

JAMMU RISING

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Relief Operations by Gandhi Global Family reaches Rajouri & Poonch



Factors that will drive the markets this week



Dy CM visits Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi in Rainawari; pays obeisance, assesses issues of DGPC



Indian diaspora in Japan backs Op Sindoor, hails PM Modi's leadership against terrorism



Real Madrid bids farewell to Ancelotti, Modric

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BRIEF NEWS

Assembly By-polls To 5 Seats In Four States On June 19: EC

Bypolls to five assembly seats in four states will be held on June 19, the Election Commission said on Sunday.

While two assembly by-polls will be held in Gujarat, one each will take place in Kerala, West Bengal and Punjab. The counting of votes will take

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Bovine Smugglers Kill ASI, Injure Policeman In J&K's Samba

A police official was killed and another injured early this morning when bovine smugglers rammed their vehicle into a police naka at Phoolpur area of Samba district.

As per reports, acting on specific information, police had set up the barricades at

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IIFL Finance Gets RBI Approval To Open Branches In Jammu And Kashmir

NBFC firm IIFL Finance has said it has received the necessary regulatory approvals for opening branches and expanding its credit services to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Jammu dining guide

This approval is a timely step towards delivering essential financial services in unbanked and underbanked areas, where access to formal

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Srinagar District admin spreads awareness on growing menace of drug abuse

District Administration Srinagar today organized an awareness programme on Drug De-addiction at Boys Higher Secondary School Palpora aimed at sensitizing masses about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraging them to eradicate menace of drugs from the society.

The event was held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, as a part of an ongoing Drug Free Jammu and Kashmir initiative of the Government to educate students, staff members, and local residents about the growing menace of drug addiction and the collective responsibility to curb it.

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Operation Sindoor not just military mission, but reflection of changing India: PM

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that Operation Sindoor was not just a military mission, but "the face of a changing India" that reflects the country's resolve, courage, and growing strength on the global stage.

Addressing the nation through his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister said, "Today the entire country is united against terrorism, filled with anger and determination."

Modi hailed Operation Sindoor as a turning point in the global fight against terror, describing it as a symbol of India's



Mann ki Baat

growing strength and clarity of purpose.

"Operation Sindoor has infused new confidence and energy into the global fight against terrorism," he said.

He lauded as "extraordinary" the precision with which Indian forces attacked the terrorist infrastructure across the border.

Modi emphasised that the operation was not a one-off military action, but a reflection of a changing and resolute India.

"Operation Sindoor is the picture of our resolve, courage, and a changing India," he said, and delved on the impact of the operation that resonated deeply across the

country.

The operation's success was followed by a series of gestures in tribute to the armed forces, ranging from patriotic poems on social media to paintings by children and massive Tiranga Yatras.

"In many cities, youth volunteered for civil defence, wrote poems, sang songs of resolve, and children made paintings carrying powerful messages," Modi said.

He talked about a recent visit to Bikaner where he was gifted paintings made by children.

"In cities like Katihar and Kushinagar, families named their newborns

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SIM smuggling racket busted with 5 nabbed for aiding cross-border gaming network

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

The IGI Unit of the Delhi Police has busted a SIM smuggling racket with alleged links to an international online gaming network, officials said on Saturday.

Five people, all from Madhya Pradesh, were arrested for fraudulently procuring and sending 398 activated Indian SIM cards abroad, primarily to Dubai, police in a statement said.

The racket came to light when the CISF intercepted one Sunil Rawat at Terminal-3 of IGI Airport on February 15.

Rawat, an Indian national scheduled to board a flight to Dubai, was found in possession of 398 active SIM cards, registered under different names, read the statement.

Investigations revealed that Rawat was allegedly



acting on instructions from a Dubai-based contact named Faisal, who had offered him Rs 35,000 and a job in exchange for transporting the SIM cards.

"During interrogation, Rawat disclosed that the SIM cards were arranged by his friends in Madhya Pradesh and sent to him via courier," it read.

The main suppliers of the SIMs were identified

as Ashwin Kumar and Ankit Kumawat, both natives of Madhya Pradesh. A police team was dispatched to Ujjain and Dewas districts, leading to the arrest of Ankit Kumawat.

According to police, he procured the SIM cards by misleading locals with offers of free data and calls.

Each SIM card was sold at Rs 500 to Ashwin Ku

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Jitendra Singh praises PM as first cherry cargo train set to roll from J&K to Mumbai

NEW DELHI,

With the first cargo train carrying 24 tons of cherry ready to roll from Jammu and Kashmir to Mumbai next month, Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for personally overseeing the completion of the railway track connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country. Fine dining reservations

Modi was supposed to inaugurate the direct train service from Katra

in Jammu to Srinagar early this month, but the function was put on hold due to inclement weather.

However, the newly created Jammu railway division has got its first VP indent, a request for allocation of a full parcel van for the shipment of goods, registered from Katra railway station to Bandra (Mumbai) for June 3.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Jammu, Uchit Singhal, had earlier said that the effort under-

taken after extensive consultations with the Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Department and fruit grower associations is a welcome initiative if goes off successfully as it will offload the road traffic burden and will enable perishable goods like cherries reach its intended markets with minimal damage or deterioration in quality.

He said that 24 tons of cargo will be moved in a VP attached to a goods train from Katra station

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India has become 4th largest economy, ahead of Japan: NITI CEO

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

India has become the fourth largest economy in the world, overtaking Japan, NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam has said.

Subrahmanyam said the overall geopolitical and economic environment is favourable to India. "We are the fourth largest economy as I speak. We are a USD 4 trillion economy as I speak," he said.

Citing IMF data, Subrahmanyam said India today is larger than



Japan. Till 2024, India was the fifth-largest economy in the world.

"It is only the US, China and Germany which are larger than India, and if

we stick to what is being planned and what is being thought through, in 2.5-3 years, we will be the third largest economy," Subrahmanyam said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report released in April had said that India is expected to be the fourth largest economy in the world with a GDP of USD 4.19 trillion in 2025, ahead of Japan.

India's nominal GDP for 2025 (FY26) is expected to be USD 4.187 billion marginally more than the likely GDP of Japan which is estimated at USD 4.187 billion, the

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Indian MP delegation calls on Bahrain Dy PM, conveys India's stand against terrorism

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

An all-party Indian parliamentary delegation on Sunday called on Bahrain's Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa and discussed India's stance against terrorism.

The delegation, led by BJP MP Baijayant Jay Panda, is one of the seven multi-party delegations India has tasked to visit 33 global capitals to reach out to the international community on Pakistan's designs and India's re-



sponse to terror, especially after the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26.

"India & Bahrain share a deep, historic friendship built on trust, shared values & mutual respect. ...

Together in the fight against terrorism, we discussed matters of mutual interest & India's firm commitment to combat terror in all its forms," Panda said in a post on X.

The meeting took place at the Gudaibiya Palace here in the capital city, Manama.

The multi-party MPs also met Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, the chairman of Shura Bahrain, the upper house of the legislative body of Bahrain, and "un

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"Operation Sindoor not against people of Pakistan, but terrorist infrastructure": Ghulam Nabi Azad

JAMMU RISING

JAMMU, MAY 25

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday said that Operation Sindoor launched by India in response to the Pahalgam terror attack was not intended to be against people in Pakistan, but against the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoJK. I congratulate our armed forces that none of the civilians of Pakistan were killed, as only terrorists were killed, and some family members of terror-



ists. But the sad part is that Pakistan blindly fired in our border areas, and they intentionally attacked our civilians," Azad, who is part of an all-party delegation led by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Baijayant Panda, said.

He said that even after "trying to have good relations with neighbours", India has faced terrorist attacks from the other side of the border.

"We are happy to meet

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No one sitting in Pakistan will be allowed to kill indian citizens with impunity, there will be 'Price To Pay': Tharoor

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has said that post-Pahalgam attacks, there is now going to be a new norm that no one sitting in Pakistan is going to be allowed to believe that they can just walk across the border and kill Indian citizens with impunity, as he asserted that there will be a "price to pay." Tharoor is leading a delegation of Indian par-

liamentarians to Guyana, Panama, Colombia, Brazil, and the US, conveying India's resolve against terrorism and emphasising Pakistan's links to terrorism.

The multi-party delegations to different countries will underline that the recent conflict with Pakistan was triggered by the Pahalgam terror attack and not Operation Sindoor, as alleged by Is-

lamabad.

The retaliatory Operation Sindoor launched by India targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

In an interaction hosted by the Consulate General of India in New York with a select group of prominent members of the Indian-American

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Mohan Bhagwat calls for unity in hindu society, making bharat mighty but righteous

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has called for unity in the Hindu society and making Bharat so mighty in military power and economy that it cannot be "conquered" even if "multiple powers come" together.

He, however, stressed that strength should be combined with virtues and righteousness as a "mere brute power" can be directionless leading to "blatant violence".

India has no option but to be powerful as it has been "witnessing the wickedness of the evil forces" on all its borders, Bhagwat said in an interview published in the latest issue of RSS-linked weekly magazine Organiser.

The interview was conducted following the RSS' highest decision-making body Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha's meeting in Bengaluru about two months ago.

"We must strive for strength. As we pray through the daily prarthana (prayer): 'Ajayyam cha visvasya dehis saktim' (Grant us such strength that globally we are invincible)," Bhagwat told the magazine when asked to share the Sangh's vision on national security, military strength and economic power.

He stressed that India must not be dependent on others for national se-

curity. "True strength is internal. We should be able to defend ourselves. No one should be able to conquer us, not even if multiple powers come together." "There are evil forces in the world that are aggressive by nature," he said, adding, "We have no option but to be powerful as we have been witnessing the wickedness of the evil forces on all our borders." "A virtuous per

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FROM PAGE ONE

Assembly Bypolls To 5 Seats In Four States On June 19: EC

place on June 23, the poll authority said. In Gujarat, the bypoll to the Kadi seat was necessitated following the death of sitting MLA Karsanbhai Punjabhai Solanki.

Another bypoll to the Visavadar seat in the state is taking place due to the resignation of sitting member Bhayani Bhupendrabhai Gandubhai.

In Kerala, the Nilambur seat will go to bypoll since PV Anvar has resigned, while bypolls are to be held in Punjab's Ludhiana seat due to the death of sitting member Gurpreet Bassi Gogi.

Byelection to the Kaliganj Assembly seat in West Bengal has been necessitated due to the death of sitting assembly member Nasiruddin Ahamed. (Agencies) <

Bovine Smugglers Kill ASI, Injure Policeman In J&K's Samba

Phoolpur to stop a cattle smuggling attempt.

When signaled to stop, reports said, the smugglers sped up and hit the barricades to crush the on-duty police personnel.

ASI Yograj, who sustained critical injuries in the incident, succumbed during treatment at AIIMS Vijaypur while as another injured police official is undergoing treatment at the hospital, they said.

The smugglers managed to escape after the incident, reports said.

Meanwhile, police have started an investigation and a search is on to catch those involved.

This incident came just days after drug smugglers attacked a police team in the Balol Khad area of Samba. In that attack, an SHO, a PSI, and a Selection Grade Constable were seriously injured.

Operation Sindoor not just military mission, but reflection of changing India: PM

'Sindoor' in honour of the operation," he said. The PM credited India's home-grown defence capabilities for the mission's success, following the spirit of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

"This was the ultimate bravery of our soldiers, backed by the power of weapons, equipment, and technology made in India," he said.

Modi noted a renewed energy across the country towards the 'Vocal for Local' campaign post-Operation Sindoor, saying the mission had not just inspired patriotism but also strengthened the spirit of self-reliance.

"This victory carries the sweat of our engineers, technicians, and every citizen who contributed," he said. (Agencies)

India has become 4th largest economy, ahead of Japan: NITI CEO

IMF had said.

According to IMF data, India's per capita income has doubled from USD 1,438 in 2013-14 to USD 2,880 in 2025.

The IMF in its WEO report also said the Indian economy is projected to grow at 6.2 per cent in 2025-26, slower than earlier estimated rate of 6.5 per cent, due to escalated trade tensions and global uncertainty.

"For India, the growth outlook is relatively more stable at 6.2 per cent in 2025, supported by private consumption, particularly in rural areas," the IMF had said.

According to the report, the global growth is projected at 2.8 per cent in 2025, lower by 0.5 percentage points estimated earlier. In 2026, the global economy is estimated to grow at 3 per cent.

NITI Aayog approach paper titled 'Viksit Rajya For Viksit Bharat @ 2047' said from being considered a part of the 'fragile five' economies of the world, India rose to become the top five economies of the world in just a decade.

The World Bank defines high-income countries as those whose annual per capita income is more than USD 14,005 (2024-25). India has the potential and aims to be a high-income country by 2047. The approach paper said a Viksit Bharat @ 2047 will be a USD 30 trillion economy.

"It will have all the attributes of a developed country with a per capita income that is comparable to the high-income countries of the world today," the paper said.

According to the paper, in order to achieve the goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, an overall framework for strategic interventions and reforms based on six key building blocks, with a total of 26 themes covered across all the building blocks have been identified.

The six key building blocks are: Macro-Economic Goals and Strategy; Empowered Citizens; A Thriving and Sustainable Economy; Technology and Innovation Leadership; A Global Leader, Vishwa Bandhu; Enabling factors — Governance, Security and Justice delivery. (Agencies)

No one sitting in Pakistan will be allowed to kill indi-

an citizens with impunity, there will be 'Price To Pay': Tharoor

community and individuals from leading media and think tanks on Saturday, Tharoor said that India's message to Pakistan has been clear: "We didn't want to start anything".

"We were just sending a message to terrorists. You started, we replied. If you stop, we stop. And they stopped. There was an 88-hour war. We look back on that with a great deal of frustration because it needn't have happened at all. Lives have been lost. But at the same time, we look back on this experience with a steely and renewed sense of determination.

"There is now got to be a new norm. No one sitting in Pakistan is going to be allowed to believe that they can just walk across the border and kill our citizens with impunity. There will be a price to pay and that price has been going up systematically," Tharoor said.

He said that India has focused on a very different narrative from some of its neighbours.

"Our focus for some years now has been on being the world's fastest growing free markets democracy, attempting to focus on the development of our economy, our high emphasis on technology and technological growth and pulling large numbers of people from below the poverty line" not just into the 21st Century, but into the world and the opportunities the 21st-century offers.

Tharoor spoke in detail about the horrific April 22 Pahalgalam attack in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 civilians were killed, including one Nepalese citizen, for which The Resistance Front took responsibility and then retracted. Jammu dining guide

He highlighted the dastardly manner in which the tourists were singled out and targeted based on their religion, and the retaliatory measures taken by India through Operation Sindoor, which targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir through precision strikes. He also listed the various terror attacks — from the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks to attacks in Uri and Pulwama — carried out in India by Pakistani terror outfits.

The delegation led by Tharoor includes Sarfaraz Ahmad (JMM), Ganti Harish Madhur Balayogi (TDP), Shashank Mani Tripathi (BJP), Bhubaneswar Kalita (BJP), Milind Deora (Shiv Sena), Tejasvi Surya (BJP), and India's former Ambassador to the US Taranjit Sandhu.

The delegation reached New York on Saturday and will travel to Guyana from here. It will return to the US on June 3.

Tharoor underscored that India is "not interested, and we still remain absolutely clear, we are not interested in warfare with Pakistan.

"We would much rather be left alone to grow our economy and put our people into the world" of the 21st century, he said.

"We have no desire to have anything that the Pakistanis have. Sadly, we may be a status quo power. They are not. They are a revisionist power. They covet territory that India controls, and they want to have it at any price.

"And if they can't get it through conventional means, they're willing to get it through terrorism. That is not acceptable to us, and that's really the message that we are here to give all of you in this country and elsewhere," he said.

Tharoor added that India is "determined now that there's got to be a new bottom line to this." He said over the years, India has tried everything from giving international dossiers, complaints to the sanctions committee, diplomacy.

"Everything has been tried. Pakistan has remained in denial. There has been absolutely no conviction, no prosecution of terrorists, no attempt to dismantle the terror infrastructure in that country and the continued presence of safe havens.

"So from our point of view, this is it. You do this, you're going to get this back. And we have demonstrated with this operation that we can do it with a degree of precision and with a degree of restraint that the world, we hope, will understand.

"We have a right to self-defence. We've exercised that right. We have not done so irresponsibly... That's really the message I wanted to give you all today." "I don't work for the government, as you know, I work for an opposition party," Tharoor said, adding that he had authored an op-ed within a couple of days of the Pahalgalam attack, saying "the time had come to hit hard, hit smart".

"And I'm pleased to say that's exactly what India did." He added that "India sent a clear message" that it was not going to take terror lying down and it would answer.

"But equally, that by delivering very precisely calculated, calibrated strikes on very specific targets, it was also sending a message that this was not meant to be the opening salvo in a protracted war, but just an act of retribution, that we were prepared to stop with that act." (Agencies)

SIM smuggling racket busted with 5 nabbed for aiding cross-border gaming network

mar, who later passed them on to his brother Manish Kumar and associate Faisal in Dubai, it read.

Ashwin Kumar, who operates a small trading business in Dewas, too was arrested.

He reportedly confessed to supplying the SIMs and revealed that Faisal used them for creating accounts and rigging gaming applications, earning points that were later sold for profit.

By and by, three more people, Manish Kumar (Ashwin's brother), Lokendra Sendhav, and Dwarka

Prasad, all residents of Dewas, were nabbed.

Lokendra had allegedly allowed his bank account to be used for receiving payments, while Prasad facilitated contact between the accused parties for a commission.

Police said Faisal, the suspected kingpin, remains at large and efforts are on to trace him.

"The use of Indian SIM cards in cross-border digital operations poses a serious threat. These cards were potentially being used as tools for masking identities and enabling fraud on online platforms," police said. (Agencies)

"Operation Sindoor not against people of Pakistan, but terrorist infrastructure": Ghulam Nabi Azad

underscored India's resolve to fight against terrorism and strengthen bilateral ties," said a post on X by the Indian Embassy in Bahrain.

The delegation also visited Bab Al Bahrain, a historic landmark in Manama, which Panda described as a "symbol of Bahrain's rich cultural heritage and enduring ties with India." The delegation reached here on Saturday for a two-day visit. During the visit, they also met prominent Indians and civil society members.

"We are here at a difficult time... The difficulty has to do with the latest terror attack in Pahalgalam and the hostilities with Pakistan thereafter.

"We come here in friendship to seek support. 26 men were killed at short range in front of their wives after verifying their religion. India has faced many such terrifying terrorist attacks... Our problem is that our terror attacks are all coordinated by one of our neighbours," he said during the meeting on Saturday.

He also added, "Bahrain and India have a deep and long-standing relationship... I would like to thank the government of Bahrain for the consistent stand that it has taken. We truly appreciate Bahrain's strong comments during recent developments." AIMM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, also a member of the delegation, while answering a question during the meeting, said, "Our government has sent us here, and various other delegations comprising all party members across various parts of the world, so that the world knows of the threat that India has been facing." The Panda-led delegation will head to Kuwait on May 26 as part of the diplomatic outreach to apprise prominent personalities and the Indian community there about India's stance against terrorism. Besides Panda and Owaisi, former Union Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, ex-National chairperson of the National Commission for Women and Rajya Sabha MP Rekha Sharma are also among the delegation members.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the April 22 Pahalgalam attack, which claimed 26 lives. India carried out precision strikes as part of Operation Sindoor on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in the early hours of May 7.

It was followed by Pakistan's attempt to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9, and 10. The Indian side responded strongly to the Pakistani actions.

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

Mohan Bhagwat calls for unity in hindu society, making bharat mighty but righteous

son is not safe just because of his virtues. Hence virtues should be combined with strength. Mere brute power can be directionless, leading to blatant blatant violence. Hence power should be combined with righteousness," Bhagwat underlined.

Continuing with his argument, the RSS chief said, "So we must worship both virtue and strength. For the protection of the good, for the destruction of the wicked — should be the nature of our power." "When no option is available, then wickedness has to be eradicated forcefully," he said. "We are not doing this to dominate world trade, but to ensure that everyone should be able to lead a peaceful, healthy and empowered life." Asked if human rights defenders at the global level care about Hindus facing "exploitation and violence in the neighbouring countries", the RSS chief said someone would worry about Hindus only when Hindus are strong enough.

"As the Hindu society and Bharat are intertwined, the glorious nature of Hindu society will bring glory to Bharat. Such a strong Hindu society can only present a model for taking along the people of Bharat who do not consider themselves Hindus, as at one point they were also Hindus.

"If the Hindu society of Bharat becomes strong, then automatically, Hindus will gain strength globally," he added.

Bhagwat said work is going on to strengthen Hindu society but it is not complete yet.

"Slowly but surely, that situation is evolving," he said, adding, "This time, the way anguish against the atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh has been expressed is unprecedented. Even local Hindus (in Bangladesh) now say, 'we won't flee. We'll stay and fight for our rights'".

The RSS chief asserted the "internal strength" of the Hindu society was increasing. "As the organisation grows, its impact will translate naturally. Until then, we must keep fighting," he said.

"Wherever Hindus are in the world, we will do everything possible for them, following international norms. The Sangh exists for the same," Bhagwat added.

Outlining the RSS' resolve for the next quarter of the century, he said it is to unite the "entire Hindu so-

ciety" and take Bharat to the pinnacle of glory, and eventually extend this transformation to the whole world.

"The Hindu society must awaken now. Forgetting divisions and selfishness, we need to shape our personal, family, social and professional life based on 'dharma' values rooted in Hindutva," he said when asked about his message for the well-wishers, thinkers and the Hindu society in this centenary year of the RSS.

That will pave the way for a powerful, righteous and self-reliant Bharat, he observed. "The world is waiting for a new path and Bharat, means Hindu society, has to provide it as a divine duty." "Agriculture, industrial and scientific revolutions are over. Now the world needs a 'dharma' revolution. I am not talking about religion, but human life has to be reorganised based on truth, purity, compassion and austerity. The world needs this. Bharat has to inevitably show the path," he added. (Agencies)

IIFL Finance Gets RBI Approval To Open Branches In Jammu And Kashmir

credit has historically been limited, IIFL Finance said in a statement.

Commenting on the development, IIFL Finance founder and MD Nirmal Jain said, "The management decision to commence operations in Jammu & Kashmir reflects our long-standing commitment to bringing financial access to unserved and underserved communities. The approval to open branches comes at a critical time when people in the region have been facing disruptions in their livelihoods."

IIFL's presence in Jammu & Kashmir complements its Corporate Social Responsibility activities in the state, including ongoing programs in Kupwara, Baramulla, Srinagar, and other areas that focus on education, skill development, healthcare and community empowerment.

IIFL Foundation has been present in Kashmir for over a decade. It initially supported with incubator machines at the LD Hospital during the Kashmir floods, it added. (Agencies)

Srinagar District admin spreads awareness on growing menace of drug abuse

During the event, informative sessions addressing the physical, mental, and social consequences of substance abuse were held to effectively sensitize the participants.

On the occasion, the Artists from Cultural Unit Kashmir, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), presented a powerful and thought-provoking short play to raise awareness about the growing menace of drug abuse.

The resource persons representing Social Welfare, Police, Health, Education, Excise and SMC, others emphasized the crucial role of education, awareness, and community involvement in eradicating the menace of drugs from society.

The Students also contributed through speeches, skits, and discussions emphasizing the message of Drugs Free Kashmir.

The awareness program witnessed active participation from students, local community members, Staff of the School.

Jitendra Singh praises PM as first cherry cargo train set to roll from J&K to Mumbai

to Bandra station in Mumbai. The cargo will reach its destination in 30 hours.

"It will be a win-win situation for both the railways and fruit growers and in turn the economy of J-K region," added Singhal.

Reacting to the development, the minister of state in the PMO said the work on Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, sanctioned in 1994-95, was almost stopped given the challenging topography and the cost escalation when Modi took over as the prime minister in 2014.

"The alignment was reestablished and the result is that a railway track was successfully laid to connect Kashmir with the rest of the country today. It also saw the construction of the world's highest railway bridge (Chenab bridge)," Singh told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

Rajouri's Sarv Dharam Tiranga Rally Unites Youths in Patriotic Fervor

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 25

A spirited Sarv Dharam Tiranga Rally was held today in Dhangri, Rajouri, bringing together hundreds of enthusiastic participants from diverse communities to honour the bravery of Indian Forces. Organized by Dheeraj Sharma, a National Awardee and former Sarpanch of Upper Dhangri, the rally showcased the region's unity and unwavering support for the nation's armed forces.

The vibrant procession commenced at Dhangri Chowk, weaving through Muradpur to Panja Chowk, Rajouri, and returning via Bhadoon to con-

clude at Dhangri Chowk. Hundreds of youths, riding two-wheelers adorned with fluttering National Flags, filled the air with resounding chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Indian Forces Zindabad'. The rally symbolized a powerful display of patriotism, with participants from all castes and religions uniting under the tricolor.

Addressing the gathering, Dheeraj Sharma lauded the Indian Army and Paramilitary Forces for their recent decisive operation against terrorist bases in Pakistan. "We are immensely proud of our forces, who executed a precise and impactful mission, eliminating hundreds of terrorists without any collateral damage to our nation,"

he said.

Sharma emphasized that the rally was organized to applaud the valor of the forces and to foster unity among youths of different faiths in support of a strong, secure India.

Reflecting on the recent military operation, Sharma added, "While our forces successfully completed their mission in a single day, compelling Pakistan to appeal for a ceasefire, we believe extending the operation for a few more days could have dismantled Pakistan's terrorist ecosystem entirely, ensuring long-term security for our nation." He urged continued vigilance and national unity to counter future threats.

Dr. R.K. Uppal Honored as "Education Reformer of the Year - 2025"

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 25

In a momentous recognition of educational leadership and transformative impact, Dr. R.K. Uppal was conferred with the prestigious "Education Reformer of the Year - 2025" Award during the National Eduleaders Summit-2025, organized by the Progressive Academic Alliance of India (PAAI) at Amity University, Mohali. Dr. Rajinder Kumar Uppal, an eminent Emeritus Professor, visionary academician, and nationally celebrated scholar, currently serves as Professor-cum-Principal at Guru Gobind College of Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, Punjab. With a legacy rooted in excellence, Dr. Uppal is internationally acclaimed for his pioneering research in Banking and Finance, underscored by a series of influential national and international patents. A prolific author of over 70 books and 275 research papers, Dr. Uppal has played a transformative



role in shaping policy, research, and pedagogy in finance education. His scholarly leadership is equally evident through his role as a mentor to researchers, reviewer for esteemed journals, and chairperson at global academic forums. Dr. Uppal's unwavering commitment to academic innovation

and societal advancement continues to redefine the contours of higher education in India. His recognition as "Education Reformer of the Year - 2025" stands as a testament to his lifelong dedication to knowledge, reform, and the upliftment of educational standards.

Natrang staged a Hindi Comedy Play, 'Prem Visheshagya'

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 25

In its regular weekly theatre series, Sunday Theatre, Natrang staged a Hindi Comedy Play, 'Prem Visheshagya' written By Hari Shanker Parsai & directed by Balwant Thakur at its Studio Theatre. The play comments on the young generation, who are engrossed in the idea of love, so much so that they are ready to die for the one they love. This humorous comedy tickled the audience, for whom it was difficult to resist their laughter at every instant.

The story of the play 'Prem Visheshagya' revolves around a love guru who has opened a clinic to cater to the growing demand of relationship conflicts. Claiming himself to be the last destination of all broken hearts, he confronts with such complicated cases that he himself trapped into similar complications. The dramatic turn comes in the play when a young girl comes to his clinic to get rid of the modern 'Majnu' who has sacrificed everything for her. In the process of treating the girl, the love Guru falls in her love, thus creating



yet another comic situation. Who will treat if the doctor himself becomes the patient?

Other than making us laugh, the play conveys very strong message to the society also, particularly to the youth, who is required to concentrate more on career rather than flying high on imaginative, unreal and dreamy clouds of

what we term as infatuation.

Natrang actors who performed in the play included Aryan Sharma, Adaksh Bagal, Prerna Sharma, Kartik Kumar and Amit Rana. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant. The play was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen and the presentations were done by Simran Bhagat.

SANT NIRANKARI MISSION ORGANISES A VOLUNTARILY BLOOD DONATION CAMP AT MANDLI

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 25

With the divine blessing of her holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, Sant Nirankari Mission organizing a voluntarily blood donation camp at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan Mandli-Bilawar. Devotees from Branch Basohli and Bani also participated in this camp and A total of 81 units of blood donated.

Smt. Neeru Bali, DDC Mandli, inaugurated a blood donation camp organized by the Sant Nirankari Mission at Mandli, Bilawar in District Kathua. She congratulated the Mission and its donors for their noble service and emphasised that such humanitarian efforts are inspired by true spiritual enlightenment. She praised the Mission for promoting compassion, unity, and selfless service in society.

Zonal Incharge Ajit Singh highlighted the Sant Nirankari Mission's significant contribution to blood donation drives across India. He shared that thousands of volunteers are regularly inspired to donate blood, guided by the teachings of humanity and selfless service. He emphasized that



these efforts are deeply inspired by Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, whose divine guidance continues to motivate devotees to serve society with love and compassion. He thanked all the donors and reaffirmed the Mission's unwavering commitment to this noble cause.

Shanker Singh Mukhi Mandli welcome the Chief Guest and Donors

presented on the occasion.

Other Dignitaries presented on the occasion were Dr. Deepshikha from Blood Bank GMC Jammu, Khem Raj Mukhi Basohli and Satpal Nirankari Khetriya Sanchalak Kathua. The camp was held in collaboration with blood & transfusion dept. of Govt. Medical College Jammu, Sub District Hospital Bilawar and JKSAACS.

Relief Operations by Gandhi Global Family reaches Rajouri & Poonch

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 25

Gandhi Global Family (GGF), in alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), organized a co-ordinated humanitarian effort to support families affected by cross-border shelling along the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch districts. To address the urgent needs of the impacted communities, GGF organized a collaborative network of regional and sub-regional NGOs, civil society organizations and volunteers. Key partners included the J&K Ex-Servicemen League, Unnat NGO, Tawi Welfare Organization, Sangarsh and Pulastya Foundation. This coalition exemplified United Nations SDG Goal No 17's emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships, enabling a structured and efficient response to the crisis.

The relief efforts were tailored to the specific needs of the affected population, guided by feedback collected during GGF's initial assessment visits. Essential supplies such as grocery kits, juices, biscuits and mosquito nets were distributed to address immediate survival requirements. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by women and children, the initiative also provided sanitary pads, indoor sports kits and educational materials. This approach not only prioritized physical necessities but also aimed to support psychosocial well-being, particularly for children traumatized by the conflict.



Formal handover ceremonies were conducted in both districts to ensure transparency and accountability. In Rajouri, District Youth Officer Mr. Nitin Hangloo received the relief material through GGF President Rajouri Bashir Ahmed Shawl and senior member Mr. Saleem.

In Poonch, the supplies were delivered to Assistant Commissioner Revenue M. Sayeed, Child Welfare Committee Chairperson Rohit Khajuria and Superintendent of Palaash Children Home Boys Ms. Nusrat Mir, with Dr. Nitin Sharma General Secretary GGF Jammu region and Adv. Waqar Hussain Shah leading the process.

The events in both districts were witnessed by prominent civil society members, including ex-councillor Naresh Kumar Raj, Adv. Sanjeev

Sharma, Adv. Bhanu Partap, Adv. Navjot Sharma, Dr. Syed Nusrat Shah, Dr. Mehak Sharma, Mr. Vikrant Sharma and Mr. Shakti Sharma.

Earlier, the second relief consignment was dispatched under the supervision of Dr. S. P. Varma, President GGF J&K.

The initiative also highlighted women-led contributions, such as those by GGF Women representative especially from Mrs. Anuradha Lal President GGF Women Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Dr. Alka Sharma President GGF Jammu Women Wing, Ms. Neena Abrol from Unnat NGO and Ms. Anuradha from Cambridge Montessori, Pounichak emphasizing gender inclusivity in humanitarian efforts.

R.M.P. School Clinches Overall Championship Trophy At 4th Ravi Tikku Memorial Speed Ball Championship 2025

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 25

R.M.P. School Emerged Victorious, Winning The Overall Championship Trophy At The 4th Ravi Tikku Memorial SpeedBall Championship 2025, Organized By The J&K Sports Speed Ball Association. The Event Witnessed Enthusiastic Participation From Various Schools, Showcasing Immense Talent And Sportsmanship. School At JP World Auditorium On 24 May, 2025. Around 200 Players From Various Schools of Jammu City Took Part In This Fabulous Event. Schools Namely Crescent Public School, Dogra Hr.Sec School, S.D Tara Puri High School, R.M.P.S, Army Public School, Sunjwan, JP World School And Jammu Sanskriti School. The tournament was held to commemorate the legacy of Ravi Tikku and to promote speed ball as a growing sport in the region. R.M.P. School stood out with exceptional performances across multiple categories, demonstrating skill, teamwork, and dedication. The Chief Guest Affiliated The Association For Involving Such A Big Number of Young Boys And Girls In This Speedball Event. The General Secretary of The Association



Mr.Sunny Nanda Welcomes All Guests On The Behalf Of Association And Gave A Brief Presentation Regarding National And International Achievements. The 4th CHAMPIONSHIP was organized in the memory of SH.RAVI TIKKU JI, he was also the EX President of JKSA.

The Matches Were Officiated By Sahil Kaith, Gurvansh Choudhary, Vishal Kumar, Vanshika Manhas, Amer Koshal, Kailash Kashyap, Yo-

gant Singh and Jagdeep janjua. Under The Supervision of Event Organizers Mr.Sunny Nanda (General Secretary J&K Sports Speedball Association) In this championship RM Public School Wins Overall Medal Championship, Crescent Public school was the 1st Runner Up And JP World School was the 2nd Runner Up. JAMMU Sanskriti wins the tag of BIG TEAM. All the winners are selected for District level speedball Championship.

Movement Kalki Expresses Strong Outrage over Disrespect of Cow; Demands Strict Action from Administration

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 25

An emergency press conference was held today by the Movement Kalki organization at Jai Shri Ram Travels, Jammu Bus Stand. Addressing the press, the organization's advisor, Hon'ble Shri Pritam Sharma, expressed deep indignation over a recently surfaced objectionable video in which the holy cow was referred to as a "sacrifice animal" and openly offered for sale.

He informed that a portal named "Kashmir Global Times" had shared a video titled "Qurbani Animal Sale in Sofapura Barkat Mohalla", featuring images and footage of calves, bulls, and cows. Several social media users have circulated these sacred animals' visuals using captions such as "Lo aa gayi Qurbani" (Here comes the sacrifice), which deeply hurts the religious sentiments of crores of Hindus. Shri Sharma said that Movement Kalki has been continuously fighting for the past 218 days to declare the cow as the "Rashtra Mata" (National Mother) and to implement a complete ban on cow slaughter. He questioned the central and UT governments on whether such activities would continue openly in a sensitive region like India while the administration remains silent. The organization put forth the following key demands:



1. Immediate registration of FIRs against the objectionable video and related social media posts.
2. Reinstatement of the stringent provisions of the erstwhile Ranbir Penal Code in Jammu & Kashmir.
3. Enactment of a special law for the protection of cows.
4. A clear stance from the J&K administration and the central government on this matter.
5. All 28 BJP legislators from Jammu must publicly express their position on this issue.

The organization also questioned the Omar government, accusing it of shielding those who mock Hindu beliefs. It condemned the fact that such videos are being produced on Indian

soil and not in Pakistan, thereby deeply wounding the faith of crores of Hindus. Movement Kalki insisted that the Modi government must not remain silent on this issue.

Senior members including Advocate Someshwar Kohli and Core Committee member Sanjeev Dubey were present at the press meet. All unanimously condemned the incident and demanded strict legal action to protect Sanatan Dharma.

Movement Kalki warned that if the government continues to remain silent on this serious matter, it would be an injustice to the Sanatani society, and the organization would be compelled to intensify its movement.

Lalu Yadav expels elder son from party, snaps family ties

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Rashtriya Janata Dal president Lalu Prasad Yadav on Sunday expelled his elder son Tej Pratap Yadav from the party, besides declaring that he 'shall have nothing to do with the family'.

Tej Pratap had on Saturday evening announced on social media that he was 'in a relationship for 12 years' with a woman, despite being married and his divorce petition still pending before a family court in Patna.

He, however, deleted the post a few hours later, claiming on X that his Facebook page was 'hacked'.

Lalu Yadav, who announced his drastic move on social media, made no mention of the previous day's happenings, but criticised his elder son's actions, public conduct and 'irresponsible behaviour', saying 'disregard for moral values in personal life weakens our collective struggle to achieve social justice'.

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He admonished Tej Pratap for behaving in a manner 'not in consonance with the values of my family' and declared that 'he shall have no role, henceforth, in the party and the family. He is expelled from the party for six years'.



The development came with barely a few months left for the Bihar assembly polls, which the RJD will fight under the leadership of Lalu's younger son, Tejashwi Yadav.

When Tejashwi Yadav, the former deputy chief minister, was asked about what was the proverbial last straw, he gave a guarded response but minced no words in stating 'things have not been to my liking'.

"My elder brother is an adult. He is free to make any choice in his personal life. But there are certain things we cannot tolerate. And this is what our national president has asserted in his post," said Tejashwi Yadav, the leader of the opposition in the state assembly.

Tej Pratap Yadav had made his political debut in the assembly polls of 2015, and is a second-term MLA with two brief stints in the state cabinet.

But unlike his younger brother, he has been in the news for all the wrong reasons.

A few months ago, he made headlines for threatening a policeman in his security with suspension upon refusal to

dance as per his command and speeding on a two-wheeler without wearing a helmet.

Earlier, he had been in the news for an ugly marital dispute, besides antics like supporting rebels in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, floating a parallel outfit 'Lalu Rabri Morcha' and occupying the chair reserved for the national president while at the RJD office.

Reacting to the turmoil in RJD, Janata Dal-United spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said, "Lalu Prasad has used a jack to salvage his reputation after his elder son tried to cover up his misdemeanour with the claim that his Facebook page had been hacked."

"But Lalu Prasad must remember that he will still be charged with dynastic rule and keeping mum when his daughter-in-law, a grandchild of a former CM, was humiliated," he said.

The allusion was to Aishwarya, the granddaughter of Daroga Prasad Rai, who tied the knot with Tej Pratap Yadav in 2018 but left his house a few months later, alleging that she was driven out by her husband and in-laws.

Women-led water revolution turns dacoits into farmers in Rajasthan

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Until about 15 years ago, Sampatti Devi and many women like her in Rajasthan's Karauli district lived in constant fear, dreading the day their husbands might not return home.

Repeated droughts, driven in part by declining rainfall linked to climate change, had turned their land barren.

Water sources dried up, crippling agriculture and animal husbandry, the lifeblood of their livelihood.

With no other way to survive, many men were forced into dacoity, hiding in jungles and risking their lives every day to evade the police.

Karauli's average annual rainfall dropped from 722.1 mm (1951-2000) to 563.94 mm (2001-2011), according to government data.

But in the 2010s, something remarkable happened. The women, weary of fear and despair, resolved to reclaim their lives.

They convinced their husbands to come out of the jungle and give up arms.

Together, they began reviving old, dried-up ponds and constructing new pokhars (water bodies) with the help of Tarun Bharat Sangh (TBS), an Alwar-based NGO dedicated to water conservation since 1975.

"I would have been dead by now. She convinced me to come back and start farming again," recalls Jagdish, Sampatti Devi's husband, now 58, who surrendered his weapons and chose peace.

Pooling every penny earned over the years by selling milk, they built a pokhar at the base of a hill near their village, Alampur, in 2015-16.

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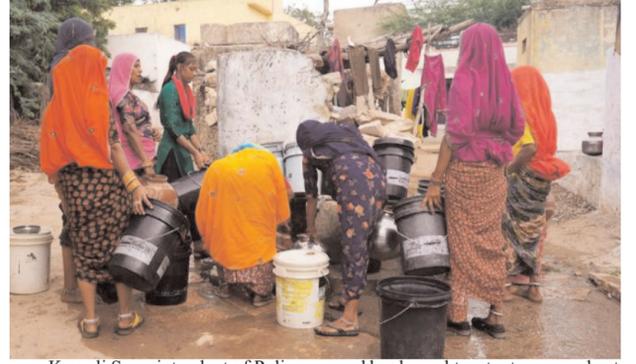
When the rains came, the pokhar filled and for the first time in years, their family had water, enough to sustain them for a longer period.

"Now, we grow mustard, wheat, pearl millet and vegetables," says Sampatti Devi, sitting proudly on the pokhar's embankment. She even rents it out for water chestnut cultivation, earning about Rs 1 lakh each season.

Over the years, 16 such pokhars have been built in the surrounding forest, each capturing runoff from the slopes. Diesel pumps now lift water to irrigate fields.

Karauli, once among Rajasthan's worst-hit dacoit areas, witnessed a transformation.

"With water, stability is returning,"



says Karauli Superintendent of Police Brijesh Jyoti Upadhyay.

Community-led water conservation revived groundwater sparked hope and renewed farming opportunities.

Sumit Dookia, an associate professor at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and a Rajasthan native, says the Chambal region's rocky terrain hastens rainwater runoff, limiting groundwater recharge.

He says that similar transformations have also occurred in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah, where former dacoits returned to farming.

In Karauli, this wave of conservation has transformed the Semi, once a seasonal river, into a perennial one.

Just a decade ago, the river would run dry after Diwali, leaving people desperate for water.

"Now, the river holds water even in the peak of summer. The groundwater level has risen to just five to 10 feet below the surface," says Ranveer Singh from TBS.

Forty years ago, he says, the river flowed all year round, but overuse and climate change had drained it dry. With no options left, some men migrated to cities in search of work, while others turned to mining or dacoity.

"Illegal mining exposed them to lethal silica dust, causing silicosis, a painful and incurable lung disease. Many did not live past 40," said Rajendra Singh, the Magsaysay Award and Stockholm Water Prize-winning water conservationist who leads TBS.

A 2013 study by the National Institute of Miners' Health (now part of ICMR-NIOH) found that 74 per cent of surveyed sandstone workers in Karauli suffered from silicosis.

Water scarcity even disrupted marriage decisions. Families of prospective brides avoided sending daughters to this parched land, while poverty forced many Karauli parents to marry off their daughters early.

In Bhoorkheda village, where many families were forced to marry off their daughters early under the weight of financial hardship, 55-year-old Prem, the wife of a former dacoit, gave up four bighas of her own land to build a pokhar on the village's edge.

Though she speaks little of her husband's past, she proudly shares how the

pond has brought water to grow wheat and pearl millet and fed the families in her village.

Lajja Ram, 60, also from Bhoorkheda, admits he turned to dacoity out of desperation.

"My father was a farmer. There was enough water in his time. But as I grew up, rainfall declined, wells dried up and farming became impossible. We were lucky to produce even two to four matts (80-160 kg) per bigha. Our cattle died, and we felt like we were next," says Lajja Ram, who once faced 40 criminal cases.

It was his sister who finally persuaded him to surrender and join water conservation efforts.

Now, they grow wheat, mustard, chickpea and pearl millet on their 10 bighas of land, own eight buffaloes, several goats and have enough to eat. "Ab aanad hai' (Now, there is happiness)," he says.

In Arora village, 70-year-old folk singer Siyaram remembers when rains failed, crops withered and children wept from hunger.

His 30 bighas of land lay parched and his sons migrated to cities. His wife, Prem Devi, who passed away two years ago, had inspired him to join water conservation.

Siyaram sings of that time: "Paani ki dori hath nahi, tum chaho to barsat nahi. Paani ki ajab kahani hai. Ab bhai khuwari bin paani hai'. (You cannot control rain; it won't come when you wish. Water's story is strange. Now, brother, the land is barren without water.)"

Today, Siyaram sings another tune of hope.

"Paani hi jeevan ka saathi, paani bin mar jaye haathi. Sun lo dada, bhai, naati... mil jayega dhan ratan, agar hum paani rokne ka karein jatan'. (Water is life's companion. Without it, even the elephant dies. Listen, elder, brother, nephew... We will find treasure if we work to conserve water.)"

On a scorching May afternoon, Karauli's ponds and pokhars shimmer with water. The Semi river flows gently, with children splashing and cattle grazing along its banks.

"A decade ago, no one would have imagined this. Our women made this possible!" says Ranveer.

Delhi govt to suspend officials for Minto Bridge flooding

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

The Delhi government is likely to take disciplinary actions against erring officials responsible for waterlogging at the Minto Bridge underpass after overnight showers, sources said on Sunday.

According to government sources, a junior engineer and pump operator responsible for the underpass will be suspended and the assistant engineer will be issued a show cause notice for supervisory lapses.

"The higher authorities have decided to take action against these officials responsible for waterlogging at the underpass as they did not reach the spot on time," said a government source.

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PWD Minister Parvesh Verma had last month given clear instructions that if any waterlogging occurs at any of the identified points during the mon-



soon, strict disciplinary action, including suspension, will be taken against the responsible engineer.

The government had earlier identified the Minto Bridge underpass as one of the seven critical waterlogging hotspots, where special attention had to be given and the monitoring was done by the engineer-in-chief of the department.

"The engineer-in-chief has been directed to issue warnings to all the PWD officials to avoid such incidents in future," sources added.

The PWD received approximately 40 calls regarding waterlogging due to heavy overnight rains.

Waterlogging was witnessed in Sarai Kale Khan bus stand, Timarpur main market, Peeragarhi Chowk, near New Delhi railway station, Dhaura Kuan underpass, Palam underpass, Azadpur underpass, Minto Road underpass, Zakhira underpass, Greater Kailash-2 and ITO.

According to the PWD, a total of 445 waterlogging points have been identified in the capital in 2025 based on data shared by the traffic police.

Of these, 335 points fall under the PWD's responsibility.

Verma has appointed assistant engineers and junior engineers as local in-charges for all 335 points.

CBSE's 'sugar boards' in schools aim to curb childhood obesity

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

With the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) directing schools to set up dedicated 'Sugar Boards' to underline the importance of limiting sugar consumption, experts feel the move will encourage both students and parents to make informed choices on sugar intake.

The initiative targets a growing public health concern: the silent but significant rise in childhood obesity, Type-2 diabetes, and metabolic disorders.

As part of the move, which has stirred up enthusiasm among health experts, educators and nutritionists, schools across India have been directed to prominently display sugar awareness boards on their campuses to encourage both students and parents to recognise the 'hidden' sugars in their daily diets.

Dr R Goswami, professor of endocrinology at AIIMS Delhi, called the move a good initiative.

"Carbohydrates, especially those with excess of free sugar such as cold drinks and maida-rich food, are relatively cheaper sources of energy and calories when compared to protein-rich



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

Grammarly "So, one gets more quantity of carbohydrate-rich food as compared to protein-rich food in the same amount of money spent," Goswami said.

"As a result, when a person starts consuming more of such carbohydrate-rich food, coupled with lack of exercise, obesity develops. However, there

is no data that show taking sweets in moderation when the Body Mass Index (BMI) is maintained leads to diabetes. So one can take sweets, but in moderation."

"Excess sugar consumption leads to childhood obesity, which can lead to Type 2 diabetes at a later stage. Children should also avoid refined carbohydrates such as maida, which increases calorie intake and can later lead to obesity. Taking sugar in limitation is very important as it directly affects the BMI."

Liberian ship with hazardous cargo sinks off Kerala coast

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

A Liberian cargo ship carrying 640 containers onboard, including 13 hazardous cargoes, has capsized and sunk in the sea off the coast of Kerala, officials said on Sunday, raising fears of environmental damage.

"In the early hours of 25 May, MSC ELSA 3 listed rapidly and capsized at position 09°18.76'N 076°08.12'E and sank," a Coast Guard statement said on Sunday.

It said the three remaining crew abandoned the sinking vessel and were rescued by INS Sujata, which joined operations last evening.

The ICG said the ship Saksham, equipped with pollution response equipment, has been positioned at the scene to respond to any oil spill scenario.

Of the 640 containers onboard, 13 contained hazardous cargo, while 12 containers with calcium carbide were present, it said.

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"The ship had in its tanks 84.44 MT of diesel and 367.1 MT of furnace oil," the ICG said.

Noting that the sensitive coast of Kerala is home to both vivid biodiversity and is a major tourist attraction, it further said the ICG has geared up pollution response preparedness and coordination with the state administration for all possible scenarios.

"ICG aircraft with advanced oil spill mapping technology are undertaking an assessment of the situation. Presently, no oil spill has been reported," it added.

The Indian Coast Guard also said it is fully geared to respond to the emerging scenario and is closely monitoring the environmental impact in the aftermath of the sinking of MSC ELSA 3.

The development comes amid intense efforts by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard, which were exploring methods to assist in towing the vessel.

The Liberian container ship, carrying marine fuel, listed several degrees about 38 nautical miles off the Kerala coast on Saturday, causing its cargo to spill into the sea.

A Defence PRO said another vessel from the parent company had reached the area as part of the assistance efforts.

Earlier, authorities had stated that out of the 24 crew members on board, 21 were rescued, while three remained onboard as per instructions from the company.

He added that the Coast Guard, which spearheaded the rescue operation, and Indian Navy ships are maintaining their positions in the area and monitoring the situation.

The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) has cautioned the general public against touching any cargo containers or oil spills that may wash ashore.

They have also urged people to immediately inform the police if they spot any containers or oil on the shore. The 184-metre-long vessel, MSC ELSA 3, departed for Kochi from Vizhinjam port on Friday.

At around 1.25 p.m. on May 24, the company owning the ship informed Indian authorities that it was listing by 26 degrees and sought urgent assistance.

The Coast Guard was coordinating rescue operations by maintaining ships and aircraft near the distressed vessel.

The vessel's 24-member crew comprises one Russian (the Master), 20 Filipinos, two Ukrainians, and one Georgian national.

According to the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, there is a possibility that cargo --including containers and oil-- may wash ashore. KSDMA also warned that oil films could appear along parts of the coast.

The Coast Guard has confirmed that the vessel was carrying Marine Gas Oil (MGO) and Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (VLSFO).

Factors that will drive the markets this week

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Movement in the equity market this week will be guided by a host of macroeconomic data announcements, global trends and trading activity of foreign investors, analysts said.

Stocks markets concluded the last week on a subdued note, as investors grappled with global uncertainties.

"The market's muted performance was driven by a combination of global and domestic factors.

"On the global front, rising US bond yields and concerns over the United States' mounting debt burden triggered foreign portfolio outflows, putting pressure on emerging markets, including India," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

In the week ahead, the release of India's industrial and manufacturing production data for April, scheduled for May 28, along with the Q1 GDP growth figures, will offer insights into the economic recovery trajectory.

Updates on the progress of monsoon will also be closely monitored, he said.

On the global front, developments in the US bond market, the release of FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) minutes, and progress in the India-US trade negotiations will continue to influence market sentiment, Mishra said.

"Moreover, the scheduled monthly expiry of May derivatives contracts and the final leg of the Q4 earnings season with results from key companies like Bajaj Auto, Aurobindo Pharma and IRCTC will remain in focus," Mishra added.

Last week, the BSE benchmark dropped 609.51 points or 0.74 per



cent and the NSE Nifty declined 166.65 points or 0.66 per cent.

"Looking ahead, markets are expected to remain firm, with participation likely from the broader market segments as macro and earnings tailwinds continue to provide support.

"Investors will also be closely watching key data releases this week, including quarterly GDP figures for both India and the US," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

The Reserve Bank on Friday announced a record Rs 2.69 lakh crore dividend to the government for FY25, 27.4 per cent higher than 2023-24, helping the exchequer to tide over challenges posed by US tariffs and increased spending on defence due to the conflict with Pakistan.

In the week ahead, market participants will first react to the RBI's record dividend transfer of Rs 2.7 lakh crore to the government and its impli-

cations for fiscal policy, Mishra said.

"Given the continued uncertainty surrounding the US economy, foreign investment flows, and trade negotiations, Indian markets may see a phase of consolidation in the near term," Gaurav Garg, Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

The market has been volatile throughout the last week amid concerns over US fiscal health due to rising debt, an expert said.

Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "Investor attention is further revolving around US-India trade talks and strong domestic macroeconomic indicators.

"However, recent FII outflows, driven by rising US bond yields amid concerns over mounting US debt, may weigh on the market sentiment."

Optimism around a potentially record-high dividend from the RBI is boosting hopes for fiscal consolidation, reflected in falling Indian bond yields, Nair added.

India Now World's Fourth Largest Economy, Overtakes Japan

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

India has become the fourth largest economy in the world, overtaking Japan, NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam said on Saturday.

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Briefing reporters after the 10th Governing Council meeting of Niti Aayog, Subrahmanyam said overall geopolitical and economic environment is favourable to India.

"We are the fourth largest economy as I speak. We are a USD 4 trillion economy as I speak," he said.

Citing IMF data, Subrahmanyam said India today is larger than Japan.

"It is only US, China, Germany, which are larger than India and if



we stick to what is being planned and what is being thought through, in 2.5-3 years, we will be the third largest economy," Subrahmanyam.

Responding to a question on US President Donald Trump's recent statement that he expects Apple iPhones that will be sold in the US to be manufactured in America and not

India, or anyplace else, Subrahmanyam said, "What the tariff will be, is uncertain. Given the dynamics, we will be cheap place to manufacture."

He also said that a second round of asset monetisation pipeline is being prepared and it will be announced in August.

Centre plans to list at least five RRBs by FY27-end

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

After the merger of regional rural banks (RRBs) under the "One State, One RRB" policy to improve their efficiency and minimise competition among public-sector banks (PSBs) that sponsor them, the government is planning to list at least five RRBs by the end of financial year 2026-27 (FY27).

After the latest amalgamation that came into effect on May 1, there are 28 RRBs in 26 states and two Union Territories (UTs), with more than 22,000 branches covering 700 districts.

"Our aim is to strengthen the reputation of RRBs as credible and valuable institutions, both for stakeholders and investors.

"If RRBs pursue public listings, it will not only boost public accountability but also help them operate more efficiently by securing additional funding," a senior government official said.

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An email sent to the finance ministry did not elicit any response until press time.

The official noted that the government was planning some soft skill training among RRB staff.

"If RRBs go for initial public offerings (IPOs), it will be crucial for their survival. It will increase accountability to the public after listing and enable them to operate more professionally by acquiring additional funds," said Krishnan Sankarabramanian, former managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of Punjab & Sind



Bank.

According to the finance ministry's draft guidelines of 2022, RRBs with a minimum net worth of Rs 300 crore must also have a capital adequacy ratio above the regulatory minimum level of 9 per cent in each of the preceding three years.

Additionally, these regional lenders must have reported an operating profit before tax of Rs 15 crore in three out of preceding five years.

The identified RRBs must also have a return on equity (RoE) of 10 per cent and a return on assets (RoA) of 0.5 per cent in three out of five preceding years.

Furthermore, any lender must not be under the RBI's prompt corrective action (PCA) framework.

Following consolidation, the total RRB business as a percentage of India's gross domestic product (GDP) is

expected to reach around 5.2 per cent by FY30 from about 3.7 per cent as of FY24, according to a PwC India report.

Oriented towards rural areas, RRBs were established regionally, with capital contributed by the Government of India, state governments, and sponsor banks under the RRB Act, 1976.

RRBs predominantly operate in rural setups, with approximately 92 per cent of their branches in rural or semi-urban areas.

Prior to consolidation, the number of loss-making RRBs steadily declined from 18 in FY20 to three in FY24.

The net profit of 32 RRBs increased during FY24.

These banks reported their highest-ever consolidated net profit of Rs 7,571 crore for FY24, with a gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of 6.1 per cent, the lowest in 10 years.

Adani Ports, JSW Infra make logistics anchor for cargo growth plans

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Adani Ports and JSW Infrastructure, India's leading private port operators, are expanding their logistics services to capture extra cargo while they run integrated transport services.

"With incrementally less availability of lucrative port assets that can drive cargo volumes, port operators have naturally shifted their focus on deriving value in the upstream integration, i.e., the logistics space.

"The synergies being derived through end-to-end service capability for importing or exporting cargo, along with handling of the domestic cargo, are driving port operators to invest in building hinterland assets," said Varun Gogia, assistant vice-president & sector head, corporate ratings, Ica.

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), India's top private port operator, has 12 multimodal logistics parks (MMLPs), 132 rakes, more than 3 million square feet of warehousing space, around 6,000 containers, and 937 trailers and tipper trucks.

It has 18,250 hectares of industrial land and is building a bank of over 1,528 acres at various industrial clusters, which are integrated with hinterland logistics (like rail and road).

APSEZ's management, in earnings' call for Q4 FY25, said it aims to become an integrated transport utility company.

The company has a truck-management platform and a freight-forwarding business.

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"These are capitalised businesses. They come with very high return on capital employed (ROCE)," said D Muthukumar, chief financial officer (CFO) of APSEZ, adding that growth in logistics is likely to be inorganic (business growth from acquisitions).

JSW Infrastructure (JSW Infra) acquired a majority stake in Navkar Corporation, a logistics firm, for Rs 1,644 crore in FY25.

Lalit Singhvi, whole-time director and CFO of JSW Infra, told Business Standard earlier the company is looking for more inorganic opportunities in logistics and has submitted bids to the National Company Law Tribunal for acquisitions.

JSW Infra has two Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals (GCT) and plans to participate in more such opportunities to build a nationwide logistics network of 15-20 GCT centres in five years to have an "industry-leading ROCE".

The company aims to use 100 acres



of undeveloped land in Panvel, Maharashtra, and Morbi, Gujarat, for its logistics plans.

It seeks a logistics revenue of Rs 8,000 crore and a 25 per cent ebitda margin by FY30, led by adopting an asset-light model via GCTs, synergies with the JSW Group, opportunities in the logistics sector, and major cleanup in accounts, said analysts at Ellara Capital in a note. (Ebitda stand for earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation)

The logistics strategies of APSEZ and JSW Infra are a natural extension of their port businesses, according to experts.

The companies seek to earn more from customers by offering "end-to-end solutions", improved port efficiency, and more cargo volumes.

Manish Goel, founder and managing director (MD) of Equentis Wealth Advisory Services, said, "APSEZ benefits from scale, a pan-India port presence, and early investments in multi-modal connectivity and warehousing, making it one of the few players capable of offering genuine end-to-end solutions.

"Meanwhile, JSW Infra leverages the group's industrial backbone. With steady captive cargo and access to in-house infrastructure, it enjoys operational certainty and volume visibility—two critical ingredients in logistics."

APSEZ's FY25 logistics revenue grew 38.6 per cent to Rs 2,881 crore, while ebitda increased 18.9 per cent to Rs 642 crore.

Margins declined to 22 per cent from 26 per cent in FY24.

Expansion will reduce overall ebitda percentage but increase ROCE, the company said.

It has guided trucking revenue, which was Rs 428 crore in FY25, to grow at least three-fold in FY26.

JSW Infra reported a logistics rev-

enue of Rs 250 crore and ebitda of Rs 41 crore in FY25.

It has guided FY26 logistics revenue to grow 50 per cent, driven by rake additions, terminals, and GCT initiatives.

The expansion plans of the two companies may have mixed financial implications as logistics is a low-margin business, experts said.

According to Vijay Agrawal, MD - investment banking at Equirus Capital, ports give ebitda margins of 60-70 per cent and ROCE of 12-17 per cent.

Logistics generates lower ebitda (15-25 per cent) and ROCE (12-15 per cent).

"For example, APSEZ's logistics contribute 12 per cent of revenue but only 4 per cent of ebitda.

"JSW Infra is better positioned with low leverage and a 54 per cent margin at the group level, though logistics returns are yet to materialise fully."

APSEZ plans a multi-year capital expenditure of Rs 20,000 crore to Rs 20,500 crore in land, new trucks, agriculture silos, trains, MMLPs, and warehouses.

JSW Infra has earmarked Rs 9,000 crore for expanding its logistics business between FY25 and FY30.

Goel believes that such huge capital outlays by operators is a risk.

"For APSEZ, logistics yields around 18 per cent ebitda margin — lower than core port operations. As capital intensity rises, this margin pressure could dilute overall profitability.

"The company's net debt-to-Ebitda ratio is also expected to increase, adding to financial strain."

There are challenges like a volatile trade environment, potential delays in land acquisition, regulatory clearances and scarcity of skilled human capital.

However, the experts believe the two companies' logistics plans are worth it, as they are long-term investments with strategic methods of expansion.

'Bank Of Baroda Is Well Capitalised'

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

"Profitability would be sustained this year as we expect improvement in net interest income," Debadatta Chand, MD and CEO, Bank of Baroda, tells Abhijit Lele and Anupreksha Jain/Business Standard.

Net profit for Q4 grew, albeit marginally, despite a fall in the net interest income, as the other income provided the support.

What is your outlook on treasury income going forward?

Despite a fall in the net interest income, profits grew because of healthy treasury income and recovery from written-off accounts.

As we are in the rate-easing cycle, income from the treasury is going to sustain, that is what our sense, as further rate cuts are expected.

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On the written-off accounts, our normal run rate is roughly around Rs 750 to Rs 800 crore per quarter.

The profitability would be sustained this year as we expect improvement in net interest income (NII) owing to change in liquidity and interest rate trajectory.

However, that is not going to happen in the first quarter because deposit repricing happens with a lag.

So, on a full year basis, I am hopeful that the NII growth would be higher.



In terms of profitability, we will maintain return on investments (ROI) in excess of 1 per cent.

You said the bank does not require fresh capital now as the capital adequacy ratio is healthy. How much credit growth would the current capital base support?

What is the size of the sanctioned pipeline for the bank to support guidance for 10 per cent growth in corporate credit in FY26?

We are almost at a level of 14 per cent growth in the loan book. So, with the current capital it can support 15 per cent loan growth on a consistent basis.

Bank has enabling provision to raise capital up to Rs 7,500 crore over a longer period of time.

The bank is very well capitalised and can sustain growth for at least next three to five years based on the internal approval.

As of today, the pipeline is Rs

60,000 crore. The sanctions which were done till last year, many of them are term loans. They are disbursed over a period of time.

RBI has announced final guidelines for liquidity coverage ratio (LCR), how much benefit do you expect from the revision in LCR norms?

LCR depends upon many aspects such as liability profile, high quality liquid asset. As on March 31, our LCR was at 123 per cent.

The revised guidelines will release around 7-8 per cent of liquidity.

While I am not quantifying the absolute amount, I think it will allow us to lend more in order to achieve a higher profit.

It will add around 8 per cent to the current LCR.

The bank reduced home loan rates. In order to protect margins, does the bank plan to increase the spread on other loans as well?

EDITORIAL

Medicines Lost Ahead of Diseases

VIJAY GARG

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

The J&K Reserved Categories Electrical Engineers 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 and Advocate Anwar Choudhary, advocate Parvez Ahmed Choudhary, 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 Special Leave Petitions (SLPs), including those filed by Mohammad Hanief Lone, Gagan Jyoti, judiciary officers, and engineers in Nasib Singh vs State of J&K SLP. The Supreme Court allowed promotions for reserved category employees, subject to eligibility and availability of vacancies.

Despite clear legal backing, certain officers in the Law and General Administration Departments misled the Executive Heads, resulting in the non-restoration of promotion reservations. In 2019, the President of India extended the 77th Constitutional Amendment to J&K through a Presidential Order, rendering the High Court's 2015 judgment infructuous. 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. In spite of filling vacant reserved category slots, Govt. is making placement/ incharge promotions to deprive the reserved categories employees from promotions.

Adding to this, the 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.

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

We urge His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Hon'ble Chief Minister (when appointed), Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Chief Secretary, and all MLAs from reserved categories to intervene decisively. It is imperative that reservation in promotion be restored immediately in compliance with constitutional, legal, and judicial mandates to uphold the rights of marginalized communities in the Union Territory.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared antimicrobial resistance i.e. AMR (antimicrobial resistance) as one of the top ten global public health threats in front of humanity. AMR occurs when micro-organisms such as bacteria, viruses, and some parasites develop mechanisms to resist being killed by antimicrobial. Thus infection is formed and continues to spread to others. The antibacterial component has to rapidly emerge as the world's public health crises to not understand the role of 'diagnostic stewardship' i.e. proper use of drugs in the second place after climate change. The way of suitable and better use of medicines and not knowing its properties and defects, the body becomes home to a variety of diseases, those medicines also stop working, which was so better bearing in the beginning. This problem is all over the world. According to the organisation, this global health threat is expected to grow at a wider level. All the mulls in the world should look into it as a priority. At the time of Corona, millions of people had died despite being treated on the basis of mere symptom of Covid-19. The U.S., Italy, China and India were major countries, where the impact of Corona was widespread. Since then, it had started to feel that due to new diseases in the future, it could continue to be a panic among people at all times because of non-receipt of medicines or the impact of the medicine being minor. The complexity of the antibacterial component is estimated by it that it also goes difficult or

sometimes impossible to treat infections after the resistance of antimicrobial drugs is developed or become. Apparently the sick person slowly succumbs to agony in absence of suitable treatment. Allopathy is seen to have many medicines that stop working after a boundary. How effective will new medicines be in treating new diseases, it is known only after their use. Now concern is that new-born diseases causing panic in the world after Covid-19. Sometimes they started with China, sometimes from African countries, but in all the countries of the world, an atmosphere of panic is formed in a short day. Such situations may never last in the world, as today are. Question why antimicrobial resistance i.e. AMR is a matter of concern? It is a matter of concern that with the gradual and growing growth of resistance to antimicrobial agents, many medicines are losing their ability to treat infections. This threatens to reverse the benefits derived from years of progress in science and medicine. The World Health Organization has warned about its growing threats that drug-resistant diseases can lead to untimely death of a crore people by 2050. Forty lakh 19 thousand deaths were linked to antimicrobial resistance in 2019, according to a study published in the 'Laset' magazine. The study suggests that any person, at any stage of life, can have antibacterial properties bearing. These are developing so fast that new antibacterial agent has also surpassed the pace of developing. The study suggests that the AMR developed as global exposure

increases through trade and travel has increased fears of spreading around the world. If we do not resolve antimicrobial resistance, regular medical procedures and surgical will also lose the ability to do safely. Antibacterial resistance occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites are naturally mutated with time, and do not react to modern medicines. This makes it difficult to treat the infection. As a result, standard antibiotic treatments become ineffective and the infection persists, increasing the risk for the patient. We can understand this way. In a developing country like India, many drugs are priced out of the status of the common man. This makes diseases grow continuously. The price of antimicrobial resistors (AMR) drugs is very high and can be measured as a loss of human life 'Antimicrobial Stewardship' (AMS) is a commitment to preserve antibiotic bearing for future generations through proper use of antimicrobial drugs. According to medical field researchers, the 'antimicrobial stewardship' initiative aims to ensure that the right antibiotic is given to the right patient from time to time, with the right dose, causing at least harm to the sick. But the kind of disorder that is in the field of medicine, does not think that the ill gets the appropriate medicine at the right time and without any extra pressure without proper treatment. There are a variety of discrepancies and complications in the field of Indian medicine. The entire system of this area is a waste

in corruption. Significantly, drugs have a huge market in India. Here arbitrarily they decide the prices of medicines. With this, millions of people are spontaneously ill with the business of fake drugs and are getting into the mouth of death. These fake medicines are ten to five hundred times expensive only, failing to treat the patient too.

In the last four years, millions of people who have been ill due to AMR died of death. Significantly, people suffering from AMR have to take medicines continuously. The disease of the people who keep taking medicine does not end, but by constantly taking medicines, they become victims of new diseases. The medicine of these new diseases also starts taking patients, but the effect of the medicine does not occur very rarely or. This is because of keeping taking medicines, the body gets home to diseases due to non-impact of the medicine where the immunity of the body is eliminated. The achievements that have been earned in the world in the medical field have been made medical extremely intuitive and available to everyone in many countries, but the field of medicine in India is filled with so many complications and discrepancies, which are difficult to say something about. Yet we should expect that the global panic will not arise from AMR as it happened in the Corona period.

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

Mediaism: A new faith shaping views

HARISH BIJOOR

We live in a happening world. And the world is in chaos. Look around: what we see are geopolitical instabilities due to the wars that are currently on, and equally, the wars that could erupt in the near or medium-term future. Geopolitics is suddenly the new politics. And war is the language at play again. Even as I write this, Pakistan's minister Hanif Abbasi has threatened India with a "full-scale war" if India stops water supply to Pakistan in retaliation for the recent barbaric killings in Pahalgam. Abbasi even threatened India with nuclear retaliation, saying 130 nuclear warheads in Pakistan's arsenal are kept "only for India". The language is offensive. Offence is the new defence.

The chaos we live amid is further compounded by the different philosophies that dominate the world. In some parts, right-wing politics is coming to the fore with gusto. Even as this happens, there is a clarion call to get back to the basics of religion and religious belief systems that have dominated our lives for centuries. While some parts of the world are singing the death of the "inclusive" and the "all-embracing" movements, other parts are emerging as protest-centres against all that is "different" and "not meant to be".

In other parts of the world, there is a clear divide between the war philosophies at play. A case in point is Israel and Palestine. The entire world is divided on the lines of two differing philosophies on them. And in another part of the world, it is Ukraine versus Russia, and the completely divergent sets of passion across these two lines of thought and action.

In some parts of the world there is ethnic strife, just as there is drought, malnutrition and poverty in another. In yet another part of the world, there is a battle against obesity. There is the flood-ravaged part of the world, just as there is the drought-mangled. The world sure is a complex place. A complex place with a complex set of issues. Issues that get their share of voice on the basis of the perspective that popular media in that country and region take.



The world is a perspective.

Media has a rather important role to play in shaping perspectives. These perspectives are really not individual perspectives and views that must become the collective one. Instead, these are collective perspectives that need to become the singular view of a nation. Sadly, this is not the way it always works. More often than not, the singular view becomes one that gets embraced by a society that believes in the rule of the majority.

To an extent, the media shapes and drives everything in a society. While this may sound a bit too much, just think of it this way. If you were not to read a single newspaper, not listen to the radio or watch television at all, and if you were to disconnect yourself from everything that you do on a smartphone, and finally if you were to switch off from word-of-mouth and word-of-digital altogether, wouldn't you live in an ideal (and Utopian) world? A world where your primary concern would be you and your immediate family and the local community?

The fact remains solid. Media today does not just present the fact. It actually adds value (or depletes value, depending on which side of the fence of this argument you sit) to the fact. A television anchor reads the fact with a tone of voice that in itself conveys a lot. Anxiety is in the voice and the manner. It would be so boring other-

wise, wouldn't it?

Added to it, the presenter adds perspectives. There are voices invited to contribute. Each voice and face contributes an individual perspective. Some add anger, some fear, some anxiousness and some others add bluster. The viewer then is "exposed" fully. The viewer needs to make up his mind on which argument to buy. And he does. You are indeed what you watch. The exposed individual then adds to the cascade with his own notions on his micro social media feeds that cater to yet another impressionable audience down the line across the food chain of news and views consumption.

In a simple society, it is quite likely that there are a host of people who just have no view on a subject. Media helps and aids to create and curate a view. Media helps to cobble together a perspective and a view. Media corrupts even. Aids you to hold a view that you possibly mustn't hold even in a civilised society (whatever that means).

Primary mass media vehicles such as television, print and radio, aided by secondary cascade mediums such as micro social media feeds, create the perspective that society holds. There is no perfect method to the madness of perspective building though. The perspective that you build within yourself of an issue becomes you. Shallow views and opinions become rigid as they stew in their own

sauce. And rigid opinions and views have a way of becoming a way of thinking itself. And that is a religion in itself.

I do believe there is a new religion in our midst today. I will call it 'mediaism'. You and I are a function of what we read, watch and hear. Media helps (or hurts) us in all of this. Media is what the interstium is to the human body. It binds us all internally. It helps create the you that you have become. It helps create the I that I have become.

If you do not believe in the argument I put forth, just sit back and think about your view on any issue that is confronting you, your family or for that matter the nation. How were you introduced to the issue? Who "exposed" you to the issue? What was your first opinion on it? Was that opinion (if you had one) based on the residue of what you had read or heard in passing sometime in the past? If you did not have an opinion at all, how did you form one? Who helped you form that? What mediums 'helped' in forming it. Was it just one medium? Was it one person? Was it one news-presenter? Was it one ethos? Was it one bias? Was it an experience you had while growing up?

Like it or not, all of us are zealots. The religion you and I are immersed in today is 'mediaism'. We have been a part of it for a while now. I suspect we will be for a long, long time as well.

Real Madrid bids farewell to Ancelotti, Modric

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Real Madrid delivered manager Carlo Ancelotti and midfielder Luka Modric a victory in their final game at the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday, with Kylian Mbappe scoring twice in a 2-0 win over Real Sociedad to end their LaLiga season.

Ancelotti will become Brazil coach after leaving Real, while Modric is set to leave the club after next month's Club World Cup, which will be held in the United States.

Despite Madrid having little to play for after surrendering the LaLiga title to rivals Barcelona, the atmosphere at the Bernabeu was emotionally charged as home fans focused on providing a fitting tribute to their departing icons.

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Ahead of the match, giant banners were unveiled with images of Ancelotti and Modric, while the stadium announcer's confirmation of the Croatian's place in the starting line-up was met with thunderous applause.

The crowd also rose to their feet in the 10th minute to chant "Modric, Modric" and both teams came together to give the midfielder a guard of honour when he was substituted in the 87th minute.

Spaniard Lucas Vazquez, who is reportedly leaving the club at the end of the season, also received a standing ovation when he walked off the pitch in the second half.

Carlo Ancelotti is thrown in the air in celebration by his players after his last



match as Real Madrid coach.

In an action-packed opening 45 minutes, Mbappe kept Sociedad's defence busy with a number of attempts at goal, before Madrid were awarded a penalty in the 37th minute when a VAR check confirmed Pablo Marin's handball.

Mbappe's tame effort from the spot was easily saved by goalkeeper Unai Marrero, but the Frenchman was quick to rifle home the rebound for his 30th league goal.

Ancelotti brought on Vinicius Jr in the second half and the Brazilian engineered Real's second goal, playing a delicate through ball that was turned in by Mbappe from a tight angle, all but ensuring a Pichichi award as LaLiga's top scorer.

Kylian Mbappe scores Real Madrid's second goal during the LaLiga match against Real Sociedad at Santiago Bernabeu.

Robert Lewandowski will need to score six goals in Barcelona's league meeting with Athletic Bilbao on Sunday

to match Mbappe's haul.

Mbappe's first goal also made him just the fourth player in LaLiga history to score 30 league goals in his debut campaign, matching the accomplishments of Pruden (1940-41), Romario (1993-94) and Ronaldo (1996-97).

Madrid finished second in the standings on 84 points, one behind champions Barcelona who have a game in hand.

Luka Modric tries to work his way past a host of Real Sociedad defenders.

Japanese winger Takefusa Kubo, who was on the books at Real for a few seasons, was Sociedad's best outfield player, but his mazy runs in the hosts' final third failed to generate any real opportunities.

There was also cause for emotion in the visitors' dugout as Sociedad bid farewell to manager Imanol Alguacil, who ended a seven-year spell in charge during which he won the Copa del Rey and led the club to European football for five successive seasons.

Michael Schumacher's Ferrari sets Formula One record at auction

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Michael Schumacher's Ferrari Formula One car that won the 2001 Monaco and Hungarian Grand Prix races was sold for \$18.17 million, according to RM Sotheby's.

Selling ahead of qualifying in Monaco on Saturday, the F2001 car that the legendary German driver used en route to that year's world title became the most expensive F1 vehicle driven by Schumacher to be sold at auction.

The \$18.17 million price tag topped the \$13.2 million a bidder paid for Schumacher's 2003 Ferrari F2003 in 2022. It also became the fourth-most expensive F1 car ever sold. The world record sits at \$52.52 million, which occurred earlier this year for a Mercedes W196 streamliner that was



driven by Formula One legends Juan Manuel Fangio and Stirling Moss in the 1950s. Schumacher, now 56, drove the F2001 Ferrari in his fifth and final Monaco Grand Prix win, which he followed up with a victory at the Hungarian Grand Prix. The latter win clinched Schumacher's fourth F1 world title.

Real Madrid appoint Xabi Alonso as new manager

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Xabi Alonso has been appointed Real Madrid manager, the LaLiga club said on Sunday as the Spaniard returns to the Santiago Bernabeu where he spent six seasons as a player and won several trophies.

Alonso had signed a three-year contract until June 2028 and the 43-year-old replaces Carlo Ancelotti, who took charge of his last game on Saturday.

With Ancelotti finishing his second stint at Real without winning a major trophy, Real moved quickly to change coaches after the veteran Italian agreed to coach Brazil.

Alonso had been in charge of Bayer Leverkusen and confirmed he would be leaving the German club this month.

The Spaniard took charge of Leverkusen in October 2022 and guided them to the double last season as they lifted their first Bundesliga title, without losing a game. They also won the German Cup and reached the Europa League final.

He had a contract at Leverkusen until 2026 but the club said

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Alonso will be presented as Real coach on Monday and will take charge from June 1, ahead of the Club World Cup which starts in the United States next month.

The former Spain international joined Real in 2009 from Liverpool and made 236 appearances for them, winning a LaLiga title, two Copa del Rey trophies and the club's long-awaited 10th European crown.

He began his coaching career at Real's youth academy where he managed the Under-14 team during the 2018-19 season, winning the league and the Champions tournament.

He took charge of Real Sociedad's

reserve team before making the big step up to take the Leverkusen job.

Alonso will hope to follow in the footsteps of another Real Madrid midfielder, Zinedine Zidane, who returned to coach the Spanish club and won three Champions League titles in a row.

Under Ancelotti, Real will finish second in LaLiga behind Barcelona, who also beat them in the Spanish Super Cup and Copa del Rey finals this season.

Real were knocked out of the Champions League as holders in the quarter-finals by Arsenal.

Alonso's first test will be the Club World Cup where they are in a group with Saudi side Al-Hilal, Mexican club Pachuca and Austria's RB Salzburg in the new 32-team tournament that kicks off on June 14.

Srikanth goes down tamely to Shi Feng in Malaysia Masters final

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

His long title drought did not end, but Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth capped a remarkable campaign with a runner-up finish at the Malaysia Masters Super in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, going down in straight games to China's world No. 4 Li Shi Feng in the men's singles final.

The 32-year-old, who charted a long road back from injuries and missed opportunities, made his first BWF World Tour final in six years, starting from the qualifiers and riding a resurgent wave all the way to the title clash of the BWF 500 tournament.

However, the former world No. 1 was erratic and struggled to break through second-seeded Shi Feng's solid defence and unable to convert opportunities. He eventually lost in 11-21, 9-21 in 36 minutes.

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"It has been pretty good week. It's my third tournament; played decently well in the first two as well but couldn't really win those matches. But pretty happy with the way how it went so far. Not exactly the way I wanted to be today, but still I think he played really well," Srikanth said after the match.

"I'm just very happy to be back playing again. I just want to keep myself happy. There was a point in my career where I was pretty used to being standing there and then it's been a while. So, to be back again on the podium really feels special," he added.



Despite Sunday's defeat, it was an inspirational show from Srikanth, who, after slipping to world No. 82 earlier this month, showed grit and class to remind the world of his calibre.

He was error-prone in the early exchanges, gifting away points that allowed Li Shi Feng to pull ahead 6-3. A straight smash to his backhand took Li to 8-5, and although Srikanth replied with a 402kph thunderbolt, a netted smash gave the Chinese a five-point cushion going into the mid-game interval.

Unforced errors continued to hurt Srikanth. Two loose shots went long, and Li responded with a precise crosscourt winner to make it 14-8.

Srikanth showed glimpses of brilliance with a net kill and a swift forehand cross to trail 10-16, but couldn't string together momentum.

A 22-shot rally at 10-17 ended with

Srikanth pushing the shuttle long, and Li closed out the opening game in just 16 minutes with consecutive down-the-line smashes.

In the second game, Srikanth played better but his inconsistency persisted. Despite engaging in tight rallies, he often went wide or long, while Li dictated the tempo, hitting anything that his opponent lifted in his arc.

A powerful crosscourt smash helped Li go into the interval leading 11-5, leaving the Indian a mountain to climb.

Srikanth did craft a beautiful reverse drop after a grueling 46-shot rally at 5-12, and produced an elegant crosscourt winner at 8-18, but such moments were few.

Li stepped on the gas, scoring on both flanks to reach 18-7. A sharp net interception brought the Chinese within two points, and back-to-back smashes sealed his victory and the title.

RCB get Hazlewood boost ahead of IPL play-offs

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Royal Challengers Bengaluru received a massive boost ahead of the Indian Premier League play-offs with Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood rejoining the side two days before their final league match in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Hazlewood returned home during the week's break due to suspension of the IPL in the wake of India-Pakistan military conflict and was also dealing with a shoulder niggle from which the right-arm pacer has recovered.

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apparel. High-altitude jackets, trekking boots, and more for your next adventure.

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"It's obviously great to be back. A couple of weeks at home, (I) made the

most of the last (as I) went up to Brisbane and bowled quite a few overs," Hazlewood said in a video posted by RCB on Sunday.

"Everything has been good. Hopefully to get the ball rolling again and, yeah, look forward to tomorrow and start the practice," he added.

The 34-year-old was training in Brisbane as a part of Australia's preparations for the World Test Championship final against South Africa next month and being monitored by Cricket Australia's medical team.

Mumbai Indians, Punjab Kings in battle for top-two finish

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings will give their all in a battle for a top-two finish when they meet in their final league stage fixture of the Indian Premier League in Jaipur on Monday.

As the four teams -- Gujarat Titans, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, MI and PBKS -- have sealed play-off spots much earlier than ever before, the remaining league matches will determine the final standings.

With 17 points, PBKS are currently placed second, but defeat to MI will drop them to the third or fourth spot and set them up for the Eliminator on May 30.

Finishing in the top-two seems tougher for PBKS, as they not only need a win against a formidable MI outfit but also hope GT (18 points) and RCB (17 points) lose their respective last matches.

Thus, PBKS, who lost their previous game to Delhi Capitals, are in a must-win situation against MI in their push for a top-two finish.

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Nevertheless, Punjab Kings will look to iron out the flaws, particularly in their bowling after they failed to defend a total in excess of 200 against Delhi Capitals on Saturday in Jaipur.

The venue's short boundaries and



batting-friendly wicket could ensure a high-scoring clash which will test the bowling attacks of both sides, but, on this front, the Jasprit Bumrah-led MI have the edge.

Bumrah has taken only nine matches to take 16 wickets in this IPL, signalling his return to top form and fitness after a three-month injury layoff, but others in MI's bowling line-up have also shared the burden equally.

The new-ball pair of Trent Boult -- third highest with 19 wickets -- and Deepak Chahar (11) has done extremely well to help keep Bumrah for later stages of a match.

Hardik Pandya has floated well with spinners Mitchell Santner and Will Jacks, which makes MI's bowling line-up more lethal when compared to Punjab Kings'.

Arshdeep Singh (16), Yuzvendra Chahal (14), who did not play the last game due to a niggle, and Marco Jansen (14) will thus have their task cut out against Mumbai Indians.

Suryakumar Yadav (583 runs) and

Shreyas Iyer (488) have been the bedrock of their respective batting line-ups and their roles carry greater significance as the IPL approaches its business end.

Punjab will also hope their explosive opening pair of Prabhsimran Singh (486) and Priyansh Arya (362) finds a way and sets up a strong platform against a strong MI bowling line-up which has by far been their biggest strength.

Rohit Sharma has blown hot and cold and MI will hope that the senior batter finds consistency given he is set to have a new opening partner after this game. South African Ryan Rickelton, Corbin Bosch and England's Jacks are set to join their respective national teams.

MI will also be a little concerned with Tilak Varma's dip in form. He had a high of hitting two consecutive fifties when the team began its turnaround but Tilak has three outings of single-digit scores, two did-not-bats and two knocks in 20s in the last seven matches.

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Indian diaspora in Japan backs Op Sindoor, hails PM Modi's leadership against terrorism



TOKYO, MAY 26

Members of the Indian diaspora in Japan have lauded the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's decisive action against cross-border terrorism through Operation Sindoor, expressing pride in India's strong response to Pakistan-sponsored terror.

The sentiments were voiced during a significant outreach event held at the Indian Embassy in Tokyo, where an all-party parliamentary delegation engaged with the diaspora, highlighting India's unified and assertive stance against terrorism.

The delegation, led by Janata Dal (United) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha, included BJP MPs Aparajita Sarangi and Brij Lal, Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee, CPI(M) MP John Brittas, and senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid.

They described Operation Sindoor as a "strategic shift" and the "new normal" in India's counter-terror doctrine, especially in response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam.

Speaking to IANS, members of the diaspora welcomed the delegation's outreach and

leader Rahul Gandhi, saying, "He rarely says anything good; he always speaks like this, so there's no surprise in it."

A diaspora member summed up the collective sentiment: "That's a great thing done by our Prime Minister and the entire nation. I'm intrigued, and I like the word Sindoor. It has a lot of significance in our country."

"The aim is to help the diaspora understand the reality of the continuous terror threats we face. Many living abroad may not fully grasp the situation, and it's vital to make the international community aware of Pakistan's direct involvement through its government and army in such acts," Jha told the gathering.

The Indian Embassy stated that the delegation clearly outlined Pakistan's role in the Pahalgam terror attack and how India responded by destroying nine high-value terror hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

"They emphasised India's zero tolerance for terrorism and conveyed the firm message that talks and terror cannot coexist. Blood and water cannot flow together," the Embassy posted on X.

Showing photos of Pakistan giving state funerals to the neutralised terrorists, Jha exposed what he called "the real face" of the rogue state. He also pointed out the contrast between India's global rise as the fourth-largest economy and Pakistan's ongoing instability.

"I visited Srinagar, which thrives on tourism. After the terror attack, the local community has suffered immensely," he said. A moment of silence was held in memory of the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, with the Embassy affirming that the visit concluded on a solemn but united note.

praised the government's action.

"Until now, we always felt helpless whenever something was happening in India. But after Operation Sindoor, some pride has come. Some action from the government led by PM Modi actually made us very, very proud," said one attendee.

"Operation Sindoor is a feeling of the heart. I have applied Sindoor to support them," said another member. One participant noted, "The name Operation Sindoor is very apt and correct. We appreciate the action taken by our Indian armed forces."

Others echoed similar views, emphasising the importance of national stability.

"India, being the fourth largest economy, needs political stability. Any attempt to destabilise our country will not be tolerated. This Operation Sindoor sent a clear message that India has a zero tolerance policy for terrorism," said a member of the diaspora.

Praising the Prime Minister's leadership, another attendee remarked, "PM Modi handled everything perfectly. We are very happy that India emerged as a strong country."

He also criticised Opposition

Op Sindoor Outreach: Delegation meets Russian leaders; discusses collective fight against terrorism



MOSCOW, MAY 25

The Indian all-party parliamentary delegation led by DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi held a productive interaction with Mikhail Fradkov, former Prime Minister of Russia and Director of the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies (RISS), discussing global security changes and collaborative efforts in fighting terrorism.

The delegation is a part of India's global diplomatic outreach campaign to highlight the significance of Operation Sindoor and the continued fight against Pakistan-sponsored cross-border terrorism.

"Honoured to engage in a constructive dialogue with Mikhail Fradkov, former Prime Minister of Russia & Director of RISS, along with MPs as part of our parliamentary delegation. We discussed global security challenges and the collective fight against terrorism," Kanimozhi posted on X on Saturday.

The delegation also held dis-

cussions at the Federation Council of Russia with Andrey Denisov, First Deputy Chair of the Committee on International Affairs, and fellow Senators, reaffirming India's firm resolve in combating terrorism and strong commitment to global peace. The Kanimozhi-led delegation includes Samajwadi Party MP Rajeev Rai, BJP MP Captain Brijesh Chowta (Retd.), RJD MP Prem Chand Gupta, AAP MP Ashok Kumar Mittal; former Ambassador of India to France and Monaco Jawed Ashraf; and former Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri.

"Joined MPs Kanimozhi, Rajeev Rai, Brijesh Chowta, Prem Chand Gupta, and Ambassador Manjeev Puri for a significant dialogue at the Federation Council of Russia with Andrey Denisov, First Deputy Chair of the Committee on International Affairs, and fellow Senators. India reiterated its unwavering stand against terrorism and its deep commit-

ment to global peace," Ashok Mittal posted on X.

In continuation of India's sustained fight against terrorism, the parliamentarians had a number of engagements on Friday, including with the two Houses of the Russian Parliament and think tank, said the Embassy of India in Moscow. "The delegation had a meeting with Leonid Slutsky, Chair of the Committee on International Affairs of the State Duma, and interacted with Members of the State Duma. The Indian delegation underlined the imperative of collective action against terrorism, including the need for credible international mechanisms to deny safe havens, financing, and political justification to terrorist entities," the Indian Embassy in Moscow said in a statement.

"The delegation then met Andrey Rudenko, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation and held extensive discussions on bilateral, regional, and global developments, with emphasis on the shared commitment to a multipolar and international order. The Indian side reiterated its zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and stressed that India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail," the statement added.

These high-level interactions reaffirm the shared commitment of India and Russia to intensify cooperation in the fight against terrorism, promote global stability, and further strengthen their Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

Over 10,000 properties damaged in floodwaters in Australia

SYDNEY, MAY 25

Emergency service authority of Australia's state of New South Wales (NSW) said on Saturday that early estimates suggest more than 10,000 properties have been damaged in floodwaters in the state's eastern regions.

The State Emergency Service (SES) Chief Superintendent Paul McQueen told reporters on Saturday morning that crews would be "out in force" to start the damage assessment process.

"I reiterate this is still a dangerous situation where significant impacts to infrastructure and properties are likely to have occurred," he said.

"Unfortunately, it is not possible to let people return to their homes until water further subsides and we're sure they can access their homes and communities safely."

The NSW Police said in a

statement on Friday evening that rescue officers found a body inside a burnt-out vehicle at a property on the flood-hit Mid North Coast. It marks the fifth death in the widespread flooding crisis that has hit the Mid North Coast and surrounding regions following five consecutive days of torrential rainfall, Xinhua news agency reported. Earlier on May 23, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and NSW Premier Chris Minns toured the regions north of Sydney that have been inundated by widespread flooding following five consecutive days of torrential rainfall.

As of Friday afternoon, more than 50,000 people remained cut off by flooding, and emergency services were continuing to conduct rescue operations by boat and helicopter.

As of Friday afternoon, emergency services had conducted 736 flood rescue operations in

total.

The severe weather system that brought the torrential rainfall moved south on Friday and, according to the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), could move out of NSW by midnight.

Despite the easing conditions, authorities have warned that river levels could continue to rise.

As around 50,000 residents across the NSW Mid North Coast and Hunter regions are urged to prepare to evacuate, experts are warning that entering floodwaters poses one of the most significant threats to life.

"Four-wheel drives may provide a false sense of security when attempting to cross floodwater, but research shows that 75 per cent of all floodwater-related fatalities in the past 15 years are associated with these vehicles," Natural Hazards Research Australia CEO Andrew Gissing said in a statement.

Indian Haj pilgrims praise Centre for quality facilities, seamless conduct of holy journey

RIYADH, MAY 25

Indians who embarked on Haj pilgrimage appreciated arrangements and the quality of facilities offered by the Indian government to ensure a smooth and seamless journey for all in Saudi Arabia.

"Indian pilgrims who went for Haj 2025 through the Haj Committee of India are very happy with the management of the Government of India and the facilities being provided there. It is the constant endeavour of the Ministry of Minority Affairs to ensure a comfortable and dignified journey for every Haj pilgrim," the Ministry of Minority Affairs posted on X on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Minority Affairs, George Kurian, on Friday highlighted the dedicated efforts of the Centre in ensuring a smooth and successful Haj for pilgrims.

Earlier on Friday, Indian Consul General of Jeddah, Fahad Ahmed Khan Suri, led 'Team India' deployed in Haj 2025, in facilitating the movement of pilgrims from Haram Shareef to their accommodations in Azizia (Mecca) after offering Friday prayer.

The huge rush of pilgrims coming out from Haram Shareef after offering Friday prayer



required coordination among 'Team India' members to guide the pilgrims to their designated bus points and provide on-the-spot required medical care and assistance.

Medical care and assistance are being provided to the pilgrims by the mobile medical care team of the Indian Haj Mission. From dispensaries near pilgrims' accommodation to fully equipped hospitals, the Indian Haj Mission has ensured accessible medical care.

Additionally, doctors, nurses, and ambulances are made available round-the-clock for any health concerns.

On Thursday, Indian Consul General Fahad Ahmed Khan Suri reviewed the arrangements for the movement of pilgrims from Mecca and 'Mina' and their stay at 'Arafat' to perform

the rituals of Haj.

Last week, India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Suhel Khan, met pilgrims in Mecca to ensure a comfortable Haj pilgrimage for all.

"Ambassador Suhel Khan visited pilgrims from various states and enquired about their welfare and issues of concern in Mecca today. The Government of India remains committed to ensuring the comfort and safety of the Indian pilgrims and making their spiritual Haj journey hassle-free," the Embassy of India in Riyadh posted on X.

The Indian Consul General Fahad Ahmed Khan Suri earlier held a review meeting with the officials and staff deployed in temporary branch offices and dispensaries, various cells and desks set up by the Indian Haj Mission.

Congress backs EAM Jaishankar's 'India will never succumb to nuclear blackmail' remarks

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Congress on Saturday fully backed the External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, who delivered a strong message during his official visit to Germany, asserting that India will never yield to nuclear threats and will continue to handle issues with Pakistan on a bilateral basis.

Jaishankar's statement received rare bipartisan support back home, with leaders across party lines endorsing his firm diplomatic tone.

Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit welcomed the statement, saying, "Absolutely right. We have always had this right, and I would also expect that when we are engaging with countries like Germany, we seek their support against Pakistan as well. What Pakistan does, what its economy is like, that's their concern. We've always said that we want good

relations with all our neighbours."

He added that for the past 30-35 years, the way Pakistan has promoted terrorism, these are outright criminal acts, crimes against humanity.

"These countries should also identify Pakistan as a rogue state and act accordingly," he said.

Meanwhile, echoing a similar sentiment, Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Anand Dubey said that EAM Jaishankar is India's External Affairs Minister and an expert in diplomatic affairs.

"If he is stating in Germany that India will not tolerate terrorism at any cost and won't succumb to Pakistan's repeated nuclear threats, then this reflects not just the stand of the opposition, but the sentiment of the entire nation and our armed forces," he said.

EAM Jaishankar's remarks came days after the deadly

Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 and India's decisive response through Operation Sindoor.

Speaking alongside German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul during a joint press conference, EAM Jaishankar said: "I come to Berlin in the immediate aftermath of India responding to the Pahalgam terror attack. India has zero tolerance for terrorism. India will never give in to nuclear blackmail, and India will deal with Pakistan purely bilaterally. There should be no confusion in any quarter in that regard. We also value Germany's understanding that every nation has the right to defend itself against terrorism."

Germany also expressed solidarity with India in the fight against terrorism, with Minister Wadephul affirming Berlin's support and acknowledging India's right to defend its citizens and sovereignty.

No tariffs, no US sales: Trump's warning to Apple on India production

NEW DELHI, MAY 24

US President Donald Trump has said it is ok for Apple to go to India to build its plants, but then the tech company will not be able to sell its products in America without tariffs.

Trump's remarks came as he signed multiple executive orders in the Oval Office to boost US nuclear power.

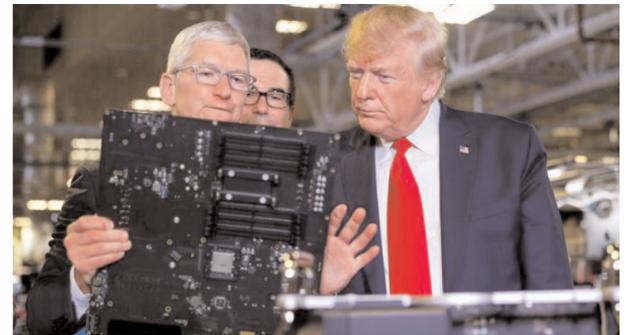
"But I had an understanding with Tim (Cook) that he wouldn't be doing this. He said he's going to India to build plants. I said, 'That's okay to go to India, but you're not going to sell into here without tariffs.' And that's the way it is," Trump said on Friday.

"We're talking about the iPhone. If they're going to sell it in America, I want it to be built in the United States," he said.

Early on Friday, Trump said in a social media post that he expects Apple iPhones that will be sold in the US to be manufactured in America and not India, or anywhere else, threatening to put a 25 per cent tariff on the tech company's products if it does not comply.

"I have long ago informed Tim Cook of Apple that I expect their iPhones that will be sold in the United States of America will be manufactured and built in the United States, not India, or anywhere else. If that is not the case, a Tariff of at least 25% must be paid by Apple to the US. Thank you for your attention to this matter!" Trump said.

Just last week, Trump had said in Doha during his visit to the Middle East that he had told the Apple CEO to not build in India and instead build its manu-



facturing capacity in the US.

"We have Apple, as you know, that's coming in, and I had a little problem with Tim Cook yesterday, Trump had said in Doha in remarks to top executives.

"I said to him, 'Tim, you're my friend. I treated you very good. You're coming here with \$500 billion but now I hear you building all over India. I don't want you building in India. You can't build in India if you want to take care of India because India is the highest, one of the highest tariff nations in the world. It's very hard to sell into India. And they've (India) offered us a deal where, basically they're willing to literally charge us no tariff,'" he had said.

Earlier this month, Cook had said in a Q2 2025 Earnings Conference call that the existing tariffs that apply to Apple today are based on the product's country of origin.

"For the June quarter, we do expect the majority of iPhones sold in the U.S. will have India as their country of origin and

Vietnam to be the country of origin for almost all iPad, Mac, Apple Watch, and AirPods products sold in the U.S.," Cook had said.

On Trump calling for Apple to shift iPhone production from India to the US, research firm Counterpoint Research Research Director Tarun Pathak had said last week that "this is a familiar Trump tactic: He wants to push Apple to localise more and build a supply chain in the US, which is not going to happen overnight. Making in the US will also be much more expensive than assembling iPhones in India.

Counterpoint Research vice president Neil Shah said that Apple has been doing a lot of groundwork in India, which has helped it successfully manage some of the US iPhone demand from its India production facilities.

In terms of capacity, India has enough to potentially meet all US iPhone demand in the future, but the ecosystem needs to be ramped up.

PM Modi praises Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu for reforms



NEW DELHI, MAY 5

Showering praise on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday showcased Andhra Pradesh's reforms and growth story at the 10th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting, an official said.

"All states should examine and study the reforms of Andhra Pradesh. There could be a lot of inputs in the blueprint for growth projected by CM Naidu for other states also," the PM was quoted as having said at the meeting.

The Andhra Pradesh official said, in a statement, that while addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister paid tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, and lauded the Armed Forces' success in Operation Sindoor. He also commended PM

Modi's strong leadership during the crisis, emphasising India's resilience and self-reliance.

Commending PM Modi's leadership for the economy's progress from the world's 10th to 4th, CM Naidu acknowledged transformative reforms like Digital India, GST, Startup India, PM Gati Shakti, and Jal Jeevan Mission, which have redefined India's development landscape.

He noted that having the right leader at the right time has been crucial in steering the nation toward its ambitious goals in the right direction.

The meeting's core focus was on the theme "Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat @2047," aiming to build a prosperous, inclusive, and future-ready India by its centenary.

The Council deliberated on accelerating entrepreneurship, employment, and skill develop-

ment, transforming Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities into growth hubs, and reviewed key outcomes and decisions to reinforce cooperative federalism and collective progress toward national development, said an aide of CM Naidu.

CM Naidu also highlighted that under its Swarna Andhra @2047 vision, Andhra Pradesh aims to achieve Zero Poverty by 2029 through the innovative P4 model, which unites government, private sector, and citizen efforts to support vulnerable families and promote economic upliftment.

The Chief Minister proposed forming three focused sub-groups of States, in collaboration with the Union Government and NITI Aayog, to fast-track progress toward Viksit Bharat @2047.

The first sub-group on GDP growth aims to boost investments, manufacturing, exports, and job creation, supported by central Viability Gap Funding for PPP projects.

The second sub-group on population management will help India leverage its demographic advantage while preparing for future challenges like ageing and low fertility.

The third sub-group will focus on technology-driven governance, utilising AI, quantum computing, drones, and digital platforms for real-time, citizen-centric administration.

EAM Jaishankar's words reflect voice of 140 crore Indians: Shiv Sena (UBT)



MUMBAI, MAY 25

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Anand Dubey on Saturday endorsed External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's recent remarks on terrorism, stating that Jaishankar's words reflect the collective voice of 140 crore Indians.

EAM Jaishankar had asserted that India has zero tolerance for terrorism and will never succumb to nuclear blackmail, while referencing the cross-border links to the recent Pahalgam massacre.

Anand Dubey told IANS: "Jaishankar is our Foreign Minister and an expert in diplomatic matters. If he says in Germany that India will not tolerate terrorism under any circumstances, that is not just his personal view — it is the voice of the 140 crore people of this country. It is the shared sentiment of the Opposition, the Indian Army, and all citizens."

Dubey added: "We will not bow down to threats from Pakistan, even if they repeatedly invoke their nuclear capability. Operation Sindoor is not over; it has merely been paused. When necessary, our armed forces will resume such operations and eliminate terrorist threats. Pakistan must change its behaviour and uphold peace. If it does not, we will alter their geography, this is the new India. This is an India that enters enemy homes to strike. If you speak to India with love, we will reciprocate. But if you send terrorists, we will respond even more forcefully."

He emphasised that Jaishankar's statements repre-

sent national consensus.

"Whether it is Germany or any other country, the world stands with us. We are the land of Buddha, but when required, we are also a country of valour and war," he said.

Commenting on the NITI Aayog's 10th Governing Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dubey said the platform is a crucial mechanism for development and state-centred coordination.

"NITI Aayog meetings are convened periodically and chaired by the Prime Minister. The Chief Ministers of most states attend, and alternative arrangements are made if someone is unavailable. The Aayog plays a vital role in discussing key developmental issues and fostering cooperation between the Centre and the states," he said.

"If the Prime Minister is convening such a meeting, it is a positive step, and the states will benefit from the deliberations."

Reacting to Congress's nationwide initiative to hold 'Jai Hind Sabha' from May 24 to May 31 in honour of the armed forces, Dubey said patriotism should transcend party lines.

"This country belongs to everyone, not just the BJP. Every political party should engage in initiatives such as Tiranga Yatras or Jai Hind Sabhas. BJP is doing it, Congress is doing it — and we will also participate. Every citizen and party has a role to play in taking the country forward," Dubey told IANS.

He added, "Our army must be respected by all. We do not engage in symbolic politics like

the BJP. We serve the country with genuine dedication. Whether it's a Jai Hind Sabha or a Tiranga Yatra, we welcome participation from all corners."

Anand Dubey also voiced concern over the rising number of COVID-19 cases.

"COVID-19 cases are increasing, and this is not the time for politics. The focus must be on public health. The BMC and state government must prioritise treatment, testing, masking, and social distancing. This is not just about governance — it's about saving lives," he said.

He praised the previous Maharashtra government led by Uddhav Thackeray.

"Under Uddhav Thackeray's leadership, the previous government handled the pandemic effectively. Their efforts were recognised not just by the people but also by institutions like the Supreme Court and NITI Aayog. The current administration must issue clear guidelines, increase testing, and take immediate action to curb the spread."

Dubey further commented on the recent incident where Pakistan denied emergency landing permission to an IndiGo flight, calling it a humanitarian failure.

"Allowing emergency landings is a basic tenet of humanity, but we cannot expect such compassion from Pakistan. Hundreds of passengers were stranded onboard, and in a situation involving natural or medical emergencies, Pakistan should have allowed the flight to land safely. Fortunately, the passengers were unharmed," he said.

He added, "If the situation were reversed, India would have helped Pakistan out of humanitarian concern. This reflects the unfortunate nature of our neighbouring country — even during a crisis, they refuse to cooperate."

Dubey reiterated that national interest, public health, and humanitarian values must rise above politics.

"Whether it is the fight against terrorism, the handling of a pandemic, or a humanitarian crisis — India must respond firmly, unitedly, and morally," he concluded.

Rahul Gandhi should have used opportunity to applaud soldiers: BJP on LoP's Poonch visit

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Reacting to Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's visit to J&K's Poonch district on Saturday, BJP National Spokesperson Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain said he (LoP) should have used the opportunity to honour the bravery of Indian soldiers.

"Rahul Gandhi has gone to the border, he should be chanting 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' there and applauding our soldiers. The Indian Army has broken Pakistan's back, destroyed nine of their terrorist camps, and eliminated over 100 terrorists," Hussain told IANS.

LoP Rahul Gandhi visited several locations in Poonch affected by recent cross-border shelling from Pakistani troops. During his visit, he met families impacted by the violence and inspected damaged religious and educational institutions, including a gurdwara, a Hindu temple, a madrasa, and a Christian missionary school.

His visit comes after recent tensions between India and Pakistan, with intermittent ceasefire violations reported in the region. LoP Rahul Gandhi's presence aimed to express solidarity with civilians who bore the brunt of the hostilities.

However, the BJP has criti-



cised the Congress leader's visit, suggesting that it lacked nationalistic messaging and failed to sufficiently recognise the efforts of the armed forces.

Shah Nawaz Hussain further referenced recent comments made by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during his visit to Germany, where Jaishankar declared that "India will not bow down to nuclear blackmailing."

Backing the statement, Hussain added, "Jaishankar has rightly said, we have to protect our people and also respond to terrorists. Pakistan has been clearly warned: if

there is any terrorist activity, Operation Sindoor hasn't ended; it's only been suspended. The ceasefire is in place, but any provocation will be met with the same force as before."

Hussain also took a dig at the Congress party's ongoing outreach campaign, 'Jai Hind Yatra', and accused the party of hypocrisy. "On one hand, Congress holds events like 'Jai Hind Sabha', and on the other, it questions the valour of the Indian Army. They earlier raised doubts about the surgical strike and the Balakot airstrike, and now they're questioning Operation Sindoor," he said.

TN to reopen Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai scheme applications from May 29



CHENNAI, MAY 25

In a significant move aimed at expanding the reach of its flagship welfare programme, the Tamil Nadu government has announced that fresh applications for the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Scheme will be accepted starting May 29. The decision comes as part of a renewed push by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)-led government to ensure that no eligible woman is left out from availing the benefits of the scheme, which provides monthly financial assistance of Rs. 1,000 to women who are the heads of their households.

The scheme, launched in September 2023 by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, was a key electoral promise of the DMK and is named in memory of the

late Dr. M. Karunanidhi, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and a towering figure in the state's history. The initiative seeks to not only provide economic relief to women but also to recognize their role as primary caregivers and household managers, thereby promoting gender justice and social equity.

Currently, Tamil Nadu has around 2.26 crore family ration cards, and as per official data, 1.14 crore women have already been approved to receive benefits under the scheme. However, nearly 1.12 crore eligible women remain outside the coverage, many of whom were unable to apply during the initial phase or were rejected due to technical errors, missing documentation, or misunderstandings about eligibility criteria.

Recognising the scale of exclusion and the grievances raised by a large number of women, the Tamil Nadu cabinet, in a recent meeting chaired by Chief Minister Stalin, resolved to reopen the application process. The Chief Minister emphasised the principle of inclusivity and directed all concerned departments to take necessary steps to facilitate a hassle-free and transparent reapplication process. He stressed that the government's aim is to ensure comprehensive implementation and equitable access to welfare schemes for all deserving citizens.

To make the process more accessible, officials have been instructed to set up special application camps, help desks, and information kiosks across districts. These will help guide applicants through the reapplication process, verify eligibility documents, and address any technical issues faced during the earlier phases. Special focus will be placed on reaching out to rural and marginalized communities, where digital literacy or access to official records may have previously hindered successful enrollment.

Furthermore, the government is preparing to launch a state-wide awareness campaign to inform the public about the reapplication window, revised guidelines, and support mechanisms in place. Awareness drives are expected to be conducted through both traditional media and social media platforms to ensure maximum outreach.

The reopening of applications for the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Scheme has been widely welcomed by social welfare advocates, women's rights organizations, and local communities. Many have lauded the government for responding to public feedback and for taking corrective action to close the existing gaps in implementation.

1990 invasion of Kuwait was an act of terror: Nishikant Dubey

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Saturday described the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 as a type of 'act of terror', likening it to the Pahalgam terror attack against which a diplomatic outreach has been launched by India in the Gulf countries.

Dubey, who landed in the Gulf as part of a delegation travelling to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Algeria in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor, told media before departure that India is trying to reach out to Muslim nations which have themselves suffered due to terrorism.

"You are aware that a very big war was fought for Kuwait in 1991. That was also terrorism...it was internal... Iraq tried to occupy it," he said, highlight-



ing that these issues will be the focus of the delegation, which aims to expose the misdeeds of Pakistan over the past 78 years.

Dubey also expressed confidence that the world will appreciate the Indian stand against terror. "By the time our delegations return to India, the global atmosphere would be against Pakistan, and we would take a step closer to getting it declared a terrorist nation," he said.

The 56-year-old BJP MP also

highlighted the tougher anti-terror doctrine adopted by India after 2014.

India of 2025 has completely redefined its policy against terror, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it clear that terrorists, their masters, and the governments that support them will be judged by the same yardstick, he said.

Dubey also hailed the government's decision to give a free hand to the armed forces to act against terrorists or Pakistani military men masquerading as terrorists.

"Indian forces' ability to destroy terror hubs in Pakistan and its air bases without entering its airspace has also demonstrated that the country is not going to be deterred by any nuclear blackmail," said the BJP MP from Godda constituency in Jharkhand.

Pakistan links of arrested JMB activist in Bengal being probed

KOLKATA, MAY 25

Pakistan links of one of the three Indian associates of Bangladesh-based Islamic fundamentalist group Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), who were arrested by the Special Task Force (STF) of West Bengal Police earlier, are being probed.

Sources said coded encrypted messages recovered from the mobile phones of Aazmal Hossain and Saheb Ali Khan, who were arrested from Birbhum district earlier this month, show their links only with associates of Bangladesh-based fundamentalist outfits, namely JMB, Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HUT), and Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT).

However, the sources added that similar coded and encrypted messages recovered from the mobile phones of the third arrested local associate of JMB, Abasuddin Molla, show his regular communication with some individuals based out of Pakistan as well as with those associated with the Jammu and Kashmir-based fundamentalist group Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind.

Molla was arrested from Paturi village in the minority-dominated Diamond Harbour area in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, just a day after two others were held from Birbhum district. The cops have also recently updated a district court in Birbhum about their initial findings against these arrested accused, both from interrogation as well as through the coded and encrypted messages recovered from their mobile phones.

The investigating officials, the sources added, are currently interrogating the trio to get details of their recruits for the sleeper cells of JMB in the state. Recently, the Union Home Ministry received information from intelligence agencies about the alleged role of illegal

Bangladeshi intruders behind the violence and vandalism at the minority-dominated Murshidabad district over violent protests against the newly promulgated Waqf (Amendment) Act.

The names of JMB, HUT and ABT surfaced in that intelligence input. However, considering the geographical locations of the pockets where the tension and violence had been maximum this time, especially Samsarganj, the possibility of ABT playing some role behind the latest violence sounded more logical.

On the eastern side of the international borders at Samsarganj and Dhulian, is the Bangladeshi district of Chapainawabganj, which is considered the stronghold of ABT.

The sources added that because of this geographical proximity, the chances of ABT's involvement in the latest developments at Murshidabad are most likely.

It's not like we parted ways, now is the right time: Emraan on working with Bhatts on 'Awarapan 2'

When you do so many successful films together, it becomes tricky, says actor Emraan Hashmi, who doesn't view returning to the Bhatt camp with "Awarapan 2" as a reunion.

Hashmi earlier this month announced the sequel to 2007's "Awarapan", produced by his uncle Mukesh Bhatt's banner Vishesh Films, on the occasion of his 46th birthday.

He made his acting debut with the production house's "Footpath" in 2003. The actor, whose last project with the Bhatts was 2016's "Raaz: Reboot", said "Awarapan 2" is happening at just the right moment.

"I don't see this as reuniting (with the Bhatts) at all. It's not like we parted ways. It's just that when we had this illustrious partnership, successes for almost 14 years, starting from 2003, all the way back to the last release was 2016, which was 'Raaz 4'. It's almost a 90-95 per cent success rate. When you do so many films together, it becomes tricky," Hashmi told PTI in an interview here.

After "Footpath", he continued working with the Bhatt family for nearly two decades, having starred in several successful films, such as "Gangster", "Raaz: The Mystery Continues", and "Murder 2", among



others. Later, the actor featured in films backed by different filmmakers like "The Dirty Picture", "Shanghai", "Ghanchakkar", and "Tiger 3".

Hashmi, 46, said the fan base of "Awarapan" was the key reason for them to consider the sequel, adding they didn't rush into production without a solid story.

"It's been in the talks for quite

some time. We just didn't want to make a sequel for the sake of it. We had to zero in on a subject that would be right to take the movie forward. It's a film with a massive cult following.

"It's got a following which is way more than the huge box office successes of mine. The kind of goodwill that it's got through satellite,

Torrentz back in the day, YouTube, it's phenomenal. We just wanted to do it at the right time when we have the right script, and now is the right time," he added.

The actor said they want to ensure "Awarapan 2" lives up to the legacy of its predecessor.

"How do you keep it new? Because you have been there, you've done pretty much everything. There's no point getting out films and starting to become debacles at the box office because the audience is like, 'We've already seen this before'.

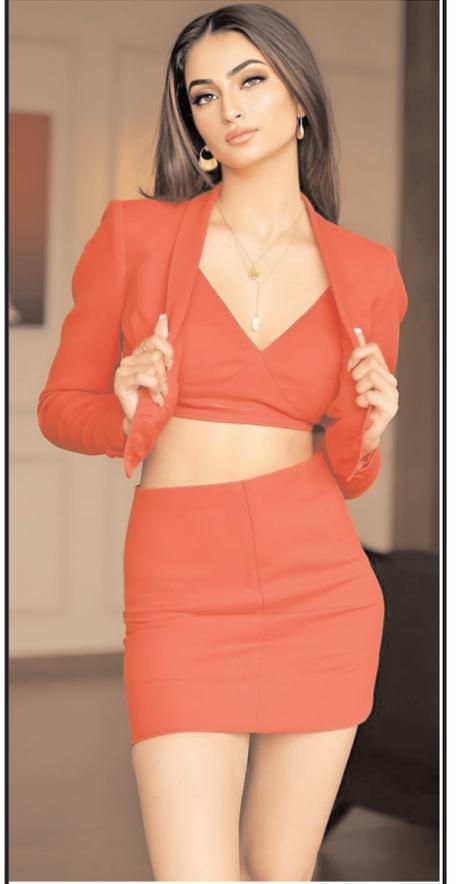
"So, we took some time with that. Then COVID happened, and two years went by. A lot of recalibration happened."

"Awarapan", directed by Mohit Suri and written by Mahesh Bhatt, followed Shivam (Hashmi), a hitman tasked with keeping an eye on his boss' mistress (Mrinalini Sharma). However, Shivam's life takes a turn when he discovers the mistress's desire for freedom and love.

The first part also starred Shriya Saran and Ashutosh Rana.

Hashmi said the filming for "Awarapan 2" will begin in two months and the sequel will arrive in theatres next April.

Palak Tiwarii On Nepotism And Her Mom Shweta Tiwari's Legacy



Television actress Shweta Tiwari became a household name with her portrayal of Prerna in Kasautii Zindagii Kay. To date, the character has retained its iconic status and the actress is loved widely by the audience. And now, her daughter Palak Tiwarii has stepped into showbiz and is awaiting her second big-screen release, The Bhootnii.

While Palak has received love from the people and enjoys her fanbase, the young star kid also couldn't escape the debate around nepotism. During an exclusive conversation with Filmfare, we asked her about the rampant trolling her friends and industry colleagues, such as Ananya Panday, Khushi Kapoor, and Ibrahim Ali Khan, had to face for belonging to the film family and whether she feels people on the internet are unkind when it comes to star kids.

She said, "People on the internet are unkind in general. But yes, I do feel it comes with a certain responsibility. The way that I try to look at it is that they are protective of our parents as celebrities and identities because they have grown up with them. I know Prerna has shaped so many people's idea of love, which is problematic. My gal was confused (laughs). But I know that they are so protective of Shweta Tiwari the person, that they sometimes even let that take precedence over her as my mother. When they see her daughter Palak, they think, 'Oh, she will never match up to her'. They are protective of our celebrity parents, and that's where it comes from."

Palak then explained that the star kids never want to match up to their parents because they know it is not possible. Rather, they just want to maintain that legacy. The actress continued, "What they forget is that we never want to match up to our parents. We are well aware that we could never touch that, and we are their biggest fans. So, if you admire my mom, imagine how much I admire her; at least tenfold. I think I can speak for all the star kids, as you said, our only aim is to just maintain that legacy and not harm it. Eventually, in time, we will get there."

Meanwhile, The Bhootnii stars an ensemble cast of Sanjay Dutt, Mouni Roy, Sunny Singh, Palak Tiwarii, Aasif Khan and BeYouNick among others. It will be released in theatres on May 1.

Didn't mind being a flowerpot in 'KGF', it was a dream project: Srinidhi Shetty



South actor Srinidhi Shetty says she has no qualms about being called a "flowerpot" in her 2018 debut film "KGF: Chapter 1" as she knew about the length of her role in the superhit Kannada film franchise right from the outset.

In the "KGF" franchise, directed by Prashanth Neel, the actor played the headstrong Reena Desai opposite lead star Yash's towering Rocky. It was produced by Hombale Films.

"I didn't mind being a flowerpot in 'KGF' because that was like a dream project for me when it came, not because of how it would happen. When I heard the story, I knew my role is only this much, but I wanted to do it, I wanted my first movie to be that. But again, it's an individual choice. Some people would love to be a flowerpot, some people wouldn't," Shetty told PTI in an interview.

"Now, if you ask me, would you be a flowerpot in the next few movies? I'll take my time and think if I want to or not. I'll see who's doing (the film), how much (important) is the flowerpot... The first one was my conscious choice. But, there's nothing bad, right, wrong, etc (in it). It's fine, there are no calculations," she added.

The 32-year-old actor, who later appeared alongside Tamil superstar Vikram in the 2022 action-thriller "Cobra", attributed her popularity to

the "KGF" films.

"The amount of fame or love I have gained is because of 'KGF', there is no two ways about it. Probably it did not convert into work that maybe I would have thought it would have, but that did not happen."

"But the three things that I have: name, fame, and love is because of 'KGF'. It takes its own pace and time, and I even take time to choose what I want and what I do not want to do. Having said that, the success of the movie did not change me as a person. I'm still the same."

Shetty is looking forward to the release of "HIT: The Third Case", fronted by Telugu star Nani. She plays Mrudula in the action thriller, directed by Sailesh Kolanu.

Nani said Shetty's character in "HIT 3" is not merely a supporting role.

"Mrudula is a flowerpot, but it is not a flowerpot role. I can only tell you this much as of now," he said.

Shetty, who hails from Karnataka, recalled meeting Nani at the muhurat pooja of her another film "Telusu Kada", directed by Neeraja Kona, and little did she know they would eventually work in the "HIT" franchise.

"I went to that pooja and they (Kona and Nani) are best friends, so

Riddhima Kapoor Sahni reveals why 'diet' is a foreign word for the Kapoor Family

"Diets and Kapoors don't go together," says Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, shedding light on her family's enduring love affair with food and their balanced approach to fitness.

When it comes to the Kapoor family, one thing is clear: their love for food is as legendary as their contribution to Indian cinema. Now, adding a new layer to this well-known fact, Ranbir Kapoor's sister, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, has candidly shared that "dieting" and "Kapoors" are two words that simply don't go hand in hand. In a heart-to-heart conversation, the stylish entrepreneur revealed how the Kapoor clan embraces food wholeheartedly-- without ever stressing over calorie counts. Speaking to FitTak in a recent interview, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, who is also an accomplished jewellery designer and entrepreneur, confirmed what fans have long suspected-- the Kapoor Khandaan lives to eat. "Diets and Kapoors don't go together," she laughed, adding that while everyone in the family is health-con-

scious and enjoys fitness, no one follows a restrictive diet. "They love their food and do not leave their food. They all eat a balanced diet but I do not think anyone diets in the family. Everyone is a foodie", she added.

While they prioritise health, they don't believe in restrictive diets. Riddhima herself follows a balanced routine, incorporating yoga into her daily life. Her day typically starts with virgin cold-pressed coconut oil and amla prash, followed by fruits and fresh juice.

She includes parboiled rice, chapatis, and vegetarian proteins like peas, dal, and hung curd in her meals. Despite her disciplined regimen, Riddhima doesn't shy away from indulgences, enjoying chocolate twice daily. Bollywood Wives showcased her multifaceted persona, blending elegance with authenticity. She also noted that her daughter, Samara Sahni, is already developing healthy eating habits-- a testament to how the family balances their love for food with a sensible lifestyle.



Shirtless Salman Khan flaunts his body, greets fans in Andaz Apna Apna style



Salman Khan's fans were in for a treat as the actor dropped some sizzling photos on social media. His shirtless photos were accompanied by a caption crafted in Andaz Apna Apna style! Taking to social media, the superstar shared the photos which showed him relaxing in a swimming pool with his shirt off. He flaunted his toned body and muscles as he posed for the

camera.

The actor captioned the post, "Eello ji sanam hum aa gaye.....Ab itna bhi gussa karo nahin jaani." For the uninitiated, these lines are from a song from his cult classic film, Andaz Apna Apna. The film was re-released in theatres on April 25th. On day one of its re-release, the comedy flick reportedly earned Rs 25.75 lakh, fol-

lowed by Rs 45.50 lakh on day two and ₹51.25 lakh on day three.

Besides Salman Khan, the Rajkumar Santoshi directorial also starred Aamir Khan, Raveena Tandon, Karisma Kapoor, Paresh Rawal and Shakti Kapoor, among others. The film did not perform well at the box office when it was released but went on to attain cult status over time. Talking about the same, Aamir Khan once said, "Raj Santoshi and I were the only two people who believed in the film. We loved it. So, when it didn't work, we were both sad. And then it goes on to become my biggest success on home entertainment!!! Both Raj and I were finally redeemed. Aamir was also supposed to attend the special re-release screening but skipped the event considering the Pahalgam terror attack.

Meanwhile, talking about Salman Khan, the actor was last seen in AR Murugadoss' Sikandar alongside Rashmika Mandanna. The film was released on March 30, marking another Eid release from Khan but it failed to strike a chord with the audience. He is now reportedly working on the sequel of Bajrangi Bhaijaan.

Off the field, Virat is so relaxed, he's the most shaant person I know: Anushka Sharma

In an exclusive conversation with Filmfare, Anushka Sharma opens up about her journey with Virat Kohli, the nuances of their relationship, and her much-anticipated return to the silver screen.

Anushka Sharma, known for her versatility and authenticity, has always been candid about her personal and professional life. In a heartfelt interview with Filmfare a couple of years back, she delved into her relationship with Virat Kohli, shedding light on the man behind the cricketing legend, and discussed her upcoming projects that mark her return to acting.

Reflecting on her marriage, Anushka shares, "I'm married to my best friend. I'm married to my confidant. I'm married to someone I love so dearly just because of the human being that he is." Their relationship, rooted in mutual respect and understanding, offers them solace amidst their demanding careers. "When we're together, the world ceases to exist," she adds, emphasizing the depth of their connection.

Addressing the common perception of Virat's on-field aggression, Anushka clarifies, "He's one of the calmest persons I've met. Off the field, he's so relaxed... He's the most shaant person I know. I look at him and I'm like, 'Wow! You're so chill.'" The couple's hectic schedules



often mean limited time together. Anushka recounts, "During the first six months of our marriage, we spent 21 or 22 days together... We were hardly together in Mumbai. In fact, the staff at home gets so happy whenever they see us together at home."

Despite the challenges, they prioritise each other's careers. "I'm never going to be like, 'Oh please spend more time with me at the cost of your work'. No,

please do your work. He's the same with me." Anushka explains, highlighting the mutual respect that forms the foundation of their relationship.

After a brief hiatus, Anushka is set to make a powerful comeback with PK 2 and Sultan 2, both of which are sequels to box office hits. PK 2 is a potential sequel with Aamir Khan and Ranbir Kapoor, while Sultan 2 is a sequel starring Salman Khan.

Link between stress, cervical cancer uncovered

A new study has established an association between cervical cancer and stress in patients, stating that females having cervical cancer with stress-related disorders are at a higher risk of succumbing to the disease. Findings of the study were published in the journal 'Cancer Research'. "Patients receiving a cancer diagnosis are at increased risk of several stress-related psychiatric disorders, such as depression, anxiety, and stress-reaction and adjustment disorders," said Donghao Lu, the study's author.

Lu added, "Emerging evidence from both experimental and epidemiological studies indicates that psychological distress might affect the progression of many cancer types." For the following study, researchers gathered and examined records of 4,245 patients diagnosed with cervical cancer in Sweden between January 1, 2002, and December 31, 2011. At the same time, researchers also identified patients who had experienced a stressful life event, such as the death or severe illness of a family member, divorce, or being between jobs, as these events would increase emotional burden on patients.

Moreover, researchers also identified women who had cervical cancer or unspecified uterine cancers as their cause of death. During the study, 1,392 patients died, and cervical cancer was listed as the cause of death for 1,005 of them. In all, researchers

sible explanations for the link between psychological stress and cervical cancer-specific mortality. One reason can be that a woman suffering from a psychological disorder may be less likely to seek treatment and may be diagnosed at



found that 1,797 patients either had stress-related disorders or had undergone stressful life events. Patients with either a stress-related disorder or a stressful life event were 33 per cent more likely to die of the disease. Those who had stress-related disorders were 55 per cent more likely to die of their cervical cancer, while those who had experienced a stressful life event were 20 per cent more likely to die of their disease.

There are several pos-

a later stage, added Lu.

"Our findings support that oncologists or gynecologists perform an active evaluation of psychiatric status on return visits to see how patients with cervical cancer are doing, not only somatically, but also mentally," said co-author Karin Sundstrom.

"If confirmed in other populations and countries, psychological screening and intervention may be considered as an integral component in cervical cancer care," Sundstrom added.

AGO trap: Eliminates female mosquitoes to help curb chikungunya virus

A disease control centre developed an Autocidal Gravid Ovitrap (AGO trap) that attracts and captures female mosquitoes looking for a site to lay eggs. Researchers reported that AGO traps successfully protected people from chikungunya virus.

The lack of effective tools to control Aedes aegypti mosquito populations has resulted in the continued expansion of dengue virus, Zika virus and chikungunya virus. Some recent attempts at curbing mosquito populations have resulted in reductions in mosquito density but not reductions in human disease. AGO traps consist of a pail with hay and water to attract egg-bearing female mosquitoes and a sticky lining to which the insects adhere. Previous studies have shown that placing three AGO traps outside of 85% of homes in a community resulted in an 80% reduction in adult mosquito populations but the studies did not assess rates of mosquito-borne diseases in humans, reported the study published in the journal of PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases.

The researchers randomly selected 290 households in Puerto Rican communities that had AGO trap interventions and 349 households in communities without AGO traps. 175 household members

from intervention communities and 152 from non-intervention communities were enrolled in the study.

Blood samples were collected from each participant to detect chikungunya virus infection and surveys recorded demographic information as well as data

on mosquito repellent and bed net use and frequency of mosquito bites. A total of 114 participants (34.9%) were seropositive for the chikungunya virus. Among people who spent most of their daytime hours inside the community they lived in, 10.3% were seropositive for chikungunya virus in communities with AGO traps whereas 48.7% were positive for chikungunya virus in communities without traps. Among all participants, including those who did not spend as much

daylight time within the community, 26.1% were seropositive for chikungunya virus in the intervention communities and 43.8% were positive in communities without traps.

"AGO traps are a novel chemical-free, effective approach to control Ae. aegypti populations and provide protection from infection with the pathogens that these mosquitoes transmit. Further evaluations should determine if AGO traps are sustainable and effective in larger-scale community trials," said one of the researchers of the study.



Modified radiotherapy less likely to damage healthy cells

A modified way of concentrating radiotherapy dose in tumour while minimising damage to healthy cells has been proposed in a recent research. The study published in the journal of Scientific Reports proposes that focusing high-energy particle beams on a small spot deep inside the body could potentially enable clinicians to target cancerous tumour precisely. External beam radiotherapy involves treating patients with either high energy X-rays or particle beams. Tumour cells are killed by the radiation, which is usually administered in multiple fractions, which are applied daily over several weeks. Prof Dino Jaroszynski, who led the project, said: "Around half of the population will suffer from cancer at some time in their lives. Of these people, half will be treated using radiotherapy or a combination of radiotherapy and chemotherapy."

One of the challenges in radiotherapy is to deposit a high radiation dose in a way that the dose fully 'conforms' to the tumour to ensure that all cancerous cells are killed while preventing damage to healthy cells. Our study

showed that we can very simply focus radiation onto a tumour to irradiate it while reducing the dose in surrounding healthy tissue."

One of the disadvantages of using X-rays in radio-



therapy is that these are absorbed in the body and their effects diminish, resulting in a high entrance dose. Proximal and distal doses before and after the tumour can also be as high as, or higher than, the radiation dose in the tumour. To eradicate the tumour precisely with sufficient radiation to kill all tumour cells, the X-ray beam is often rotated while pointing at the tumour from different directions, while the patient remains station-

ary. An effective radiotherapy modality uses heavier particles such as protons and ions. These have the advantage of radiation doses that can be confined to a small region

called the "Bragg peak."

"This work presents a comprehensive numerical study of fundamental issues encountered in cancer treatment with very high energy electrons for a wide range of geometries. Results suggest that technology and beam transport systems routinely employed in high-energy particle accelerators could find direct application in this field, expanding the range of tools available for radiotherapy," said Dr Enrico Brunetti, one of the researchers of the study.

Malaria linked to 30 per cent higher risk of heart failure: Study

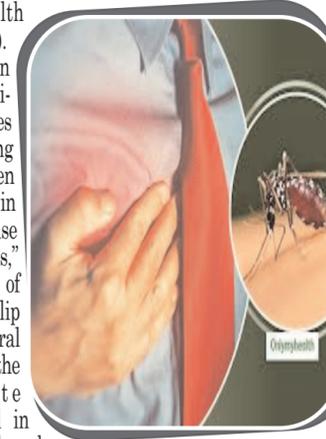
A new research has warned that malaria infection is linked to 30 per cent higher risk of heart failure. The mosquito-borne infection affects more than 219 million people worldwide each year, according to 2018 statistics of the World Health

Organization (WHO). "We have seen an increase in the incidence of malaria cases and what is intriguing is that we have seen the same increase in cardiovascular disease in the same regions," said the first author of the study, Philip Brainin, a postdoctoral research fellow at the Herlev-Gentofte University Hospital in Denmark. "Even though we have taken preventive measures to decrease the malaria numbers, it remains a major burden," Brainin said.

The researchers used Danish nationwide registries to identify patients with a history of malaria infection between January 1994 and January 2017. The mean age of patients in the study was 34 and 58 per cent of the subjects were male. Around 4,000 malaria cases were identified, with 40 per cent having plasmodium falciparum, a parasite transmitted through mosquito bites that is responsible for majority of severe malaria cases in humans. The 11-year follow-up of patients revealed 69 cases of heart failure, which were very high as compared to

the general population, and 68 cases of cardiovascular death, which were considered within normal range.

"These patients had a 30 per cent increased likelihood of developing heart failure over the follow-up time," Brainin said. While more research will be needed to further validate the findings, recent studies have suggested that malaria could be a contributor to functional and structural changes in the myocardium, which is the muscle tissue of the heart. Experimental studies have also shown that malaria may affect the blood pressure regulatory system causing hypertension, which is a contributor to heart failure. Malaria can also affect vascular pathways that cause inflammation in the heart, which could lead to fibrosis and then heart failure. According to the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), a combination of high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, and coronary artery disease are among the most common risk factors for heart failure. The findings were presented at the ESC Congress 2019 together with the World Congress of Cardiology in Paris. Among the high malaria burden countries, India has made substantial progress in disease control. The malaria burden has declined by over 80 per cent malaria cases came down to 0.39 million in 2018 from 2.03 million cases in 2000. Malaria deaths in India have declined by over 90 per cent from 932 deaths in 2000 to 85 in 2018, according to Indian Council of Medical Research.



CINNAMON FOR DIABETES: Simple tips to add the common Indian spice to your diet

A person is said to be diabetic when their blood sugar is excessively high and the insulin hormone produced in the pancreas that breaks down the glucose is neither made by the body nor utilised well. The condition, if not managed well, can severely damage one's eyes, kidneys and overall health. According to a World Health Organization (WHO) estimate, 1.6 million deaths were directly caused by diabetes in 2016. It was the seventh-leading cause of death that year. But, it's not all grim. The good news is that diabetes can at times be managed through a disciplined diet, regular screening and exercising.

There are several home remedies that could help you to deal with sugar level in your body along with the doctor's prescribed medicines. One such ingredient is cinnamon, a common spice in Indian kitchen. It is used to add distant flavours to various dessert and savoury recipes.



A study reported in the July 2000 edition of Agricultural Research Magazine found that consuming 1g of cinnamon per day can increase insulin sensitivity and help manage or reverse type 2 diabetes.

Benefits of having cinnamon in your diet:
* The spice is known to stimulate cells for glucose consumption.

* Consuming cinnamon promotes the release of insulin from the pancreas and boosts insulin sensitivity that helps in the processing of glucose.

* It also contains mineral chromium that keeps one's appetite under check and helps in getting rid of visceral fat.

* Packed with essential nutrients, it makes for an excellent detox drink.

* Results from a clinical study published in the Diabetes Care journal in 2003 suggest that cassia cinnamon (cinnamon bark) improves blood glucose and cholesterol levels in people with type 2 diabetes, and may reduce risk factors associated with diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Discovery of new liver cells can make liver transplants redundant

RESEARCHERS have found single-cell RNA sequencing to identify a type of cell that may be able to regenerate liver tissue, treating liver failure without the need for transplants. The scientists have identified a new type of cell called a Hepatobiliary Hybrid Progenitor (HHyP), that forms during our early development in the womb.

Surprisingly, HHyP also persists in small quantities in adults and these cells can grow into the two main cell types of the adult liver (Hepatocytes and Cholangiocytes) giving HHyPs stem cell-like properties. The team examined HHyPs and found that they resemble mouse stem cells which have been found to rapidly repair mice liver following major injuries, such as occurs in cirrhosis. The findings are published by The Journal Nature Communications.

Dr Tamir Rashid from the Centre for Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine at King's College London said, "For the first time, we have found that cells with true stem cell-like properties may well exist in the human liver. This, in turn, could provide a wide range of regenerative medicine applications for treating liver disease, including the possibility of bypassing the need for liver transplants."

Symptoms of liver disease include jaundice, itching and feelings of weakness and tiredness and in more severe cases, cirrhosis. The only treatment for severe liver diseases at present is a liver transplant which can lead to a lifetime of complications and for which the need for donor organs greatly outweighs the increasing demands. Liver disease can be caused by lifestyle issues such as obesity, viruses, alcohol misuse or by non-lifestyle issues such as autoimmune and genetic mediated disease.

"We now need to work quickly to unlock the recipe for converting pluripotent stem cells into HHyPs so that we could transplant those cells into patients at will. In the longer term, we will also be working to see if we can reprogramme HHyPs within the body using traditional pharmacological drugs to repair diseased livers without either cell or organ transplantation," said Dr Rashid.

Dy CM visits Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi in Rainawari; pays obeisance, assesses issues of DGPC

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 25

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today visited Gurudwara Chatti Padshahi at Rainawari Srinagar and paid obeisance there.

The District Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee Srinagar led by its President, Jaspal Singh, apprised the Dy CM of various issues. They demanded declaration of holiday on 12th of June instead of 5 July on the oc-



casation of Parkash Utsav of 6th Guru Guru Hargobind Sahib ji as per calendar Nanak Shahi Samvat 557 issued by Shrimoni Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (Amritsar).

They also demanded declaration of gazetted holiday on 30th May which is a re-

stricted holiday on the occasion of Martyrdom Guru Arjan Dev ji.

While interacting with the members of the delegation, the Dy CM reiterated that government is committed to provide all the necessary support to the community to realise their dreams and aspirations.

The Dy CM assured the DGPC that he will discuss the issues with the concerned authorities for redress at the earliest.

CRPF Reaches Out to Shelling Victims in Poonch Villages

JAMMU RISING
JAMMU, MAY 25

In a significant humanitarian effort, a team from the 38th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), accompanied by local police, today visited the villages of Khari Karmara and Gulpur under PS Poonch. The visit aimed to assess the damage caused by recent Pakistani shelling and to provide immediate relief to the affected villagers whose houses have been severely impacted. The delegation included Sh. Hajari Lal, 2nd in Command, Sh. Neeraj Rana, Assistant Commandant, Inspector M.S. Rawat, and Inspector Krishan Lal from 38 Bn CRPF Poonch. They were joined by officials from the local police, demonstrating a coordinated approach to addressing the needs of the border communities. During their visit, the CRPF and po-



lice personnel interacted directly with the villagers, listening to their harrowing experiences and the challenges they face due to the extensive damage to their homes. Understanding the urgency of the situation, the team distributed essential food

items and much-needed medicines to the residents. This initiative is a crucial step in providing solace and practical support to those grappling with the aftermath of cross-border firing. "Our objective is to stand with our fellow citizens in their time

of need," stated Sh. Hajari Lal, 2nd in Command, 38 Bn CRPF. "The damage to their homes is immense, and we are here to ensure they receive immediate assistance. The distribution of food and medicines is just a first step; we will continue to coordinate with local authorities to provide further support and facilitate their recovery." The affected villages, particularly Khari Karmara and Gulpur, have borne the brunt of unprovoked shelling from across the border, leading to significant structural damage to residential properties and causing immense distress among the inhabitants. The swift response from the CRPF and local police has been widely appreciated by the villagers, who expressed gratitude for the timely aid. This collaborative effort highlights the commitment of security forces.

Delegation from Central Sanskrit University Embarks on Himalayan Trekking Expedition

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Under the joint auspices of Central Sanskrit University, Girvanabharati, Sanskrit Bharati, the Youth Hostels Association of India, and other collaborating organizations, a 51-member delegation of students has departed for an adventurous trekking expedition to Raori Khohi (12,000 feet altitude) in the Kullu region of the Himalayas. This initiative is a testament to the "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" vision, as it fosters both linguistic and cultural unity. Students from diverse regions of India, representing multiple languages, are participating in this eight-day journey, traveling and trekking together in harmony. Prof. Srinivasa Varakhedhi, Vice-Chancellor of Central Sanskrit University, in his blessings to the participants, stated: "This unparalleled expedition, filled with valor, will not only offer a direct experience of India's ge-



ography but will also carry the essence and significance of the Sanskrit language to remote corners of the country. This journey will greatly contribute to the promotion of India's unity and cultural harmony. The expedition's primary motto is: 'Himalayas' Peaks, Sanskrit Speaks; Every Home in India, Sanskrit Speaks.' This is not merely a slogan but a powerful effort to reconnect Sanskrit with daily life. "The expedition was ceremoniously flagged off by the University's Registrar, Prof. R. G. Murali Krishna. Addressing the participants, he emphasized the unique cul-

tural and spiritual legacy of India that the trekking endeavor aims to revive. "This adventure offers an exceptional opportunity to witness the beauty and cultural grandeur nestled in the lap of the Himalayas. Its purpose is not only to honor the natural majesty of the region but also to promote the significance of the Sanskrit language across the nation," he added. Prof. Murali Krishna also highlighted the importance of safety measures, environmental awareness, and respect for natural formations in high-altitude regions. He expressed plans to organize more such

large-scale and regular expeditions in the future. Dean of Student Welfare, Prof. Madan Mohan Jha, shared that through this initiative, students would develop courage, cultural awareness,

and linguistic appreciation. "This endeavor will project India's unity, diversity, and ancient traditions onto a new platform," he stated. He further mentioned that last year as well, the University had organized a trekking expedition involving 25 participants to promote language, culture, and adventure. This year, 50 participants are undertaking the trek, with plans to make this an annual tradition. The Trekking Expedition Coordinator, Dr. Yogendra Dixit, informed that the group comprises 48 students from various campuses of the University and two guides. The team is being led by Mr. Vijender Rao from Tarunoday Sanskrit Sansthan, Shivamogga, Karnataka.

Poonch admin team visits Ziyarat Hazrat Sain Baba Miran Baksh

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On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohammad Sayeed and Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Rakesh Sharma today visited the sacred Ziyarat of Hazrat Sain Baba Miran Baksh (R.A) at Kopra Guntrian, to assess provision of civic amenities ahead of Annual Urs. The officers offered du'a at the shrine and reviewed the arrangements put in place for the annual religious gathering. Their visit aimed to ensure that the devotees arriving to pay their respects could do so in a peaceful, clean, and well-managed environment. Accompanying the officers were Tehsildar Haveli and Block Development Officer NSSB, who also assessed the on ground preparations and extended departmental support where required. The team took a comprehensive review of various facilities including crowd control, traffic regulation, public convenience, and overall sanitation. Special emphasis has been placed on maintaining hygiene and ensuring the availability of basic civic amenities in coordination with multiple departments. Under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, the District Administration has extended support to make the Urs congre-



gation smooth and dignified. Adequate security arrangements and deployment of staff have been ensured for the comfort and safety of the devotees. The visiting officers also interacted with mem-

bers of the local community and devotees, assuring them that the administration has continued commitment to facilitating religious events with respect and efficiency.

Relief Operations by Gandhi Global Family in Shelling-Affected Areas of Poonch & Rajouri

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The Gandhi Global Family (GGF), in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), organized a coordinated humanitarian effort to support families affected by cross-border shelling along the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch districts. To address the urgent needs of the impacted communities, GGF forged a collaborative network of regional and sub-regional NGOs, civil society organizations and volunteers. Key partners included the J&K Ex-Servicemen League, Unnat NGO, Tawi Welfare Organization, Sangarsh and Pulastya Foundation. This coalition exemplified SDG 17's emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships, enabling a structured and efficient response to the crisis. The relief efforts were tailored to the specific needs of the affected population, guided by feedback collected during GGF's initial assessment visits. Essen-



tial supplies such as grocery kits, juices, biscuits and mosquito nets were distributed to address immediate survival requirements. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by women and children, the initiative also provided sanitary pads, indoor sports kits, and educational materials. This approach not only prioritized physical necessities but also aimed to support psychosocial well-being, particularly

for children traumatized by the conflict. Formal handover ceremonies were conducted in both districts to ensure transparency and accountability. In Rajouri, District Youth Officer Mr. Nitin Hangloo received the relief material through GGF President Rajouri Bashir Shawl and senior member Mr. Saleem. In Poonch, the supplies were delivered to Assistant Commissioner Revenue M. Sayeed, Child

Welfare Committee Chairperson Rohit Khajuria, and Superintendent of Palaash Children Home Boys Ms. Nusrat Mir, with Dr. Nitin Sharma General Secretary GGF Jammu region and Adv. Waqar Hussain Shah leading the process. The events in both districts were witnessed by prominent civil society members, including ex-councillor Naresh Kumar Raj, Adv. Sanjeev Sharma, Adv. Bhanu Partap, Adv. Navjot Sharma, Dr. Syed Nusrat Shah, Dr. Mehak Sharma, Mr. Vikrant Sharma and Mr. Shakti Sharma. The initiative also highlighted women-led contributions, such as those by GGF Women representative especially from Ms. Anuradha Lal from Andaman & Nicobar and Jammu GGF Wing headed by Dr. Alka Sharma, Ms. Neena Abrol from Unnat NGO and Ms. Anuradha from Cambridge Montessori, Poonchak emphasizing gender inclusivity in humanitarian efforts.

Orientation and training session organised at ADR Centre (DLSA) Poonch

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District Legal Services Authority Poonch organised the Orientation and training session of the SAATHI Unit in the ADR Centre Poonch. The event was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Ashwani Kumar Sharma, Chairman DLSA Poonch / Pr. District & Sessions Judge, and under the supervision of Mr. Rafaqat Hussain Mir, Secretary, DLSA Poonch. Secretary DLSA also highlighted the NALSA Toll free No. 15100. SAATHI (Survey for Adhar and Access to tracking & holistic inclusion)

campaign launched by NALSA, signifies the system becoming a companion of every vulnerable child ensuring no one is left behind. A focussed national campaign to provide legal identity and facilitate social welfare access to destitute children. Hon'ble Secretary DLSA said that many such children, living on streets or in care homes, lack adhar which is crucial gateway to availing government benefits, education, healthcare and protection under various child welfare laws. The orientation and training session was conducted by Adv. Bhanu Partap who emphasized

on the identification and mapping of the destitute children. The members of the SAATHI Unit who attended the program were Panel Dr. Parvaiz Khan, CMO, Wakeel Bhat, DSWO, Superintendents from Palash Parisha, Tehsildars, Panel Lawyers, PLVs and Education Department. The SAATHI Campaign shall commence from 26 May to 26 June and thereafter adhar registration camps will be organised. The NALSA Theme song was played at the beginning of the program and light refreshments were given to the participants.



NOTICE
I, Apil Singh son of Punjab Singh R/o Village Jij Tehsil Thakrakote District Reasi has applied for the registration of Date of birth of his son namely Karpal Singh D.O.B 11.09.2017 in the Court of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Thakrakote. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned Authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE
I, Beer Singh son of Devi Dass R/o Village Gabber Tehsil Thakrakote District Reasi has applied for the registration of Date of birth of his son namely Balvinder Singh D.O.B 20.10.2011 in the Court of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Thakrakote. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned Authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE
I, Rakhmat Johan Wife of Zamoored Khan R/o Village Dhakikote Tehsil Thakrakote District Reasi has applied for the registration of Date of Birth of their children namely Shawaz Ahmed Funny D.O.B 03.11.2015, Kiswa Tabassum D.O.B 08.09.2014, Waseem Khan D.O.B 10.10.2020 in the Court of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Thakrakote. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned Authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE
I, Inder Singh Son of Raghu Dass R/o Village Jij Tehsil Thakrakote District Reasi has applied for the registration of Date of Birth of their children namely Shallo Devi D.O.B 05.03.2003, Shakuntla Devi D.O.B 01.04.2000, Beer Singh D.O.B 09.02.2011, Bindu Devi D.O.B 05.10.2009 in the Court of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Thakrakote. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned Authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.