



Border villages inheritors of rich tradition, courage: LG Sinha

'Under PM Modi, frontier hamlets no longer last villages of India'



KNO Desk

Jammu, May 06: Terming border villages as inheritors of a rich tradition of courage and resilience, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that under PM Modi's leadership these hamlets are no longer the last villages of India.

Addressing a public rally during his visit to the border village of Regal in the Samba district,

where he initiated and laid the foundation stones for several development projects, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Our border villages are the inheritors of a rich tradition of courage and resilience. Under the leadership of PM Modi, we have shifted the narrative. These are no longer the 'last villages' of India; they are our 'First Villages'".

The Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed that the Administration is resolute to elevate the border settlements from the periphery of neglect to the forefront of national progress.

"Border villages like Regal are the backbone of India. Our glorious history was forged in the arduous paths of these border villages.

We are committed to safeguarding the dignity of every border village | [More on P6](#)

LG calls for integrating Vedic wisdom with modern education

Inaugurates Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul at Ghagwal



KNO Desk

Jammu, May 06: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday inaugurated the Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul at the ancient Narsingh Dev Temple in Ghagwal. He dedicated a Nakshatra Park and Yoga Dhyana Kendra to the public and laid foundation stone for Shri Narsingh Dev Public Library and Open Air Amphitheatre.

Addressing a gathering of scholars, students and prominent citizens, the Lieutenant Governor, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) emphasized that the establishment of Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul is a meaningful reconnection with India's civilizational roots.

"It is a significant step towards cultural renaissance and the | [More on P6](#)

Ruling NC to hold crucial meeting today

CM, ministers, MLAs from Kashmir to attend



KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, May 06: National Conference president Dr. Farooq Abdullah will chair a crucial meeting of party leaders at the party headquarters, Nawai Subah, here on Thursday, sources disclosed.

Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the NC president will chair the meeting tomorrow to discuss key issues.

"The provincial working committee meeting of the party will be attended by the Chief Minister, ministers, all MLAs from Kashmir, and senior

leaders," they said.

The meeting gains significance as Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today hinted at a strong political message he plans to deliver after Eid.

Speaking at a function in Tangmarg, the CM said that he wants to "burst like a cloudburst" and would speak openly at a public gathering after Eid.

The CM's statement has created ripples in political circles in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sources told KNO that the meeting is likely to discuss issues of statehood, the functioning of the government, and other key matters. | [More on P6](#)

'Want to burst like a cloudburst': Omar hints at strong political message after Eid

Asserts no NC MLA will defect to BJP; says 25,000 jobs in pipeline

Waris Fayaz

Tangmarg, May 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday hinted at a strong political message he plans to deliver after Eid, saying he was holding himself back as the occasion did not permit a political address.

Speaking at a function in Tangmarg, CM Omar, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said he restrained himself from making political remarks due to the academic setting. "Trust me, I want to burst like a cloudburst," he said, adding that he will address a public gathering after Eid where he plans to speak in detail.

Abdullah said youth remain central to the future of Jammu and Kashmir, and the government is working to prepare them for emerging challenges. He said efforts are underway to strengthen education, expand job opportunities and improve economic prospects.

Highlighting gaps in higher education, the CM said the lack of adequate private universities



forces students to move outside the Union Territory. He added that families spend thousands of crores on education outside, often facing uncertainty during crises in countries like Bangladesh and Iran.

"The government has already passed a Private University Bill and is framing rules to facilitate the establishment of institutions within Jammu and Kashmir," Omar said. He expressed hope that areas like Tangmarg could attract such universities due to their environment and climate.

On employment, the Chief Minister said the government

has set a target to provide between 20,000 and 25,000 jobs this year. He acknowledged that government jobs alone cannot address unemployment and stressed the need to promote self-employment.

Omar referred to initiatives like Mission Yuva, which aim to ease access to loans for youth starting businesses in sectors such as retail, workshops and tourism. He said skill development programmes are being expanded to match market needs.

The long-term goal, the CM said, is to build a self-reliant Jammu and Kashmir with a strong local | [More on P6](#)

Operation Sindoor Anniversary

No let-up in alert along LoC, IB sectors in J&K

'AI-powered smart fencing, drones, automated systems strengthen surveillance'



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, May 06: The Indian Army and the Border Security Force (BSF) have maintained a heightened state of alert along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) across Jammu and Kashmir.

An official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the security grid remains as vigilant as it was during last year's 'Operation Sindoor.' "The alert posture has been sustained in view of prevailing India-Pakistan tensions and as the anniversary of the military operation approaches, with no relaxation in surveillance or troop readiness," the official added.

"The alert level remains intact. Troops are maintaining strict dominance along the LoC and are prepared to respond swiftly to any situation," he said.

Key sectors in North Kashmir, including Gurez, Uri, Karnah and Tangdhar, as well as multiple forward areas in the Jammu region, are under intensified monitoring. Along the IB in Jammu, BSF personnel are carrying out round-the-clock patrolling supported by electronic surveillance systems.

Officials said the forces have significantly strengthened border management through the deployment of advanced and largely indigenous technologies.

AI-powered smart fencing systems | [More on P6](#)

LoC villages hold onto peace

Calm prevails; residents rebuild homes, livelihoods; demand bunkers

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, May 06: A year after the military escalation following Operation Sindoor, residents along the Line of Control (LoC) in North Kashmir on Wednesday said that a fragile calm has

returned, allowing life to gradually return to normal in border villages.

The LoC, which witnessed intense cross-border shelling in May last year after the Pahalgam terror attack and subsequent Indian strikes, according | [More on P6](#)

Pride, confidence mark tourists' response in Kashmir

'Valley safe, welcoming; past attack will not deter travel plans'

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, May 06: Tourists visiting Kashmir have expressed a sense of pride and confidence on the

anniversary of 'Operation Sindoor,' saying they will continue to travel to the Valley despite past incidents and tensions.

At several tourist spots across Srinagar and nearby destinations, visitors told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer | [More on P6](#)

SIA attaches immovable property of PoJK-based LeT operative

KNO Desk

Srinagar, May 06: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir on Tuesday attached immovable property belonging to a Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK)-based operative of the proscribed outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), a SIA spokesman said, "The action is linked to Case FIR No. 03/2023 of Police Station ANTF, which was initially registered by the Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) and later transferred to SIA Kashmir for a specialised probe after the emergence of cross-border narco-terror links and terror financing angles."

He said, "Investigations revealed that accused Zameer Ahmad Lone, son of Ahmad Gul Lone resident of Mandiyaran Keran in Kupwara, is currently operating from PoJK and is affiliated with the banned LeT outfit. He has allegedly been actively involved in narco-terror

activities aimed at disturbing peace and security in the Union Territory."

"The accused had earlier been declared a proclaimed offender by a competent court for evading arrest and continuing anti-national activities from across the border," the spokesman said.

"Following a detailed application filed by SIA Kashmir, the court, after examining the evidence on record, ordered the attachment of the property belonging to the absconding accused. Acting on the court's directions, a specialised SIA team carried out the attachment of immovable property measuring 01 Kanal and 14.37 Marlas under Khasra No. 113 in Mandiyaran Keran, Kupwara," he said, adding, "The proceedings were conducted in the presence of an Executive Magistrate and local revenue officials, strictly adhering to legal protocols."

The spokesman said that the SIA Kashmir had earlier filed a comprehensive chargesheet in the case, | [More on P6](#)

CM calls for upgradation of Gulmarg Gondola

Chairs BoD of J&K Cable Car Corporation | Says modern tech to accommodate tourist inflow

KT News Desk

Gulmarg, May 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday chaired the meeting of the Board of Directors of Jammu & Kashmir Cable Car Corporation at the Convention Center, Gulmarg. During the meeting, the Managing Director, JK Cable Car Corporation, presented a detailed agenda and gave a comprehensive presentation on key projects and initiatives of the Corporation. The agenda items were discussed threadbare.

The Board deliberated on the upgradation of the



Gulmarg Gondola Project aimed at enhancing its

carrying capacity, operational efficiency and safety standards

through modernization of critical infrastructure.

CM hosts dinner for Parl Standing Committee on Finance



KT News Desk

Gulmarg, May 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday hosted a dinner in honour of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance at Gulmarg.

The Committee headed by its chairperson,

Member of Parliament, Bhartruhari Mahtab, is currently on a study visit to Srinagar and Gulmarg from May 4 to May 7 as part of its ongoing engagements to review and deliberate on key financial and economic matters. The dinner provided an opportunity for informal interaction | [More on P6](#)

Addressing public grievances, ensuring efficient service delivery remains top priority: Deputy CM

Meets public delegations in Srinagar, inspects ongoing infrastructure works at GMC Srinagar

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, MAY 6: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Wednesday inspected the ongoing construction of a new building for upgradation of the Surgery, Medicine and Radiology departments at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar.

During the inspection, he emphasized the importance of timely completion of the project and strict adherence to quality standards. He stated that the upgradation of these key departments will significantly strengthen the healthcare infrastructure and enhance patient care services in Srinagar.

The Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official statement, said that the government is committed to ensure seamless delivery of healthcare services and is focused on creating equitable health related infrastructure in both Srinagar and Jammu.

"The administration is prioritizing development of healthcare facilities, ensuring quality and timely completion to dedicate such facilities across all districts," he said.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister met various public delegations at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

The delegations projected a range of



issues and demands concerning public welfare and development.

The Deputy Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns raised and resolved several issues on the spot. He assured the delegations that all other genuine matters would be actively taken up with the

concerned departments for their prompt and smooth redressal.

Reiterating the government's commitment to responsive governance, he said that addressing public grievances and ensuring efficient service delivery remains a top priority.

Sakeena Ito reviews recruitment process of various departments, SKIMS

• Directs for prompt filling of vacant posts, timely deployment of selected candidates



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the recruitment process undertaken by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) in various departments like Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, Education departments and Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Chairman, JKSSB, Vikas Kundal; Secretary, JKSSB, Khurshid Ahmad Sanai; Additional Director SKIMS, Zahoor Ahmad Mir; Controller of Examinations JKSSB, Director Finance, Health and Medical Education department, representatives of various departments and other officers.

During the meeting, the Minister conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the progress made in filling vacancies of different categories in various departments. The review meeting also focused on expediting transparent, merit-based recruitment to address critical manpower requirements across healthcare institutions and allied departments.

Addressing the officers, the Minister emphasized on the government's commitment towards ensuring efficiency, accountability and fairness in the selection process. She stressed on maintaining transparency and adhering to timelines during the

recruitment process.

The Minister directed the concerned authorities to accelerate the recruitment process, particularly in Health and Education departments as well as SKIMS. She also stressed on maintaining coordination between the departments and recruiting agency to ensure vacant positions are filled promptly and selected candidates are deployed without unnecessary delays.

"Human resource, particularly in Health department, is vital for improving healthcare access and outcomes, particularly in underserved and remote areas", Sakeena said.

Emphasizing on the importance of timely recruitment, Sakeena Ito directed the concerned authorities to expedite the ongoing selection processes while strictly adhering to merit, transparency, and fairness. She expressed satisfaction over the pace of recruitment and stressed that there should be no complacency in meeting future targets.

Highlighting the government's commitment to strengthening the healthcare system, Sakeena Ito reiterated that filling vacant posts remains a top priority. She added that the government is focused on enhancing institutional capacity and ensuring that healthcare facilities and other departments are adequately staffed to meet growing public demand. Regarding SKIMS Soura, the Minister directed the Additional Director to maintain constant

coordination with JKSSB administration so that the recruitment process of pending posts is finalized timely. She highlighted that SKIMS is a premiere health institution and the government is determined to ensure sufficient manpower in it for constant service delivery of public.

While reviewing various aspects of JKSSB related to recruitment processes, Sakeena Ito asked the JKSSB administration to explore the possibilities of reducing the application fee for the advertised posts. She directed them to study the fee structure of Government recruiting agencies of other States and UTs, and examine the growing demand of candidates calling for reduction in application fees.

During the meeting, Chairman JKSSB briefed the Minister on department-wise recruitment status, upcoming examinations and measures being implemented to streamline the selection process.

He informed the meeting that that 5789 selections have been finalized in different departments over the past 18 months, marking a major milestone of the Omar Abdullah led Government in streamlining recruitment in Government departments and reducing vacancies in key sectors. He added that these selections span multiple categories, including technical, paramedical, administrative, and support staff roles in health and medical education department, besides other critical posts in education, and other departments, bolstering service delivery capabilities at the grassroots level.

The Chairman also informed the meeting that more than 700 JE selections were finalized in last month, marking a major achievement of Government to boost vital sectors. He also assured the Minister that selections for more than 150 posts in Health and Medical Education department will be finalised within one and half month.

Demolition drive conducted against drug peddler in Yaripora

KT NEWS DESK

KULGAM, MAY 06: In a continued crackdown against drug peddlers, a demolition drive was carried out Wednesday at Tantaripora, Yaripora by joint teams of Revenue and Police.

The action was undertaken as part of ongoing efforts to curb the menace of drug abuse and dismantle illegal networks involved in narcotics.

Officials, as per an official statement, stated that strict measures will continue against individuals involved in drug peddling, and reiterated the administration's commitment



to ensuring a drug-free society.

Locals were urged to cooperate with authorities and report any suspicious activities related to drug trafficking.

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Fayaz Ahmad Khan S/o: Mohd Sadiq Khan R/o: Check Roady Khan Sopore.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Basit Fayaz Khan S/o: Fayaz Ahmad Khan as 07-10-2007 at Home.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation. If the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Shareefa Begum W/o: Rafiq Ahmad Ganie R/o: Seer Jagir.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Mohd Talha Guroo S/o: Rafiq Ahmad Guroo as 06-06-2015 at Home.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation. If the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Mohd Shafi Teli S/o: Mohd Maqbool Teli R/o: Teliyan Sopore.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Numan Shafi S/o: Mohd Shafi Teli as 05-11-2015 at M.C.H Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation. If the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Mushtaq Ahmad Shiekh S/o: Ab Samad Sheikh R/o: Panipora.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Daughter namely Najma Mushtaq D/o: Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh as 03-08-2016 at M.C.H Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation. If the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Mushtaq Ahmad Shiekh S/o: Ab Samad Sheikh R/o: Panipora.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Daughter namely Aisha Mushtaq D/o: Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh as 07-11-2018 at M.C.H Sopore.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation. If the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR LAND ACQUISITION Assistant Commissioner Land Acquisition Mini Secretariat Ganderbal

Subject: Preliminary Notification under section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 for acquisition of land measuring 01 Kanals, 13 Marlas & 03 Sirsai under survey no. 376/8 & 291 min situated at village Chount-Waliwar for construction of "Trekker's Hut at Chount-Waliwar".

Preliminary Notification

Whereas, the Director Tourism Kashmir has placed the indent vide letter no. Estates/264/DTK/228 Dated 13/08/2024 for acquisition of land measuring 01 Kanals, 13 Marlas & 03 Sirsai for public purpose namely Construction of Trekker's Hut at Chount Waliwar Tehsil Lar District Ganderbal.

Whereas, the revenue papers were prepared by the Tehsildar Lar and subsequently were forwarded to the Indenting Department for page-wise authentication to ensure their correctness and genuineness. The Indenting Department, vide letter No. Estate/264/DTK/429-30 dated 20/12/2024, returned the said revenue papers duly authenticated by the Director Tourism Kashmir.

Whereas, it appears to the Appropriate Government/Authority that a total of 01 Kanals, 13 Marlas & 03 Sirsai land under survey no. 376/8 & 291 min (details given below) is required in the village Chount Waliwar, Tehsil Lar, District Ganderbal for the public purpose, namely, construction of Trekker's Hut.

Whereas, in terms of sub rule (1) of Rule 4 of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, a committee headed by Tehsildar Lar was constituted by the District Collector (Deputy Commissioner) Ganderbal vide order no. 53 of DCG(LAS) of 2025 dated 20/06/2025 issued under the endorsement no. DCG/LAS/Mix/25F-499/302-12 dated 20/06/2025 for conducting preliminary enquiry.

Whereas, the Committee so constituted conducted a preliminary enquiry and submitted a detailed report through the Tehsildar Lar vide communication no. OQ/TL/25/7009 dated 03.12.2025, wherein, it has been reported that the committee conducted spot inspection and unanimously agreed upon the following points:

- That, the Indenting Department was offered State/Govt. land at various locations for the proposed acquisition and have not found any suitable land and has agreed to the proposed land which serves the public purpose.
- That, the extent of land proposed for acquisition is the absolute bare-minimum needed for the purpose/project.
- That, there is no sufficient/suitable unutilized land which has been previously acquired in the area.
- That, there is no State/Government/Common land available which would serve the public purpose and there is only option to acquire the proposed patch of land.

Whereas, the Tehsildar Lar, head of the committee, vide his office letter No. OQ/TL/25/8669 dated 11.02.2026, submitted a report to the Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal stating that no involuntary displacement of persons shall occur due to the above said acquisition and that no rehabilitation is involved in the case in hand. Also, the consent of 70% of the interested persons has been obtained.

Whereas, as per rule 8 of J&K Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Social Impact Assessment and Consent) Rules 2022, where no involuntary displacement of persons due to acquisition of land with no adverse impact, and no rehabilitation is involved, the Collector shall obtain report of Committee as constituted under sub-rule (1) of Rule 4 along with the consent of the interested persons (atleast 70%) which shall be considered as Social Impact Assessment report.

In view of above, I, Collector Land Acquisition (Assistant Commissioner Revenue) Ganderbal in terms of powers vested in me under Section- 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013, hereby, notify the land required for public purpose i.e. Construction of Trekker's Hut at Chount Waliwar Tehsil Lar District Ganderbal, the description of the land is as under:

S. No	Khasra No (Survey No.)	Type of Title Private/Govt. / Common	Type of Land Rural/ Urban	Area under Acquisition			Trees	Structures
				Kanal	Marla	Sirsai		
1	376/8	Private (Shamilat-Rule 5)	Rural	0	16	6	Nil	Nil
2	291 min			0	16	6	Nil	Nil
Total				01	13	3		

This notification is made under the provisions of Section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (Act no. 30/2013), to all whom it may concern.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the Collector on any working day during the working hours. The Government authorizes Collector and his Revenue field staff to enter upon and the survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section 12 of the Act.

Under Sub Section (4) of Section 11 of the Act, no person shall make any transaction or cause any transaction of land i.e. sale/purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without prior approval of the Collector.

Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person(s) interested within 60 (sixty days) from the date of publication of this notification as provided under Section 15 of the Act, before Collector Land acquisition (Assistant Commissioner Revenue) Ganderbal.

No: DCG/LAS/26/Mix-F-499/71-78
Dated: 20:04:2026

DIPK-1091/26
DATED: 06-05-2026

Collector Land Acquisition
Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ganderbal

CM Omar inaugurates twin projects in Tangmarg, Gulmarg

KT NEWS DESK

Tangmarg/ Gulmarg May 06: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday inaugurated a state-of-the-art multi-purpose indoor sports complex at Government Degree College (GDC) Tangmarg, developed at a cost of Rs 2.75 crore under the CAPEX budget, reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening sports infrastructure and youth engagement across Jammu and Kashmir.

The newly established facility, located within the college premises, is equipped with modern indoor sports infrastructure, including arenas for badminton, table tennis, carrom, and billiards. The complex aims to promote a vibrant sports culture and encourage greater participation of youth in physical activities, particularly during harsh weather conditions in the region.

Minister for Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmed Shah, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, Commissioner Secretary Ram Niwas, Director Colleges, Principal GDC Tangmarg, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Following the inauguration, the Chief Minister toured the complex and interacted with students. In a lively engagement, he also participated in indoor games including billiards, table tennis, and badminton alongside students and colleagues, drawing enthusiastic applause and appreciation from the gathering. Earlier, the Chief



Minister launched the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan signature campaign from the college premises, urging students to actively contribute towards building a drug-free society.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister emphasized the pivotal role of youth in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our children are our future. We are making every possible effort to secure a brighter tomorrow for them, but it is equally important to prepare them for the responsibilities ahead. The development of Jammu and Kashmir in the coming years will largely depend on the role played by our youth," he said.

Highlighting the challenges faced by students in accessing quality higher education within the region, Omar Abdullah noted

that the lack of private universities had compelled many families to send their children outside Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in significant financial burden.

"We estimate that every year, nearly 1,000 to 1,200 crore is spent on tuition fees alone by students studying outside J&K, excluding travel and living expenses. This places immense pressure on families," he said.

He said that the government has taken a landmark decision to allow the establishment of private universities in Jammu and Kashmir, with the necessary legislation already passed and rules being finalized.

"Once the framework is in place, we will invite reputed institutions to set up campuses here. With our unmatched natural beauty and climate, places like Tangmarg can emerge as ideal education hubs,

attracting students from across the country," he added.

Recalling his earlier tenure as Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah noted that the GDC Tangmarg project was conceptualized and approved in 2011, expressing satisfaction at witnessing its growth and the enthusiasm of students.

He also lauded the newly constructed indoor sports complex, stating that such facilities are essential in regions with prolonged winters and frequent rainfall.

"In a place like Tangmarg, where outdoor activities are often restricted due to weather, such indoor infrastructure ensures that our youth remain active and engaged throughout the year," he said, adding in a lighter vein that he looks forward to returning and playing badminton with students.

The Chief Minister further highlighted key initiatives

undertaken by the government for youth empowerment, including free bus travel for women in government buses, large-scale government recruitment, and self-employment support through the Mission Yuva programme.

"We aim to provide 20,000 to 25,000 government jobs this year. At the same time, we are enabling young entrepreneurs by facilitating easy access to loans without the need for guarantees, with the government acting as a guarantor," he said.

He also spoke about the government's focus on skill development in sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and horticulture to make youth self-reliant and strengthen the region's economy.

"Our goal is to build a self-sufficient Jammu and Kashmir where we rely on our own strengths and resources. The youth will be at the forefront of this transformation," he added.

Later, the Chief Minister inaugurated a new block of the Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Gulmarg, constructed at a cost of 203.80 lakh under CAPEX.

He inspected various sections of the facility, including the OPD, Emergency Room, pharmacy, X-ray unit, and wards, and reviewed the healthcare services being provided to locals and tourists.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmed Shah, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla S.F. Hamid, SSP Baramulla, and other concerned officers.

Year on, Pak shelling haunts J&K frontier villages

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, May 06: Nearly a year after intense Pakistan shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) claimed around 16 civilian lives, families in Poonch, Rajouri and North Kashmir continue to live with loss that has not faded with time.

The escalation followed the military confrontation after 'Operation Sindoor' in May last year, led to Pakistan resorting to heavy artillery and mortar shelling and hit civilian areas in Uri, Karnah and other forward villages, forcing people to flee and leaving a trail of deaths and destruction.

Among those killed was a daily wage labourer from Uri, whose family says life has not been the same since that night.

"He had just returned home when the shelling started. We thought it would pass, but one shell hit near our house," a Rubeena, a family member said. "We lost him in seconds. Everything ended that night."

In Poonch and Rajouri, where the shelling was reported to be among the heaviest, families recalled how ordinary evenings turned into scenes of panic.

"We were having dinner when explosions began. Children were crying, people were running," said, Muzaffar Hussain, a resident of Poonch who lost a relative. "By morning, we had lost him. There was nothing left to say."

Officials had said at least

13 to 16 civilians were killed during the shelling. Dozens were injured, and several homes were damaged or destroyed.

For many families, the loss was not just emotional but also economic.

"He was the only earning member. Now we are struggling to manage even basic needs," said a woman in Karnah who lost her husband. "Compensation came, but it cannot replace a life."

In Rajouri, another family said the memories return every time tensions rise.

"Whenever we hear about firing anywhere, we get scared. It feels like that night is coming back," a relative said.

Residents across Uri, Karnah and Tangdhar said the shelling left deep psychological scars, especially among children who witnessed the violence.

"Children still get frightened by loud sounds. They remember everything," a local said.

While calm has largely prevailed along the LoC in recent months, families of victims say peace remains incomplete without a sense of security and justice.

"We do not want anyone else to go through this. Peace should stay, not break again," said a resident in Boniyar.

As border villages slowly rebuild, the names of those lost remain part of daily conversations—quiet reminders of the cost of conflict borne by civilians living along the LoC—(KNO)

Mehbooba accuses NC of politicizing holy Quran

Says party ignoring Waqf Bill and school closure issues



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, May 06: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said the National Conference (NC) is "dragging the holy Quran into politics" while remaining silent on several key issues affecting people in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Mehbooba said the NC had lowered political discourse by

invoking religious references in political rivalry.

"The National Conference has fallen to this level. They have even involved the holy Quran in politics. They don't understand its greatness," she said.

She said if the party truly understood religious values, it would have raised its voice on key matters such as the Waqf legislation and educational institutions.

"If they were aware, they would have spoken when the Waqf Bill was passed. They would have spoken when Siraj-ul-Uloom School was closed," Mufti said.

The PDP chief further alleged that the NC has remained silent on surveillance of religious institutions and community structures. "They are silent when mosque committees, maulvis, and imams are being monitored," she said, adding that there was also "systematic neglect of the Urdu language".

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

22% student enrolment jump in J&K education sector: Sakeena Itoo

WARIS FAYAZ

Tangmarg, May 06: Education Minister Sakeena Itoo on Wednesday said student enrolment across schools and higher education institutions has increased by over 22 per cent in the past one and a half years, attributing the rise to improved infrastructure, accountability and policy focus.

Speaking in Tangmarg, the minister said the education sector earlier faced low enrolment, which led to the clubbing of more than 2,500 institutions. "People believed institutions were being shut down due to poor enrolment. That was the situation earlier," she said.

Itoo said the government prioritised upgrades in infrastructure, faculty strength and playfields to



improve the learning environment and keep youth engaged. "We worked to ensure students stay connected with education and remain away from the drug menace," she said.

The minister added, "There has been over 22 per cent increase in enrolments in the last one and a half years of the government in both school and higher education sectors, a clear shift from earlier trends when low admissions

had even led to the clubbing of more than 2,500 institutions."

Itoo said the administration is also revising academic offerings. "We are trying to introduce subjects that match student needs and market demand," she added.

The minister said around 15,000 works are currently being executed under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, adding that the past issues of mismanagement have been addressed through

stricter accountability and monitoring mechanisms.

Referring to healthcare, she said the sector has also seen significant improvements. "Many health institutions lacked basic facilities earlier. There were places without gates and even stray dogs inside the hospital premises," she said. Itoo said the government has since focused on strengthening healthcare infrastructure, including the installation of advanced equipment such as MRI machines, cath labs, and CT scans, along with improving doctor availability.

"Our aim is to ensure people feel the difference and trust that this government stands with them," the minister said, adding, "We do not make false promises. We deliver on what we commit."—(KNO)

SKIMS Bemina launches free ARC

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, May 06: In a significant boost to public healthcare in Kashmir, the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Medical College, Bemina, has established a model Anti-Rabies Clinic (ARC) at its JVC Hospital in SKIMS Bemina, introducing full-fledged, free-of-cost treatment for animal bite cases.

The newly inaugurated facility is equipped to provide complete management for patients exposed to animal bites, including immediate wound care, administration of anti-rabies vaccines, and life-saving rabies immunoglobulin (RIG). The move is expected to reduce the burden on existing facilities and ensure timely treatment for patients across the Valley.

An official from SKIMS Bemina said that until now, the Valley had only one dedicated Anti-Rabies Clinic, located at SMHS Hospital, Srinagar. "Patients visiting SKIMS Bemina earlier had to be referred to SMHS after initial wound dressing, as advanced anti-rabies treatment facilities were not available here. This often caused inconvenience and delays," he said.

The official added that the establishment of the ARC at SKIMS Bemina has addressed



a long-standing gap in emergency care. "As per the guidelines of the National Medical Commission (NMC), every medical college is required to have a functional Anti-Rabies Clinic. We had planned to start this facility much earlier, but were unable to do so due to financial constraints. Now, we have successfully operationalised it," he said.

The official further said that all services at the clinic, including vaccines and immunoglobulin, will be provided free of cost, ensuring accessibility for patients from all socio-economic backgrounds.

"With this facility now in place, patients no longer need to travel to SMHS for complete treatment. SKIMS Bemina is now fully equipped to handle all aspects of anti-rabies care. We welcome patients to avail these services without hesitation," he added.

The initiative is being seen as a crucial step in strengthening emergency response to animal bite cases and preventing rabies-related fatalities, particularly in rural and underserved areas of Kashmir where access to specialised care has often been limited—(KNO)

'With this facility now in place, patients no longer need to travel to SMHS for complete treatment. The hospital is now fully equipped to handle all aspects of anti-rabies care'

Smart City bus row

Kashmir transporters threaten indefinite strike from May-12



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, May 06: Days after a Valley-wide "chakka jam" over the Smart City bus row, transporters in Kashmir on Wednesday announced an indefinite strike from May 12, warning of a complete halt in public transport if the government fails to address their demands.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Transport Association Kashmir President Shabir Matta said the decision follows continued "inaction" by the authorities despite repeated outreach by transport bodies after the April 20 shutdown. "We have given the government time till May 11. If our genuine demands are not met, the entire Kashmir will observe a chakka jam from May 12," Matta said.

He said transporters from South, North and Central Kashmir had attempted to engage with the administration through visits and public outreach but received no response. "Had the government called us for talks earlier, this situation would not have arisen," he said.

Matta said the protest is driven by "survival concerns" of thousands associated with the sector. "We are not against the government or development. But our employment is being snatched. First save our livelihood, then we can discuss other issues," he added.

Referring to the April 20 strike, he acknowledged the hardship caused to the public, particularly students and patients. "We understand people suffered; students missed exams and patients faced difficulties. We don't want to repeat that, but we are being forced," he said.

The transport leader reiterated concerns over the expansion of Smart City bus services into routes traditionally operated by private transporters, alleging that local stakeholders are being sidelined in the process.

He urged the government to initiate dialogue, stating that the sector supports thousands of drivers, conductors and vehicle owners across the Valley. "We want to work with the government, not against it. But if ignored, we will be compelled to intensify agitation," he said.

Transport bodies have further appealed to operators across Kashmir to support the proposed strike, which, if implemented, is likely to severely disrupt daily life, affecting commuters, students and patients across the Valley.

Notably, as already reported by KNO, a Valley-wide "chakka jam" on April 20 had paralysed public transport across Kashmir, leaving commuters stranded and forcing authorities, including Kashmir University, to make alternate arrangements for affected students—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

A Progressive Judgement Laced With Wisdom

A court in Pampore has done something unusual. Instead of sending a man to jail for public intoxication and disorderly conduct, the court has ordered him to clean the court premises for one month. This is not a sign of leniency but wisdom. The accused was found guilty under Section 355 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. His behaviour while drunk had caused fear and disturbance in the community. A typical court might have sentenced him to a short jail term. But the Pampore court chose a different path. It chose community service. Between April 27 and May 26,

from 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM, the convict will clean the court premises under the supervision of the Bar President. If he fails, he will serve six days of simple imprisonment. The message is clear: you have done wrong, and you must pay for it. But you will pay by doing something useful, not by sitting idle in a jail cell. This is what restorative justice looks like. The focus is not just on punishment, but on repair. The community was disturbed, so the offender must give something back to the community. He will spend his days cleaning, sweating, and thinking about his actions. He will see

the court staff and lawyers every day. He will be reminded of his mistake each morning. That is likely to have a much deeper impact than a short prison sentence that he serves and forgets. For the common person, this judgment sends a strong signal. The law is not just about locking people up. It is about correcting behaviour and protecting society. A man who cleans the court premises for a month is not a hero. But he may return to his family a changed person. He may think twice before behaving badly again. The court has also set a practical example. Jails are overcrowded. Short-term

imprisonment for minor offences often does more harm than good. First-time offenders learn criminal tricks inside. They lose jobs and family connections. Community service avoids these problems while still holding the offender accountable. This judgment deserves praise. It is progressive, practical and humane. Other courts should take note. For small offences, community service can be a better option than jail. It punishes the offender, repairs the community, and saves taxpayers' money. The Pampore court has shown the way. Now others must follow.

Why We Need A New Information World Order

There was a time when news came with some kind of pause-time to verify, to reflect, to contextualise. That gap doesn't exist anymore. Now it's instant. Continuous. Overwhelming.

Chaitanya K Prasad

In an age where information moves faster than our ability to process it, clarity is giving way to confusion. What we are witnessing is not just a period of global instability, but a deeper crisis in how conflict is communicated — and understood.

There's a strange kind of fatigue in the air right now.

You can feel it when you open your phone in the morning. Another alert. Another headline. Another "breaking" situation somewhere in the world that suddenly feels a little too close for comfort. Wars don't feel distant anymore; they feel immediate, almost personal. And not necessarily because we understand them better, but because we're constantly watching them unfold in real time.

But here's the thing no one really talks about enough: we're not just living through a time of conflict; we're living through a crisis in how that conflict is being communicated. And that changes everything.

We've built a world where information moves faster than we can process it. There was a time when news came with some kind of pause-time to verify, to reflect, to contextualise. That gap doesn't exist anymore. Now it's instant. Continuous. Overwhelming. And in theory, that should make us more informed. But in reality, it often just makes us more anxious.

Because when everything is urgent, nothing is clear. You see a video, but you don't know when it was shot. You read a headline, but you don't know what's been left out. You scroll through opinions that sound like facts and facts that are framed like opinions. Somewhere in all of this, truth starts to feel... slippery.

Whenever things get messy in the information space, the instinct is to swing to extremes. Either clamp down, control the narrative, restrict information, filter what people can see or do the opposite: let everything flow freely and assume the truth will somehow sort itself



out. Both approaches sound logical. Both fail in practice.

Over-controlling information creates distrust. People start questioning what's being hidden, and that uncertainty often does more damage than the information itself. But a completely unfiltered environment isn't any better. It rewards the loudest voices, the most dramatic takes, the content that triggers reaction, not reflection. So, we're stuck in this loop. Too much control feels suffocating. Too little control feels chaotic. What we actually need is something far more nuanced-and, honestly, far more difficult.

This is where the idea of a basic framework, or even an informal SOP, for crisis communication begins to make sense. Not as a tool to dictate what people can or cannot say, but as a way to shape how things are said when the stakes are high. Because in moments of conflict, communication is not casual-every word carries weight. Tone matters more, timing matters more, and the impact of even the smallest misstep is amplified.

A slight exaggeration can spiral into widespread panic. A half-verified update can unintentionally escalate tensions. A dramatic

headline can distort perception, making a situation feel more immediate or more severe than it actually is. In such an environment, the way information is framed becomes just as important as the information itself.

What complicates this further today is the role of technology, particularly AI-generated content. We are no longer just dealing with misreporting or bias; we are dealing with entirely fabricated realities that can look convincingly real. AI-generated images, deep-fakes, synthetic audio, and manipulated videos can circulate within minutes, often before they are even questioned. A single fabricated visual, if believable enough, can influence public sentiment, trigger outrage, or even provoke real-world consequences before the truth has a chance to catch up.

This makes the responsibility around dissemination even more critical. It is no longer enough to verify what is being said; we now have to verify what we are seeing and hearing as well. The burden of discernment has increased-not just for media institutions, but for individuals too.

Responsible dissemination, then, does not require complicated rules or rigid control. It

simply calls for a few grounding principles: slowing down just enough to verify before amplifying, offering context rather than isolated fragments, clearly separating what is known from what is still uncertain, and avoiding language that triggers unnecessary alarm. It also means being cautious with visual content, especially in a time where authenticity itself can be manufactured. Equally important is the willingness to acknowledge uncertainty when it exists, rather than filling gaps with speculation.

None of this takes away from people's ability to speak. It does not silence voices or restrict expression. It simply asks for a little more awareness, a little more care, and a little more intention in how those voices are used-especially when the line between reality and manipulation is becoming increasingly difficult to draw.

Now this is where it gets interesting. Because while traditional systems are struggling to keep up, an entire generation has found its own way of dealing with all of this. Gen Z isn't sitting around waiting for perfectly curated information. They're reacting in real time. Processing in real time. And a lot of that processing is happening through humour.

Memes, jokes, dark humour about "the world ending"-on the surface, it can look unserious. Almost detached. But it's actually the opposite. It's how people cope when things feel too big to fully grasp. When someone jokes about "impending doom", it's not because they don't care. It's because sitting with the full weight of reality all the time is exhausting.

Humour becomes a filter. A buffer. A way to stay engaged without being completely overwhelmed. But even this space isn't immune to problems. Because the same tools that help people cope can also blur lines-between satire and misinformation, between commentary and distortion. And when everything is wrapped in irony, it sometimes becomes harder to tell what's real.

It's not about removing emotion. That's

impossible-and, honestly, not even desirable. People are going to feel things, react, and interpret. But perhaps responsibility, in this moment, looks like balance: not feeding fear just because it gets attention, not simplifying complex situations into easy narratives, not turning every development into a "turning point".

It also means institutions stepping up-not by controlling the narrative, but by being clearer, faster, and more transparent. Because when official communication is slow or vague, speculation fills the gap instantly. And it means all of us-because, at this point, we are all part of the information ecosystem-pausing for a moment before we share, react, or amplify. Maybe this "new information world order" does not come from one big policy or global agreement. Maybe it is something quieter-a shift in how we treat information when things feel uncertain. A little more care. A little more awareness of impact.

A recognition that what we say, and how we say it, can shape how others understand the world. Because right now, the real danger isn't just conflict itself. It's confusion. And if we're not careful, that confusion becomes its own kind of crisis. At the end of the day, this isn't about restricting voices. It's about making sure those voices don't unintentionally make an already fragile situation worse. Because in a world where everything feels constantly on edge, clarity is no longer a luxury. It is stability.

A little more care. A little more awareness of impact. A recognition that what we say, and how we say it, can shape how others understand the world

Chaitanya K Prasad is a commentator and writer on cinema, branding, media management, and geo-strategic communication. He has co-authored the book When Branding Met the Movies, published by the National Book Trust. Inputs were provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavi Srinivasan; Views presented are personal. Source: The Pioneer

Only A Win-Win Formula Can Break US-Iran Gridlock

Time is running out. Both sides must accept that only a political settlement can break the current deadlock

Osama Al-Sharif

The US-Iran standoff over the dual blockade of the Strait of Hormuz has become the fulcrum of a global crisis unlike anything seen in modern times — at least not since the COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis is human-made, triggered by the start of joint American-Israeli military strikes on Iran in late February. What was intended to be a swift campaign with vague strategic objectives has since hardened into geopolitical gridlock, with cascading consequences for regional and global economies.

The ceasefire that President Donald Trump announced on April 7 has largely held. But Washington's original aim — forcing Iran into submission over its nuclear program — has given way to a more urgent objective: re-opening the Strait of Hormuz. Iran blocked the strait in a move to upset the balance of power stacked against it and raise the stakes both regionally and globally. Its asymmetric response prompted Trump to impose his own naval blockade of the same waterway, creating a stranglehold that neither side has yet found the political will to release.

The two sides have exchanged proposals and counterproposals since the ceasefire took effect. Trump has rejected all Iranian overtures, dismissing them as unacceptable. While the full details remain undisclosed, it is understood that Tehran is using the Strait of Hormuz card as a bargaining chip for a comprehensive settlement — one that ends the war, reopens the strait, resolves the nuclear file, including enrichment rights, determines the fate of existing highly enriched stockpiles, allows international inspections, provides reparations, lifts sanctions, and unfreezes foreign assets.



Washington's conditions, by contrast, remain as maximalist as they were on the eve of the war: the denial of Iran's enrichment rights, dismantlement of nuclear facilities, surrender of approximately 450 kg of highly enriched uranium, limitations on Iran's ballistic missile program, and the severing of ties with regional proxies. These are not American conditions alone — they are, in substance, Benjamin Netanyahu's conditions. The Israeli prime minister is the only foreign leader who has been treated as a full and equal partner in this war. And it is here that Washington is committing a grave strategic error.

America's Gulf allies were neither consulted nor informed before the war on Iran was launched. Yet they are the ones who have

absorbed multibillion-dollar losses to their energy and civilian infrastructure. Most have been unable to export oil and gas since hostilities began. The Trump administration has shown little regard for this damage, hastily dismissing the Iranian overtures.

Washington would do well to consult its Gulf partners before deciding its next move. On Sunday, Trump announced an operation to "guide" stranded tankers through the Strait of Hormuz — a plan that analysts in Washington quickly dismissed as both dangerous and futile. Within hours of the so-called operation commencing, multiple vessels in and around the strait were reported hit, damaged or forced to turn back. According to The New York Times, Trump's "Project Freedom" has

left shipping firms bewildered about what the initiative entails and how it is supposed to work.

Time is running out. Both sides must accept that only a political settlement — one acceptable to both parties and mindful of the broader Gulf region's interests — can break the current deadlock. Short of a return to full-scale military confrontation, the two sides must come to terms with a simple reality: only a formula in which both sides can claim a measure of victory will end this crisis.

Iran's latest 14-point proposal, delivered through Pakistan, is instructive in this regard. It takes a far more comprehensive approach than previous overtures, essentially trading an exclusive nuclear deal for a broader regional security bundle. On the nuclear file, it replicates the core parameters of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action — capping enrichment at 3.67 percent and addressing stockpile levels — but explicitly rules out dismantling any nuclear infrastructure or destroying any facility. Iran is prepared to freeze activity and transfer or dilute enriched material, but the physical capability remains entirely intact.

There are nuanced differences from 2015 on long-term oversight arrangements, though these may well be issues left for negotiators to resolve in a final phase. The new proposal also demands the lifting of the US naval blockade and the release of frozen assets as part of a phased, timetabled process — going considerably further than the JCPOA, under which nonnuclear sanctions remained in force.

One structural complication is worth noting: unlike the JCPOA, which was negotiated by a multilateral front — the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany — and endorsed by UN Security Council

Resolution 2231, any new agreement would be bilateral, between Washington and Tehran alone. How it would be enforced without broader international backing remains unclear, though both sides could subsequently seek UN endorsement.

What Iran's proposal ultimately signals is a geopolitical deal with nuclear provisions attached. Tehran is offering roughly the same terms on the nuclear file as it agreed to in 2015, with certain omissions, while demanding considerably more in return: regional military withdrawal, ceasefire guarantees, commitments on proxies, and reparations.

Most significant for the region is the proposal's third phase, which envisages Iran entering a strategic dialogue with Arab and regional states to build a pan-Gulf security architecture — one that guarantees the sovereign rights and security of all countries sharing the Arabian Gulf basin. This element should not be left to US-Iran bilateral bargaining. And it certainly should not be subject to Israeli veto or influence. A framework that safeguards freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and enshrines nonaggression among littoral states is in the interest of every country bordering the Gulf.

Trump has said he remains unsatisfied with Iran's latest proposal, while allowing that Washington is engaged in "very positive discussions" with Tehran. Whether that reflects Iran's strengthened leverage or a weakened hand depends entirely on who is doing the reading — in Washington and in Tel Aviv.

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Platforms in sports, innovation, digital empowerment being expanded: Satish Sharma

Attends school annual day, urges youth to lead with discipline

KT News Desk

JAMMU, MAY 6: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Wednesday called upon the youth to become torchbearers of discipline, integrity and national pride at the annual day celebration of BSF Senior Secondary School, Jammu.

Addressing a gathering of students, teachers, parents and BSF personnel, the Minister, as per an official statement, described the occasion as a moment of pride and inspiration. He highlighted the unique legacy of the institution, noting that it nurtures the young minds in an environment shaped by the courage, sacrifice and service of the Border Security Force.

Emphasizing the vital role of youth in nation-building, Satish Sharma said that the strength of the country lies in the character of its young generation. He encouraged the students to draw inspiration from the dedication of BSF personnel who safeguard the nation under the most



challenging conditions.

Appealing for a united front against the growing menace of drug abuse, the Minister termed it one of the gravest threats facing society Wednesday. He underscored the Government's firm commitment towards combating narcotics through strict enforcement, robust rehabilitation measures and widespread awareness. He called upon the students to act as the first line of defense against this menace by making informed and responsible choices.

"Real strength lies in refusal," he said, urging the young people to stand firm against peer pressure and reject any path that compromises their future. He stressed that a mind affected

by addiction cannot contribute meaningfully to the nation.

Highlighting the true essence of nationalism, Satish Sharma remarked that it goes beyond slogans and is reflected in everyday actions, through hard work, respect for others, environmental responsibility, and unwavering honesty. He encouraged the students to strive for excellence in their studies and contribute positively to society.

Referring to the theme of global unity, he spoke about the importance of embracing both national pride and global citizenship. He said that being a proud Indian and a responsible global citizen are complementary ideals that strengthen one's

outlook and contribution.

The Minister also reiterated the Government's focus on youth engagement, sports development and technological advancement. He emphasized that platforms in sports, innovation and digital empowerment are being expanded to help the young people realize their full potential and lead the region towards growth and progress.

Congratulating the school administration, faculty and students, Satish Sharma lauded the institution for fostering an environment of excellence and character-building. He also commended the award-winning students for their achievements and encouraged them to continue striving for greater heights.

Chief Justice inaugurates Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre at District Court Jammu

Facility aims to prevent secondary victimisation, ensure fair, sensitive recording of evidence

KT News Desk

JAMMU, MAY 06: In a significant step towards ensuring child-friendly and victim-sensitive justice delivery, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Arun Palli, on Wednesday inaugurated Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre at District Court Complex, Jammu.

Present on the occasion were Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Justice Shahzad Azeem Judges of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Yash Paul Bournay Member, J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu, Registrar General Mohinder Kumar Sharma of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Ravinder Nath Watal Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu, Registrar Vigilance Rajiv Gupta, Officers of the registry, Nirmal Kishore Kotwal Bar President along with Bar members, Judicial officers of District Court Complex, Jammu, Monika Kohli Additional Advocate General



and Anil Sharma, Chief LADC Jammu.

The facility, as per an official statement, aims to prevent the secondary victimization and ensure fair, sensitive recording of evidence. This marks a significant step towards victim-centric justice delivery in the Union Territory. The Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centre has been established to provide a safe, non-intimidating and conducive environment for vulnerable witnesses, including children, victims of sexual offences and persons with disabilities, to depose before the

court. The center is equipped with modern facilities including separate waiting areas, live-link video conferencing, one-way mirrors, and child-friendly infrastructure to prevent secondary victimization during trial proceedings, in line with Supreme Court guidelines.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Justice emphasized that establishment of VWDC reflects the judiciary's commitment towards upholding the rights and dignity of vulnerable witnesses and ensuring fair trial without fear or trauma.

Dragon fruit cultivation gets impetus in Samba villages

KT News Desk

SAMBA, MAY 06: The cultivation of Dragon fruit is gaining impetus in Samba district, thanks to the support services being provided to the farmers under the Government Schemes.

The observations were made by a team of officers led by Director Horticulture Jammu (DHC) Gul Sayed during their visit to villages of Salmeri and Dhamore in Vijaypur Zone. The Director, along with District Level Subject Matter Specialist Samba Ravati Raman Sharma and HDO Dr. Manmohan Lal, visited the area and inspected dragon fruit orchards established by the farmers by availing support services being provided by the government under different

schemes.

During the visit, the Director, as per an official statement, interacted with the farmers and reviewed the progress of ongoing activities in the 6 Kanal Dragon Fruit Orchard of Neelum Gupta at Village Salmeri being developed under HADP scheme. The Team also inspected the 4.5 Kanal Dragon Fruit farm of Ranjit Singh at Village Dhamore - developed by the farmer by availing the benefits of Revised Modified High Density Plantation Scheme.

Interacting with the farmers, the Director encouraged them to utilize departmental support, including technical guidance, subsidies and access to quality planting material, for achieving better yields and sustainable orchard management.

Rana reviews development works in Shopian, Pulwama districts

Inspects JJM, tribal infrastructure, forest projects

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of Shopian and Pulwama districts to assess the progress of key developmental initiatives being executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Tribal Affairs Department and Forest sector.

During his visit to Shopian, the Minister, as per an official statement, carried out on-site inspections of several vital projects, particularly those aimed at strengthening the rural drinking water infrastructure under JJM.

He was accompanied by MLA Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Director Tribal Affairs Mohd Mumtaz Ali, Chief Engineer, PHE/I&FC, Showkat Choudhary and other district officers.

At Awneera, Rana inspected the Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Awneera Kralcheck, being implemented by the PHE Division Shopian. The project, completed at a cost of 671.38 lakh, provides 100 percent Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to 535 households across Awneera and Kralcheck villages.

The officials informed the Minister that the scheme draws water from Sonmann Nallah and includes a 2.00 lakh gallon Pre-Settling Tank, a 0.15 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant, a 0.35 lakh gallon Ground



Service Reservoir and an extensive 28-kilometre distribution network.

Reviewing the project, the Minister noted its significant impact on improving the access to safe drinking water, particularly for women. He directed the officials to ensure regular monitoring, proper maintenance, uninterrupted supply and strict adherence to quality standards, along with prompt grievance redressal and sustainable water management practices.

The Minister also visited the Government Girls Tribal Hostel at Zainapora, where a 100-bedded facility is under construction under the Samagra scheme. He instructed the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work while maintaining quality benchmarks.

Interacting with the members of tribal community, he reiterated the government's commitment to their socio-economic upliftment and educational empowerment. He assured that essential facilities, including tents, solar lighting and other amenities, would be provided to support their

welfare.

At Padpawan in Shopian, the Minister reviewed the ongoing works under the Nagar Van Scheme. The park, sanctioned for 2024-25 over 14 hectares at an estimated cost of 56 lakh, has already seen significant financial progress, with 35.98 lakh expended so far.

Emphasising the importance of eco-tourism and green spaces, the Minister highlighted that such projects play a crucial role in environmental conservation, tourism promotion and public well-being.

Commending the Forest Department and executing agencies, he directed the timely completion of the remaining works with transparency and quality assurance, saying that such initiatives strengthen ecological balance and encourage community participation.

Earlier, the Minister visited the residence of legislator Showkat Hussain Ganai at Chitragam to offer condolences on the demise of his mother. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family.

DC Srinagar holds Block Diwas, public grievance redressal camp at Panzinara

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR MAY 06:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Wednesday conducted an extensive tour of Panzinara area in the outskirts of the District and holds a Mega Public Grievance Redressal Camp to bring administration at the door steps of the people to listen their issues and developmental needs as a part of Block Diwas Programme.

The DC, as per an official statement, also presided over an Awareness-cum-Registration Camp on Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme as a part of District Administration's outreach efforts to ensure maximum coverage of eligible senior citizens aged 70 years and above under the scheme providing additional health support of Rs 5 Lakh over and above the existing cover aimed to strengthen senior citizen health security.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tariq Ahmad Reshi, Block Development Officer, Qamarwari, Saima Ahad, Deputy CEO, Anjum Raja, Executive Engineer, R&B, District Manager CSC, Asrar Shirazi and other District Officers.

The Public Grievance Redressal camp witnessed large participation of people from Panzinara-A, Panzinara-B, Mujkund and other

adjoining areas of Shalteng Tehsil of Srinagar District during which local representatives, public delegations and scores of individuals projected various developmental issues and demands before the Deputy Commissioner particularly the long pending issue arising out of jurisdictional dispute with Baramulla and Bandipora Districts.

Besides, they also demanded for updation of settlement records by Revenue authorities, development of play fields, strengthening irrigation canals, macadamization of inner lonk roads, repair of Jhelum embankment, augmentation of water supply infrastructure, provision of bank ATM facility and other development issues.

After giving patient hearing to the grievances and demands of the public, the DC assured the people of Panzinara and other adjoining areas that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be taken up with concerned authorities on priority particularly with regard to jurisdictional issues.

The DC also gave on the spot direction to the concerned officers for time bound redressal of the public issues.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner led an Awareness-cum-Registration Camp on Ayushman Vay Vandana (PM-JAY) at Panzinara-B organised by Chief Medical Officer which witnessed enthusiastic participation from elderly residents. The participants were apprised of the benefits and advantages of the Vay Vandana health coverage initiative.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

DC Kulgam inaugurates Girls Cricket Tournament in Chawalgam

KT News Desk

KULGAM, MAY 06: To promote sports and raise awareness against substance abuse, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, inaugurated a Girls Cricket Tournament Wednesday at Sports Stadium Chawalgam under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan.

Addressing the occasion, the DC said that the tournament aims to provide a platform for young girls to showcase and hone their sporting talent while engaging youth in constructive activities.

He added that the initiative, as per an official statement, also

serves as a medium to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Highlighting the importance of sports, he said such activities help channelise the energy of youth in a positive direction.

On the occasion, ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri emphasised that such events not only nurture talent but also play a vital role in building discipline, teamwork, and resilience among young participants. Participants were urged to stay away from substance abuse and actively engage in sports and other constructive pursuits.

Commissioner SMC reviews arrangements for Parliamentary Standing Committee visit to J&K

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MAY 06: In preparation for the forthcoming visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs (2025-26) to Jammu and Kashmir from May 10 to 12, Faz Lul Haseeb, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the readiness of all departments and finalize logistical and administrative arrangements for the high-profile programme.

The meeting, as per an official statement, witnessed detailed deliberations on protocol management, transportation, accommodation, venue preparedness, security coordination, and inter-departmental synchronization to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the parliamentary delegation's study visit.



Emphasizing the significance of the visit, the Commissioner directed all concerned officers to maintain close coordination and ensure that every arrangement is executed in a timely and professional manner. He stressed that the visit is of considerable importance in the context of ongoing urban development and housing initiatives in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, designated liaison officers were thoroughly briefed about their respective roles

and responsibilities. The Commissioner instructed them to remain fully vigilant and responsive throughout the visit to facilitate hassle-free movement and effective engagement of the visiting committee members.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee's visit is part of its nationwide review and assessment of key issues pertaining to housing, urban governance, infrastructure development, and implementation of flagship urban programmes across the country.

DC Shopian listens to public development issues at Block Diwas Wachi

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, MAY 06: In a continued effort to strengthen grassroots governance, Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, Wednesday presided over Block Diwas at Wachi and listened to public issues raised by residents of various villages of Zainapora Sub-Division.

The public from Wachi, Safanagri, Darbugh, Cheermarg, Melhura and adjoining villages flagged key developmental concerns including improvement of road networks, irrigation facilities, canal maintenance, assured and quality water supply, uninterrupted power supply, upgradation of healthcare and transport services, strengthening of horticulture and agriculture support, completion of animal & sheep husbandry



works, and strict enforcement of pesticide checking.

Public representatives emphasized the criticality of electricity and irrigation for the agriculture and horticulture sector, and called for equitable distribution of Rural Development resources.

While highlighting public welfare issues, locals also appreciated Jal Shakti for significantly improving water supplies in the area. Residents of

Safanagri expressed gratitude to the district administration for establishing a pump shed for irrigation, fulfilling a long-pending demand of the village.

Responding to the issues, DC Shopian assured prompt action. He issued on-spot directions to ACD Shopian for immediate desiltation of canals in the area to enhance irrigation facilities and directed that canal maintenance works be taken up during the current season.

Underscoring the importance of a well-maintained irrigation network for the economic health of the farming community, the DC stressed prompt response on works.

To promote sports engagement, the DC instructed RDD to take up construction of a Volleyball Court in Wachi. R&B (PWD) was directed to furnish estimates for village roads in the area.

Other demands, he said, will be taken up with concerned departments and works will be incorporated in priority and improvement in other services shall be made to the satisfaction of the public.

On the platform of Block Diwas, the DC appealed to residents of Wachi, Melhura and other villages to proactively support the administration in the fight against drugs.

SC asks can it direct Parliament to make law to regulate appointment of CEC, ECs

PTI
New Delhi, May 06: The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked whether it can direct Parliament to make a law for regulating appointment procedures of the chief election commissioner and the deputies.

The remarks were made by a bench of justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma during the final hearing on a clutch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, which excludes the Chief Justice of India (CJI) from the selection panel for appointing Election Commissioners.

The top court, at the outset, refused to accede to the Centre's request to adjourn the hearing on the pleas, saying the instant matter is "more important" than the Sabarimala case.

During the hearing, Justice Datta referred to a prayer made in one of the petitions asking the top court to direct Parliament to enact a law to regulate the appointment of the CEC and the Election Commissioners.

"Come back to the prayers... it has asked Parliament to make a law. Can the court ask Parliament to make a law? Could this be maintainable," the judge asked.

He also referred to the March 2, 2023 judgement in the Anoop Baranwal case of a five-judge

constitution bench which had unanimously held that the selection of the CEC and the ECs would be done by a three-member committee consisting of the prime minister, the leader of the opposition (or the leader of the largest opposition party in Parliament), and the CJI.

The verdict had altered the then prevailing mode of selection where the CEC and ECs were appointed by the President acting on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Justice Datta said the judgement had made clear that this will remain in operation till Parliament makes the law.

"Why did the court then restrict the Anoop Baranwal judgement only till a particular period till the law is made? It was only to deal with a particular situation of a vacuum," he said.

Moreover, the Supreme Court cannot direct Parliament to make a law, the judge said, adding, "Aren't these observations over 300 pages a justification for what the court laid down for a short period till the law is made? Can you say that the law also has to follow those observations?"

"Once it said that the CEC and ECs do not have to be chosen exclusively by the executive, why did it stop there? The court was laying down norms, then why does court restrict it only till a particular period till a law is made? This judgement on its bare reading shows that it was only to deal with a particular

situation of a vacuum," the judge went on.

Senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, representing one of the petitioners, opened the arguments by challenging the 2023 law and argued that Section 7 of the Act grants the ruling executive "primacy" in appointments, which he termed an "anathema" to the independence of the Election Commission. Under the new law, the selection committee consists of the prime minister, a Union Cabinet minister, and the leader of the opposition.

Hansaria said that this 2-1 ratio effectively gives the government a "pocket board" allowing them to appoint "the prime minister's man".

He referred to the conflict of interest of the ruling party and said it has a direct interest in election outcomes and therefore, the selection process must be outside exclusive executive control.

He also referred to the constituent assembly debates and said that there was consensus that elections must be managed by an independent body "taken out of the hands of the government of the day".

He said Parliament does not lack power to make a law but it has to be in consonance with directions of the judgement and ensure that the executive of the day does not have the sole control over the appointment process.

He was responding to the observations of Justice Datta

that the Anoop Baranwal judgement was merely a "stop-gap" arrangement.

Hansaria pointed to "slogans being shouted in public meetings" against the CEC and ECs, arguing that such lack of public faith stems from the perceived lack of independence in the appointment process.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta countered this, asking "If there are abusive words against judges, should we remove the Collegium system? What kind of argument is this?"

Senior advocate Gopal Sankarnarayanan, also appearing for the petitioners, argued that since the Baranwal judgement was a unanimous decision by a Constitution Bench, its principles regarding executive control could only be bypassed through a Constitutional Amendment, not a regular statute.

The hearing will resume on Thursday.

Under the 2023 Act, the selection committee consists of the prime minister, a Union minister nominated by the prime minister and the leader of Opposition (or leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha).

The PILs said the exclusion of the CJI from the panel undermines the independence of the appointment process.

The law has been challenged by multiple petitioners, including Congress leader Jaya Thakur and the Association for Democratic Reforms.

AI showing discrimination, inherent bias towards poor: CJI

PTI
New Delhi, May 06: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday said despite its growing influence, artificial intelligence is showing inherent bias against the poor, and stressed that social justice remains the cornerstone of a humane and equitable society.

Speaking at the 8th Dinkar Memorial Lecture on "Rashmirathi: The Epic of Social Justice" organised by NGO Respect India, CJI Kant said the ideals of equality and human dignity were powerfully echoed in the works of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, long before they were incorporated into the Constitution of India.

Speaking about AI, the CJI said that reports have started coming that the technology also discriminates and is sometimes biased.

Recalling his childhood days, the CJI said that his family encouraged him to study Dinkar and other great writers such as Munshi Premchand, Suryakant Tripathi Nirala, Hariwansh Rai Bachhan and Mahadevi Varma.

He said the poetry of these great writers not only gave a healing touch during the freedom struggle but also aroused a sense of revolution among the masses. Similarly, the law should also provide solace to the people, he said.

The CJI, who addressed the gathering in Hindi, said he



believes Dinkar's poetry focuses on social justice like the law which also highlights social equality and harmony in society.

He said that Dinkar was given the title of 'Rashtrakavi' by Mahatma Gandhi because his writings reflected the soul of the nation, its aspirations, pain and struggle.

Recalling lessons from Dinkar's epic Rashmirathi, the CJI emphasised that justice, self-respect and human dignity must remain at the centre of society.

"In a democracy, equality, dignity and social harmony are essential. Merely passing laws is not enough unless every individual is treated with dignity and respect," he said.

Justice Kant expressed concern that even seven decades after it was written, inequalities continue to persist, and underlined that the ideals and practices of social justice form the foundation of a just social order.

The CJI said that writers have always inspired society and in law, people talk about poetic

justice, which also came from these great poets.

Speaking about AI, the CJI said that reports have started coming in that the technology also discriminates and is sometimes biased.

The programme was organised by NGO Respect India and was attended by Supreme Court Bar Association president Vikas Singh and Lok Sabha MP Manoj Tiwari, who was conferred with 'Dinkar Sanskriti Samman'.

Singh said, "Dinkar's writings reflect the foundational principles of justice rooted in our civilisational ethos. This platform connects literary thought with contemporary legal and societal discourse."

Manish Kumar Chaudhary, founder and general secretary of NGO 'Respect India', said, "This memorial lecture is a tribute to Dinkar ji's legacy and his ideas that continue to inspire generations. We want this platform to bring together culture, ideas and social responsibility."

Former Delhi University professor Rameshwar Rai said on the occasion, "Dinkar's work remains relevant even today, offering insights into social justice, human values and the way society evolves."

Supreme Court judge Justice P B Varale was also present on the occasion, among several senior lawyers and students of colleges and universities.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Border villages

family, ensuring that those who have faced the greatest neglect are now accorded the highest priority in the new era of Jammu Kashmir's progress," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the Government of India is implementing a comprehensive strategy under the Vibrant Villages Programme, which aims to integrate border populations into the national mainstream with focus on Livelihood Generation, Infrastructure and Connectivity. He said that the programme also aims to saturate all villages in 4 thematic areas- all-weather road connectivity, telecom connectivity, television connectivity and electrification through convergence under existing scheme norms.

"Every effort is being made to ensure that the aspirations of every single citizen are fulfilled, that the development demands of border residents are met.

Furthermore, by adopting a "Whole-of-Government Approach", we aim to ensure that every target set under the Vibrant Villages Programme is achieved," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials to ensure that every household in the border villages has access to electricity, mobile connectivity, and economic independence.

"We must ensure that by 2030, not a single family in the border villages of Samba remains below the poverty line," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Responding to the demands raised by Member of Legislative Assembly Ramgarh, the Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the administration is committed to providing land ownership rights to displaced persons from PoJK and WPRs.

He also stated that the completion of the Shahpur Kandi Dam would provide a massive boost to the region's agricultural productivity.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded Regal for becoming a TB-free village and urged continued vigilance regarding clean drinking water and the collective fight against drug abuse.

The Lieutenant Governor also handed over appointment orders to SPOs and sanction letters to various youth of the village and beneficiaries under HADP, Mission Yuva and other schemes.

During his visit to the Regal Border Out Post (BoP), the Lieutenant Governor interacted with the Jawans and lauded their unwavering determination in guarding the nation's frontiers and commended their exemplary role in Operation Sindoor.

The Lieutenant Governor laid the foundation stone of Digital Library at Government Primary School Regal, Construction of Community Hall cum Recreation Centre at Regal, development of Amrit Sarovar at Regal alongwith Drainage Channel, Installation of 03 Open Gyms and Installation of Solar Street Lights.

Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, Member of Legislative Assembly from Ramgarh; Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Anil Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department; Bhim Sen Tuti; IGP Jammu; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture; Ms R. Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Planning and Information; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Ayushi Sudan Deputy Commissioner Samba; Anuj Kumar, SSP Samba, senior officials of army, police and civil administration and people in large number were present. (KNO)

LG calls for

strengthening of the ancient Indian knowledge tradition," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the land of Ghagwal has historically been a vibrant center of learning where Vedic teachings flourished and the Guru-Shishya tradition thrived, providing students with guidance in the art of living, critical thinking, and the courage to seek the truth.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted India's rapid advancement in science, innovation and technology. He further emphasised that the nation's true strength lies in its cultural consciousness, with Sanskrit playing a vital role in providing a balanced perspective rooted in ethics and duty.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Sanskrit has been a source of essential values and knowledge systems for humanity for centuries. He also recalled the monumental contributions of ancient scholars such as Kautilya, Charaka, Sushruta, Bhaskracharya, Brahmagupta, Aryabhata, and Varahamihira, in shaping the global traditions in mathematics, medicine and philosophy.

He stressed the urgent need to make this vast repository of knowledge accessible in simple, modern language to ensure its relevance for the contemporary world.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the Gurukul management to maintain the highest standards of education by integrating the depth of tradition with the breadth of modernity. He emphasized that the institution must go beyond providing degrees to nurture sensitive, ethical and courageous personalities who can lead the society.

"I believe Shri Narsingh Dev Sanskrit Gurukul will evolve into a centre of excellence by integrating traditional values with modern education," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the efforts of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan, Shri Narsingh Dev Temple Management Committee, district administration Samba and congratulated them for their vision, dedication and commitment in establishing the Gurukul.

Surjit Singh Slatiha, Member of Legislative Assembly from Samba; Shakti Pathak, Director ACB and President of Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shridhar Patil, DIG JSK Range; Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner Samba; and other senior officials, and Vedic scholars attended the inaugural ceremony. (KNO)

No let-up in

integrated with "Avekshan" software are being used to detect and track movement along vulnerable stretches, while the Tactical Advanced Integrated Weapon System (TAIWS) enables automated surveillance and rapid threat assessment.

Robotic Multi-Utility Legged Equipment (MULE) platforms are assisting troops in difficult terrain, particularly in high-altitude sectors.

Anti-drone guns, jamming systems and surveillance drones equipped with high-resolution cameras and night-vision capabilities are ensuring continuous 24x7 monitoring, officials said.

"Technology is playing a critical role. From AI-based detection to drone surveillance, the objective is zero infiltration and real-time response," another officer said.

Troops are also conducting regular training drills simulating infiltration attempts, bunker attacks and coordinated responses to maintain

operational readiness. Bulletproof vehicles and all-terrain mobility platforms have been deployed to ensure rapid troop movement across mountainous regions.

Officials said that civilian safety in border areas remains a priority, with coordination mechanisms in place to respond to any escalation.

Pertinently, 'Operation Sindoor,' was launched on the night of May 7-8 last year to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead. It marked a calibrated military response to terror attack.

The operation targeted multiple terrorist training facilities and infrastructure across Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and beyond.

The strikes, carried out with coordinated use of missiles, air power, drones and artillery, focused on camps linked to groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Officials had described the operation as precise and intelligence-led, aimed at minimising collateral damage while signalling a zero-tolerance approach to cross-border terrorism.

The operation saw limited escalation, including aerial engagements and cross-border shelling, before both sides moved towards a ceasefire understanding around May 10.

Officials said the lessons from Operation Sindoor continue to shape current deployment and preparedness strategies along the borders.

"Dominance along the LoC is critical. Our forces remain committed to maintaining peace through vigilance and readiness," an official said, adding that the alert grid will remain in place in the coming days. (KNO)

LoC villages hold

to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) has remained largely peaceful in recent months, with no major incidents reported from key sectors.

Residents in Uri, Karnah, Tangdhar and Gurez said the absence of shelling has brought relief, even as memories of last year's shelling remain fresh.

"For now, there is peace and we are thankful. Children are going to schools and people are working in their fields," said a resident of Uri. "But the fear of escalation is always there."

Pertinently, 'Operation Sindoor' was launched on the night of May 7-8, 2025, in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians. The escalation that followed saw heavy artillery and mortar shelling along multiple LoC sectors until a ceasefire understanding was reached between India and Pakistan on May 10.

The shelling had forced several families to flee their homes, with residential areas hit and livelihoods disrupted. While the situation has stabilised since then, locals said the impact of the conflict continues to shape daily life.

"There is peace now, but we cannot forget what happened. Whenever there is any news about tensions, people become anxious," a resident of Karnah said.

In Tangdhar and Gurez, villagers said agricultural activities have resumed fully this season, with many returning to orchards and farmlands that were abandoned during the shelling.

"This year, we are focusing on our crops again. Last year, everything stopped. Now at least we have some stability," a farmer in Tangdhar said.

However, residents said peace alone is not enough, stressing the need for long-term safety measures in vulnerable areas close to the LoC.

"Peace is important, but preparedness is also important. We still need bunkers and better facilities," a local from Gurez said.

Officials said the situation along the LoC remains under close watch, with security forces maintaining vigilance while ensuring minimal disruption to civilian life.

Locals said they hope the current calm holds, allowing them to rebuild their lives after last year's turmoil.

"We just want this peace to continue. People here have suffered a lot," a resident of Boniyar said. (KNO)

Pride, confidence

(KNO) the events of last year have not deterred them. Instead, they said, the response by security forces has strengthened their resolve to visit Kashmir.

"We feel proud of how the situation was handled. We have come here without fear," said Rohan Mehta, a tourist from Delhi. "Kashmir is safe, and we will keep coming."

Pertinently, 'Operation Sindoor' was launched on the night of May 7-8, 2025, following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 civilians, mostly tourists, were killed. The operation targeted multiple terror infrastructure sites across the Line of Control and beyond, followed by a brief escalation before a ceasefire understanding was reached.

Tourists said the incident had initially raised concerns, but the subsequent restoration of calm and continued security presence have reassured them.

"We had plans even last year but postponed after the attack. This time we made sure to come," said Anjali Sharma, visiting with her family from Jaipur. "We believe such incidents should not stop people from travelling."

Many visitors said they view continued tourism as a sign of resilience and normalcy. "If something happens, the response is strong. That gives us confidence," said Arvind Kumar, a tourist from Lucknow. "We feel the situation is under control."

At Dal Lake and other popular locations, tourists were seen engaging in routine activities, with houseboats and local businesses reporting steady footfall.

"We are enjoying our trip. People here are welcoming and everything feels normal," said Sneha Gupta, another visitor. "There is no reason to be afraid."

Some tourists said that continued visits to Kashmir also send a message against disruption caused by violence.

"We should not let such incidents affect tourism. Kashmir is beautiful and peaceful," said Manish Verma, a visitor from Mumbai. "We will come again."

Officials said tourist movement has remained steady, with security arrangements in place to ensure safety at key destinations.

Locals associated with the tourism sector said such confidence among visitors is important for the region's economy.

Tourists said they hope peace continues and that Kashmir remains open and accessible for visitors from across the country. "We just want peace here. And we will keep coming back," Mehta said. (KNO)

'Want to burst

economy. He said the government wants to create opportunities within the region so that dependence on the Centre reduces over time.

Addressing political developments, Abdullah dismissed reports of defections from the National Conference. He said no MLA from his party would switch sides to support the BJP and termed such claims baseless.

He accused the Peoples Democratic Party of having supported the BJP during Rajya Sabha

elections, saying the matter had already been established through information obtained under the Right to Information.

Omar asserted that his government functions independently. "When I have to say something, I say it. Neither am I silent, nor is my government silent," he said.

On tourism, the CM said the issue was discussed in the assembly, and several locations have already been opened. The remaining destinations will be opened in a phased manner, he added.

Responding to a query on cabinet expansion, the Chief Minister said a decision would be taken at an appropriate time. "If we have to do it, we will do it," he said. (KNO)

Ruling NC

"The issue of cabinet expansion is also likely to come up for discussion," they said, adding that three berths in the council of ministers are lying vacant, as J&K can have nine ministers. (KNO)

CM calls for

Development Corporation, Shreya Singhal; Director Tourism Kashmir/Managing Director, J&K Cable Car Corporation, Syed Sajad Qamar; Director Tourism Jammu, Vikas Gupta; Director General, Budget; Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority, and other concerned officers. (KNO)

CM hosts dinner

between the Chief Minister and members of the Committee in the serene surroundings of Gulmarg. The Chief Minister extended a warm welcome to the visiting members and expressed hope that their visit would offer valuable insights into the region's developmental landscape and tourism potential.

The visit of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance is part of its study programme for the year, aimed at gaining firsthand understanding of various sectors and initiatives.

On the occasion, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmed Shah, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla SF Hamid, DG Budget Mohammad Sultan Malik and other concerned were present. (KNO)

SIA attaches immovable

uncovering substantial evidence related to narco-smuggling, terror financing, and cross-border terror linkages.

"The action underscores the firm resolve of SIA Kashmir to dismantle the entire ecosystem of terrorism, including terror financing and narco-terror networks operating from across the border," the spokesman said, adding, "The SIA remains committed to identifying, investigating and taking stringent legal action against individuals and entities involved in activities prejudicial to the sovereignty, integrity and security of the nation."

The spokesman said: "In line with the broader national mission of 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan', the Jammu & Kashmir UT continues to intensify its efforts to combat drug abuse and dismantle narcotics networks that fuel terrorism."

"The SIA Kashmir, in coordination with other law enforcement and civil agencies, remains committed not only in investigation of narco-terror cases but also to supporting preventive and awareness initiatives aimed at building a drug-free society," he said. (KNO)

India, Vietnam set USD 25 billion trade target

■ Elevate ties to enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership

PTI

New Delhi, May 6: India and Vietnam on Wednesday elevated their ties to an enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership and set a USD 25 billion annual trade target by 2030 as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vietnamese President To Lam held talks focusing on expanding bilateral ties in areas of trade, defence, and critical minerals in the face of increasing geopolitical upheavals.

Following the Modi-Lam meeting, the two sides signed as many as 13 agreements which will provide for deeper two ways engagements in a range of areas including digital payments, rare earth minerals, pharmaceuticals, education, banking and culture.

Modi and Lam also deliberated on the situation in the Indo-Pacific amid China's increasing assertiveness in the region, and agreed to continue to contribute to the rule-of-law, peace, stability, and prosperity.

It is understood that China's growing military muscle-flexing in the South China Sea also figured in the delegation-level talks between the two sides.

Elected as president earlier this month, Lam began his first state visit to India on Tuesday, leading a high-level delegation for a three-day trip.

"A decade ago, Vietnam became India's first comprehensive strategic partner in ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations). Since



then, our relations have made rapid and comprehensive progress," Modi said in his media statement.

"Building on this strong foundation, today we are elevating our relations to the level of Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. We will now advance our partnership to even higher goals," he said.

"Our cooperation will reach new levels in every area - culture, connectivity, and capacity building, as well as security, sustainability, and supply chain resilience," Modi added.

He noted that the bilateral trade between India and Vietnam has doubled in the last decade to reach USD 16 billion and that the target now is to increase it to USD 25 billion by 2030. Modi also cited a plethora of agreements signed between the two countries to emphasize that the economic engagement is expected to witness a significant upswing going

forward.

"The MoU between our drug authorities will now increase access to Indian medicines in Vietnam. Exports of Indian agricultural, fisheries, and animal products to Vietnam are also set to become easier. Very soon, Vietnam will taste India's grapes and pomegranates," he said.

The two sides also agreed to update the India-ASEAN trade agreement by the end of this year.

"This will provide a new impetus to trade and investment between India and all ASEAN countries. New initiatives in critical minerals, rare earths, and energy cooperation will ensure the economic security and supply chain resilience of both countries," Modi said.

"To boost financial connectivity, we have today decided to enhance cooperation between our central banks. India's UPI and Vietnam's fast payment systems will soon

be linked. Furthermore, we are strengthening state-to-state and city-to-city cooperation between the two countries," he noted.

Modi said India is grateful to Vietnam for its strong condemnation of the Pahalgam terrorist attack and standing with India in its fight against terrorism.

"In this era of global turmoil and economic challenges, thanks to their talent, good governance, and economic reforms, India and Vietnam are emerging as the world's fastest-growing economies," he said.

"Now, through our enhanced strategic partnership, we will support each other's rapid growth. As the Buddha's teachings say, 'If you light a lamp for someone else, it also illuminates your own path,'" Modi said.

He also described Vietnam as a key pillar of India's Act East Policy and Vision Ocean.

"In the Indo-Pacific region as well, we share a common outlook. Through our strengthening defence and security cooperation, we will continue to contribute to the rule-of-law, peace, stability, and prosperity," he said.

The prime minister said India will broaden its relations with ASEAN with Vietnam's cooperation.

In his remarks, Lam said both sides agreed to deepen political trust and elevate security cooperation.

Last year, the two sides inked a pact to set up a framework for submarine search, rescue and support mechanism. They also signed a letter of intent (LoI) to strengthen bilateral defence industry collaboration.

Twin blasts near security establishments in Punjab, police suspect ISI hand

■ Political blame game erupts

PTI

Chandigarh, May 6: Two back-to-back explosions near security establishments rocked Punjab Tuesday night, triggering panic and a political blame game with police suspecting a plot by Pakistan's ISI to cause disruptions ahead of Operation Sindoor anniversary.

The first explosion went off around 8 pm in Jalandhar outside the headquarters of the Border Security Force's Punjab Frontier, while the second blast occurred around 11 pm near the army cantonment in Amritsar's Khasa. No injuries were reported, police said.

Last night, police had said a scooter parked near the BSF Chowk in Jalandhar district caught fire causing panic in the area even though locals claimed they heard a blast-like sound from the vehicle.

DGP Gaurav Yadav on Wednesday said the Amritsar blast was a low-intensity explosion and no group has claimed responsibility for it. However, he suspected Pakistan's ISI to be behind the incident.

"We assume that, as today is the Operation Sindoor anniversary, this is part of Pakistan's ISI's designs to cause disruptions in Punjab. Punjab is fighting a proxy war on behalf of the nation against Pakistan," he said.

On the Jalandhar explosion, he said the Khalistan Liberation Army (KLF) has claimed responsibility, adding "we are verifying" this. In the Jalandhar incident, the blast ripped apart a scooter, damaged a traffic signal pole and windowpanes of a nearby shop. Locals recounted that the scooter, which was parked outside the BSF headquarters caught fire shortly after a loud sound. The scooter belonged to Gurepreet Singh, who regularly delivers parcels

in the area. CCTV footage showed an unidentified man running for cover following the blast.

Jalandhar Police Commissioner Dhanpreet Kaur said an FIR has been registered and initial investigations suggest some form of explosive material was used in the Jalandhar blast.

"Our forensic teams have collected explosive swabs from here, which have been sent to a forensic laboratory for examination. We believe that the blast was carried out using explosives here," she said, adding technical investigations and camera reviews are ongoing and 3-4 leads are being currently pursued.

Amritsar (Rural) SSP Suhail Mir Qasim said police received reports of a loud sound around 11 pm on a road in Khasa. Preliminary inspections indicated someone threw the explosive device towards the boundary wall, leading to the blast. Police mentioned that a piece of a tin sheet covering the boundary wall fell as a result of the blast.

A team of forensic and bomb disposal squad visited the sites to collect samples.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday termed the blasts "minor" and targeted the BJP, saying this was how the party was preparing for the upcoming assembly elections in the state.

He said those responsible would soon be exposed and brought to justice.

"BJP is a communal party. The assembly elections are over in West Bengal, and they (BJP) have said that now it is Punjab's turn, which indicates that these minor blasts are part of their preparation for the Punjab assembly elections," he alleged.

Later, in a statement, he also alleged that the blasts were part of a deliberate strategy to destabilise the state after the passage of the anti-sacrilege law.

India shows conservation, dev can go hand in hand in big cat protection: Env Min



PTI

New Delhi, May 6: Environment Minister Bhopendra Yadav on Wednesday said India's journey in big cat conservation has been marked by commitment, innovation, scientific management, institutional collaboration, and community participation.

The minister said that from the success of Project Tiger to initiatives for conserving lions, leopards, snow leopards, and cheetahs, India has demonstrated that conservation and development can go hand in hand.

"These efforts have not only strengthened ecosystems but also improved livelihoods and resilience and mitigated climate challenges," Yadav said

at the launch of the logo and website for the International Big Cat Alliance Summit 2026, scheduled to be held here in June.

Yadav highlighted that the upcoming summit will bring together heads of state and government, experts, and partners from across the world to deliberate on the future of big cat conservation.

"A key outcome of the summit will be the adoption of the Delhi Declaration on Big Cat Conservation, a unified global commitment that will articulate shared priorities, strengthen transboundary cooperation, and promote a landscape-based approach for conserving big cats and their habitats," said Yadav.

SEBI tightens rules, mandates index providers to register for key benchmarks

IANS

New Delhi, May 6: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed index providers of 'significant indices' to register with it within six months under the Index Provider Regulations to foster transparency and accountability in governance and administration of indices.

However, index providers whose indices are notified by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as 'significant benchmarks' or 'authorised benchmarks' are exempt. The benchmarks or indices will be considered 'significant indices' if the daily average cumulative assets under management (AUM) tracking them across mutual fund schemes exceeds Rs 20,000 crore for each of the previous six months ending June 30 and December 31 each year.

SEBI has identified 48 such indices based on AUM data for July-December 2025. They comprise equity and debt benchmarks across providers including NSE Indices, BSE Index Services, and CRISIL.

Once specified by the Board in the list of 'significant indices', they shall continue to remain the same, unless the value of cumulative AUM tracking or benchmarking such Index does not meet the specified threshold for a continuous period of three years.

Oath-taking ceremony of first BJP govt in Bengal on May 9

■ PM Modi, HM Shah likely to attend



PTI

Kolkata, May 6: The oath-taking ceremony of the first BJP government in West Bengal will be held at Brigade Parade Ground here on May 9, marking the saffron camp's arrival in power in a state after decades on the political fringes.

The ceremony, scheduled to begin at 10 am, is expected to witness the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president Nitin Nabin, several Union ministers and chief ministers of BJP- and NDA-ruled states, party sources said.

"The new BJP government will take oath on May 9 at 10 am at Brigade Parade Ground," state BJP president Samik Bhattacharya announced on Wednesday.

Even as the BJP leadership kept its cards close to the chest on the chief ministerial face, Leader of the Opposition Suvedu Adhikari has emerged as a frontrunner in internal discussions after cementing his position as the party's principal mass leader in Bengal politics.

Adhikari, once among Mamata Banerjee's closest lieutenants and a key architect of the TMC's rural expansion in districts

such as Purba Medinipur, crossed over to the BJP ahead of the 2021 assembly elections and went on to defeat Banerjee in Nandigram in one of Bengal's fiercest political battles.

Five years later, he again found himself at the centre of Bengal's political churn by beating Banerjee in her own turf at Bhabanipur by over 15,000 votes.

Other names for the CM post doing the rounds include Bhattacharya, Union minister Sukanta Majumdar and former Rajya Sabha MP Swapan Dasgupta, though party insiders indicated that the leadership was inclined towards projecting a "bhumiputra" face rooted in Bengal's linguistic and cultural ethos.

During the campaign, Shah repeatedly asserted that the BJP's chief minister in Bengal would be a "son of the soil", born and educated in the state, in an attempt to blunt the TMC's sustained attack that the BJP represented an "outsider" political culture alien to Bengal's social and intellectual traditions.

The BJP bagged 207 of the 294 assembly seats in the recently concluded elections, ending the Trinamool

Congress's uninterrupted 15-year rule and scripting the saffron party's biggest breakthrough in a state where it once struggled to open its electoral account.

Significantly, the swearing-in ceremony will be held on the 25th day of Baisakh in the Bengali calendar - observed across the state as Rabindra Jayanti, the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore - lending the event a deeper cultural symbolism.

According to BJP leaders, the choice of the date is aimed at embedding the party's historic rise within Bengal's cultural imagination and countering the long-standing perception battle over identity and belonging.

Over the last decade, the BJP has steadily attempted to appropriate and reinterpret icons of Bengal's cultural nationalism - from Tagore and Swami Vivekananda to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Syama Prasad Mookerjee - as part of a broader ideological effort to expand its emotional and political footprint in the state.

Party insiders said the leadership was also conscious of the need to balance Bengal's competing regional aspirations while choosing the chief ministerial face, with discussions also taking place around whether greater representation should be accorded to north Bengal, a region where the BJP has made substantial electoral gains over successive elections.

A meeting of the newly elected BJP MLAs has been convened on May 8 evening, party sources said, though the leadership remained tight-lipped over the final choice.

The Brigade Parade Ground ceremony is expected to mark not merely a transfer of power, but a defining moment in Bengal's political history, the culmination of the BJP's long ideological and organisational march from the margins to the centre of power in a state that had for decades resisted the saffron surge seen elsewhere in India.

TMC workers with BJP flags, scarves trying to incite unrest in Bengal: Sambit Patra

PTI

New Delhi, May 6: The BJP on Wednesday alleged that the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal was attempting to incite post-poll violence by disguising its workers as BJP supporters using symbols of the saffron party to malign it.

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra asserted that its cadres have never indulged in violence after an election victory. He claimed that reports in sections of the media and newspapers suggested that TMC workers were carrying BJP flags and wearing party scarves while attempting to disturb the atmosphere in the state.

"In all the states where our government is in power, we have never resorted to violence against anyone. We are seeing reports that TMC workers, in several places, are wearing BJP scarves and carrying BJP flags while trying to carry out arson and disturb the atmosphere," he told reporters here, responding to questions on violence in West Bengal after the assembly election results.

Hope no push-back of illegal immigrants after BJP's Bengal win: B'desh HM

PTI

Dhaka, May 6: Bangladesh Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed on Wednesday expressed hope that people will not be pushed in his country after the BJP's victory in the recent assembly polls in bordering states.

"I hope no such incident (push backs) will happen," Ahmed told reporters when asked if he feared an increase in cases of people suspected of being illegal immigrants being pushed from India.

Ahmed, however, said that the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) have been asked to "remain alert" along the frontiers.

Ahmed's comments came a day after Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman was quoted in the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party's official Facebook page saying that Bangladesh will take action if "push-in" incidents occur amid the change of power in the bordering state of West Bengal.

On Monday, assembly election results were announced in West Bengal, where the BJP won with a sweeping majority. In its election campaign, the BJP often accused the Mamata Banerjee-led government of allowing an influx of Bangladeshi people to West Bengal - an allegation that the latter has dismissed.

The party also retained power in the bordering state of Assam for a third term.

The term "pushback" is typically used to describe the action of forcefully sending people, believed to be illegal migrants, across borders. Countries where they are sent often use the term "push in".

Trump says war could end if Iran agrees to proposal

REUTERS

Washington, May 6: US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that if Iran honors what has been agreed to, the US-Israeli war on Iran could end and the Strait of Hormuz reopen.

"Assuming Iran agrees to give what has been agreed to, which is, perhaps, a big assumption, the already legendary Epic Fury will be at an end, and the highly effective Blockade will allow the Hormuz Strait to be OPEN TO ALL, including Iran.

"If they don't agree, the bombing starts, and it will be, sadly, at a much higher level and intensity than it was before," Trump said in post on Truth Social.

The Revolutionary Guards' Navy said on Wednesday that safe transit through the Strait of Hormuz will be ensured with US threats coming to an end and new procedures in place, according to state media, in Iran's first reaction to the US pausing operations to help stranded ships pass through the strait.

The Guards' statement did not specify what the new procedures entailed and thanked owners and captains of ships for respecting Iranian regulations when moving through the waterway.

The vital waterway's imminent reopening comes after indications the US and Iran are closing in on an agreement on a one-page memorandum to end the war in the Gulf, a source from mediator Pakistan familiar with the negotiations said.

The Pakistani source said a report earlier by the US media outlet Axios on the proposed memorandum was accurate. The Axios report had cited two US officials and two other sources familiar with the discussions.

"We will close this very soon. We are getting close," the Pakistani source said.

Axios reported on Wednesday that the White House believed it was closing in on a one-page memorandum to end



the war with Iran, after US President Donald Trump paused a three-day-old naval mission to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

The Axios report said the US expected Iranian responses on several key points in the next 48 hours. The US State Department and White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Among other provisions, Axios said, the deal would involve Iran committing to a moratorium on nuclear enrichment, the US agreeing to lift its sanctions and release billions of dollars in frozen Iranian funds, and both sides lifting restrictions around transit through the Strait of Hormuz.

14-point memorandum of understanding

The one-page, 14-point memorandum of understanding was being negotiated between US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner and several Iranian officials, both directly and through mediators, Axios said.

In its current form, the memorandum would declare an end to the war in the region and the start of a 30-day period of negotiations on a detailed agreement

to open the strait, limit Iran's nuclear program and lift US sanctions, Axios added.

Iran's restrictions on shipping through the strait and the US naval blockade of Iran would be gradually lifted during that 30-day period, Axios said, citing one US official who added that if the negotiations collapse, US forces would be able to restore the blockade or resume military action.

Earlier, Trump announced a pause to "Project Freedom," a mission announced on Sunday to guide ships through the blocked strait. The mission had failed to bring about any significant resumption of traffic through the waterway, while provoking a new wave of Iranian strikes on ships in the strait and on targets in neighboring countries. In the latest incident, a French shipping company reported on Wednesday that one of its container ships had been struck in the strait the previous day, and that injured crew had been evacuated. In announcing he was pausing the mission, Trump cited "great progress" in negotiations with Iran, without giving further details.

"We have mutually agreed that,

while the Blockade will remain in full force and effect, Project Freedom (The Movement of Ships through the Strait of Hormuz) will be paused for a short period of time to see whether or not the Agreement can be finalized and signed," Trump wrote on social media.

Trump had launched the naval mission to guide ships through the strait after saying he was likely to reject Iran's latest proposal. The Iranian offer, made last week, also contained 14 points. It called for setting aside discussion of nuclear issues until after the war ended and the shipping dispute was resolved.

In comments on a visit to China on Wednesday, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made no mention of Trump's latest remarks, but said Tehran was holding out for "a fair and comprehensive agreement."

Araghchi also said in a social media post that he had spoken by phone with the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia and had stressed the importance of diplomacy among regional states to prevent escalation.

Strait shut since end of February Iran has effectively shut the strait to all shipping apart from its own since the United States and Israel launched the war on February 28. In April, Washington imposed its own separate blockade of Iranian ports.

Trump's Project Freedom mission to use the US Navy to open the strait failed to persuade merchant ships that it was safe, while provoking new attacks from Iran, which said it was expanding the area under its control to include swathes of the coastline of the United Arab Emirates, on the strait's far side.

While the mission was in effect, Iranian drones and missiles hit several ships in and around the strait, including a South Korean cargo vessel that reported an explosion in its engine room.

Tehran also repeatedly struck targets in the UAE, including the only major Emirati oil port on the coast beyond the strait, which has allowed some exports without crossing through it.

WHO chief: Three suspected hantavirus cases 'evacuated' from cruise ship



AFP/REUTERS

Geneva, May 6: Three people believed to have been infected with hantavirus have been evacuated from a cruise ship off Cape Verde, the WHO chief said Wednesday, adding that "the overall public health risk remains low."

"Three suspected hantavirus case patients have just been evacuated from the ship and are on their way to receive medical care in the Netherlands," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X.

MV Hondius has been at the center of an international health scare since Saturday, when the UN's health agency was informed that three passengers had died and the suspected cause was hantavirus — a rare disease usually spread from infected rodents typically through urine, droppings and saliva.

The Dutch-flagged cruise ship set sail from Ushuaia in Argentina

on April 1 and has been anchored off Cape Verde since Sunday while emergency teams try to deal with a situation.

The ship's Dutch operator Oceanwide Expeditions had said on Tuesday that two seriously ill crew members — one British, one Dutch — and a passenger would be taken off the ship and flown to the Netherlands, allowing the vessel to sail on to Spain's Canary Islands.

The regional government of Canary Islands is however opposed to allowing a luxury cruise ship dock on the archipelago, its leader, Fernando Clavijo, said in a Reuters report.

Health experts raised concern that a wider outbreak could be on the cards after a Dutch woman with symptoms left the ship and was flown on a passenger plane to Johannesburg, where she later died on April 26.

Nearly 250 skeleton remains recovered from mass grave in Sri Lanka

PTI

Colombo, May 6: The number of skeletal remains recovered at the alleged mass grave site in Chemmani reached 249 during the third phase of excavation work ordered by a court, according to a human rights lawyer.

A Sri Lankan court ordered the commencement of excavation work on a mass grave in Chemmani last week, on the outskirts of Jaffna, seven months after it was halted.

The excavation work on the mass grave, which first came into focus during the LTTE conflict in the 1990s, was halted in September last year for want of funds.

During the second phase, which lasted 45 days, 240 skeletal remains

were recovered. Till Tuesday, nine skeleton remains were recovered in the third phase, rights lawyer Ranitha Gnanaraja, who is present at the excavation site on behalf of the aggrieved, said.

"A few coins and what looks like a piece of jewellery have also been dug out", she added.

Some skeletal remains were discovered during routine development work in Chemmani on February 13, 2025. A week later, a court ordered a judicial examination of them.

On May 15, the first phase of excavations began under judicial supervision.

Chemmani came under focus in 1998 at the height of the conflict between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and government

PCB sends legal notices to defaulting broadcast, business partners to clear dues

PTI

Lahore, May 6: The Pakistan Cricket Board has launched a strong campaign to recover dues to the tune of billions from defaulting franchises, broadcast and business partners in order to fill up organizational coffers.

According to a PCB source, recently legal notices were sent to various PSL franchises, business and broadcast partners asking them to clear their pending dues to avoid facing any legal action which could lead to cancellation of their respective contracts.

"Initially some defaulting franchises of the Pakistan Super League were also sent notices to clear their outstanding annual fees or face action. These franchises have now cleared their dues but also asked the board to clear their share from the central pool for the franchises pending since 2010," the source said.

He said in response to a franchisee's grievance that their annual fees were delayed since the board had not cleared their full share of around PKR 96 crores from the central pool for the PSL 10th edition, the franchise was told bluntly that unless contracted parties don't honor their commitments how can the board clear dues.

The source said the board still owed some franchises 40 to 45 crores from the central pool of the PSL for 2025.

The source said the biggest defaulter of the board was a company which was involved in securing broadcast, other media and business rights from the PCB for not only PSL but other international cricket but declared they had sustained huge losses and were yet to clear dues of around 4.5 billion PKR.

"Because of this the board has not been able to keep its financial records up to date and audit their accounts," the source said. He confirmed that the two new franchises in the PSL and the new owners of Multan Sultans had all paid their annual franchise fees and other dues before the start of the PSL 11 which concluded last Sunday. "The thing is that while these new franchises are in the clear the board now has to pay them a guaranteed minimum amount of 85 crores PKR from PSL 11 and next four editions from the central pool," the source added.

"The problem is they are also other defaulting parties who have brought various sponsorships, advertising and media spots from the board," he said.

The fact remains that when PCB sold its broadcasting and streaming rights of the PSL 11 to a new party which also owns the Rawalpindi franchise they in turn sublet rights to the same party which remains a defaulter of billions of rupees.

Ban on bilateral sports with Pak to continue, multi-national events exempted: Ministry

PTI

New Delhi, May 6: The Sports Ministry on Wednesday said the blanket ban on bilateral sporting ties with Pakistan that was imposed last year will remain in force but athletes from across the border will not be stopped from coming here for multi-lateral events.

The ministry also reiterated its commitment to simplify the visa process



for sportspersons, team officials, technical personnel, and office-bearers

of International Sports Governing Bodies to position India as a "preferred

sporting destination".

"In so far as bilateral sports events in each other's country are concerned,

Indian teams will not be participating in competitions in Pakistan. Nor will we permit Pakistani teams to play in India," the ministry stated in a circular issued to all National Sports Federations (NSFs), the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) among others.

Delhi to host 2026 Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship

PTI

New Delhi, May 6: Delhi will host the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2026 at the Thyagraj Stadium, with players from more than 35 countries expected to participate, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Wednesday.

The championship is being organised from July 27 to August 2, jointly by the Delhi government and the Table Tennis Federation of India.

Announcing the event at the Delhi Secretariat, Gupta said the city has a long legacy of hosting international sporting events and the championship would further strengthen Delhi's position on the global sporting map.

"The Delhi government is committed to ensuring world-class infrastructure, seamless arrangements and an excellent sporting environment for players and spectators alike," she said.

According to the officials, participants from countries including England, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Malaysia, Singapore, Scotland, Wales, Nigeria, Kenya, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago are likely to take part



in the tournament.

The seven-day championship will feature competitions across multiple categories, with the finals scheduled for August 2. Details regarding ticketing, volunteers and the match schedule will be announced later, they said.

Gupta said Thyagraj Stadium will serve as the primary competition and ceremonial venue for the event and added that the championship would showcase the national capital's hosting capabilities, modern infrastructure and sports culture at the international level.

She added that the government is working to strengthen sports infrastructure and promote international events in line with the Vision 2036 Olympics mission.

Movies Watchlist

Thursday, 7th May

BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+)
Hindi - 04:10 PM, 07:10 PM.

Ek Din (U/A13+)
Hindi - 01:30 PM

Michael (U/A 13+)
English with English Subtitles
11:30 AM, 04:35 PM

The Devil Wears Prada 2 (A)
English with English Subtitles
11:00 AM, 02:10 PM, 07:30 PM.

Dhurandhar: The Revenge (A)
Hindi - 12:00 PM, 05:00 PM.

Call 95416 13868
For assistance with tickets