

TOP NEWS OF J&K

JAMMU, TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025

Daily Evening Newspaper

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Fatima Sana Shaikh shares what makes OTT more 'liberating' for artistes

Yogi Adityanath instructs officials to adopt sensitivity while resolving public problems

Australia PM says "massive challenges" ahead in recovery from floods



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BRIEFLY

CM Omar Abdullah chairs Cabinet Meeting at Pahalgam

SRINAGAR, May 27 (Agencies): Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday Chaired a Cabinet Meeting at Pahalgam.

In a post on X, the CM's office wrote, "Chaired a Cabinet Meeting at Pahalgam today. It was not just a routine administrative exercise, but a clear message—we are not intimidated by cowardly acts of terror."

Suspected Khalistani terrorist killed in blast in Amritsar

CHANDIGARH, May 27 (Agencies): A suspected Khalistani terrorist died in a blast while retrieving explosive material from a vacant area on the Majitha road bypass in Punjab's Amritsar on Tuesday (May 27, 2025), police said.

The intensity of the explosion, which took place around 9:30 a.m., was such that both arms of the man were blown off.

Deputy Inspector General (Border Range) Satinder Singh said the man is suspected to have links with some terror organisation like Babbar Khalsa International (BKI).

The man came here to retrieve the explosive material and thereafter, the blast took place, he said.

"The explosive material was in his hands when the blast took place," Mr. Singh told reporters in Amritsar. "We are investigating his identity and the terror organisation he belonged to," he said.

Replying to a question, the DIG said the man was yet to be identified.

"As per circumstantial evidence, it is clear that this man was a member of some terrorist organisation," Mr. Singh said, adding police got some vital clues from the man's pocket which indicated his links with some terror outfit.

A team of Forensic Science Laboratory is investigating to find out whether it was an IED (improvised explosive device) blast or grenade blast.

Amritsar Rural Senior
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"Come back, we are waiting for you...": Farooq Abdullah appeals to tourists ahead of Amarnath Yatra



PAHALGAM, May 27 (Agencies): National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday asserted that the atmosphere of fear in Kashmir has significantly reduced and urged the tourists to visit the valley again to enjoy its beauty.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir also urged the External Affairs Ministry to make efforts for getting revoked the negative travel advisories issued by some countries against visiting J-K.

Tourism in Kashmir has been hit after the

April 22

Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead.

"What happened here (Pahalgam attack) was very sad, it should not have happened. People were coming here happily. People were busy with their work, they were not asking for government jobs. The situation was such in Pahalgam that there were no rooms available here," Abdullah said here.

The NC chief visited the tourist resort and played golf at the Pahalgam Golf Course along with some friends.

He said while the attack created an atmo

sphere

of fear, the government has taken some steps to improve the security situation in the valley.

"There was an atmosphere for fear, but I feel now the atmosphere of fear has reduced to a large extent. You can see how many people are coming to Pahalgam. I was in Gulmarg, there were 400-500 tourists," he observed.

"Thank God, the fear is now leaving. The government has also taken some steps to make the security system stronger. I think the people should come," he added. The former Union min-

ister appealed to the Centre to make efforts to withdraw travel advisories issued by several countries against visiting J-K.

"I also request the Central government, the Foreign Minister, that the time has come to remove the block placed by foreign countries on visiting India. Peace has come to both the countries and we are hopeful that peace will continue in the future as well. They should also be given permission to come here as they also want to see this place. Many of them are golfers and I hope they will come," he said, in an apparent reference to Pakistan.

Abdullah said many people play golf and the game has now got a place in Khelo India games as well.

National Conference President Farooq Abdullah at Pahalgam Golf Course, Tuesday, May 27, 2025. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister visited the south Kashmir resort over a month after a deadly terror attack claimed 26 lives.

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Massive landslide blocks Jammu-Kishtwar National Highway; Restoration work in progress

JAMMU, May 27 (Agencies): A massive landslide blocked the Jammu-Kishtwar national highway near Kandani, leaving hundreds of commuters stranded, officials said on Tuesday.

The landslide struck the highway at 4 pm on Monday near slide-prone Phagum in Kishtwar district.

They said the road

clearance operation was immediately launched by agencies and efforts are underway to make the highway traffic worthy as soon as possible.

Given the size of the landslide, the restoration work is likely to be completed by Tuesday night, the officials said, advising commuters to avoid travel on the highway for the time being.

Huma Qureshi to meet bordermen, Affected families of shelling at Suchetgarh

JAMMU, May 27 (Agencies): Bollywood actress Huma Qureshi will be a part of cultural evening to be organised by the Jammu Tourism Department on Wednesday at Octroi Border Outpost in Suchetgarh at Ranbir Singh Pura along the International Border, some 30-kms from here.

Jammu Tourism is organising a cultural evening tomorrow evening at Octroi BoP in which Bollywood actress

Huma Qureshi is the special guest," said an official of Jammu Tourism.

He said that the actress will be interacting with the armed forces who have been on the forefront during 'Operation Sindoor' and also with affected families of cross-border shelling.

He stated that the visit is also organised with regards to the revival of the Jammu Tourism and meeting with all the

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Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Visit Jammu on May 29-30

JAMMU, May 27 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to visit Jammu on May 29 and 30. He will review security situation in Jammu on May 29 and visit shelling hit Poonch on May 30.

Lightning kills over 100 livestock, Affected nomadic families seek compensation

RAJOURI/JAMMU, May 27 (Agencies): Over 100 sheep and goats belonging to nomadic families were killed after they were struck by lightning in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Tuesday. Fine dining reservations

The incident occurred in the upper reaches of the Budhal sub-division, when lightning, accompanied by heavy

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Kashmir SPO climbs tree in Dalhousie, Threatens suicide over financial distress

SRINAGAR, May 27 (Agencies): A dramatic scene unfolded on Monday evening in the Banikhet area of Himachal Pradesh's Dalhousie, when a 48-year-old former Special Police Officer (SPO) from Jammu and Kashmir climbed a 15-metre-high pine tree and threatened to take his own life, citing severe financial hardship, reports appearing in media said.

The man, identified as Shyam Lal, told pass-

ersby that his income had plunged from Rs 18,000 a month to just Rs 4,000 in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. Tearfully pleading for help, he warned that any rescue attempt would prompt him to hang himself.

Startled onlookers quickly informed the village head, who alerted the local police. A team of police officers and fire brigade personnel responded swiftly, laying out rescue nets

and positioning a ladder at the base of the tree. However, Lal refused to cooperate, continuing his protest from the treetop.

The tense standoff lasted for nearly five hours.

With local efforts failing, officials contacted Rameshwar Singh, the MLA from Bani in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district. Singh drove over 68 kilometres to the site,

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Anti-Terror Operation launched in Kathua

JAMMU, May 27 (Agencies): Security forces on Tuesday launched search operations in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district following information about the movement of suspected terrorists, officials said. Fine dining reservations

The joint cordon and search operation by police, army and CRPF was underway in the upper reaches of Lowang and Sarthal in Bani area since this morning, they said.

They said security forces received information about the suspected movement of terrorists and immediately started the anti-terror operation to neutralise the threat.

Special Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir Police, meanwhile, also conducted a thorough search operation Manohar Gopala and Shatala camp area in Samba district for several hours this morning.

The operation was part of the area domination exercise and concluded peacefully, the officials

said.

The officials said a joint search operation is also continuing in the densely forested Singhpora area of Chatroo in Kishtwar district for the sixth day on Tuesday.

The operation started on May 22 following an encounter with terrorists which left one soldier dead. However, the terrorists managed their escape taking advantage of the thick foliage and challenging topography.

There was no further

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10TH DAY KRIYA

It is very painful & sorrowful to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Rekha Raina**, wife of Sh Ravi ji Raina, who left heavenly abode on 22/05/2025, originally resident of Mattan (Nagbal) Anantnag and at Present house no.132/B Uttam Nagar Kunjwani Bye Pass Jammu

10th Day Kriya will be performed at Muthi Ghat near Director School Education, on 31st May, 2025 Saturday and the **Assembly** will be held at 9:00 am -Muthi Ghat.

Grief Stricken :-Sh Ravi Ji Raina - **Husband**Mr. Akshay Raina - **Son**Mr. Ritik Raina - **Son**Mrs. Sheetu Raina - **Daughter**Mr. Amit Raina - **Son**

Smt Santosh & Sh Brij Lal Raina (Jethani & Jeth)

Lt. Babli Raina & Sh Chaman Lal Raina (Jethani & Jeth)

Smt Pinky Raina & Sh Jagmohan Raina (Jethani & Jeth)

Smt Daizy Raina & Sh Kamal Raina (Devrani & Devar)

Lt. Smt Shama Talashi & Lt. Sh Moti Lal Talashi (Nanand & Nandoi)

Smt Reeta Raina & Sh Avtar Krishan Raina (Nanand & Nandoi)

Smt Jeeta Koul & Sh Bushan Lal Koul (Nanand & Nandoi)

Rainas & Kous

Mob:- 7889787354, 9419121024, 7780876100, 9149642134

**Smt Rekha Raina****UTHALA/RASAM PAGRI**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. P. S. Dutta** (Senior Advocate & Former President, J&K Bar Association) S/o Sh. Hari Chand Dutta R/o H. No. 28 Ext. Karan Nagar Jammu, who left for his heavenly abode on 16/05/25 (Friday).

Uthala will be performed at Hari Mandir Rehari Chowk Jammu on 28-5-2025 (Wednesday) from 4.30 to 5.30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Smt. Prem Lata (Sister-in-law)

(Nephew & Daughter-in-law)

Nityan Dutta & Priyanka Dutta

(Sons-in-law & Nieces)

Mr. Rajesh Sharma & Mrs. Vaneeta Sharma

Mr. Divay Jyoti Sharma & Mrs. Monika Sharma

Samast Parivars:-**All Bali, Sharma, Vaid & Dutta family**

(Grand Sons & Grand Daughter)

Tanishq, Priyansh, Rohan, Pranit, Arya & Adhya

Ph:- 9622337513

**Sh. P. S. Dutta**

(Senior Advocate & Former President, J&K Bar Association)

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Sh. Omkar Nath Raina** S/o Lt. Sh. Roop Nath Raina R/o Thajiwara, Achabal, Dist. Anantnag, Kashmir at present H.No. 19, Sec. 4, A/B, Pamposh Colony, Main Stop, Janipur, Jammu on 19-05-2025. **Tenth Day Rituals** will be performed at Muthi Ghat, next to Directorate of School Education, Jammu on 28th May, 2025 at 8:00 AM

Grief Stricken:Smt. Sarita Raina - **Wife****Brother's and Bhabhi's**

Sh. Chaman Lal Raina and Veena Raina

Sh. Veer Raina and Kiran Raina

Sh. Vijay Raina and Anita Raina

Daughter's and Son in law'sMrs. Witty Raina - **Daughter**

Mrs. Sippy Raina and Armit Bhat

Mrs. Samita Raina and Sonu Bhat

Mrs. Kitty Raina and Karan Pandita

Ms. Madhu Raina - **Daughter****Mr. Deepak Raina Ms. Shivani Raina, Mr. Ricky Raina,****Ms. Sapna Raina, Mr. Vansh Raina****Grand Children**

All Raina's, Bhat's, Koul's and Pandita's

Contact No. +91 95967 15770, +91 98202 90495, +91 99061 35999

**Sh. Omkar Nath Raina****10TH DAY****IN LOVING MEMORY OF****Sh. Surinder Kalsi**

Who left for his heavenly abode on

19th May 2025

10th Day will be performed on 28th May,

2025, Satsang 12:00 -1:00 pm

Langer :- 1:00 - 4:00 pm**VENUE :**

Rama Palace, Near St. Xavier Convent School

Bantalab Road, Barnai

Fondly Remembered By :

Lt. Sh. Madan Lal and Smt. Kamla Devi

Smt. Lata Kumari (Wife)

Sh. Ram Pal Kalsi and Seema Devi

Sh. Neeraj Kumar and Nitika

9596683936, 9419159700

**Sh. Surinder Kalsi****10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief we are sorry to inform that our beloved father **Shri Motilal Mattoo** s/o Late Shri Dina Nath Mattoo has left for heavenly abode on Monday, 19th May, 2025.

10TH DAY KRIYA will be performed on Wednesday, 28th May at Rohini Ghat, Sector 18, near DTC Bus Depot, Samaypur Badli, New Delhi at 8.30 am.

ASSEMBLE AND NAVEED at residence E-3, Nawada Housing Complex, Dwarka Mor, New Delhi at 12.30 pm.

GRIEF STRICKEN.**Mattoo Family.****Brothers and Sisters.****And all near and dear ones.****Mob: 9811908111, 9871161522, 9821192910****Shri Motilal Mattoo****BARKHI**

"A tearful year is about to pass since you left us and deprived us of your true love, care and guidance"

BARKHI of our beloved **Sh. Ravi Kumar Dogra** (Ex. Vice President of Central Zone Jammu) S/o Late Sh. B.R. Dogra shall be performed on 28th May 2025 (Wed.) at our Kabir Sabha Old Rehari, Jammu at 11.00 am.

Deeply Remembered By Family Members & Relatives

Nisha Dogra- Wife**Reyansh Dogra (Rudra)- Son****9419181390, 7006047025****Sh. Ravi Kumar Dogra****10TH DAY & KRIYA**

With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Smt Asha Wazir** W/o Lt. Brij Singh Wazir.

10th Day will be performed on 27th May 2025 (Tuesday) at 11.00 AM adjoining Kalimata Mandir Opposite AG Office.

Kriya will be performed on 30th May 2025 (Friday) at 12.00 Noon at our residence H.No. 557 C/o ICON Creations, Opposite Pillar No. 28 of Flyover Akhnoor Road Talab Tillo Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN

Sanjeev Wazir & Madhulika Wazir

Kuldeep Singh Manhas & Jyoti Manhas

Yashpal Singh Bist & Arti Bist

Jagdev Singh Chib & Seema Chib

Sehdev Singh Jamwal & Neha Jamwal

Dharminder Singh Manhas & Shivani Manhas

Mobile No. 9103519396, 8082643213**Smt Asha Wazir****KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow the demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Kanta Gupta** W/o Late Dr. Banika Bihari Lal Gupta, R/o H No. -7 Nitko Lane, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

Kriya will be held on Tuesday 27th May, 2025 at 12.00 PM at our residence H No 7, Nitko Lane, Talab Tillo, Jammu

Uthala will be performed on Wednesday 28th May, 2025 at 05.00 PM - 06.00 PM at Gurudwara Maharani Chand Kaur, Opposite Fortune Inn Riviera Jammu.

GRIEF STRICKEN**Daughter in laws & Sons**

Neetu & Sanjay Bhatti

Neeti & Vivek Bhatti

Daughters & Son in law

Sandhya & Late Sh. Raman Gupta

Sapna & Parth Mahajan

Grand Daughters & Son in law

Saanvi & Bharat Gupta

Shanya & Uday Bhaskar

Grand Daughter in law & Son

Pooja & Shubam Gupta

Grand Children

Tikshan, Tiksha, Pranjal, Nachiket

**Late Smt Kanta Gupta**

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Kamal Enterprises, Raghunath Pura Jammu
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BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAAS

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr. Mandeep Singh Sudan** (S/o Late S. Hardev Singh Sudan, Poonch wale) R/o H.No. 89-90, Sector-13, Guru Nanak Nagar, Jammu.

In the loving memory and peace for the departed soul.

Arambh Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 26.05.2025 Monday at 9 AM at our Residence.

Bhog Shri Akhand Path Sahib on 28th May 2025 Wednesday 9 AM at our residence.

Antim Ardas will be held at Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Guru Nanak Nagar Jammu

Kirtan & Ardaas: 10:00am to 12:00 Noon.

Followed by Guru Ka Langer

FAMILY IN GRIEF:

Dr. Surinder Kour Arora (Wife)

Gunvarun Singh & Jasnoor Kaur (Son & Daughter-in-law)

Dr. Harpriya Sudan (Daughter)

Sardarni Surinder Kaur & S. Gurmeet Singh Sudan (Group Capt) (Brother & Bhabhi)

Sardarni Pavitar Kaur & S. Harcharan Singh Khalsa (Chachi & Chacha Ji)

Sardarni Amarjeet Kaur & S. Harbaksh Singh (Chachi & Chacha Ji)

Sardarni Charanjeet Kour W/o Late S. Jasbir Singh Sudan (Chachi Ji)

CONTACT : 9419110572, 7006485671, 7006480067, 7006478365**Dr. Mandeep Singh Sudan****FOURTH DAY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of **Neeraj Kaul (Biju)**, S/o Sh. Moti Lal Kaul (Biju), presently residing at B-12A, Flat no. 24A, Dhawalgi Apartments, Sector-34, Noida (U.P.) - 201301.

Prayer Meeting (FOURTH DAY) will be held for the departed soul on 28th May (Wednesday) 2025 at 5 PM to 7 PM at Kashmiri Migrant Welfare Association, Kashyap Rishi Bhawan, A-98, Maharaja Agrasen Marg, Block A, Sector-34, Noida (U.P.)

GRIEF STRICKEN

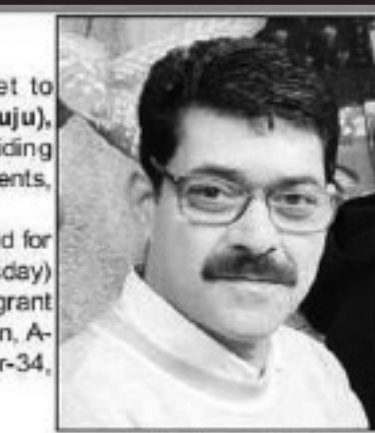
Sh. Moti Lal Kaul (Father)

Smt. Asha Kaul (Mother)

Smt. Poonam Kaul (Wife)

Atulaya Kaul (Son)

Ekakshai Kaul (Daughter)

And Kaul's, Raina's, Chouhan's**CONTACT NOS.: 8178628685, 9810801682, 7780881269****NEERAJ KAUL (BUJU)****VEHARWAR AND MASWAR****One Year Remembrance of****Dr. Rajander Kachroo: Veharwar & Maswar**

A year has passed and not a day has gone by without feeling the weight of your absence.

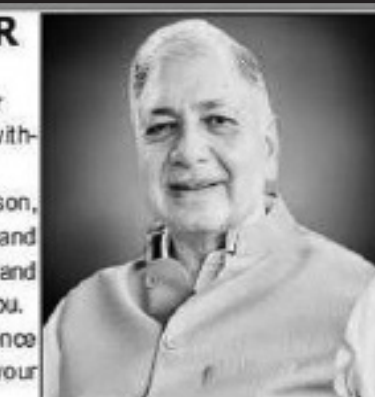
You were truly one of a kind - an incredible son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend, whose compassion, humour, optimism and resilience touched the lives of all those around you.

You were the soul of our family - your intelligence inspired us, your strength grounded us, and your witty remarks brought us so much joy.

We love and miss you more than words can express and your presence lives on in everything we do, and we will carry your legacy and love with us - always and forever.

In loving memory of an extraordinary man who will be forever remembered and forever loved, **Veharwar and Maswar** of our dear **Late Dr. Rajander Kachroo** will be performed on 28th & 29th May' 2025 respectively at Villa 20, Adarsh Serenity, Kannamangala, Whitefield, Bangalore.

Deeply missed & remembered by All Nears & Dears

**Dr. Rajander Kachroo****KRIYA/UTHALA**

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our Beloved **Sh. Kulbushan Chadha** H/o Lt. Smt. Usha Chadha R/o Plot No. 312 Rehari Colony, Jammu.

KRIYA At our Residence Plot No. 312 Rehari Colony Jammu on 28-05-2025 (Wednesday) at 9:00 AM.

LUNCH At our Residence Plot No. 312 Rehari Colony Jammu on 28-05-2025 (Wednesday) at 1:00 PM.

UTHALA will be performed on 28-05-2025 (Wednesday) at Hari Mandir Rehari Colony, Jammu at 3:30 to 4:30 PM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

(Son & Daughter in law)

Naveen Chadha & Mohini Chadha

(Sons in law & Daughters)

Rahul Kohli and Nitu Kohli

Vishal Gupta and Deepika Gupta

Suresh Chadha and Sushma Chadha (Brother & Sister in law)

Manorama Sawhney & Lt. Vinod Sawhney (Sister & Brother in law)

Vinod Kapoor and Veena Kapoor (Brother in law & Sister)

NANKE & FAMILY

Ramesh Verma and Sanjogita Verma (Brother in Law & Bhabhi)

Grand Children:- Kunal, Purav, Lavanya, Samartha and Kavish.**Mob:- 7006288780****CHADHA FAMILY****Sh. Kulbushan Chadha****OBITUARY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that **Sh. Bhushan Lal Pandita (Advocate)** S/o Lt. Shreedhar Joo Pandita originally R/o Ganesh Mohalla, Handwara (Kashmir) and currently residing at H.No 162, Sec-3, Vivek Vihar, Paloura, Jammu achieved nirvana on 23rd May 2025.

The **10th Day** will be performed on 1st June, 2025.

GRIEF STRICKENSmt. Shanti Pandita - **Wife****Brother & Sister in Law**

Sh. Roshan Lal Pandita (Adv.) & Lt. Smt. Basanti Pandita

Sister & Brother in Law

Smt. Sanjosh Pandita & Sh. Ashok Kumar

Sons & Daughter in law

Sh. Upinder Pandita & Smt. Sunaina

Sh. Rohit Pandita & Smt. Shivani

Daughters & Son in Law

Smt. Upasana & Sh. Subash Koul

Smt. Aika & Sh. Vinod Pandita

Smt. Urmila & Sh. Sandeep Bhan

Smt. Reema & Sh. Sumeer Raina

Grand Children

Suraj, Ojas, Akash, Khushi, Dhani, Aaira, Advait, Yaduvir

Contact : 9149570076, 600644515

**Bhushan Lal Pandita (Adv), Handwara****10TH DAY KRIYA**

With profound grief and deep sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Virender Kak (Nitu Ji)**, who left for the heavenly abode on 22nd May 2025.

The **10TH DAY KRIYA** for the departed soul will be performed on 31st May 2025 (Saturday).

Pooja Timing: 7 to 10 am.

Venue for the Pooja: Shree Gaurishankar Mandir Opp. Pillar No 54 near DHBVN

office New Palam Vihar Gurgaon.

GRIEF STRICKEN:

Kaks, Bhardwajs, Bhans, and Dhars

Contacts: 8851956768, 9015369972

**Virender Kak (1963 - 2025)****OBITUARY**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform that **Sh. Bhushan Lal Pandita (Advocate)** S/o Lt. Shreedhar Joo Pandita originally R/o Ganesh Mohalla, Handwara (Kashmir) and currently residing at H.No 162, Sec-3, Vivek Vihar, Paloura, Jammu achieved nirvana on 23rd May 2025.

The **10th Day** will be performed on 1st June, 2025.

JKEEGA condemns government's indifference on regularization and post diversion, announces one-day protest leave on June 12

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: A meeting of the Guidance Council of JKEEGA was held at the PDD Complex Bemina and Gladini Jammu to discuss the government's indifferent approach towards the regularization of PDD engineers and the arbitrary transfer of 25 Assistant Engineer (AE) and 25 Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) posts to JKSPDC, as per Government Order No. 73 of 2025 dated 20th May 2025.

This move was seen as diluting Service Orders SO-927 of 2019 and SO-134 of 2020. The meeting was attended by council members ranging from Junior Engineers to Chief Engineers. The session began with a warm welcome by Er. Pirzada Hidayatulla, President JKEEGA Srinagar, and Er. Sachin Tickoo, General Secretary JKEEGA Jammu.

The council was briefed that despite protests by power engineers in January 2025 regarding their non-regularization, and a subsequent meeting by the Establishment Committee on 20th January approving their regularization proposal, no progress has been



made. More than four months later, the Minutes of Meeting (MoM) from that session have not been issued, raising concerns about the government's intentions. The council highlighted that all democratic channels, including appeals to the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, and other officials, had been exhausted without success.

Additionally, unnecessary queries from a committee member were delaying the issuance of the MoM and the engineers' regularization process.

The Guidance Council condemned the government's two-tiered approach toward power engineers compared to other services.

The council also criticized the arbitrary diver-

sion of 25 AE and 25 AEE posts from JKPD to JKSPDC, which they viewed as benefiting JKSPDC engineers. After the unbundling of the Power Development Department (PDD) into several corporations, service orders SO-927 of 2019 and SO-134 of 2020 outlined the overall cadre strength of PDD, including leave reserves and deputation posts.

A committee led by the Managing Director JKSPDC was tasked with authenticating the sanctioned cadre strength of JKSPDC's engineering staff. This committee's report was reviewed, and Govern-

ment Order No. 56-PDD of 2023, dated 2nd May 2023, was issued to freeze the sanctioned strength of JKSPDC and prevent any post diversion.

The government order explicitly stated that posts notified under SRO 927, 928, 929, and 930 of 2019 and SO 134 of 2020 for PDD cadre strength must be filled by deputation from the Power Development Department and should not be available for JKSPDC employee promotion or appointment.

However, the recent Government Order No. 73-JKPD of 2025, dated 20th May 2025, contradicts this by allowing 25 posts each at AEE and AE levels for JKSPDC cadre promotion, violating previous orders and altering

the approved cadre strength. Moreover, the issue of regular promotions in PDD remains unresolved, and High Court orders regarding reservation in promotions have not been implemented, resulting in hundreds of vacancies remaining unfilled.

After deliberations, the Guidance Council resolved to issue a 17-day notice to the government demanding the issuance of orders for regularization of retired and in-service engineers as per the SAC decision 258/22/2019 dated 22nd October 2019, including the release of the Establishment Committee meeting MoM of 20th January 2025. If the demands are not met by 12th June 2025, power engineers across J&K, supported by the All India Power Engineers Federation, will observe a one-day protest leave on 12th June 2025, followed by further stringent protests within democratic frameworks.

The council also appealed to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister to intervene and address the HR issues in the Power Development Department to avoid forcing power engineers into protest action.

India to develop 'E-Hansa' next-generation two-seater electric Aircraft: Dr Jitendra



Top News Report

NEW DELHI, May 27: India has initiated the process to develop Electric Hansa (E-Hansa), a next-generation two-seater electric trainer Aircraft.

This was disclosed here today by Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh while chairing a high-level monthly review meeting with the secretaries of all major science departments at the Science Centre here.

In his capacity as Vice President of CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research), Dr Jitendra Singh said, it is a matter of pride that the new aircraft is being indigenously developed by the CSIR institute of "National Aerospace Laboratories" (NAL) Bengaluru.

The Electric Hansa (E-HANSA) trainer aircraft, developed by CSIR-NAL, is expected to cost significantly less than imported alternatives, possibly around Rs 2 crore. This is roughly half the price of a comparable imported trainer aircraft.

The E-HANSA is part of the larger HANSA-3 (NG) trainer aircraft program, which is designed to be a cost-effective and indigenous option for pilot training in India.

India's E-Hansa aircraft will also mark a key step toward India's green aviation goals and use of green or clean energy fuel in running our aircrafts, said the Minister.

Further, the meeting focused on performance assessment, implementation status of prior decisions, and setting the course for transformative reforms in India's science and technology ecosystem.

Stressing the need for commercialization of indigenous technologies, Dr. Jitendra Singh called for greater pub-

lic-private partnerships (PPP). He directed the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) to emulate the successful models of DBT-BIRAC and IN-SPaCE for technology transfer and private sector engagement.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions said "Private players should not just be knowledge partners, but also investment partners," advocating a hub-and-spoke PPP model supported by AI-driven tech/IP exchange platforms and regional NTTOs to ensure wider sectoral and geographic outreach.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated the importance of standardized tech transfer protocols, ease of doing business, and promoting Indian R&D under the ethos of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". Commending ISRO for the successful SPADEX mission, he noted that the docking and undocking capability tested is vital to India's upcoming Gaganyaan human spaceflight. He also lauded ISRO's substantial role in Operation Sindoor, stating, "Every Indian is proud of you."

He shared that ISRO is currently collaborating with 40 Union Ministries and 28 State Governments, with a series of upcoming missions lined up.

Regarding India's contribution to the Axiom Space Mission, Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that Group Captain Subhash Shukla's visit to the International Space Station (ISS) will include seven microgravity experiments, further boosting India's space science profile.

In alignment with

Prime Minister Narendra Narendra Modi's 'Viksit Bharat' vision, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized a Whole-of-Science and Whole-of-Government approach. Following the success of the Chintan Shivir organized by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in NIOT, Chennai, he directed that region-wise Chintan Shivirs be organized across the country. These will include DST, DBT, CSIR, ISRO, Earth Sciences, and Atomic Energy departments in each region to promote integrated planning and synergy.

To strengthen India's biomanufacturing capabilities, the Minister proposed the creation of a "Global Science Talent Bridge" to attract the best global researchers and innovators. Highlighting the PM's Mann Ki Baat announcement that opened all 37 CSIR labs to students, he shared that an enthusiastic response had to be temporarily paused due to recent security concerns but would resume soon. Dr. Jitendra Singh also acknowledged global interest in setting up bilateral science collaboration centres, with countries like Switzerland and Italy exploring partnerships similar to the Indo-French and Indo-German Science Centres.

The meeting was attended by prominent officials including Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India; Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, DG and Secretary CSIR; Dr. V. Narayanan, Chairman ISRO and Secretary DoS; Dr. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary DST; Dr. Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary DBT; Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary Earth Sciences; Dr. M. Mohapatra, DG IMD; and Commodore Amit Rastogi (Retd), CMD NRDC, along with senior officials from the Department of Atomic Energy.

Natrang's Summer Theatre Workshop for Children to begin from June 1

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: Natrang's most sought after 'Summer Theatre Workshop' for children is starting from Sunday June 1, 2025 at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu (Air-conditioned). This was informed by Director Natrang, Padmashri Balwant Thakur in a press briefing here at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu. He informed that daily timings of this month-long workshop would be 8 to 10 am and children between 6 to 14 years will be considered for this unique camp. He further desired that interested parents may immediately register with Natrang and for more details, may call at 9906909638 9 4 1 9 1 0 6 6 6 9 , 8713049875.

As theatre is considered as one of the most effective tool for the overall personality development of its participants. Children Theatre Camp-2025 offers a unique learning opportunity for Jammu Children intended at exploring their immense inner abilities. Moreover, Natrang is doing regular theatre with children for the last 35



years and it has trained, inspired and motivated thousands of children till now and most of them have excelled brilliantly in various fields be it Civil Services, Arts, Business, Medicine, Engineering, and Social work etc. No matter what you may be wanting to become in life, the amount of confidence, public speaking, spontaneity, self-exploration, creativity and discipline one imbibes through theatre is voluminous.

Theatre has the immense capacity to transform personalities and empowers to excel and achieve in every sphere of life.

At Natrang, it is believed that children have immense possibilities and abilities to outshine but at times, these are only required to be explored through highly innovative techniques

of theatre and arts. The training module of Natrang's Children theatre has been devised by Padmashri Balwant Thakur who has taken the children theatre of Jammu to the entire length and breadth of the Country and beyond in the majority of the world.

Theatre requires a high degree of confidence, discipline, creativity, spontaneity, team spirit and consistency, those trained during theatre workshops imbibe the above qualities as they are trained in a highly professional manner by experts, the same ambience is provided by Natrang to the Children of Jammu where children get a chance to get trained under the expert supervision of well-trained trainers and visiting experts of the allied arts.

Dr. Narinder, Dr. Rajeev hold Public Darbar



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary and MLA R.S. Pura – Jammu South Assembly constituency, and Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah Assembly constituency, held a Public Darbar at the J&K BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The Public Darbar witnessed the participation of a large number of residents, and deputations from different parts of Jammu.

Among other deputations, a deputation from ward 56, Gangyal requested for construction/upgradation of drainage system. A deputation from Bishnah presented an issue of residential home under PMAY. A deputations requested to install gratings. A deputation from Darsopur, Miran Sahib requested for provision of drainage system near Pond. A deputation requested for Earthwork in Chua Chak, Bishnah. A deputation requested for shifting of poles carrying 11 KVA electric lines. A deputation requested for the construction of lanes/drains at Patel Nagar, Gandhi Nagar. A deputation requested for canal water irrigation at village Alah, Bishnah.

Dr. Narinder Singh and Dr. Rajeev Bhagat provided a patient hearing to every deputation. Issues that could be immediately resolved were taken up with the concerned departments through direct communication with officials. For

other matters requiring further follow-up, written representations were prepared and forwarded to the respective authorities for timely action.

Dr. Narinder Singh, while addressing on the occasion, stated, "This Darbar is a reflection of the growing trust that people have in BJP's grassroots approach. We listen, we act, and we follow up. Every concern raised here is a priority for us. Our model of governance is based on accessibility and responsiveness, and such initiatives help us understand the on-ground challenges directly from the people."

Dr. Narinder Singh added that the BJP has created a new culture of accountability where public grievances are treated as matters of immediate administrative importance.

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, in his address, said, "Today's interaction is a testament to the fact that BJP's leadership stays continuously connected to the grassroots. Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, governance is no longer confined to bureaucratic chambers. We believe in going to the people, hearing them out, and ensuring real-time redressal."

The proceedings of the event were efficiently coordinated by Er. T.K. Sharma, Co-convenor of the BJP Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, ensuring smooth interaction between citizens and party leadership.

Road Safety Club GDC Paloura organises Road Safety Awareness Programme



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: Road Safety Club GDC Paloura, Organised today a Lecture cum Interactive programme on Road Safety Awareness in college.

Under the guidance of principal Dr. Kulvinder Kour members of the road safety club, Prof.

Vishal Magotra, Prof. Arun Sharma, Prof. Shivani Sharma and Prof. Kusha Sharma interacted with students regarding traffic rules as well as driving and road safety awareness. Students shared their experiences during the interaction with faculty members.

They were made

aware about usefulness of wearing helmets, seatbelts and obeying road safety rules and regulations.

Students were also told that they can contribute in creating safer environment for themselves and also for community as a whole by observing traffic rules.

EDITORIAL

ADOPTS
SOLAR POWER

In recent decades, solar power systems have emerged as a promising solution to the world’s growing energy needs and environmental concerns. As the global population continues to rise and fossil fuel reserves diminish, the shift towards clean and renewable energy sources has become essential. Solar energy, which is abundant, sustainable, and eco-friendly, is at the forefront of this shift. A solar power system captures the sun’s rays and converts them into electricity, helping to reduce carbon emissions, lower electricity bills, and promote energy independence.

A solar power system primarily consists of solar panels, also known as photovoltaic (PV) panels, which absorb sunlight and generate direct current (DC) electricity. Since most homes and appliances operate on alternating current (AC), an inverter is used to convert the DC electricity into AC. These systems can be installed on rooftops, open land, or integrated into building materials. Depending on the configuration, solar power systems are broadly classified into three categories: grid-tied, off-grid, and hybrid systems.

A grid-tied solar power system is connected to the main electricity grid. It allows users to draw power from the grid when solar energy is insufficient, such as during cloudy days or at night. Any surplus electricity generated during the day is sent back to the grid, and users are often compensated through a process called net metering. Off-grid systems, on the other hand, operate independently of the utility grid. These systems rely on batteries to store excess electricity for use when the sun isn’t shining. Hybrid systems combine the features of both, providing flexibility and reliability by integrating solar power, battery storage, and grid access.

Several key components make up a solar power system. Solar panels are the most visible and essential part, converting sunlight into electricity. The inverter converts DC to AC electricity, making it usable for household appliances. Mounting structures secure the panels in place and ensure they are oriented correctly to capture maximum sunlight. In off-grid and hybrid systems, batteries store energy for later use, and a charge controller prevents overcharging or damage to the battery. Additionally, monitoring systems are used to track performance, allowing users to assess energy production and system health.

Solar power systems offer numerous advantages. First and foremost, they utilize a renewable and inexhaustible source of energy—the sun. This helps reduce dependence on fossil fuels, which are finite and environmentally damaging. Solar systems also lead to substantial savings on electricity bills. Once installed, they require minimal maintenance and have a lifespan of 25 years or more. For remote or rural areas, solar power provides a reliable electricity source where traditional grid infrastructure may be lacking. Importantly, solar systems contribute to environmental protection by lowering greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and water consumption associated with conventional power generation.

Despite the many benefits, solar power systems also present certain challenges. The initial installation cost can be high, although this has been decreasing rapidly due to technological advancements and government subsidies. Weather conditions and geographic location significantly affect performance, with cloudy or shaded areas generating less power. Space availability can also be a limitation, especially for large systems that require significant surface area. Additionally, in off-grid setups, battery storage can be expensive, and managing stored energy effectively becomes crucial.

The applications of solar power systems are diverse and impactful. In the residential sector, rooftop solar installations allow homeowners to generate their own electricity, reduce utility costs, and even earn credits through net metering. Commercial and industrial sectors use solar systems to power factories, offices, and other facilities, leading to significant cost savings and enhanced sustainability. In agriculture, solar energy powers water pumps, irrigation systems, and cold storage units. For rural electrification, especially in developing regions, solar systems offer an affordable and practical solution to power homes, schools, and clinics.

The future of solar power is bright and full of innovation. Technological advancements are making solar panels more efficient, lightweight, and visually appealing. Emerging technologies such as solar tiles, floating solar farms, and transparent panels are expanding the possibilities of solar integration. Smart solar systems that use artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) are enhancing performance monitoring and energy management. As policies continue to support clean energy adoption, solar power is poised to become a major contributor to the global energy mix.

Facebook or Fuchbook?: The growing terror of digital pornography and the falling sensitivity of society

By: Priyanka Saurabh

When social media came into our lives, it was expected that it would become a powerful medium to connect ideas, strengthen dialogue and spread public awareness. But today, in 2025, the way the terror of obscenity and vulgarity is spreading, especially on a platform like Facebook, is not only worrying but also exposes the mental decadence of our society wrapped in the cloak of civilization.

Viral culture of pornographic videos: Entertainment or mental disorder?

Today, if a pornographic video violating the privacy of a woman or a person is uploaded on Facebook by mistake, then before it is reported and removed, millions of people download it, share it and ask for it from each other. This process happens in such a terrifying and organized manner that it seems as if we are living in a digital wolf pack and not a civilized society.

The most disturbing thing is that all this is done mostly by educated, cultured looking people, who put the tricolour, Om or a shloka from Geeta on their profiles.

So then the question arises – is this our real mentality?

Are we representatives of a double-faced society that talks about

morality on stage and consumes obscenity in private?

Silence of society: another crime
Far from reporting, protesting and getting these videos removed, people quietly watch them, save them and share them in private messages. An act which should be condemnable in society becomes a part of entertainment and mobile messages. In such a situation, society not only supports the criminal but itself becomes a partner in the crime.

Not the victim, but society should be ashamed

Every time a woman is forced or deceived into appearing in a video, society blames her – while the real culprit is not her, but the person who made the video, and the people who share it.

In fact, the society that considers the suffering of others as ‘clickbait’ and ‘fun’ should be ashamed.

Facebook’s failure: Community standards or sell-out rules?

Facebook claims it has community standards – to prevent hate speech, pornography, and content that incites violence. But the reality is just the opposite.

If a user posts a political truth or strong language, his identity is blocked within a few minutes. But the same platform allows pornographic videos to go viral for hours, without any intervention.

Should we assume that Face-

book’s policy is this -

“If you tell the truth you are dangerous,

And if you spread obscenity, you are an engaged and productive user!”

Where is the responsibility with technology?

We have to understand that social media is not just a technical platform, it has now become a social structure that influences the public. And every structure has some responsibilities.

If Facebook and other platforms only rely on artificial intelligence in the name of content monitoring, and the “Report” option remains a mere sham, then this platform will one day become morally bankrupt.

We, the society and our participation

Now the question is, can we consider our hands clean by just blaming Facebook?

No way.

When we ourselves are watching, sharing or remaining silent on such content, we too become partners in crime.

The protection of our children, sisters, wives and the women of the society will not come only from the law – but from our mentality.

And if we adopt the same mindset as the criminals – of invading the privacy of others, treating them as objects, degrading them below humanity – then we are no

less guilty than anyone else.

Some suggestions towards a solution:

1. Digital Ethics: Schools, colleges and job training centres should have special classes on digital code of conduct.

2. Strict laws and digital vigilance: Strict cyber laws should be implemented on those who share pornographic videos and timely action should be taken.

3. Accountability of social media platforms: Companies like Facebook should be made accountable to a special monitoring cell under the Government of India.

4. Public awareness campaign: Voluntary organizations, writers, journalists and aware citizens should come together and run campaigns on digital purity.

Thinking needs to be changed

Civilization is not just about the body, it is about the mind.

It is not done by words, but by actions.

If we start finding fun, instead of shame, in the suffering of the sisters of our own society – then this is not a degradation but murder of humanity.

So this is the time when we have to show the mirror to Facebook as well as to ourselves.

Otherwise, Facebook will soon turn into a slutbook, and we will all drown in it one by one – without any remorse.

Dark at Day time in Jammu

By: Omkar Dattatray

We are conversant with the adage dark at noon& have not heard dark at day time. But it is very much true and approximated the reality the other day that is 24th of May 2025 Saturday when the sunshine was eclipsed not due to eclipse of sun or moon but due to the dark clouds and strong winds and the rainfall which gave some relief to the people of Jammu from the scorching heat. On Saturday the sun became invisible as dark clouds were hovering in the sky and the visibility was very poor due to the darkness, clouds and gushing winds which also uprooted some trees and electric poles and thus affected power supply and also water supply. Jammuites had a unique and peculiar experience on Saturday when all of a sudden there were gusty winds at high speed coupled with very dark clouds which were hovering the sky and turned Jammu into dark and it seemed that the night on Saturday had begun earlier and it was also an awkward experience for the people and they were taken by surprise as it was total darkness in the day time as all of a sudden the day became dark and there was no visibility at the day time. One wondered what has happened and where had the day become hidden but after sometime everything was normal again with the visibility becoming normal and darkness was over and the day was seen again. This darkness at day time was a temporary phenomenon as the light of the day returned back and the day gave good bye to the darkness at the day and the people jostled here and there and came on the streets and experienced

joy and became happy on seeing this phenomenon as the darkness which appeared at day time disappeared soon and day came into being with the disappearance of the darkness .The dark clouds has brought rain and gusty winds and it brought down the temperature of Jammu drastically and people of Jammu felt much relief from the biting and scorching heat and people jostled with joy and made merry as if enjoying and making merry is the ultimate aim of people while the fact is happiness is not the end of life but salvation and moksha that is liberation from the cycle of birth and death is the ultimate aim of the human life and people should strive for this higher aim in life. Therefore, men and women should not be content with the worldly pleasures as such pleasures are transitory and temporary and the real happiness lies in liberation from the cycle of birth and death. We should consciously strive for this higher goal in life and not remain merely content with pursuing smaller goals which will in fact only entangle us in the cycle of birth and death. Therefore, all that we as human beings who are superior beings among all creatures should strive for the higher goal in life and this will only be possible if we will stay away from smaller and transitory goals in life but it is important to remain focussed on the ultimate goal of life and then and only then we will reach that goal and make our life purposeful and meaningful. The ultimate goal of human life is realisation of God and for achieving this goal of life one should strive hard and fix one’s mind and body on self-realization so that the goal of human life is achieved. It is more difficult than said and consistent and persis-

tent efforts are required to attain God and become one with ultimate reality. God realisation is easier said than done as it is no child’s play but needs conscious and persistent efforts so that the God is realised and ultimate truth is known. But for self- realisation and salvation what is required is total and selfless attachment with the supreme reality and then and only then one can realise God not otherwise. Praying for worldly pleasures is lower form of worship and it is like a business and is selfish worship and can give you worldly pleasures but cannot give you peace of mind. There are numerous diseurs in life and one is entangled in these diseur’s and then there seems no way out to save oneself from these desires and therefore one should make genuine and serious efforts to see and get at the God realisation and therefore total attachment with supreme being and detachment with worldly life is all that can lead you to the higher goal of God realisation and you can thus realise the supreme truth which is the ultimate reality of this universe and to attain this higher goal of human life ,we should constantly and sincerely strive with the single end purpose of God realisation then and then only can one realise self and God while remaining in this materialistic world which is full of sorrows and desires. Coming back to the title of this write up one can say that what happened in the day time of May 24 is a mesmerising experience as it was dark at the day time with the dark clouds hovering over the sky and turning the day into dark day well before the darkness of the evening. One felt that sun set has come earlier in that day and evening had approached

earlier and all this was a peculiar and unique experience for us humans, but this experience was short lived and after a small time it was day again. However, it rained cats and dogs and brought down the temperature of Jammu and people heaved a sigh of relief from scorching heat.We should thank God for bringing the showers of rain as a blessing for the people. All this seems to be the curse of global warming and it is because of the greed and cunningness of the men that we are experiencing these extremes of climatic and weather conditions which are undesirable for the all living creation but affects the human life more intensely. People should realise their responsibilities and never exploit nature but rather preserve and protect nature for our well-being and also for the good of the future generations. We should not fell trees, intervene with the rivers and make them narrow and not encroach upon the bank of rivers and preserve all bio-diversity so that nature will not be angry with us but shower its blessings upon the people. Woods, water, natural vegetation, flora and fauna should be preserved for the good of the humanity. If we try to destroy nature, it will definitely destroy us and this is what is currently happening in the form of global warming and its adverse effects. Therefore, save nature to save ourselves should be our motto and it should not be a theoretical proposition but a practical thing and this is in the interest of the humanity.

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

Jammu students excel at 2024 – 2025 Olympiad Awards

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: Three students from Jammu have secured top ranks in the SOF Olympiad exam for 2024-25. Shreyasi r Khajuria from G.D. Goenka public school, Jammu, achieved, the first rank in the international general knowledge Olympiad, earning a gold medal and a merit certificate. Anvi, a from crescent public school, also claimed the second rank in the international Hindi Olympiad, receiving a silver medal and a merit certificate. Agrim bargotra from Doon international school, also claimed the third rank in the international social science Olympiad earning a bronze with merit certificate.

This year's SOF Olympiad saw participation from approximately millions of students across 72 countries, including over 30400 students from Jammu. Notable schools from Jammu including G.D. Goenka public school, Jammu, doon international school were among the participants.

SOF organized a felicitation ceremony at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Delhi to recognize the International olympiad winners and teachers of academic year 2024-25. A total



of 750 students and teachers attended the ceremony. The occasion was graced by Chief Guest, Hon'ble Justice Shri J.K. Maheshwari, Judge Supreme Court of India.

During the event, the top three SOF worldwide rank winners from classes First to Twelve that participated in eight Olympiad exams were recognized. The 74 international rank-1 winners received Rs. 50,000 in addition to an international gold medal and a merit certificate, while the 74 international rank-2 winners received Rs. 25,000 as well as an international silver medal and a merit certificate, and 74 international rank-3 holders was given Rs. 10,000, a bronze medal, and a merit certificate.

Addressing the students, teachers and

parents at the ceremony, Hon'ble Supreme Court Judge J.K. Maheshwari said that it is our primary responsibility to empower today's generation with knowledge as well as values. Along with education, they also need to be given values, so that they can become nation builders. "He further said that Those who carry the light of education within themselves, can never remain in darkness for long.

Beyond celebrating the remarkable achievements of international student winners, the Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) proudly extends its accolades to the dedicated principals and teachers from 72 participating countries whose students achieved exceptional international success.

Mahabir Singh, the Founder Director of

SOF, proudly shared that the Science Olympiad Foundation has successfully completed 27 years of conducting Olympiad exams. During the 2024-25 academic year, over 96499 schools from 4000 cities participated in the eight SOF Olympiad exams, with millions of students taking part.

Students participating in the Olympiads are ranked at the international, state, and school levels based on their performance. This helps them identify their strengths and areas for improvement, giving them a clear understanding of their academic standing.

In addition to conducting Olympiads, SOF has launched various social and educational initiatives. Under the Girl Child Scholarship Scheme, 300 meritori-

ous girls from economically weaker sections receive annual scholarships. The Defense Services Family Scholarship supports 260 students from defense service families based on academic merit. The organization also conducts training programs, academic camps, and exhibitions to enhance student learning. The foundation aims to recognize and encourage student talent and provide opportunities for them to excel on a global platform.

The event was also graced by prominent dignitaries including Justice Vijay Kumar Shukla of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, and Dr. Satish Arya, Dean, CBLU, Bhiwani Haryana.

Each year, the Science Olympiad Foundation conducts eight Olympiad exams: the International Computer Science Olympiad (ICSO), the National Science Olympiad (NSO), the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO), the International English Olympiad (IEO), the International General Knowledge Olympiad (IGKO), the International Commerce Olympiad (ICO), the International Social Studies Olympiad (ISSO), and the International Hindi Olympiad (IHO).

Dogra Degree College NCC Unit organises yoga session for higher secondary school students in Bari Brahmana



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: The NCC Unit (4 J&K BN) of Dogra Degree College to mark the upcoming international yoga day celebrations has taken the initiative to conduct yoga sessions in higher secondary schools in its immediate neighbourhood. The first session was conducted at Shiv Public Higher Secondary School, Bari Brahmana. The event aimed to promote health, wellness, and discipline among students.

The program began

with a brief talk on the significance of Yoga Day, followed by a live demonstration of yoga asanas and pranayama by NCC ANO/CTO Gulshan Sharma ably assisted by NCC cadets of Dogra Degree College namely Daksh, Mohd Kaif, Sukant, Mayank & Mohd Sohail. School students actively participated in the group session, learning postures and breathing techniques to support physical and mental well-being and followed by a signature campaign with a pledge

to make yoga an integral part of their daily routine for general health and upkeep. Dr. Bela Thakur, Principal of Dogra Degree College, appreciated the efforts of the NCC Unit in fostering a culture of wellness and mindful living among students through such meaningful outreach activities. The school authorities also lauded the initiative for its positive impact. The event reflected the commitment of Dogra Degree College and NCC to youth development and holistic wellness.

Red Ribbon Club of GDC Thathri organises HIV/AIDS awareness camp in Barshalla



Top News Report

THATHRI, May 27: In a significant step towards community health education, the Red Ribbon Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Thathri organized an HIV/AIDS awareness camp in Village Barshalla, Panchayat Barshalla. The camp focused on educating the local population—especially the youth—about HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), their causes, effects, and preventive measures.

The camp was conducted under the overall supervision and guidance of Dr. Javid Iqbal Zargar, Principal of GDC Thathri. As part of its long-term commitment, the Red Ribbon Club has adopted Barshalla village to continuously spread health aware-

ness among its residents.

The resource person for the event, Dr. Muzafar Ahmed, Head of the Department of Environmental Science, delivered an insightful lecture highlighting the global and national HIV scenario. He pointed out that over 39.9 million people are living with HIV worldwide, with India alone reporting 16.90 lakh HIV-positive cases, including 8.70 lakh men, 8 lakh women, and others from the transgender community, as per 2023–24 statistics.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from villagers and members of civil society, who pledged to work towards building an STI-free community. Their active involvement reflected a strong com-

mitment to promoting public health and awareness at the grassroots level.

Prof. Deepak Raj, Nodal Officer of the Red Ribbon Club, efficiently coordinated the programme and extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to all contributors, particularly Dr. Muzafar Ahmed and Prof. Arshad Ayoub, Head of the Political Science Department, for their valuable support. He also acknowledged the tireless efforts of the organising team for the successful execution of the awareness camp.

The event served as a vital platform to empower rural communities with knowledge, encourage preventive practices, and promote a healthier and informed society.

Er. Rouf Ganie appointed as Working District President of Youth Congress Committee Kulgam

Top News Report

KULGAM, May 27: The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) has appointed Er Rouf Ahmad Ganie as the working district President for the Youth Congress Committee Kulgam in South Kashmir.

According to the official order issued by IYC, Er. Rouf Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Akhran Devsar, has been entrusted with the new responsibility to strengthen the organization at the district level.

Expressing his gratitude, Ganie thanked IYC President Shri Uday Bhanu Chib and IYC Secretary & J&K Incharge Maan Singh Rathore for their unwavering support and guidance. He also extended special thanks to Shoaib Magray for showing confidence in his leadership.

"I express my heartfelt gratitude to the party's high command for reposing immense trust in me. I assure the leadership that I will dedicate myself to fulfilling this responsibility and work tirelessly to strengthen the Youth



Congress in Kulgam district," Ganie stated.

The appointment has been welcomed by local party members and supporters who see it as a step forward in energizing youth engagement in the region.

Top News Report

SRINAGAR, May 27: A public delegation comprising residents from various areas of central Kashmir's Budgam district met with Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari today at the party headquarters in Srinagar.

The delegation was led by Advocate Owais Ashraf, Apni Party's district president Budgam.

According to a press release issued here, the delegation briefed Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on several pressing public concerns and grievances, urging him to leverage his personal influence to ensure the administration takes swift and effective action.

Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari gave a patient



hearing to the members of the delegation and assured them that he would raise their concerns with the relevant officials, ensuring that the issues are addressed and resolved

at the earliest.

Party's General Secretary Rafi Ahmed Mir, Chief Spokesperson Muntazir Mohiuddin, and Media Advisor Farooq Andrabi were also present on this occasion.

Awareness Program on Nasha Mukta Abhiyan held at GHS Chanderkote

Top News Report

RAMBAN, May 27: As part of the IEC campaign on Nasha Mukta Bharat launched by the District Administration under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, a mega awareness program was today organized at Government High School Chanderkote under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan. The initiative aimed to sensitize students and the community about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The program was presided over by ACR Ramban, Shoket Hayat Mattoo, in presence of Tehsildar Ramban,



Deep Kumar, and ZEO Batote. Students from various schools across Zone Batote actively participated and expressed their views and creativity through debate and painting competitions focused on the theme of a drug-free India.

Addressing the gathering, the ACR highlighted

the crucial role of youth in shaping a drug-free society. He encouraged students to steer clear of drug abuse and instead channel their energy into education, sports, and constructive activities. Commending the Education Department for its proactive role, he called upon teachers and parents to be vigi-

lant and supportive in guiding children. He also reiterated the administration's resolve to make Ramban a model district under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan through continuous awareness efforts and collective community involvement.

The event was also attended by NT Chanderkote, staff of the Education Department, and other concerned officials. They collectively stressed the need for sustained community engagement and educational outreach to effectively combat substance abuse.

The program concluded with a united pledge to fight the drug menace and work towards a safer, healthier future for the youth of Ramban.

HP's Sejal Kaith complimented for securing first position in Board Exam

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: The Jammu and Kashmir Kaith Biradari, gathered today at Surya Vihar under the leadership of R.L. Kaith, extended heartfelt congratulations to Sejal Kaith of Himachal Pradesh for securing

the first position in her board examination.

Biradari members praised Sejal's hard work and dedication, saying, "You've put in a lot of effort, and it's wonderful to see your commitment recognized. Best wishes for a

fulfilling and successful journey ahead."

The gathering celebrated her academic achievement as a proud moment for the entire Kaith community and wished her continued success in future endeavors.



SRK's Met Gala buzz is validation of rising 'brown renaissance' in West: Singer Raja Kumari

The uproar that Shah Rukh Khan's presence created at the Met Gala is yet another pinnacle of the "brown renaissance"—something that a bunch of Bollywood stars, Indian celebrities, and NRIs like her who made it big have been prepping the western world for some time now, said Grammy-nominated songwriter and rapper Raja Kumari.

"I think this brown renaissance that we've all been working towards—whether it's the domination of Bollywood, or people like Shah Rukh Khan and Diljit Dosanjh appearing at the Met Gala and the uproar it created—is long overdue. And these things are becoming increasingly apparent now," Kumari told PTI over a Zoom call.

Kumari, aka Svetha Yallapragada Rao, who has sung for music industry bigwigs like AR Rahman and Anirudh Ravichander, has recently been nominated for the American Music Awards 2025 for her soundtrack for 'Arcane: League of Legends Season 2'—Renegade (We Never Run).

Kumari said she is the only Indian-origin artiste to be nominated at the world's largest fan-voted music awards show. "I've always been a global artiste, so a nomination for an AMA is a great reminder that



there's still much more for me to, you know, impact and grow. I hope we win," added Kumari.

Growing up as a first-generation American in California, Kumari said the brown renaissance the world is witnessing now is the kind of validation she had been waiting for all her life. For much of her life, Kumari said she could neither be here nor there. Later, when she started creating music, she tuned into that angst.

Her songs like "NRI"—in which she talks about being too brown for the label, too privileged for the co-sign, and how even her sari isn't Indian enough—are proof of this phase in her life.

"When I was growing up, you couldn't see Indian people in lead roles. If television shows like 'Never Have I Ever' had been out when I was a child, maybe my life would have been

very different." Kumari, fortunately for all her fans, was not the kind to wait for others to pave the way for her. Instead, she created a pop star out of herself, channeling in-your-face insouciance, as her "brown face" stared defiantly at the world.

Although she said politicising her art was not necessarily her thing, Kumari is also aware that, as a child of the diaspora, she became a very powerful voice for it. Much of it may have been bravado to begin with, but just as the world evolved to embrace India and its culture, Kumari's music evolved too.

"Because the thing is, no matter where I go in the world, it's not like they see an American—they see an Indian. So what's the point of categorising me, whether I'm Indian enough or not Indian," said Kumari.

As time went by, she started digging deeper into her roots, pushing the boundaries defining both worlds and pulling out sounds that went beyond defiance. The temple bells that were once sneaked into her hip-hop groove are now the central theme anchoring her latest album, 'Kashi to Kailash'.

Kumari said she had already experienced, as a Bharatanatyam dancer, that connecting with India would expand her repertoire as an artiste. "So that was something that drew me to India, because if I was going to release a song on Meera in America, the reference is lost. But when I present myself as Meera here, you get the references from art, history, and poetry... I feel like India has always been a playground for me to express myself, because there's so

much layering in history and symbology that you can work with," said Kumari.

India, too, is evolving musically, and in how it treats its musicians, she said. "When I first came, I would sometimes be the only female in the entire lineup. But, you know, things have changed. More women, yes, but people are also realising the soft power that comes from exporting a global act," she added.

The work that has been done in the independent music scene over the last 20 years is finally panning out into something—it's now possible to think of music in India as a viable livelihood, said Kumari.

If there's a grouse, it's that she feels songwriters' rights are not protected enough. "A lot of times, artistes are just paid once and don't have access to royalties. And since I come from the US and I know how royalties and publishing laws work, I would hope that more is done to protect artists so we can continue to have a thriving music scene," she added.

As for her, she said she can't promise she'll continue to make the kind of music she did six or seven years ago. "But I can promise that its quality and musicality will always evolve and improve," she said.

Arjun Kapoor mentions 'selfish people' in cryptic note, says it's 'in our DNA'



Actor Arjun Kapoor on Monday night shared a cryptic note on his Instagram story. The 39-year-old referred to 'selfish' people and mentioned those who decide to 'show up' for others.

The 'No Entry 2' actor didn't name anyone, but talked about the inherent behaviour of

people, and their selfish choices. His note, which seemed to be written by him, and not a re-shared post on the story, read, "A reminder, always remember everyone in this world is eventually selfish. It's not right or wrong, it's just how people eventually are... We all have that bit in our DNA, it's

about who allows it to show up & when (sic)."

While Kapoor's note hints at a beef, it's still not clear what and who he is referring to. The actor also shared other regular posts on his Instagram story. However, this one stood out.

Kapoor has had a difficult time growing up. He has often talked about dealing with unprecedented situations in life, including his father, Boney Kapoor's second marriage, and his mother, Mona Shourie Kapoor, succumbing to cancer at 49. The actor also went through a breakup last year.

He had been dating actor Malaika Arora for a few years.

However, even though the two didn't announce it officially, they reportedly ended their relationship.

At work, Arjun Kapoor is expected to begin the shooting for his upcoming film 'No Entry 2' soon. Actors Varun Dhawan and Tamannaah Bhatia are expected to join Kapoor in the film, directed by Anees Bazmee.

Earlier, Diljit Dosanjh was also a part of the film.

However, he left the project earlier this month.

Diljit Dosanjh ends 10 years' partnership with Sonali Singh; manager unfollows Punjabi star on Instagram

Punjabi singing sensation Diljit Dosanjh has reportedly parted ways with his long-time manager Sonali Singh, marking the end of a professional relationship that spanned over a decade.

According to The Hollywood Reporter India, the unexpected split has sent ripples through the entertainment industry, especially among fans who have closely followed Diljit's meteoric rise.

Sonali has also unfollowed Diljit on Instagram, fuelling further speculation about a fallout between the two.

Notably, she did not attend the Met Gala with the Punjabi star, nor did she share anything about the event on social media.

"This is a big shock for people who have followed Diljit's journey. No one expected it, but things are not going well between them pro-



fessionally," the source added.

In 2024, Sonali was recognised as Billboard's Global Manager of the Year on their Women in Music list—a testament to her influence in taking Diljit's career international.

The duo's journey began in 2013 when

Sonali, then a marketing executive, worked on the multi-artist album 'Bhangra Paa Mittra', which featured Diljit as the lead performer. Their collaboration blossomed into a long-standing partnership, with Diljit frequently acknowledging her contribution to his success.

Paid trolls can't dim my light: Urvashi blasts Diet Sabya for Cannes staircase jab

Actor Urvashi Rautela called out the fashion watchdog page on Instagram, Diet Sabya, for 'falsely' accusing her of blocking a staircase for her photoshoot at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this month. In a damning note on Instagram, the 31-year-old talked about her success as an outsider, and referred to Diet Sabya as a 'paid troll'.

She made a strong-worded post, clarifying that her team had taken prior permission from the authorities at the Cannes event for her photoshoot at the popular staircase. Rautela mentioned 'venomous attacks against' a hardworking individual like her, and called it 'envious slander'.

"To my global fans & supporters the Cannes Festival community, and champions of truth, I rise with unyielding strength against the cowardly lies



of Diet Sabya, a faceless page that dares to falsely claim I blocked a staircase. Let the truth

reign; my team secured full permission for a photoshoot on a designated staircase, as did

others, in strict adherence to every rule of the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, which I honour with unwavering respect (sic)," she wrote.

Rautela added, "Diet Sabya, a cheap imitation of Diet Prada, lacks even an ounce of originality, thriving only on venomous attacks against hardworking outsiders who dare to shine. Their baseless narratives target those, like me, who elevate India's pride on the global stage (sic)."

The actor further asked her followers to block the fashion page and report it on Instagram. The former beauty queen underlined the importance of not giving attention to the 'petty lies' spread by Diet Sabya.

She concluded, "I have blocked and reported this irrelevant entity, and I call on all to dismiss their envious slander.

My charisma, forged through relentless dedication and international acclaim, remains untouchable. No one not Diet Sabya, nor their petty lies can dim the light of Urvashi Rautela, a force that leads and inspires. No matter how hard you troll me we will never pay you like others #Paidtrolls. With unbreakable resolve, Urvashi Rautela (sic)."

In a video that went viral, and was also shared and commented upon by Diet Sabya, Rautela was seen posing on a staircase at a hotel in Cannes, while people kept waiting for her to finish the photoshoot.

Rautela has become one of the regular Indians at the Cannes red carpet every year. She is known to wear her blings and the choicest dresses by international designers like no one else at the red carpet.

Fatima Sana Shaikh shares what makes OTT more 'liberating' for artistes

Last seen on screen in 2023 in the film Sam Bahadur, actor Fatima Sana Shaikh has a busy year ahead with multiple films including Aap Jaisa Koi, Gustaakh Ishq and Metro... In Dino. But apart from that, she would also be making her web series debut with a social drama titled Nyaya.

Ask her about what made her decide to make her foray into the space with this show and Fatima Sana Shaikh shares, "I really liked the story. I liked that my role was interesting, and I

am playing a cop for the first time, so I am excited for that. The story has an intention; a cause and it talks about something. So, I really enjoyed being a part of a show which is larger than just a topic."

Asserting on the merging of the mediums of films and OTT, and the interchange of the biggest names between them, Fatima says, "The line has blurred, and today everyone just wants to make good projects and have them reach people. Medium doesn't matter much at



this point. The charm of cinema is there, and you miss that on OTT, but there is so much great stuff on the web,

because there is no pressure of box office. People are making what they want to make, and there is a freedom in

that."

She adds, "The beauty of the medium is that you put your work out there, and whether to see it or not is the audience's wish. There is liberty in that, and thus, even an artiste stays stress free." But in this gap of almost two years from screen, did she miss it? "I didn't because I was working. I did four projects last year, so I was so engaged and consumed in my work, that I forgot about everything around. I register such things only when I have no work," she ends.

Abhishek Banerjee-starrer 'Stolen' to stream on Prime Video from June 4



Prime Video film "Stolen" starring Abhishek Banerjee will release on June 4, the streamer announced. Directed by Karan Tejpal, who made

his directorial debut with the film, the project is produced by Gaurav Dhingra. The film had its world premiere at the 80th Venice Film Festival in 2023.

Prime Video shared the poster of the film featuring Banerjee on its Instagram handle. It was re-shared by the actor.

"A missing child and a thrilling race against time. #StolenOnPrime, June 4," read the caption.

"Stolen" follows the intense journey of two urbane brothers who witness a baby being kidnapped from an impoverished mother at a railway station in rural India.

The film also features Shubham, Mia Maelzer, Harish Khanna and Sahidur Rahaman. Filmmakers Anurag Kashyap, Kiran Rao, Nikkhil Advani and Vikramaditya Motwane are the executive producers.

PM Modi pays tribute to Jawaharlal Nehru on his 61st death anniversary

NEW DELHI, May 27 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid tribute to India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on his 61st death anniversary.

"Tributes to our former PM, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary," PM Modi said in a post on X.



Modi's 11-year reign as PM will be written in golden letters in history: Shah



MUMBAI, May 27 (Agencies): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 11-year reign will be written in golden letters in history.

Speaking at the 150th anniversary of Madhavbagh Laxminarayan temple here, Shah, who spoke in Gujarati, said that those who

didn't know the value of "ek chutki sindoor" were informed about it through 'Operation Sindoor'.

"Modi has completed 11 years as the prime minister. The son of Gujarat is committed to the nation's development, economic growth and national security. Those who violated the national security have

been taught a lesson," he said.

PM Modi has made people feel proud to be an Indian and enhanced the value of the Indian passport overseas, the home minister said.

Shah said it was due to the strong political will that the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and Kashi Vishwanath corridor were constructed during Modi's tenure.

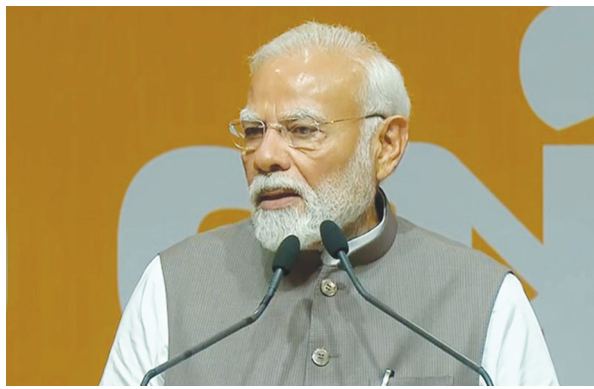
He lauded the efforts of trustees in running the Madhavbagh Laxminarayan Temple in the heart of Mumbai.

The institution has the sentiment of social service, which has made it a centre of cultural, religious and social activities, the Union home minister said.

"Have decided to remove 'terror thorn' from India": PM Modi's vow in Gujarat

GANDHINAGAR, May 27 (Agencies): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday targeted Pakistan over continuing support for cross-border attacks, accusing it of using terrorism as a weapon and "waging war" against India and declaring "we have decided to remove the 'terror thorn' from India".

"Terrorism is not a 'proxy war'... it is your strategy. You are waging war on us," Mr Modi said in his home state of Gujarat.



The PM pulled no punches in his Gandhinagar rally, throwing criticism also at political rivals - i.e., the Congress, although he did not name the party - who "tolerated proxy wars for 75 years".

"For 75 years... tourists, pilgrims, civilians... wherever they (Pak-sponsored terrorists) found a chance, they attacked. Tell me, should we keep tolerating this?" he asked the

raucous crowd.

"Ya goli ka jawab gole se dena chahiye" (Or should we respond to bullets with bullets)?"

India believes in peace, Mr Modi declared, but will not hesitate to strike back when provoked repeatedly. In that case, he said, "India has to remind the world this is also a land of warriors."

The PM's sharp attacks on Pakistan follow heightened India-Pak tensions after the April 22 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, in which 26 civilians were killed.

A proxy of the Lash-

kars-e-Taiba, a United Nations-recognised terrorist group operating out of Pakistan claimed responsibility. Islamabad, however, firmly denied any knowledge of Lashkar's presence, despite New Delhi having provided substantial evidence to connect the dots.

After a raft of non-military measures, including suspending the critical Indus Waters Treaty that irrigates nearly 80 per cent of Pak's farmlands, India launched Operation Sindoor, a precision military response that destroyed four terror camps in Pak and five in Pak-occupied Kashmir.

Op Sindoor was a 25-minute tri-service mission (the first since the India-Pak war of 1971) that began and ended in the early hours of May 7.

Ignoring a warning to lay low, Pak fired drones and missiles at Indian armed forces and civilian centres that night. A military conflict raged for the next 100 hours and India responded with more precision strikes, this time targeting Pak air force bases and air defence radars.

Eventually Islamabad sued for peace and a ceasefire was announced on May 12.

Mr Modi and opposition politicians have praised the Indian armed forces for their response to the Pahalgam terror strike and successfully neutralising Pak's missile attacks.

In his speech in Gandhinagar today, the Prime Minister said Op

Sindoor had sparked a "wave of patriotism" in the country. "I have been here for two days. Yesterday I visited Vadodra, Dahod, Bhuj, and Ahmedabad... Everywhere it felt like the roaring sound of a saffron sea."

"The fluttering tricolour and immense love for the motherland in every heart..."

On Monday the PM accused Pak of 'living on hatred for India' and reached out to the people of the country, asking them what decades of conflict with their neighbours had given them.

"I want to ask the people of Pakistan... what have you gained from terrorism? ... free Pakistan of this disease of terrorism. 'Sukh chain ki zindagi jio, roti khao. Varna meri goli to hai...'," he said, which translates as 'live a peaceful life, eat your bread, else my bullets are there'.

Rajnath asks Defence PSUs to enhance production

NEW DELHI, May 27 (Agencies): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today conducted a review of the performance of eight public sector undertakings (PSUs) controlled by the Defence Ministry.

A statement of the ministry said that Singh, citing the prevailing geopolitical scenario and the recent developments with Pakistan, directed the PSU's to enhance their production with latest technologies focusing more on research and development.

He lauded the industry for developing products that demonstrated India's defence preparedness during Operation Sindoor.

Singh said, "The government remains committed to strengthening the defence industrial base and enhancing the competitiveness



of the defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs)."

At the meeting, Secretary Defence Production Sanjeev Kumar presented the growth statistics of the industry and the PSUs. The

value of defence production is poised to be more than Rs 1,40,000 crore for Financial Year 2024-25 and out of this, around 78 per cent would be contributed by PSUs, he added.

The meeting was attended by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Bharat Electronics Limited, Bharat Dynamics Limited, Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI), Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) and BEML Limited.

The companies also paid and interim dividend on equity shares held by the government for Rs 2,138 crore for the Financial Year 2024-25.

'Not found suitable' is new Manuvaad, will fight anti-reservation moves of BJP-RSS: Rahul

NEW DELHI, May 27 (Agencies): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that eligible candidates from SC, ST, and OBC communities were being deliberately declared 'not found suitable' to keep them away from education and leadership.

Gandhi made the remark in a post on X, sharing a video of his recent interaction with students of the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU). "Not Found Suitable" is the new Manuvaad now. Eligible candidates from SC/ST/OBC are being deliberately declared 'unsuitable' so that they are kept away from education and leadership," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said in his post in Hindi.

'Manuvaad' is the ethos of a society governed by Manusmriti.

Gandhi quoted B R Ambedkar to hail education as the biggest weapon for equality, and accused the Narendra Modi-led Union government and the RSS of subverting this power.

"... the Modi government is busy blunting that weapon," he said.

Gandhi said that more than 60 per cent of the reserved posts of Professor and more than 30 per cent of the reserved posts of Associate Professor have been kept vacant by using the 'Not Found Suitable (NFS)' mechanism.

"This is no exception - the same conspiracy is going on everywhere, IITs, Central Universities. NFS is an attack on the Constitution. NFS is



a betrayal of social justice," he said.

The former Congress president said getting reservation was a matter of fighting for rights, respect, and participation.

"I spoke to the students of DUSU, now we all together will answer every anti-reservation move of BJP/RSS with the power of the Constitution," he said.

In the video, Gandhi is heard telling the stu-

dents that the Hindutva project's foundation is to erase the history of the SCs, STs, and OBCs.

"Why is 90 per cent's history not in our books? Why is only 10 per cent's history in our books? Why is it not written, for example, in our history books that for 3,000 years, Dalits have been treated like dirt, have not been respected, have not been given any space in our society?" he says during the

interaction.

On May 22, the DU objected to Gandhi's unannounced visit to its North Campus, calling it a breach of institutional protocol and a disruption of student governance operations.

"Shri Rahul Gandhi has done this for the second time... coming to the university without any intimation and information to University of Delhi," the proctor's office had said in an official release.

That day, Gandhi interacted with students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes on the North Campus.

The session was held at the office of the DUSU president, who belongs to NSUI, a Congress-affiliated outfit.

Yogi Adityanath instructs officials to adopt sensitivity while resolving public problems



GORAKHPUR, May 27 (Agencies): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday directed officials to resolve public problems sensitively and promptly, assuring that his government's priority remains to serve the people of the state in a transparent matter.

Meeting around 250

people who came for the Janata Darshan at the Gorakhnath temple, Adityanath listened to their problems and assured everyone they would get justice, the government said in a statement.

Referring the applications to the concerned officials, the Chief Minister directed the officers to adopt sensitivity while addressing the queries.

He also called for strict action against those who illegally occupy land, especially by displacing the weak, saying that they should not be spared under any circumstances.

Many people also made requests for financial aid pertaining to medical treatments, to which Adityanath assured them that the government will provide necessary assistance.

Handing over their applications to the officers, the chief minister instructed them that the estimate for the treatments should be finalised as soon as possible and made available to the government, the statement added.

Four senior citizens die after car plunges into gorge in Uttarakhand

DEHRADUN, May 27 (Agencies): A tragic accident in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal district claimed the lives of four elderly people after a car veered off the road and plunged into a deep gorge. The incident occurred Monday night in the Badiyar Garh area, under the Kirti Nagar development block.

According to Kirti Nagar Tehsildar Pradeep Kandari, "The deceased have been identified as 70-year-old Darshan Singh Aswal, son of Hari Singh; 70-year-old Dharam Singh Aswal, son of Peetambar Singh; 65-year-old Karn Singh Panwar, son of Ram Singh; and 60-year-old Rajendra Singh Panwar, son of Jeet Singh Panwar, all residents of Malgad



village."

The victims had travelled from Malgad to Badiyar Garh to participate in a religious ceremony and were returning home when the driver lost control on a sharp, narrow turn.

The vehicle fell approximately 50 metres into the gorge.

Local residents alerted the authorities, and a team from the Tehsil administration and the State

Disaster Response Force (SDRF) conducted a rescue operation to retrieve the bodies and transport them to the base hospital in Srinagar.

Kirtinagar Kotwali Station House Officer Inspector Devraj Sharma said, "The car fell into a deep gorge near the village." He added, "The causes of the road accident are being thoroughly investigated."

Police and SDRF teams launched the rescue operation immediately after the incident was reported.

The accident has sent shockwaves through the community, with locals demanding improved safety measures along the route to prevent future tragedies.

18 Naxalites surrender in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district



SUKMA, May 27 (Agencies): As many as 18 Naxalites, among them 10 carrying a cumulative bounty of Rs 38 lakh, surrendered before security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Tuesday, police said.

The cadres turned

themselves in before senior police and CRPF officials here, citing disappointment with "hollow" and "inhuman" Maoist ideology and atrocities by ultras on local tribals, Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan said.

They said they were

also impressed by the state government's 'Niyad Nellanu' (your good village) scheme, aimed at facilitating development works in remote villages, and the new surrender and rehabilitation policy, he said.

Chavan said of the surrendered Naxalites, Madkam Aayta (25), a platoon party committee member in Maoists's PLGA battalion no. 1 and Bhaskar alias Bhogam Lakha (26), a party member in the same battalion, carried a reward of Rs 8 lakh each.

He said Madkam Kamlu (25) and Laxman alias Madvi Chhannu (28), both area committee members of Maoists, carried a reward of Rs 5 lakh each, while six others had a bounty of Rs 2 lakh each.

The surrendered Naxalites were provided assistance of Rs 50,000 each and will be further rehabilitated as per the government's policy, he said.

Last year, 792 Naxalites had surrendered in the Bastar region, comprising seven districts, including Sukma.

Australia PM says “massive challenges” ahead in recovery from floods

Following droughts and devastating bushfires at the end of last decade, frequent floods have caused damage in Australia since early 2021

SYDNEY, May 27 (Agencies): Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Tuesday flooding in the south-east posed “massive challenges” and the recovery would take several months.

Incassant rain over three days triggered major flooding in several rural towns in the Hunter and Mid North Coast regions of New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, as fast-rising rivers cut off more than 50,000 people last week.

“There are still massive challenges ... this is not something that will go away in a matter of days or weeks or even months,” Albanese told reporters from the flood-hit town of Taree, more than 300 km (186 miles) north of Sydney.

“This will take some time, the recovery, but Australians are



resilient.”

Taree received just over 600 mm (24 inches) of rain over four days from May 20, roughly half its annual average, official data showed.

Australia has been hit with increasing extreme weather events that some experts say

are the result of climate change. Following droughts and devastating bushfires at the end of last decade, frequent floods have caused damage since early 2021.

Albanese said the flooding severely hurt the dairy industry, which “will have an impact right

throughout Australia.” Dead and lost livestock had washed up on the coast after the floods inundated several farms and homes.

A one-off disaster recovery payment of A\$1,000 (\$648) for adults and A\$400 for children will be rolled out from Wednesday, while the ongoing 13-week income support allowance will be expanded to cover more residents, Albanese said.

Insurance Australia Group, the country's largest general insurer, said it had received around 2,500 claims as of Tuesday related to the floods, with most claims for property damage.

Nearly 800 properties have been deemed uninhabitable after conducting more than 7,300 damage assessments, a spokesperson for the New South Wales state emergency services said.

Russia accuses Ukraine of escalating air attacks to thwart peace talks



MOSCOW, May 27 (Agencies): Moscow on Tuesday accused Kyiv of increasing air barrages with the aim of disrupting peace talks and said that its own massive assaults on Ukraine were a “response” to Ukrainian drone attacks on Russia.

US-led efforts to force peace negotiations between the neighbours have failed to reach a breakthrough and left President Donald Trump frustrated with both sides.

On Monday, Moscow launched the biggest air attack on Ukraine since the start of its 2022 full-scale offensive.

“Kyiv, with the support of some European countries, has taken a series of provocative steps to thwart negotiations initiated by Russia,” Moscow's defence ministry said, adding that the Russian army was striking Ukraine “in response to mass Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian regions”.

Moscow claimed it was hitting “only military targets” in Ukraine but it launched an attack on Sunday that killed 13 civilians, including three children from the same family, in Ukraine's central city of Zhytomyr.

Moscow said it had launched the attacks after Ukraine sent 1,465 drones into Russia since May 20.

It said Russian civilians, “including women and children”, were wounded in the Ukrainian attacks, and warned that it would continue strikes “in response to any terrorist attacks or provocations by Kyiv”.

After the massive attacks on Ukraine, Trump said that Russian leader Vladimir Putin had gone “crazy”, in rare criticism of the Kremlin chief.

Massive explosion rocks chemical plant in China

BEIJING, May 27 (Agencies): A large explosion at a chemical plant in China's eastern province of Shandong sent thick plumes of smoke into the sky on Tuesday, state media reported, without giving details on casualties.

More than 200 emergency workers responded to the blast that shook a workshop of Shandong Youdao Chemical in the city of Weifeng just before noon, sparking discussions on Chinese social media over the dangers of toxic gas exposure. Government officials urged emergency crews to quickly contain a fire at the facility and confirm the number of casualties.

As many as 55 emergency vehicles and 232 first responders had been dispatched to the scene, the national Ministry of Emergency Management said in a statement.

The Weifeng Ecological Environment Bureau has dispatched staff to the test the site of the blast and advised nearby residents to



wear face masks in the meantime.

Shandong Youdao Chemical is owned by Himile Group, which also owns listed Himile Mechanical, shares of which were down nearly 4% on Tuesday afternoon.

Youdao was set up in August 2019 in the Gaomi Renhe chemical park in Weifang, its website says, and covers more than 47 hectares (116 acres), with more than 300 employees.

The firm develops, produces and sells technology for pesticides, pharmaceuticals

and related chemical intermediates.

Blasts at chemical plants in China in recent years have included one in the northwest region of Ningxia in 2024 and another in the south-eastern province of Jiangxi in 2023.

Two massive explosions at warehouses containing hazardous and flammable chemicals in the Chinese port city of Tianjin in 2015 killed over 170 people and injured 700 more, prompting the government to pass new laws covering chemical storage.

“Need to implement Biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction Treaty”: French Special Envoy for UN Ocean Conference

PARIS, May 27 (Agencies): The French Ambassador for the Ocean and French President's Special Envoy for the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), Olivier Poivre d'Arvor, on Tuesday emphasised the urgent need to implement the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty to address the escalating challenges facing global oceans.

Speaking ahead of the UNOC3 summit scheduled for June 2025 in Nice, France, d'Arvor highlighted the critical role of Indo-Pacific nations as key stakeholders in the Blue Economy while also noting the dire consequences of a projected four-metre sea-level rise by 2100.

His remarks underscore the global imperative to prioritise ocean conservation amidst climate change, a sentiment echoed by diplomatic sources emphasising the need for comprehensive action to protect marine ecosystems.

“This is the first UN summit organised after Trump's election... Participants coming from the Indo-Pacific region are key players... They are the first beneficiaries of the Blue Economy... Shipping, Maritime Support, Fisheries... Indo-Pacific is deeply concerned about the future of the ocean... A four-metre rise in sea level by 2100... The summit is mainly organised for the stakeholders from the science, technology, and business sectors... The first-ever summit to be organised on the blue economy will have 16 heads of state from the Pacific region participating... Summits on the cities and regions affected by the sea-level rise will also be discussed... We need to implement the BBNJ Treaty also,” d'Arvor stated.

He further stated that India, which signed the treaty in July last year, needs to ratify it.

The BBNJ Agreement, or the ‘High Seas Treaty’, is an international treaty under the United Nations Conven-

tion on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It aims to address the growing concerns over the long-term protection of marine biodiversity in the high seas. It sets precise mechanisms for the sustainable use of marine biological diversity through international cooperation and coordination. Parties cannot claim or exercise sovereign rights over marine resources derived from the high seas and ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits. It follows an inclusive, integrated, ecosystem-centric approach based on the precautionary principle and promotes using traditional knowledge and the best available scientific knowledge. It helps minimise impacts on the marine environment through area-based management tools and establishes rules for conducting environmental impact assessments. It would also contribute to achieving several SDGs, particularly SDG 14 (Life Below Water). A French diplomatic

source further contextualised the urgency of ocean protection during discussions with stakeholders.

The source revealed a significant gap in global focus, noting that despite being part of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the ocean remains the least financed.

The source noted that 90 per cent of the excess heat from global climate change is absorbed by marine systems, leading to tremendous consequences for marine life and coastal communities, stressing the need for a push for ocean-centric initiatives for the exacerbated marine ecosystems critical for global biodiversity and livelihoods.

“Need to protect oceans with complete actions.... Created general momentum in climate change by COP...17 SDGs, and the ocean is the least well-financed, and nobody is really focusing on it, and we need to change that... At 90 per cent of the excess is from global

climate change. Tremendous consequences for marine life and the lives of people who depend on the ocean,” the French diplomatic source said.

The high-level 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (the 2025 UN Ocean Conference) will be co-hosted by France and Costa Rica and held in Nice, France, from June 9 - 13, 2025.

The overarching theme of the Conference is “Accelerating action and mobilising all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”. The Conference aims to support further and urgent action to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and identify further ways and means to support the implementation of SDG 14.

Policeman guarding polio vaccination team in Balochistan shot dead by unidentified gunmen

ISLAMABAD, May 27 (Agencies): Unidentified gunmen shot dead a police personnel guarding a polio vaccination team in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province on Tuesday before escaping from the scene, officials said.

The incident occurred in the Noshki area, where polio workers were giving anti-polio vaccines to children under five years of age as part of the nationwide drive to vaccinate more than 43 million children.

Noshki Deputy Commissioner Amjad Soomro confirmed the incident, identifying the killed policeman as Waheed Ahmed.

Police have set up checkpoints in the area to arrest the attackers, he said.

According to the police, the polio workers were unharmed in the incident.

The policeman killed in the incident was a resident of Noshki, they said.

Both provincial and federal officials have condemned the incident,

calling it intolerable and beyond comprehension. President Asif Ali Zardari condemned the attack and offered heartfelt condolences to the family of the bereaved, the newspaper said.

He noted that the courage and sacrifice of polio officials [inspires] us all to save our children from this crippling disease.

The president reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fully eradicating polio.

We have the tools, the will, and the support of our global partners to make this vision a reality.

I call on parents to open their doors to vaccinators, ensuring every child receives the life-saving polio drops.

I urge teachers, religious leaders, and community elders to champion this noble cause, dispelling myths and building trust. I appeal to the media to amplify the truth: the polio vaccine is safe, effective, and our best weapon, Zardari said in a statement.

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said the attack on those safeguarding children's future is beyond comprehension and cannot be tolerated.

Balochistan government spokesperson Shahid Rind, in a statement, said, The polio campaign is a national duty, and any attack on it is intolerable.

He paid tribute to the slain police officer and said, This attack is a conspiracy to sabotage the national campaign and spread fear and panic.

No group has claimed responsibility for the incident yet.

On Monday, two polio workers were abducted by armed assailants in the Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The Pakistan Polio Programme launched the third drive of the year on Sunday to vaccinate against the crippling disease, which was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication,

Ayesha Raza Farooq.

According to the Pakistan Polio Programme, more than 45 million children up to five years of age will be administered polio vaccine and vitamin A drops during the campaign.

According to a statement, 400,000 polio workers will participate in the anti-polio campaign.

Earlier this week, two new polio cases were reported in the Lakki Marwat and Bannu districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, bringing the number of children infected with the crippling virus this year to 10.

Five of the 10 reported cases were from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Pakistan is one of the last two countries in the world, besides Afghanistan, where polio remains endemic.

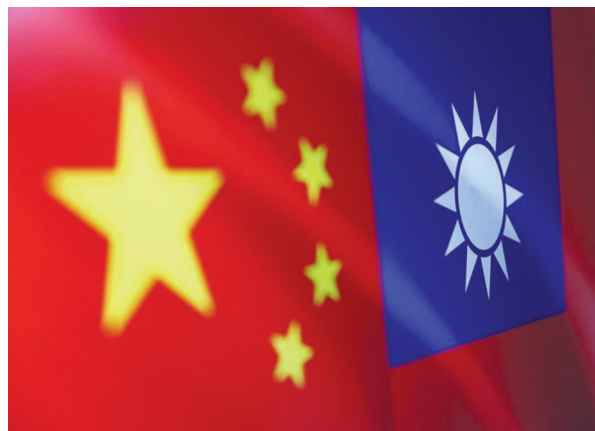
Despite global efforts to eradicate the virus, challenges such as safety issues, vaccine hesitancy, and misinformation remain in eliminating the virus.

Taiwan warns of China’s ‘United Front’ propaganda via social media apps like Xiaohongshu

TAIPEI, May 27 (Agencies): Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) Minister Chiu Chui-cheng warned individuals using Chinese social media platforms to be aware of the potential impacts of Beijing's “united front” propaganda, which could threaten Taiwan's sovereignty, as reported by agency.

Chiu's comments were in response to Chinese academic Zhang Weiwei's assertion that since many young Taiwanese enjoy using the Chinese app Xiaohongshu, also known as RedNote in English, “it would be easier to govern Taiwan post-unification with China than it is with Hong Kong,” according to agency.

Zhang stated, “The time has come to address the ‘Taiwan question’ as China's economy is advancing rapidly, making Taiwan seem more like a Chinese province.”



He highlighted that “Taiwan's economy relies significantly on exports to China, particularly in semiconductors and electronic products, while China might reduce its purchases from Taiwan.”

“We are aware that numerous young Taiwanese prefer Xiaohongshu and other Chinese social media platforms, making them susceptible to China's influence,” he commented. “Thus, following the unification of Taiwan with China, governance

will likely be simpler than it is in Hong Kong.” Chiu pointed out that Xiaohongshu and Douyin, the Chinese version of TikTok, serve as instruments for the Chinese government in its “united front” propaganda.

“We urge individuals to exercise extreme caution while using these Chinese applications due to risks associated with personal data breaches and the dissemination of pro-China opinions and narratives,” he advised. “In light of these threats,

educational institutions need to address this concern and provide media literacy education for students who utilize these Chinese applications to prevent them from becoming targets of China's ‘united front’ strategies,” agency reported.

The MAC has banned central government officials from participating and has advised local government officials “not to attend,” marking a change from earlier remarks expressing a desire to avoid seeing Taiwanese officials participate. Chiu mentioned that Taiwan and China continue to engage at some level, even as formal discussions have ground to a halt. According to agency, interactions with China are conducted under the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area, he added.

126th Birth Anniversary of Mata Ramabai Ambedkar celebrated at Shelter Home



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: The 126th birth anniversary of Mata Ramabai Ambedkar, the beloved wife and pillar of strength of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, was celebrated with reverence and community spirit at the Shelter Home (Home for Urban Homeless), Rehan Basera, located at Boria Basti, Gorkh Nagar, Bahu Fort, Jammu.

The event brought together residents, social activists, and students in a heartfelt tribute to Ramabai Ambedkar, whose silent sacrifices played a crucial role in Dr. Ambedkar's journey. Speaking on the occasion, Sham Lal Basson, ex-Corporator, reflected on her humble beginnings and unwavering support to Dr. Ambedkar.

"Born in 1898, Ramabai faced numerous hardships early in life. Despite living in poverty after her parents' death, she stood by Dr. Ambedkar through every phase of his life, encouraging him to pursue higher studies abroad amidst trying circumstances," said Basson. He emphasized the need to recognize and remember the contributions of women like Ramabai, who remain the unseen strength behind great leaders.

A cake-cutting ceremony was held to mark the occasion, followed by speeches from young students Nandini and Amaira, both studying in the 3rd primary class, who spoke eloquently about Ramabai's life and legacy. Distinguished attendees

including Krishna Bangotra, Prof. C.L. Shivgotra, Neelam Sambyal, Veena Kundal, Savita Dhupper, Dr. Buti Ram, and Veena Bakshi also shared their insights on Ramabai's enduring contributions and resilience.

Sweets were distributed among the inmates of Rehan Basera, and a Langar (community meal) was served, embodying the spirit of service and unity.

The event concluded with floral tributes by attendees including Madam Krishna Bangotra, Prof. C.L. Shivgotra, Neelam Sambyal, Veena Kundal, Savita Dhupper, Dr. Buti Ram, Veena Bakshi

expressed their views regarding great struggle of Mata Ramabai Ambedkar. Sweets were distributed among inmates of Rehan Basera Langer was also served to inmates.

Those who paid tributes included Madan Lal Bangotra, Neelam Kumari, Rani Devi Rita Devi, Sudesh Sharma, Veena Devi, Rattan Lal Rajni Devi, Ravinder Kumar Rajwal, Rajat and inmates of Rehan Basera.

The celebration served as a powerful reminder of the often-overlooked sacrifices made by women like Mata Ramabai Ambedkar, whose strength and support were instrumental in shaping India's history.

Anti Crime NGO hosts Langar at Uttar Behani Shrine to promote community service



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: In a heartening gesture of community service and devotion, the Anti Crime NGO, led by its chairman Sham Lal Gupta, organized a langar (community kitchen) at the holy Uttar Behani Shrine in Jammu. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local dignitaries and volunteers, who united to serve meals to hundreds of devotees visiting the revered shrine.

This Langar initiative was part of the NGO's continued mission to promote humanitarian values and foster communal harmony. Devotees were warmly received and served freshly prepared meals

as part of the seva, enhancing the spiritual and communal atmosphere of the occasion.

Among the prominent attendees was Sahil Gupta, Former Corporator of the Municipal Committee Bishnah, who lauded the Anti Crime NGO for its consistent efforts in uplifting society. He emphasized that such noble acts strengthen the bonds of unity and compassion within the community.

Volunteers including Manmohan Singh, Rohit, Vansh, Aryan, Arun, Iqbal Kaur, and Anchal Sharma played a key role in the success of the event by contributing their time and efforts to ensure seamless arrangements and heartfelt

Road Safety Club GDC Bani organizes road safety awareness programme

Top News Report

BANI, May 27: In an earnest effort to curb the increasing number of road accidents, the Road Safety Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Bani, in collaboration with the Police Department, organized a Road Safety Awareness Programme on the college campus today.

The event marked the beginning of a lecture series for the academic session 2025-2026, aimed at educating students about traffic rules and safety measures. As part of the campaign, an awareness rally was conducted, featuring enthusiastic participation from around 60 students.

The rally was flagged off by Dr. J.S. Soodan, Physical Director and Convenor of the Road Safety Club, under the overall supervision of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Manohar Lal.

Students held placards and chanted slogans promoting safe driving practices and adherence to traffic rules. They also raised awareness against drug use while driving, emphasizing its dangerous consequences.



A series of informative talks were delivered during the event. Dr. Sunil Kumar, HOD Urdu, discussed the dos and don'ts of road safety and urged students to wear helmets and seatbelts, obey speed limits, and maintain a safe distance between vehicles. Dr. Narinder Kumar, HOD Dogri, cautioned against mobile phone usage while driving, while Prof. Komal Mehta from the Department of Education emphasized the importance of following traffic signals.

Dr. J.S. Soodan inspired students to become youth ambassadors of road safety, encouraging them to extend the campaign to their local communities.

He also advised students to obtain driving licenses through proper channels from the RTO.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Resham Singh, NSS Programme Officer, who also encouraged students to actively participate in future awareness initiatives.

The event witnessed the presence of senior faculty members including Dr. Nisha Devi (HOD Hindi), Prof. Sajjad Ahmad, Prof. Naseem Ahmad Bhatt (Librarian), Prof. Nusrat Ul Islam, Prof. Mehnaz Rafeeq, Prof. Seema Kotwal, Prof. Vishal Sharma, and Rachpal Sharma from the administrative department.

“Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” driving National Integration through cultural exchange: Sat

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, accompanied by Ajendra Sharma, Co-Incharge, “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” campaign for Jammu-Kashmir, Baldev Singh Billaoria campaign Convenor, J&K BJP, Gopal Mahajan, Co-Incharge, J&K, Munish Khajuria, Incharge Jammu Administrative District, Jai Ram Sharma, Incharge District Samba addressed a meeting on “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” campaign at BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

District Convenors and co-convenors of “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” campaign and representatives of prominent organizations of



Pravasi (migrant) people living in the region participated in the meeting.

Sat Sharma highlighted the campaign's vital role in fostering national unity and integrity through cultural and social exchange. He said that “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat,” a visionary initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeks to promote greater mutual understanding among the citizens of different states and union territories. Sharma emphasized

that the knowledge of each other's customs, languages, traditions, and heritage will create a sense of togetherness and shared identity, which is essential for the strength and progress of the nation.

Sharma added that India's diversity is one of its greatest strengths and that this campaign aims to celebrate that diversity by promoting a spirit of unity and harmony across the country. He reiterated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi;

the central government remains committed to building a cohesive and inclusive India where cultural differences are respected and appreciated.

Ajendra Sharma elaborated on BJP's active engagement in promoting inter-state bonds through various activities such as music, theatre, food festivals, language learning, and historical exchanges. He also made a special appeal to members of the Pravasi population, particularly those hailing

from Bihar, to visit their native towns and participate in the upcoming State Assembly Elections. He described voting as a crucial responsibility and a vital pillar of democratic participation.

Baldev Singh Billaoria shared detailed insights into the activities being carried out under the campaign in the union territory. He highlighted several successful initiatives that have enhanced cultural connectivity between the people of Jammu & Kashmir and other regions.

Billaoria emphasized that such people-to-people interactions are instrumental in breaking down regional barriers and fostering national integration.

Melted in Feelings, Not Frozen in Differences

*Let hearts not freeze in walls of pride,
Where silence grows and love can't bide.
Let not our minds in conflict stay,
When kindness softly lights the way.*

*A glance, a touch, a gentle word,
Can melt the ice that hate has stirred.
For though we're shaped by different skies,
The same sun warms our hopes and cries.*

*When we choose love, not lines drawn deep,
We wake the souls that pain made sleep.
And though our views may not align,
Our hearts can still in grace entwine.*

*So let us melt in feelings true,
With empathy in all we do.
It's better far to feel and bend,
Than break apart and never mend.*



Dr Shreyansh Kumar
Jain State yoga
Commissioner Jammu
9419100743

“Come back, we are waiting for you...”: Farooq Abdullah appeals to tourists ahead of Amarnath Yatra

"It is played in Olympics, Common Wealth games and Asian Games, so, now there is a need to have it everywhere. I think our people should come here in large numbers, play this sport so that India gets medals in these games," he said.

Praising Kashmir's natural beauty, he said, "Look at this weather and beauty, I have travelled to various places across the world, but I have not seen such beauty anywhere. I hope the people who watch your channel come here in large numbers, see this beauty and make the country stronger. We should not be afraid, if we are afraid, then we are dead".

On the annual Amarnath Yatra scheduled to begin on July 3, Abdullah said the pilgrimage is very important for us.

"It has been going on for many years. I hope more and pilgrims

will come here to have a glimpse of Shankar Bhagvan, Bhole Nath comfortably, and then tell people back home how beautiful this place is," he said.

To a question about J-K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah holding a meeting of his council of ministers, as well as a meeting with tourism stakeholders at Pahalgam later in the day, the NC president said it is important and will send out a message that there is peace.

"One the people will get to know that the whole cabinet is here and there is peace. They will also meet the stakeholders. That will also have an impact because the people here, whether it is the pony-walla, palki wallah, hoteliers, taxi-wallah, are bearing the most brunt "These people have taken loans, some have taken it for renovation of houses and hotels, cabs, for horses. I hope that more and more people from our country come here and we show them that we have exhibited hospitality in the past and we will do that in future as well," he said.

Asked about reports of differences in the party especially with its Srinagar Lok Sabha MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, Abdullah said attempts were always made to break his party but the leadership was not worried.

"This is not something new for us. It has been happening. They will continue their attempts. They did it in my time, in my father's time. It is not new for us, we are not worried. Why should we be worried? "We are here to resolve the problems of the people and we will do that Insha Allah (God willing). You see how much change will come to this state in five years," he said.

Huma Qureshi to meet bordermen, Affected families of shelling at Suchetgarh

stakeholders of the tourism industry.

"Entry is free for the visitors and we hope with situation normalised to a larger extent, tourism sector will soon flourish in Jammu," the official said.

Aijaz Qesar, Joint Director, Jammu Tourism however, confirmed the visit of actress to the border tomorrow.

Lightning kills over 100 livestock, Affect-

ed nomadic families seek compensation

thunder and hail storm, hit a shepherd's camp during the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, officials said.

The nomadic families from the Targain village of Budhal had moved to the upper reaches along with their livestock as part of the seasonal migration in search of greener pastures and established their camp near Marg top as per their traditional practice.

A team of officials from the Budhal Sheep and Husbandry Department visited the site this morning and prepared a detailed report on the losses incurred by the affected families, who have made an urgent appeal for compensation and rehabilitation support.

Kashmir SPO climbs tree in Dalhousie, Threatens suicide over financial distress

reaching Banikhet by around 9:20 PM. Speaking to the media afterward, he said Lal had told

him he served as an SPO "during the hardest times," had mounting debts, and a child studying in Chandigarh.

"He asked me, 'How can I survive on Rs 4,000?'" Singh recounted. "He was clearly in distress, but I told him that while I understood his pain, this wasn't the right way to protest."

Singh also clarified that any decisions on salaries or reappointments fall under the jurisdiction of the central government, since Jammu and Kashmir is now a Union Territory.

In a significant development, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Kathua, Shiv Kumar, later stated that Shyam Lal had been disengaged as an SPO "several years ago," and was no longer on the police rolls. Despite this, many local officials expressed sympathy and promised to raise the issue at higher levels, including with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

After being safely brought down and undergoing a medical examination, Lal was not booked under any legal charges. Authorities ruled out any intoxication and allowed him to leave with the MLA, returning to Jammu and Kashmir.

The incident has triggered wider concern over the economic struggles faced by disengaged

personnel, especially in sensitive regions like Jammu and Kashmir. The emotional episode has highlighted a growing need to assess post-Covid financial vulnerabilities among former security staff, many of whom served on the frontlines during peak militancy.

Anti-Terror Operation launched in Kathua

contact with the terrorists even as a search operation to track down and neutralise the terrorists continued in the area, the officials said.

Suspected Khalistani terrorist killed in blast in Amritsar

Superintendent of Police Maninder Singh said the man was retrieving some explosive material when the blast happened, possibly due to mishandling.

Locals reported hearing a loud blast followed by a panic in the area, which has since been cordoned off by police.

The DIG appealed to people not to panic, saying "we will soon trace this case".

JP World School bags 16 medals, secures 3rd place in 4th Ravi Tikku Speedball Championship



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: In a remarkable display of sporting excellence, the students of J.P. World School, Channi Himmat, showcased their talent at the 4th Ravi Tikku Memorial Speedball Championship 2025, held at the school's own auditorium. The championship was organized by the J&K Sports Speedball Association and featured competition across various age categories—10, 12, 14, and 16 years.

A total of 30 students

from J.P. World School participated in the event and delivered an outstanding performance, collectively winning 16 medals and securing the third position overall in the championship. The school's medal haul included 3 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze medals, highlighting the dedication and skill of the young athletes.

The gold medal winners were Nikhil Dhawan, Rabnoor Kour, Vristi, and Alishba. Silver medals were bagged by Adil Ahmed, Mohd Ezaan, and

Yashvadhan Singh. The bronze medalists included Ayush Rana, Shushant Sharma, Sitanshu Sharma, Yuvraj, Farhan, Prabal, Dalotra, Ikmpreet, Mohd Ahil, and Hassan Malik. Principal Aparna Kohli congratulated the winning team for their splendid achievement and lauded their efforts. She also appreciated the hard work and guidance provided by Kaliash Kashyap, the school's Sports Incharge and Speedball Coach, stating that the achievement would not have been possible without his dedicated coaching and encouragement.

The success at the championship not only brought laurels to the school but also reinforced its commitment to nurturing sportsmanship and promoting extra-curricular excellence among its students.

Inter Zonal District Level Competitions conclude

Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: The Inter Zonal District Level Competitions of Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and Volleyball for Under-14 and Under-17 girls concluded today at various venues across Jammu. The competitions were organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Jammu, under the patronage of Director General Youth Services and Sports JK UT, Rajinder Singh Tara, and under the overall supervision of Deputy Director Central Jetinder Mishra and Joint Director YSS Ved Parkash.

The event was further supported by Accounts Officer Directorate Sh. Sunil Kumar Sharma and DYSSO Jammu Sh. Sukhdev Raj Sharma.

Approximately 550 students participated in the competitions, representing various government and private schools



across District Jammu. The event provided a valuable platform for young athletes to showcase their talents and compete for top honors. One of the main objectives of the tournament was to identify and select the best talent for upcoming higher-level competitions.

DYSSO Jammu, Sukhdev Raj Sharma, appreciated the efforts of all participants and encouraged them to continue engaging in sports to

maintain physical fitness. He also extended his best wishes to the players for their ongoing participation in games and sports activities.

The competitions were conducted with the support of experienced department officials and technical experts, including ZPEOs Harvinder Kour, Usha Fotedar, Ram Murti, Aunash Kumari, Jatinder Kour, Dinesh Kumar, Joginder Singh, along with PEL Nirmal Singh, PEM Ajay Kumar, Yash Paul

Sharma, and other technical staff.

The results of the competitions were as follows:

In Volleyball for Under-14 girls, Zones Satwari, Gandhi Nagar, and Miran Sahib emerged victorious by defeating Zones Bishnah, Arnia, and RS Pura with a score of 2-1 sets in the cluster matches. Similarly, in Volleyball for Under-17 girls, the same zones defeated Zones Jammu, Damsal, Marh, and Bhalwal by 2-1 sets.

In Kabaddi for Under-14 girls, Zones Satwari, Gandhi Nagar, and Miran Sahib won against Zones Akhnoor, Khour, Jammu, and Chowki Choura by 48-42 points. For Kabaddi Under-17 girls, Zones Akhnoor, Khour, Jourian, and Chowki Choura defeated Zones Satwari, Gandhi Nagar, and Miran Sahib by 41-25 points.

In Yoga for Under-17 boys, Akhlesh Choudhary secured the first position, followed by Laksh Mahajan in second place and Mirdul Raj in third. In Badminton for Under-17 boys, Zones Satwari, Gandhi Nagar, and Miran Sahib triumphed over Zones Jammu, Damsal, Bhalwal, and Marh by 2-1 sets.

These competitions have successfully concluded, highlighting emerging talents and fostering a spirit of sportsmanship among the youth of Jammu.

District-Level Inter-Zone Sports Meet for girls held



Top News Report

UDHAMPUR, May 27: Udhampur came alive today with the energetic launch of the District-Level Inter-Zone Sports Meet for Girls (U14 & U17), a spirited event organized under the banner of the District Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), Jammu & Kashmir UT. The meet is more than a competition; it is a bold statement of the region's investment in youth empowerment, athletic potential, and holistic growth.

The ceremony witnessed enthusiastic participation and was held under the leadership of Rajinder Singh Tara (JKAS), Director General, Youth Services and Sports, with strategic support from Ved Prakash (JKAS), Joint Director. Adding prestige to the occasion, Ramesh Chander Mishra attended as Chief Guest, setting an inspiring tone for the games ahead.

Over 429 young female athletes representing eleven educational zones gathered to compete in a range of athletic and team sports.

The event provided a vibrant platform for promoting physical excellence, mutual respect, and the personal development of schoolgirls across the district.

Zones such as Tikri, Udhampur, Pancheri, and Jib not only displayed sporting talent but also exemplary organization and collaboration. With Zonal Officers, skilled coaches, technical staff, and enthusiastic supporters

coming together, the event radiated unity and purpose.

Mishra reflected on the deeper value of sports—not merely as contests of skill but as tools to build discipline, resilience, and national pride. He called on the youth to support the "Nasha Mukh Bharat" mission by committing to a life free from substance abuse and full of positive choices. A solemn pledge ceremony followed, where athletes and spectators alike vowed to uphold clean living and sporting integrity.

He also urged participants to stay hydrated, practice fair play, and prioritize sportsmanship, reminding everyone that true champions are those who lead with integrity.

The meet featured several highlights in girls' athletics and team competitions. In track events, winners included Shilpa Thakur (100m, Zone Ramnagar), Sangra Devi (200m, Zone Pancheri), Tania Sharma (400m, Zone Jib), and Divu Sharma (1500m, Zone Chenani). In field events, Kajal Babey excelled in Long Jump and Discus Throw, while Kiran Sharma won the Shot Put.

Team events saw fierce competition, with Ramnagar winning the U17 Badminton title and Udhampur securing the U14 Badminton championship. Handball titles in both U14 and U17 categories went to Udhampur, with Jib finishing as runners-up.

Besides competitive sports, the meet also

included Yoga demonstrations and Taekwondo selection trials, emphasizing the event's broader aim to nurture mental discipline, flexibility, self-defense skills, and emotional balance. These activities underscore a growing focus on comprehensive health and fitness among young girls, extending beyond traditional athletics.

Yudhvir starts development works at Ram Mandir ahead of Amarnath Yatra



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: In preparation for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, senior BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi, today kick-started key development works at Ram Mandir, Purani Mandi, Jammu, including the construction of modern toilets and a roof shed, with an estimated cost of Rs 44 lakh.

On the occasion, Mahant Rameshwar Dass of Ram Mandir, Savita Anand, Amit Mahajan, and Sudhir Anand were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi said that this initiative aims to provide better facilities

to the Sadhu Samaj and pilgrims who traditionally halt at Ram Mandir before proceeding towards the Holy Cave in Sinagar. The project is expected to be completed well before the Yatra begins.

He said, "It is my moral responsibility to ensure that the Sadhu Samaj are provided with all necessary amenities during their spiritual journey. These development works are being undertaken with a sense of service and devotion."

The MLA Sethi further emphasized that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is committed to supporting religious and cultural traditions while ensuring comfort and dignity for all Yatri. "We are focused on enhancing

the war-footing in the whole of Jammu and Kashmir to improve the roads and other infrastructure required to promote the influx of pilgrims. He also emphasized on the relevant infrastructure being developed to boost the pilgrims and hence religious tourism in those areas.

der Singh, Mahendra Singh, Anand Singh and other dignitaries were part of the delegation. The delegation also submitted a memorandum to Sharma, urging the declaration of the Pogal Paristan region as a Religious Tourism Destination.

Sat Sharma, patiently listening to the issues put forth by the delegation, assured that he would speak to the concerned authorities to ensure all necessary arrangements are made for the safety and convenience of the pilgrims. Laying stress on the economic and cultural benefits of developing religious sites, he said that the Modi government has put special thrust on the development of the religious circuits for the promotion of local tourism in the regions. He said that many projects are already being taken

While further assuring the delegation on the commitment of Bharatiya Janata Party in the conservation, promotion, and development of the religious tourism sites, mentioning 'Shri Mata Chamunda Devi Shrine' in particular, captivating its full religious tourism potential keeping its sanctity, Sat

Sharma further stated, "Shri Mata Chamunda Devi, located at Sharvadar Pogal Paristan in District Ramban, is a major pilgrimage site in the Jammu region. Development of religious sites helps in economic development, infrastructure improvement, and cultural preservation in the area."

Yoga as recreation for senior citizens: a joyful outing at Sanjeevni Resort Kakryal



Top News Report

KATRA, May 27: In a heartening celebration of health, happiness, and harmony, the Indian Yoga Association (IYA) in collaboration with the Senior Citizens Joy Society (SCJS) organized a refreshing recreational yoga outing at the serene Sanjeevni Resort, Kakryal Katra, nestled within the prestigious campus of Shree Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence.

Earlier in the day, members of SCJS and IYA also enjoyed a lively excursion to Jhajjar Kotli, where the senior participants danced to vibrant music and waded joyously into the flowing river waters, reconnecting with nature and rejuvenating their spirits.

The Kakryal programme was a thoughtfully curated blend of wellness, learning, and celebration.

The Medical and Paramedical staff from Narayana Super Specialty Hospital, established in 2016, played a key role under the expert guidance of Dr. Muthoo Madhavan, Director, and Shailza, Nursing Head.

A special health awareness session was presented by Akanksha, Nursing Educator, assisted ably by Rohit Manhas, Bikramjit, Sonam Manhas, Harpreet, and Shabir, all dedicated nursing educators and quality nurses.

Under the leadership of Joyal J, Deputy Nursing Superintendent, the team conducted a practical demonstration on managing cardiovascular emergencies, including how to handle heart attacks.

An interactive Q&A session followed,

addressing the concerns of the participants with clarity and compassion.

Ashok Gupta, President of SCJS, conducted the entire event with remarkable simplicity and grace, earning widespread appreciation from attendees.

The cultural and spiritual segment was graced by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, Chairman of IYA & SCJS and State Yoga Commissioner, who recited an inspiring poem dedicated to the joyful and mindful living of senior citizens.

He emphasized that yoga as recreation is not only about physical flexibility but also about emotional balance, mental peace, and spiritual connection.

Yesh Paul Sharma, a certified life coach and yoga instructor, shared vital physical techniques to maintain health in advancing years. His birthday was celebrated with warmth and enthusiasm, adding a personal and festive touch to the event.

A highlight of the gathering was the celebration of the wedding anniversary of Rakesh Verma, MD of Cyber India, and Palak Verma. A heartfelt citation was presented to them by Dr. Jain, marking their journey of love and togetherness. Other esteemed speakers included Prof. Virender Gupta, Parmod Jain, Abhinandan Jain, Anju Bansal, and Deepak Sethi, who shared their insights on maintaining a vibrant and healthy lifestyle.

The event concluded with a spiritually guided meditation session led by Dr. Jain, followed by a gracious vote of thanks, appreciating all participants, guests, and organizers for making the day truly memorable.

BCCI to honour Indian Armed forces during IPL 2025 closing ceremony

NEW DELHI, May 27 (Agencies): The BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) will be paying a special tribute to the Indian armed forces during the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025) closing ceremony, Secretary Saikia Devajit Saikia has confirmed to agency. The decision has been taken to honour the valour of the armed forces during their successful conduct of Operation Sindoor. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, which was a precise attack on terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The operation was conducted in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir that left 26 civilians dead. To honour the bravery, courage, and selfless service of the armed forces, BCCI has decided to dedicate the closing



ing ceremony to the nation's heroes, revealed Devajit Saikia. "BCCI salutes the bravery, courage, and selfless service of our armed forces, whose heroic efforts under Operation Sindoor continue to protect and inspire the nation. As a tribute, we have

decided to dedicate the closing ceremony to the armed forces and honor our heroes. While cricket remains a national passion, there is nothing greater than the nation and its sovereignty, integrity, and security of our country," Saikia told agency. The IPL 2025 closing ceremony

will be held ahead of the final of the tournament, which is scheduled to be held on June 3 at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad. BCCI has been constantly paying tribute to the Indian armed forces in the ongoing IPL after Operation Sindoor. The IPL 2025 got suspended for a week amid rising border tensions between India and Pakistan. However, the tournament resumed on May 17 after the two countries came to a ceasefire agreement. Ever since the tournament resumed, the BCCI has been honouring the armed forces through large banners in all matches. The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) also honoured the nation's armed forces by displaying a large tribute banner on the Eden Gardens clubhouse.

Servin Sebastian opens India's account with bronze at Asian Athletics C'ships



GUMI (SOUTH KOREA), May 27 (Agencies): Servin Sebastian opened India's account at the 26th Asian Athletics

Championships with a bronze medal in the men's 20km race walk event here on Tuesday. The 25-year-old clocked 1:21:13.60sec

to finish behind China's Wang Zhaozhao (1:20:36.90) and Japan's Kento Yoshikawa (1:20:44.90), for a podium finish in the tournament's first event. Sebastian's timing was just shy of his personal best of 1:21:23sec, set earlier this year for a gold at the Uttarakhand National Games in February. Amit, the other Indian in the field, finished fifth with a time of 1:22:14.30. India has sent a 59-strong contingent for the event where the country won 27 medals in the previous edition.

Sindhu advances to second round of Singapore Open with easy win

SINGAPORE, May 27 (Agencies): Two-time Olympic-medallist PV Sindhu eased into the second round of the Singapore Open Super 750 tournament with a straight-game victory Canada's Wen Yu Zhang here on Tuesday. Sindhu dispatched Zhang 21-14, 21-9 in just 31 minutes.



A tough second round awaits Sindhu as she will take on Tokyo Olympics gold-winner and current world No.5, China's Chen Yu Fei, next. However, it was a disappointing day for the rest of the Indian contingent, with Malvika Bansod, Anmol Kharb, Priyanshu Rajawat, and Kiran George all crashing out after respective opening-round losses. Malvika and Priyanshu both let slip a one-game lead. Malvika lost 21-14, 18-21, 11-21 to Thai-

land's eighth seed Supanida Katethong, while Priyanshu fell 21-14, 10-21, 14-21 to seventh-seeded Japanese shuttler Kodai Naraoka in a match that lasted over an hour. Anmol was outclassed by Chen. The Indian showed grit in the second game before going down 11-21, 22-24. George, who reached the India Open quarter-final earlier this year, was defeated by China's Weng Hong Yang

19-21, 17-21, while R. Santhosh Ramraj lost his men's singles opener 14-21, 8-21 to South Korea's Kim Ga Eun. In mixed doubles, the Indian pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto were beaten 18-21, 13-21 by China's Cheng Xing and Zhang Chi. Ashith Surya and Amrutha Parmuthesh also bowed out, losing 11-21, 17-21 to Japan's Yuichi Shimogami and Sayaka Hobara.

My aim is to make the most of this opportunity: Defender Suman Devi Thoudam after triumphant return to Indian women's hockey team

NEW DELHI, May 27 (Agencies): Suman Devi Thoudam, who last played for India back in the year 2022, recently made a remarkable return to the Indian women's hockey team after a gap of three years as she made it to the squad, which is set to play in the upcoming European leg of the FIH Pro League 2025.



Speaking on her return, Suman said, "I'm thrilled to be making a comeback to the Indian squad. I first joined the national camp in 2016 and played for both the junior and senior national teams for a few years. My last outing with the senior team was three years ago in Bhubaneswar, where I played a Pro League match against the Netherlands in the year 2022." When asked about her being dropped from

the core team and the three years hiatus, the 25-year-old defender asserted that she never gave up on hockey and was determined to improve and earn her spot back in the national team. "I collaborated with the coaches to further enhance my defensive skills, tackling, and man-to-man marking abilities in Sports Authority of India's (SAI) NCOE Delhi. Over the past three years, I've focused on developing

these skills to earn my place back in the national squad." Suman, who has even played under the captaincy of former Indian hockey player Rani, praised the unique qualities of her past and present captains and said, "Every captain brings a distinct personality to the role, and both Rani and Salima Tete offer unique strengths as leaders. Salima, being one of the senior members of the team, has

not only earned respect through her experience but has also likely shaped her leadership style by learning from Rani's example." With the European leg of the FIH Pro League 2025 looming just a few weeks away, Suman is now determined to make the most of this opportunity and cement her spot in the team, "Now that I've made my comeback to the senior team, I know I can do better. The coaches, including Harendra (Singh) sir and Vijay sir, have worked extensively on my game and given me opportunities to play in Australia and this leg of the Pro League, and I am not going to let this go. My long-term goal is to improve my game and make the most of this opportunity to represent India." Suman, who hails from Imphal, Manipur, also

advised young hockey players to never give up on their dreams and keep working towards it, she said, "Life is a journey of highs and lows. Just because you're facing setbacks today doesn't mean that's where you'll stay. Believe in yourself, stay disciplined, and keep working hard as every sincere effort eventually finds its reward." Suman will now eye to prove her mettle in the European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, where the Indian team will play in London, Antwerp, and Berlin from June 14 to June 29. India will lock horns twice against each of their four opponents -- Australia, Argentina, Belgium, and China. They will begin their campaign in London with a clash against the Hockeyroos.

Green's return sparks top-order shake-up ahead of WTC final

MELBOURNE, May 27 (Agencies): Cameron Green's stellar run in county cricket has put him in strong contention for Australia's playing XI in the World Test Championship (WTC) final, despite being unavailable to bowl. According to head coach Andrew McDonald, the final composition of the side, particularly whether a specialist allrounder is required against South Africa at Lord's will determine where Green bats, as per ESPNcricinfo. The 25-year-old, who last played Test cricket in March 2024, made headlines with an unbeaten 174 in Wellington against New Zealand while batting at No. 4. He has since impressed for Gloucestershire, scoring three centuries and an unbeaten 67 across eight innings at No. 5, marking an encouraging return to form after back surgery sidelined him from all cricket for several months. Though Green cannot contribute with the ball at Lord's, McDonald has all but confirmed his return as a specialist batter, which could cause a

reshuffle in the top and middle order. Marnus Labuschagne, Sam Konstas, Beau Webster, and Josh Inglis are all in the selection mix, with their roles potentially shifting based on Green's position in the line-up. McDonald, before the team's departure to the UK, clarified that Steven Smith would remain at No. 4, but added that Green is versatile enough to fit anywhere in the top six. "He could be three, he could be five, he could be six, he could open," McDonald said on SEN radio, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo. "I think he's got the temperament. He's got the skill set. He's got the defensive play as well. I think the higher up the order you go, your defensive skills are a priority. He's got all bases covered," he added. Green's return will have a ripple effect. Travis Head is expected to drop back to No. 5 after temporarily opening in Sri Lanka. This means Usman Khawaja, Australia's most stable opener in recent years, will once again need a new partner at



the top--having previously opened alongside Smith, Head, Konstas, and Nathan McSweeney over the past three series. Beau Webster, who debuted impressively at No. 6 against India and continued his form in Sri Lanka, is not guaranteed a spot for the final. McDonald indicated that selectors are still debating whether a fifth bowling option is necessary for a one-off game at Lord's. "There's an XI on a board, but it's got some dashes with multiple names in different positions," McDonald said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo. "Do we need to play the allrounder depending on the conditions that present? That'll then shuffle the batting order. We're quite flex-

ible in our approach to that," he added. "We've got roughly what we think it might look like. And then clearly, there'll be some decisions as we get to the pointy end. And we've said before that we only make decisions when we need to," he noted. When asked whether the opening slot could come down to a choice between Labuschagne and Konstas if Green is slotted at No. 3 and Webster plays, McDonald didn't rule it out. "If you require the allrounder in the conditions that would then lend itself to a decision around the top order, and then if you don't require it, then clearly you've got other options," McDonald said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo. "And that's not to dis-

miss the fact that Beau Webster can be a bat only as well. It'll just be how much we prioritize the bowling element of that," he added. "We've got some players coming out of the IPL (Indian Premier League). We'll see them in front of us when we get to England and make some assessments on what their capabilities will be for the Test match. At the moment, everyone's tracking well, so I think depending on how you look at it they'll be able to cope with whatever loads are put in front of them," he noted. Josh Inglis is another name in the conversation. He scored a century on Test debut in Sri Lanka and has been consistent across formats and conditions. If the team opts out of a bowling allrounder, Inglis could slot in at No. 6. Though selector George Bailey has previously suggested Inglis might be considered as an opener, that now appears unlikely he has never opened in first-class cricket and has rarely batted higher than No. 5, never passing fifty in those attempts.

We haven't achieved anything yet: PBKS head coach Ponting



JAIPUR, May 27 (Agencies): Punjab Kings have been on a roll this IPL season but head coach Ricky Ponting feels the side has not achieved anything yet, declaring that a play-off qualification in more than a decade is merely a job half done at this point. Punjab Kings convincingly thrashed Mumbai Indians by seven wickets to ensure a top two finish in the play-offs and two chances to enter the final of the cash-rich league. "I think it's pretty obvious to see that this is a really talented team that are all on the same page and heading in the same direction," Ponting told JioHotstar in an interview. "I mean yeah, it's a great achievement till

now but really, if you look back, we haven't achieved anything yet. That's the one thing I've been saying to the players since the moment we qualified," Ponting said. "The vision for me was always to finish in the top two, and we've got there now. It's a really happy group and we've enjoyed our time in each other's company for the last ten weeks, but we've got another week to go yet," added the former Australian skipper. Ponting was effusive in his praise for skipper Shreyas Iyer. The last time that the Ponting-Iyer duo were coach and captain, it was for the Delhi Capitals and had steered the franchise into its maiden final during the UAE leg

in COVID times. "I was pretty keen to work with him (Iyer) again. It was pretty obvious that how much money I was willing to spend on him at the auction," Ponting said. "We had a great working relationship in Delhi, we made a final in Delhi under his captaincy." Ponting feels players like Iyer make the team environment great. "I've known him as a person and as a player for a long time. He's a quality person and when you've got quality people around your team, when you're trying to make a difference and you're trying to change culture, that's what you need," he said. "If you spoke to the players individually, I think every single one of them would give Shreyas a great rap because he has spent a lot of time with them." "He's pumped them up, he's given them a pat on the back when they needed it, and he's given them a kick in the pants when they've needed it as well, which is a sign of a really good and strong leader."

Raksha Mantri approves industry-led execution model for AMCA Programme, boosts Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Aerospace Sector

Top News Report

NEW DELHI, May 27: In a major stride towards strengthening India's indigenous defence manufacturing and promoting self-reliance under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has approved the Execution Model for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Programme.

This landmark decision paves the way for the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) to implement the programme through strategic industry partnerships.

The approved model ensures equal opportunities for both private and public sector companies to participate in the project on a competitive basis. As per the guidelines, Indian entities will be allowed to bid independently, form joint ventures, or collaborate



as consortia. All participating bidders must be Indian companies fully compliant with national laws and regulations.

This initiative is a significant step towards leveraging India's domestic capability, expertise, and manufacturing infrastructure to develop a state-of-the-art AMCA prototype, which is seen as a cornerstone project for future indigenous combat aircraft.

The move is expected to boost local aerospace

industry participation and reduce dependency on foreign technologies.

The Expression of Interest (Eoi) for the AMCA Development Phase will be floated shortly by ADA, inviting eligible Indian companies to be part of this crucial defence milestone.

The AMCA project is poised to become a transformative force in India's journey towards self-reliance in the high-technology defence aviation sector.

EPFO Jammu conducts 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0' Awareness Program at Katra



Top News Report

JAMMU, May 27: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Regional Office Jammu, successfully conducted the 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0' awareness and outreach program in the Conference Hall of the Spiritual Growth Centre, Shri Vaishno Devi, Katra.

The program was presided over by Regional P.F. Commissioner-I Sumeet Singh, accompanied by Asst. P.F. Commissioner Satya Prakash and Enforcement Officer Shri Devinder Singh.

The initiative aimed to educate employees, employees, and other stakeholders about the various EPFO schemes and grievance redressal mechanisms.

The central theme of the program was Member Services, focusing on several important areas including name and date of birth corrections through joint declarations, simplification of processes, self-correction of details, updating mobile numbers and bank account information, member ID delinking, transfer of accounts without employer intervention, UAN activation, Aadhaar seeding, bank linking, and UAN linking. The session also highlighted new initiatives and systemic reforms introduced by EPFO.

Participants were sensitized about grievance filing via digital platforms such as EPFiGMS and CPGRAMS, fraud prevention measures, and employee rights. Detailed discussions were held on the Provident Fund (PF), Pension, and Insurance schemes, ensuring that eligible employees are aware of and can avail social security benefits right from their first day of employment.

The program also addressed the importance of Employers' Compliance

Reports (ECR) submission, informing employers about claim rejections due to non-compliance.

Enforcement officers reviewed the EPF compliance status of construction companies, firms, contractors, and subcontractors operating in the region. Private schools and firms were directed to ensure 100% enrollment of their employees and timely deposit of EPF contributions, securing their social security under pension and insurance benefit schemes. Employers were further advised to obtain EPF codes from Jammu to facilitate local staff registrations.

Regional P.F. Commissioner-I Sumeet Singh extended his gratitude to Arun Kumar Atri, Accounts Officer, M/s Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, for supporting and facilitating the successful conduct of the event. Key district representatives such as Amul Aggarwal from the Shrine Board, Rakesh Wazir, President of Hotel and Restaurant Association Katra, Vijay Kumar, GM of M/s American Hotel (Taj Vivanta), Jagdish Singh of M/s KC Residency, and Ajay Singh, President of Private School Association Katra, also attended the event.

Employers were instructed to ensure the proper registration of all employees working under different firms, agencies, and contractors within their jurisdiction. Additionally, queries from employees, employers, and company representatives were addressed by the District Nodal Officers.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from various sectors, reinforcing the awareness and effective implementation of EPFO schemes across Jammu Division.

Ladakh launches tourism revival campaign "Ladakh is Waiting"

Top News Report

LEH, May 27: In response to the sharp decline in tourism following the recent incident in Pahalgam, the All Ladakh Hotel and Guest House Association (ALHAGHA) has launched a heartfelt campaign titled "Ladakh is Waiting."

At the core of the campaign is a short film — a tender visual narrative that captures the deep struggles faced by Ladakh's hospitality industry. Tourism, the backbone of the region's economy, supports thousands of families. Today, with occupancy rates nearing zero, every village, hotel, and homestay is

waiting — not just for guests, but for a lifeline.

This campaign is a call for solidarity to everyone who has visited Ladakh, worked here, or holds it close to their heart. It's time to show your love. We urge you to share the film, talk about Ladakh, and help us bring back the visitors who breathe life into our mountains.