

JAMMU RISING

NEWS

P-3

NEWS

P-5

NEWS

P-12

NATIONAL

P-8

SPORT

P-7



2 yr electrical course for youth of Project-Affected Families inaugurated at ITI Kishtwar



YSS Ang. hosts sports events to advocate drug-free life as a priority for students



CM Omar Abdullah convenes public outreach programme at Raabita office



US tariff hikes, Myanmar war, sea disputes will top ASEAN summit agenda



Should injury subs be allowed to bat and bowl in Tests?

Price: Rs.2

Page 12

Vol. No.: 15

Issue No:120

Postal Registration No. JK-458/16-18

epaper.dailyjammurising.in

RNI No: JKENG/2011/40494

BRIEF NEWS

Need Special Courts For NIA Cases: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court on Friday underlined the need for dedicated courts for NIA cases while calling for a “judicial audit” of laws enacted by the Centre and the prospective ones by the states.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh said the

■Turn to page 2

India To Make Strong Case With FATF To Put Pakistan Back In “Grey List”, Block World Bank Funds

India will highlight Pakistan’s persistent support for terrorism and its funnelling of multilateral funds for arms procurement to build a strong case for reinstating Islamabad on the global money launder

■Turn to page 2

India Extends Ban On Airspace For All Pakistani Flights Till June 23

India extended on Friday the ban on its airspace for Pakistan-owned and operated planes for another month after Islamabad’s decision to shut its airspace for Indian carriers.

The government has issued a notice to airmen under which Pakistani aircraft are barred from Indian airspace till June 23.

“Indian airspace is not

■Turn to page 2

GDC Kathua Cadet Mohit Knathia Scales Mount Everest

In a momentous achievement that has brought pride to the Government Degree College (GDC) Kathua and the 4 J&K NCC Battalion, Cadet Mohit Knathia has successfully scaled Mount Everest, the world’s highest peak at 8,848.86 meters. He reached the summit on May 18, 2025, as a member of the prestigious National Cadet Corps (NCC) Everest Expedition 2025.

Cadet Knathia, representing GDC Kathua, was one of only ten cadets selected from across the nation through an intensive selection process. His remarkable endurance, commitment, and rigorous training earned him the distinction of being the sole representative from Jammu & Kashmir on this historic mission. The College Principal Prof.

■Turn to page 2

It was not a conflict with Pakistan over Kashmir; It was a terrorist attack: EAM Snubs Western Media

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, MAY 23

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in a rebuttal to Western thought that the clash between India and Pakistan was over Kashmir, stated firmly that it was in retaliation for a terrorist attack, in reference to the Pahalgam attack. Jammu and Kashmir tourism

In an interview to Politiken, a Danish newspaper, the EAM stated firmly: “It wasn’t a conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. It was a terrorist attack,” in reference to the April 22 brutal attack by Pakistani linked terrorists in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.



On the West’s backing of Pakistan over the past decades, he said: “Our borders have been violated by Pakistan in Kashmir ever since our independence in 1947. And what have we seen in the eight decades since then? That large, democratic Europe, to use your own term, has stood side by side with military dicta-

torships in the region.

“No one has supported the military regime – and undermined democracy in Pakistan in so many ways – as much as the West,” in a dig at the West.

Asked how India continues to support Russia, in the wake of the Ukraine conflict, and also emphasise that In-

dia supports countries’ sovereignty and internationally recognised borders, the EAM said:

“But my worldview and my view of Europe are shaped by my own experiences. You talk about the inviolability of borders – well, why don’t we start with the inviolability of my borders?”

“That’s where my world begins. But we’ve always been told that we had to solve that ourselves.”

Regarding the import of Russian energy, EAM Jaishankar pointed out that Europe – despite its outrage and sanctions – still imports energy from Russia. At the same time, Europe is driving up energy prices for all devel-

■Turn to page 2

Indian multi-Party delegation holds discussions on anti-terrorism in Russia

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, MAY 23

An Indian multi-party Parliamentary delegation on Friday held wide-ranging discussion on counter-terrorism combat between Russia and India and briefed the Russian side on Operation Sindoor.

The all-party delegation led by DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi is in Russia to sensitise global leadership about terror emanating from Pakistan, a month after the Pahalgam attack that left



26 people dead.

The Indian MPs had a detailed exchange of

views at a round-table meeting with all-party members of the Russian

Federation Assembly (Parliament) led by the Duma (lower house) In-

Dr Jitendra asks states, UTs to Join India’s journey of transformation through technology

NEW DELHI, MAY 23

In a clarion call for deepening Centre-State collaboration in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh today emphasised the need for States and Union Territo-



ries to become engines of innovation in India’s journey towards a developed nation by 2047.

Speaking at the valedictory session of Annual Review Meeting of State

Science & Technology (S&T) Councils here, the Minister defined technology as engine of transformation and asserted that “a developed India cannot exist without devel-

national Affairs Committee chair Leonid Slutsky of Liberal-Democratic Party.

The delegation also met with First Deputy Chair of the Committee on International Affairs Andrey Denisov and other senators in the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, said a post from the Indian Embassy in Russia.

“The Russian side condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam and stated that Russia stands

■Turn to page 2

oped States and Union Territories,” urging them to evolve into strategic, inclusive, and dynamic hubs of innovation.

Addressing over 30 State and UT S&T Councils, Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored the pivotal role of STI in realising the Viksit Bharat vision—a mission that aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s call for a self-reliant and globally competitive India by its centenary of independence.

■Turn to page 2

Power Minister directs states to instal smart meters in all govt establishments by August

NEW DELHI, MAY 23

Union Power Minister Manohar Lal on Friday directed states to “saturate” installation of prepaid smart meters in all government establishments, including colonies, by August 2025.

The minister also asked the states to complete installation of smart meters for commercial and industrial consumers and high load consumers by November 2025.

Lal made the remarks chairing the Regional Conference for the Southern Region States/UTs in Bengaluru, the Ministry of Power (MoP) said in a statement.

He further said such regional conferences will help identify specific challenges and possible solutions. He mentioned the importance of encouraging

energy-conscious behaviour and using energy-efficient appliances for energy sustainability.

“The minister emphasised that the pre-paid smart meters is a ways to timely release of government department dues. He asked states to saturate installation of prepaid smart meters in all government establishments including government colonies by August 2025 and to complete installation of smart meters for commercial and industrial consumers and high load consumers by November 2025,” the statement said.

Lal said states should, while meeting their resource adequacy plan, work on having adequate power generation mix, including addition of nuclear generation

capacity.

The states should work towards resolving the intra-state transmission sector challenges. He also highlighted that to develop the infrastructure the states should leverage the scheme announced in Union Budget 2025-26, including the scheme of Rs 1.5 lakh crore interest-free loan to states for 50-year for infrastructure development.

He urged all states to submit proposals for third phase of the Green Energy Corridor (GEC-III).

States should promote renewable energy, coupled with storage solutions, so as to have energy reliability and to collectively meet India’s international climate commitments.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement,

the ministry said Lal has called for timely clearance of dues and resolution of transmission bottlenecks in Karnataka.

During the meeting, the Karnataka government made a detailed presentation on the current status of power generation, transmission, and distribution in state.

Issues such as the generation mix, challenges in Right of Way (RoW) for transmission infrastructure, and the need for support in improving distribution infrastructure were discussed.

The minister urged the state to take steps to reduce annual financial losses of its power utilities and work towards implementing cost-reflective tariffs. (Agencies)

■Turn to page 2

SIA raids 18 locations linked to terror sleeper cells in four districts of Jammu Region

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, MAY 23

The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Friday launched a crackdown on terror sleeper cells and their associates, conducting coordinated raids at 18 locations across the Jammu region and recovering substantial incriminating material, an official said. Fine dining reservations

The operation targeted the terror ecosystem in the districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Udhampur and Ramban, said a spokesperson of the SIA.

Of the 18 locations raided, 12 were in the Surankote subdivision and three in the Haveli tehsil of Poonch district, he added.

The spokesperson said that additional operations were carried out at



one location each in Rajouri town (Rajouri district), Ramban, Udhampur district) and Ramban.

“A considerable quantity of incriminating material has been seized and secured in accordance with established legal protocols. The material is currently under detailed scrutiny and further investigation is underway,” he added.

Several suspects have been summoned to join

the investigation at the SIA headquarters in Jammu.

The spokesperson said these actions follow the development of actionable intelligence and leads gathered during the SIA’s sustained efforts to uncover and neutralize terror-support structures operating covertly in the Jammu region.

“The meticulously planned raids were executed simultaneously by

■Turn to page 2

Op Sindoor exposed Pakistan sponsoring terrorism in India: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI, MAY 23

The Operation Sindoor undertaken by the Indian armed forces in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack has “completely exposed” the fact that terrorism in India is sponsored by Pakistan, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday. Shah also said that the operation showed the “firm” political will of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the “precise” intelligence inputs from agencies, and the “lethal” capabilities of the armed forces.

India hit as deep as ‘100-km’ inside Pakistan after they dared to target a few Indian civilian and military setups following Operation Sindoor (on May 7), when nine terrorist camps were decimated, he said.

Shah made the remarks while delivering the annual Rustamji Memorial Lecture organised by the Border Security Force (BSF) alongside its 22nd investiture ceremony.

Raised in 1965, the BSF guards the over 6,000-km-long Indian borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. K F Rustamji

was the founding chief of the BSF.

“The terrorists undertook an extreme attack in Pahalgam as they selectively chose innocents, asked their religion and killed them brutally in front of their families, including women and children,” Shah said, adding that this “sin” was committed by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists.

“India’s response under Operation Sindoor was different,” he said.

Nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) were “destroyed” within a few minutes, out of which two were the headquarters of terror outfits, Shah said. Jammu and Kashmir tourism

“We did not attack their military installations or air bases. We only hit the terrorist bases in Pakistan. Those who committed a criminal act on our land — the Jaish-e-Mohammed, Hizbul Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Toiba — their bases, houses, training camps and launchpads used against India were de-

■Turn to page 2

CONTINUATION
FROM PAGE ONE

Need Special Courts For NIA Cases: Supreme Court

cases entrusted to the NIA were of heinous cases, having pan India ramifications.

The top court said each such case contained hundreds of witnesses and the trial did not progress with the required pace as the presiding officers of the court were busy with other cases.

“In the absence of judicial audit of cases likely to be generated with the enactment of law, the trial of such cases had brought burden on the court,” the bench said.

The top court further said the only appropriate course meant setting up special courts where trial of cases only related to special statutes could be carried out with a day-to-day hearing.

“The decision of creating additional courts and requisite infrastructure is in the policy domain of the executive which ought to be taken in consultation with the chief justice of the high court after having data of pending cases,” the bench said.

It granted Additional Solicitor General Rajkumar Bhaskar Thakre four weeks to seek instructions and posted the hearing in July.

The top court was hearing a bail plea of Kailash Ramchandani, a Naxal sympathiser from Gadchiroli in Maharashtra.

He was booked after 15 policemen of a quick response team were killed in a IED blast in 2019.

The ASG said a notification was issued by Maharashtra home ministry designating a court as a special court for trial of cases investigated by the NIA.

The bench however questioned the development without consulting with the chief justice of the high court.

“Would the presiding officer of the designated court continue hearing other cases as well besides the NIA cases? What will happen to other cases, will the trial in those cases not get delayed. Have you consulted the Chief Justice of the High Court?” Justice Kant asked.

The bench underscored the need to create additional courts and required infrastructure for such cases to be heard on a day-to-day basis.

It asked Thakre to furnish details of the pending NIA cases in Maharashtra and pan-India and take instructions on setting up of special courts.

The bench refused the relief of bail to Ramchandani for time being pointing the facts of his case in which 15 policemen were killed in a bomb blast.

“The court is only interested in expediting your trial,” it said. (Agencies)

India To Make Strong Case With FATF To Put Pakistan Back In “Grey List”, Block World Bank Funds

ing and terror financing watchdog’s ‘grey list’, and block funding from the World Bank.

On April 22, Pakistan-trained terrorists killed 26 people in Pahalgam, Kashmir. India has consistently held that Pakistan has given safe haven to designated terrorists and the same was evident when senior military officials were present at the funeral of the terrorists killed in Indian military attacks of May 7. Jammu and Kashmir tourism

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog and sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities.

“India will submit a dossier to the FATF on the omissions and commissions by Pakistan with respect to FATF anti-money laundering and terror financing norms. We will be taking it up (with the FATF) for grey listing of Pakistan,” a government source said.

The next meeting of the Asia Pacific Group (APG) of FATF is scheduled for August 25, during which India is likely to present its views to the global watchdog. The next FATF plenary and working group meeting is scheduled for October 20.

Currently, there are 25 countries in FATF ‘grey list’. These countries are under increased monitoring and they have to address strategic deficiencies to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

Pakistan’s history with FATF’s ‘grey list’ dates back to February 2008, when it was placed in the monitoring list. In June 2010 it was removed from the list, only to be brought back in February 2012, and then removed again in February 2015.

It was brought back in the list again for the third time in June 2018, and was later removed in October 2022 with FATF asking Pakistan to continue to work with APG to further improve its anti-money laundering/combating the financing of terror (AML/CFT) system.

Separately, India will next month oppose the World Bank funding to Pakistan, just as it had done in case of IMF, arguing that Islamabad had used such funds in the past to procure arms and ammunition.

World Bank is likely to review next month its USD 20 billion lending to Pakistan under the Country Partnership Framework agreed in January this year.

The funds to cash-starved Pakistan were for areas including clean energy and climate resilience for a period of 10 years beginning 2026.

“We will oppose the upcoming World Bank funding to Pakistan,” the source said.

India had lobbied with IMF Chief Kristalina Georgieva and ministers of IMF board member nations against the agency extending a USD 2.3 billion assistance to Pakistan earlier this month.

New Delhi presented proofs ranging from presence of senior Pakistani military officials at the funeral of designated terrorists to data that showed that Islamabad had misused funds in last two decades with arm procurement rising exponentially.

“India is not averse to any country receiving money for development purposes. But the IMF funding was not the right thing to do at a time when there were border tensions between India and Pakistan and a situation of war. Also, Pakistan has a history of spending not for people, but for buying arms,” the source said.

According to the public data, Pakistan spends on average around 18 per cent of its general budget on “defense affairs and services”, while even the conflict-affected countries spend on average far less (10-14 per cent of their general budget expenditure).

Further, Pakistan’s arms imports increased dramatically from 1980 to 2023 by over 20 per cent on average in the years when it received IMF disbursements in comparison to years when it did not receive the same. (Agencies)

Power Minister directs states to instal smart meters in all govt establishments by August

Energy Corridor (GEC-III).

States should promote renewable energy, coupled with storage solutions, so as to have energy reliability and to collectively meet India’s international climate commitments.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement, the ministry said Lal has called for timely clearance of dues and resolution of transmission bottlenecks in Karnataka.

During the meeting, the Karanataka government made a detailed presentation on the current status of power generation, transmission, and distribution in state.

Issues such as the generation mix, challenges in Right of Way (RoW) for transmission infrastructure, and the need for support in improving distribution infrastructure were discussed.

The minister urged the state to take steps to reduce annual financial losses of its power utilities and work towards implementing cost-reflective tariffs. (Agencies)

Dr Jitendra asks states, UTs to Join India’s journey of transformation through technology

“Science, Technology and Innovation is not just a sector—it is the engine powering our transformation,” he said.

He pointed out that the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has been instrumental in supporting this transformation through the State Science and Technology Programme (SSTP), which provides both budgetary and technical backing to State S&T Councils. These councils function as nodal institutions, catalysing regional STI ecosystems that align local needs with national priorities. The Minister highlighted the network of 23 Patent Information Centres as vital for strengthening Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) awareness and facilitation across the States.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also emphasised the importance of increasing awareness and effective utilisation of various Science and Technology schemes offered by the Centre. He urged State S&T Councils to proactively disseminate information about these programmes at the grass-roots level, ensuring that stakeholders—particularly in rural and remote areas—are informed and empowered to benefit from them. “Awareness is the first step towards impact,” he said, adding that visibility and outreach must become integral to the Councils’ strategy for inclusive innovation.

The Minister also encouraged State S&T Councils to actively study and emulate successful models from their counterparts across the country. Highlighting the value of peer learning, he noted that best practices from high-performing states could serve as replicable templates, enabling others to scale up their impact efficiently. “Cross-learning is key to accelerating progress,” he said, stressing the need for regular exchange of ideas and experiences to strengthen the national STI ecosystem collectively.

The two-day meeting, which drew enthusiastic participation from Councils across the country, focused on strengthening the STI ecosystem through peer learning, strategic planning, and showcasing success stories. A special session brought together Secretaries and Principal Secretaries from 13 States/UTs to share innovative state-level interventions, propose science-based solutions, and outline future strategies. The exchange, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, reinforced the importance of collaborative federalism in achieving equitable development.

The meeting also considered proposals from Jammu & Kashmir for further assistance to its S&T Council, alongside plans to establish new Patent Information Centres in Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Meghalaya, and Madhya Pradesh. These initiatives, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted, will help create a more robust and inclusive IPR framework across the country. Fine dining reservations. Jammu and Kashmir tourism

Looking ahead, the Minister called for State S&T Councils to reposition themselves as “visionary enablers of change,” not just administrative bodies. He urged them to actively promote and brand their impactful programmes, replicate successful models across regions, and foster

cross-sectoral collaboration with academia, industry, policymakers and civil society. “The Councils must take decisive steps to ensure Science and Technology becomes a cornerstone of governance and development,” he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded on an optimistic note, expressing confidence that through strategic alignment and policy coherence, India can build an inclusive and innovation-driven future. “The journey towards Viksit Bharat@2047 is ambitious but achievable—through Centre-State cooperation, we can unlock the full potential of this Amrit Kaal.”

The meeting was attended by DST Secretary Prof. Abhay Karandikar, members of the Expert Committee on SSTP, including Prof. Satish B. Agnihotri and Dr. P.K. Agrawal, and key DST officials, marking a united push towards science-led regional development.

EC allows booths to distribute unofficial voter ID slips at 100 metres from polling station entrance

on poll day for issuing unofficial identity slips to electors, in case the electors are not carrying their official Voter Information Slips (VIS) issued by the commission, can now be set up just beyond 100 metres of any polling station,” it said.

One “polling location”, such as a school, can have multiple polling stations. (Agencies)

SIA raids 18 locations linked to terror sleeper cells in four districts of Jammu Region

specialized SIA teams supported by local police and magistrates, as part of the agency’s ongoing campaign to dismantle sleeper cells and disrupt terror networks in the region,” he added.

The spokesperson further said the State Investigation Agency remains committed to eradicating the terror infrastructure and ensuring the region’s safety and security. (Agencies)

India Extends Ban On Airspace For All Pakistani Flights Till June 23

available for aircraft registered in Pakistan, aircraft operated, owned, or leased by Pakistani airlines or operators, including military aircraft,” the notice said.

Flights from Pakistan for destinations in Southeast Asia and Australia will now have to circumnavigate India, adding to the costs for airlines.

The two countries first issued their Notams in late April after escalating tensions in the wake of the horrific terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam in which 26 people were gunned down by terrorists with links to Pakistan. India responded with Operation Sindoor precision strikes inside Pakistani territory. (Agencies)

GDC Kathua Cadet Mohit Knathia Scales Mount Everest

Seema Mir expressed immense pride in Mohit’s accomplishment, stating, “Cadet Mohit Knathia has become a beacon of inspiration for youth of Jammu & Kashmir. His perseverance and spirit reflect the core values of the NCC and our institution.” She also commended Lt. (Dr.) Daya Ram, Associate NCC Officer at GDC Kathua, for his unwavering guidance and mentorship that significantly contributed to this success.

The college also extended sincere gratitude to Col. Kuldeep Kachroo and Subedar Shyam Chand, Training JCO of the 4 J&K NCC Battalion, for their instrumental role in shaping Cadet Mohit’s journey through their intensive training and support.

Indian multi-Party delegation holds discussions on anti-terrorism in Russia

in solidarity with India for elimination of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations! Russia and India have shared position in the fight against terrorism. Russia India | Together in the fight against terrorism!

“It added. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko at the Smolenskaya Square high-rise building built by Stalin for the Foreign Ministry.

Earlier, the delegation arrived here late on Thursday night amid Ukrainian drone attacks.

Later in the day, the Indian team is scheduled to interact with top India and South Asia experts of local think-tanks.

On Saturday, they are scheduled to address a press conference and interact with the local media before leaving for Slovenia.

The Indian delegation is also scheduled to visit Greece, Latvia and Spain as part of the government of India’s diplomatic outreach post- Pahalgam when Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared a “new normal” when New Delhi will consider any act of cross border terrorism as an act of war against India.

The delegation that Kanimozhi is leading is one of the seven multi-party delegations to 33 global capitals to reach out to the international community on Pakistan’s designs and India’s response to terror, especially in view of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 lives.

India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied

Kashmir in the early hours of May 7, following which Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian side responded strongly to the Pakistani actions. Jammu and Kashmir tourism

The on-ground hostilities ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions following talks between the directors general of military operations of both sides on May 10. (Agencies)

It was not a conflict with Pakistan over Kashmir; It was a terrorist attack: EAM Snubs Western Media

start with the inviolability of my borders?

“That’s where my world begins. But we’ve always been told that we had to solve that ourselves.”

Regarding the import of Russian energy, EAM Jaishankar pointed out that Europe – despite its outrage and sanctions – still imports energy from Russia. At the same time, Europe is driving up energy prices for all developing countries, including India.

“Wealthy Europe turned to the Middle East because it had a problem with Russia and offered inflated prices to get oil redirected to Europe. So what happened was that many countries – not just us – could no longer afford it. The major oil companies didn’t even respond to purchase offers because they were too busy selling to Europe.” Jammu and Kashmir tourism. Jammu dining guide

“What was the rest of the world supposed to do? Say ‘okay’, we’ll just do without energy because Europeans need it more than us?” he continued.

He added that “matters were not made easier by the fact that major oil-producing countries like Iran and Venezuela are also subject to Western sanctions”. (Agencies) Op Sindoor exposed Pakistan sponsoring terrorism in India: Amit Shah

stroyed,” Shah said.

The home minister added, “We thought it was enough that we hit the terrorists but Pakistan proved that it was sponsoring terrorism, as they took the Indian strikes as an attack on themselves and targeted civilian locations and military bases in India.” But the Indian air defence displayed “marvellous strength” as Pakistan could not touch any of India’s installations, Shah said.

“After this, we hit their air bases and gave a strong response by introducing them to our fire power and exposing their hollow air defence,” he said.

“We did not hit (Pakistan’s) civilian installations. Operation Sindoor and the incidents that followed completely exposed the fact that Pakistan is sponsoring terrorism in India because it was the Pakistan Army that replied after we hit their terror bases,” Shah said.

The home minister said Operation Sindoor “exposed” this fact as top Pakistan Army officers were seen offering namaz and shouldering the coffins of the terrorists who were killed.

The operation was successful as it used the correct firepower and achieved its aims besides “showing the reality” to Pakistan, Shah said.

The home minister also said that global experts and the world were “praising” the bravery and firepower of the Indian armed forces.

The operation also brought to the fore the fact that the ‘Aatmanirbharta’ (self-reliance) achieved by India in defence production was successful, he said.

Lauding the BSF for carrying out its duties during the operation, Shah said the force “proved its mettle” by not allowing the Pakistani forces to move even an inch.

The home minister also paid condolences to the two BSF troopers who were killed during the operation along the International Border in Jammu. Jammu dining guide

Shah recalled that India has been facing Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for many decades but a “befitting reply was not given” until the Modi government came to power (in 2014).

“We were defensive... Our police force and BSF did their best to protect the people but a befitting reply was not given. After 2014, when Prime minister Modi took charge, the biggest attack took place in Uri (2016) where our jawans were burnt alive.

“We conducted a surgical strike (across the border) and hit the terrorists by entering their hideouts for the first time. We thought that terrorism will stop but it did not, and the Pulwama attack happened (in 2019),” Shah said.

The Modi government gave a “stronger” response than Uri as it demolished terror bases across the front, Shah said.

Lauding the BSF, Shah said, “The bravery shown by the BSF in the 1971 war that was imposed upon us, and the contributions made by the force (in the creation of Bangladesh) cannot be forgotten by India and neither should Bangladesh ever forget it.” The BSF played a “significant” role in the creation of Bangladesh and set an “exemplary” standard of bravery by standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the armed forces in fighting against injustice, Shah recalled.

The home minister said the 2.75 lakh personnel-strong BSF was working in some of the most difficult conditions marred by geographical challenges along the two borders (with Pakistan and Bangladesh).

“I want tell you that the Modi government is standing behind you like a rock and the Ministry of Home Affairs will soon implement some technology solutions and models to strengthen border security in areas where it is not possible to erect fences,” Shah said.

The home minister also awarded gallantry and other service medals to BSF personnel during the event, which was attained by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Kumar Deka, and BSF Director General Daljit Singh Chawdhary. (PTI)

2 yr electrician course for youth of Project-Affected Families inaugurated at ITI Kishtwar

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23
Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today inaugurated the first batch of the Electrician Training Course for the youth of project affected area.

Organised under the on-going Skill Development Training Program, the initiative caters to members of households impacted by the hydroelectric projects including Rattle HEP, Pakal Dul HEP, Kiru HEP, Kwar, and others.

The inaugural session was held here at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), where a batch of 20 youth from project-affected families were enrolled for free two-year-long Electrician Training Course.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC urged all project-affected families to enroll in the Skill Development Training Program. He also informed that interested individuals can pursue skill development courses across India through support from the district administration.

The DC advised the trainees to engage sincerely and diligently with the course. He also highlighted the opportunities under the



PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana Scheme, pointing out that trained electricians are in demand under this scheme, and that the current batch may benefit by associating with the vendors of the said scheme in the district, as vendors have apprised about the shortage of trained electricians.

Furthermore, he mentioned that the trainees will be given exposure visits both within and outside the district for on-the-job training across India.

It is pertinent to mention that the Skill Development Program launched by the Power Projects Authorities of the District and District Administration provides comprehensive support including free meals, accommodation, stipends, field exposure visits, and toolkits upon successful completion of training.

DC Kishtwar reaffirmed the administration's commitment to ensuring sus-

tainable livelihoods for affected families, highlighting it as a key priority for both the Government and project authorities.

It is pertinent to mention that 20 Candidates have already Started Plumbing Training Course in ITI under the Ongoing Skill Development Program.

The event was attended by Principal ITI Kishtwar, Anoop Sharma, representatives from power projects, and other concerned staff.

Yudhvir Sethi, Surinder Bhagat holds public darbar at BJP headquarters

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23
Yudhvir Sethi, Vice-President of J&K BJP and MLA from Jammu East, and Surinder Bhagat, MLA from Marh, held a public darbar at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The event witnessed participation of many deputations from Jammu and its surrounding areas to voice their concerns and seek redressal of long-pending civic and administrative issues.

The darbar served as a platform for direct communication between the people and the BJP leadership.

Deputations from Jhiri, Dub Ditta, New Plot, Amphalla, Tok Ploura, Kachi Chawni, Janipur, Maheshpura, Bohri, Panjtirthi, Trikuta Nagar and others presented the issues related to the repair and reconstruction of damaged lanes and drains, installation and proper functioning of street lighting systems, and improvements in the supply of clean drinking water. Matters related to the Revenue Department, such as land mutation delays and property disputes, were also brought to the fore. Additionally, concerns were raised regarding the poor implementation of welfare schemes in certain underserved areas and the pressing need for better road connectivity and healthcare facilities.

Yudhvir Sethi and Surinder Bhagat listened patiently to the deputations. In many cases, the leaders responded on



the spot by contacting concerned departmental officers, issuing written directives, and instructing immediate action. Several grievances were resolved during the course of the event itself, reinforcing public confidence in responsive governance.

Yudhvir Sethi, while listening to the grievances, emphasized the BJP's people-centric approach and its commitment to transparent governance. "The public darbar is not merely a formality. It is a testament to our resolve to remain connected with the people we serve. Our goal is to offer real solutions, not just assurances," he said. He added that the BJP believes in meaningful action over rhetoric and that every issue raised by the people would be taken seriously.

Sethi further noted that regular public interactions are essential in identifying ground-level issues that often go unnoticed in formal bureaucratic processes. "These darbars provide us with first-hand insights into the daily struggles of our citizens. They enable us to take corrective measures quickly and efficiently," he stated.

Surinder Bhagat, while interacting with the public, underscored the role of elected representatives as facilitators of change. "We are not here just to legislate but also to ensure that governance reaches every doorstep. Public darbars like this empower citizens to directly communicate with their leaders without intermediaries, creating a culture of accountability and inclusion," he said.

JKRCEEA Urges Immediate Restoration of Reservation in Promotion in J&K UT in Light of Supreme Court Orders ,High Court Orders,CAT Jammu,CAT Kashmir Order and Constitutional Provisions

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

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

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

Despite clear legal backing, certain officers in the Law and General Administration Departments misled the Executive Heads, resulting in the non-restoration of promotion reservations. In 2019, the President of India extended the 77th Constitutional Amendment to J&K through a Presidential Order, rendering the High Court's 2015 judgment inoperative. Post the abrogation of Article 370 and enactment of the J&K Reorganization Act 2019, the Reservation Act 2004 remained fully applicable to the UT, yet reservation in promotion remained withheld.

Further, GAD Circular No. 10- JK(GAD) of 2021 introduced an illogical policy on reserved slots that was challenged and quashed by the

Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal benches in Jammu and Srinagar. The Hon'ble High Court of J&K and Ladakh, in Mohammad Jamal Sheikh & King Kumar vs J&K UT (judgment dated 06-03-2025), also directed the government to promote reserved category employees on their respective slots based on quantifiable data and barred further promotions unless this is ensured.inspite of filling vacant reserved category slots, Govt. is making placement/ incharge promotions to deprive the reserved categories employees from promotions.

Adding to this, the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment in Jarnail Singh & Others vs Lachmi Narain Gupta & Others (28-01-2022) restored reservation in promotion nationwide, directing all governments to collect quantifiable data and implement reservation accordingly. Following this, most states and UTs complied—except J&K, which continues to deny promotions under the false pretext of pending litigation.

Udhampur: DUDA hosts special event on Women for Trees Campaign' Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23
District Urban Development Agency Udhampur-Reasi, in collaboration with Municipal Council Udhampur, organized a special event on the theme 'Women for Trees Campaign' Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam under the AMRUT Mitra-NULM initiative.

Project Officer District Urban Development Agency Udhampur/Reasi, Jaffar Abbass Batt, felicitated the Self-Help Groups members.

He highlighted the significance of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign in promot-



ing environmental sustainability, emphasizing the importance of planting trees in their mothers' names for a greener tomorrow.

The event successfully raised awareness about the importance of green spaces, foster-

ing a sense of community and environmental stewardship. By empowering women as climate champions, the initiative demonstrated the impact of collaborative efforts between DUDA and MC Udhampur in creating a sustainable future.

BJP leaders visit shelling-affected areas in Uri, Baramulla district, express solidarity with border residents

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

A high-level BJP delegation led by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma (CA) visited the shelling-affected areas of Uri in Baramulla District to assess the damage caused by unprovoked shelling from Pakistan and to stand in solidarity with the affected residents.

The delegation comprised Leader of Opposition in the J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, BJP National Secretary and MLA Dr. Narinder Singh, J&K BJP General Secretary and MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Adv. Ranbir Singh Pathania, District President Baramulla Ghulam Hussain Dar, Prabhari MM War and National Executive Member Mohammad Anwar Khan.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma condemned the inappropriate aggression by Pakistan. "The attacks are a blatant act of military aggression against innocent civilians. The BJP stands united with the people of Uri, and the party assures strong diplomatic and military responses to ensure their safety," he said, while interacting with local residents and media.

Sunil Sharma disapproved administrative delays in relief and rehabilitation efforts. "There is an urgent need for coordinated action from the admin-



istration. Our border residents must not be left to suffer in silence. Relief measures must be fast-tracked," he emphasized.

Dr. Narinder Singh reiterated BJP's 'Nation First' ideology and stated that the New India has both the capacity and the will to act decisively against any threat. He also assured the public that the BJP leadership is closely monitoring the situation.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal highlighted the recent success of Operation Sindoor, noting it as a significant step in enhancing regional security. "Operation Sindoor has reaffirmed our forces' capabilities in neutralizing threats and

maintaining peace. Our leadership remains committed to strengthening border security and ensuring that such incidents are met with firm response," he said.

Adv. RS Pathania assured locals of their continued support on the behalf of the BJP family and stressed that the BJP continues to be on the frontlines, not only in governance but also in service to the nation's citizens at times of need.

Senior BJP leadership also assured to take up their concerns and issues to the Union Government for comprehensive relief, rehabilitation, and enhanced border infrastructure.

CBC Jammu Organises Workshop to Promote Rajbhasha

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Regional Office, Jammu today organized a day-long workshop which was aimed at promotion of Rajbhasha within the office and its Field units. The workshop titled 'National Language Hindi- Challenges and Scope' was organized under the chairmanship of Sh. Ghulam Abbas, Director, CBC, J&K and Ladakh in the presence of Ms. Ayushi Puri, Deputy Director, CBC, J&K, Ladakh, Sh. Ashwani Kumar Gupta, Sr. Accounts Officer, Sh. O.P. Maurya, Administrative Officer, CBC, J&K, heads of CBC Field Offices Kathua, Doda and Poonch and other staff members of CBC R.O. Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Parshotam Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Hindi, University of Jammu said Hindi is the language of the masses since time immemorial. He said Hindi speakers should take pride of the language, which is full of richness. He enlightened the participants about the development, scope, relevance and Acts for the promotion of the Hindi Language. He also highlighted the challenges faced in making the language more popular after globalization. He informed the participants that software programmes are now avail-



able for working in Hindi as well as translation of content from any language into Rajbhasha.

In his address, Ghulam Abbas, Director CBC said that working in Hindi language should make one feel proud. He encouraged the officers and officials of CBC J&K to do official correspondence in Hindi language as much as possible.

The workshop commenced with the welcome address by Ms. Ayushi Puri, Deputy Director. She familiarised the participants with the working and or-

ganizational setup of CBC.

Sh. O.P. Maurya, Administrative Officer also addressed the gathering. He highlighted the work done and achievements of CBC Staff related to Hindi training. He also informed about the incentives available for those who get training in Hindi.

The workshop concluded with the Vote of Thanks presented by Sh. Ashwani Kumar Gupta, Sr. Accounts officer. Sh. Rajesh Sharma and Sh. Kudeep Mina also spoke during the workshop.

Gole, Talab Tillo delegation meets Tejinder Singh, raises alarm over Power & Water Crisis

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

A delegation of residents from New Gole, Talab Tillo, Jammu area met Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President of Youth National Conference, and apprised him of the acute problems being faced by the people due to unscheduled power cuts and irregular water supply amid the soaring temperatures.

The delegation, expressed serious concern over the deteriorating condition

of basic amenities in their locality. They said that despite the rise in mercury, the administration has failed to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, forcing residents to suffer in silence.

Tejinder Pal Singh Aman gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them that their grievances would be taken up with the concerned authorities at the earliest. He lambasted the administration for its apathetic approach and failure to respond to the needs of the people.

He said that the present government headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is fully committed to public welfare and is continuously working to strengthen basic infrastructure and streamline essential services. "The issues raised by the people are genuine and deserve immediate attention. Under the leadership of Omar Abdullah, our government remains focused on delivering good governance and ensuring that no citizen is left to suffer," Aman stated.

Politics Over Patriotism and Nation’s Unity Won’t Be Tolerated: NC to BJP

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23
Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), today accused the BJP of using Operation Sindoor for political mileage and dividing people on communal lines to serve their vested interests.

In a press statement issued here today, the senior NC leader strongly criticised the irrelevant unwarranted and misleading statement made by BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma to distort facts and malign the National Conference’s unmatched legacy of standing by the nation and the people of Jammu and Kashmir in times of crisis.

“BJP’s leader’s remarks are not only factually incorrect but reflect a dangerous mindset aimed at dividing the people of J&K who supported for the first time against the terrorists at a time when national unity is most crucial. The National Conference has always stood with the nation and the people—during tragedy, during conflict, and post Operation Sindoor,” he said.

After the Pahalgam tragedy, the senior NC leader reminded, it was the National Conference and its leadership immediately extended its full support to the Central Government, urging for a strong and decisive response to terrorism. “We not only voiced our support but went a step further by passing a resolution in the J&K Assembly, expressing solidarity with the Centre’s counter-terrorism efforts. That is the mark of true statesmanship and responsibility,” he said.

He also highlighted that the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah led from the front, calling an All-Party Meeting following the terror attack in Pahalgam, where representatives of all major political parties including BJP participated and appreciated Omar’s mature leadership and inclusive approach. “It was a moment of unity that brought every political party on the same page in the interest of our people and nation,” he noted.

The NC Provincial President underscored that during the tense period following the Pahalgam incident and the Indo-Pak conflict, the entire NC cadre—from the Chief Minister and Cabinet Ministers to local party workers—were actively present on the ground, working day and night to support affected civilians.

“Our MLA from Pahalgam, Altaf Ahmad Kaloo, was among the first to reach out to the victims and their families, offering every possible form of assistance. Likewise, NC MLA’s across Jammu and Kashmir stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the people. The Poonch was most affected town where 13 people died and more than 50 were injured in cross border shelling, NC MLA Poonch Ajaz Jan along with his team of workers served the affected people 24x7.

Rattan Lal Gupta came down heavily on the BJP for using national security and tragedies as political tools. “Instead of appreciating unity in crisis, BJP chooses to exploit these moments to score political points. At a time when the entire country stands united against terrorism, the BJP is still indulging in

divisive rhetoric based on malicious thinking.” Mr Gupta asked the BJP to clarify their stand on the issue of derogatory remarks made by Madhya Pradesh Cabinet Minister Vijay Shah against Brave Col Sofiya Quershi which have been condemned all over the nation but the BJP remain mom on this crucial issue even Honble Supreme Court of India snubbed the Minister, that showed how much respect the BJP is giving to the Armed forces.

The senior NC Leader also questioned the BJP’s complete silence on the attacks on J&K students and traders outside the Union Territory amid the Indo-Pak conflict. “Not a single BJP leader had the courage or conviction to speak out when our students and traders were being targeted in other states. Where was Mr. Sharma’s concern then?” he asked.

He said, “We deeply respect the sacrifices of our armed forces and their strategic victories, including Operation Sindoor. But patriotism is not measured by press statements. It is lived through action—and the NC has proven its commitment time and again, in words and in deeds.”

The Provincial President reaffirmed the party’s dedication to national unity and the well-being of every citizen of J&K. “The National Conference has never and will never compromise on its core values—peace, unity, and dignity of our people within the framework of the Indian Constitution. We urge the BJP to stop politicising national security and instead join hands in serving the people sincerely.”

CII delegation calls on Dy CM

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

A three member delegation of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) today called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

The delegation was led by Dr M.A Alim, Chairman CII J&K Council, who was accompanied by Iqram Ali Shafiee Vice Chairman CII J&K and Khurshid Dar, Head CII J&K.

During the deliberations,



Dr Alim appreciated the performance of different departments under the guidance of Deputy Chief Minister.

Dr Alim raised several issues including the need for infrastructure upgradation at industrial estates of Srinagar and Industrial Estate

Khangrail Jammu.

The delegation offered to set up two Skill Centers one each at Jammu and Srinagar under the aegis of Skill Development Department. They also proposed free training at CII member premises to students of ITIs and Polytechnics.

The DyCM patiently heard the issues of CII delegation and assured all possible support from government to redress their concerns.

Accelerate execution of works to ensure smooth conduct of SANJY-2025: Div Com to officers

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

To establish intricate & enhanced framework for the seamless and peaceful conduct of the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, convened a meeting of officials on Friday to review the progress of works being carried out by various departments at base camps and enroute to the holy Cave.

Chairing the meeting, Div Com instructed officials to execute the necessary developmental works effectively and ensure their completion within the designated timeframe.

He also called for the enhancement of base camp capacities to withstand weather-related emergencies.

Also, Div Com urged the Labour and Animal Husbandry departments to expedite the registration of service providers and ponies to meet the target before the commencement of Yatra.

He also asked for the installation of signages at key locations to give yatriss an insight regarding the availability of facilities.

Regarding registration of yatriss at



various places, Div Com directed for the establishment of RFID counters at the Nowgam and Anantnag railway stations in addition to other locations.

He further directed the BRO to ensure that the routes leading to the holy cave are free of potholes.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Anantnag,

Budgam, Ganderbal and Bandipora, besides officers of various departments including KPDCL, FCS&CA, PHE, R&B, SMC, Health, Tourism, Sonmarg Development Authority, Pahalgam Development Authority briefed the meeting regarding the ongoing works & plans to facilitate the pilgrims of Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025.

Distt admin Kulgam organises day-long CBP on Holistic Development & Convergence

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta conducted an extensive tour of Zainapora on Friday to take firsthand appraisal of civic amenities, market regulation and ongoing developmental activities in the area.

During the visit, DC carried out a thorough inspection of the Zainapora main market, interacting with shopkeepers, traders and the general public.

The visit focused on monitoring the availability of essential commodities, quality control, adherence to government-notified price lists and sanitation standards in the market.

On-spot directions were issued to the SDM Zainapora and concerned officers to maintain cleanliness and ensure strict compliance with market regulations to safeguard consumer interests.

Later, DC visited a prominent high-density apple orchard at Wandina Zainapora where he reviewed the implementation of modern horticultural practices under the high-density plantation scheme being promoted by the government to boost the region’s apple production and improve growers’ income.

While interacting with orchardists



and field officers from the Horticulture Department, DC emphasized the importance of adopting scientific techniques, including integrated pest management, efficient irrigation systems and timely nutrient application.

DC also visited Government Higher Secondary School, Zainapora and Indoor Stadium Zainapora and took stock of the educational and sports facilities being provided to the school children

and stressed for providing best education to them.

DC also took stock of grievances and demands projected by the locals, and directed the concerned departments to resolve genuine issues in a time-bound manner.

DC was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, SDM, Zainapora, Ex. Engineer R&B and other concerned officers.

DC Budgam flags-off Refrigerated Vans of fresh peas to Chandigarh

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

In order to boost supply chain of vegetable movement from District Budgam to Chandigarh, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo Friday flagged-off refrigerated vans carrying 90 quintals of fresh peas in presence of senior officials and local farmers.

The initiative was organized by district administration Budgam in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Budgam and AF Multi-Cooperative Society (FPO) Budgam, under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), a government measure designed to support timely and cost-effective transportation of perishable agricultural produce.

On the occasion, DC said that this is not just a transportation initiative; it is a step towards empowering our farm-

ers by providing them direct access to markets.

He said the use of departmental refrigerated vans ensures that the quality and freshness of the produce is preserved during transit, helping to secure fair market prices for the farming community.

He further said the Market Intervention Scheme is a crucial platform to reduce wastage, ensure better returns, and create sustainable market linkages for our high-quality produce.

DC said Agriculture department Budgam and AF Cooperative (FPO) Budgam played a pivotal role in mobilizing and organizing the produce for dispatch. The coordination between the agriculture department and the farmer producer organization highlights a growing synergy aimed at strengthening the region’s agricultural economy.

Labroo emphasised the district ad-

ministration’s resolve in enhancing agricultural infrastructure and supporting farmers’ livelihoods.

Chief Agriculture Officer Budgam, Naseer Ahamd said that by facilitating access to national markets, our aim is to turn Budgam into a hub of agri-export. This initiative under the Market Intervention Scheme not only ensures fair pricing but also boosts confidence among our farming community.

Speaking on the occasion, one of the farmers expressed appreciation for the initiative, stating, “Such initiatives are expected to enhance farmer incomes, reduce post-harvest losses, and foster a robust agricultural marketing framework in the region. They also encourage increased agricultural productivity and help us become more self-reliant by giving us direct access to bigger markets, reducing our dependence on middlemen, and ensuring that our hard work is fairly rewarded.”

Distt admin Srinagar organizes awareness programme at GGHSS Sonwar

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

Aiming to eradicate drugs from society, District Administration Srinagar today organized an anti-drugs awareness programme at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS), Sonwar to sensitize students about the dangers of drug abuse.

The awareness programme was held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat under ongoing Drug Free Jammu & Kashmir initiative to raise awareness about the illicit impacts of the drugs on the individuals, their families and the society.

During the programme, talented artists of Kashmir Kala Manch, from Cultural Unit Kashmir, DIGHT, staged a hard-hitting and thought-provoking skit portraying the devastating impact of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society at large.

Through powerful performances and a compelling narrative skit, emotional, social and psychological trauma caused by substance abuse was effectively conveyed to the audiences. The presentation struck a deep chord with the audience and was met with resounding applause and appreciation for its meaningful message and artistic excellence.

On the occasion, speakers highlighted the importance of collective community responsibility in addressing the growing challenge of substance abuse. They urged the youth to channel their energy into constructive and developmental pursuits.



School staff and students also took part in the anti drugs awareness programme and pledged to become active change-makers and advocates for a drug-free society within their own

communities.

The event saw active participation from officials representing the departments of education, health, excise, social welfare and other concerned.

Awareness program on POSH Act held at South Campus of Kashmir University

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Anantnag conducted an awareness program on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (POSH Act) at Kashmir University South Campus.

The keynote speaker for the event was Fozia Paul, Secretary DLSA. She discussed in



detail the legal framework surrounding the POSH Act and highlighted the need for creating a safe and inclusive work environment. She also discussed the role of institutions in upholding the dignity and rights of individuals at the workplace.

The event aimed to educate participants about the importance of constituting Internal Complaints Committees

(POSH cells) on campuses, and the proper procedures for reporting and addressing complaints of workplace harassment.

Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Mohammad Aleem served as the resource person and provided insights into working of free legal aid services under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Program witnessed active

participation from students, faculty members, and administrative staff, reflecting the growing awareness and commitment to ensuring a harassment-free workplace.

The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where participants clarified their doubts and shared their views on fostering a respectful work culture.

YSS Ang. hosts sports events to advocate drug-free life as a priority for students

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

Reaffirming its commitment to fostering physical fitness, mental well-being, and a drug-free lifestyle among the youth, Youth Services & Sports (YSS), Anantnag, launched a vibrant series of inter-zonal and zonal-level sports events across the district.

These events are aimed to promote athletic excellence besides reinforce the message of a healthy and substance-free life among students.

The sports activities commenced with the successful conduct of the district level inter-zonal Badminton competitions for U-14 and U-17 girls, held at SRJ HSS Khanabal. The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from young athletes across various zones of the district.

In the U-14 Girls category, Saniya Jan and Muntaza Rafiq of zone Qazigund, along with Secrat Ashraf and Ifra Jan of zone Dooru delivered exceptional performances, showcasing promising talent and sportsmanship.

Simultaneously, zone Bijbehara concluded its inter-school zonal level Football tournament for U-14 Girls at PM Shri MS Pazalpura. The event saw the participation of 112 spirited female students from different educational institutions. In a riveting final match, HS GB Khalil emerged as the champion, while PM Shri MS Pazalpura and MS Laribal secured the runner-up and third-place positions respectively, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for



football among young girls in the region.

In a unique initiative, zone Dooru conducted inter-school Yoga competitions for U-14 and U-17 boys and girls at MS Chakpath on May 21, 2025. The event commenced with all participants taking an anti-drug pledge, emphasizing the importance of leading a drug-free and healthy lifestyle. A total of 173 students, comprising 95 boys and 78 girls, participated in the yoga competitions.

Adding further depth to the holistic development approach, zone Dooru

also organized Chess and Carrom competitions specifically for specially-abled students at the same venue. This inclusive effort underscores the department's dedication to providing equal opportunities for all students, regardless of physical ability, to engage in constructive and skill-enhancing activities.

Youth Services & Sports, Anantnag, remains committed to organizing inclusive, educational, and recreational platforms for young learners across the district, encouraging them to pursue excellence both on and off the field.

Girls shine in Taekwondo, Volleyball & Kho-Kho competitions across Baramulla

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

In a spirited continuation of the inter-zonal district level Taekwondo championship hosted at Subhana Stadium, Sopore, Youth Services and Sports, Baramulla, today successfully conducted the girls' competitions across the Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 categories.

A total of 30 enthusiastic girls showcased their martial arts prowess- 07 in the Under-14 category, 16 in Under-17, and 07 in Under-19. Their energy, discipline, and sportsmanship reflected the department's vision to uplift and empower young female athletes across the district. The event comes a day after the successful culmination of the boys' Taekwondo bouts, adding further vibrance to the ongoing district-level championship. Meanwhile, in another corner of the district, zone Tangmarg witnessed a spectacular turnout at Govt. Degree College Tangmarg, where over 300 girls from various government and private schools participated in inter-school zonal level Kho-Kho and Volleyball competi-



tions under the Under-14 and Under-17 categories. The fields were alive with vibrant sporting action as young athletes competed with exceptional zeal and coordination.

The sports fervour is set to con-

tinue as inter-zonal district level Wushu competitions are scheduled to commence tomorrow at the same venue in Sopore, promising yet another day of thrilling action and athletic brilliance.

ICR-ER team visits District Emergency Operation Centre, Srinagar

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

To assess the operational readiness and effectiveness of the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) in managing disasters/emergency situations including natural disasters and other calamities, a team from Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER), Ministry of Home Affairs Disaster Management Division, today visited the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) in Srinagar.

The team was comprised of Bharat Singh Rawat and Davinder Mishra accompanied by CEO/ERO/Nodal Officer of the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC).

Chief Executive Officer of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Srinagar, Aadil Fareed and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz-ul-Aziz besides other concerned were present on the occasion.

During the visit, the team had a detailed assessment of the facilities at the District Emergency Operation Centre Srinagar, instrumental in coordinating responses during critical incidents. Notably, the DEOC served as a focal response centre during the Pahalgam incident, where over 4,300 calls were



received and managed efficiently, demonstrating the centre's capacity to handle the large scale emergencies.

On the occasion, the team was provided a comprehensive presentation on functioning of the Decision Support System (DSS) during disaster situations by the Consultant DDMA Srinagar. He highlighted the importance of real-time data integration and analysis in enhancing the decision-making processes during emergencies. He also briefed about the significance of updating the Indian Disaster Resource Network (IDRN), a national electronic inventory that catalogs equipment, human resources and critical supplies

for emergency response. It was informed that the regular updates to IDRN are crucial for maintaining preparedness and ensuring effective resource mobilization during disasters.

The visiting team commended the efforts of the DDMA Srinagar and other stakeholders in strengthening the emergency response framework in the region. The members of the team reiterated the commitment of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Emergency Operations Centre to provide continued support and resources, enhancing the capabilities of the District Emergency Operation Centres across Jammu and Kashmir.

Mission Director HADP conducts day-long tour of Baramulla

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

Sandeep Kumar, Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), today conducted an extensive tour of district baramulla.

He was accompanied by Director Agriculture Kashmir, Mohammad Alyas Khateeb; Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir, Dr. Parwinder Singh Sudan; Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah; Joint Director(ext), Project Coordinator Mushroom and officers and officials of agriculture and allied departments. During the visit Mission Director HADP inspected the Oil Extraction mill (with filter press) at Matipora, Integrated Mushroom Unit at Johama, Vegetable farmers field at Palhallan Pattan, DCTC public sector at Baramulla and other infrastructures created under HADP.

While interacting with the officers and the beneficiaries, Mission Director highlighted that the HADP is a comprehensive programme focusing on various aspects of Agriculture Development including horticulture, Crop Production and Livestock Husbandry. He said that HADP is a com-



prehensive initiative aimed at transforming the Agricultural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir including Kashmir division. He expressed keen interest in the functioning of different units and commended the department and the beneficiaries for their commendable efforts and emphasized the potential impact in such initiatives in boosting rural livelihood and strengthening the socio-economic status of the farming community.

During the visit Director Agriculture Kashmir briefed the Mission Di-

rector regarding various farmer friendly initiatives under HADP and other farmer friendly schemes being taken up by the department for revival of the agriculture sector.

Mission Director also underscored the significance of integrated poultry farming during a visit to the newly established Composite Broiler Farm-cum-Hatchery and Feed Mill in Binner, Baramulla. He highlighted the transformative potential of such initiatives in enhancing rural livelihoods and bolstering the poultry sector across the valley.

VHP, Bajrang Dal Extend Support to Victim of Cross-Border Shelling in Rajouri

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

In a gesture of solidarity and swift humanitarian outreach, a delegation from the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal visited the home of Vikram, a resident of Mubarakpura in Rajouri, whose house was recently damaged in cross-border shelling from Pakistan.

The delegation, led by VHP State president Rajesh Gupta, included regional general secretary Abhishek, deputy secretary Karan Singh, organizational secretary Rajinder, and Bajrang Dal regional coordinator Kartik. They were joined by local leaders including District President Kewal Sharma, District General Secretary Gourav Mahajan, District Cashier Deepak Sapotra, District Secretary Anil Verma, and City President Pankaj Chandan.

The team assessed the extent of the



damage to Vikram's residence and assured full support to the affected family, which includes specially-abled members. On the directives of the VHP's provincial leadership, the district unit provided essential materials to assist in

recovery efforts.

"This act is a reflection of our core values. The VHP stands firmly with society in every difficult situation," one of the leaders remarked during the visit.

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

The Department of Rural Development (RDD), under the aegis of Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM), in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department organised a one-day gender sensitization workshop across all 17 Community Development (CD) Blocks of Doda district today.

The event was held under the guidance of District Social Welfare Officer, Tariq Parvez Qazi, with the support of field teams from Social Welfare, Mission Shakti, District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), and the One Stop Center.

The workshops aimed to enhance awareness among rural women and women Self-Help Group (SHG) members, especially those engaged under the UMEED initiative, about gender equity and social empowerment. Key objectives of the program in-



cluded promoting understanding of gender beyond biological differences, challenging traditional roles and stereotypes, and fostering a more inclusive and respectful society. Special emphasis was laid on breaking myths related to menstruation, early marriage, caregiving roles and domestic violence.

Interactive sessions were conducted by gender experts who educated participants about government schemes and welfare entitlements

available for women in Jammu & Kashmir. They were acquainted with State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS), Tejaswini – Women Entrepreneurship Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PM-MVY), Women Helpline (181), Child Helpline (1098), Ladli Beti Scheme, Poshan Abhiyaan and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). The experts also encouraged women to take leadership roles

within their communities and become agents of change.

As part of the awareness campaign, career guidance booklets were distributed under the banner of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative to promote girl child education and rights. The program served as a participatory platform for rural women to engage, learn, and become more informed citizens, thereby fostering a stronger and gender-equitable rural society.

SDRF 2nd Bn conducting Water Rescue Exercise at Jia Pota Ghat on May 24

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 23

State Disaster Response Force 2nd Bn Jammu is going to conduct Water Rescue Exercise at Jia Pota Ghat River Chenab

Akhnoor on May 24 at 9 am.

The initiative aims to enhance water rescue skills of SDRF personnel to effectively tackle the situation in the event of flash floods during the rainy season.

The exercise is being conducted under the command and control of Dy. SP (Trgs) Dinesh Gupta and assisted by Inspector Mohinder Parkash of SDRF 2nd Bn.

EDITORIAL

21 Discharged, 6 Stable After Surgeries: Principal GMC Rajouri on Shelling Victims

PPrincipal GMC Rajouri Dr. A.S. Bhatiya on Wednesday said that several persons injured in the recent Pakistan shelling were admitted to the hospital and were discharged after recovery.

Dr A.S. Bhatiya while addressing reporters along with Medical Superintendent Dr Shamim Ahmed told that 27 injured persons were brought to GMC Rajouri following the shelling incident. “Out of them, 21 have been discharged after treatment, while six others who underwent surgeries are also stable and recovering well. They will be discharged soon,” Dr. Bhatiya said.

He added that the hospital staff responded promptly and provided necessary care to all the injured. “Our surgical teams managed the cases efficiently, and all patients are out of danger,” he said.

Dr. Bhatiya assured that GMC Rajouri remains prepared to handle such emergencies and is committed to offering the best possible care to victims.

The injured had been evacuated from shelling-hit areas near the Line of Control in Rajouri district.



PROF (DR) ASHISH GUPTA

In a multi-domain conflict era, where the nature of conflict changes faster than the drawing of borders, India's national security architecture has emerged as something exemplary of jointness, agility, and strategic clarity. Operation SINDOOR, launched in the early hours of May 7, 2025, in the immediate aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 innocent people were massacred, is testament to the evolving operational doctrine. The operation was not meant for reactive reprisal; it represents a pre-meditated tri-services offensive whose orchestration of air, land, and cyber capabilities clearly conveys that India will not tolerate acts of terror nor allow its sovereignty to be encroached upon. While punishment was a factor, the most crucial changes occurred in the calculus of security. Deep strikes across the LoC, hitting key nodes of Pakistan terror infrastructure, have shown the retaliation on the Indian side to be now free from any sort of tactical restraint but rather based on strategic considerations and the fine art of operational excellence.

Operation SINDOOR held prominence for the application of power, but also for its precision and calculated use of strategy. Using solid intelligence from multiple agencies, nine major terror camps were identified and targeted with surgical strikes. The Indian response was in no way rushed. The operation provided for by Pakistan was deliberate and had a high degree of detail, and using accurate data to conduct strikes to ensure the jeopardy of civilian life is as minimal as possible. When this operation was done, and with all ethical considerations and in the interest of being responsible, India had shown that it acted

VIJAY GARG

The world was assuming the black round of corona infection has gone forever and ever. Jan-life was back on track again for the last few years. Despite the ongoing economic turmoil between the war and other asymmetrical conditions in some regions of the world, economies were in a bid to reach the first situation from Corona. But the new knock of Corona has raised concerns. The return of Corona infection was heard earlier in Hong Kong and Singapore. Thirty people are reported to die in just a few cases in Hong Kong. At the same time, the number of corona infected was more than 14 thousand in Singapore till May one, with three thousand new infected added till May 19. The cases of corona have increased even from China from which the corona virus spread all over the world but this number was not made public. At the same time, the health department of China is anticipating a surge in Corona cases. The concern is also that cases of corona infection were recorded in Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu in India. It is reported that more than two and a half hundred infection cases have been reported in the country from January to May 19. Two patients admitted to Mumbai's hospital are also being raised concerns over the death of infection. However, the hospital claims that a patient cancer was then suffering from a severe kidney-related illness.

The Story of Operation SINDOOR

When India Stood Tall: Land, Air, and Sea in Action



sensibly but decisively with its options. Pakistan operationalised its retaliation by utilizing drones and unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAV) to attack Indian airbases and supply lines, only for these to be thwarted by India's advanced air defence capacity. A key component in achieving the capacity of India's defence air system was the Integrated Command and Control Strategy (ICCS) context in which it could strip down to detect and respond very closely to a threat. The very aspect that made Operation SINDOOR extremely effective was the seamless cooperation of Army, Navy, and Air Force with full backing of the Government and key agencies. What made the response even stronger was the IAF's Integrated Air Command and Control System, which facilitated all the air units to coordinate instantly in real time. This enabled India to target and destroy enemy drones rapidly, while remaining completely networked across various operations. The IAF's performance during Operation SINDOOR was a clear indication of India's growing strength in air power, technology, and coordination.

Operation SINDOOR demonstrated how capable and robust India's military is in defending the country from all sides—land, air, and sea. The Indian Army demonstrated its might not only to safeguard our land but also to strike back when necessary. Cooperating closely with the Air Force, the Army employed

various forms of weapons—ranging from shoulder-fired missiles and light guns to missiles with a long range—to destroy numerous drones and Pakistani weapons launched by Pakistan. Despite repeated assaults, the Indian Army ensured that both the military and civilian zones stayed secure. It was a colossal demonstration of how joint capability, sound planning and national will could thwart a country from a contemporary threat.

Operation SINDOOR was an extraordinary demonstration of the long-term capability of India's Army, Air Force and Navy operating synergistic ally on land, in air and sea. The Indian Air Force (IAF) took extensive part in applying surgical strikes on terror camps deep inside Pakistan, including high-value targets like Nur Khan and Rahimyar Khan Air Bases. These successful surgical strikes were supplemented by visuals presented during official briefings that illustrated India's transparency and ability to provide high profile targeting accuracy. While Pakistan tried to get their revenge by attacking Indian positions with shortcomings using drones and UAV, the IAF's thick air defence coverage made sure that Indian airspace remained secure. Next-Generation Systems are being brought into service in the form of the Akash missile system made-in-India.

Even old and reliable platforms like Pechora and OSA-AK would go through layers to intercept any forthcoming

threat.

Concurrently, the Indian Navy dominated the seas during the operation. Through its highly advanced Carrier Battle Group, armed with MiG-29K fighter aircraft and early warning choppers, the Navy guarded the sea and intercepted any military movement, particularly along Pakistan's Makran coast. Their robust air defense ensured no enemy aircraft penetrated Indian waters. The Navy pilots undertook non-stop flights, demonstrating India's complete preparedness to counter sea-based threats. The dominance of the western sea route by the Navy kept Pakistan's air force grounded, indicating India's prowess in defence as well as tactics. The Border Security Force (BSF) also responded quickly and courageously at this time. BSF troops, in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, thwarted a large-scale infiltration bid. They saw suspicious activity in the early morning and promptly acted, resulting in a deadly gunfight. They ended up killing a minimum of two infiltrators and recovered weapons and other hazardous substances. This event proved how vigilant and prepared the BSF is to protect our borders, even in times of high tension.

As a whole, Operation SINDOOR wasn't merely a successful operation—it was a strong and clear message. It indicated that India is capable of executing powerful, well-planned attacks on every front when provoked to excess. This operation became a reality due to years of preparation, practice, and robust government backing in defence. India demonstrated that although we are peace- and diplomacy-loving people, we are not going to remain quiet during sustained attacks. Operation SINDOOR will be remembered as a turning point—a sign of India's military strength, teamwork among its forces, and firm national will. It not only removed serious terror threats but also made it clear that India will always defend itself with strength and smart action.

(Author is Dental Sr. Surgeon and Senior Fellow of International College of Dentist at New Delhi. conatct : drashishguptaoffice@gmail.com)

Living with Corona



Nonetheless, serious efforts at the government's level over corona's new virus infection and citizens need to be vigilant. The implementation and medical facilities of remedial policies by taking lessons from the past several waves of corona infection need to be extended. Before the virus is uncontrolled, government and health agencies must take rescue measures at a war level. However, on behalf of the World Health Organization, it is said that new variants of Omicron J.A.1 and variants L.F.7 and N.B.18 are responsible for this time infection. It is being reported that the J.N.1 variant spreads very fast. World health experts are stating that those suffering from new variants may include a complaint of sore throat, sleeplessness, sneezing, cough, angitis, runny nose, cough, headache, weakness, fatigue, and muscle aches. However, some of

these may also be symptoms of common influenza. In such a situation, it is also important to get the test of corona infection. It is difficult to say that the virus of Corona went from among us. He did not go anywhere but our body's immunity found by vaccination stopped him. But the difficulty is that the mutation in the middle of the weather change cycle brings out its new variants. Those who take some time to combat and understand the immunity of the body. Undoubtedly, it's a challenge, but not to panic with it, needs to deal with sense and alertness. The waves of the last many big corona infections have given us lessons than against this infection. There was a time when our medical framework was not ready for it. We are now self-sufficient in the production capacity and storage of lifeblood oxygen. By running the world's largest vac-

cine campaign, we have provided protection cover to 140 crore people. We have not given protection to our citizens only, but set an example by giving India's vaccine and medical material to many countries all over the world. Actually, the same measures to avoid corona infection will give us protection, which we successfully adopted in past infection waves. These have to take care of cleanliness, keep safe distance, improve your catering, avoid joining hands and going to crowded places. Use of mask is mandatory condition. It would be wise to examine and isolate yourself from the society and family when symptoms appear. Where will the virus last again ahead of the activation of our reflexive and medical system.

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

Should injury subs be allowed to bat and bowl in Tests?

NEW DELHI, MAY 23

Former England captain Michael Vaughan said substitutes who replace injured players in the first innings of a Test match should be able to bat and bowl for the remainder of the contest instead of being restricted to fielding duties.

Under the current laws of the game, injured players can be replaced during a match but the substitute is only allowed to field, with the lone exception being a concussion substitute.

The restriction leaves teams short-handed with only 10 eligible batters and puts added strain on a bowling corps if the injury was to a bowler.

Zimbabwe's frontline seamer Richard Ngarava could bowl only nine overs before being helped off the field due to a back injury on the opening day of their one-off Test against England on Thursday.

England's top three batters then feasted on Zimbabwe's pedestrian attack, with each of them smashing a hundred as the hosts racked up 498/3.

"Injury replacements should be permitted in Test cricket in the first innings of the game," Vaughan told BBC Sport.

"If there's a genuine injury in the first innings, it affects the game and the entertainment, which fans pay money to watch. The first innings is a good cut-off



to make it fair."

Former Zimbabwe seamer Henry Olonga said substitutes should be allowed to bat or bowl regardless of when they enter a match.

"I'm open to the idea of substitutes, perhaps with a limited number, but not necessarily like-for-like and not only restricted to injuries," the 48-year-old said.

"If you want to grow the game glob-

ally, then make it more like other sports where subs are allowed.

"Think of football, tactically if a game is going in a certain way, substitutes can be used to tweak the direction."

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodian of cricket's laws, did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

GT in trouble? Buttler out before IPL playoffs

NEW DELHI, MAY 23

As Gujarat Titans gear up for the IPL 2025 playoffs, the team faces a major setback with the departure of their in-form batter Jos Buttler.

The England star is set to return to join the national squad for their home ODI series against the West Indies, which begins on May 29—the same day the IPL playoffs commence.

Fight in over 2000 unique and authentic Vehicles. Fight on Land, on Water and in the Air. Join the most comprehensive vehicular combat game. Over 2000 tanks, ships and aircraft.

Gujarat Titans batter Sherfane Rutherford has acknowledged that the absence of star wicketkeeper-batter will be a "big loss" for the team but believes it's time for others to rise to the challenge.

"To be honest, Jos is going to be a big loss for us," Rutherford said.

"But it's also an opportunity for us as players to step up and fill that gap. Of course, we'd love to have him around, but it's important that we take respon-



sibility and not look to anyone else. It's about performing to the best of our abilities."

Buttler has been instrumental in GT's success this season, anchoring the middle order with 533 runs in 13 matches at an average of 66.63 and an explosive strike rate of over 165. His consistency and match-winning ability have made him a vital cog in the Titans' lineup.

In his absence, Sri Lankan wicketkeeper-batter Kusal Mendis has been

named as his replacement in the GT squad. Mendis, known for his aggressive stroke play, is expected to bring both stability and flair to the top order.

Rutherford himself has been in fine form this season, scoring 267 runs in 11 innings at a strike rate exceeding 160.

As GT prepares for the playoffs, the team will be hoping that players like Rutherford can continue their form and help fill the void left by Buttler's departure.

Sri Lankan veteran Angelo Mathews to retire from Tests

NEW DELHI, MAY 23

Veteran Sri Lankan all-rounder Angelo Mathews on Friday announced that the first Test against Bangladesh next month will be his last five-day game as he makes way for younger talent in the traditional format with a 'grateful heart and unforgettable memories'.

The 37-year-old will, however, continue to play white-ball cricket for his country. His final Test appearance will be in Galle from June 17 to 21.

"With a grateful heart and unforgettable memories. It is time for me to say goodbye to the most cherished format of the game, International Test Cricket!...The first Test match against Bangladesh in June will be my last red-ball appearance for my country," he said on X.

"Whilst I bid adieu to the Test format, as discussed with selectors I will remain available for selection for the white ball format, if and when my country needs me.

"I believe this Test team is a talented side with many future and present greats playing the game. Now seems like the best time to make way for a younger player to take the mantle to shine for our nation," he added.

Since making debut in 2009, Mathews has turned up in 118 Tests, scoring



8167 runs -- the third-highest tally for Sri Lanka, behind Kumar Sangakkara (12,400) and Mahela Jayawardene (11,814).

He has a fairly good average of 44.62 and has so far smashed 16 hundreds and 45 centuries with a 200 not out being the best of his lengthy career. He also has 34 wickets to his credit.

"A true servant of Sri Lanka Test Cricket. Thank you...for 17 years of unwavering dedication, leadership, and unforgettable moments in the red-ball format. Your commitment and passion have inspired a generation," Sri Lanka Cricket stated in its tribute.

"We wish you all the very best as you step away from Test cricket and

look forward to seeing your continued contributions in white-ball cricket," it added.

Mathews was Sri Lanka's all-format captain from 2013 to 2017.

"Nothing can match that feeling of patriotism and servitude when one dons the National Jersey. I have given my everything to cricket and Cricket has given me everything in return and made me the person that I am today," he said.

Mathews said he is grateful for the support that he has got over the years, from his family, his coaches and Sri Lanka Cricket.

"A chapter ends, but the love for the game will always remain."

RCB's Hazlewood set to return ahead of IPL playoffs

NEW DELHI, MAY 23

Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood is likely to rejoin Royal Challengers Bengaluru ahead of the IPL playoffs, having recovered from a shoulder niggle.

The fast bowler last featured in IPL 2025 on April 27 and has since missed two games. He had left for home during the one-week break in the league caused by the India-Pakistan military conflict.

Since then, the 34-year-old has been training in Brisbane as part of Australia's preparations ahead of the World Test Championship (WTC) final.

He is currently being monitored by Cricket Australia's medical

Improve grammar, word choice, and sentence structure everywhere you work. Write better with Grammarly.

"Our medical team and their medical teams have been liaising on what that detail looks like, and he's just taking it day by day," RCB Director of Cricket Mo Bobat had said last week.

It is understood that Hazlewood is



progressing well and is on track to link up with the squad ahead of the knockout stage, which begin on May 29.

RCB, who have already sealed a playoff berth, are aiming to finish the league stage in the top two for the first time since 2016. They have two fix-

tures remaining -- against Sunrisers Hyderabad on May 23 and Lucknow Super Giants on May 27.

Hazlewood has been one of RCB's key performers this season, emerging as their leading wicket-taker with 19 scalps at an economy rate of 8.44.

Rohit, Kohli's absence an opportunity for others: Gambhir



NEW DELHI, MAY 23

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has admitted that dealing with the absence of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will be a significant challenge for the team but their Test retirement has also opened the door for others to step up and take responsibility.

Kohli and Rohit bid farewell to Test cricket within a week of each other earlier this month. The announcements came ahead of the marquee five-match series in England next month, the squad for which will be announced on Saturday in Mumbai.

"I think, when you start the game and when you want to finish, it's a very individual decision. No one has the right. Be it the coach, the selector, be it anyone in this country has any right to tell some-

one when to retire and when not to retire. So it comes from within," Gautam Gambhir told CNN-News18.

With their exit, India will not only need a new Test captain but will also be without two of their most seasoned players, a leadership and experience void, Gambhir admits, won't be easy to fill.

"And yes, we have got to be without two senior players,

Use an AI Writing Tool That Actually Understands Your Voice

Improve grammar, word choice, and sentence structure everywhere you work. Write better with Grammarly.

two really experienced players. And sometimes I believe that it's the opportunity for some other people to put their hand up and say, 'Okay, I am ready for it.'"

He drew a parallel with India's Champions Trophy triumph, which came despite the absence of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah.

"So yes, it will be tough, but then there will be people putting their hand up for sure because this question was asked to me before. Champions Trophy as well.

"When Jasprit Bumrah wasn't there and I said exactly the same thing, someone missing out might give another person an opportunity to do something special for the country, hopefully, there will be other guys waiting for that opportunity," he said.

While Kohli and Rohit have bid adieu to the Test and T20 format, they will still be available for India in the 50-over game.

Asked if the two can make the team for the 2027 ODI World Cup, Gambhir said "Look, it's still a long way away. We still have a T20 World Cup before that, and that is again a huge tournament that is going to happen in India, which is in February-March," he pointed out.

"So the entire focus at the moment, after England, will be on the T20 World Cup, and November-December 2027 is still two-and-a-half years away. And I've always said one thing -- if you keep performing, age is just a number," he added.

Srikanth battles into semis of Malaysia Masters



NEW DELHI, MAY 23

Seasoned India campaigner Kidambi Srikanth entered the men's singles semi-finals of the Malaysia Masters badminton tournament with a hard-fought three-game win over the higher-ranked Toma Junior Popov of France, in Kuala Lumpur, on Friday.

Srikanth, currently ranked 65th but a former World No 1 and World Championships and Asian Games silver medallist, fought tooth and nail against World No 18 Popov before outwitting the Frenchman 24-22 17-21 22-20 in a fierce contest that lasted one hour and 14

Srikanth will take on Yushi Tanaka of Japan in the last four round, which will be his first semi-final appearance in over a year.

The Japanese beat France's Christo Popov, brother of Toma Junior, 21-18, 16-21, 21-6 in another singles quarter-final.

Owner & Editor Ashok Atri Ph: 0191-2464363 Mob. 9419192797,

Printer & Publisher: Satish Mahajan Mob: Associate Editor Satish Mahajan 7889664902, 9797554966 , R.C.Bhat , Sr.Correspondent,Mobile no.9596678333 G.K. Offset Printing Press Shivalikpuram Roop Nagar Jammu, Published at: H.No. 219 Sector 1 Housing Colony Channi Himmat Jammu. Email :- jammurising555@gmail.com, editor.dailyjammurising.in

US tariff hikes, Myanmar war, sea disputes will top ASEAN summit agenda



PUTRAJAYA (MALAYSIA), MAY 23

The civil war in Myanmar, maritime disputes in the South China Sea and US tariff hikes will top the agenda of a two-day Southeast Asian summit next week, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said.

The meeting in Malaysia, the current chair of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, on Monday will be followed by a summit on Tuesday with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and leaders from the Gulf Cooperation Council comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

The GCC already has strong links with the US and “wants to be close to China too,” Anwar said. “We want to have that synergy to enhance trade investments, more effective collaboration,” Anwar said in a media briefing late Wednesday.

ASEAN countries have been hit by US tariffs ranging from 10% to 49%. US President Donald Trump last month announced a 90-day pause on the tariffs, prompting countries including Malaysia and Singapore to swiftly begin trade negotiations with Washington.

Anwar said the US has promised to review Malaysia’s case “sympathetically”. He said ASEAN is also working together to see how it can negotiate with

the US as a bloc. At the same time, he said that ASEAN must build its economic resilience by deepening links with other partners such as China, India and the European Union.

Anwar said the US-China rivalry would not split the bloc as the region continues to engage both superpowers. He also downplayed territorial disputes between ASEAN members and China in the South China Sea, which Beijing claims virtually in its entirety, and Myanmar’s conflict since the 2021 military takeover.

Anwar met last month with Myanmar military chief Gen Ming Aung Hlaing in Bangkok and held virtual talks with the opposition National Unity Government. Even though the talks were currently focused on humanitarian aid, Anwar said he hopes they could eventually push a peace process forward.

Min Aung Hlaing has been barred from attending ASEAN meetings after the military refused to comply with ASEAN’s peace plan, which includes delivery of humanitarian aid and negotiations. Opponents and critics of the military government say aid is not freely allowed into areas not under the army’s control, and accuse the army of violating its self-declared ceasefire with dozens of airstrikes.

Pakistan expels Indian high commission staffer

ISLAMABAD, MAY 23

Spanish authorities said that an adviser to former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych was shot dead outside a school in Madrid on Wednesday.

Andrii Portnov, 52, was identified as the victim by Spain’s Interior Ministry. He was shot at 9:15 a.m., authorities said.

Witnesses reported that Portnov was shot “several times” in the head and body by more than one gunman when he was getting into a vehicle, police said. The assailants then fled on foot into a wooded area, police said.

Portnov is a former Ukrainian politician closely tied to Yanukovych, having served as deputy head of the presidential office from 2010 to 2014.

During Yanukovych’s presidency, Portnov was widely viewed as a pro-Russia political figure and was involved in drafting legislation aimed at persecuting participants of the 2014 revolution in Ukraine.

After fleeing Ukraine in 2014,



Portnov reportedly lived in Russia in 2015 before relocating to Austria. It wasn’t immediately clear when he moved to Spain. In 2018, Ukraine’s Security Service, or SBU, opened an investigation against him on suspicion of state treason, alleging his involvement in Russia’s illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. The criminal case was closed in 2019.

In 2021, the United States imposed personal sanctions on Portnov, designating him as someone “responsible for or complicit in, or (who) has directly or indirectly engaged in, corruption, including the misappropriation of state assets, the expropriation of private assets for personal gain, corruption related to government contracts or the extraction of natural resources, or bribery.”

Trump’s sweet tooth: He eats ‘good amount’ of candy, likes pink Starbursts, Tootsie Rolls



WASHINGTON, MAY 23

President Donald Trump has a sweet tooth and his favourites are pink Starbursts and Tootsie Rolls.

So said Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, at a briefing Tuesday for the children of reporters who cover the White House. It was part of a day of activities the White House organised as it observed the annual Take Our Daughters

and Sons to Work Day event.

The Republican president and his wife, first lady Melania Trump, also held separate events of their own.

One child asked Leavitt about Trump’s daily candy consumption. She characterised his intake as a “good amount” and added that “he likes pink Starburst and Tootsie Rolls.”

A few questions touched on administration policy, such as the state of the US-Mexico border and what Trump is willing to do about climate change.

But even more questions were about his favourite foods and they led Leavitt to share that Trump also likes to eat a “big, beautiful steak,” ice cream sundaes with chocolate sauce and some toppings, and hamburgers and fries from McDonald’s.

She appeared to be stumped by a few of the inquiries, including about the president’s favourite soccer player and his favourite child. Trump has five adult children.

“That is a very controversial question and I’m not going to answer it,” Leavitt said after the laughter subsided. “I know he

loves all of his children very much, and they’re all great kids.”

Earlier Tuesday, the first lady joined a few dozen children whose parents work in the Executive Office of the President in decorating wooden American flags.

She used a glue stick to attach two silver glittery stars to her red, white and blue flag after she took her seat at one of two tables in the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden on the South Lawn. The first lady admired the children’s work and told several that their creations were “beautiful.”

The president visited Capitol Hill early Tuesday to rally House Republican lawmakers around a tax cuts and spending bill he wants Congress to pass. He’d been scheduled to have a public event with children on the South Lawn after he returned, but the White House later decided against press coverage.

An aide later shared on social media a clip of the president doing his dance in front of some children outside the south entrance to the Executive

sity said on May 15.

The initiative, housed at UCSC’s Humanities Institute, produces multimedia content exploring the evolution of Sikh institutions, the impact of colonialism, and the complex identity of the Sikh diaspora.

It challenges oversimplified narratives and aims to offer a more accurate and nuanced view of Sikh history and philosophy, according to the release.

“Many existing accounts lack depth or are shaped by colonial-era interpretations,” said Singh, who earlier held the Sarbjit Singh Aurora Chair of Sikh and Punjabi Studies. “We’re reexamining inherited assumptions

and opening space for deeper, evidence-based engagement.”

In collaboration with UC Santa Cruz’s Teaching and Learning Centre, the project also creates space for voices often excluded from Western academic circles, especially young scholars from Punjab and marginalised communities in the Sikh diaspora.

The videos, enriched with archival visuals, maps, and carefully curated sources, are designed to engage younger generations, including Sikh youth in India and abroad who are navigating identity in a globalised world.

Record floodwaters in eastern Australia leave 3 dead, 1 missing



MELBOURNE, MAY 23

Record floodwaters on Australia’s east coast left three people dead and one missing, officials said Thursday, as more heavy rain was forecast in the area.

More than 500 people were rescued in the flooding emergency in New South Wales state north of Sydney. The area has been hit with heavy rain since Tuesday. The flooding exceeds local records set in 1921 and 1929.

News South Wales Premier Christopher Minns said some areas were forecast to receive as much as 30 centimetres (1 foot) of rain in the next 24 hours. He said 50,000 people were warned to prepare to evacuate or be isolated by floodwaters, telling reporters: “We are bracing for more bad news.”

The body of a 63-year-old man was recovered from a flooded house in Moto in New

South Wales on Wednesday afternoon, Fire and Rescue Commissioner Jeremy Fewtrell said. A coroner will determine whether a pre-existing medical condition played a part in his death, he added.

The body of a man, aged in his 30s, was recovered from floodwaters near Rosewood early Thursday, a police statement said. He had disappeared while attempting to drive through a flooded intersection on Wednesday night.

A 60-year-old woman was found dead on Thursday after her SUV became trapped in floodwaters near Brooklana on Wednesday night. The SUV was found earlier on Thursday, police said.

A 49-year-old man also failed to return home after walking near a flooded road at Nymboida on Wednesday night, police said.

Minns said more than 500 people had been rescued from

floodwater in just over two days, many after trying to drive across flooded roads.

Emergency Services Minister Jihad Dib said 330 flood rescues were conducted in the past 24 hours. Helicopters have been used to rescue people stranded by floodwaters from rooftops and verandahs.

“We’ve seen more rain and more flooding in the mid-to-north coast area than we’ve ever seen before,” Dib said.

The flooding has hit communities including Taree, Kempsey, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and Bellingen in New South Wales.

Taree received a month’s rain in 24 hours, an official said.

“Up around the Taree area, we’ve seen communities that have never flooded in recorded history now flooding,” Fewtrell said.

The region has opened 14 evacuation centres as of Thursday.

Government meteorologist Angus Hines said a low-pressure weather system had stalled over the flooded region since Monday, bringing 60 centimetres (2 feet) of rain to some parts.

“If it had only been one day and then it had gone, we would have seen some minor or moderate flooding but it wouldn’t have been too bad. But four days in a row of this amount of rainfall and we see this significant and extensive, widespread and major flood event happening in front of our eyes,” Hines said.

The rain was losing intensity on Thursday, Hines said.

House Republicans launch an all-nighter to try to pass Trump’s big bill

WASHINGTON, MAY 23

Moving into an all-night session early Thursday, House Republicans reconvened to push ahead on their multitrillion-dollar tax breaks package, with Speaker Mike Johnson defying the sceptics within his ranks and working to muscle President Donald Trump’s priority bill to passage.

Johnson and his GOP leadership team appeared confident after a lengthy White House meeting with GOP holdouts to salvage the “big, beautiful bill,” even as more Republicans announced their opposition late Wednesday.

“You never know till the final vote tally, but I’m convinced we’re going to pass this bill tonight,” said Johnson, R-La., as the chamber action resumed

shortly before midnight.

Throughout the evening the upbeat tone stood at odds with the unwieldy scene at the Capitol. The Rules Committee, which had been grinding through a marathon session, finally wrapped up after its own nearly 22-hour hearing, sending the package ahead on a party-line vote.

Democrats, without the votes to stop Trump’s package, offered countless amendments and impassioned speeches trying to stall progress and capitalize on the GOP disarray. As soon as the House floor reopened, the Democrats forced a vote to adjourn.

“We believe it’s one big, ugly bill that’s going to hurt the American people,” said House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York as he testi-

fied before the committee.

“Hurt children, hurt families, hurt veterans, hurt seniors, cut health care, cut nutritional assistance, explode the debt,” he said.

It’s a make-or-break moment for the president and his party in Congress. They have invested much of their political capital during the crucial first few months of Trump’s return to the White House on the sprawling 1,000-page plus package. If the House Republicans fall in line with the president, overcoming unified Democratic objections, the measure would next go to the Senate.

Trump met for a lengthy session with Johnson and the holdouts at the White House, but it was not at all clear what, exactly, was agreed to — or not.

Pentagon to launch new review of Afghanistan withdrawal

WASHINGTON, MAY 23

US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth has ordered the Pentagon to launch a comprehensive review of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021.

In a memo on Tuesday, Hegseth said that the Department of Defense had a duty to investigate the operation, which he described as catastrophic.

The withdrawal culminated in the deaths of 13 U.S. service members in a suicide bombing at the Kabul airport.

“This remains an important step toward regaining faith and trust with the American people and all those who wear the uniform and is prudent based on the number of casualties and equipment lost during the execution of this withdrawal operation,” the memo read.

The withdrawal, which ended



nearly 20 years of American military presence in Afghanistan, was overseen by then President Joe Biden and his national security team in August 2021.

An ISIS-linked suicide bomber targeted the Kabul air-

port during the final days of the withdrawal, killing American troops and Afghans. Hegseth called the withdrawal “disastrous and embarrassing.”

Both Hegseth and President Donald Trump have repeatedly criticized the Biden administra-

Bus blast kills 5, including 3 children, in Pakistan’s Balochistan



blast.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack on the school bus and expressed deep sorrow over the killing of innocent children and their teachers, Geo News reported.

He also instructed authorities to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also strongly condemned the explosion.

“The beasts who target innocent children do not deserve any leniency,” Naqvi said.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.

Balochistan, bordering Iran and Afghanistan, is home to a long-running violent insurgency. Baloch insurgent groups have previously carried out several attacks targeting CPEC projects.

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

First batch for Hemkund Sahib Yatra leaves from Rishikesh



DEHRADUN, MAY 23

Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen (Retd) Gurmeet Singh and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Thursday flagged off the first batch for the pilgrimage to Shri Hemkund Sahib

Gurudwara from Rishikesh.

The governor and the chief minister congratulated the first batch of 'Sangats' and wished them a safe journey.

The doors of the Sikh pilgrimage located at an altitude of 15000 feet in the Chamoli dis-

trict are scheduled to open on May 25.

Describing this journey to Hemkund Sahib as a symbol of faith, devotion and belief, the governor said that the difficult trek of about 18 km to the pilgrimage is a test of the patience and courage of every devotee.

He said that the government is constantly making efforts to make the yatra easier and safe. Appreciating the preparations made by the administration and the Gurudwara Management Committee on the travel routes, he urged the devotees to adopt the mantra of plastic-free travel and promote the 'Vocal for Local' campaign by giving priority to local products.

The chief minister said that the pilgrimage to Shri Hemkund Sahib is a unique confluence of the religious and spiritual culture of the state.

Haryana court extends content creator Jyoti Malhotra's police remand by four days in espionage case

HISAR, MAY 23

A court here on Thursday extended the police remand of content creator and social media influencer Jyoti Malhotra by four days, a police spokesperson said.

The 33-year-old YouTuber — arrested on suspicion of espionage — was produced before the court at the end of her five-day police remand.

Malhotra was among the 12 people arrested from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh over the past two weeks on suspicion of espionage, with investigators suspecting the presence of a Pakistan-linked spy network operating in north India.

The Hisar native ran a YouTube channel "Travel with JO". She was arrested at the New Aggarsain Extension last week and booked under provisions of the Official Secrets Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Hisar police said on Wednesday that no evidence had emerged to indicate Malhotra had access to any military- or defence-related information.

But she was definitely in contact with some people, knowing that they were Pakistani intelli-



gence operatives, they had said.

Police sources had said she was in touch with Ehsan-ur-Rahim alias Danish, a staffer at the Pakistani High Commission, since November 2023.

India expelled Danish on May 13 for allegedly indulging in espionage.

The police have sent Malhotra's three mobile phones and a laptop for forensic examination. Malhotra's four bank accounts are also being analysed.

The National Investigation Agency, Intelligence Bureau,

and military intelligence officials have also questioned Malhotra.

Investigations have revealed that she visited Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, and some other countries.

The police had said Pakistani intelligence operatives were developing Malhotra as an asset.

She was also allegedly in touch with Danish during the four-day military conflict between India and Pakistan that followed the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, they had said.

NEET-PG: SC mandates pre-counselling Fee disclosure by universities

NEW DELHI, MAY 23

Expressing concern over widespread seat blocking in postgraduate medical admissions, the Supreme Court has mandated pre-counselling fee disclosure by all private and deemed universities for NEET-PG.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said the malpractice of seat blocking distorted the actual availability of seats, fostered inequity among aspirants, and often reduced the process to the one governed more by chance than merit.

"Seat blocking is not merely an isolated wrongdoing — it reflects deeper systemic flaws rooted in fragmented governance, lack of transparency, and weak policy enforcement. Although regulatory bodies have introduced disincentives and technical controls, the core challenges of synchronisation,

real-time visibility, and uniform enforcement remain largely unaddressed," the bench's April 29 order said.

The verdict added, "Achieving a truly fair and efficient system will require more than policy tweaks; it demands structural coordination, technological modernisation, and robust regulatory accountability at both state and Central levels." The top court, as a result, directed implementation of a nationally synchronised counselling calendar to align All India Quota and state rounds and prevent seat blocking across systems.

"Mandate pre-counselling fee disclosure by all private/deemed universities, detailing tuition, hostel, caution deposit, and miscellaneous charges. Establish a centralised fee regulation framework under the National Medical Commission," it said.

The bench further ordered authorities to enforce strict

penalties for seat blocking including forfeiture of security deposit, disqualification from future NEET-PG exams and blacklisting complicit colleges.

"Permit upgrade windows post-round two for admitted candidates to shift to better seats without reopening counselling to new entrants. Publish raw scores, answer keys and normalisation formulae for transparency in multi-shift NEET-PG exams," the order said.

The top court's judgement came on a plea filed by UP government and the director general of Medical Education & Training, Lucknow, challenging an order passed by the Allahabad High Court in 2018.

high court had directed the director general to give compensation to two aggrieved students who had appeared in the NEET PG exams and take action against blocking of seats. (Agencies)

With Op Sindoor, PM has given message that terrorism will be punished, terrorists hunted down: VP



PANAJI, MAY 23

Hailing Operation Sindoor, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a message to "our difficult neighbours" and the global community that terrorism will be punished and terrorists will be hunted down.

The four-day operation between May 7 and 10 saw Indian forces eliminate terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as retaliation for the horrific April

22 Pahalgam attack in which 26 persons, mostly tourists, were killed.

"Bharat is very different now. Bharat is confident and bold. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sent a message, not only to our difficult neighbours but to the entire global community, that terrorism will not just not be tolerated but going beyond it terrorists will be punished," the Vice President said.

"Wherever they (terrorists) are located, they will be hunted down. Operation Sindoor was needed and it continues. We

must salute the vision of our Prime Minister for having accomplished it," he said.

The world has acknowledged the might of the Indian armed forces because during Operation Sindoor as the targeting was precise, calculated and calibrated.

There was no dissent on the impact of the operation, he asserted.

"No one asked for proof because when coffins were taken, the (Pakistani) Army was present, terrorists were present, (Pak) government was present. And therefore, salutations to our armed forces for making the nation proud," Dhankhar said.

The Vice President was speaking after unveiling bronze statues of ancient Indian physicians Charaka and Sushruta at the Vaman Vrukshakala Udyan at Goa Raj Bhavan.

Among those present were Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Union minister of state for power and renewable energy Shripad Naik as well as state BJP president Damodar Naik. (Agencies)

Raut alleges attempt to bribe Maharashtra legislature panel, CM orders SIT probe

MUMBAI, MAY 23

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut has alleged that his party's workers foiled an attempt to 'bribe' the state legislature's Estimates Committee during their visit to Dhule district.

While a senior official said an investigation has been launched, the committee chairman, Arjun Khotkar, rubbished allegations linking the episode to his personal assistant (PA). Khotkar is an MLA of the Shiv Sena led by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

In a post on X on Wednesday night, Raut alleged that more than Rs 5 crore in cash was found in a room at the government guest house in Dhule city.

"When the legislature estimates committee visited Dhule district today (Wednesday), about five and a half crore

rupees were kept in room number 102 at the Dhule government rest house Gulmohar for giving bribe to the committee," the Rajya Sabha member claimed.

Former Shiv Sena MLA Anil Anna Gote and local Sena (UBT) leaders locked the room and stood guard outside, Raut said.

"Despite informing the district collector, superintendent of police and Anti-Corruption Bureau, no one has come even after four to five hours....There is no cooperation from the administration. The bribe was meant to suppress corruption in development works and officials' involvement in it," he alleged.

The estimates committee is empowered to scrutinise the utilisation of funds allocated to a particular area in the state budget.

Meanwhile, Dhule superin-

tendent of police Shrikant Dhivare told reporters that the matter was being probed.

Anil Gote told reporters that Room 102 at the Dhule rest house was booked in the name of Khotkar's PA Kishore Patil. The money was kept in the room to be distributed to the committee members, he alleged.

Khotkar told reporters that the money found in the Dhule rest house had nothing to do with the committee. He rejected Gote's allegations that the room was booked in the name of his PA.

"I spoke to my PA. He said he hadn't booked that particular room. He had booked the one next to it," he said.

Raut later told reporters that the person in whose name the room (102) was booked should be probed.

Rahul Gandhi discusses inclusion, education policy with SC, ST, OBC students at DU



NEW DELHI, MAY 23

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday visited Delhi University's North Campus to interact with students from Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Other Backward Class (OBC) communities, focusing on issues of representation, equality and academic justice.

The interactive session held at the office of Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) president witnessed enthusiastic participation of students from multiple colleges and departments.

Engaging with the students, the Leader of Opposition in Lok

Sabha highlighted the importance of democratic participation and inclusive academic spaces, a DUSU statement said.

The students raised concerns over caste-based discrimination, lack of representation of marginalised communities in faculty positions and top administrative posts, and their "exclusion" from hiring in top multinational corporations.

They also voiced grievances about the disproportionate academic weightage of skill enhancement courses (SECs) and value addition courses (VACs) under the National Education Policy (NEP), which they alleged gave excessive power to the faculty members.

Another key issue highlighted was the marking of ER (essential repeat), NA (not available), and absent statuses, which the students claimed were being used unfairly, affecting thousands.

Rahul Gandhi urged the students to draw inspiration from B R Ambedkar's message to "educate, agitate, and organise", as he encouraged them to play an active role in creating a just and inclusive educational ecosystem.

"The role of students goes beyond classrooms — they must stand up for the rights of the oppressed and underrepresented," the Congress leader said. DUSU president Ronak Khatri thanked Rahul Gandhi for the interaction, saying his visit "energised the student community and reaffirmed the importance of youth voices in shaping India's democratic and educational future", the statement said.

Last week, Rahul Gandhi met students at an Ambedkar hostel in Bihar's Darbhanga district as part of his 'Shiksha Nyay Samvad'.

The event, held without official permission, led to the registration of two FIRs against Rahul Gandhi and more than 100 Congress workers.

Three, including child, killed in storm-related incidents in Noida

NOIDA, MAY 22

At least three persons were killed after a strong storm followed by rain swept the Gautam Buddh Nagar district, including Noida and Greater Noida, on Wednesday night, officials said on Thursday.

In Greater Noida, a 60-year-old woman and her four-year-old grandson died after a grill from a 21-storey building fell on them, they said.

A school teacher also died after a tree fell on him in Dadri, the officials said.

At Migsun Ultimo apartment complex in



Omicron Sector 3, the mother-in-law and son of an IT professional were killed when a heavy grill from the top of a 21-storey tower collapsed and fell on them as they were trying to escape the strong wind.

While the woman died on the spot, her grandson succumbed to his injuries at a nearby hospital, officials said.

A resident of the society said, "The incident took place near Tower No. 4. The

woman and her grandson were rushing to enter the tower when a heavy grill installed on the top of the building fell on them."

In Dadri, a tree fell on a DAV School teacher identified as Ramkishan, who died on the spot. A few others were injured in the incident that occurred on the NTPC premises, officials said.

According to local sources, the storm uprooted many trees, traffic poles and sheds installed on the high-rises in the region. Power supply was also snapped in many areas, leading to traffic congestion.

Akansha Ranjan Kapoor: Want to find myself in places that make me uncomfortable, not tried before



Actress Akanksha Ranjan Kapoor values characters that connect with people and said that she's open to exploring any role that challenges her and pushes her out of her comfort zone.

Asked what kind of roles she would like to explore, Akanksha told IANS: "I don't think I'm picky about what roles I want to explore. I just know I want to find myself in places that make me uncomfortable that I've not tried before. That's very different to who I am."

For her, genre is not that important.

Akanksha added: "So yeah, no genre, nothing in specific. But yeah, I just want to keep challenging myself and also like to do roles that you know, stay with people, that connect with people. I think it was fairly easy because the way TVF writes their characters, it's so author-backed."

Talking about her work in "Gram Chikitsalay" and if her character arc will get evolved in Season 2, she said: "Yes, Gargi is the female lead of this series. She wasn't in this season. In this season, the character was still building. So, definitely lots and lots more of Dr. Gargi in season 2 and beyond."

For Akanksha, playing a de-glam character like Gargi was "very easy."

"The character of Gargi

was so thoroughly written that it was very easy for me to slip into her skin. So yeah, and so I just felt like, you know, after all the prep we did and after all the readings, it was very easy or fairly easy for me to understand who she is, what her motivations are in life."

She said it was challenging as much as any role is when "you're playing something that's so different to you."

"But it was fun. It was exciting. So I do have, in general, a very good Hindi diction because I worked on that my whole life in film school and I've done a lot of diction classes and stuff like that, she added.

The actress watched a lot of YouTube videos of girls who are giving entrance exams and just girls from tier two villages to understand "how they speak, what the pranks they have, the nukhtas and stuff like that."

What are her upcoming projects?

Akanksha said: "So there are two projects on streaming that I'll be starting this year or I think at the end of this year, next year, next year, that I'll hopefully start prep for this year."

"So I can't say much about them because they're not announced but very exciting and hopefully you'll know soon," she concluded.

Rashmika Mandanna is a beauty in black as she gets back on the red carpet



Actress Rashmika Mandanna was a beauty in black as she got back on the red carpet during the Zee Cine Awards 2025.

The 'Animal' actress was seen carrying a black contemporary fusion saree with utmost grace. Her blouse included a deep sweetheart neckline with a net waist. She accessorised her look with golden heart-shaped earrings and brown toned makeup. The stunner decided to leave her hair open with a middle parting.

"After a while, I was back on the red carpet again...All the love pouring in makes my heart so happy. Just wanted to show you what I wore that day..", Rashmika wrote in the caption.

Thanking her team, she added, "Biggest shoutout to my team.. they've always got my back. The only way I survive these incredibly tough, busy days is because of them and my family. Bone-crushing hugs to each one of you."

On Monday, Rashmika introduced her InstaFam to her new best

friend.

Taking to social media, the diva shared some special moments that reflected her growing bond with her new BFF — the fuzzy blue alien Stitch.

Rashmika was seen goofing around with Stitch during her shoot. She interacted with him during photoshoots and restaurant outings. Towards the end of the video, Rashmika asked her BFF, "Stitch, do you want to be my date?"

Dropping the video on social media, the Pushap actress wrote in the caption, "Too cute to handle, too crazy to miss. My bestie stitch is making me simp with madness and bliss! Please tell me I'm not the only one losing it over him. Psssstt.. Oh, he is gonna be in cinemas from 23rd May #LiloAndStitch."

On the professional front, Rashmika has a promising lineup ahead with Aditya Sarpotdar's "Thama," co-starring Ayushmann Khurrana, along with "Kubera," "Pushpa 3", "The Girlfriend," and "Rainbow."

'Sitaare Zameen Par' producer talks about bringing film to life and 'Sachin: A Billion Dreams'

Producer Ravi Bhagchandka, who is known for bankrolling "Sachin: A Billion Dreams", has talked about his upcoming production 'Sitaare Zameen Par' starring Aamir Khan.

"It was the biggest dream of my life capturing the journey of Sachin Sir. After that, I wanted to back something that genuinely moved me and this story did just that. It's a beautiful take on empathy, inclusion and self-worth," the producer shared.

The trailer has received an overwhelming response, to which, Bhagchandka said: "I truly hope it connects with people."

As "Sachin: A Billion Dreams" completes 8 years this year, Ravi reflected on the journey so far.

"Sachin was special and opened up so much for me as a producer. Now with Sitaare Zameen Par, I feel that same kind of spark."

Under his banner 200 NOTOUT CINEMA, Ravi is developing a range of new projects across genres.

His next is the biopic of Yuvraj Singh which is on track. "We're working on stories that entertain, inspire and stay with you. That's the kind of cinema I believe in."

Talking about "Sitaare Zameen Par", is all set to release on June 20. Aamir will be seen as a basketball coach in the movie, who ends up getting arrested in a drunk-and-drive case, after a heated argument with a senior on the court.

As a punishment, the judge asks him to coach a special needs team. Initially hesitant, Aamir ends up getting emotionally invested in his players, and is hell-bent on making them win a tournament.

A spiritual sequel to Aamir's directorial debut, "Taare Zameen Par", the project will have Aamir working alongside 10 debutant actors – Aroush Datta, Gopi Krishna Varma, Samvit Desai, Vedant Sharma, Ayush Bhansali, Ashish Pendse, Rishi Shahani, Rishabh Jain, Naman Mishra, and Simran Mangeshkar in the film.

"Sitaare Zameen Par" marks Aamir's return to the silver screen after his 2022 film "Laal Singh Chaddha", which was the official Indian remake of the Tom Hanks-starrer "Forrest Gump".

The project has been made under the direction of R. S. Prasanna, who is known for directing "Shubh Mangal Saavdhan".

The songs for the movie have been composed by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, with lyrics by Amitabh Bhattacharya. The background score has been provided by Ram Sampath.

Saba shares 'more moments' of mother Sharmila Tagore, Simi Grewal from Cannes

Saba Ali Khan shared more moments with her mother, the legendary Sharmila Tagore, and iconic actress Simi Garewal after the screening of their 1970 classic film "Aranyer Din Ratri," by Satyajit Ray.

Saba, the eldest daughter of Sharmila, took to Instagram to share a heartwarming series of moments from the evening.

The post featured elegant snapshots of the trio together, a charming video of Sharmila Tagore receiving a standing ovation from the audience, posing with Wes Anderson, and a candid photo of the veteran actress addressing the gathering.

For the caption, Saba wrote: "A little more ...of moments Standing ovation. A beautiful celebration of life. Team that made it all possible. Congratulations!"

A 4K restored version of the Bengali-language movie "Aranyer Din Ratri", titled "Days and Nights in the Forest" in English, was showcased at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival under the Classics section.

The classic is presented and restored by The Film Foundation's World Cinema Project at L'Imagine Ritrovata in collaboration with the Film Heritage Foundation (PHF), Janus Films, and the Criterion Collection. The funding was provided by the Golden Globe Foundation, according to media reports.

Srishty Rode talks about her 'Mona Ki Manohar Kahaniyaan' role: She's seductive without trying



Srishty Rode and Ankur Nayyar are all set to be seen in the series, Mona Ki Manohar Kahaniyaan, a psychological thriller. The two actors have talked about their characters in the show, which will start premiering on May 22. Making her streaming debut with the series, Srishty said: "Playing Mona, especially tapping into her mindset, was challenging in the best possible way. She's seductive without trying, secretive without being obvious, and manipulative in ways that even surprised me. She said that she has always admired strong, grey female characters like Taapsee Pannu in Haseen Dillruba and Priyanka Chopra in 7 Khoon Maaf.

"Channelling that energy into Mona made this the most exciting – and daring – role of my career. Mona Ki Manohar Kahaniyaan is all about dark twists and gripping storytelling, and I truly believe Mona's manohar yet mysterious kahaniyaan will leave the audience hooked till the very end," she added.

The psychological thriller begins

with a string of brutal murders and spirals into a gripping interrogation that is anything but straightforward. It follows Inspector Pawan, played by Ankur, who begins interrogating Mona, essayed by Srishty, as a prime suspect in what seems like a routine investigation.

Ankur added, "Pawan starts out thinking he's in control of the interrogation, but Mona flips that power dynamic in the most unexpected ways. The intensity between them is more psychological than physical, and the best part about it is that it keeps you guessing until the very end."

Working with Srishty was a fantastic experience for Ankur.

He added: "She brought so much unpredictability to Mona that every scene felt like a mental duel. This isn't a simple cat-and-mouse game. It's a slow burn where reality begins to feel like fiction or the other way round."

"Mona Ki Manohar Kahaniyaan" will stream on Hungama OTT from May 22.

Ankita Lokhande shows her poetic side as she pens a romantic note for hubby Vicky Jain



TV actress Ankita Lokhande gave a glimpse of her romantic and poetic side as she shared a heartfelt note dedicated to her husband, Vicky Jain.

Expressing her timeless love, the 'Pavitra Rishta' actress penned an emotional message about soul connections, destiny, and finding each other through lifetimes. Taking to Instagram, Ankita shared a video of the two walking on a beach in the Maldives, expressing her love for Vicky. She also added the soulful track 'Aye Zindagi Gale Lagaa Le,' sung by Abhay Jodhpurkar, to the video. In the clip, the couple is seen walking hand in hand.

Sharing the reel, Ankita wrote, "Even in another life, I'd still find you. If time reset, if name changed, if we were strangers again—my soul Would still search For you, Through Stars ,Through Storms, Through Lifetimes.. I'd love You in every Version forever."

The couple is currently vacationing in the Maldives, and Ankita has been sharing glimpses of their tropical getaway on Instagram. From happy group selfies and relaxing spa sessions to unwinding on the beach, the actress has been treating her followers to delightful moments from their vacation.

Earlier, Ankita had shared a series of romantic photos with Vicky, where the couple was seen posing by the beach against the backdrop of a serene sunset. Dressed in breezy vacation attire, the two looked completely in love as they enjoyed their quiet moments together, radiating warmth and togetherness.

For the caption, Lokhande wrote, "Life's better when we're barefoot together #AnviKiKahani #BeachLove #CoupleGoals #VacationMode."

Ankita had also shared photos with her brother, Arpan Lokhande, capturing their special bond. Alongside the pictures, she penned a heartfelt note expressing her love and gratitude for him, highlighting the strength of their sibling connection and the importance of family in her life.

The 'Baaghi 3' actress captioned the post, "Happiness is seeing your sibling smile. No one in the world loves you the way a sibling does. The greatest gift our parents ever gave us was each other. As siblings, our paths may change as life goes on, but the bond between us will remain forever I love you Appu #AnkitaLokhande #FamilyBond #SiblingGoals #PartnerInCrime."

Practising yoga may cut health care costs: study

The relaxation response is elicited by practises including meditation, deep breathing, and prayer, and has been shown to be helpful in the treatment of stress-related disorders ranging from anxiety to hypertension.

Practising relaxation-response techniques, such as meditation, yoga and prayer, could reduce the need for health care services by 43 per cent, according to a new study.

Previous studies have shown that eliciting the relaxation response - a physiologic state of deep rest - relieves stress and anxiety, and also affects physiologic factors such as blood pressure, heart rate, and oxygen consumption.

The study, based at Harvard-affiliated Massachusetts General



Hospital (MGH)'s Institute for Technology Assessment and the Benson-Henry Institute (BHI), found that individuals in the relaxation-response programme used fewer health care services in the year after their participation than in the preceding year.

"Our study's primary finding is that pro-

grammes that train patients to elicit the relaxation response - specifically those taught at the BHI - can also dramatically reduce health care utilisation," said James E Stahl of the MGH Institute for Technology Assessment, who led the study.

"These programmes promote wellness and, in our environment of con-

strained health care resources, could potentially ease the burden on our health delivery systems at minimal cost and at no real risk," Stahl said, who is now at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Centre.

The relaxation response is elicited by practises including meditation, deep breathing, and prayer, and has been shown to be helpful in the treatment of stress-related disorders ranging from anxiety to hypertension.

To analyse the potential impact of mind-body interventions like the relaxation response on use of health care services, the researchers examined information available through the Research Patient Data Registry (RPDR) of Partners HealthCare.

The research team gathered data on individu-

als participating in the BHI Relaxation Response Resiliency Programme (3RP) from 2006 to 2014.

Data regarding more than 4,400 3RP participants' use of Partners system services in the years before and after their participation was compared with information from a demographically matched control group of almost 13,150 Partners patients over a similar two-year period.

Based on the number of health care encounters in the studied period, which included interactions in any setting - imaging studies, lab tests, and procedures - the 3RP participants had an average reduction of 43 per cent in their use of health care services in the year after their participation.

New low-cost printer tracks HIV patients' health

US researchers have patented a low-cost printer that helps HIV patients living in low-resource settings track the health of their cells.

Patients with HIV are encouraged to participate in regular check-ups to keep track of their health. In high resource settings, devices known as flow cytometers complete the tests by analysing the blood. Flow cytometers, however, are bulky machines that run on electricity. The machines also cost upwards of USD 50,000.

"Flow cytometers are not practical for areas with limited resources like Africa or Mexico," said Thomas Boland, a professor of metallurgical, materials and biomedical engineering at

University of Texas at El Paso who created a less expensive, battery-powered health monitoring tool for use in third world countries.

The portable device works by helping clinicians count the number of CD4 cells - cells that are attacked by HIV - in the body. After drawing a patient's blood, clinicians mix in magnetic microscale beads that latch on to CD4 cells in the blood. The mixture is then placed in an inkjet printer that's been modified to print out cells instead of ink.

Rather than printing vertically onto a sheet of paper, the cells are shot out horizontally onto a magnetised microscopic slide. CD4 cells in the blood automatically attach to the slide, while other cells that do not need to be counted

dribble down into an e x c e s s container. Doctors can then look at the slide through a microscope to count the number of CD4 cells on it. That number is inserted into an equation that calculates the total number of CD4 cells in the individual's body.

The procedure takes as little as 20 minutes, resulting in ultra-quick results. Boland hopes his new printer will help doctors and patients in low-resource settings who don't have access to flow cytometers.

The next step in the process is to license the technology to a company that is willing to help get it on the market. Several doctors in Mexico have already expressed interest in the device, Boland said.

Moms in denial over child's weight fuel obesity crisis



their nine-year-old children and found that the mothers were mostly honest and accurate about their own weight.

They found mothers were mostly honest and accurate about their own weight. However, 17 percent of the mothers of obese children realised that their children were moderately or very overweight.

Researcher Kieran Dowd of the University of Limerick said that if mothers do not currently perceive their child's weight as problematic, they were less likely to seek or implement any intervention to address this.

Dowd said that it was likely then that the child would continue to gain weight throughout childhood, adolescence and into adulthood.

The research team concluded that parents should make sure to measure their children's weight at family doctor and hospital visits.

Experts have warned that mothers in denial over their child's weight problems can cause obesity crisis.

According to researchers in Ireland, mothers are more willing to recognise their own obesity than to see it in their offspring, The Daily Mail reports.

In the study, researchers analysed data of almost 8,000 mothers and

Diabetics should 'dine with wine' to keep heart healthy



Drinking red wine with dinner may improve the heart health of people with Type 2 diabetes as a recent study has suggested so.

The Ben-Gurion University researchers found that people who followed a healthy diet and drank a glass of red wine at dinner for two years ended up with better HDL or "good" cholesterol and other good

health-related factors than people on the same diet who drank mineral water, Fox News reported.

Senior author Iris Shai noted that the findings actually mean that the patients need to be interpreted cautiously and with careful medical follow-up.

While studies suggest possible benefits to moderate alcohol use, both with diabetes and without it, it's

questionable whether doctors should tell their diabetes patients to drink, they say.

At the end of the study, people who drank red wine with dinner increased their "good" HDL cholesterol, which helps removes LDL or "bad" cholesterol from the arteries. They also lowered their risk of heart disease, as indicated by a lower ratio of total cholesterol to HDL cholesterol.

The researchers also looked for conditions that together make up the metabolic syndrome, which increases the risk of heart disease, diabetes and stroke. Compared to participants who drank mineral water, those in the red wine group had fewer of those conditions, such as a large waistline and high blood pressure, for example.

Five simple ways to combat fatigue

Fatigue refers to extreme tiredness resulting from mental and/or physical exertion or illness and is a common complaint with most people. Work, travel, static lifestyle, ageing, etc. can be listed as some of the causes of fatigue apart from illnesses like diabetes, heart disease, thyroid, arthritis, etc.

While fatigue is common, it's certainly not biologically normal. This false assumption makes many people settle for feeling lousy and tired most of the time. Fatigue can affect every aspect of our life: our family, friends, job and activities can and will suffer.

Fortunately, however, there are plenty of simple ways to boost energy. Some even slow the ageing process.

Here are five ways that can help refill your tank when your energy levels sputter.

Get moving: The last thing you may feel like doing when you're tired is exercising. But many studies show that physical activity boosts energy levels. An early morning run or brisk walk, yoga, cycling, etc. can help give you the energy boost you need.

Drink plenty of water: Water is to the body as petrol is to a car. Dehydration zaps energy and impairs physical performance and has also been shown to decrease alertness and concentration. Therefore, drink plenty of water to keep yourself well-hydrated and active.

Sleep on time: Lack of sleep is one of the leading causes of fatigue and may affect health conditions as well. Appropriate rest can raise your energy levels and help you remain alert through the day.

Shed extra weight: Losing that extra flab can provide a powerful energy boost. Even small reductions in body fat improve mood, vigour, and quality of life. Most weight loss experts recommend cutting back on portion sizes, eating balanced meals, and increasing physical activity.

Eat more often and eat right: Some people may benefit by eating smaller meals more frequently during the day. This may help steady your blood sugar levels. Favour whole grains and other complex carbohydrates. It is essential to remember that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Having a good, filling breakfast in the morning will help maintain your energy levels.

Your Facebook, Twitter posts may hold clues to your health

The language people use on social media and the information they post may offer valuable insights into the relationship between their everyday lives and health, a new study has found.

Researchers from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania found that many adult Facebook and Twitter users are willing to share their social media data and medical data for research purposes.

By building a language database, it may be possible to link social media content to health outcomes, researchers said.

"We don't often think of our social media content as data, but the language we use and the information we post may offer valuable insights into the relationship between our everyday lives and our health," said the study's senior author, Raina M Merchant, director of



the Social Media and Health Innovation Lab and an assistant professor of Emergency Medicine at Penn Medicine.

"Finding ways to effectively harness and mine that data could prove to be a valuable source of information about how and why patients communicate about their health.

"There is a rich potential to identify health trends both in the general public and at the individual level, create education campaigns and interventions, and much more.

"One of the unique aspects of this data is the ability to link social media data with validated information from a health

record," Merchant said.

In the study, patients visiting an Emergency Department were asked if they used social media, and if they would be willing to share their social media data and electronic medical data with health researchers, for the purpose of building a research database.

Similar to existing banks of genomic data, the research database of language and other social media data allows researchers to draw correlations between participants' online content and their health.

More than 1,000 participants consented to share their social media and medical data over seven months. Analysing content from as far back as 2009, the shared social media data consisted of nearly 1.4 million posts and tweets to Facebook and Twitter, comprising almost 12 million

words.

Researchers found that variations in word complexity could suggest cognitive decline, or a change in the number of words per post or network size might be indicative of a depressed mental status.

Posted content could also reveal information about adherence to prescribed medications, new medical conditions, or health behaviours like exercise and diets.

The researchers also found that individuals with a given diagnosis in their electronic medical record were significantly more likely to use terms related to that diagnosis on Facebook than patients without that diagnosis in their electronic medical record.

The findings are published in the journal BMJ Quality & Safety.

CM Omar Abdullah convenes public outreach programme at Raabita office

JAMMU RISING**JAMMU, MAY 23**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Employees of the J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute



(JKEDI) also met with the Chief Minister to discuss matters concerning their career progression and other employment-related concerns.

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

In addition, a delegation led by hotelier Mushtaq Burza appealed for government support in the revival of tourism and raised key concerns relating to the industry, trade and hospitality sectors.

Representatives from Kishtwar voiced their concerns related to Waqf properties and other local developmen-

tal issues.

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

The Chief Minister patiently listened to all delegations and assured prompt and priority-based redressal of their genuine concerns.

On-the-spot instructions were issued by the Chief Minister in several cases to ensure swift resolution of grievances.

"We remain committed to listening, resolving issues, and building a responsive and people-centric Government," he added.

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

140 students participate in Inter-School Zonal Cricket Tournament at Kishtwar

JAMMU RISING**JAMMU, MAY 23**

The Department of Youth Services and Sports, under the leadership of District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Jaffer Haider Sheikh, successfully conducted an Inter-School Zonal Level Cricket Tournament at Chowgan Ground, Kishtwar.

The event featured Under-14 and Under-17 Girls (Zone Kishtwar) and Under-14 Boys (Zone Nagseni), drawing vibrant participation from over 140 young athletes.

The tournament witnessed an impressive display of cricketing skills, discipline, and teamwork. Over 70 girls competed in the U/14 and U/17 categories, showcasing determination and sportsmanship that won the admira-



tion of spectators and educators alike. Simultaneously, Zone Nagseni's U/14 Boys competition featured intense matches with remarkable individual performances and close finishes.

Held at the Historic Chowgan Ground, the event underscored the district's growing enthusiasm for school-level sports and provided a robust platform for nurturing young talent.

District Level Committee reviews provision of civic amenities in Doda Hostels

JAMMU RISING**JAMMU, MAY 23**

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting of District Level Committee on Hostel Inspection here in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The meeting was convened to review the inspection and overall functioning of hostels across the District Doda, with a focus on ensuring effective management, safety, hygiene, and the welfare of students residing in these facilities, in alignment with government norms and expectations.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur; District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Qazi; District Education Planning Officer Anis Ahmed; Assistant Director FCS & CA, Accounts Officer SSP office, Food Safety Officer and wardens of G&B Hostel (Girls), G&B Hostel (Boys), Hostel GHSS Doda, Parisha (Nari Niketan), and Palash (Bal Ashram).

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the need for regular and surprise inspections of hostels to monitor food quality, sanitation standards, safety protocols, and the overall living conditions of students. He directed the concerned officers to submit detailed inspection reports and take immediate corrective measures wherever nec-



essary. Special focus was laid on ensuring the psychological well-being of hostel residents and the availability of proper grievance redressal mechanisms.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed officers to coordinate closely with hostel wardens to streamline the supply of essential commodities, maintain infrastructure, and ensure timely health check-ups for inmates. He stressed that hostels should function as safe, supportive, and development-friendly environments for the children and youth of the district.

The DC reviewed the work rosters of all permanent and temporary hostel employees, as well as the accommodation facilities. He also reviewed staff positions in hostels across the district and issued necessary directions to utilise their services for the betterment of hostel

inmates. He directed that routine medical check-ups for all hostel boys and girls be ensured.

Further, the DC instructed for installation of CCTV cameras and fire extinguishers in all hostels for better supervision and fire safety. The criteria for the admission to the Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostels was also discussed, and emphasis was placed on providing quality education to the students residing in these hostels.

DC Doda directed the ADC to ensure regular inspections of hostels focusing on education, food, and health parameters. He also reviewed the purchasing process for hostel items and instructed that items be procured through GeM under proper formalities.

Additionally, the DC directed the District Social Welfare Officer to initiate work on the construction of

a new hostel building to increase accommodation capacity.

Stakeholders of hostel supervision raised several issues and grievances during the meeting, and the Deputy Commissioner assured them that all concerns would be addressed and resolved promptly.

The DC also instructed concerned officials to maintain proper records of accounts, health, and education indicators to ensure efficient hostel functioning. He further urged the introduction of regular health and yoga activities in hostels to improve student well-being.

Moreover, DC Doda called for the appointment of a counselor for hostel students and directed that extracurricular activities such as cultural programs and painting competitions be organized regularly to foster a holistic learning environment.

Dy CM pays surprise visit to govt offices at Sanat Ghar Bemina

JAMMU RISING**JAMMU, MAY 23**

In a bid to enhance the public convenience and ensure efficient service delivery, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, paid a surprise visit to various government offices at Sanat Ghar Bemina, Srinagar.

The Dy CM visited the offices of Director Industries Kashmir, MD JK Minerals, MD SICOP/SIDCO, MD Handloom Development Corporation, KVIB, Office of TPO. He reviewed the functioning of these offices and asked the officers to ensure that the public receives hassle-free services.

During the visit, the Dy CM emphasised the importance of maintaining cleanliness, ensuring quick disposal of public grievances and enforcing punctuality in government offices.

The Dy CM held a detailed discussion with the officials regarding steps to streamline the functioning of their respective departments. He emphasised the need for prompt service delivery, better management of public inflow and improved infrastructure, especially considering the ongoing



summer heat.

He also stressed that benefits of all government schemes should reach the last person in line in real-time. He directed for conducting awareness programs to educate the general public about the government schemes.

The Dy CM cautioned that no lackadaisical approach would be tolerated, underscoring the administration's commitment to transparency and accountability. He directed that all the HoDs should be stationed in Srinagar stating

"it is essential that citizens do not have to wait unnecessarily and services are provided strictly according to the scheduled time frame".

Reiterating commitment of the government towards citizens satisfaction, the Dy CM emphasised that every citizen should receive government services in a prompt, corruption-free and transparent manner.

Pertinently, the Dy CM conducted similar surprise visit to Udhog Bhawan in Jammu.

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

JAMMU RISING**JAMMU, MAY 23**

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

MLA Kokernag, Choudhary Zafar Ali Khatana; MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie; Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Colleges J&K, Director Family Welfare & Immunization, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director AYUSH J&K, ADC Anantnag, Programme Officer ICDS Anantnag, SDM Kokernag and other senior officers from Health, Social Welfare, and Education departments accompanied the Minister.

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

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

While interacting with the public on the occasion, Minister Sakeena assured them that under Omar Abdullah led Government, major upgradations will



be done in the healthcare infrastructure of Jammu and Kashmir soon. She further assured them that significant upgrades like establishment of an oxygen plant, blood bank and dialysis facilities, will be done at SDH Kokernag in coming months to improve medical services and ensure accessibility of better healthcare facilities to local population within their vicinities.

While visiting PHC Larnoo, PHC Gadole and PHC Wandevelgam, Minister Sakeena minutely evaluated the healthcare facilities at these locations. She interacted with local health workers and discussed strategies with them and accompanying officers to improve healthcare accessibility and quality in these areas.

Later, the Minister also inspected the Government Degree College (GDC) Larnoo and took comprehensive assessment of college's infrastructure, faculty strength as well as status of educational facilities available for stu-

dents. She took detailed round of the college campus and also interacted with faculty as well as students and took feedback from them about the quality education being imparted at the college.

During this extensive tour, Minister Sakeena also interacted with public delegations and individuals at various locations.

While interacting with them, She reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening of healthcare and educational infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir. "Accessibility to quality healthcare services and quality education for our people is prime motto of Omar Abdullah led Government", Sakeena stated.

The Minister assured the public that their concerns raised during this tour would be addressed promptly to ensure the better welfare, well-being and progress of the people across Kokernag constituency.

Palli PACS launches Co-operative Crumbs Bakery-n-Café to Promote Employment, Self-Reliance

JAMMU RISING**JAMMU, MAY 23**

The Palli Primary Agriculture Co-operative Credit Society Ltd. (PACS) today inaugurated its latest initiative — Co-operative Crumbs Bakery-n-Café — on Bishnah Road, Palli.

The venture aims to generate employment and foster self-reliance among co-operative members.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by MLA Vijaypur Chander Prakash Ganga as the Chief Guest. The event also witnessed the presence of the Joint Registrar Audit Jammu, Deputy Registrars of Samba and Jammu, Assistant Registrars from Samba, Jammu, and Kathua, along with several District Officers from Samba, including the District Animal Husbandry Officer and the District Devel-



opment Manager, NABARD.

During the event, the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Samba briefed the guests on the functioning and achievements of Palli PACS.

Guests were taken on a tour of the Sahkar Mandap, a dedicated cooperative display centre showcasing lo-

cally made products such as pickles and handcrafted suits produced by Sahkar Saheli, a women-led cooperative initiative.

In a brief interaction with the media, the MLA praised the initiative, describing it as a model of self-sustained growth aligned with the national vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. He lauded the

role of cooperatives in generating local employment opportunities, especially for women and youth.

This initiative comes in the backdrop of the 2025 International Year of Cooperatives, reaffirming the spirit of unity and mutual support in building a more inclusive and resilient society.