

# TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper



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**Trump says Russia-Ukraine prisoners swap completed, hints at 'something big'**



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## BRIEFLY

### Forest fire trigger landmine blasts along LoC in Poonch

MENDHAR/JAMMU, May 23 (Agencies): Several landmines exploded due to a forest fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday, official sources said. No loss of life was reported.

A forest fire broke out near LoC and spread to a large chunk of mountainous area in the Krishna Ghati sector, they said.

Due to the forest fire, several landmines exploded in the area, but there was no loss of life or injury to anyone, they added.

Army and forest department officials along with locals are making efforts to extinguish the fire.

### Narco-Terrorism Case: State investigation agency conducts raid in Poonch

POONCH, May 23 (Agencies): The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Friday raided a premises in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district in connection with a narco-terrorism case, official sources said.

The raids were conducted in police line belt of Sailan area, they said. According to sources, the raid on house of Zameer Sheikh was linked to an investigation into a narco-terrorism funding case.

The SIA is probing alleged financial links between terrorist organisations and individuals or groups in the region. Sheikh's residence was searched for evidence, and the agency is analysing seized materials as part of their ongoing investigation, they said.

### ED Raids against Jaypee Infratech, Others in rs 12,000-cr fraud case

NEW DELHI, May 23 (Agencies): The Enforcement Directorate on Friday conducted searches at multiple locations as part of a money laundering probe against Jaypee

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## Operation Sindoor showed terror in India fully sponsored by Pakistan: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI, May 23 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said Operation Sindoor has exposed the fact that terrorism in India is fully Pakistan sponsored.

Delivering the Rustamji Memorial Lecture organised by the Border Security Force (BSF) on the occasion of its 22nd investiture ceremony, he also said that the border guarding force has proved its mettle during Operation Sindoor and did not allow nefarious Pakistani activities.

"Operation Sindoor has exposed that terror



ism in India is absolutely Pakistan sponsored," he said.

The home minister said the Indian armed forces first hit the terror bases in Pakistan but it

was the Pakistan Army that responded by trying to attack India.

"We launched Operation Sindoor and destroyed nine terrorist camps. It is important to

note that we didn't target the Pakistan Army installations, civilians or air base," he said.

"We targeted the terrorists, but Pakistan took it on itself and proved that it was Pakistan sponsored terrorism," Shah said.

"They dared to target our civilians but couldn't succeed in front of our air defence system. In response to which, we targeted their air base and introduced our striking capability to them," the home minister said.

He said in 2014, the BJP government was formed and an

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## US Judge bars Trump administration to detain, deport international students



NEW YORK, May 23 (Agencies): Hours after the Department of Homeland Security striped Harvard University's ability to enroll

foreign students, a federal judge on Thursday termed the government's actions likely unlawful and destabilizing, therefore issuing

a sweeping injunction temporarily barring the Trump administration's attempts to detain or deport international students whose visas were revoked earlier this year. The New York Times reported.

Appointed by the former president George Bush, Judge Jeffrey White of the US District Court for the Northern District of California sharply criticized the administration's approach, writing in a 21-page opinion that federal officials

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## "Duty of elected representative to reach out to people," Omar Abdullah lauds visits of TMC delegation, Rahul Gandhi



SRINAGAR, May 23 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah stated on Friday that Lok Sabha

LoP Rahul Gandhi will visit Poonch tomorrow.

"Yes, he will visit Poonch. He will meet the people there and

express his sympathies. I am thankful to the TMC for initiating it. Five of their members came here and visited by road. They visited Poonch, and they are now in Rajouri. Then will visit Jammu. It is good that they came here and are listening to the people. And we feel that some people are standing with us in such difficult times," he said.

Jammu and Kashmir

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## Wreath-Laying ceremony held for soldier martyred in Kishtwar encounter

JAMMU, May 23 (Agencies): Chief of Staff of White Knight Corps Major General Shailendra Singh on Friday led the wreath-laying ceremony for Sepoy Gaykar Sandip Pandurang, who was martyred in an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.



The ceremony was held at the military hospital in Jammu before his mortal remains were dispatched to his hometown for the last rites.

Major General Singh, along with other Army ranks, police, BSF, and civilian officials laid wreaths on the tricolour-wrapped coffin of the

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## TMC delegation visits shelling-hit Rajouri, Slams Centre for 'Neglecting' border areas



RAJOURI/JAMMU, May 23 (Agencies): A five-member TMC delegation that visited the cross-border shelling-hit Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday slammed the government for neglecting the families living in border areas.

The delegation members said they were returning with "broken hearts" after witnessing the human tragedy caused by Pakistani shelling and expressed solidarity with the people.

The region witnessed heightened artillery

shelling about two weeks ago following the rise in tensions with Pakistan after India carried out precision strikes on nine terror hubs in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on May 7 in response to the Pahalgalam attack.

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## Srinagar burglary solved, Stolen gold and alto car seized: Police

SRINAGAR, May 23 (Agencies): A major theft case reported from the Nishat area of Srinagar in February has been solved by police, resulting in the arrest of three suspects and the recovery of stolen gold items worth nearly Rs 9 lakh.

The breakthrough

followed a complaint lodged on February 19 by Ghulam Qadir, a resident of Pati Brein, who reported a burglary at his home in which gold ornaments were stolen. Police Station Nishat registered an FIR and launched a comprehensive investigation.

Through sustained efforts, analysis of clues, and the use of digital surveillance, the investigating team identified three suspects: Hafiz Ganie of Shallbugh Ganderbal, Bilal Ahmad Ganie of Asham Sumbal Bandipora, and Bilal

■ Turn to page 9

# GupShup

## RESTAURANT

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**TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh Chuni Lal Bhat** S/o Late Damodhar Bhat originally R/o Kanipora, Sonawari Distt. Bandipora at present Srinagar Kmr.

**Sh Chuni Lal Bhat**

The mourning will be held at Jammu at the residence of Avtar Krishan Bhat, Sharda Colony, Patoli Brahmana.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be held at Muthi Ghat near Directorate of School Education on 26-5-2025 at 8.30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN****Desha Bhat -Wife****Sumit Bhat -Son****Doora Dhar -Bhabi****Avtar Krishan Bhat & Girja Bhat -Brother & Bhabhi****R L Bhat & Dazy Bhat -Brother & Bhabhi****Samast Bhat & Raina Parivar****Cell:- 7006974366 9469334827 9958578555****BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS**

With profound grief and sorrow we are going to inform that our beloved father **S. Budh Singh (Retd Indian Navy)** S/o Late S. Hira Singh, expired on 16-05-2025.

**Bhog and Antim Ardas** will be performed as per programme given below:

**Aramb** Sri Akhand Path Sahib: Starting: 8:30 AM on 22-05-25 Thursday at our home Nanak Chak Kathua

**Bhog Sri Akhand Path Sahib:** 8:30 AM Ardas 9:00 AM on 24-05-25 (Saturday)

**ANTIM ARDAS** will be performed at Gurudwara Singh Sabha, Main Bazar, Kathua from 10 AM to 12 AM on 24-05-25, and Guru Ka Langar will be served.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:****Sons & Daughters-in-law:**

S. Sewa Singh &amp; Jagroop Kaur (Raipur Sahwar)

S. Devinder Singh &amp; Karanjeet Kaur (R.D.D)

S. Ajibai Singh &amp; Sharan Kaur (A.S.I JHP)

**Daughters & Sons-in-law:**

Sdn. Rajinder Kaur &amp; S. Gurjeet Singh (Retd. Subedar)

Sdn. Updesh Kaur &amp; S. Ajibai Singh (PHE)

**Grandsons & Granddaughters-in-law:**

S. Rajveer Singh &amp; Jasmeet Kaur (Inspector JKL)

S. Maninder Singh &amp; Mandar Kaur (Teras India Ltd)

Dr. S. Ishpal Singh (Animal Husbandry J&amp;K)

S. Harkeerat Singh (Canada)

S. Jasdev Singh, S. Varinder Singh, S. Saranpreet Singh

**Great Grandchildren:** Angad Singh, Anahad Singh, Amoor Kaur**Nephews:**

Master Gursagar Singh (Retd Master)

S. Balwinder Singh (Retd JAFED)

S. Tara Singh (Retd NHPC)

S. Nalinder Singh (JK Bank)

**S Budh Singh  
(Retd Indian Navy)  
June 1933-May 2025****MOBILE NO: 9419641285****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 &amp; Smt Desha Devi (Brother &amp; Bhabhi)

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

Smt Shikuntla Sharma W/o Lt Bansal Sharma (Sister)

**Sons & Daughters-in-law**

Sh Virender Kumar &amp; Smt Saroj Najawan

Sh Shammi Kapoor &amp; Smt Dazy Najawan

Sh Ravinder Kumar &amp; Smt Deepa Najawan

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Sh Shami Mahajan &amp; Smt Renu Mahajan

**Grand Children**

Chahat, Daksh, Sarvi, Tushar, Gauransh, 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 &amp; Saroj Kumar Raina

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

Smt. Kanta &amp; Lalit Khazanchi

**Grand Children:**

Smt. Sheeba Tickoo &amp; Samir Tickoo

Smt. Nidhi Raina &amp; Aditya Raina

Smt. Vaishali &amp; Aditya Kachroo

Smt. Diksha &amp; Shailan Mattoo

Smt. Mimica &amp; Rahul Khazanchi

**Grief Stricken:-**

Samast Chattabali, Dhar, Parimoo, 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. &amp; Sh. Ashok Bhat

Smt. &amp; Sh. Hari Krishan Bhat

Smt. &amp; Sh. Tej Krishan Koul

Smt. &amp; Sh. Arun Bhat

Smt. &amp; Sh. Shrawan Bhat

Smt. &amp; Sh. Mahesh Koul

Mob.: 789644842, 9419141454, 9082862816, 9419189542, 7006480435

**Satish Kumar Bhat****TENTH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad and untimely demise of **Smt. Kanta Sharma (Pooja)** W/o Sh. Sudesh Kumar Sharma R/o H.No. 4/45, Pandoka Colony, Paloura, Jammu.

**Tenth Day** will be performed on Thursday, 22nd May 2025 at Prachin Shiv Mandir, Pandoka Colony, Paloura at 11:00 am.

**Kriya** will be performed on Saturday, 24th May 2025 at our residence at 12:30 pm.

**Uthala** will be performed on Saturday, 24th May 2025 at Prachin Shiv Mandir, Pandoka Colony, Paloura from 4 pm to 5 pm.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**

Sh. Sudesh Kumar Sharma (Husband)

Priya &amp; Dheeraj Sharma (Daughter &amp; Son-in-Law)

Madhuri &amp; Sunil Malhotra (Daughter &amp; Son-in-Law)

Shivam Sharma (Son)

**SMT KANTA SHARMA  
(POOJA)****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 &amp; Sh. Raj Kumar Bhat

Smt. Dazy Bhat &amp; Sh. Manoj Bhat.

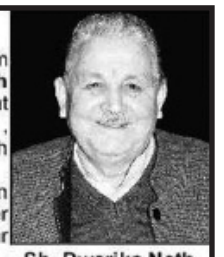
**Daughter and Son in law**

Smt Renu Bhat &amp; Sh. Prince Jee Bhat

Smt. Vijay Marhatta &amp; Sh. Chaman Lal Marhatta

**Grand Children:** Priyanka, Purvashi, Nisha, Sahil, Esha, Shreya, Nikunj, Namish

Mob: 7053631651, 7051076445 (Only Whatsapp call)

**Sh. Dwarika Nath Bhat****BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS**

ਜੇਹਾ ਚੀਜ਼ੀ ਲਿਖਿਆ ਤੇਹਾ ਕਰਕੁ ਕਰਮਾਇ॥  
ਘਲੇ ਆਦਿ ਨ ਨਕਰਾ ਸਦੇ ਉਠੀ ਜਾਇ॥੧॥

With profound grief, we inform that our beloved **Prof. Sdr. Hernal Singh (Principa)** left for heavenly abode on 17th of May, 2025.

**Sri Akhand Path Sahib** is being organised to honour his life and legacy. We seek your presence for strength and comfort during this time of grief.

**Sri Akhand Path Sahib**  
Kandh: Friday, 23 May, 2025, 9:00 am

**Bhog:** Sunday, 25 May, 2025, 9:30 am

Venue: 312 Pirm Nagar, New Poles, Jammu

**Kriya & Antim Ardas:** Sunday 25 May 2025 from 10:30 am onwards, Venue: Kalgidhar Gurudwara, Rajat followed by Guru Ka Langar.

**GRIEF STRICKEN**  
Sarim Inoort Kaur (Wife)

Mrs. Sarveen Hans (Daughter) & Maj Gen HPS Bhat (Son-in-law)

Mrs. Shivan Kaur (Daughter) & Mr. Anil Gupta (Son-in-law)

Col Anil Pal Singh (Son) & Col Tanveer Kaur (Daughter-in-law)

**DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY THE GRAND CHILDREN**  
Ehsan, Sarita, Rajan, Samana, Samrith & Sifat

**FAMILY:**  
Mrs. Pushp Raj Kaur & Prof. Gurcharan Singh

Mrs. Pushpinder Kaur Bhat & Late Mr. Gurpreet Singh Bhat

Mrs. Sarvesh Kaur Bhat & Mr. Salinder Singh Bhat

Mrs. Ravinder Kaur Bhat & Mr. Rajinder Singh Bhat

Late Mr. Harbinder Singh (Nephew) & Late Mrs. Nandinder Kaur

Mr. Salinder Singh & Mrs. Gurneet Kaur

Mr. Iqbal Singh & Mrs. Salinder Kaur

**Prof. Sdr. Hernal Singh  
(Principa)****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, Jampur Jammu.

**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 8 PM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN****Devar & Devrani**

Sh. Yoginder Pal Khajuria &amp; Smt. Veena Khajuria

**Sons & Daughters-in-law**

Er. Ajay Khajuria &amp; Smt. Kanchan Sharma

Er. Vinay Khajuria &amp; Smt. Preeti Khajuria

**Daughters & Son-in-law**

Lt. Smt. Kanchan Sharma &amp; Sh. Subash Manotra

Smt. Suman Sudan &amp; Dr. Faendra Sudan

**Nephew & Niece -in-law**

Vikas Khajuria &amp; Priyanka

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

Abhishek Khajuria, Tushar Khajuria, Tapas Sudan, Sidharth Sharma &amp; Arushi Khajuria

9419200501, 9419113883

**Smt. Vishno Khajuria****TENTH DAY**

Our beloved **Veena Pandita**, fondly called Tathi, who with her thousand invisible arms loved and nurtured extended branches of family, left us on May 15. She leaves behind a diffused warmth of home that we can only hope to preserve and safeguard like a square of sunlight on a harsh winter day.

Her **Tenth-Day Rituals** will be performed on May 24 at 8.30 am at Muthi Ghat, next to Directorate of School Education, Jammu.

**In grief:****Rakesh Pandita (Husband)****Anjali and Mayank Pandita (Daughter-in-law and Son)****Meena and Tej Krishan Raina****Anjali and Yoginder Handoo****And****PANDITAS, HANDOOS, RAINAS, GURTUS, AND REVOOS.****Veena Pandita****TENTH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow we inform about sad demise of **Sh Vijay Koul (Bona Ji)** S/o Lt Prem Nath Koul R/o Rajghat Baramulla A/P Flat No. 16, Block No. 10, Lane No. 2, on 15-05-2025.

**Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on 24-05-2025 at Muthi Ghat

Near Directorate of School Education at 8.30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:-****Smt Dulari -Wife**

Sh Ashok Kumar Koul &amp; Smt Phooli Ji -Brother &amp; Bhabhi

Sh Mahinder Koul &amp; Smt Vijay Ji -Brother &amp; Bhabhi

**Sons & Daughters-in-Law**

Dr. Avash Koul &amp; Dr. Simi Koul

Sh Akshay Koul &amp; Smt Megha Koul

Sh Abhay Koul

**Daughters & Sons-in-Law**

Smt. Anji Saproo &amp; Sh. Avinash Saproo

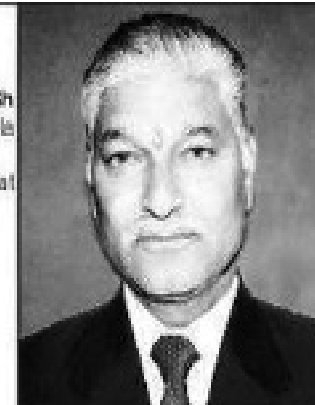
Smt. Monika Bhat &amp; Sh. Sandeep Bhat

Smt. Meenakshi &amp; Dr. Gaurav Sharma

Smt. Neha Bhat &amp; Sh. Ajay Bhat

**Grand Children:** Adhwik, Dank, Himani, Tiana, Soumit, Nishavsi, Yuvon, Shivaay, Shulini, Shilvin

Web No: 7006554151, 7008559922, 9103059054, 6005911853, 7889948079

**Sh Vijay Koul (Bona Ji)****TENTH DAY**

It is with deep sorrow and profound grief that we announce the passing of **Sh Chaman Lal Turki**, beloved son of the late Smt. Tarawali Turki and the late Sh. Amar Nath Turki. Formerly a resident of Bagh Jogi Lanker, Rainawari, Srinagar, he was currently residing at The Residency Apartment, 202, Plot 62, Sector 2 A, Koperkhairne, Navi Mumbai. His memory will forever remain in our hearts.

The **Tenth Day Kriya** will be performed on Monday 26th May at 10 a.m. Siva Saayujyam Building, Plot 20, Sector 14, Koperkhairne, Navi Mumbai, Behind Krishna Tower.

**Grief Stricken****Brother & Sister-in-law**

Smt. Shashi Turki W/o Lt. Sh. Nana Jee Turki

Sh. Bushan Lal Turki &amp; Smt. Bita Turki

**Son & Daughter -in-law**

Sh. Vinod Kumar Turki &amp; Smt. Anjana Turki

Sh. Virender Kumar Turki &amp; Smt. Neetu Turki

Sh. Sunil Turki &amp; Smt. Sarita Turki

Sh. Sachin Turki &amp; Smt. Vandana Turki

Sh. Ritesh Turki &amp; Smt. Annie Turki

**Daughter & Son-in-law**

Smt. Kimi &amp; Sh. Navan Kaul

Smt. Sanjay &amp; Sh. Kuldeep Kumar Dhar

**Sister & Brother -in-law**

Smt. Indu &amp; Shubam Krishan Koul

**Brother-in-law**

Sh. Ram Krishan Bhatt (Kaul) - USA/India

Sh. Satish Shankar Bhatt &amp; Smt. Pushpa Bhatt-USA

**Sh Chaman Lal Turki****Grandchildren**

Raksha, Chakshu, Mahima, Koshicki, Anirudh,

Mohit, Dheeraj, Chivani, Viresh

**TURKI'S, KOUL'S, KAUL'S, DHAR'S,****JAIKHANIS, BHATT'S AND SAPROO'S AND****NEAR AND DEARS****10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform, the sad demise of our beloved Karmayogi father, **Sh. Soom Nath Raina**, originally resident of Nowgam Kuthar, Anantnag, who left for his heavenly abode on 17th May.

To honor and pay our last respects, the **10th Day Kriya** will be held at Muthi Ghat, near the Directorate of School Education, on Monday, 26th May, at 8:30 AM.

**GRIEF STRICKEN:**



# CM Omar Abdullah convenes public outreach programme at Raabita office

## Delegations raise several issues, CM assures prompt redressal, on-spot directions for relief

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 23: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday conducted a weekly Public Outreach Programme at the Chief Minister's Raabita Office at Gupkar in Srinagar, engaging directly with the public to address their issues and concerns.

Former J&K Minister Mohamad Ashraf Mir brought to the Chief Minister's attention various developmental challenges in Athwajan, Pantha Chowk and surrounding areas.

Students from the SPS Library, MA Road Lal Chowk, requested the extension of library hours and resolution of internet connectivity and other student-related issues.

"Libraries are vital to a learning society—we are committed to making them more modern and student-friendly. All genuine concerns will be looked into," CM assured the students delegation.

A delegation led by Peerzada Masood Hamdani from Khankah-e-Moula raised concerns related to the upkeep and development of the Khankah Shrine, along with other local



matters.

Retired veterinary employees presented issues related to pay anomalies and pension disbursements. Similarly, employees of the J&K Sports Council sought the Chief Minister's intervention regarding the grant of pensionary benefits to Council staff.

Social workers associated with Special Cells advocated for the continuation and strengthening of Special Cells for Women in Jammu and Kashmir.

Employees of the J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) also met with the

Chief Minister to discuss matters concerning their career progression and other employment-related concerns.

A delegation of visually impaired and physically challenged individuals, led by Showkat Ahmad Lone, highlighted several key issues, including free public transport, accessibility in educational institutions and government offices, skill development programs, and an establishment of a single-window system for grievance redressal.

In addition, a delegation led by hotelier Mushtaq Burza

appealed for government support in the revival of tourism and raised key concerns relating to the industry, trade and hospital-ity sectors.

Representatives from Kishtwar voiced their concerns related to Waqf properties and other local developmental issues.

Several other delegations comprising sitting and former MLAs, public representatives, and concerned citizens also met with the Chief Minister to raise issues such as old-age pensions, access to potable drinking water, and infrastructure development in their respective constituencies.

The Chief Minister patiently listened to all delegations and assured prompt and priority-based redressal of their genuine concerns. On-the-spot instructions were issued by the Chief Minister in several cases to ensure swift resolution of grievances. "We remain committed to listening, resolving issues, and building a responsive and people-centric Government," he added.

Advisor to CM, Nasir Aslam Wani and other senior officers were present during the public hearing.

## KCCI delegation calls on LG Sinha

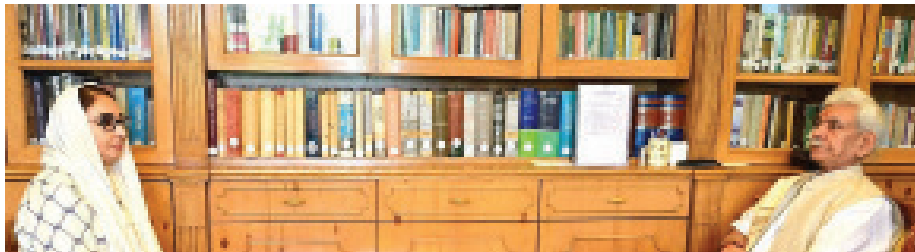


### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 23: A delegation of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by its President Javid

Ahmed Tenga, on Friday called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha and put forth important matters pertaining to trade and tourism sector of Kashmir region.

## Dr Darakhshan Andrabi calls on LG Sinha



### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 23: Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj

Sinha, on Friday.

Dr Andrabi expressed her gratitude to Lieutenant Governor for the announcement of Government job to the

closest kin of Pakistan shelling victims. She also discussed several measures undertaken by the Board for the development of Sufi shrines in J&K.

# Healthcare infrastructure across J&K to witness major upgrades soon: Sakeena Itoo

## Conducts extensive tour of Kokernag Constituency

**Reviews functioning, status of infrastructure of various healthcare facilities, educational institutions**

### Top News Report

KOKERNAG, MAY 23: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Friday conducted an extensive tour of Kokernag Constituency during which she reviewed functioning as well as status of infrastructure of various healthcare facilities and educational institutions in the area.

MLA Kokernag, Choudhary Zafar Ali Khatana; MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie; Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Colleges J&K, Direc-

tor Family Welfare & Immunization, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director AYUSH J&K, ADC Anantnag, Programme Officer ICDS Anantnag, SDM Kokernag and other senior officers from Health, Social Welfare, and Education departments accompanied the Minister.

During the visit, Minister Sakeena inspected Sub-District hospital Kokernag, PHC Larnoo, PHC Gadole, PHC Wandavelgam, GDC Larnoo and took first hand appraisal of the functioning of these healthcare facilities and educational institutions.

At SDH Kokernag, Minister Sakeena took

detailed round of the hospital and assessed the facilities available for the general public. She inspected various departments, interacted with staff and patients and took feedback from them about the services available at the facility.

While interacting with the public on the occasion, Minister Sakeena assured them that under Omar Abdullah led Government, major upgrades will be done in the healthcare infrastructure of Jammu and Kashmir soon. She further assured them that significant upgrades like establishment of an oxygen plant, blood bank and dialysis facilities, will be done at SDH Kokernag in coming months to improve medical services and ensure accessi-

bility of better healthcare facilities to local population within their vicinities.

While visiting PHC Larnoo, PHC Gadole and PHC Wandavelgam, Minister Sakeena minutely evaluated the healthcare facilities at

these locations. She interacted with local health workers and discussed strategies with them and accompanying officers to improve healthcare accessibility and quality in these areas.

## LG Sinha pays tributes to Army Braveheart Sep Gaykar Sandip Pandurang

### Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid heartfelt tributes to Army Braveheart Sep Gaykar Sandip Pandurang, who attained martyrdom during an anti-terror operation in Kishtwar. "Salute to the indomitable courage of braveheart Sep Gaykar Sandip Pandurang, who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation during the anti-terror operation in Kishtwar. The grateful nation will forever be indebted to his valour and unwavering commitment to duty. We stand united in solidarity with the family of the martyr in this hour of grief," the Lieutenant Governor said.

# JKDFA reaffirms leadership of President Sandeep Chib, announces expulsions, organizational reforms

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 23: The Jammu and Kashmir Dairy Farmers Association (JKDFA) has reaffirmed that Mr. Sandeep Singh Chib is the duly elected President of the Association. In a formal statement, the organization declared that it recognizes only one central leadership under Mr. Chib's presidency, which will continue until December 2025. The Association warned against any attempts by unauthorized individuals to challenge this legitimate structure, stating such actions are invalid and will not be acknowledged. Taking firm action to maintain organizational discipline, JKDFA announced that five individuals—Dalip Singh Chib, Davinder Singh Katal, Sunil Sharma, Shubham Choudhary, and S.K. Sharma—have been



relieved of all roles and responsibilities within the Association. They no longer hold any affiliation or authority to represent or act on behalf of JKDFA. The Association highlighted that it functions through a democratic process involving full participation from district units across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions. It reaffirmed that future elections would be conducted

transparently, with fairness and inclusivity at the core. In a significant step toward restoring organizational integrity, JKDFA announced that a new Executive Board would be constituted shortly. This board will ensure balanced representation from both regions to strengthen coordination and unity.

Under the leadership of Sandeep Singh Chib, JKDFA has achieved

notable progress. Development projects worth Rs 14 crore have been secured and are being implemented in collaboration with various government departments to benefit dairy farmers across the Union Territory. The Association has adopted a farmer-centric approach, with the President remaining accessible 24/7 to address farmer concerns and offer support.

The expansion of district-level units under Chib's tenure has further strengthened JKDFA's grassroots outreach, ensuring better representation and engagement. The Association stated its commitment to upholding democratic values, supporting every dairy farmer, and promoting regional development through transparent leadership.

In its concluding remarks, JKDFA urged all government departments and institutions—including the Department of Animal Husbandry, Department of Agriculture, SKUAST University, and others—not to entertain any individuals or groups without official authorization from the President's office.

For official communication and further details, stakeholders have been advised to contact the Office of the President, JKDFA

### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 23: Jyeshtha Masik Shivratri Vrat will be observed on Sunday, 25 May 2025, according to Jyotishacharya Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust. This monthly Shivratri falls on the Chaturdashi Tithi of Krishna Paksha, a day dedicated to Lord Shiva. The Chaturdashi Tithi begins at 3:52 PM on 25 May and ends at 12:12 PM on 26 May, with the special night worship taking place between 11:58 PM and 12:38 AM on 25 May.

Devotees gather early in the morning at Shiva temples to perform ritualistic worship. Offerings include holy Ganga water, milk, curd, ghee, honey, flowers, bilva leaves, incense, lamps, sandalwood paste, seasonal fruits, ak and dhatura flowers, and rice. Rituals such as Rudrabhishek, chanting the mantra "Om Namah Shivaya," reciting the



Shiva Purana, and listening to Shiva stories are performed throughout the night. These practices are believed to bring spiritual merit equivalent to performing an Ashwamedha Yajna and may lead to salvation (moksha).

Shiva worship is especially significant for women. Unmarried girls pray for an ideal husband like Lord Shiva, while married women fast for the well-being and prosperity of their husbands and families. Devotees observing the fast are advised to remain focused on Lord Shiva, bathe in the morning, apply sacred ash (bhasma) on the forehead, and wear a Rudraksha mala. Offerings made to Lord

Shiva should not be consumed by the devotees themselves unless a Shaligram is present near the Shiva idol.

Guidelines for Shiva worship vary according to zodiac signs. For example, Aries individuals are advised to perform Abhishek with water mixed with jaggery or honey and offer bilva leaves inscribed with "Om Namah Shivaya," while Taurus should use cow's milk and curd for Abhishek and offer white clothes and jasmine flowers. Each zodiac sign has specific rituals, offerings, and mantras to follow, such as chanting the Mahamrityunjaya Mantra, Shiva Chalisa, or Shiva Tandava Stotra.

Observing the Jyeshtha Masik Shivratri vrat with devotion is believed to strengthen willpower, instill courage, and bring spiritual benefits. It is a time for devotees to renew their faith in Lord Shiva and seek his blessings for health, prosperity, and spiritual growth.



EDITORIAL

A Global Threat

Drug trafficking is one of the most pressing and complex global issues, posing significant threats to public health, national security, and economic stability. It refers to the illegal production, distribution, and sale of substances that are subject to drug prohibition laws. Despite international efforts to curb its spread, drug trafficking continues to flourish, driven by high demand, extensive networks, and enormous profits.

Drug trafficking is not confined to one region; it is a transnational problem affecting countries across continents. Major drug-producing regions include the “Golden Triangle” (Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand) and the “Golden Crescent” (Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan), which are known for the cultivation of opium. Latin America, particularly countries like Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, is a major source of coca, the plant used to produce cocaine. These drugs are then transported through complex international routes to reach consumers primarily in North America, Europe, and increasingly Asia and Africa.

Drug trafficking networks are highly organized and use advanced methods to evade law enforcement. These include the use of drones, submarines, encrypted communication, and corrupt officials to move drugs undetected. Criminal organizations such as drug cartels and mafia syndicates often control these networks, making it a highly dangerous and violent enterprise.

The impact of drug trafficking is profound and multifaceted. One of the most severe consequences is the rise in drug addiction. Easy availability of drugs due to trafficking leads to higher rates of substance abuse, especially among youth. This, in turn, results in increased health issues, including overdoses, the spread of infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS through needle sharing, and mental health disorders.

Communities affected by drug trafficking often experience a surge in violence. Gang wars over territory, confrontations with law enforcement, and internal rivalries within trafficking networks lead to bloodshed and insecurity. In countries like Mexico and Colombia, entire regions have suffered due to the control exerted by powerful drug cartels.

Furthermore, drug trafficking undermines the rule of law. It fosters corruption at multiple levels of government and law enforcement, making it difficult to implement effective policies. Bribes and intimidation are used to protect the interests of traffickers, leading to a weakened judicial system and erosion of public trust.

Drug trafficking also takes a heavy toll on the economy. Resources that could be used for development and welfare are often diverted to fight drug-related crimes. The healthcare system bears a substantial burden due to the need to treat drug-related illnesses and injuries. Additionally, the productivity of a country’s workforce declines due to drug addiction and associated criminal behavior.

In some regions, drug trafficking becomes a parallel economy. While it may temporarily generate employment and income, it creates long-term instability and discourages legitimate economic activities. Tourism, foreign investment, and infrastructure development are often stunted in areas controlled by drug lords.

Governments around the world have launched numerous initiatives to combat drug trafficking. These include strengthening border controls, improving intelligence sharing, increasing penalties for drug-related offenses, and enhancing international cooperation. Agencies like the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) work closely with countries to monitor drug trends, support policy development, and provide technical assistance.

However, law enforcement alone is not enough. Many experts advocate for a more comprehensive approach that includes education, prevention, rehabilitation, and socioeconomic development. Reducing demand through public awareness campaigns, school programs, and access to treatment is crucial. Decriminalizing certain drugs and regulating them under strict guidelines is also being explored in several countries as a strategy to reduce the influence of illegal markets.

Addressing drug trafficking requires a coordinated and multifaceted response. Governments must not only target traffickers but also address the root causes such as poverty, lack of education, unemployment, and social inequality. Strengthening institutions, promoting good governance, and building community resilience are essential.

Moreover, international collaboration is key. Drug trafficking is a global issue that transcends borders, and only through joint efforts can countries dismantle the powerful networks that perpetuate this menace.

In conclusion, drug trafficking is a grave challenge with far-reaching implications. Its impact on society, the economy, and governance is devastating, making it imperative for the global community to act with urgency, unity, and innovation. Combating this threat is not just a legal necessity but a moral obligation to protect future generations and ensure a safer, healthier world.

By:Omkar Dattatray

Operation Sindoor was the appropriate response and reaction to Pahalgam massacre and through this operation,Indian armed forces carried a precision strike on the terrorist infrastructure at nine sites in POJK and Pakistan and it resulted in the destruction of the terrorist infrastructure and killed more than 100 terrorists and avenged and revenged the wrong doing of 22 April 2025 .It should to the whole world including Pakistan that terrorism is unacceptable and there is zero tolerance against terrorism and terror cannot be justified in any form and for whatever reason as it cannot be justified and should be made to die in order to save humanity.The pertinent question arises has the Operation Sindoor being a success? The right answer to this question is that the “Operation Sindoor” has been a total success and our defence forces were able to wipe out the training centres of terrorism in POJK and Pakistan and there should be no confusion over it.Operation Sindoor denotes the valour,bravery,skill and boldness of India’s defence forces and the determination and foresight of our Prime minister Narendra Modi and defence minister Raj Nath Singh. Operation Sindoor was a total success and it destroyed hideouts of terrorists and killed more than 100 terrorists and Pakistan was given a loud and clear message that terrorism is not acceptable at all and at any cost.Operation Sindoor was a befitting reply and response to the forces of mayhem and doom and it is hoped that the Pakistan will not dare to regroup terrorists again.But the record of Pakistan makes one to believe that she will perhaps not mend her ways and will continue to sponsor and transport terrorists to India. We are very proud of the heroic deeds and precision attacks on the terrorist infrastructure in POJK and Pakistan and avenging the Pahalgam massacre by destroying terrorist infrastruc-

ture and killing of over 100 terrorists including the family members of Hafiz Sayeed.However two terrorists heads such as Hafiz Sayeed and Azhar Mahmood is safe and now they should be on the hit list of our army. SINDOOR has been widely regarded as a success, with international experts praising its precision and effectiveness in dismantling terror threats .Operation which began on May 7,2025 ,in response to a terror attack in Pahalgam ,aimed to neutralise terror launchpads and demonstrate India’s resolve against cross -boarder terrorism.The success of Operation Sindoor can be given in the following way---1—Elimination of terror camps—India successfully destroyed nine major launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir[POJK] ,targeting outfits like LeT and JeM as well as HM.2—Precision Strikes---The operation involved deep strikes into Pakistan including areas like Punjab province and Bawalpur ,showing India’s willingness to target terror activities regardless of location. 3-Neutralisation of Hostile Technologies---The Indian Air Force successfully bypassed and Jammed Pakistan’s Chinese supplied air defence systems ,highlighting India’s technological capabilities and demonstrating that its systems could be neutralised by Indian systems.4—Effective use of Technology—The operation used drones ,Akash missiles, and an integrated Air Command and Control System-IACCS ,which were crucial in achieving success.5—Reaffirmation of Regional Dominance—Operation Sindoor reaffirmed India’s position as a dominant force in the region and sent a clear message that cross -boarder terrorism would not be tolerated.6—Calibrated response –The operation was a calibrated response to the ongoing aggression and exhibited India’s willingness to use military force when necessary.7—Demonstration of Inter-Services Cooperation—The operation highlighted the successful collaboration between the Indian Army,Navy, and Air Force. 8—International Support—Operation Sindoor has been

widely praised by the international experts ,who see it as a necessary and long-overdue response to Pakistan’s failed state and terror incubator status.To be brief it can be outlined that Operation Sindoor was successful because it led to the elimination of nine terror camps successfully.It was based on cross -boarder precision strikes .India redefined the rules of engagement ,striking deep into the Pakistan’s heartland .Operation Sindoor drew a new red -line -if terror is state policy ,it will be met with a visible and forceful response.This marked a shift from deterrence to direct action.India rejected the artificial separation between terrorists and their backers ,striking both simultaneously.Operation Sindoor avenged and revenged the 22 April massacre within 22 minutes and inflicted maximum, damage to terror launchpads in POJK and Pakistan.Those who decimated sindoor of our sisters were mixed with the dust and thus justice was delivered to those who died in Pahalgan attack.The results of operation SINDOOR speak volumes about its impact .Nine terror camps were eliminated .India successfully destroyed nine major terror launchpads in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir,targetingLeT,JeM and HM .Operation Sindoor has not only avenged the Pahalgam attack but also redefined the rules of engagement in counter-terrorism.The genesis of Operation Sindoor can be best understood in the many years of terrorist provocation from the failed rogue state of Pakistan but more specifically it is a direct response to the Pahalgam terror attack that took place on April 22 ,2025 ,claiming 26 civilian lives.This lethal and barbaric terrorist act was the deadliest India had seen on civilians since the 2008 Mumbai attack and it acquired a very strong response.Operation Sindoor was precisely that response and it has worked superbly.By targeting the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and POJK and achieving military,political,and psychological objectives with great precision and power,India has sent

a very strong and clear message to not just Pakistan but all those powers that enable Pakistan .Its success was the consequence of careful planning,advanced tech,military coordination ,and a bold demonstration of India’s zero tolerance of terrorism .It is this zero tolerance to terrorism which is hailed as something the rest of the world should both recognise and support.India is fighting for us all and Western powers should not be afraid to hail Indian success.Some people were surprised by Operation SINDOORs overwhelming military success but they should realise that India is fast becoming as global military superpower and Operation Sindoor has only further underlined that conclusion.The operation targeted nine terrorist camps across Pakistan ,wiping critical infrastructure and eliminating over 100 terrorists.The Indian armed forces under the leadership of veterancommanders ,employed a powerful combination of air strikes ,drone warfare, ground intelligence to ensure maximum impact with minimal collateral damage.Another thing the world should appreciate is the operation’s non-escalatory approach .India was focussed and restrained ,neutralising Pakistan’s attempts to target civilian areas with drones and missiles ,all of which were intercepted.This demonstrated not only India’s offensive capabilities but also its robust defence systems which played a critical role in thwarting retaliatory strikes.It is the surgical nature of the Indian strikes and the effectiveness of the defence capabilities that struck the biggest blow.To cut a long story short ,Operation Sindoor was a total and complete success and Pak Propaganda should not be allowed to belittle the success of the Operation Sindoor.

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

Role of Intellectual in Society

building blocks of national identity appears to offer many more options for critical intellectuals to legitimise elements for change and transformation. Whilst it is not the same case in many Arab societies, where Islam is, in one way or another is linked to the heritage of Arabism and true critical thinking is stunted.

Intellectual dedicates himself to performing a particular activity within the society whose end is to bring about the ennoblement of humankind by means of the advance of culture. It is the duty of a scholar to adopt a dispassionate, objective approach to discovering the truth, knowledge that derives from purely rational principles, add their voices to the public debates for peace and safe future. Intellectuals play an important role in the formation and evolution of civil society. Intellectuals have also been this basis of ideologies like democratization, totalitarian rule, dictatorship, western liberalism, constitutionalism, nationalism, fascism. Intellectuals are the most important sociological actors of modernity. Their struggle for critical rationality and civil liberties goes hand in hand with their critique and refusal of instrumental rationality and spirit of domination. Their superior intellectual talents and training in the techniques of positive inquiry enabled them to transcend the narrow conceptions of local viewpoints and rationalize the process of policy formation. In a position of leadership, they governed on the basis of faultless conclusions, solving problems of previous generations and establishing superior forms of societal organization. They also observed that while the course of modern society had indeed grown to become more rational in its organization, this change did not nurture a greater freedom of the individual but contributed to a rising level of bureaucratic control. A consequence of this trend was a growing irrationality in the social world, where human emotions and pre-modern habits of thought remained prevalent. Many of the beliefs and superstitions of the feudal era continued to thrive in industrial society and these shaped

the course of political and economic development in the West.Architecture courses

The Role of Intellectual as a Researcher Researchers pursue an objective analysis and approach an investigation of their subject matter. Intellectuals seek to develop an awareness of an assumption and whilst doing so they acquire the role of Researcher. They indulge in social scientific research. They apply the principles of science and past traditions in developing their own informed perspectives. They also found that social scientific work can foster innovative analyses of the social world. These researchers organized their investigations on the basis of their own curiosities and scholarly interests, whilst doing so they have revealed some facts which have would have been missed if they had not researched. Their personal insights in the social world have assisted research in a big way. The rapid changes of the modern order require an ongoing qualitatively unique assessments. Older formulations can become static and lose their ability to explain newer developments. The role of the intellectual in this context is to formulate creative interpretations of the world in relation to the trends leading up to the present. Ideas which do not conform to the mainstream of social thought can contribute to the thinking of others interested in pursuing alternative viewpoints. Contemporary social research, whether of a political or scientific variety, may ultimately have far-reaching consequences and intellectuals operating within the framework of these two sets of ethics can be influential in shaping the future directions of the modern social order.

The Role of Intellectual as a Political Advisor

Intellectual involvement is a crucial component of a political leadership. Intellectuals acting in the official capacity of advising political leaders offer analyses to political leaders who then make decisions on the basis of their own convictions and sense of responsibility. Intellectuals play an important role in expanding the knowledge upon

which decisions can be made. They utilise their knowledge in the political arena which further gets translated into practical policy options. Having a hand in both research and in politics, the political intellectual can provide the crucial link between social scientific inquiry and policy-making. Their task is to reveal the larger problems and to suggest it’s remedied. Since the policies are to be made for the public, Intellectual provide a valuable insight into the ways people’s lives will be changed by the actions being proposed. The advisor’s responsibility is also to draw the attention of leaders to the long-term consequences of the actions being considered and impart his suggestions. In the absence of Political Intellectuals, policy formation would continue to fall into the hands of bureaucratically oriented managers.

The Role of Intellectual as an Educator In industrial-technological society, they influence public opinion and provide assessments of the social world which are enlightening. Their objective as educators is to offer interpretations of the contemporary world that enhances the capacity of poorly informed individuals to participate in matters in an enlightened manner. Another goal of such Intellectual is to teach their disciples to think critically in the classroom and at the level of scholarly interaction. Their education offers to strengthen the moral fibre of the masses and to ground the morality of modernity in the findings of the positive inquiry. They examine the different morals of a given culture, assess them, and develop critiques of them and whilst doing so they inspire a systematic inquiry.

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



## Faculty of Forestry celebrates International Biodiversity Day 2025



### Top News Report

GANDERBAL, May 23: The Faculty of Forestry, Benhama, Ganderbal, under the esteemed guidance of Prof. A.H. Mughal (Dean, Faculty of Forestry), proudly commemorated International Biodiversity Day 2025 with a vibrant and engaging celebration.

This year's global theme, "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development," underscored the critical role of collective efforts in combating biodiversity loss and restoring ecosystems.

The event brought together students, researchers, and faculty members to promote awareness and action for biodiversity conservation. A variety

of interactive sessions including debates, quizzes, poetry and painting competitions, and a biodiversity photography exhibition showcased the richness of flora and fauna.

The programme commenced with opening remarks by Dr. Sabeeha Nabi (Programme Coordinator) and Dr. Tahir (Co-Coordinator), followed by active participation from division heads, faculty, and students.

Spearheading the event, Prof. P.A. Khan delivered a compelling address emphasizing sustainable practices and the pivotal role of academic institutions in leading biodiversity preservation.

Students enthusiastically took part in several

creative and educational activities, reflecting their commitment to eco-consciousness and environmental stewardship. The event concluded with a heartfelt pledge ceremony, where attendees reaffirmed their dedication to protecting the planet's natural heritage.

The programme was skillfully anchored by Madiha (Ph.D. Scholar), Vineeqa Pandita (UG Student), and Shahzaib Ajaz (UG Student). The event was beautifully captured by Suhail from the ACT, Faculty of Forestry.

This celebration not only highlighted the richness of life on Earth but also reinforced the shared responsibility to safeguard it for future generations.

## Faculty of GGM Science College Jammu participates in "Pathways to Nature" workshop at EcoVista



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 23: The "Pathways to Nature: Educators' Workshop" held on Friday at EcoVista, Environment Park, Raika, served as a vibrant platform for promoting experiential learning and environmental awareness among educators.

The workshop was organised by the Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, Jammu & Kashmir. The focus was on strengthening ecological literacy and fostering sustainable educational practices.

As part of the workshop, participants were taken on a guided tour of EcoVista, a nature interpretation center featuring curated exhibits that

portray the rich biodiversity and ecological significance of Jammu and Kashmir. The interactive gallery provided a unique opportunity for educators to experience the region's natural heritage firsthand.

Dr. Romesh Kumar Gupta, Principal of Science College, Jammu, lauded the initiative and commended the efforts of the organizers. He remarked, "Biodiversity is the foundation of life. It is vital that we as educators not only appreciate its value but also help inculcate in our students a deep respect for nature and its preservation." Dr. Neha Sharma, Head of the Department of Environmental Sciences, and Prof. Poonam Kundan, Assistant Pro-

fessor in Environmental Sciences, represented the college with dedication and enthusiasm.

The workshop was chaired by Rakesh Kumar, Director of the Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing, J&K.

Kirti contributed valuable insights on the role of environmental education in policy and practice, while Hency Pandita, along with the department's dedicated staff, ensured the event was well-organized and impactful.

The workshop underscored the importance of collaboration between academic institutions and environmental agencies in building a more informed and ecologically responsible society.

## PM Narendra Modi is a Man of Action: Kaith

### Top News Report

R S PURA, May 23: At a meeting held here today, BJP Activist R.L.Kaith said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a man of action, whatever he says he does. Soon after the Pehalgam terrorists attack that took place on April 22, 2025 and in which twenty seven tourists were brutally martyred, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that Pakistan will have to pay a heavy price for every ter-



rorist attack... Pakistan's army will pay it, Pakistan's economy will pay it," and so it happened. Modi took strong actions against Paki-

stan including suspending Indus Waters Treaty; Expulsion of Pakistani military advisors and diplomatic downsizing; Revocation of visas and travel bans; Closure of Atari-Wagah border crossing; and Execution of Operation Sindoor.

Kaith said India is quite safe and will become a developed nation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

All present in the meeting raised their hands and said, "Modiji hum aapke Sath Hain."

## Mission POSHAN J&K organizes Orientation programme for newly recruited Supervisors



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 23: Mission Director POSHAN inaugurated the Orientation programme for newly recruited Supervisors.

The new recruits were introduced about their roles and responsibilities as well as objectives of Mission POSHAN by Mission Director POSHAN J&K, Joint Director POSHAN J&K, District Programme Officer POSHAN Jammu and Deputy Director

POSHAN Jammu.

Event constituted cultural programme showing a glimpse of functioning of Anganwadi Centres to new recruits.

Event included a thorough Communication cum Interaction session of new recruits with Mission Director POSHAN, in which newly recruited supervisors participated with full zeal and enthusiasm.

Event concluded with Vote of thanks to all dignitaries by CDPO Gandhi Nagar.

## Neeraj Kundan supports Songli Village protest against proposed dumping yard

### Top News Report

BISHNAH, May 23: Neeraj Kundan, AICC Secretary and Co-Incharge Organization, has announced his full support for the people of Songli village in Bishnah, who are protesting against a planned municipal dumping yard. Songli is a village known for its cultural and spiritual importance, and the dumping yard could harm its environment and heritage. Kundan is standing with the villagers to protect their community.

Kundan criticized the decision to place a dumping yard in Songli, saying it disrespects the village's cultural and religious value. He warned that the dumping site could pollute water, damage soil, and harm the health of people and animals.

"We must protect Songli's environment and heritage," Kundan said, calling for development that respects nature and traditions.

He questioned why Songli was chosen, as



it is not under municipal control, and demanded clear answers from the authorities about their decision.

Kundan promised to support all demands of the Songli community. He warned that if the government ignores the villagers' concerns, they are ready to escalate their protest with demonstrations.

"We stand with Songli to save their village from environmental damage and disrespect," he said, pledging to continue fighting for the community.

The protest in Songli highlights concerns about projects that harm rural areas without involving local people. The dumping yard threatens the village's culture, environment, and livelihoods. Kundan's support has brought more attention to the need for responsible planning and community involvement.

Kundan demand the immediate cancellation of the dumping yard plan. If the authorities do not stop the project, the community, with Kundan's support, will strengthen their protests with large demonstrations and other peaceful actions to protect their village.

## GDCW Kathua organises motivational function to promote sports among students



### Top News Report

KATHUA, May 23: The Student Welfare Committee of Government Degree College for Women (GDCW), Kathua, organised a special function aimed at promoting awareness among students regarding the importance of sports in overall personality development.

The event was held under the supervision of the college Principal, Dr. Savi Behl, who encouraged students to actively participate in co-curricular activities.

She emphasized that holistic personality development is incomplete without involvement in such activities and highlighted the role of sports in building physical and emotional strength.

Dr. Rachna, Dean Student Welfare (DSW), stressed that education must focus on the all-round development of students.

"For physical growth, we must step beyond the classroom and onto the playground," she said.

The program also wit-

nessed the presence of Itika from the Social Welfare Department, who distributed sports kits to students. She underscored the need to engage youth in sports to steer them away from drugs and towards a healthier lifestyle.

The event was also graced by Dr. Seema Jolly, Head of the Department of Home Science, Prof. Sachinjeet Singh, Prof. Surbhi Gupta, and Jamwal, Physical Director, who supported the initiative and interacted with the students.

## Health camp organized at CHC Sankoo to mark World Hypertension Day

### Top News Report

KARGIL, May 23: As part of the global observance of World Hypertension Day, the Community Health Centre (CHC) Sankoo organized a comprehensive Health Camp and awareness program focused on promoting preventive healthcare and holistic well-being.



tes, and cancer, along with laboratory testing and health counselling. All services were provided free of cost to the local residents. A total, 111 patients availed general OPD services, 90 patients underwent NCD screening, and 24 patients received laboratory diagnostic services. Free medicines and diagnostic facilities were also distributed to all beneficiaries. Health education remained a key component of the program.

Zakiya Banoo (CHO),

Fayaz Ali, Nargis (AFHC), and NCD Counsellor Raziya Banoo addressed the attendees, raising awareness about hypertension and its risk factors.

They emphasized the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle—encouraging regular physical activity, avoiding tobacco use, staying hydrated, reducing salt intake, undergoing routine medical checkups, and managing stress—all essential steps to prevent and control hypertension.

## Cleanliness Drive organized by NSS Unit at GDC Marheen



### Top News Report

MARHEEN, May 23: The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC), Marheen organized a cleanliness drive on Friday under the patronage of the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta. The initiative aimed to promote hygiene, sanitation, and environmental responsibility among

students.

During the drive, NSS volunteers actively participated in cleaning the college premises and surrounding areas. They also took a pledge to promote composting for effective waste management.

A large number of students joined the drive, reflecting their commitment towards a cleaner and greener environ-

ment.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Arun Dev Singh, NSS Programme Officer. Faculty members including Dr. Balbinder Singh, Prof. Anoop Sharma, Dr. Munisha, Prof. Manu, Prof. Diksha, Prof. Naresh Kumari, Prof. Suman, Dr. Meenu Sharma and others were present on the occasion to support the initiative.



## Actor Dipannita Sharma: Feel proud to be part of India, where brave soldiers are protecting us

Dil diya hai jaan bhi denge, aye watan tere liye — the song from the film Karma (1986) plays in the background as actor Dipannita Sharma walks towards India Gate. Almost as a reflex, she salutes looking towards the iconic monument.

"I feel so proud to be part of this country where we have such brave soldiers who have been protecting us. Sometimes, we don't even know what's going on at the borders and yet live in peace with our families because our soldiers are safeguarding our country and its people," she muses during her recent trip to the Capital, which marked her theatrical debut on stage as part of a play titled Ishwar.

Having debuted in Bollywood with the 2002 film 16 December, where she played an Indian officer, she has the highest regard for those who serve the nation. Post recent tensions at the Indo-Pak border, visiting India Gate has a new meaning for Dipannita now. "It gives me goosebumps as I recall

that just before I boarded the flight to Delhi, at the Mumbai airport I met a young woman who approached me to appreciate my work in a short film. As we started chatting, she showed me a gorgeous picture with her husband, to whom she was married when 23-24 years old; a year or two later, her husband was called to the Siachen border. Before going, the young soldier told his wife that he knew his seniors had not returned from this posting and gave her strength to move on if he didn't return... He didn't return," shares the 45-year-old, adding, "As she narrated her life story in a composed manner, I was teary-eyed and filled with pride for our soldiers and their spouses who live and lay their lives for the country. I am now trying to reach out to the young lady on social media."

"The feeling [of pride] is so alive. In my heart and head, I saw India Gate and paid a tribute to all our soldiers," Dipannita says.

Training for her role, in the movie 16 December,



is also steeped in her memory. She recounts, "I learnt how to hold a gun and the posture of a commando, among other things... Had it not been the character of a strong, resilient woman, who is also an Indian officer, I wouldn't have made my debut back then."

Dramatic Debut  
Dipannita portrays the

mythological character of Sita, in the play Ishwar. "But this Sita is not a damsel in distress," she shares, as she looks back on the time she performed in a stage play for the first time ever. "I was in class 2 or 3, and played an old woman with my back bent and paan stains around my mouth. This play was written

by my Aaita (maternal grandmother in Assamese) and directed by my mother. From then till now, one thing has remained a constant — butterflies in the stomach before going on the stage (smiles)!"

Batch of '98

The actor, who hails from the Northeast, reminisces the good old days when she was pursuing graduation from Delhi University's Indraprastha College For Women and "the same year took part in Miss India". Recalling her #CampusKeDin, she shares: "It was my first evening out in Delhi as a hosteller and I visited India Gate along with other college mates for the first time. After that we started visiting quite often and would bring rice, dal and vegetables to have dinner in picnic style, followed by ice cream from the carts that are always around this area. Sometimes, we would head to Connaught Place after dinner to grab a hot chocolate fudge. Those college days were so fun!"

## Prateik Smita Patil on dropping his surname: I didn't want to belong to them



Actor Prateik Smita Patil never minces words when it comes to speaking candidly about his personal life. He recently revealed that his mother's family and his father, Raj Babbar, were involved in a custody battle over him. Prateik admitted that he initially felt 'bitter' towards both parents while questioning his identity. He also opened up about his decision to adopt his mother's surname.

Prateik, in a recent interview with Varinder Chawla's YouTube channel said, "I was born Prateik. There was a custody battle for me from my mom's side of the family and my father's side of the family. My mom's side won. There was still a battle for the surname. Finally, in the passport, it was 'Prateik Smit Babbar'. It wasn't even Smita, so growing up, I was 'Prateik Smit Babbar.' In school, everyone thought I was Christian because they would wonder, 'Why

Smit?', no one cared for Babbar. Everyone just called me Smit."

He further said, "In my first film, my name was Prateik Babbar, and then the devil got the better of me and I started thinking 'Kaun hai maa? Kaun hai baap? (Who is mom? Who is dad?)' Then I started thinking, 'I don't want to be Patil, I don't want to be Babbar. I want to be just Prateik.' For a few films, I was only Prateik because I was bitter about my parents. I was like, I don't want to belong to them. They have only given me trauma my entire life. I don't want to belong to them, and then I continued with Prateik."

While pointing out his changed name, the actor concluded, "I had to embrace that name, it makes me complete. Now, I am complete, I feel complete. Priya (Banerjee) said 'Prateik, you owe it to her; she gave her life for you, you owe that, you are her son' and that hit differently. I was like 'this is who I have to be.'"

Earlier, Prateik, in an interview with Times Now, had said that he did not invite his father and his family to his wedding since it took place at his mother's place. The actor stated that it would have been 'unethical to have him and his family,' since his late mother and Nadira Babbar had complications in the past.

Prateik got married to Priya Banerjee in a close-knit family ceremony. Sharing the photos, Priya wrote, "I'll marry you in every lifetime (sic)."

Prateik was last seen in Nani-starrer Telugu crime action-thriller 'Hit: The Third Case.'

## Samay Raina wishes he had cut 'unwanted stuff' from life, shares update on Latent

Comedian Samay Raina recently opened up about the controversy surrounding his YouTube show 'India's Got Latent'. He spoke about the life lessons he learnt after the controversial episode blew up and became online chatter.

In a podcast with Raj Shamani, Raina spoke about the show's future, what he learnt from the backlash, and how he's moving forward after the row.

When Shamani asked if 'India's Got Latent' would return, the comedian replied, "Woh toh Samay hi bata payega (Only time will tell). Main nahi (And I am not talking about myself). You need to give it some time. Good things take time. Time is the best healer".

In what seemed to be a reflection on the controversy around his show, Raina admitted he should have edited out some parts. "Kai baar unwanted cheezein reh jaati hai life mein, jisko baadmein dekhke regret karte ho ke kaash maine uss time yeh kat diya hota, par bahut der ho gai hoti hai (Many times, unwanted things stay in life, which we later look back on and regret, thinking 'if only I had cut that out back then,' But it's often too late by then)."

Though he didn't confirm when the show would return, the 27-year-old YouTuber admitted to learning lessons from



past experiences.

'India's Got Latent' faced massive backlash earlier this year when a video clip went viral, especially a comment made by podcaster Ranveer Allahbadia that many people found offensive. The FIR filed against Samay and other creators like Ashish Chanchlani, Apoorva Mukhija, and Allahbadia accused them of promoting obscene and inappropriate content on a public platform.

Meanwhile, Samay Raina is getting ready for his comeback tour. Earlier, he announced that the tour will span across Europe, the UK, Australia, and New Zealand, starting June 5 in Cologne and ending July 20 in Sydney.

## Sophie Choudry talked about facing casting couch in Bollywood

British singer and actor Sophie Choudry, known for her roles in Bollywood films such as Shaadi No. 1, Pyaar Ke Side Effects, and Once Upon a Time in Mumbai Dobaara!, recently opened up about her experience with the casting couch in the industry. In an interview with Haute, Sophie revealed she was asked to "compromise" for a role and recalled how those early encounters shaped her career choices.

Sophie shared, "I first and foremost came as a singer. I already had 2-3 hit albums. And of course, that itch was definitely there to try a bit of acting as well. I did meet a few people. Some very nice people and some people who made the kind of remarks that I was personally not very comfortable with. From whatever I understood, my mom jokes about it now that when we first came here, people used



to tell us, 'you'll have to adjust, compromise'. So we didn't understand what they meant. My mom used to think, Yes, my daughter is very hardworking and will work 15 hours if you need her to."

She further revealed that she 'walked out of pretty big things' because of this and added, "There's this perception that when you come from abroad, you are easy. So it's kind of like, 'one more won't make a difference to you,' Like you don't even understand what they are talking about. And then it's spelt out in a slightly more detailed manner that you have to keep such and such happy. The best is when they say, 'I want to meet you more, know my potential heroine more,' or 'Oh my marriage is going through a bad patch, and I want to spend time with you because I really con-

nect with you.' All this rubbish and then you realise he'll never make the film and he is just wasting my time."

About Sophie Choudry  
Sophie began her singing career at the age of 12 and went on to deliver several hits including Habibi, Le Le Mera Dil, and Babylove. She moved to Mumbai in 2003 and became a VJ for MTV India, gaining popularity as the host of the show MTV Loveline. She made her Bollywood debut in David Dhawan's Shaadi No. 1, which starred Sanjay Dutt, Fardeen Khan, Zayed Khan, Esha Deol, and Soha Ali Khan. Over the years, she featured in a number of films and became known for her special dance numbers in movies like Shoot-out at Wadala and the Telugu film 1: Nenokkadine. Most recently, she appeared as herself in a special cameo in Love Sex Aur Dhokha 2.

## Scarlett Johansson shines at Cannes with grief-themed film 'Eleanor the Great'

Hollywood actress Scarlett Johansson made her directorial debut at the 78th Cannes Film Festival with Eleanor the Great, a heartfelt indie film starring June Squibb.

The film tells the story of a 94-year-old woman named Eleanor (played by Squibb), who, after the death of her best friend (Rita Zohar), relocates to New York. There, she unintentionally attends the wrong meeting at a Jewish Community Center and assumes her late friend's identity as a Holocaust survivor.

The film delicately explores the themes of grief, loneliness, and the longing for connection.

Speaking about the inspiration behind the film, Johansson said, "There's a lack of empathy in the zeitgeist for-

giveness feels less possible in the environment we're in." The film was showcased in the Un Certain Regard section and has been lauded for its tender tone and character-driven storytelling.

As reported by Associated Press, Johansson, shared that the desire to direct had been part of her journey for years. "I would not have had the confidence to direct this film 10 years ago," she admitted.

The Cannes premiere came shortly after her appearance on Saturday Night Live and ahead of her upcoming blockbuster role in Jurassic World Rebirth.

Over the years, Johansson has expanded her creative role in Hollywood. She has produced several films, including Black Widow, Fly Me to the Moon, and



now Eleanor the Great. Her directorial debut is a constant effort of her recent pattern of following her instincts, including her public disputes with major companies like Disney and OpenAI. The film's emotion-

al impact was felt at Cannes, where both Johansson and Squibb received a standing ovation. "Holding June at that moment was unforgettable," Johansson said, recalling the festival's warm reception.

## Rajkummar Rao joins filmmaker Soojit Sircar in a two-hero comedy film: Report

Filmmaker Shoojit Sircar is ready to try something new with a comedy film featuring two heroes. Rajkummar Rao has been finalised to play one of the main roles in this yet-to-be-titled satirical comedy.

According to a report in Pinkvilla, the actor and director have been in discussions for a while. "Rajkummar Rao and Shoojit Sircar have been jamming about a probable collaboration for a while now, and the energies have finally aligned on this yet untitled satirical comedy. Rajkummar has given a go ahead to the script, with the intent of starting the shoot towards the end of 2025," the source revealed to the entertainment portal.

With Rao on board, the hunt is now on for the second lead. Sircar is reportedly looking for a credible actor with strong comic sensibilities to complement Rao's performance. "The brief is simple — a credible actor, with some comic timing. Shoojit also wants to work with secure people, who don't interfere much in the process of



filmmaking. Two-hero films are tricky, and it's crucial to work with right energies. Shoojit has found Raj, who aligns with his sensibilities and the hunt for parallel lead is underway," the source added.

The production team is expected to finalise the filming schedule once the second actor is confirmed.

Meanwhile, Rajkummar Rao has a packed slate. He is currently gearing up for the release of 'Bhool Chuk Maaf', produced by Dinesh Vijan, and is simultaneously working on two of his own productions slated for direct release on Netflix. Additionally, 'Mr and Mrs Mahi', co-starring Janhvi Kapoor, is set to hit theatres on May 31.



# Northeast witnessing unprecedented growth: PM Modi

Top industry leaders Mukesh Ambani, Gautam Adani and Anil Agarwal attend the inauguration of Rising North East Investors Summit

NEW DELHI, May 23 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the North-eastern region is witnessing unprecedented progress and the government is determined to accelerate its growth story.

Addressing the Rising North East Investors Summit here, he also said that diversity of the Northeast is its biggest strength and that the region is emerging as the frontrunner of growth.

"The Northeast is witnessing unprecedented progress. We are determined to accelerate its growth story," he said while inaugurating the two-day event which is being attended by chief ministers of the region, union ministers, bureaucrats, diplomats among others.

Top industry leaders Mukesh Ambani, Gautam Adani, Anil Agarwal among others attended the inaugural session.

Modi said for his government, EAST means - "Empower, Act, Strengthen and Transform".



"There was a time when North-east was only called frontier, now it is frontrunner of growth," he said.

He said the Northeast was earlier synonymous with bombs, guns and rockets which took away many opportunities from youths there.

"Over 10,000 youths in the Northeast have given up violence in last decade," he said.

Prime Minister Modi also said that his government follows a

zero tolerance policy, be it terrorism or Naxalism.

The summit is being organised with an aim of highlighting the Northeast region as a land of opportunity, attracting global and domestic investment and bringing together key stakeholders, investors, and policy-makers on a single platform, officials said.

The event is the culmination of various pre-summit activities, such as series of roadshows,

and states' roundtables, including ambassador's meet and bilateral chambers meet organised by the central government with active support from the state governments of the North-eastern region.

The summit will include ministerial sessions, business-to-business meetings, start ups and exhibitions of policy and related initiatives taken by state governments and central ministries for investment promotion, officials said.

The main focus sectors of investment promotion include tourism and hospitality, Agro-food processing and allied sectors, textiles, handloom and handicrafts, healthcare, education and skill development, information technology and information technology enabled services, infrastructure and logistics, energy, entertainment and sports.

# Rahul Gandhi takes swipe at Jaishankar, says India's foreign policy has collapsed



NEW DELHI, May 23 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday claimed that India's foreign policy has "collapsed" and asked External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to explain why has India been hyphenated with Pakistan and who asked US President Donald Trump to "mediate" between the two South Asian neighbours.

Gandhi tagged a post by the Congress which carried a video clip of Jaishankar answering questions on the Pahalgam terror attack and the subsequent tensions between India and Pakistan, during an interview with Dutch broadcaster NOS

"Will JJ explain: Why has India been hyphenated with Pakistan? Why didn't a single country back us in condemning Pakistan? Who asked Trump to "mediate" between India & Pakistan?" Gandhi said.

"India's foreign policy has collapsed," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha claimed. Gandhi on Thursday had accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of having compromised with India's prestige and asked him why he sacrificed the nation's interests by agreeing to halting of military hostilities against Pakistan.

"Modi ji, stop giving hollow speeches. Just tell: Why did you believe Pakistan's statement on terrorism? Why did you sacrifice India's interests by bowing to Trump? Why does your blood boil only in front of cameras? You have compromised with the prestige of India!" he had said in a post on X.

Congress leaders have been hitting out at the External Affairs Minister, calling him "Jaichand Jaishankar". The reference is from the epic poem 'Prithviraj Raso' in which Jaichand, a Rajput ruler, is said to be allied with Muhammad Ghori against another Rajput ruler Prithviraj Chauhan.

AICC secretary in the office of the Congress president Gaurav Pandhi said, "Every single day that Jaichand Jaishankar continues as the Minister of External Affairs, he remains not just a liability but a serious threat to India's national interests. He should be removed from office without delay, and an independent inquiry must be instituted to investigate his failures."

The Congress has been questioning the government for halting Operation Sindoor at a time when the armed forces were going strong and taking decisive action against

terror camps in Pakistan.

The war of words between Congress and BJP over their leaders' statements on the Indo-Pak conflict has intensified this week, with the ruling party calling Rahul Gandhi "modern age Mir Jafar" and the opposition party describing Jaishankar as "new age Jaichand".

The two parties traded barbs over their remarks on Operation Sindoor and also posted memes on social media, each suggesting that the other has betrayed the nation.

The Congress and Rahul Gandhi have attacked Jaishankar, alleging he had forewarned Pakistan about Operation Sindoor.

The US President has been repeatedly claiming that he helped settle the tensions between India and Pakistan.

India carried out precision strikes under Operation Sindoor on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian forces launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the military confrontation after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

On May 10, Trump had announced that India and Pakistan agreed to a full and immediate ceasefire after a long night of talks "mediated" by Washington.

# Boy, 12, allegedly drinks pesticide after being accused of stealing chips packet from shop; dies

KOLKATA, May 23 (Agencies): A 12-year-old boy died by allegedly consuming pesticide after he was accused of "stealing" a packet of chips from a store and made to do sit-ups by the shopkeeper at Panskura in Paschim Medinipur district, a police officer said Friday.

Krishendu Das, a class 7 student, allegedly lifted a packet of chips from a shop at Gosaiber bazar in the Panskura area on Thursday evening after he failed to find the shopkeeper Subhankar Dikshit.

He had called out "uncle I will buy chips" repeatedly without any response and finally left the shop allegedly with one packet of chips, the officer said quoting his grief-stricken mother.

He was allegedly chased by Dikshit who came back to the shop soon afterwards, slapped and asked to do sit-ups in full public view, the officer said quoting a complaint by the family.

The officer said a probe is underway.

Das' mother was summoned to the spot and she also scolded him

and slapped him while the boy claimed he picked up the junk food packet lying in a heap before the shop and would have come to pay later.

He even offered to pay immediately apologising for lifting the packet without the consent of the shopowner but the shopowner accused him of lying.

A sulking Krishnendu then returned to his house with his mother, bolted the door of his room from inside and did not open the door.

After some time his

mother along with neighbours broke open the door and found him frothing from the mouth with a half-empty pesticide bottle lying on his side, the officer said, adding that a note purportedly scribbled by him in Bengali was found lying on the side.

"Maa I am not a thief. I did not steal. Uncle (shopkeeper) was not around as I waited. While returning I spotted a kurkure packet lying on the road and picked it up. I love Kurkure," said the note.

Krishnendu further

said, "These are my final words before leaving. Please excuse me for this act(consuming pesticide)".

He was taken to Tamluk Hospital and admitted to ICU but died soon afterwards.

The shopowner, also a civic volunteer associated with Bengal Police to assist in traffic management, initially claimed he did not assault the child.

But after the incident became known he could not be traced as a crowd assembled before his closed shop.

# MBBS student gang-raped in Maharashtra's Sangli; 2 classmates, their friend held

MUMBAI, May 23 (Agencies): A third-year MBBS student was allegedly raped in Maharashtra's Sangli district by her two classmates and one of their friends after they spiked her drink, police said on Friday.

Police have arrested the three accused persons, who are from Pune, Solapur and Sangli. A court has remanded them in police custody till May 27, an official said.

The 22-year-old medical student was alleg-

edly targeted on May 18, when she and the accused had planned to watch a movie in a theatre around 10 pm. Before that, the accused took her to a flat for a brief halt.

The accused, who were under the influence of alcohol, offered her a spiked drink. She felt giddy after consuming, the survivor told the police.

The trio, aged between 20 and 22, then allegedly sexually assaulted her and threatened her with dire consequences

if she spoke about it, the official said.

The survivor, originally from Belagavi in Karnataka, later narrated the incident to her parents, following which they approached the Vishrambag police station.

The accused have been booked under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections for gang rape and other charges.

Police are also analysing the complainant's statement, he said, adding that a further probe is underway.

# Delhi High Court denies bail to man who leaked Army information to Pakistan

NEW DELHI, May 23 (Agencies): The Delhi High Court has denied bail to Mohsin Khan, a scrap dealer accused of aiding the transfer of sensitive Indian Army information to Pakistani intelligence.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, who pronounced the order, held that the alleged offences committed by Khan go beyond individual or institutional harm and threaten the nation's integrity.

"The offence in question in the present case is not merely one against a particular individual, institution, or group, but is an offence against the very integrity, sovereignty, and security of Bharat," the Bar and Bench quoted the court as saying.

The court also underlined that acts of espionage strike at the heart of national security and must not be treated with lenience.

"In cases involving alleged acts of espionage and transmission of sensitive information to foreign agencies, the threshold for grant of bail is necessarily higher, and the

Court must be guided by the larger interest of justice and national security, rather than merely the passage of time in custody," the judge noted.

Khan, who also runs a mobile repair and recharge shop, is accused of being part of an espionage syndicate and acting as a conduit for funds from an officer of the Pakistani High Commission. Authorities claimed he facilitated the illicit transmission of classified military information acquired from Paramjeet Kumar, a man posted in the Indian Army at Pokhran.

Khan's counsel argued that his client had been falsely implicated based on routine commercial transactions. He claimed that recharging phones or transferring money does not constitute an offence and insisted there is no direct evidence linking Khan to the conspiracy.

Despite noting that Khan has remained in custody for nearly four years, the court held that bail cannot be granted solely on that basis. "While the right to personal liberty is

indeed fundamental, the gravity, nature, and seriousness of the offence, as well as the potential impact on national security and the integrity of the investigative process, must also be taken into account," Justice Sharma said.

The judge also acknowledged the role of the armed forces in safeguarding the nation. "It must be remembered that the nation rests peacefully because its armed forces remain vigilant. It is in their unconditional duty and commitment that the citizenry finds assurance of safety and continuity of the constitutional order," Justice Sharma added.

While rejecting the bail plea, the High Court directed the trial court to expedite proceedings in the case. "Considering that the offence in question involves the security of the entire nation and Indians, and the applicant herein was part of a syndicate, who were working against the security of the country, this Court does not find it a fit case to grant bail to the present applicant," it stated.

# Punjab Police arrests 101 drug smugglers, seizes 15.9 kg heroin

CHANDIGARH, May 23 (Agencies): As part of the ongoing 'Yudh Nashian Virudh' campaign to eradicate the menace of drugs from Punjab, police have arrested 101 drug smugglers and seized 15.9 kg of heroin, 102 kg of poppy husk and drug money worth Rs 25.52 lakh from their possession, officials said on Friday.

The arrests and seizures were made on the 82nd day of the anti-drug campaign on Thursday,

police said, taking the total number of drug smugglers arrested to 12,650 since the launch of the drive.

The operation was conducted simultaneously in all the 28 police districts of the state on the direction of DGP Gaurav Yadav.

According to Special DGP (law and order) Arpit Shukla, more than 200 police teams comprising 1,300 police personnel conducted the raids at 460 locations across the state on



Thursday, leading to the registration of 79 FIRs.

Police also checked 497 suspicious persons

during the day-long operation, he said.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has asked the commissioners of police, deputy commissioners and senior superintendents of police to make Punjab a drug-free state.

The Punjab government has also constituted a five-member Cabinet sub-committee headed by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema to monitor the crackdown against drugs.

# 16-Year-old boy stabbed to death in Delhi after refusing to join teen group

NEW DELHI, May 23 (Agencies): Two teenagers allegedly stabbed a 16-year-old boy to death in broad daylight in north Delhi's Burari area after he refused to join their group, an official said on Friday.

He was returning home with a friend on Thursday afternoon near Gandhi Chowk when two assailants stabbed him multiple times in the chest, they said.

"We have appre-

hended two minor boys for stabbing a boy as the accused wanted the victim to join their group," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Raja Banthia said.

He added, however, that the motive is "yet to be ascertained".

A PCR call was received at 2.32 pm reporting that a boy had been stabbed in the chest near Pinki Colony, Gandhi Chowk in Burari, the officer

said. The victim was identified to be a resident of Bhalswa.

"We are examining the CCTV footage from the vicinity and have also recorded the statement of the eyewitness, who is the victim's friend," he added.

A case under relevant sections of the BNS has been registered, police said.

The body was sent for post-mortem and further investigation is in progress, they said.



## Trump says Russia-Ukraine prisoners swap completed, hints at 'something big'

*Russia and Ukraine have completed a major prisoner swap, as announced by former US President Donald Trump. The exchange follows recent direct talks between the two countries in Istanbul.*

WASHINGTON, May 23 (Agencies): US President Donald Trump announced on Friday that a major prisoner swap between the two nations has been completed in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. "A major prisoners swap was just completed between Russia and Ukraine. It will go into effect shortly. Congratulations to both sides on this negotiation. This could lead to something big???" Trump posted on his social media platform, Truth



Social.

The announcement comes a day after a Ukrainian military intelligence official confirmed that Ukraine had submitted a list of 1,000 prisoners of war to Russia in preparation for the swap.

The exchange deal was reportedly finalised earlier this month in Istanbul during the first direct talks between Russian and Ukrainian officials in more than three years.

## JSMM urges global recognition for Sindhudesh, calls for action against Pakistani oppression

DARMSTADT, May 23 (Agencies): The Jeay Sindh Muttahida Mahaz (JSMM), led by chairman Shafi Burfat, has made an urgent request to the United Nations, international human rights organisations, democratic nations, and global civil groups to acknowledge Sindhudesh as an independent nation and denounce Pakistan's ongoing military control and systematic oppression of the Sindhi people.

In a detailed political and humanitarian document entitled The Sindhudesh Global Freedom Charter, JSMM emphasised Sindh's rich civilisational history and its ongoing battle against colonial rule, first under British domination and then under what it refers to as a "Punjabi-dominated military-security state" in Pakistan.

The Charter claims that Sindh, which is home to the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation, was never a willing participant in the establishment of Pakistan. JSMM contended that the inclusion of Sindh in Pakistan in 1947 constituted a betrayal of its national aspirations and historical identity. According to JSMM, Sindh currently exists under a form of colonial rule, deprived of sovereignty and controlled through military and political

oppression.

JSMM has accused the Pakistani government of exploiting Sindh's abundant natural resources, including oil, gas, coal, ports, and agricultural land, while leaving the region in poverty. It asserted that state-sponsored resettlement initiatives are being employed to change Sindh's demographic profile, diminishing Sindhis to a minority in their land. The Charter also points out the environmental damage caused by the redirection of the Indus River, which has led to the desertification of fertile Sindhi territory.

The statement firmly condemned Pakistan's security forces for perpetrating serious human rights abuses in Sindh, including enforced disappearances, torture, and extrajudicial killings of political activists, journalists, and student leaders. It mentioned that anti-terrorism legislation is being misused to target secular and nationalist movements, whereas religious extremists receive support from the state.

JSMM reiterated its call for a free, secular, and democratic Republic of Sindhudesh, rooted in principles of equality, minority rights, and social welfare. It referenced international regulations, such as the UN Charter



and the ICCPR, to advocate for Sindh's right to self-determination.

In a particular message to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the people of India, JSMM appealed for moral, political, and practical backing, stressing the historical and cultural connections between Sindh and India. Additionally, it urged international organisations to dispatch observers, denounce human rights violations, and aid Sindh's peaceful liberation movement.

## 4 Killed, around 50,000 remain stranded in flood-hit Australia

SYDNEY, May 23 (Agencies): The body of a man was found in a car trapped in floodwaters in Australia's southeast on Friday, raising the death count to four, after three days of incessant rain cut off entire towns, swept away livestock and destroyed homes.

Police said the man was found near Coffs Harbour, around 550 km (342 miles) north of Sydney. The search continued for a person missing since the deluge began early this week.

Around 50,000 people are still isolated, emergency services personnel said, as they look to ramp up efforts to supply essential supplies after weather conditions eased.

But authorities warned residents returning to their flooded homes to watch out for dangers.

"If your home or premise has been inundated, floodwaters have contaminants. There can be vermin, snakes ... So you need to assess those risks. Electricity can also pose a danger as well," state Emergency Services Deputy Commissioner Damien Johnston told reporters.

Television videos showed submerged intersections and street signs, cars up to their windshields in water, after

fast-rising waters burst river banks and flooded several rural towns in the Hunter and Mid North Coast regions of New South Wales, Australia's most populous state.

Debris from the floods, and dead and lost livestock, have washed up on the coast.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he would visit the flood-hit towns on Friday.

"It's pretty horrific, the conditions ... this is a really serious situation," Albanese told radio station Triple M Newcastle.

More than 100 schools remained closed on Friday, while thousands of properties were without power. Rivers would stay above danger levels for several days, authorities said.

A wild weather system that dumped around four months of rain over three days shifted south towards Sydney on Thursday, though the weather bureau, in its latest update, said it is expected to ease by Friday evening.

Warragamba Dam, which supplies 80% of Sydney's water supply and is currently at around 96% of capacity, could spill over soon after heavy rain overnight, officials said.

## Turkish prosecutors target 63 members of military over ties to 2016 coup attempt

ISTANBUL, May 23 (Agencies): Prosecutors in Turkey issued arrest warrants for 63 active-duty military personnel Friday over links to a group accused of attempting a coup in 2016.

Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office said the suspects included four colonels and came from the army, navy, air force and gendarmerie. Early morning raids across the country resulted in 56 suspects being detained.

They are allegedly tied to an outlawed group that Turkey refers to as the Fethullahist Terror Organisation, or FETO. Its leader, Fethullah Gulen, died in October last year in the United States, where he had lived since 1999 in self-imposed exile.

Some 290 people were killed in July 2016 when rogue military units took to the streets of Ankara and Istanbul in a bid to depose the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Jet fighters bombed the parliament building and presidential palace while Erdogan narrowly escaped assassination or capture while vacationing on the west coast. A subsequent purge of the military, police, judiciary and other state agencies saw tens of thousands

arrested. Schools, businesses and media organisations tied to Gulen were closed down.

The prosecutor's statement said those targeted Friday were identified through telephone communications and said FETO still posed the "greatest threat to the constitutional order and survival of the state". Since the failed coup, 25,801 military suspects have been detained, it added.

The statement did not specify the exact charges against the suspects.

Gulen, a former cleric, amassed a worldwide following over decades and aided Erdogan's rise to power in 2003. The alliance broke down after the government closed some Gulen-run educational establishments and Gulenists in the police and judiciary pursued corruption allegations against Erdogan's government. Gulen always denied any involvement in the failed coup. He was wanted in Turkey, which repeatedly demanded his extradition from the US.

The coup attempt contributed to the acceleration of authoritarian tendencies in Turkey, with Erdogan's government implementing measures that consolidated his powers.

## 4 dead and 17 trapped in landslides in southwestern China

BEIJING, May 23 (Agencies): Landslides in a rural area in China's southwestern Guizhou province have killed at least four people with 17 others still missing in the debris, state media said today.

Two bodies were found in Changshi township on Thursday, and two others in nearby Qingyang village, where a landslide buried 19 people from eight households, according



to state-run Xinhua News Agency.

Most of Guowa township, where Qingyang is located, had lost power after the landslides, a local newspaper reported.

A resident told state media that it had rained all night.

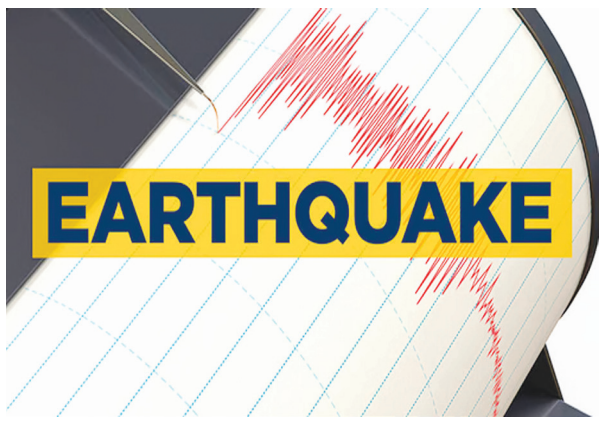
A drone video of the area showed a large swathe of brown earth that cut through the green slope of the hilly terrain.

## Two low intensity earthquakes hit western Nepal; no damages reported

KATHMANDU, May 23 (Agencies): Two low intensity earthquakes hit western Nepal on Friday morning, with no reports of any damage so far, an official said.

A 5.1 magnitude earthquake with epicentre at Khalanga in Baitadi district hit at 1.48 am (local time), according to the Earthquake Monitoring Centre.

The earthquake was followed by an aftershock of 3.7 magnitude around 2.00 am (local time).



Local residents panicked and ran out of their homes after the two consecutive tremors, the official said.

Tremors were also felt in neighbouring Darchula, Bajhang, and Dadeldhura districts, the official said.

## 'Investment, not tariffs,' says Ishiba after telephone talks with Trump before 3rd round of talks

TOKYO, May 23 (Agencies): Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said Friday that he held telephone talks with US President Donald Trump and agreed to hold "productive" discussions at an upcoming tariff talks between the two sides.

"Investment, not tariffs," Ishiba told reporters after the talks. He said Japan's position to keep pushing Washington to drop all recent tariff measures is unchanged and that he stands by plans to push for Japanese investment to create



more jobs in the US in exchange.

The two leaders held talks just after Economic Revitalization Minister Ryosei Akazawa, Japan's chief tariff

negotiator, headed to Washington for a third round of talks with his US counterparts. In the earlier rounds of talks, the US had not agreed to the Japanese

requests.

Ishiba said he reminded Trump that Japan's position was for the US administration to scrap all recent tariffs on imports from Japan, to which the US president made no specific response.

"I expressed my expectations for productive discussion to be held, and we agreed," Ishiba told reporters.

The US is charging a 25% tariff on imports of autos, a mainstay of Japan's trade with the US and a key driver of growth for the economy. Trump has relaxed

some of those tariffs but has kept in place higher tariffs on steel and aluminum.

Friday's talks were requested by Trump and the two leaders discussed about 45 minutes on range of topics that also included security cooperation between the two allies and the US president's recent visit to the Middle East, Ishiba said.

He said the two leaders also agreed to hold talks when they both attend the Group of Seven summit in Canada next month.

## Heartening that America's involvement made difference in stopping close to full-scale war between India, Pakistan: US

WASHINGTON, May 23 (Agencies): The US said it is "heartening" that America's "involvement and assistance" made a difference in stopping a "close to full-scale war erupting" between India and Pakistan.

"...what has been a generational concern about violence and terrorism in that region, certainly, with the troubles between India and Pakistan – is that there

is a ceasefire," State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said at a press briefing.

"Obviously we know – very close to full-scale war erupting, and what's very exciting and heartening is that America's involvement and assistance made a difference in that stopping and a ceasefire that has continued, but of course, within that one expects, as the world noticed, again, that that has not

been resolved, that the potential of having these long-term problems resolved has returned," Bruce said.

She was responding to a question on US-India relations and terrorism emanating against India from Pakistan.

"And it is an opportunity, and the good news is – that, unlike some other regions, there has been a commitment to a ceasefire," Bruce said.



After the horrific April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 civilians were killed, India launched Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Jammu dining guide-Jammu and Kashmir tourism

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian mili-

tary bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian forces launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

US President Donald Trump has made repeated claims that his

administration brokered a "ceasefire" between India and Pakistan.

Indian government sources in New Delhi have maintained that the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect. They said no third party was involved.



# Dimple leads protest against power and water crisis in Jammu



## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 23: Sunil Dimple, President of Mission Statehood, led a massive protest on the Janipur High Court road against the Power Development Department (PDD) and Public Health Engineering (PHE) departments. The protest, joined by a large number of women, children, and elderly citizens, was held in response to the ongoing unscheduled power cuts and acute drinking water shortage amidst soaring summer temperatures. Addressing the protesters, Dimple alleged that residents are enduring long hours of both scheduled and unscheduled power cuts, leaving patients, children, and the elderly suffering in the intense heat without relief. He claimed that the existing power infrastructure is outdated and inefficient, with transformers tripping every ten minutes and failing regularly. Moreover, he pointed out that damaged transformers and burnt cables often go unrepaired for days, exacerbating the crisis. Dimple also raised serious concerns over the billing practices of the electricity department, accusing it of

issuing inflated and incorrect bills multiple times within a single month. He demanded greater accountability and transparency, questioning where the deposited bill payments are going. He called on the Chief Minister to provide 200 units of free electricity to all consumers and warned of a strong agitation against the imposition of prepaid metering systems. Turning his attention to the water crisis, Dimple alleged that the Jal Shakti and PHE departments have completely failed to provide adequate drinking water to the residents of Jammu. He claimed that several city wards are facing an acute scarcity of clean drinking water, with no effective measures being taken. To address the issue, Dimple demanded the immediate commencement of construction on the Chinab Water Supply Project to bring drinking water from the Akhnoor River to Jammu city. He also urged the government to ensure the supply of clean drinking water twice a day and to purchase new water tankers, as the existing fleet is reportedly non-functional and condemned. Further, he called for the provision of free electricity and drinking water for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the hardships faced by common citizens. Prominent leaders who joined the protest included Rekha Devi, Koushlya Kumari, Poonam, Sunita, Tarsem, Rajinder, Shishupal Sharma, Babu Singh, among others.

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## Never forget these four truths in life...

1. Mother – The one you called in every pain, Whose love healed your wounds again and again.
2. Father – Who lost everything so you could win, His silent sacrifices lie deep within.
3. Teacher – Who guided you with wisdom's light, Helping you walk from darkness to bright.
4. God – The eternal, beyond birth and death, Meeting whom is the soul's final breath.

Keep these four close to your heart always, They are the guiding stars of your life's ways.

**Dr Shreyansh Kumar**  
Jain State Chairman  
Indian Yoga Association 9419100743



# Mission Director HADP Commends Pioneering Poultry Unit in Baramulla

## Top News Report

BARAMULLA, May 23: Sandeep Kumar, Mission Director of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), today underscored the significance of integrated poultry farming during a visit to the newly established Composite Broiler Farm-cum-Hatchery and Feed Mill in Binner, Baramulla. This state-of-the-art facility, conceptualized and developed by local entrepreneur Khurshed Ahmad Kakroo, marks a significant stride towards poultry development and self-sufficiency in the Kashmir Division. Kumar was accompanied by Dr. Parwinder Singh Sudan, Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Kashmir, and Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah, Director, Sheep Husbandry Department,



Kashmir. Also joining the delegation were Yadvinder Sason, Joint Director, Agriculture; Dr. G.A. Lone, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Baramulla; Dr. Showkat Ahmad, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Baramulla; Showkat AD, Fisheries; and other key sectoral officers from the Animal Husbandry Department. The visit focused on the comprehensive inspection of the unit, which was established under HADP's Poultry Development Programme. Officials provided an in-depth briefing on the unit's objectives and its alignment with the broader vision for poultry sector growth in the Kashmir Division, particularly within the Baramulla district.

This pioneering unit, the first of its kind in the Kashmir Division, represents a substantial investment exceeding Rs 110 lakh. It received crucial support from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Baramulla, through a Rs 36 lakh departmental subsidy. The facility has sourced high-quality parent stock from one of India's most reputable poultry enterprises. These birds are set to contribute significantly to local poultry production and self-sufficiency by laying eggs for hatching Day-Old Chicks (DOCs). Sandeep Kumar expressed his strong interest in the unit's operations, commending both Kakroo for his entrepreneurial spirit and the Department of Animal Husbandry for their exemplary efforts. He highlighted the transformative potential of such initiatives in enhancing rural livelihoods and bolstering the poultry sector across the valley.

# Ophthalmic practice on Asthenopia held at GDC R S Pura



## Top News Report

R S PURA, May 23: A preliminary activity was conducted by NSS unit in collaboration with department of Zoology of GDC R. S. Pura under the guidance of Prof (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, Principal of the college. It was basically a quasi-experimental study to assess the effectiveness of ophthalmic exercise on Asthenopia among students. The initiative was organized by Gousia, a student of Stephens College of Nursing, Miran Sahib. Near about 60 NSS Volunteers of the college filled the ques-

tionnaire based on the study. The practice also served as a valuable training opportunity for students from GDC R.S. Pura, who gained knowledge under expert supervision. This exercise created awareness among the students about the significance of regular eye examination, early detection of eyes related issues in the present digital age and the role of nutrition and eye health. On this event Dr. Chanchal Angral, NSS PO explained the students the concept of Asthenopia. She said that it is an eye strain

or visual fatigue which is caused due to prolonged or excessive use of electronic devices such as mobile phones, laptops which require focused vision. If not timely managed it can lead to blurred vision, itchy and sore eyes, she added. Further, she expressed gratitude to the volunteers and supporting staff for their cooperation in the execution of the event. The faculty member who were present during the drive were Dr. Shivani Manchanda, Dr. Akriti Parihar, Dr. Sunil Kumar Mangoch and Dr. Savleen Kour.

# FromPage No: 1

## Operation Sindoor showed terror in India fully sponsored by Pakistan: Amit Shah

attack was made on the soldiers in Uri. "We did a surgical strike. After that, the Pulwama attack happened. In reply to which, we did an air strike. Now, in Pahalgam, innocent tourists were killed after asking about their religion. Operation Sindoor was the reply to it. The world is appreciating us for this. I salute the Army," he said. India carried out precision strikes under Operation Sindoor on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people. Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian forces launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations. India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the military confrontation after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. Hailing the role played by the BSF in securing the country, Shah said the force is a great example of how one can overcome all difficulties on the basis of patriotism and become the best force in the world. Referring to the BSF's role in guarding international borders, including with Bangladesh, Shah said the neighbouring country should not forget the big role played by the BSF in its creation. He said on behalf of the entire nation, he salutes more than 2,000 border guards who have made the supreme sacrifice while fearlessly walking the path of their duty with the spirit of supreme sacrifice from 1965 to 2025 K F Rustamji was the founding father and the first director general of the BSF, the world's largest border guarding force with about 2.75 lakh personnel tasked

to guard Indian borders with Pakistan on the west and Bangladesh on the east. The BSF was raised in 1965.

## US Judge bars Trump administration to detain, deport international students

"uniformly wreaked havoc" on the legal status of international students and likely "exceeded their authority." The order bars the federal government from arresting or deporting international students participating in the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), a Department of Homeland Security system that oversees student visas. It also prevents the administration from revoking their legal immigration status while litigation continues. While the court did not rule directly on the Harvard case, legal experts told NYT that the injunction is broad enough that it could partially impede the administration's efforts to enforce the decision. "The relief the court grants provides plaintiffs with a measure of stability and certainty," White wrote. "That they will be able to continue their studies or their employment without the threat of re-termination hanging over their heads." In his ruling, White criticized the administration's shifting legal justifications and said there appeared to be a concerted attempt to place visa enforcement actions "beyond judicial review." "At each turn in this and similar litigation across the nation," White wrote, "defendants have abruptly changed course to satisfy courts' expressed concerns. It is unclear how this game of whack-a-mole will end unless defendants are enjoined from skirt-

ing their own mandatory regulations." The injunction applies to all "similarly situated individuals" under SEVP, potentially covering a wide array of students across the country affected by recent enforcement actions.

## "Duty of elected representative to reach out to people," Omar Abdullah lauds visits of TMC delegation, Rahul Gandhi

CM further emphasised the responsibility of elected representatives to engage with the public and address their concerns, stating that his government is committed to listening to the people and working on their issues. "It is the duty of an elected government or representatives elected by the people to reach out to people as much as possible, hear their issues and grievances, and try to resolve them. We never said that all issues would be resolved at once. But we have definitely said that we will hear everyone as much as possible and try to work on it. I am doing exactly the same," he said. Earlier today, Congress General Secretary in charge of Communications, Jairam Ramesh, said that the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, will visit Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch on Saturday to meet the families of victims killed in recent shelling by Pakistan. In a post on X on Friday, Ramesh said, "Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri@RahulGandhi will be visiting Poonch tomorrow, May 24th, to meet the families bereaved during the shelling by Pakistan very recently." Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch

and Rajouri districts have been affected during the recent conflict with Pakistan. The Pakistani side had indulged in unprovoked firing across the border due to which locals suffered damage to their homes and lost their sources of livelihood. The Jammu and Kashmir government has announced an ex gratia of Rs 10 lakh for the next of kin of those killed.

## Wreath-Laying ceremony held for soldier martyred in Kishtwar encounter

deceased, officials said. Sepoy Pandurang was killed in an encounter with terrorists during a cordon and search operation launched by security forces in Kishtwar district on Thursday. The operation to track down four hiding terrorists is underway in Kishtwar's Singhpora-Chatroo area, they added. Sepoy Pandurang was a resident of Karandi village, Akole tehsil, Ahmednagar district in Maharashtra. He was serving in the 17th Rashtriya Rifles deployed in Kishtwar district. TMC delegation visits shelling-hit Rajouri, Slams Centre for 'Neglecting' border areas A wave of artillery shelling, and missiles and drone strikes by Pakistan in the Jammu region killed 27 people and injured more than 70 between May 8 and 10 after India launched Operation Sindoor to target terror infrastructure in the neighbouring country and PoK in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack. The TMC delegation — comprising MPs Derek O'Brien, Sagarika

Ghose and Mohd Nadimul Haque, West Bengal minister Manas Bhunia, and former parliamentarian Mamata Thakur — is on the last day of its three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir. The delegation also visited the Government Medical College in Rajouri where they met the injured and were briefed about the measures taken to treat them. Expressing their condolences to the families who lost their kin, Rajya Sabha member Ghose said they came to Rajouri to assure the affected people that the people of West Bengal and India were standing with them. "We are here with a five-member delegation and public representatives from West Bengal. Over the past two days, we have been visiting the border areas. Yesterday, we were in Poonch," she told reporters. She said they visited the hospital to witness firsthand the human cost of recent events. "The people living in these border areas are the most vulnerable and, sadly, the most neglected. We met Imtiaz Ahmed, who lost his hand. He was the sole breadwinner of his family but now he would be unable to work or earn a living. He has three children and is left helpless," she said. Expressing deep sympathies with the families affected, she said, "We also met 12-year-old Ruksana, who suffered severe damage to her leg. She can no longer run or attend school. These are heartbreaking human tragedies unfolding in the border regions of Rajouri and Poonch." Ghose took a dig at the government and alleged local communities in the border areas were being neglected. "Why have they not received better protection? These innocent people are on the frontlines, defenceless against cross-border shelling. Why must they suffer such grave injuries?" she asked. Expressing her sorrow, Ghose said, "Our hearts are broken. We return with deep sorrow after witnessing the suffering endured by the people of this region." National

Conference leader and former MLA Aijaz Jan expressed his gratitude to West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee for sending a delegation to Jammu and Kashmir to witness the human tragedy caused by cross-border shelling from Pakistan. "We thank the team members for their visit. They came to Rajouri and Poonch, met the families of the victims and the injured, and expressed solidarity with them," he said.

## Srinagar burglary solved, Stolen gold and alto car seized: Police

Ahmad Dar of Safapora Bandipora. During questioning, the trio confessed to the crime. Based on their disclosures, police recovered the stolen gold along with an Alto car (registration number HR13E-9346) allegedly used in the burglary. Police confirmed that the investigation is ongoing, with further efforts to recover any remaining stolen property and to determine if the accused are linked to other similar cases. ED Raids against Jaypee Infratech, Others in rs 12,000-cr fraud case Infratech, Jaypee Associates and some others in a Rs 12,000 crore investment fraud case, official sources said. The raids are being carried out in Delhi-NCR and Mumbai under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said. The searches are in the case related to Jaypee Infratech, Jaypee Associates Limited and others for alleged fraud with homebuyers and investors of around Rs 12,000 crore and linked "diversion" of funds, they said.



## Inter Zonal District Level Sports Competitions begin in Jammu



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 23: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Jammu, commenced the Inter Zonal District Level competitions in various disciplines on Friday.

The Cricket competition for U-14 and U-17 boys began at Government Boys High School, Jammu Cantt, while the Basketball tournament for U-14 and U-17 girls started at MA Stadium, Jammu. Simultaneously, the Volleyball competition for U-14 boys and girls concluded at MA Stadium.

These events are being organized under the patronage of Director General Youth Services and Sports, J&K UT, Rajinder Singh Tara, with the overall supervision of Deputy Director Central Jetinder Mishra and Joint Director YSS Ved Parkash.

Other key officials include Accounts Officer Sunil Kumar Sharma, DYSSO Jammu Sukhdev Raj Sharma, and ZPEOs Ram Murti (Gandhi Nagar), Jatinder Kour (Satwari), Harvinder Kour (Jammu), and Harvinder Singh Sodhi, who are ensuring the smooth conduct of the events.

Approximately 400 students from various government and private schools across District Jammu participated in today's competitions. Additional sports activities under this zonal initiative are being conducted at venues like Garhi

Ground Jourian, Bana Stadium, and Khel Gaon Nagrota.

Expert officials including Bandana Sharma, Jasdev Singh, Jagan Deep Singh, Dinesh, Sandeepan Sharma, Vaneet Pangotra, Mosmi Verma, Amit Kalsi, Rajesh Bandral, Jagdish Singh, and Amit Sharma, along with other technical staff, are overseeing the fair and efficient execution of the games.

Results of Today's Events:

Cricket (U-14 Boys): Zone Satwari won the toss and chose to bowl first. Zone Gandhi Nagar scored 121 runs for 1 wicket in 15 overs, with Saksh being the highest scorer at 56 runs. In response, Zone Satwari was bowled out for 54 runs. Zone Gandhi Nagar won the match by 67 runs.

Basketball (U-17 Girls): Zone Jammu defeated Zone Marh by 5-2 baskets. Zone Gandhi Nagar defeated Zone Akhnoor by 17-2 baskets.

Basketball (U-14 Girls): Zone Satwari defeated Zone Marh by 20-2 baskets. Zone Gandhi Nagar defeated Zone Jammu by 4-0 baskets.

Volleyball Finals (U-14 Boys): Zone Gandhi Nagar defeated Zone Satwari by 2-0 sets.

Volleyball Finals (U-14 Girls): Zone Satwari defeated Zone Gandhi Nagar by 2-0 sets.

The remaining results from other ongoing events will be announced tomorrow.

## KVK Poonch concludes 15 days certificate course on Integrated Nutrient Management

### Top News Report

POONCH, May 23: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Poonch working under the auspices of Directorate of Extension, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) today concluded 15 days certificate course on "Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) for Input Dealers". The programme was inaugurated by Director Extension, SKUAST-J Dr Amrish Vaid through virtual mode.

At the inaugural, Director Extension said that the dealers/retailers are an important link between company and farmers and key change agents in motivating the farmers to use fertilizers in a balanced manner.

Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Poonch, Dr. Ajay Gupta while speaking on the valedictory function said that the main purpose of the course was to educate and inform the dealers regarding the different types of fertilizers and their sale and distribu-

tion in accordance with Fertilizer Control Order, 1985.

The training was attended by 30 participants hailing from different areas of Poonch district. During the training, inclusive lectures regarding fertilizers were delivered by eminent scientists from SKUAST-J, KVK Poonch, KVK, IFFCO.

Speaking on the concluding day of certificate course, Dr Muzaffar Mir, Scientist, KVK Poonch highlighted the role of such training programmes so that the dealers in addition to running their businesses may actually help the farmers to use the particular fertilizers based upon the crop and crop requirement.

Dr M.A. Guroo, Course Coordinator said that, the general purpose of this course is that no unauthorized person shall be allowed to sell the fertilizers in illegal and inappropriate manner.. The programme ended with distribution of course certificates among the participants.

## Sainik Samman Samaroh held at Indo-Pak Border to honour brave BSF Soldiers of Operation Sindoor

### Top News Report

R S Pura, May 23: A grand "Sainik Samman Samaroh" was organised today at the Indo-Pak border post in Abdullian, R.S. Pura, to felicitate the brave soldiers of the 07 Battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF) who played a pivotal role in the successful execution of Operation Sindoor. The event was held to celebrate their valour and dedication in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and ensuring its security along the international border. The BSF jawans were honoured with garlands, petal showers, sweets, and heartfelt appreciation from dignitaries and civil society members. The solemn ceremony was a powerful tribute to the selfless service and immense sacrifice of the BSF personnel. It was not only a gesture of gratitude but a reaffirmation of the nation's deep respect and support for its protectors who serve under the harshest of conditions.

The event was graced by numerous prominent personalities and social organisations including SAHYOG INDIA, Seva Bharti, SEEMA Foundation, Media Federation of India, BNI, All J&K Senior Citizens Welfare Council, Kashmir Sahayak Samiti, and the J&K Dairy Farmers' Association. Their participation added depth to the occasion, underlining the importance of public acknowledgment and emotional connection between the armed forces and civilians.

Commandant Avdesh Kumar Sinha, Deputy Commandant Man-sukh Rao, and all jawans of the 07 Bn BSF expressed heartfelt thanks for the outpouring of support and recognition from the public and civil organisations. They shared their sense of pride and honour in receiving such affection from the nation they serve.

Among the notable attendees were Dr. Ashwani Joira, Founder of Sahyog India and Area Director of Special Olympics Bharat; Vimal Manchanda, Founder of SEEMA Foundation and President of MFI JKUT; Manjit Singh, President of All J&K Senior Citizens Welfare Council; Ms. Nimmi Bhat Pandita, Chairperson of MEHAK Foundation and Kashmir Sahayak Samiti; R.K. Kokroo, Dalip Pandita, Vandana Joira, Achyut Vaid, Manjit Singh from BNI; Sarla Kohli, Khema Ambar-dar, Bachan Lal (Sar-panch Abdullian), Hari Vishwas Joira, Tamana Choudhary, and Akshaya Choudhary.

The air was filled with patriotic fervour as chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai", "Vande Mataram", "BSF Zindabad", "Indian Army Zindabad" and "Bharat Ke Shaheed Amar Rahein" echoed throughout the gathering.

the Sabre. In the U-14 category, Suryansh (APS Udhampur) won in Sabre, Rohan (JK Public School) in Foil, and Arvind (India Kids School) in Epee.

Adding to the event's diversity, trials for kick-boxing and boxing were also conducted, offering a platform for budding martial artists to showcase their potential.

To maintain the health of the participants, the organizing committee arranged for the distribution of nutritious drinks and set up hydration points across the sports venues. The meet will continue over the next few days, with more events and recognitions for outstanding young athletes.

This sports meet stands as a testament to DYSS's commitment to grassroots sports and the nurturing of future champions in Udhampur.



DYSS officials, participated in the event with great enthusiasm, creating an energetic and spirited atmosphere.

Addressing the participants, Romesh Chander Mishra stressed the importance of staying hydrated and adopting a drug-free lifestyle, aligning his message with the "Nasha Mukta Bharat" campaign. He urged the athletes to remain committed to their health and well-being. A collective pledge was taken by all participants and staff to abstain from substance abuse and to uphold the values of discipline and clean living through sports.

Early match results demonstrated fierce yet friendly competition. In Volleyball (U-14 Boys), Zone Ghordi emerged victorious over Zone Dudu, with set scores of 25-17 and 25-21. In the U-17 Boys category, Zone Udhampur claimed the title by defeating Zone Dudu with scores of 25-22, 25-22.

The Fencing segment also highlighted exceptional talent. In the U-17 category, Samar Pratap (India Kids School, Zone Udhampur) won the Epee, Kaushik (Happy Model School) secured the Foil, and Saras Chalotra (Happy Model School) triumphed in

## BVP organizes "Anemia Mukta Bharat" medical camp at ASN Higher Secondary School



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 23: In a significant move to support the national mission "Anemia Mukta Bharat," the Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP), Shivalik Branch, Chhanni Himmat, organized a Mega Medical Camp at ASN Higher Secondary School. The camp aimed to raise awareness and identify cases of anemia among students and staff.

The event was graced by Sunita Gupta, State President of BVP, as the Guest of Honour. Ritesh Kapoor, Director of ASN School, presided over the function. Ashok Khajuria, President of the BVP Shivalik Branch, efficiently conducted the proceedings, while Kapoor extended a warm welcome to all guests and participants.

The medical check-up was led by noted orthopedic surgeon Dr. Amritpal Singh (Ortho-Ist Clinic, Airport Road)

and his associate. They examined students, staff, and BVP members for anemia, collecting blood samples for detailed analysis. Individual reports will be shared later.

A special highlight of the event was a motivational poem by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and President of Vichar Kranti Manch International. His poem stressed the urgency of eliminating anemia and praised Kapoor's dedication to health and education causes.

Prominent attendees included Arun Sharma (National Council Member), Vijay Sharma, Rajesh Gupta, Ashok Gupta, H.C. Vaid, Gurmeet Singh, Prof. Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Rakesh Mishra, Vivek Mahajan, Sunita Mahajan, Aarti Sharma, Rajkumari, Anju Bansal, Vandana Maini, and others. A soulful musi-

cal performance by Anju Bansal added charm to the event and was well-received by students.

As part of the nutrition drive, the BVP distributed jaggery and roasted gram to all attendees—natural sources of iron and protein—to promote healthy eating habits and combat iron-deficiency anemia.

Anemia, especially iron-deficiency anemia, remains a major public health issue in India. It reduces oxygen supply to organs and can cause fatigue, weakness, poor concentration, slowed development in children, and complications during pregnancy.

In his vote of thanks, H.C. Vaid acknowledged the contributions of all participants and applauded the BVP team for their commitment to creating an anemia-free India. The camp was hailed as a commendable initiative in building a healthier, more aware society.

## AYUSH Department organizes Yoga Camp at GHSS Ghou Manahsan



### Top News Report

JAMMU, May 23: The AYUSH Department of Jammu and Kashmir organized a Mega Iconic Yoga Camp today at Government Higher Secondary School, Ghoumanahsan, in celebration of the 11th International Yoga Day countdown. The event, held with great enthusiasm, was conducted under the theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," as per the directions of Dr. Nuzat Bashir Shah, Director AYUSH, J&K UT, and under the supervision of Dr. Vandana Dogra, District AYUSH Officer, Jammu.

The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Vandana Dogra, DAO/MS AYUSH Jammu, in the presence of Dr. Jitender, In-charge AYUSH Ghoumanahsan Marh, and Renuka Nagpal, Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Ghoumanahsan. Officers from the AYUSH Department, senior lecturers, and school staff were also present.

A dedicated team of postgraduate doctors led by Dr. Jitender Kumar (MD), Camp Incharge, conducted the yoga session. Other participating doctors included Dr. Himani Bhuytal and Dr. Sandeep Bhagat, along

with paramedical staff Ramesh Naru, Akhilesh, Mohinder Singh, and Ayush Sharma (MTS). The yoga session was facilitated by senior yoga expert Neelam Sharma, along with instructors Jaspreet Singh, Kunal, and Sheetal Khajuria, who conducted a one-hour demonstration and practice session of yoga asanas, emphasizing their health benefits.

Around 500 students, along with staff members, actively participated in the yoga session held in the school campus. The event also included a painting competition, and the top three students were awarded medals for their creative efforts. Principal Renuka Nagpal extended heart-

felt gratitude to the AYUSH Department for organizing the camp in the border belt. On behalf of the school administration and students, she, along with Shivani Sharma, expressed thanks to Dr. Nuzat Bashir, Dr. Vandana Dogra, and Dr. Jitender for their commitment to public health and well-being.

The event concluded with the distribution of IEC pamphlet material to raise awareness about the importance of yoga in daily life.

The initiative was widely appreciated by the school staff, students, and local community as a much-needed effort to promote wellness and healthy living, especially in border areas.

## Bhandari requests Director Local Bodies to fill up vacant post in MC Kishtwar

### Top News Report

KISHTWAR, May 23: Thakur Randeep Bhandari, Former State Spokesperson of DPAP, has requested the Director Local Bodies Jammu to expedite the filling of vacant posts in Kishtwar.

While appreciating the recent reshuffle in local bodies across Jammu Province, Bhandari expressed concern that Municipal Committee Kishtwar was overlooked, with several officials transferred without adequate replacements.

Given Kishtwar's vast geographical area, Bhandari urged the Director to fill the vacant posts at the earliest to ensure uninterrupted public services and alleviate potential suffering for the local populace.



# Eyeing first top-two finish in 11 years, PBKS face ousted Delhi Capitals

*Apart from the 2014 season when they topped league table and finished runners-up, PBKS have only made one other playoff appearance in a competition that has been in existence for past 18 years*

JAIPUR, May 23 (Agencies): Riding a wave of success after a decade of pain, a full-strength Punjab Kings will fancy their chances of securing their first top-two finish in 11 years, when they face Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday.

Apart from the 2014 season when they topped the league table and finished runners-up, PBKS have only made one other playoff appearance in a competition that has been in existence for the past 18 years.

Having ended an 11-year drought, PBKS are now relishing the prospect of not just finishing in the top two, but also enter the summit clash and then make a dash for a maiden title.

A squad that is already brimming with confidence was shored up further when their overseas quartet of Marcus Stoinis, Josh Inglis, Aaron Hardie and Kyle Jamieson joined their extremely talented Indian teammates in the Pink City three days ago.

All four will be available for selection as PBKS look to book a top-two finish with a win over their beleaguered opponents who were knocked out of the playoffs reckoning after a big defeat to Mumbai Indians on Wednesday.

These foreign players left the team after the BCCI had to



suspend the tournament for a week due to the military conflict between India and Pakistan that led to the abandonment of the match between these two teams midway through the first innings in Dharamsala on May 8.

The match was called off after 10.1 overs of play after a black-out in the picturesque hill town.

The PBKS think tank did well to promptly bring back their overseas contingent after the tournament's resumption, and the squad now resembles a band of men determined to make up for the years of disappointment the franchise faced in the widely watched event.

PBKS skipper Shreyas Iyer, who has recently made history by becoming the first captain to lead three franchises to IPL playoffs, has been the key to their success and for the side to

go all the way, the stylish batter will need to continue in similar vein in the remaining matches.

Prior to his triumphant campaign with Kolkata Knight Riders last year, Iyer had led Delhi Capitals to the playoffs in 2019 and 2020, including their only IPL final appearance in 2020.

He is also the second highest run scorer this season with 435 runs in 12 matches, and he is gunning for more.

Thanks to the performance of players such as Prabhsimran Singh (458 runs), Priyansh Arya (356 runs), Arshdeep Singh (11 wickets) and Yuzvendra Chahal (13 wickets), PBKS have emerged as the most consistent side this season, accumulating 17 points from 12 matches to secure a playoff berth with two games to spare.

As far as Delhi Capitals are

concerned, they have had their chances this season but the lack of big runs in the powerplay consistently and the absence of lead pacer Mitchell Starc towards the end has had an adverse impact on their prospects.

They will look to end their disappointing campaign on a high note, but up against an in-form opponent like PBKS, it is easier said than done.

Teams:

Punjab Kings: Shreyas Iyer ©, Arshdeep Singh, Priyansh Arya, Pyla Avinash, Azmatullah Omarzai, Xavier Bartlett, Yuzvendra Chahal, Praveen Dube, Aaron Hardie, Harnoor Singh, Harpreet Brar, Josh Inglis, Kyle Jamieson, Marco Jansen, Musheer Khan, Mitchell Owen, Prabhsimran Singh, Kuldeep Sen, Shashank Singh, Marcus Stoinis, Suryansh Shedge, Vishnu Vinod, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Nehal Wadhwa, Yash Thakur.

Delhi Capitals: Axar Patel ©, Mustafizur Rahman, Abhishek Porel, Karun Nair, KL Rahul (wk), Tristan Stubbs, Ashutosh Sharma, Vipraj Nigam, Mitchell Starc, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohit Sharma, Mukesh Kumar, Sameer Rizvi, Darshan Nalkande, Tripurana Vijay, Dushmantha Chameera, Faf du Plessis, T Natarajan, Ajay Jadav Mandal, Manvanth Kumar L, Madhav Tiwari.

Match starts at 7:30 PM.

# Let the transition begin: Gill front-runner as India decides on new Test captain for England tour



MUMBAI, May 23 (Agencies): India's cricket selectors will set the ball rolling for the team's long transition journey in the longest format when they pick a new Test captain and finalise the squad for what is expected to be a challenging five-match series in England, here on Saturday.

The 25-year-old Shubman Gill is a clear favourite to land the high-profile job as India embarks on a new World Test Championship cycle following the retirement of stalwarts Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in a span of one week.

By simple logic, Jasprit Bumrah was the vice-captain on the previous tour of Australia and he should be elevated to the leadership role but question marks over his long-term fitness and workload management are likely to go against him on the discussion table.

Rishabh Pant has had a forgettable IPL but he remains a vital part of India's transition phase in the Test format. The selectors are likely to make him vice-captain.

Barring the leadership conundrum, no major shake-up is expected.

Though Rohit and Kohli's exits leave a massive void, the likes of K L Rahul can provide much-needed experience in the batting department.

Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal are

expected to open in the first Test beginning in Leeds on June 20 but hot on their heels will be Sai Sudharsan, who is likely to be picked as a reserve opener.

It remains to be seen if one among Karun Nair, Sarfaraz Khan or Shreyas Iyer will make it as an additional specialist batter.

Following the retirement of another stalwart, R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja will be lead spinner in the squad and it would be interesting to see if the selectors go with two or three spinners in English conditions.

If the number is two, then Washington Sundar may get the nod ahead of Kuldeep Yadav, who is a proven match-winner across formats.

Pant is the leading wicket-keeper batter and the choice for a reserve too is rather straight forward with Dhruv Jurel set to be retained.

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar is expected to address the media after squad announcement and talk about the road ahead for the team undergoing a rebuilding process.

There is enough experience in the pace department led by Bumrah but will he last the rigours of a five-match series? There are also concerns over Mohammed Shami's fitness.

Can his ageing body recover fast enough in between a long series? Mohammed Siraj is set to be the third pacer in the squad. If the selectors decide to pick five fast bowlers then Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep and Arshdeep Singh, who is yet to play Test cricket, will also be in the mix.

If the five wise men go for a left-arm pacer, Arshdeep will have competition from Khaleel Ahmed.

The squad will be made public a week before India A begin their tour of England. Any last minute replacement to the Test squad is likely to come from that shadow tour comprising two four-day games.

# Nadal enjoying pain-free life

PARIS, May 23 (Agencies): For the first time since Rafael Nadal called time on his extraordinary career, the French Open begins without the looming prospect of its most dominant champion, and while Roland-Garros turns the page on a golden era, the 14-time winner says he is content to leave the stage behind.

The Spaniard, who officially retired in November 2024, said that he no longer misses competing and is enjoying a normal, pain-free life after years of battling chronic injuries.

"I feel good today, not because I'm back on a tennis court, but because I'm living a normal life without pain," Nadal said. "I don't miss



playing. I knew I had reached my limit."

This year's tournament is the first of the post-Nadal era, a symbolic shift for an event so long synonymous with his name. As the next generation of contenders prepares to stake its claim on the clay, Nadal is watch-

ing from afar, embracing life beyond the tour. "The first 40 days after I stopped were tough because I felt I could still play well," Nadal admitted. "But my foot made it impossible."

He now divides his time between family life, his academy, and new projects.

# ICC announces match officials for WTC final between Australia, South Africa

DUBAI, May 23 (Agencies): Chris Gaffaney of New Zealand and England's Richard Illingworth have been announced as on-field umpires for the World Test Championship (WTC) final which is set to take place at Lord's from June 11 to 15 between Australia and South Africa, as per the ICC official website.

The highly anticipated clash will see South Africa take on Australia in the culmination of a fiercely contested two-year Test cycle for the mace.

Illingworth, who was also part of the officiating team in the 2021 and 2023 finals, continues his consistent presence



in marquee Test matches. He is also the current ICC Umpire of the Year, having won the David Shepherd Trophy for the fourth time in 2024.

Gaffaney had partnered with Illingworth in officiating last year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final, and also officiated in the WTC 2023 Final between India and Australia.

Illingworth will be making history in the Ultimate Test, having stood as an on-field umpire for all three World Test Championship Finals.

Richard Kettleborough, also from England, who has officiated in the finals of several marquee ICC events, including the Men's Cricket World Cup and

the Champions Trophy, has been appointed as the TV umpire, after having played the same role in the WTC 2021 Final between India and New Zealand.

India's Nitin Menon has been named as the fourth umpire for the contest, marking his debut in a World Test Championship Final, after having served as the TV umpire for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final in 2021.

The match will be overseen by experienced Indian match referee Javagal Srinath.

ICC Chairman Jay Shah also commended the experience and merit of the appointed officials and expressed

confidence in their performance.

"We are pleased to announce an experienced team of match officials for the ICC World Test Championship Final at Lord's, marking the culmination of a highly competitive two-year cycle of Test matches played around the world," Jay Shah said as quoted by the ICC.

"We strive to select the most qualified and deserving officials for all matches, and we are confident they will perform admirably. On behalf of the ICC, I wish them all the best and hope they enjoy this assignment," he added.

# New Zealand all-rounder Hayley Jensen announces retirement from international cricket

WELLINGTON, May 23 (Agencies): New Zealand all-rounder Hayley Jensen announced her retirement from international cricket on Friday after representing the national team at five ICC tournaments, as per the ICC official website.

Jensen calls time on an 11-year international career, having represented New Zealand on 88 occasions (35 ODIs and 53 T20Is) that was highlighted by a total of 76 wickets across all formats.

She also represented New Zealand during their home ICC Women's Cricket World Cup campaign in 2022 and a total of four ICC Women's T20 World Cup events in 2014, 2018, 2020 and 2023.

Her best effort came

in 2020, where she picked up three wickets in a Player of the Match performance against Sri Lanka and finished the tournament as New Zealand's leading wicket-taker with seven scalps.

Jensen's last international appearance came in February 2023, with the 32-year-old deciding the time was right to bow out of the game.

"Ever since I was 10 years old, I came home from my first cricket tournament and knew I wanted to be a White Fern. To have had the chance to live that dream is something I'll always treasure," Jensen said as quoted by ICC.

"It's been an incredible journey - filled with challenges, growth, unforgettable experiences,



and the best group of people I could've hoped to share it with. It's never easy to move on from something that's meant this much, but I know in my heart it's time. I'm proud of what we've achieved together and even prouder to have been part of the White Ferns environment," she added.

New Zealand coach Ben Sawyer paid tribute to the contribution Jensen had made

throughout her career.

"I want to congratulate Hayley on a fantastic international career and thank her for her contributions to the White Ferns environment. Hayley has made key contributions to the team with both bat and ball on the field and always brought a genuine passion and love for the game. We wish her all the best for whatever the future holds," Sawyer said.

# Josh Hazlewood likely to join RCB squad ahead of the IPL 2025 playoffs

NEW DELHI, May 23 (Agencies): Right-arm seamer Josh Hazlewood is firming to return to Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 playoffs after coming through a period of rehab on a shoulder niggle back in Australia, as reported by ESPNcricinfo.

The fast bowler flew back to Australia during the hiatus, and since then, he has been training in Brisbane for the upcoming World Test Championship final against South Africa.

Hazlewood, who missed RCB's last IPL 2025 clash, which was against the five-time champions Chennai Super Kings, is the fourth-highest wicket-taker in the ongoing 18th edition of the cash-rich league with 18 wickets



in 10 matches at an average of 17.28.

RCB have been in strong form this season, winning eight of their 11 matches so far. They will face Sunrisers Hyderabad in Lucknow on Friday before concluding their league campaign against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG). A top-two finish remains within reach, and the team will hope the new

additions can provide timely reinforcements.

Earlier, the venues for the playoffs of the 18th season of the Indian Premier League were unveiled on Tuesday. According to the latest schedule, Qualifier 1 will be hosted in New Chandigarh on May 29, featuring the top two-ranked sides, followed by an engrossing Eliminator clash on May 30.

Along with the New PCA Stadium, Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, the world's largest cricket stadium, will serve as the venue for an electrifying Qualifier 2 on June 1 and the grand final of the 18th edition of the cash-rich league on June 3.

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



# JKRCEEA urges immediate restoration of Reservation in Promotion in J&K UT

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 23: The Jammu & Kashmir Reserved Categories Employees Empowerment Association (JKRCEEA) strongly appealed to the administration of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to immediately restore reservation in promotion for reserved category employees, as mandated by various constitutional amendments, Supreme Court judgments, J&K High Court, CAT Jammu as well as Srinagar bench orders and statutory laws.

While addressing media in Jammu, Legal Advisor JKRCEEA Shashi Bhushan Thappa, Advocate Anwar Choudhary, Advocate Parvez Ahmed Choudhary and Advocate Mohd Akram Choudhary said, "In 2015, the Division Bench of the High Court of J&K struck down reservation in promotion under the Reservation Act 2004 and Rules 2005 in the Ashok Kumar Sharma & Others vs State of J&K case. This judgment was stayed by



the Supreme Court in multiple tagged Special Leave Petitions (SLPs), including those filed by Mohammad Hanief Lone, Gagan Jyoti, judiciary officers, and engineers in Nasib Singh vs State of J&K SLP. The Supreme Court allowed promotions for reserved category employees, subject to eligibility and availability of vacancies."

Despite clear legal backing, certain officers in the Law and General Administration Departments misled the Executive Heads, resulting in the non-restoration of promotion reservations. In 2019, the President of India extended the 77th Constitutional Amend-

ment to J&K through a Presidential Order, rendering the High Court's 2015 judgment in fructuous. Post the abrogation of Article 370 and enactment of the J&K Reorganization Act 2019, the Reservation Act 2004 remained fully applicable to the UT, yet reservation in promotion remained withheld.

Further, GAD Circular No. 10-JK(GAD) of 2021 introduced an illogical policy on reserved slots that was challenged and quashed by the Central Administrative Tribunal benches in Jammu and Srinagar. The High Court of J&K and Ladakh, in Mohammad Jamal Sheikh & King Kumar vs J&K UT (judgment

dated 06-03-2025), also directed the government to promote reserved category employees on their respective slots based on quantifiable data and barred further promotions unless this is ensured. In spite of filling vacant reserved category slots, Govt. is making placement/ incharge promotions to deprive the reserved categories employees from promotions.

Adding to this, the Supreme Court's judgment in Jarnail Singh & Others vs Lachhmi Narain Gupta & Others (28-01-2022) restored reservation in promotion nationwide, directing all governments to collect quantifiable data and

implement reservation accordingly. Following this, most states and UTs complied—except J&K, which continues to deny promotions under the false pretext of pending litigation.

JKRCEEA called for accountability against those officers in GAD and Law Department responsible for misleading the administration and causing injustice to lakhs of SC/ST/OBC employees, who comprise nearly 50% of J&K's government workforce. Departments issuing "look-after" and "staff gap" promotions are in direct contempt of the High Court's rulings and must immediately cease such practices.

They urged the Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister (when appointed), Members of Parliament, Chief Secretary, and all MLAs from reserved categories to intervene decisively.

It is imperative that reservation in promotion be restored immediately in compliance with constitutional, legal, and judicial mandates to uphold the rights of marginalized communities in the Union Territory.

# Cadet Mohit Knathia of GDC Kathua scaled Mount Everest



## Top News Report

KATHUA, May 23: In a historic and proud moment for the Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua and the 4 J&K NCC Battalion, Cadet Mohit Knathia has etched his name in the annals of mountaineering by successfully summiting Mount Everest (8,848.86 m) on May 18, 2025, as part of the prestigious National Cadet Corps (NCC) Everest Expedition 2025.

Cadet Mohit Knathia, of GDC Kathua, was one of the ten cadets selected across India who were chosen through a rigorous national selection process. Mohit's unwavering commitment, exceptional physical fitness, and spirited training led him to be the sole representative from Jammu & Kashmir on this monumental journey.

The NCC expedition team, formally flagged off by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on April 3, 2025, began their ascent after intensive preparatory training, including a Pre-Everest climb of Mount Abi Gamin and a winter training camp at Siachen Base Camp, conducted under the supervision of the Army Mountaineering Institute.

Despite encountering extreme weather

and challenging terrain, the Cadet reached the summit and unfurled the National Flag and NCC Flag, symbolizing courage, discipline, and national pride. The expedition marked NCC's third successful Everest summit, after previous victories in 2013 and 2016.

Prof. Seema Mir, Principal, GDC Kathua expressed immense pride in Cadet Mohit's achievement, stated, "Mohit Knathia has become an inspiration for youth across Jammu & Kashmir. His determination and resilience reflect the finest values of the NCC and institution. She extended heartfelt appreciation to Lt. (Dr.) Daya Ram, Associate NCC Officer of GDC Kathua, whose dedication, mentoring, and tireless efforts have continuously uplifted the spirit and performance of NCC unit."

The college acknowledges with gratitude the crucial role of Col. Kuldeep Kachroo and Subedar Shyam Chand Training JCO, 4 JK NCC BN.

Their mentorship and rigorous training initiatives ensured Mohit's preparation and selection for this demanding expedition. This triumph also added a crown-glorious glory to the recent achievements and excellence fostered by NCC and the Directorate J&K & Ladakh.

# J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu holds Tiranga Rally to honour security forces' valour in Operation Sindoor

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 23: The J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, organized a grand Tiranga Rally today to celebrate the courage and valor of the Indian Armed Forces in successfully executing Operation Sindoor, a decisive military campaign against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

The rally, led by the Association's President, K. Nirmal Kotwal, Vice President Baldev Singh, General Secretary Parddeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Anshu Mahajan and Treasurer Rahul Aggarwal saw enthusiastic participation from members of the legal fraternity, all united in expressing solidarity with the nation's security forces.

The Tiranga Rally commenced from the High Court premises in Jammu and proceeded through District Court



Complex and culminated at High Court Chowk, Janipur, with advocates proudly carrying the Indian Tricolour and chanting slogans such as 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Indian Army Zindabad'.

The event was a heartfelt tribute to the armed forces for their swift and precise response to the

April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed 26 civilian lives.

Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, 2025, targeted nine terror camps, delivering a significant blow to terrorism and showcasing India's military strength and resolve.

Addressing the gathering,

President K. Nirmal Kotwal lauded the bravery and dedication of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and other security forces involved in Operation Sindoor.

"This historic operation is a testament to the unparalleled courage of our armed forces and the resolute leadership of our nation.

The J&K High Court Bar Association stands firmly with our soldiers, who have not only protected our sovereignty but also restored pride in every Indian heart," said Kotwal.

He further emphasized the importance of national unity and the legal community's commitment to supporting initiatives that uphold India's integrity and security.

The rally also served as a platform to reaffirm the Association's dedication to fostering patriotism and solidarity in the region.

Participants expressed their gratitude to the armed forces for their sacrifices and highlighted the significance of Operation Sindoor as a symbol of India's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism.

The J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu reaffirms its commitment to promoting national pride and unity through such initiatives.

# Tiranga Yatra held in Old City to honour India's Military



## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 23: A grand Tiranga Yatra was organized today in Ward No. 3 of Jammu's old city to pay homage to the bravery and sacrifices of the Indian Army. The event was led by former councillor and BJP leader Narottam Sharma, drawing a large gathering of patriotic citizens.

The yatra was graced by the presence of Jammu East MLA Bhai Yudhveer Sethi and Mandal President Adarsh Jathiyal, who were the chief guests. Ward President Amit Khanna, along with all booth heads, played an active role in organizing and participating in the rally, which was marked

by vibrant patriotic spirit and unity.

A key highlight of the rally was the emphasis on 'Operation Sindoor', described by the speakers not just as a military campaign, but as a powerful symbol of India's self-respect, justice, and national pride. Youth participants echoed sentiments that it embodied the strength and resolve of a new, determined India—one that is always prepared to defend its honour.

Speakers also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, particularly referencing the strong message of national sovereignty encapsulated in the phrase: "Blood and water cannot flow together." Narot-

tam Sharma emphasized that today's India responds to challenges not merely through diplomacy, but with unwavering determination and strength.

The Tiranga Yatra ignited deep patriotic emotions among participants and spectators alike, reflecting a strong sense of national unity and unshakeable support for India's armed forces. Among the other dignitaries present were East Mandal Vice President Sanjeev Verma, Ram Lubhaya, Rajesh Nischel, Sanjay Mengi, Sarooj Gupta, Kailash Chowdhary, Sanjay Abrol, and Pawan Sharma, who all contributed to the success of this heartfelt tribute to the military.

# J&K Students Association calls for immediate short summer break amid scorching heatwave

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 23: The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association on Friday urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the Education Department to announce an immediate short summer break of one week for schools across the Union Territory, in view of the ongoing and intensifying heatwave which poses serious health risks to students, particularly young children.

In a statement, National Convenor of the Association, Nasir Khuehami, expressed deep concern over the unprecedented rise in temperatures in the Kashmir Valley. "Our region is not climatically adapted to such extreme heat.

The current heatwave has made daily life unbearable, especially for students who are being compelled to attend school under dangerous weather

conditions. Prolonged exposure to such heat can result in dehydration, heatstroke, and other serious health complications," he said.

He further pointed out the lack of basic infrastructure in schools to cope with soaring temperatures. "Most educational institutions are ill-equipped, many lack even functional fans, proper ventilation, or shaded outdoor spaces.

Students are often forced to walk long distances under the blazing sun, increasing the risk of heat-related illnesses and endangering their overall well-being," he added.

Echoing similar concerns, the National General Secretary of the Association, Aadil Bhat, said, "The heatwave has persisted without respite, and weather forecasts indicate a further spike in temperatures. The government must act promptly

to protect students. Delaying action will not only harm their health but also adversely affect their concentration and academic performance."

The Association highlighted that temperatures in various parts of Jammu and Kashmir have reached record highs, leaving classrooms hotter than the outdoors. The situation is especially dire for primary and middle school students, who are more vulnerable to the effects of heat stress. "This is not just a weather issue, it is a public health and child rights issue that demands immediate administrative action," they asserted.

The Association urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Education Minister Sakina Itoo to take a proactive and humane approach by announcing a temporary one-week summer break until the weather normalizes. "Ensuring the safety and health

of school-going children must be a top government priority. Forcing students into ill-equipped classrooms during an extreme weather event is not only irresponsible but also insensitive," the Association said.

The Association added that it has received numerous representations from parents across districts expressing anxiety and concern over their children's safety.

"There is widespread public unease. Parents are hesitant to send their children to school, and their fears are valid. The government must not turn a blind eye to this growing public sentiment," they emphasized. The Association urged the government to respond promptly and compassionately and not wait for a crisis to unfold. "Governance must reflect the lived realities of the people, especially children," it added further.

# Pakistan's insolence continues unabated, martyrdom of soldiers is not tolerable: Sahni

## Top News Report

JAMMU, May 23: It is futile to expect morality from Pakistan, insolence continues unabated from across the border, martyrdom of Indian soldiers should not be tolerated, stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit. In a press release issued from the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that Pakistan's insolence continues. After



the pause on Operation Sindoor, Indian soldiers killed 6 terrorists in Kellar, Shopian and Tral

in Kashmir. Indian soldiers have had to make the supreme sacrifice in the encounter in Kishtwar, Jammu for the last 2 days. Sahni said that martyrdom of soldiers should not be tolerated.

Sahni said that Pakistan is not going to stop its insolence. On Wednesday, by refusing to allow an Indigo flight to land in difficult times, Pakistan has proved that it is futile to expect any kind of morality from Pakistan.