa Mahapeeth, General Secretary of the Indian branch of British Ravidasia Heritage Foundation, and member of the Begumpura Vishwa Mahasabha, along with prominent social worker and businessman of Jammu, Prem Gupta, served Langar (free community meal) to over 300 people today in the Bakshi Nagar area of Jammu.

This Langar has been organized daily for the past three months by Prem Gupta using his personal resources.

On this occasion, Balbir Ram Rattan said that the core teachings

of Guru Ravidas are based on equality, service, and compassion.

The Langar service being arranged by Prem Gupta for the past three months without any publicity is a living example of the principles of Guru Ravidass and other great Indian saints.

He said that such initiatives promote love, brotherhood, and harmony in society and are a powerful step in the fight against hunger.

This Langar symbolizes true service to humanity and serves as a medium to unite people from all sections of society.

Balbir Ram Rattan added that such efforts bring positive change in society and inspire others to engage in selfless service.

SBI RSETI Ramban commences 31-Day Tailoring Training Programme at Haldanu

Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 19: The SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Ramban, commenced a 31-day skill development programme on "Tailor - Women's Garments" at Haldanu village, Block Batote. This initiative, backed by the Ministry of Rural Development and State Bank of India, aims to empower rural women through self-employment training.

The programme was formally launched by Director, SBI RSETI Ramban S. Harvinder Singh, in the presence of local dignitaries, community members, and enthusiastic women participants. The event witnessed strong community support and participation.

In his address, the Director emphasized the role of skill-based training in fostering self-reliance among women. He encouraged the trainees to utilize the opportunity



to gain practical skills and become financially independent.

He also briefed the participants about various government schemes like the MUDRA Loan Scheme, PMSBY, PMJJBY, and APY. He elaborated on their benefits, eligibility, and how these schemes could support their entrepreneurial journeys.

The Director shared inspiring success stories of past trainees who

now run their own tailoring units. He urged the women to stay committed and assured them of guidance throughout the training. The course will cover all key aspects of tailoring women's garments, including stitching, measurements, machine handling, and finishing. The initiative aims to promote sustainable livelihood options and economic empowerment for rural women in Ramban.

Army conducts medical patrol at Gunda

Top News Report

RAJOURI, May 19: Indian Army conducted "Medical Patrol"



at Muthal, Gunda. In its constant endeavour to understand and touch the basic needs of people in the remote areas of Rajouri especially the Gujar and Bakkarwals which lack such amenities, Indian Army has initiated the conduct of Medical Patrols where in the troops while ensuring safety and security of the local Populace are helping them with their

basic medical needs. Indian Army conducted medical patrol in the remote villages of Gunda which has a considerable population of Gujar and Bakkarwals, which benefited 15 females, 14 males and 12 children.

They expressed great satisfaction and gratitude towards the Indian Army for the assistance provided.

Interactive Session with Major Akash Chakraborty held at GDC Kishtwar



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 19: The NCC unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Kishtwar on Monday organized an engaging and inspiring interactive session with Major Akash Chakraborty, under the convenship of Dr. Tabassum Saleem and Prof. Prithvi Raj, and under the esteemed guidance of the Principal, Prof. Basharat Iqbal.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic participation of around 100 NCC cadets, who had the rare opportunity to interact with Major Akash

Chakraborty and gain valuable insights into the life, discipline, and dedication of an Indian Army officer.

Major Chakraborty shared his personal experiences, thoughts on leadership, and the spirit of service to the nation, leaving a profound impact on the young cadets.

The session commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Tabassum Saleem, who highlighted the objective of the event and introduced the distinguished guest.

The program concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Prof. Prithvi Raj,

who expressed gratitude to Major Chakraborty, the organizing team, and all participants for making the event a grand success.

The event was also graced by the presence of several faculty members, including Prof. Umar Din, Dr. Sehrish Gazal, Prof. Sanjay, and Parveen Kumar (PTI), whose support added to the success of the session.

Such initiatives by the NCC unit of GDC Kishtwar continue to inspire and empower students, fostering a deeper understanding of national service and discipline among the youth.

When stars align with fandom frenzy

Zee Cine Awards celebrates cinema with glamour, fanfare and unforgettable fashion moments

The 23rd edition of the Zee Cine Awards, didn't just honour excellence — they turned the spotlight on the fans too. Marketed as the biggest 'FANtertainment' night of the year, the evening created a fusion of stardom and fandom, giving cinema-lovers a chance to revel in the magic of movies alongside their favourite stars. Stars lit up Mumbai's NSCI Dome in a celebration of Indian cinema. The event brought together Bollywood's finest for a night filled with accolades, admiration and style.

Kartik Aaryan bagged Viewers' choice Best Actor for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3. Best Actor Male was won by Kartik Aaryan for Chandu Champion and Vikrant Massey for Sector 36. Shraddha Kapoor won Best Actress award for Stree 2. Best Debut Director Award went to Kunal Khemu for Madgaon Express. Viewer's

choice best film was grabbed by Stree 2.

Carpet fit for royalty As the stars arrived, the iconic purple carpet transformed into a visual spectacle, brimming with glamour and grace. Kartik Aaryan, the ever-charming crowd favourite, stood out in an impeccably tailored grey suit. He was joined by Ananya Panday, who radiated poise in an ethereal white saree, while Rashmika Mandanna turned heads in an elegant black ensemble. Tamannaah Bhatia, too, made a statement in a sultry black outfit that effortlessly stole the limelight.

Black, bold, beautiful Several celebs opted for the ever-reliable black and the results were nothing short of stunning. Tiger Shroff and Aparshakti Khurana looked dapper in all-black suits, oozing class and charisma. Sharvari stunned in a voluminous black bow



gown, bringing a mix of drama and grace to the evening. Jacqueline Fernandez also chose black, looking radiant in a sleek gown, while Vaani Kapoor glittered in a daring yellow and black combination.

Vikrant Massey, known for his understated elegance, stuck to the classic black suit and pulled

it off with effortless charm. The team behind Laapataa Ladies — Ravi Kishan, Pratibha Ranta and Nitanshi Goel — added to the evening's energy with their dazzling appearances.

Sarees, shimmer, showstoppers

Traditional wear met modern silhouettes in a dazzling fashion

face-off. Rasha Thadani looked every bit the timeless beauty in a sea green saree, while Shanaya Kapoor sparkled in a silver number. Kriti Sanon brought glamour in a shimmering maroon gown and Suniel Shetty's light blue striped suit proved that true style has no age.

Music duo Sachin and Jigar made a strong impression with their coordinated black and gold ensembles and finally, Bobby Deol — fondly called "Lord Bobby" by fans — wrapped it all up with his suave presence in a striking white suit that drew plenty of admiration.

An evening to remember

With a carpet overflowing with charisma, couture and cinematic icons, the Zee Cine Awards was more than just a ceremony — it was a grand homage to the year that was.

‘Given a choice between hell and Pakistan, I’d choose...’: Javed Akhtar



Lyricist Javed Akhtar has stirred headlines with his remark at the launch of Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut's book Narkatla Swarg (Heaven in the Swamp) in Mumbai.

Addressing the audience, Akhtar shared how, over the years, he has faced backlash from people for being outspoken.

"People from both

sides abuse me. It is not one-sided," he said.

"I would be very ungrateful if I do not admit that there are people who also appreciate, support, praise, and encourage me," Akhtar said.

"But this is also true: the extremists from this side also abuse me, and the extremists from that side also abuse me. This is the reality. If even

one of them stops, I will start to worry about what mistake I have made," he added.

In a sharp and controversial comment, Akhtar added, "One sude calls me a 'kaafir' and says I will go to hell. The other calls me a 'jihadi' and tells me to go to Pakistan. Toh agar mere paas sirf choice Pakistan aur jahannum yani nark ki hain toh main nark hi jaana pasand karunga. (So, if my only choices are between Pakistan and hell — I would rather go to hell.)"

The event was attended by several political leaders, including Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, NCP (Shard Pawar faction) chief Sharad Pawar and Trinamool Congress MP Saket Gokhale.

Meanwhile, the book Narkatla Swarg, written by Sanjay Raut, revolves around his political journey and experiences.

Paresh Rawal opts out of ‘Hera Pheri 3’: I reiterate that there is no creative disagreement

Actor Paresh Rawal confirmed his exit from "Hera Pheri 3" but it has nothing to do with "creative differences".

Rawal shared a post on his X handle addressing the same.

The 69-year-old actor, who was supposed to feature alongside Akshay Kumar and Suniel Shetty in the film, said there is no "creative disagreement".

"I wish to put it on record that my decision to step away from 'Hera Pheri 3' was not due to creative differences.

"I reiterate that there is no creative disagreement with the filmmaker. I hold immense love, respect, and faith in Mr. Priyadarshan, the film director," he wrote.

Rawal portrayed the role of Baburao Ganpatrao Apte in the first two installments, which released in 2000 and 2006, respectively.



The first film was directed by Priyadarshan, who is helming

the third installment. Neeraj Vora directed "Hera Pheri 2".

Ananya Panday, Ishaan Khatter, Anuv Jain featured in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list

Actors Ananya Panday, Ishaan Khatter, singer Anuv Jain, and filmmaker Sulagna Chatterjee have featured in the entertainment and sports section of Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list, the American business magazine has announced.

The list showcases a total of 30 young entrepreneurs, artists, athletes and others from across the Asia-Pacific region under the age of 30.

In its profile of 26-year-old Panday, Forbes notes the actor has appeared in 11 films, including 2019's "Student of the Year 2" and "CTRL", which released last year.

"In April, Panday was named Chanel's first Indian brand ambassador, a milestone for the luxury brand's expansion in South Asia. The daughter of actor Chunky Panday, she has 26 million followers on Instagram," accord-



ing to the magazine.

Forbes stated Khatter, 29, is on the verge of becoming "an A-list star both in Bollywood and Hollywood".

"For his first film, the indie Hindi drama 'Beyond the Clouds,' Khatter won Filmfare Awards' Best Male Debut in 2019 and the India International Film Academy's Best Male Debut award. Khatter moved on to star in 'A Suitable Boy' (2020) on Netflix and last year



acted alongside superstar Nicole Kidman in 'The Perfect Couple'," read his profile.

Jain, also a songwriter, has achieved global stardom while keeping true to his acoustic roots, said Forbes about the 29-year-old from Ludhiana.

"He is known for his heartfelt lyrics and minimal instrumentation on guitar and ukulele, giving his songs an intimate feel. He's chalked up 204 mil-



lion views on YouTube for his 2023-released 'Husn' and 107 million for his breakout single 'Baarishein.' On Spotify, he has 16 million monthly listeners around the world and his songs have surpassed 1.5 billion streams. In 2024, Jain toured the UK, Australia and other countries in South Asia and composed a song for the UN's Earth Day album."

The magazine, in Chatterjee's profile, said

the 29-year-old dreamt of bringing queer stories to her favourite medium, TV.

"In 2020, Mumbai's Dice Media tapped the screenwriter to write 'Firsts,' a mini-series on meet-cutes seen through a queer woman's lens. She has written for the Netflix show 'Feels Like Ishq' and Jio Studio's 'Code M.' Chatterjee is now finishing and advertising a crowd-funded film called 'Pehli Date,' which has been five years in the making, and is an exploration of two women's first date."

Also part of the list in the entertainment and sports section are Korean band Stray Kids; K-drama star and Astro band member Cha Eun-woo; K-drama actor Go Min-si; Yerin Ha, who will lead "Bridgerton" season four; Philippine girl group Bini; chess grandmaster D Gukesh; and Paralympian Sheetal Devi.

Guns N' Roses rekindles nostalgia at Mumbai live concert

Legendary rock band Guns N' Roses, who returned to India after 12 years with a live concert, treated fans to an energetic show in Mumbai that resonated deeply with audiences of all ages.

The American group—comprising vocalist Axl Rose, lead guitarist Slash, bassist Duff McKagan, guitarist Richard Fortus and Richard Fortus, rhythm guitarist Izzy Stradlin, drummer Isaac Carpenter, and keyboardists Dizzy Reed and Melissa Reese—took on the stage at the Mahalaxmi Race Course in South Mumbai.

Post Operation Sindoor, this was the first major concert by international artists, which saw thousands of people across age groups, especially the middle aged and elderly, queuing up at the venue.

Guns N' Roses performed continuously for over 3 hours and belted out over 25 songs, including classics such as "Welcome to the Jungle", "It's So Easy", "Pretty Tied Up", "Yesterday", "November Rain", and "Knockin' on Heaven's

Door".

Fans beat the financial city's humidity to catch a glimpse of the rock band performing their childhood favourite songs as they turned up in huge numbers with hand fans and portable fans.

Many cheered and clapped, with some even dancing to their cherished tracks. Among them was a spirited 68-year-old woman from Bengaluru.

"'November Rain' and 'Knockin' on Heaven's Door' have been my childhood favourites. I have no inhibitions dancing to the songs that I love. It's my way of expressing my love for them," she said.

Two cousins, one from Bengaluru and another from Kolkata, said they thoroughly enjoyed the concert and that it was worth traveling the miles.

Unlike other notable artists and bands like Ed Sheeran, Chris Martin of Coldplay band, Maroon 5, and Shawn Mendes, who interacted with their fans throughout the concert, Guns N' Roses frontman Rose chose to entertain simply



through music.

"I'm having a nice time, hope you are having it too," the vocalist said to the crowd, who had gathered from different parts of the country including cities like New Delhi and Hyderabad.

Towards the end, Slash took off his jacket and ring and threw them in the audience

bay, something for lucky fans to remember him by.

Even so, the concert was not free from criticism.

The event was produced and promoted in India by BookMyShow, which issued advisories for the rainy weather, permitting raincoats and banning umbrellas and regulating power banks for safety.

Some people complained about the poor infrastructure and arrangement at the venue.

"They (organisers) could have arranged something as basic as water and food properly. The water available through cans at the counter was awful in taste. In most places, they ran out of food. Besides, they could've installed some fans or done some alternative arrangement to deal with Mumbai's humidity," an attendee said.

Another one lamented about the lack of transport facility in and around the venue.

"It took us almost 45 to 55 minutes to reach the main road, we covered the same distance even while entering the venue. They should have arranged a transport facility at least for older people like us," said a couple in their late 50s, who came for the concert along with their two teenage daughters.

The Indian rock band Girish and the Chronicles opened the concert.

Babil to exit Sai Rajesh's project



Actor Babil Khan shared a post on social media hinting at the possible exit from the project with filmmaker Sai Rajesh.

The Qala actor was supposed to star in Rajesh's Hindi remake of the film Baby. "With a lot of grit, passion,

and mutual respect, Sai Rajesh sir and I both got along on this journey of creating magic together. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances things didn't go ahead as everyone had planned," the post read.

Khan said he will be "taking some time off."

All high court judges entitled to full pension: Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, May 19 (Agencies): In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court on Monday held all high court judges, including additional judges, will be entitled to full pension and retirement benefits.

The top court said the former chief justices of the high court will get Rs 15 lakh per annum as pension.

Observing that denial would amount to violation of right to equality under Article 14 of the Constitution, a bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih said full pension will be paid to all irrespective of when they were appointed and whether they retired as additional judges or were later made permanent.

The bench said discriminating among judges based on the timing of their appointment or their designation violates this fundamental right. The CJI, pronouncing the verdict, said families of deceased additional high court judges are also entitled to the same pension and



retirement benefits as families of permanent judges.

The bench said it has examined Article 200 of the Constitution which pertained to pension payable to retired high court judges.

“We hold any discrimination among (high court) judges for terminal benefits after retirement will be violative of Article 14. Thus, we hold all the high court judges irrespective of

when they entered and thus entitled to full pension,” it said.

It said there shall be no distinction between the judges who were elevated from the Bar and from those who came from district judiciary. The bench said those covered under the new pension scheme will also get the same pension.

“We also hold the high court judges who retired as additional judges will get full pension and

any distinction between judges and additional judges will be doing to violence to the condition,” the bench said.

“The Union (of India) shall pay a full pension of 13.50 lakh per annum to judges of the high courts, including additional judges,” it said.

The detailed judgement is awaited.

The top court had reserved the judgement on January 28 on the pleas including ‘In Re Re-fixation Of Pension Considering Service Period In District Judiciary and High Court’.

Disparity was alleged in payment of pensions to high court judges on several grounds, including whether a judge was permanent or additional judge at the time of retirement.

The high court judges, who were elevated from district judiciary and covered under the NPS, were getting lesser pension in comparison to those elevated directly from the Bar, the pleas alleged.

‘Entire nation in shame’: SC orders SIT probe against MP minister over remarks on Col Qureshi

NEW DELHI, May 19 (Agencies): The Supreme Court on Monday pulled up Madhya Pradesh minister Vijay Shah for his remarks on Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and constituted a three-member special investigation team to probe the FIR lodged against him.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh told the minister that it had seen his videos where he made the remarks and his apology and wondered if “they were crocodile tears or an attempt to wriggle out of the legal proceedings”.

“The entire nation was in shame due to the comments... We saw your videos, you were on the verge of using very filthy language but somehow better sense prevailed or you did not find suitable words. You should be shameful. Entire country is proud of our Army and you made this statement,” Justice Surya Kant said.

The bench further grilled the minister, “What kind of apology was this? You should have simply admitted your mistake and apologised but you say if you have said this and that...then I apologise. This is not the way to seek apology. The kind of crass comments you made, you should be shameful.”

Shah was represented by senior advocates Maninder Singh and Vibha Dutt Makhija

The top court asked the Madhya Pradesh director general of police to constitute a three-member special investigation team (SIT) headed by an IG rank officer by Tuesday 10 am also comprising a woman officer to probe the FIR registered following an order of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

The first state report by the SIT, the bench said, should be filed by May 28. Being a public representative the minister ought to have led by an example and used every single word sensibly, the court further remarked.

After drawing severe criticism for his comments made on May 12, the BJP minister said he was ready to apologise 10 times if his statement had hurt anyone and he respected Col Qureshi more than his sister.

An FIR was registered against Shah in Indore district later on May 14 following the high court’s order.

The FIR was registered under Sections 152 (acts endangering the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India), 196 (1)(b) (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, language, or other similar characteristics) and 197(1)(c) (statement or action that causes or is likely to cause disharmony, enmity, or hatred between different groups) of the BNS.

Ensuring safety of citizens govt’s prime objective: CM Adityanath

LUCKNOW, May 19 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday reaffirmed that ensuring the safety and respect of every citizen is the government’s core objective.

He made the statement while addressing grievances during his ‘Janata Darshan’ programme held in the state capital.

More than 60 individuals approached the chief minister with various complaints and appeals, an official statement issued here said.

Adityanath interacted personally with each one, enquired about their well-being, and listened to their issues. The maximum number of complaints received during the session came from the Prayagraj district.

“The state government stands firmly with every person in need. Our mission is to ensure the security and respect of



every citizen,” the chief minister said while issuing directives to officials concerned for prompt redressal of all matters raised.

Complaints related to police, revenue disputes, medical assistance, old-age pensions, and road construction were among the several raised by the public.

The chief minister handed over written applications to the officials present and instructed them to ensure timely and effective resolution.

He paid special atten-

tion to cases from Prayagraj, issuing specific orders for necessary action. Issues raised included land measurement disputes, encroachments on farmland, electricity connections, and housing.

The chief minister assured the complainants of proper resolution.

Maximum of eight complaints were from Prayagraj followed by four from Deoria and three each from Saharanpur, Basti and Fatehpur, besides other districts, it said.

Rahul Gandhi targets Jaishankar, says his silence is ‘damning’

NEW DELHI, May 19 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday launched a fresh attack on External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, saying his silence on the number of aircraft India “lost” after Pakistan was “informed” about the military action under Operation Sindoor is “damning”.

The Congress leader had earlier also targeted the government on the issue, suggesting that the Indian side informed Pakistan ahead of the military strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). “EAM Jaishankar’s



silence isn’t just telling, it’s damning. So I’ll ask again: How many Indian aircraft did we lose because Pakistan knew?” he asked in a post on X.

“This wasn’t a lapse. It was a crime. And the nation deserves the truth,” Gandhi also said.

Gandhi had earlier shared an undated video clip of Jaishankar and wrote, “Informing Pakistan at the start of our attack was a crime. EAM has publicly admitted that GOI (government of India) did it.” “Who authorised it? How many aircraft did our air

force lose as a result,” the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha had asked.

The Ministry of External Affairs had described as “utter misrepresentation” claims that Jaishankar acknowledged that India alerted Pakistan before the launch of Operation Sindoor on May 7.

“The external affairs minister had stated that we had warned Pakistan at the start, which is clearly the early phase after Operation Sindoor’s commencement,” the external publicity (XP) division of the ministry said. “This is being falsely

represented as being before the commencement. This utter misrepresentation of facts is being called out,” it said in a brief statement.

Under Operation Sindoor, India, on early May 7, destroyed nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK) in retaliation against the Pahalgam terror attack. All subsequent retaliations by Pakistan were carried out under the operation.

The two sides reached an understanding on cessation of hostilities on May 10 after four days of confrontations.

‘Absolute lie’: Cong slams Rijiju’s govt ‘did not ask for names for delegations’ remark

NEW DELHI, May 19 (Agencies): The Congress on Monday dismissed as an “absolute lie” Union Minister Kiren Rijiju’s reported assertion that that the government did not ask for names for the all-party diplomatic delegations going abroad, and said it was “cheap politics” not to get the names it selected cleared with the opposition party.

Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the same PM who had abused the Congress publicly in countries such as Australia, the US, Qatar, South Korea and China, is taking the help of the opposition party in these delegations.

“Why didn’t the prime minister pick up the phone and speak to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi? Why didn’t he have the courtesy to do that? The fact is that our narrative has been punctured and continues to get punctured because of the politics of polarisation in the country,” Ramesh told PTI here.

On Saturday, the Congress said it was asked by the government to submit the names of four leaders for the all-

party delegations to be sent abroad to explain India’s stance on Pakistan-backed terrorism. It nominated Anand Sharma, Gaurav Gogoi, Syed Naseer Hussain, and Amrinder Singh Raja Warring. Of the four, only Sharma has been included in the seven delegations that will be visiting various countries.

Four Congress leaders — Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari, Amar Singh and Salman Khurshid — who were not part of the list forwarded by the Congress have been included in the delegations by the government.

Asked about Parliamentary Affairs Minister Rijiju’s reported remarks that the government never asked the Congress to give names, Ramesh said, “That is a lie — LIE — absolute lie. He had a conversation in the morning of May 16 with the Congress president and Mr Rahul Gandhi and in pursuance of that conversation the latter wrote to Mr Rijiju suggesting four names.”

“At no point of time, the Modi government did the Congress the courtesy of saying that, ‘look these are the four names we have selected’, what do you have to say about them?,” the Congress leader said.

Ramesh accused the BJP and the prime minister of having played “cheap politics” on the issue.

“His (Modi’s) image has taken a beating, he is desperate in changing the narrative once again. Our demand is that a Prime Minister-chaired all-party meeting be held and a special session be called to reiterate the resolution of February 1994 and give it fresh meaning, as well as take the nation into confidence,” Ramesh said.

He claimed that while India made gains through ‘Operation Sindoor’, diplomatically it had been hurt as the narrative had changed.

“We have to change the momentum for India. The Congress has always said unity and solidarity is very important. ‘Ek desh, Ek sandesh’ is very important to deal with terrorism,” he said.

Taking a swipe at the BJP, he said, however, it is not “Ek desh, Ek sandesh” for ‘polarisation and the poison-filled nationalism that the BJP propagates”.

On Rijiju’s reported remarks that the government did not go by the Congress’ internal dynamics in picking members for the delegations, Ramesh said, “No question of internal dynamics. In 2008, Dr

Manmohan Singh and his advisors consulted all political parties, that is how the delegations were sent. In the case of Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the 1990s, he was the leader of BJP and P V Narasimha Rao was the PM, so they talked to each other.”

Accusing the BJP of spreading hate and bigotry, Ramesh said, “We cannot have one narrative outside and another inside. What is the narrative going out of India? — Nationalism based on prejudice, nationalism based on bigotry and nationalism based on hate, poison and communal tensions. Is this the message we want to sent to the world?”

On the TMC’s criticism of the selection of MPs by the government for the delegations to be sent abroad, Ramesh said he would not comment on other parties but the Congress’ intention was to participate in these delegations.

“Out of the four names we had suggested, the government selected only one, a Congress leader who has had extensive experience in foreign affairs and then they added four other names which they had not cleared with the Congress party. That was unfair on the part of the BJP and was cheap politics,” Ramesh said.

“They should have cleared the names with the Congress,” he said.

The four leaders selected by the government are all experienced and one of them is a former external affairs minister, and they are very articulate and they are participating in the delegations.

“These are a damage control delegations. After 2008 delegations were sent abroad but at that time, everybody had condemned Pakistan’s cross border terrorism but today we are back to being hyphenated with Pakistan...The whole narrative has changed. The vishwaguru image has taken a huge beating,” he said.

Accusing the government of politicisation of Operation Sindoor, Ramesh pointed to the meeting of only NDA chief ministers has been called.

The seven delegations led by Bajjayant Panda, Ravi Shankar Prasad (both BJP), Sanjay Kumar Jha (JDU), Shrikant Shinde (Shiv Sena), Shashi Tharoor (Congress), Kanimozhi (DMK) and Supriya Sule (NCP-SP) will visit a total of 32 countries and the EU headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. Each delegation comprises seven or eight political leaders and is assisted by former diplomats.

Woman drugged and gang raped in Surat; BJP member arrested

AHMEDABAD, May 19 (Agencies): A chilling gang rape case has shocked Gujarat’s Surat city, with BJP Surat City ward general secretary Aditya Upadhyay at the centre of the storm. Upadhyay allegedly spiked a 23-year-old woman’s drink before driving her, half-conscious, to a hotel where his associate, Gaurav Singh, was already waiting. What followed was a brutal assault, as the duo took turns raping the victim.

Upon regaining consciousness, the survivor immediately contacted the police and lodged a formal complaint. Swift action followed: a case was filed, and both accused were arrested. As outrage mounted, the Bharatiya Janata Party scrambled to contain the fallout, suspending Upadhyay from his post without delay.

Speaking to the media, DCP of Surat Zone-5, Rakesh Barot, said, “A complaint was registered yesterday at Jahangir Pura police station in which a rape case was filed against two accused. Based on the complaint, we have now registered it as a gang rape case.”

Barot further added, “The complainant stated that she was taken to a beach and offered a cold drink, after which she became intoxicated. The two accused then took her to a hotel and raped her.”

According to Barot, the accused, identified as Aditya and Gaurav, have been arrested. “Further investigation is underway,” he said.

According to sources, a routine market visit turned into a nightmare for a young woman in her early 20s in Surat, when she encountered Aditya Upadhyay, an acquaintance and the then-General

Secretary of BJP’s Surat City Ward No. 8. Posing as a friendly face, Upadhyay coaxed her into his car under the pretext of a casual conversation.

Once inside, he offered her a caffeinated drink, laced with sedatives, leaving her semi-conscious within minutes. Seizing the opportunity, he drove her to a hotel, where his associate, Gaurav Singh, was already waiting. Behind closed doors, the two men allegedly took turns raping the incapacitated woman in a chilling display of premeditated brutality.

The horror did not end there. The accused dumped the survivor near her house after the assault, attempting to erase their tracks. But as soon as the woman regained consciousness, she approached the police and exposed the crime in full detail, triggering an immediate crackdown.

Surat Police wasted no time: both Upadhyay and Gaurav were arrested and charged. Investigators launched a thorough probe, examining hotel CCTV footage, car records, call data, and the survivor’s statement to strengthen the case.

What makes this incident even more incendiary is the political connection. The primary accused, Aditya Upadhyay, held a post in the ruling BJP’s local unit, a fact that sparked a wave of outrage. In swift damage control, BJP Surat city president Paresh Patel suspended Upadhyay from the party.

With remand proceedings underway, police say more damning revelations may soon surface as the investigation intensifies.

Netanyahu says Israel to control all of Gaza after launch of new ground assault

Israeli PM Netanyahu vowed to take full control of Gaza amid intensified military operations, while global pressure mounts over a growing famine crisis. Airstrikes killed at least 22 as talks for a ceasefire and hostage deal remain stalled.

JERUSALEM, May 19 (Agencies): Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that Israel will “take control” of the whole of Gaza, as the military pressed a newly intensified campaign in the war-ravaged territory.

After Israel announced it would let a “basic amount” of food into the Gaza Strip, Netanyahu said it was necessary to prevent a famine for “diplomatic reasons”.

In Gaza, rescuers said air strikes killed at least 22 people, after the military announced it had begun “extensive ground operations” against Hamas.

“The fighting is intense and we are making progress. We will take control of all the territory of the Strip,” Netanyahu said in a video posted on Telegram.

“We will not give up. But in order to succeed, we must act in a way that cannot be stopped.” Israel has come under mounting international pressure, including from key backer the United States, to lift a total blockade it imposed on Gaza more than two months ago.

“We must not let the population (of Gaza) sink into famine, both for practical and diplomatic reasons,” Netanyahu said, adding that even friends of Israel would not tolerate “images of mass starvation”.

In a report this month, the UN- and NGO-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification said Gaza was at “critical risk of famine”, with 22 percent of the population facing an imminent humanitarian “catastrophe”.



REDUCED TO STARVATION

Israel said its blockade since March 2 was aimed at forcing concessions from the Palestinian militant group, but UN agencies have warned of critical shortages of food, clean water, fuel and medicines.

Last week US President Donald Trump acknowledged that “a lot of people are starving”, adding “we’re going to get that taken care of”.

In his inaugural mass, Pope Leo XIV called on the faithful not to forget “our brothers and sisters who are suffering because of war.”

“In Gaza, the surviving children, families and elderly are reduced to starvation,” he said. But Israel’s far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir argued against any resumption of aid, saying on X: “Mr Prime Minister, our hostages receive no humanitarian aid.”

“The Prime Minister is making a serious mistake in this move, and he has no majority at all. Hamas must only be crushed,

and not at the same time provided with oxygen for its survival,” he said in a statement.

NO BREAKTHROUGH IN TALKS

Israel’s military on Monday said the air force had struck “160 terror targets” in Gaza over the past day, as it pressed an expanded offensive.

The campaign, which Israel says aims to free hostages and defeat Hamas, started Saturday as the two sides entered indirect talks in Qatar on a deal.

Netanyahu’s office said negotiators Doha were “working to exhaust every possibility for a deal – whether according to the Witkoff framework or as part of ending the fighting”.

Steve Witkoff is the US Middle East envoy who has been involved in discussions. Netanyahu’s statement said a deal “would include the release of all the hostages, the exile of Hamas terrorists, and the disarmament of the Gaza Strip”.

Since a two-month ceasefire collapsed in March as Israel

resumed its offensive, negotiations mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the United States have failed to make a breakthrough. Netanyahu has opposed ending the war without Hamas’s total defeat, while Hamas has balked at handing over its weapons.

NO ONE LEFT

On Monday, there were heavy strikes in and around the main southern city of Khan Yunis, where civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal said 11 people were killed and several others wounded.

Bassal also reported another 11 deaths in strikes on other parts of the territory. AFP TV footage from Gaza on Sunday showed people sifting through ruined shelters and rescuers treating the wounded.

“All my family members are gone. There is no one left,” said a distraught Warda al-Shaer.

“The children were killed as well as their parents. My mother died too, and my niece lost her eye.” The United Nations had warned of the risk of famine in Gaza before the aid blockade was imposed.

Hamas’s October 2023 attack that triggered the war resulted in the deaths of 1,218 people on the Israeli side, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures.

Hamas also took 251 hostages during the attack, 57 of whom remain in Gaza, including 34 the military says are dead. Gaza’s health ministry said Sunday at least 3,193 people have been killed since Israel resumed strikes on March 18, taking the war’s overall toll to 53,339.

Four killed, 20 injured in blast in Pakistan’s Balochistan province

KARACHI, May 19 (Agencies): A bomb exploded near a market in Pakistan’s restive Balochistan province, killing four people and injuring 20 others, according to a media report on Monday.

The blast occurred near Jabbar Market in Killa Abdullah district of Balochistan on Sunday, causing extensive damage to the building and triggering widespread panic.

Several shops collapsed, and fires erupted in multiple establishments following the explosion, agency reported.

Killa Abdullah Deputy Commissioner Riaz Khan said four people were killed and 20 others injured in the explosion. He said that the market was located adjacent to the rear wall of the Frontier Corps (FC) Fort.

Following the explosion, a brief

exchange of gunfire occurred between unidentified assailants and FC personnel.

Law enforcement officials sealed off the area and launched a comprehensive search and clearance operation.

The injured included a security guard of tribal elder Haji Faizullah Khan Ghabizai and several bystanders.

The blast came days after four Levies personnel lost their lives in a deadly gun attack by unidentified armed men on a check post in the Nal area of Khuzdar district.

Balochistan has been facing unrest for about two decades due to allegations by the local ethnic Baloch groups and parties that the federal government was exploiting the mineral wealth of the province.

1 killed, 2 injured in rare shooting at restaurant in China’s Wuhan

BEIJING, May 19 (Agencies): One person has died in an apparent shooting at an outdoor restaurant in the city of Wuhan in what would be a rare case of gun violence in China.

A police statement said Monday that two other people were injured on Sunday night in what it called a case of “deliberate injury” resulting from a dispute.

Social media posts described what happened as a shooting and shared images of a person slumped in a chair and another person lying on the ground. The statement from the Qiaokou District police branch in Wuhan didn’t say what weapon had been used.

China has strict gun control laws, and reports of gun violence are extremely rare. While some may be covered up by government censorship of negative news, knife attacks appear to be more common, as well as driving a vehicle into a crowd.

China’s state-run media plays up reports of gun violence in the US in what is seen as part of a campaign to con-

vince the population that the nation’s one-party, communist-led system is better than America’s democracy.

The attack on Sunday occurred in an area with a cluster of restaurants with outdoor seating serving barbecued meat on skewers.

A video of the aftermath, which has been taken down from social media, shows a crowd of people milling around the well-lit, nighttime scene, before emergency medical workers arrive and bring out a stretcher to take the victims away.

In 2010, a man firing a small automatic weapon burst into a court office in central China and killed three judges before taking his own life. He reportedly held a grudge against the court over a ruling in a property dispute between him and his wife, who were getting divorced.

Wuhan is an industrial city on the Yangtze River in central China. The Chinese government locked down the city in early 2020 in the first major outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earthquake of magnitude 4.2 strikes Afghanistan, fourth in four days

KABUL, May 19 (Agencies): An earthquake of magnitude 4.2 hit Afghanistan on Monday morning, said National Center of Seismology.

This is the fourth consecutive earthquake to hit the country in the last four days.

Sharing the details in a post on X, NCS said that the earthquake occurred at a depth of 140 kilometres at 08:54 hours (Indian Standard Time).

“EQ of M: 4.2, On: 19/05/2025 08:54:18 IST, Lat: 36.41 N, Long: 70.94 E, Depth: 140 Km, Location: Afghanistan,” NCS said.

Earlier on Sunday, an earthquake of magnitude 4.5 had jolted Afghanistan. As per the NCS, the earthquake occurred at a depth of 150km.

Previously on May 17, an earthquake of mag-

nitude 4.2 struck the region. In a post on X, the NCS said, “EQ of M: 4.2, On: 17/05/2025 16:26:34 IST, Lat: 36.37 N, Long: 69.83 E, Depth: 120 Km, Location: Afghanistan.”

On May 16, another earthquake of magnitude 4.0 struck the region. “EQ of M: 4.0, On: 16/05/2025 00:47:40 IST, Lat: 36.56 N, Long: 70.99 E, Depth: 120 Km, Location: Afghanistan.”

Afghanistan has a history of powerful earthquakes, and the Hindu Kush Mountain range is a geologically active area where earthquakes occur every year, according to the Red Cross.

Afghanistan sits on numerous fault lines between the Indian and the Eurasian tectonic plates, with a fault line also running directly through Herat. Its loca-

tion on several active fault lines along the collision zone between the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates makes it a seismically active region. These plates meet and collide, causing frequent seismic activity.

As per the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Afghanistan remains highly vulnerable to natural disasters, including seasonal flooding, landslides and earthquakes.

These frequent earthquakes in Afghanistan cause damage to vulnerable communities, which are already grappling with decades of conflict and under-development and have left them with little resilience to cope with multiple simultaneous shocks, UNOCHA noted.

Pope Leo, JD Vance meet ahead of US-led diplomatic flurry to reach ceasefire in Ukraine

ROME, May 19 (Agencies): Two high-profile Catholics, Pope Leo XIV and US Vice President JD Vance, met Monday ahead of a flurry of US-led diplomatic efforts to make progress on a ceasefire in Russia’s war in Ukraine.

Vance’s motorcade was seen entering Vatican City just after 7:30 am.

Vance, a Catholic convert, had led the US delegation to the formal Mass opening the pontificate of the first American pope. Joining him at the Vatican was Secretary of State Marco Rubio, also a Catholic, Vance spokesperson Luke Schroeder said.

The Vatican listed Vance’s delegation as the first of several private audiences Leo was having Monday with people who had come to Rome for his inaugural Mass, including other Christian leaders and a group of faithful



from his old diocese in Chiclayo, Peru.

The Vatican, which was largely sidelined during the first three years of Russia’s war, has offered to host any peace talks while continuing humanitarian efforts to facilitate prisoner swaps and reunite Ukrainian children taken by Russia.

After greeting Leo briefly at the end of Sunday’s Mass, Vance spent the rest of the day in sep-

arate meetings with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Leo, the former Cardinal Robert Prevost, is a Chicago-born Augustinian missionary who spent the bulk of his ministry in Chiclayo, a commercial city of around 800,000 on Peru’s northern Pacific coast.

In the days since his May 8 election, Leo has vowed “every

effort” to help bring peace to Ukraine. He also has emphasized his continuity with Pope Francis, who made caring for migrants and the poor a priority of his pontificate.

Before his election, Prevost shared news articles on X that were critical of the Trump administration’s plans for mass deportations of migrants.

Vance was one of the last foreign officials to meet with Francis before the Argentine pope’s April 21 death. The two had tangled over migration, with Francis publicly rebuking the Trump administration’s deportation plan and correcting Vance’s theological justification for it.

Later Monday, US President Donald Trump has planned separate phone calls with Russian leader Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr, as well as calls to NATO leaders.

Indonesia’s mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki erupts, ash cloud reaches 6 km above peak

JAKARTA, May 19 (Agencies): A volcano in eastern Indonesia erupted Monday, spewing an ash cloud more than a kilometre high after authorities raised the country’s highest alert level.

Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki on the tourist island of Flores erupted shortly after midnight, sending an ash cloud 1.2 kilometres (0.7 miles) above its peak, Indonesia’s volcanology agency reported.

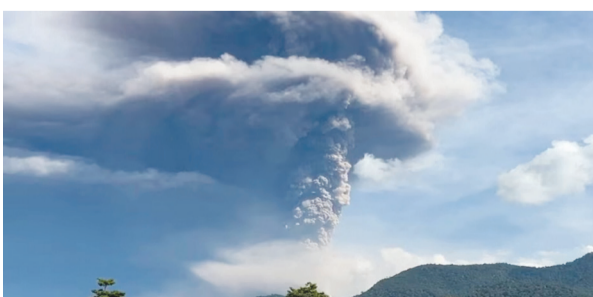
The volcano erupted once more at 09:36 am (0136 GMT), the agency said.

The latest rumblings follow authorities on Sunday evening raising the alert level of the 1,584-metre (5,197-foot) twin-peaked volcano to the highest in the country’s four-tiered system.

“Lewotobi Laki-Laki’s activities are still high,” Indonesia’s geological agency head Muhammad Wafid warned Sunday.

“The potential for a larger eruption than before can occur,” he said in a statement.

A series of eruptions on Sunday spewed ash as high as six kilometres



above Laki-Laki’s peak, according to the volcanology agency.

Wafid urged residents to wear face masks to protect themselves from volcanic ash, while telling people not to carry out any activities at least six kilometres from the crater.

The geological agency chief also warned of the possibility of hazardous lahar floods – a type of mud or debris flow – if heavy rain occurs, particularly for communities around rivers that originate at the volcano’s peak.

In November, Mount

Lewotobi Laki-Laki erupted multiple times, killing nine people, cancelling scores of international flights to Bali and forcing the evacuation of thousands.

Laki-Laki, which means man in Indonesian, is twinned with the calmer but taller 1,703-metre (5,587-foot) volcano named Perempuan, after the Indonesian word for woman.

Indonesia, a vast archipelago nation, experiences frequent seismic and volcanic activity due to its position on the Pacific “Ring of Fire”.

‘Wife scolded me’: Japan minister apologises for “never bought rice” remark

TOKYO, May 19 (Agencies): Japan’s farm minister Taku Eto apologised on Monday after saying he has “never had to buy rice” thanks to gifts from supporters, angering consumers grappling with sky-high prices of the staple food.

After Kyodo News first reported the remarks, made during a political fundraising party on Sunday, other local media quickly followed, sending social media into a frenzy of angry comments.

“You are done. Hurry up and resign,” one user posted on X.

Responding to reporters’ questions on Monday, Eto apologised for the comments, saying he had misspoken and may have exaggerated to please the crowd. He skirted a question about whether he intended to step down.

Footage aired by public broadcaster NHK showed Eto at a lectern making the comments at the event on Sunday, including how he “had enough (rice) to sell.”

“I just got scolded by my wife over the phone,” Eto told reporters. “It’s just the two of us so we generally have enough but she told me that when we run out, she actually does go out and buys rice.”

The reaction to Eto’s comments underscores the extent to which rice has become a hot-button topic for voters, boding ill for Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba’s Liberal Democratic Party ahead of key upper house elections in July. A Kyodo News opinion poll on Sunday showed support for Ishiba at a record low 27.4%, with nearly nine out of 10 voters dissatisfied with the government’s response to soaring rice prices. Retail prices for Japan’s staple grain are about double what they were a year ago after extreme heat hit crops and a tourism boom added to demand.

The government has been releasing rice from its emergency stockpile since March to try and lower prices, but to little avail.

Gaurav Gupta meets J&K Bank MD & CEO, seeks urgent financial relief for industrialists, traders

Lays stress upon WCDL, interest subvention, moratorium for affected business community of J&K

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 19: Gaurav Gupta, Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, and former Secretary General of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu, on Monday called on Amitava Chatterjee, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of J&K Bank, at the bank's Corporate Headquarters in Srinagar.

During the meeting, Gaurav Gupta submitted a detailed memorandum highlighting the alarming slowdown in commercial activity across the region due to the prevailing critical situation.

He apprised the Bank's MD of the financial distress faced by industrialists and traders, citing factors such as large-scale labour migration, supply chain disruptions, and a steep decline in market demand that have collectively destabilized businesses and threatened employment across various sectors.

In the memorandum, the BJP Spokesperson strongly appealed for the initiation of Working Capital Demand Loans (WCDL) on concessional terms, modeled on the COVID-19 relief framework. He emphasized that such support would provide urgent liquidity to viable yet distressed units, helping them stay afloat and avoid slipping into non-performing assets



(NPAs). Gaurav Gupta also suggested that the Bank consider measures such as interest subvention, moratorium on existing loans, and other need-based financial solutions to ease the burden on the business community.

He stressed that a timely and focused financial response was essential to stabilize local markets, retain jobs, and boost confidence among entrepreneurs and traders.

Gupta acknowledged the pivotal role of J&K Bank in supporting the region's economy and expressed faith in the leadership of Chatterjee to guide the bank's response during this difficult period. Responding to the appeal, the Bank MD & CEO assured Gaurav Gupta that J&K Bank is actively working on appropriate

relief measures. He stated that the COVID-19 pandemic served as a life lesson in preparing for unforeseen challenges and reiterated the Bank's commitment to standing firmly with the business community of Jammu & Kashmir.

He further assured that the Bank will take adequate steps, including interest subvention, temporary moratoriums, and customized financial packages, to support businesses impacted by the ongoing economic stress.

Gaurav Gupta thanked the MD & CEO of the Bank for his patient hearing and proactive approach, expressing hope that concrete relief measures would be announced soon to safeguard the interests of the business sector across Jammu & Kashmir.

Young IT entrepreneur announces natural intelligence, claims to be far ahead of AI

Top News Report

CHANDIGARH, May 19: 31-year-old Chandigarh's Punjabi University graduate, Siddhant Bansal has come up with natural intelligence (NI), which he claimed to replace artificial intelligence (AI) with something more human.

Talking to the media here on Monday, Siddhant said that this is not a product launch, it's a technological reset. It is the end of AI and the rise of NI.

A serial entrepreneur with a reputation for building powerful, people-first systems, Siddhant claims first to be formally announced that the world is slowly realizing that AI is over, NI is the future.

After years of working with cutting-edge AI systems, Siddhant came to a deep realization that artificial intelligence was never really about people.

"It was about speed, automation, and data. But what it lacked was emotion, context and

empathy."

"That's when he created something radically different. Natural intelligence is a system that doesn't just analyze, but actually understands. It listens like a human, responds with logic, and feels like a conversation and not a command line," he informed.

At the core of this movement is Aloha Intelligence, the first company in the world to be entirely built around natural intelligence, he further claimed.

It's not just made for people; it also acts as a real-time thinking brain for machines. It enables software, websites, and devices to respond with meaning and not just code, asserted Siddhant.

Aloha Intelligence is built to be useful to anyone — a school student filing an RTI, a parent writing a police complaint, a startup founder drafting legal documents, or even a state department seeking governance clarity. And it's available at the

lowest price intelligence has ever been offered, he said.

There are no ads, no surveillance, and no confusing dashboards. The experience is clean, focused, and human, he said further.

What I have created is more than a platform. It's a principle. It's a statement against systems that collect data without purpose, sell attention without care, and build tools without ethics, he maintained. "My mission is simple. Return intelligence to the people. That's why natural intelligence doesn't just work with humans, it also powers machines. It plugs into tools and platforms to help them make better decisions though not faster ones, but smarter



ones with heart and not just hardware."

"While most tech companies are trying to look futuristic, I am building something timeless — a framework where humans and machines co-think instead of compete." Made entirely in India, Aloha Intelligence represents Bharat's answer to the AI age.

It doesn't chase Silicon Valley. It redefines what intelligence should feel like in our context — honest, inclusive, and emotionally aware, Siddhant maintained.

Today, the world doesn't need more algorithms. It needs systems that understand people and we have built exactly that, he added.

Bukhari expresses concern over windstorm devastation in Valley

Urges administration to ensure adequate compensation to those affected severely

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 19: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has expressed deep concern over the extensive devastation caused by the windstorm in various areas across the valley, including Budgam, Pulwama, Tangmarg, and Baramulla, Uri, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Bandipora, Sumbal Sonawari, on Sunday evening. The Apni Party President has urged the administration to ensure prompt compensation for those who have suffered significant losses due to this severe weather condition.

In his statement issued here, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "The windstorm has caused widespread damage in various areas of the valley. Reports pouring in from various areas across the valley indicate that extensive



damage has been caused to orchards, houses, and vehicles due to the strong winds."

Apni Party president also urged the administration to act swiftly in providing adequate compensation to those who have suffered significant losses due to this natural calamity.

FromPage No: 1

2 terrorist associates arrested in Shopian joint operation, Arms recovered

conducted extensive searches at multiple locations across the city at the residences of Over Ground Workers (OGWs) and terrorist associates of proscribed terrorist outfits in furtherance of investigations into cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The operation comes on the heels of India achieving stupendous success in Operation Sindoor where precision strikes saw the elimination of nearly 100 terror operatives at key bases in Pakistan. Among the targets were Bhawalpur the Headquarters of the Jaish and Muridke a key training base of the Lashkar.

Two die as fierce windstorm wreaks havoc across Kashmir

Ahmed said, "All the newly planted apple saplings in my nursery have been uprooted. This is a devastating loss. We are staring at financial ruin.

Power infrastructure also took a major hit. The storm disrupted electricity supply in dozens of areas, especially in Kupwara, Ganderbal, Anantnag, and Bandipora. According to the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL), several distribution transformers were damaged while dozens of transmission lines snapped under pressure from falling trees and debris.

Water supply in many areas was also affected after the winds damaged pumping stations and lifted tin sheds of filtration plants. "In some areas, we had to suspend water

supply because the overhead storage tanks were damaged," said an official from the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department.

In Budgam, several vehicles parked along streets were struck by flying debris, causing damage to windshields and roofs. District authorities across Kashmir have initiated damage assessments and are compiling reports from various tehsils.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir said in a late-night statement that emergency response teams, including SDRF, were on alert and had been deployed to assist in clearing roads blocked by fallen trees and debris. "Restoration of essential services is underway on war footing," he said.

Meanwhile, the MeT department has forecast more rain and thundershowers in isolated places over the next 24 hours but ruled out another windstorm of similar intensity for now. Residents, however, have been advised to secure loose items and stay indoors during inclement weather.

17000 teachers yet to get B.Ed. training in Kashmir: DSEK

"We have around 17,000 teachers who are yet to get B.Ed. training. But because we are going in a phase-wise manner, we are not only collaborating with this college (IASE) because we depute 100 people (teachers) per year. We have already signed an agreement with IGNOU," he said.

Itoo said Kashmir University is also offering B.Ed. course in distance mode as it was slightly difficult to leave so many teachers in regular mode for B.Ed. course. "Teachers will have to be kept in the classroom too. But we will prefer distance mode, because the batches are also big there, and teachers have to come only for contact courses. The process is going on and in the coming days, this will be our target to provide training to all teachers as early as

possible," Itoo said.

He said the department should be in a position to train all the teachers who are yet to take B.Ed. training.

"The benefit of this will not only be in our classroom, but also in our teaching fraternity for their exposure and confidence level," he said.

He said the department will try its best to ensure that all the teachers are covered as early as possible.

When asked teachers deputed for B.Ed course, were not regularly attending classes in IASE, G N Itoo said that all the teachers deputed here have to attend the classes.

"Once they come here, they have to attend classes. This time we ensured that teachers have full attendance as we have introduced biometric attendance for them here at the college. I have personally monitored that each and every teacher is relieved on time," Itoo said.

He said the teachers report in college on time.

"We have been in regular touch with the Principal of this college. They have been giving us feedback about the teachers," Itoo said.

He said this year there has been very encouraging attendance bearing few cases where there are some health issues.

"The rest of the teachers have been regularly attending this college," he said.

Four held for immoral trafficking in Baramulla

Kashmir, a police officer said. "Acting on credible input, Baramulla Police has successfully busted an immoral trafficking racket operating in the Kunzer area. A team from Kunzer police station conducted a swift and well-coordinated raid, resulting in the apprehension of four individuals engaged in immoral activities," the officer said. He identified the arrested men as Abdul Ahad Waza, Mohammad

Abdullah Waza and Bilal Ahmad Bhat. The identity of the woman was withheld.

The officer said police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act.

"Further investigation is underway to identify and dismantle any larger network linked to this operation," he said.

Operation Sindoor | Indian Army foils Pakistan's drone attack on Golden Temple with precision

concealed area close to international border said, "Under Operation Sindoor, the Indian armed forces launched a successful strike against terror infrastructure against Pakistan. After 22nd April, we started our preparations and were ready to deploy at short notice. Presently, you are standing in a well-concealed and well-protected gun position of the Panther gunners close to the international border. We are prepared for all and any kind of threats that the enemy might throw at us, which includes drone attacks, air attacks, counter-bombardment and any other hybrid threats. We stand vigilant. We stand alert and are ready to thwart any nefarious designs that the enemy might throw at us..."

Highlighting the effectiveness of Indian defence system, another soldier said, "Only 10% of the ammunition of ground-based air defence weapons and Army air defence weapons were used... We have recovered Kamikaze drones and micro-drones like YIHA-III and Songar, which are likely of Turkish origin... It is very difficult to breach our air defence wall..."

He further said, "On 7th May, when we identified and hit top militant installations like LeT headquarters in Muridke in Pakistan

and PoK, it was predicted that Pakistan would retaliate and target our main air bases and military installations. But by surprise, some Kamikaze drones, surface-to-surface and air-to-surface missiles were launched directly for the Golden Temple. After not getting any success in causing damage to our air bases and military installations for about 3 days, they targeted civilian areas, Gurdwara Sahib and other areas with these Kamikaze drones and rockets. All the air raid was intercepted and shot down with great precision..."

Following the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people, including a Nepali national, were killed, the Indian forces have intensified their operation against terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu dining guide

In retaliation for the terror attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 in which precision strikes destroyed terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kashmir (POJK) and eliminated nearly 100 terror operatives at key bases in Pakistan. Among the targets were Bhawalpur, the headquarters of Jaish, and Muridke, a key training base of Lashkar.

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

Mehbooba Mufti asks J&K CM to engage youths instead of ex-servicemen in static guard duties

"Static guard duties do not require military expertise and could very well be performed by trained local youth, for whom such employment could be a vital lifeline," the letter added.

The former J-K chief minister said that since many of these ex-servicemen already receive pen-

sions, prioritising them over jobless young people risks the deepening of a sense of exclusion among the youth. The government will also miss a crucial opportunity to build trust and engagement, she said.

"Furthermore, this policy could be perceived as a short-term security solution that fails to address long-term social and economic stability. Engaging local youth in such roles will not only generate employment but also foster a sense of responsibility, inclusion and participation in maintaining public safety, an essential pillar of peace-building in the region," she added.

Mufti asked the Chief Minister's Office to reconsider or clarify the rationale behind this policy and to explore inclusive models that also benefit the unemployed youth in the region.

Two held for leaking sensitive information to Pak's ISI

that Sukhpreet Singh & Karanbir Singh were engaged in sharing classified details related to #OperationSindoor, including troop movements and key strategic locations in #Punjab, #HimachalPradesh, & #JammuAndKashmir – with #Pakistan's intelligence agency, #ISI."

The police have arrested both suspects, he said.

"Forensic examination of their mobile phones has confirmed the intelligence inputs. The police team has also recovered three mobile phones and eight live cartridges (.30 bore) from their possession," he said.

Preliminary findings establish that the accused were allegedly in direct contact with ISI handlers and had transmitted critical information concerning the Indian Armed Forces, said Yadav.

A case has been registered under the Official Secrets Act at the Dorangala police station in Gurdaspur.

"The investigation continues, and more disclosures are expected as the probe deepens," he said.

Inter-Zone District Level Tournament continues with Enthusiasm in Kathua



Top News Report

KATHUA, May 19: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, Kathua, continued the Inter-Zone District Level Tournament with great fervour, conducting competitions for Under-14 girls in multiple sports disciplines including Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, Volleyball, Badminton, Table Tennis, and Chess at Naaz Ground, Billawar, and cricket matches for Under-17 boys at Sports Stadium, Hiranagar.

At Naaz Ground, a vibrant display of talent and energy was witnessed as 197 girls from six zones—Mahanpur, Basohli, Bani, Malhar,

Billawar, and Bhaddu—participated in various events. The young athletes showcased commendable spirit and sportsmanship, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for sports among schoolgirls in the region.

Meanwhile, at Sports Stadium Hiranagar, the U-17 cricket tournament saw Zone Kathua dominate Zone Hiranagar, securing a convincing win by 75 runs. Winning the toss, Zone Kathua opted to bat first and posted a solid total of 133 runs for 3 wickets. In response, Zone Hiranagar could manage only 59 runs, failing to withstand Kathua's bowling attack.

In today's matches

held at Billawar, the results were as follows: In Kho-Kho, Zone Bhaddu triumphed over Zone Billawar by 2 points. In Kabaddi, Zone Bani defeated Zone Billawar in a close match, again by 2 points. The Volleyball event saw Zone Billawar outplay Zone Malhar with a 2-0 set win. In Badminton, Zone Billawar continued their winning streak by defeating Zone Basohli, also by 2-0 sets.

The ongoing competitions are fostering a healthy competitive spirit among the students and providing them a valuable platform to showcase their sporting skills at the district level.

PM Shri GHSS Bhalra launches IEC Campaign on Drug Abuse



Top News Report

BHADERWAH, May 19: An impactful IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) Campaign on drug abuse (awareness) was launched today at PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School Bhalra involving Misrata Panchayat of Bhaderwah.

The programme commenced with a thought-provoking address by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul, Associate NCC Officer and Counseling & Cultural Incharge, Zone Bhaderwah. He highlighted the devastating effects of drug abuse on individuals, families and

society at large.

Meena Kumar, Community Health Officer from the Health Department Bhalra, along with Sub Inspector Sh. Gourav Sumbaria (J&K Police Department) and Inspector Tariq Hussain of the Excise Department, further sensitized the students and faculty about the physiological and social consequences of drug addiction. They emphasized the importance of awareness, early intervention and a collective commitment for a drug-free society.

In this connection, Suhani and Kashish students of Class 11th described the dangers

of drug use and foreseeable consequences. The impactful speeches of the students captivated the community members.

The campaign notably was launched in the leadership of Dr. Koul with the guidance of Irshad Ahmed, In-charge Principal and under the overall supervision of Rajinder Singh Bhall, Principal of the institution.

The event concluded with a pledge against drug abuse that was administered by Dr. Koul. Students and NCC cadets solemnly vowed to abstain from drugs and lead a healthy and a productive life.

Army conducts Quami Ekta Meet for local population at Chilli

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 19: In continuation of its endeavour to promote peace and tranquillity in the region and to evolve an environment of brotherhood and harmony amongst the local population, a Quami Ekta Meet was organised by the Indian Army at Chilli Army Camp.

The event was graced by an approximate gathering of 115 prominent personalities from the



nearby villages. During the course of interaction, initiatives being undertaken for development

of the region and subsequently the problems being faced by the local populace were discussed.

COAS lauds troops for vigilant defence along Western Front

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, May 19: General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), on Monday visited Longewala in the forward areas of the Konark Corps in the desert sector to congratulate the troops for their exemplary role during Operation SINDOOR and to review the joint actions undertaken in coordination with the Indian Air Force and the Border Security Force.

The desert stretches from Jaisalmer to the Kutch region witnessed a swift and coordinated operational response from the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and BSF. These joint actions not only blunted enemy intent but also established a new normal in maintaining operational dominance along the western front.



As part of Operation SINDOOR, the Indian Army undertook rapid deployment of surveillance assets and air defence systems, in close coordination with the IAF and BSF.

The calibrated positioning of weapon systems and other operational enablers, aligned

with civil administration support, ensured effective area domination and neutralisation of potential threats.

During his interaction with soldiers of the Konark Corps, the Army Chief exhorted a spirited "Shabash!", acknowledging their valour, unwavering com-

mitment, and dogged determination in defending the International Boundary.

He praised the troops for their vigilant actions, including the successful neutralisation of enemy drone incursions, which effectively prevented any misadventure by the adversary in the desert

theatre. General Dwivedi also commended the commanders and units for their professionalism, high morale, and integrated execution of operational plans.

He highlighted the Army's tradition of honour and its unflinching readiness to meet future challenges with decisive force, reaffirming the Indian Army's commitment to safeguarding national sovereignty and ensuring high operational preparedness amidst a dynamic security environment.

Appreciating the fortitude of men and women serving in the harsh desert terrain amid peak summer conditions, the Army Chief conveyed his and the Nation's admiration for their unrelenting service in defence of national objectives.

Kavinder calls for immediate action to identify & expose Pakistani Spies operating in India



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta has strongly advocated for a nationwide crackdown on individuals residing in India who are allegedly working as spies for Pakistan. His statement comes in the wake of the arrest of Haryana-based travel vlogger Jyoti Malhotra, who has been arrested of sharing sensitive information with Pakistani operatives.

Speaking after the meeting held at Party Headquarters in Jammu, the BJP stalwart emphasized that national security must remain the topmost priority and that such betrayals cannot and should not be tolerated under any circumstances.

"The recent arrest of a travel vlogger involved in espionage for Pakistan is a grim reminder that the enemy is not always across the border — sometimes they are living among us. This is the right time to identify, expose, and punish such elements who are compromising

the integrity and sovereignty of our nation," he said.

Kavinder further called on intelligence agencies to intensify surveillance and verification mechanisms to root out individuals engaged in anti-national activities.

"These are not just isolated incidents. There is a pattern that needs urgent attention. Those who misuse their profession, freedom, or platforms to serve enemy interests must face the strictest punishment," he said.

The former deputy Chief Minister also urged citizens to stay vigilant and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement agencies, asserting that national interest must always come before individual motives or affiliations.

Among those who were present in the meeting included Sanjita Dogra, President Mahila Morcha, Veenu Khanna, Baldev Singh Billawria, Ved Sharma, Perduman Singh, Kulbhushan Mohtra, Bawa Sharma, Satish Shastri, Suman Raina, Usha Rajput, Rekha Mahajan, Prerna Nanda, Malti Sharma and Sunita Raina.

MD JJM, DDC Kulgam direct officers to provide piped drinking water to remaining households

Top News Report

KULGAM, May 19: Mission Director (MD), Jal Jeevan Mission J&K, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, and District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Ather Amir, on Monday jointly chaired a meeting of all concerned officers in the Meeting Hall of D. C Office here to review the progress of works under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in district Kulgam. Chief Engineer PHE Kashmir, Superintendent Engineer PHE HYD Circle Anantnag/ Kulgam, Technical Advisor Kashmir JJM, JK, Executive Engineers of PHE Division Kulgam/ Qazigund, PHE-Mechanical and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

Both the officers were apprised about the present position of projects through a power point presentation. As per the figures the district consists of 61,122 rural households out of which 53,871 households have been provided with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) till date. 143 civil schemes & 16 mechanical schemes are in the scope of



execution under JJM out of which 108 and 7 respectively have been commissioned. 259 works have been executed comprising of one Dug well, 4 Bore wells, 18 Rapid Sand Filtration Plants (RSFPs), 131 Pipe Networks, 15 Slow Sand Filtration Plants (SSFPs) and 92 General Service Reservoirs' (GSRs).

Addressing the meeting, the Mission Director JJM impressed upon all the officers of Jal Shakti Department to take responsibility of the execution of works under JJM and work with utmost dedication and sincerity and provide FHTCs to the remaining 7251 households. He stressed upon the officers to gear up the execution of works without further delay

so that the remaining people of the district are facilitated with the piped drinking water. The MD & DDC fixed timelines on execution of different works and directed the concerned officers to ensure completion of these works within the given timelines. They also took a detailed review of various other schemes sponsored under JKIDFC and NABARD, besides, reviewing the Mechanical schemes. The chair was also informed that 42 villages in the district have been certified as Har Ghar Jal (HGJ) villages. MD directed the Executive Engineers to certify all HGJ reported villages as per the guidelines of National Jal Jeevan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

Army conducts Lecture on Child Health Awareness for local communities at Satharban

Top News Report

POONCH, May 19: The Indian Army has been playing a vital role not only in ensuring national security but also in contributing to the welfare and development of local communities, especially in remote and sensitive regions like Jammu and Kashmir.

As part of its ongoing outreach and civic action programs, the Indian Army has conducted a lecture on child health. The event took place in Satharban of Poonch district.

The Indian Army organized a child health awareness lecture aimed at educating children and their families about proper nutrition, hygiene practices, and preventive healthcare measures. Indian Army



emphasized the importance of maintaining good health and the role of a balanced diet in a child's physical and mental development. Special focus was given to the inclusion of millets in daily meals.

The lecture was attended by local residents, including a large number of children. Locals were happy with the Indian Army's initiative for educating them about the child health and appreciated the efforts about teach-

ing them about living a healthy lifestyle.

Such initiatives highlight the Indian Army's commitment to winning hearts and minds by supporting the overall development of communities in conflict-prone and remote areas.

By bridging the gap in healthcare accessibility, especially for children, the Indian Army continues to foster trust, goodwill, and a sense of security among the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mohammed Shami meets UP CM Yogi Adityanath

Veteran Indian seamer Mohammed Shami met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the latter's residence on Monday.

LUCKNOW, May 19 (Agencies): Veteran Indian seamer Mohammed Shami met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the latter's residence on Monday.

Shami recently launched a scathing tirade after reports claimed that his involvement in India's upcoming tour of England depends on his ability to bowl sustained spells, and some even indicated his imminent retirement.

Shami broke the silence and responded strongly to the claim.

He posted a screenshot of the article on Instagram with a seething message, "Very well done. Also, start counting the days left to say 'adieu' to your job, then see ours later. People like you have ruined our future. Try saying nice things sometimes, too. Today's worst story, sorry."

Shami's Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season has been poor for Sunrisers Hyder-



abad (SRH). He has taken just six wickets in nine games at an average of 56.16 and was dropped for poor form.

Shami hasn't bowled for India in the whites since the World Test Championship Final against Australia in 2023. A long injury layoff kept Shami out of action after the ODI World Cup in the same year.

He even returned to the

domestic circuit and featured in the Ranji Trophy for Bengal. With his experience, Shami enjoyed a fruitful outing and returned with seven scalps against Madhya Pradesh last year. Rumour mill suggested his return during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia; however, the series went by, and there were no signs of him.

The 34-year-old has bowled

the new ball for India across formats in 2025, representing the nation in the title-winning Champions Trophy campaign and Sunrisers Hyderabad in the 18th edition of the Indian Premier League.

Despite his growing number of appearances, reports have suggested that Shami's involvement in England will hinge on his capacity to manage the format's demands, which begins from June 20. Other reports hinted at the possibility of Shami taking the same route to Test retirement as Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

Shami has represented India in 64 Tests and scalped 229 wickets at an average of 27.1, boasting six five-wicket hauls. In the aftermath of Virat and Rohit's retirement, India is short on experience. During India's last tour of Australia, India's premier frontline off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin decided to bring the curtains down on his international career.

Ben Stokes quits alcohol to aid hamstring injury rehabilitation



LONDON, May 19 (Agencies): England's Test captain Ben Stokes has quit drinking alcohol during his ongoing hamstring injury rehabilitation in an effort to be battle-ready for the upcoming Ashes series against traditional rivals Australia.

The flamboyant cricketer said he gave up drinking at the start of the year in the hope abstinence would hasten his recovery

from the injury.

The 33-year-old Stokes had surgery on his left hamstring in December after suffering a tear during the third Test against New Zealand, which ruled him out of action for a prolonged period.

"After my first major injury, I remember the shock of it and after the initial adrenaline had stopped I was thinking, 'How has this happened?'" Stokes told the Untapped podcast.

"(I thought) 'We did have a bit of a drink four or five nights ago, could that have played a part?' It wouldn't have helped. 'Then I was like 'OK, I need to start changing what I do'."

Stokes tore his hamstring in the Hundred last year and then injured it again during the Test tour of New Zealand.

"I don't think I'll ever be completely sober, but I've not had a drink since January 2. I said to myself, 'Not until I finish my injury rehab and get back on the field.'" Stokes recently unveiled his partnership with zero alcohol spirits company CleanCo, for which he has signed on as an "investor and brand partner".

The English skipper is set to make his comeback on Thursday in England's one-off Test against Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge.

Titans thump Delhi by 10 wickets, qualify for playoffs

NEW DELHI, May 19 (Agencies): Mitchell Stark's decision to miss the restart of the Indian Premier League was a big setback for Delhi Capitals. And it showed on Sunday as Delhi, playing at home, were thumped by Gujarat Titans by 10 wickets. Without the tall left-arm pacer, Axar Patel's DC lacked teeth and looked like a team that downed its tools as Gujarat openers B Sai Sudharsan and Shubman Gill put together an unbeaten 205 runs to win the game with six balls to spare.

The win took Gujarat to the top of the IPL table with 18 points and confirmed a place in the playoffs. The chase of 200 looked tricky at the start and Gill and his partner started at a rapid scoring rate. They put on 33 runs in the first two overs bowled by Axar Patel and T Natarajan. Delhi put the reins on the scoring with Dushmantha Chameera and Mustafizur Rahman, who only conceded a solitary boundary in the three overs bowled between them.

But that was the only period when Delhi looked like they were in the game as both Gill and Sudharshan had the nous to find the boundaries to keep the scoring rate well within control.

Gill, who was batting cautiously with his partner finding the boundary on a

regular basis, was only content in hitting sixes. His first boundary came in the 13th over when he hit Chameera to complete his half-century. By then he had already hit four sixes. The only time the run rate went below nine was during overs 6-10, when they could only score 34 runs to get to the halfway stage of the chase with 93 runs. With no Delhi bowlers making an impression, both Gill and Sudharsan upped the rate to demoralise the home team.

Rahul's century in vain

Earlier, a change in the opening batting combination worked for the home team as KL Rahul, who replaced Abhishek Porel at the top, batted through the entire innings to help Delhi score 199/3. Rahul top scored with an unbeaten 112 to set up a chase of 200.

Rahul started conservatively but upped the scoring rate in the last over of the mandatory powerplay bowled by Kagiso Rabada. A pull shot for a six was followed by a boundary over cover point and then he finished the over with a straight six over mid-off to get going. Porel, who came to bat after the fall of Faf du Plessis' wicket, aided Rahul as the duo put together a partnership of 90 runs for the second wicket and set the foundations of the innings.

Khelo India Beach Games 2025: Big wins for Goa, Gujarat, Kerala; non-coastal states stay brave in soccer

DIU, May 19 (Agencies): The inaugural Khelo India Beach Games 2025 (KIBG) at the Ghoghla beach in Diu got rolling on Monday with beach soccer taking centre stage on day one of the event, according to SAI Media Release.

Amid the breaking waves of a dazzling Arabian Sea in the background, Goa and Rajasthan featured in the boys' opening match of the day. There couldn't have been more contrasting teams, and the match, 13-9 in favour of the Goans, validated that point.

Goa is a full of beaches while Rajasthan has none. Which means, the Goans were kind of at home and the Rajasthanis were at sea. Which leads to the question: are the non-coastal regions going to find it tough at KIBG 2025? Not necessarily since last year in the Diu Beach Games it was actually Madhya Pradesh, a non-coastal state, that ran away with most medals but of course, there will be challenges.



Rajasthan team manager Hari Om listed the set of challenges his team faced in the lead-up to the KIBG.

"It's not that easy for us, a non-coastal state. I mean we practice on an artificial field of play back in Rajasthan. What we do is get tons of sands on trucks from southern Rajasthan but do what we will, this sand is so different from the one which we use for our practice," he said, as quoted from SAI Media Release.

"We started very well against Goa but then we got tired and they pounced on us. Going forward we need to focus on this aspect, stamina. We also need to focus on proper hydration. One of the players today fell sick. So, these are the challenges a non-coastal team like us faces," he added.

Uttar Pradesh girls coach Mukesh Kumar Sabberwal echoed the sentiments even though they got their campaign off to a good start.

"We practice on grass, not even sands. Today we won against the girls' team of Rajasthan which is also a non-coastal state but once we go up against coastal teams, that will be a totally different ball game," he said.

"When we play against non-coastal teams, we know we will win somehow. We are beach boys, familiar with the sand and sea, so we are always confident against these teams. We should have won this match with a bigger margin though," he added.

For the uninitiated, beach soccer is different than the soccer that's played on grass turf. For one thing, there are five players a side. For another, it's a much shorter game with three periods of 12 minutes each. There are eight states each in the boys' and girls' categories and they are divided into two pools, and the top two teams from each pool will reach the semis.

Australia's batting puzzle deepens ahead of WTC Final

The battle for a spot in Australia's top six for next month's ICC World Test Championship Final has grown even more competitive, as several key contenders delivered mixed performances in England's County Championship, as per the official website of ICC.

MELBOURNE, May 19 (Agencies): The battle for a spot in Australia's top six for next month's ICC World Test Championship Final has grown even more competitive, as several key contenders delivered mixed performances in England's County Championship, as per the official website of ICC.

Australia named their 15-player squad for the World Test Championship Final against South Africa at Lord's last week and a host of their important batters are already in England preparing themselves for the one-off Test from June 11.

Key batter Cameron Green boosted his chances of selection in Australia's XI with a superb century for Gloucestershire in their four-day contest against Kent in Bristol to further strengthen his claims of a return to the Test

arena for the first time in more than 15 months.

Green has only just returned from back surgery, but looked in excellent touch for Gloucestershire as he scored his second century since arriving on English shores when amassing 128 from just 184 deliveries in his side's first innings.

The powerful right-hander hit 17 fours and one massive six during his knock, boosting Gloucestershire's chances of claiming maximum points and winning the approval of the home fans in a tight Division 2 contest at the County Ground.

"It was amazing. I definitely wanted a good score in front of the fans," Green said, as quoted from the official website of the ICC.

"I'd never really experienced chanting of my name before so that was awesome to experience," he added.



"We played a couple of shots, the crowd got up, and you felt like you were really on top of them," he noted.

If Green does get selected for Australia in the World Test Championship Final it will be just as a batter, meaning fellow all-rounder Beau Webster may win the nod given he can contribute with the ball as a seamer or off-spinner.

Webster did his chances of selection no harm during Warwickshire's loss to Hampshire in Birmingham, with the 31-year-old collecting six wickets across the two innings along with

scores of 41 and 18 with the bat.

The news wasn't as good for former No.1 ranked Test batter Marnus Labuschagne, who failed to make much of an impact in his first hitout for Glamorgan in their easy victory over Northamptonshire in Cardiff.

Labuschagne has batted at No.3 for Australia for the majority of his Test career and made a solid contribution in that spot during their 209-run over India in he most recent World Test Championship Final at The Oval in 2023.

There have been

reports that Labuschagne may be pushed up to partner veteran opener Usman Khawaja at the top of Australia's batting order for the match with the Proteas, to allow the likes of Green and Webster to slot into the top six.

Labuschagne only arrived in the UK earlier this month and managed scores of zero and four in his first match for Glamorgan, with the right-hander edging the new-ball into the slip cordon in both of his innings in Wales.

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

RCB ropes in Blessing Muzarabani as replacement for Lungi Ngidi



NEW DELHI, May 19 (Agencies): Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have named Zimbabwe seamer Blessing Muzarabani as a replacement for South African speedster Lungisani Ngidi, who will depart the franchise to link up with the South Africa national team for the World Test Championship Final. The change will come into effect from May 26, 2025, as per the IPL Media Advisory.

Muzarabani brings a wealth of international experience to the RCB camp. The tall right-arm fast bowler has featured in 70 T20 Internationals for Zimbabwe, claiming 78 wickets with his consistent pace and bounce. In addition to his T20I exploits, Muzarabani has also played 12 Test matches and 55 One Day Inter-

nationals for his country, making him a seasoned campaigner across formats.

The 28-year-old will join the RCB setup for a fee of Rs 75 lakh, bolstering the team's fast-bowling resources as they look to strengthen their push in the business end of the tournament.

RCB have already qualified for the playoffs with 17 points, and still have two matches to play. They are currently sitting in the second spot with eight wins, three losses and one no result.

Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have also signed Shivam Shukla as a replacement for Rovman Powell for the remainder of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025.

The West Indian all-rounder needs a sur-

gical intervention of his tonsils. Shukla - a leg-spinner - plays for Madhya Pradesh in Domestic Cricket and will join KKR for Rs 30 Lakh.

Shukla, a leg-spinner, has featured in eight T20 matches and has picked up eight wickets. His inclusion adds a fresh spin option to the KKR setup as the franchise looks to end their campaign on a strong note.

KKR's title defence came to a premature end following a wash-out in Bengaluru, a game that marked the league's return after a 10-day break. The defending champions, who clinched the title in 2024, have only one fixture left this season, a face-off against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in Delhi next Sunday.

With playoff hopes dashed, the match against SRH will be an opportunity for KKR to test new talent and finish the season with pride.

KKR are now placed sixth in the points table with five wins and six defeats, and their two games were washed out; they ended with 12 points.

DC Kishtwar reviews progress of District Good Governance Index

Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 19: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan, reviewed the progress of the District Good Governance Index (DGGI) for March 2025.

The meeting aimed to assess the impact of various governance interventions across sectors based on the predefined parameters of the DGGI.

The DC conducted a comprehensive review covering sector-specific performance in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Employment, Education, Health, Rural Development, Public Infrastructure, Jal Shakti, Banks, and other departments.

The focus was on evaluating governance measures under the DGGI framework and analyzing indicators to gain insights into the



current status and progress over time.

The DC emphasized the need for departments to focus on improving their performance on DGGI indicators. He issued directions to various departments to improve performance across multiple parameters, including increasing poultry production through counseling and support, expanding KCC

coverage, enhancing food grain production, boosting the growth of major horticulture produce, promoting crop insurance, and supporting MSME units, among others.

The DC also directed efforts to improve gender parity and retention rates of students at the secondary school level, with the support of Village Level Com-

mittee members and the Education Department, through the organization of awareness camps across all villages in the district.

Additionally, he instructed the RDD, Revenue, and other concerned departments to identify land for the construction of Anganwadi Centers, aiming to shift them from private accommodations to gov-

ernment-owned buildings on a large scale.

He further urged officers to analyze past indices to identify gaps and formulate strategies to bridge them, in order to achieve the desired outcomes.

DC Kishtwar encouraged departmental officers to work with heightened enthusiasm and dedication to improve developmental outcomes within the DGGI framework, with a strong focus on adopting good governance practices.

The meeting was attended by CEO KDA/ACD Kishtwar Kaiser Bhawani, DSEO Kishtwar Akhil Thakur, EO Municipality Kishtwar Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, AD Handicrafts Kishtwar Pardeep Shan, CMO Kishtwar Dr. Rajinder Kumar, CHO Kishtwar Sajid Mustafa, DSHO Kishtwar, Dy. CEO Kishtwar, ExEn PMGSY, and other sectoral officers.

MLA Inderwal flags off first-ever daily SRTC bus service to Marwah via Warwan



Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 19: Fulfilling a long-standing public demand, MLA Inderwal, Payare Lal Sharma, on Monday flagged off the maiden daily JKSRTC bus service from Kishtwar to Marwah via Warwan and Margan Top.

The flag-off ceremony took place at Chatroo and marks a historic moment for the remote and underserved regions of Warwan and Marwah in District Kishtwar.

The newly launched service, initiated by the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corpo-

ration (JKRTC), will significantly enhance connectivity for residents in these far-flung areas. The daily bus will depart from General Bus Stand Kishtwar at 6:00 AM and return from Marwah in the evening.

On the occasion, MLA P.L. Sharma expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, and Minister for Transport, Satish Kumar Sharma, for their support in making this long-awaited service a reality.

He also appreciated the efforts of CEO Kishtwar Development Authority, Kasher Bhawani; RTO Kishtwar,

Tasleem Wani; Tehsildar Chatroo, Shuja Hamid; and the officials of JKSRTC for their coordinated efforts in bringing the project to fruition.

The MLA highlighted the crucial role this service will play in improving accessibility, easing travel for residents, and promoting socio-economic development in the region.

This daily bus service is expected to benefit students, patients, traders, and the general public, ensuring reliable transportation in areas that have long remained disconnected from the mainstream transport network.

Dimple leads anti-Pakistan, Turkey protest; calls for liberation of PoK, Gilgit-Baltistan



Authored by 'son of the soil'; "KALKI: The Final Test" launches today

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: A new book poised to spark profound introspection, "Evolution of Human Global Consciousness-KALKI: The Final Test" written by spiritual teacher and futurist Deepak Manchanda, a proud son of the soil from Jammu, officially launched today.

The book introduces a compelling perspective: Earth is not merely a planet but a critical testing ground for the evolution of souls, where individuals face a hidden spiritual examination determining their ultimate fate.

Manchanda, whose insights on the Bhagavad Gita have resonated with over 55 million viewers worldwide, and who hails from the Jammu region, states, "We are not humans seeking spirit.

We are spirits being tested in human form. Pass, and merge with the Divine. Fail, and return. But what if this is the final test—our last chance?" This central premise forms the core of "Kalki," which delves into a global Kundalini awakening and its potential to reprogram human consciousness in the digital age.

In a unique approach, Manchanda has also pioneered the integration of artificial intelligence into spiritual guidance, training a ChatGPT model named Sakha (Sanskrit for "friend") to disseminate



ancient wisdom.

This human-AI collaboration aims to amplify the book's message and provide practical tools for spiritual seekers navigating a world filled with distractions. These tools include techniques for awakening Kundalini energy, balancing energy centers, and overcoming ego-driven barriers.

"KALKI: The Final Test" offers readers original, experience-based practices such as the Bhumi Bhumi Mantra for Third Eye activation, the 9-Pin Bowling Technique for mental stillness, the Mirror as Star Gate for connecting with the Higher Self, and Pyramid and Satellite Postures for energy center activation.

Drawing from a diverse range of spiritual traditions and incorporating elements of quantum science, the book explores how modern systems can impact consciousness and outlines three critical spiritual debts every soul must address:

Vishnu Debt (material and karmic obligations), Brahma Debt (sharing knowledge and creativity), and Shiv Debt (transmitting spiritual truths). Manchanda posits that final judgment is based on inner purity, transcending rituals and karmic balance.

Authored by Deepak Manchanda, a spiritual futurist with a background in IT and deep roots in Jammu, "Evolution of Human Global Consciousness - KALKI: The Final Test" is now available in Paperback, Hardcover, and eBook formats. Readers can find the book from today on major online platforms including: Amazon, Kindle, Apple Books, Google Play, Kobo, Barnes & Noble, IngramSpark partner stores, and Draft2Digital partner stores. "KALKI: The Final Test" invites readers to consider a new understanding of their existence and embrace the journey of spiritual evolution, guided by the wisdom of a son of Jammu.

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: President of Mission Statehood, Sunil Dimple, led a strong protest rally in Jammu against Pakistan and Turkey, demanding the complete liberation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Gilgit, and Baltistan and their integration into India.

Dimple also expressed full support to the Baloch, PoK, Gilgit, and Baltistan people in their freedom struggle against Pakistan.

Addressing the rally, Dimple urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to continue military operations until PoK, Gilgit, and Baltistan are reunited with India. He vehemently opposed any talks or ceasefire with Pakistan until this goal is achieved and called for the permanent scrapping of the Indus Water Treaty.

Dimple also criticized Turkey for providing missiles, drones, and financial support to Pakistan, demanding an immediate boycott of Turkish goods and a ban on their entry into India.

He pressed the government to distribute immediate cash relief to border residents and victims of conflict, and including compensation for damaged

homes, deceased individuals, and displaced families. Dimple appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and former CM Omar Abdullah to take urgent steps in this regard.

He extended full support to Baloch leader Mir Yar Baloch and reiterated solidarity with the people of Balochistan, PoK, Gilgit, and Baltistan in their ongoing struggle for freedom from Pakistani control.

Further, Dimple demanded that J&K Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat, intensify anti-terror operations in the Kashmir Valley and initiate similar actions in the Jammu region. He also called for strict verification of Hurriyat leaders, alleging that many who claim to have distanced themselves from the separatist group may still function as OGWs (Overground Workers) or sleeper cells for Pakistan.

Prominent leaders who joined Dimple in the protest included Narender Chowdrey, Sanjay Kumar, Sanjeev, Baba Gupta, Parveen Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Happy Kumar, Suny Kumar, Rocky Kapoor, and S. Ricky Singh, among others.

Shiv Sena demands to spread 'All is well' in J&K Demand special relief, rehabilitation package, restoration of statehood

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: Operation Sindoor has achieved its goal with almost complete success. Now the Indo-Pak borders are calm and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is rapidly becoming normal, for the promotion of which an all-party delegation should be sent to Jammu and Kashmir, which gives the message of 'All is Well' so that the economy of Jammu and Kashmir, affected after the Pahalgam attack, returns back on track quickly, stated by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena UBT Jammu and Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that the economy of Jammu and Kashmir, based on tourism busi-



ness, has been affected by Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for the last 37 years, the situation had completely collapsed after the Pahalgam attack. Sahni said that the situation is fast getting back to normal.

He said that April to August is the peak season for tourism business in Kashmir. The Holy Shri Amarnath Yatra is also going to start from 3rd July.

He appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to send an all-party delegation to Jammu and Kashmir to give the

message of normalcy. Along with this, he demands the announcement of relief and rehabilitation package for those affected by the cross-border firing and restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Sahni said that a memorandum has also been sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi through the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir regarding the above demands. On this occasion Sr vice president Balwant Singh, Sanjeev Kumar were also present.

AAP-J&K slams BJP over Double Standards, demands action against MP Minister Vijay Shah

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 19: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Jammu & Kashmir unit, has launched a strong attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of hypocrisy and "double standards" in its treatment of armed forces personnel.

The party has demanded immediate disciplinary action against Madhya Pradesh Minister Vijay Shah for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Colonel Sofia Qureshi, a decorated woman officer of

the Indian Army.

In a press statement issued by the AAP-J&K Media In-Charge, the party condemned Shah's remarks as "immoral and hateful," stating that they not only insult a brave soldier but also undermine the dignity of women and tarnish the honor of India's armed forces.

"The BJP must prove its respect for the armed forces through action, not hollow slogans," the statement read.

AAP-J&K highlighted the irony of BJP leaders organizing Tiranga Rallies to celebrate the

bravery of soldiers involved in Operation Sindoor, while allowing a senior leader within their ranks to demean a military officer. The party criticized the BJP high command's silence on the matter, interpreting it as a tacit endorsement of Shah's controversial comments.

"How can a minister in a position of responsibility make such statements during a time of national pride?" questioned the party, referring to India's recent military achievements. They emphasized that such incidents damage not only the morale of

the armed forces but also the unity and secular fabric of the nation.

Calling for accountability, AAP-J&K urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to seek Shah's resignation and take stringent disciplinary action without delay.

The statement concluded with a warning: "Decisive action is necessary to preserve national unity, communal harmony, and the dignity of our defense personnel. Failure to act risks eroding public trust."