



‘No safe haven for terror’: Nation observes ‘Operation Sindoor’ anniversary

Action reflects India’s resolve against terrorism: Prez Murmu

India demonstrated precise striking power against terror networks: Amit Shah

Operation symbol of national preparedness and jointness: Rajnath Singh

Govt committed to terror-free J&K: LG Sinha



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, May 07: Nation observed the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor on Thursday with top leadership, reaffirming India’s unwavering stand against terrorism and praising the co-ordinated military response carried out after the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians, mostly tourists, on April 22, 2025.

President Droupadi Murmu,

Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, along with senior military commanders, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) praised the courage and valour of the armed forces, calling the operation a reflection of India’s resolve, precision and preparedness.

PRESIDENT MURMU: UNWAVERING RESOLVE

AGAINST TERRORISM” President Droupadi Murmu said ‘Operation Sindoor’ stands as a “defining testament” to India’s commitment against terrorism.

She said the success of the operation reflected the courage and determination of the armed forces.

“The extraordinary success of this mission reflects the unmatched courage and determination of our | More on P6

India remains steadfast to demolish terror ecosystem: PM Modi on one year of Op Sindoor
Lauds courage, precision, unwavering commitment of armed forces

KNO Desk

Srinagar, May 07: Asserting that the armed forces delivered a befitting response to the perpetrators who dared to attack innocent Indians in Pahalgam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday lauded the courage, precision and unwavering resolve of the security forces on the completion of one year of Operation Sindoor.

A year after India launched the operation, PM Modi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reiterated country’s resolve to demolish the terror ecosystem. “Today, a year later, we remain steadfast in our resolve to defeat terrorism and destroy its enabling ecosystem,” he said.



As a mark of respect to the armed forces and their success during ‘Operation Sindoor,’ the Prime Minister urged citizens to change their display pictures on social media platforms, including X, Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, to the picture shared by him. The Prime Minister posted on X: “A year ago, our armed forces displayed unparalleled courage, precision and resolve during | More on P6

India called bluff on Pakistan’s nuclear threats: Army

Op Sindoor marked decisive shift in counter-terror doctrine, say military officials



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, May 07: Senior military officials on Thursday said ‘Operation Sindoor’ marked a decisive shift in India’s counter-terror doctrine, asserting that the tri-services action not only destroyed terror infrastructure across the border but also neutralised Pakistan’s nuclear brinkmanship and exposed its military vulnerabilities.

Marking the first anniversary of the operation, top commanders from the Indian Navy, Army and Air Force,

according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) detailed the scale, coordination and outcomes of the strikes carried out in response to the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead.

The briefing was attended by Director General Naval Operations Vice Admiral AN Pramod, former Director General Military Operations Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, and Deputy Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti. | More on P6

Indus Waters Treaty remains in abeyance since Pahalgam terror attack: MEA ‘India has every right to defend itself against cross-border terrorism’

Umaiser Gul Ganaie

Srinagar May 07: The Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday reiterated that India’s response to cross-border terrorism remains firm and uncompromising, as the country marked the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor.

Briefing reporters in the national capital, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said India gave a “befitting reply” to Pakistan following the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 civilians, mostly tourists were killed.

He said the world had seen the attack “for what it was” and noted that India continues to face the challenge of cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

Jaiswal said India reserves the right to defend itself against

terrorism and added that New Delhi has been consistently working to strengthen global cooperation in the fight against terror. “The world is aware that cross-border terrorism has long been used as an instrument of state policy by Pakistan. India has every right to defend itself against such threats,” he said.

On the Indus Water Treaty, the spokesperson said the agreement remains in abeyance in view of Pakistan’s continued support to cross-border terrorism. He added that Islamabad must “credibly and irrevocably” end its support for such activities.

The Indus Waters Treaty, which governs the sharing of river waters between India and Pakistan, was put in abeyance after the Pahalgam terror attack last year, marking a significant shift in bilateral arrangements.

Officials said key water infrastructure, including | More on P6

CM Omar chairs second round of Budget implementation review

Revenue, health, tourism, social welfare depts present progress

KT News Desk

Srinagar, May 07: Concluding the discussions in the follow-up meeting held to review the Budget announcements for implementation during 2026-27, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday chaired the second round of meetings at the Civil Secretariat here to fast-track implementation of key Budget initiatives, with a focus on timely delivery of welfare measures for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, Javid Dar and Satish Sharma; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta.

Administrative Secretaries, senior officers of the Finance Department, heads of departments and other concerned officials.

At the outset, Additional



Chief Secretary Finance, Shailendra Kumar, briefed the Chief Minister and presented the status of various Budget announcements across departments under different grants, along with progress reports submitted by the departments. Administrative Secretaries apprised the Chief Minister of the progress achieved so far and the action taken by their respective departments towards implementation of the Budget proposals.

The departments which presented their progress during the meeting included Revenue,

Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare, Tourism, Forest, Labour & Employment, Higher Education, Rural Development, Youth Services & Sports, Transport, Tribal Affairs, DMRRR, Skill Development, Science & Technology and Cooperatives.

During the deliberations, the Chief Minister issued directions for expediting implementation, strengthening inter-departmental coordination and ensuring strict adherence to timelines.

He said that a similar exercise would be | More on P6

Dir Info reviews functioning of DICs across Kashmir Division

Calls for intensifying activities under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan



KT News Desk

Srinagar, May 07: Director Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Shreya Singhal on Thursday chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning and performance of District Information Centres (DICs) across the Kashmir Division. She also reviewed the ongoing activities of the department being conducted under the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan.

Addressing the officers in the meeting, the Director emphasized the need for further

strengthening the public outreach mechanism at the grassroots level. “DICs have pivotal role in disseminating the government policies, welfare initiatives and developmental achievements among the masses in an effective and timely manner”, she stated.

Shreya Singhal directed the officers to further enhance coordination with the district administrations and ensure prompt coverage of the government programmes and policies.

Outlining the importance of the emerging digital platforms, the Director | More on P6

Amid frosty ties with NC, Congress MLAs attend dinner hosted by Dy CM

MLA Langate’s presence surprises everyone

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, May 07: Amid its frosty relations with National Conference, Congress legislators on Thursday evening attended a dinner hosted by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary.

Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that Congress president Tariq Hamid Karra, along with three MLAs of the party, attended the dinner hosted by Choudhary at his official Fairview residence here.

The most surprising guest at the dinner was MLA Langate Sheikh Khurshid, who is part of the Kashmir-based opposition.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah, and legislators | More on P6

‘Drug addiction is medical, psychological condition; treat addicts as patients, not criminals’

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, May 07: Amid growing concerns over drug abuse among youth in Jammu and Kashmir, mental health experts and social stakeholders have intensified calls for collective action, urging parents, teachers, doctors and society at large to play a proactive role in protecting the younger generation from falling prey to substance abuse.

Mental health experts believe that awareness, emotional support and timely guidance are essential in preventing youth from drifting toward addiction.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Nizam ud Din, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry



at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Medical College Hospital, Bemina, said society must change the way it views people struggling with addiction. He said individuals affected

by substance abuse should be treated as patients in need of care, counselling and rehabilitation rather than being isolated or stigmatised.

“Addiction is a medical and psychological | More on P6

Supporting families of martyrs not policy but solemn duty: DGP Prabhat

J&K Police, J&K Bank sign MoU addendum; enhanced insurance, disability, medical, welfare benefits introduced for police personnel, SPOs

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, May 07: Paying tributes to the sacrifices of 1,620 police personnel who have laid down their lives in the line of duty in Jammu and Kashmir over the past three decades, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday said supporting the families of these martyrs is “not a matter of policy but a matter of solemn duty”.

He made these remarks as J&K Police and J&K Bank signed a historic addendum to their 2023 Memorandum of Understanding, enhancing welfare, insurance and compensation benefits for police personnel and Special Police Officers (SPOs).



According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the addendum was signed by DGP Nalin Prabhat and J&K Bank Managing Director and CEO Amitava Chatterjee in the presence of senior officers of J&K Police and J&K Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, the DGP said the addendum increases insurance cover, compensation and support structures with new provisions for critical medical needs, children’s education and family responsibilities.

Highlighting | More on P6

Divisional Com Kashmir reviews Eid-ul-Adha arrangements

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, MAY 07: In preparation for the forthcoming Eid-ul-Adha celebrations, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Thursday convened a high-level meeting to review and finalize arrangements for the smooth and peaceful observance of the festival across the Kashmir Division.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner, as per an official statement, directed the KPDCI officers, to ensure uninterrupted power supply at prominent religious shrines including Hazratbal Shrine, Kalashpora, Jenab Sahab Saura, Ziyarat Sharief Kabamarg and Khiram in Anantnag, Ziyarat Sharief Makhama, and Ahmadi-Sharief in Bandipora.

He further instructed the concerned departments to maintain adequate and uninterrupted supply of potable drinking water and to address



any water-related issues promptly. Emphasizing the importance of ensuring availability of essential commodities during

the festive days, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned authorities to maintain sufficient stocks of rice, atta, sugar, and other

daily essentials throughout the Valley.

To meet the anticipated demand for sacrificial animals, the Director Sheep Husbandry was asked to ensure adequate availability across Kashmir Division ahead of Eid-ul-Adha. Wakf authorities were also directed to properly regulate designated sale locations for sacrificial animals to prevent traffic congestion and inconvenience to the general public. The Divisional Commissioner stressed the need for extensive market inspections to curb overpricing and prevent the sale of substandard goods. He called for close coordination among enforcement agencies to ensure fair pricing and adequate availability of essential commodities, particularly mutton and poultry.

In order to maintain cleanliness and create a festive atmosphere, special sanitation drives were directed to be carried out in and around mosques, shrines, marketplaces, and residential areas. The Srinagar Municipal Corporation was

instructed to deploy adequate manpower for door-to-door collection of animal hides.

For smooth vehicular movement during the festival, traffic authorities were directed to implement effective traffic management plans around major mosques and marketplaces.

The Divisional Commissioner also instructed the Health Department to deploy medical teams at major shrines and mosques to provide immediate healthcare assistance in view of the expected large gatherings. To ensure safety and security at congregation sites, directions were issued for deployment of fire tenders and adequate security personnel to facilitate the peaceful celebration of the festival.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, and senior officers from various departments including Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, FCS&CA, Health, KPDCI, PHE, SMC, PWD, Fire Services, ULB, Wakf Board, and Legal Metrology.

DC Srinagar convenes District Capex meeting for 2026-27



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR MAY 07: In order to discuss the plan proposals for District Capex Budget for the financial year 2026-27 and to ensure timely initiation of physical execution of proposed developmental works, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Thursday convened a meeting of all Executing Agencies at Banquet Hall Conference Complex here.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Circle North, Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Circle South, Tatheer Manzoor, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Er Anbreen, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi Ud Din, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, PDD, SMC, UEED and all other District & Sectoral Officers.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the plan proposals under the District Capex Budget for 2026-27 and sought updates regarding preparation of estimates for works proposed under the District Capex. He emphasized the need for prioritization of

developmental works in accordance with public demands and projects having visible and meaningful impact on the ground.

The DC directed all Executing Agencies to ensure timely submission of estimates so that administrative approvals are accorded without delay, enabling early tendering, allotment and execution of works for the benefit of the people of the district, keeping in view the limited working season. He further stressed that all developmental works proposed under the Capex Budget 2026-27 must be executed in a time-bound and transparent manner to achieve the desired outcomes and strengthen public service delivery across sectors.

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed the status of completed works under District Capex 2025-26 and instructed the concerned departments to furnish requisite details in a timely manner and ensure uploading of completed works on the e-compendium portal.

The DC also stressed the importance of improved coordination among the line departments, adherence to timelines, maintenance of quality standards and proactive planning to facilitate smooth, optimum utilization of resources and effective execution of developmental works across the district.

DC Srinagar inspects renovation, upgradation works on Vicharnag Temple, Khankah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA)

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR MAY 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Thursday conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing upgradation and renovation works at Vicharnag Temple and Khankah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA) being executed under the Heritage Conservation Scheme of the Government to preserve the rich cultural, spiritual and architectural heritage in the District.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement was accompanied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Superintending Engineer, R&B, Circle North, Shabir Ahmad, Executive Engineers of R&B, SMC, PHE, PDD, UEED, Tehsilidar, Eidgah, Officers of Archives & Archaeology and other concerned Departments.

At the ancient Vicharnag Temple, a site of immense historical and religious significance located in Nowshera area of the District, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed on-site appraisal of the revival, restoration, and conservation works being undertaken under the Government scheme to preserve the heritage character of the monument. On the occasion, the DC reviewed the different project components at the site and directed

the Officers to ensure strict adherence to set timelines and quality of the work as envisioned under the project guidelines. He directed the Officers to further expedite the pace of works and take technically feasible measure for efficient drainage mechanism at the important heritage site.

The DC was informed that substantial progress has been achieved on various components of the project, including land filling, construction of gate, boundary wall, toilet block and security quarter. It was further informed that underpinning works of the two main temple structures and restoration of the main springs are nearing completion. In addition, works related to levelling of ground, development of pathways and allied components have been initiated at the site.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to prescribed timelines and maintenance of high-quality standards as envisioned under the project guidelines. He further directed that the pace of work be expedited and technically feasible measures be adopted for establishing an efficient drainage mechanism at the heritage site.

At Khankah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA), Khawaja Bazar Nowhatta in the Shah-e-Khaas area of Srinagar, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the ongoing preservation works being executed under the Heritage Conservation Scheme.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for NCC National Integration Camp

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, MAY 07: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review preparations for the "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" Special National Integration Camp being organised by the NCC from May 14 to 25 at BB Cantt, Srinagar.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Director Tourism, Director Floriculture, Director Archives, Archaeology & Museums, SSP Traffic, and officers from Police, SKICC, Information Department, Kashmir University, and NCC.

While reviewing the arrangements, the Divisional Commissioner directed all concerned departments to ensure comprehensive facilitation and seamless coordination for the visiting cadets, particularly during their transit from Jammu to Srinagar and their visits to prominent religious sites, parks, and tourist destinations across the Valley.

Emphasizing the importance of efficient inter-departmental coordination, the Divisional Commissioner instructed the Floriculture Department to facilitate smooth entry of cadets into the renowned Mughal Gardens during their scheduled visits. He also directed the concerned authorities to



ensure hassle-free transportation and traffic management for excursions to popular tourist destinations, including Gulmarg and Sonamarg.

Further, the Divisional Commissioner advised NCC officials to share detailed event schedules with related departments to enable timely arrangements and effective execution of the programme. He also instructed

officials from Kashmir University and the Police Department to nominate subject experts for delivering guest lectures on various themes during the camp.

The SSP Traffic was directed to ensure smooth traffic regulation and route management for the proposed "Run for Fun" event scheduled from SKICC to Nishat Garden.

Empowering Champion: Rajouri Administration backs Orphan Boxer Yasir



KT NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, MAY 07: In a commendable gesture to support local sports talent and as part of the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Rajouri, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, has extended financial assistance to a promising young boxer Yasir, who has recently been selected to represent India at an international boxing event in Uzbekistan.

Yasir, an orphan who has faced significant hardships, has emerged as a symbol of determination and resilience. Despite limited resources and

challenging living conditions, he has excelled in boxing, bringing pride to the district with his achievements.

Currently residing with his family in modest conditions at the ITI building near the Sports Stadium Rajouri, Yasir's journey reflects both his grit and the need for collective support to nurture such talent.

Recognizing his potential and dedication, the district administration, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, initiated efforts to assist the young athlete in pursuing his sporting aspirations.

In response to these efforts, the Animal Husbandry Department, under the guidance

of Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Khalid Najeeb Khan, extended financial support to the young boxer.

The assistance was provided in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Sikarwar, District Social Welfare Officer Abdul Rahim and Veterinary Assistant Surgeon Dr. Shah Riaz Ahmed Chowdhary.

The District Administration reaffirmed its commitment to encouraging and supporting talented youth, particularly those overcoming socio-economic challenges and urged society to come forward in uplifting such inspiring individuals.

NAME CORRECTION

I, Ms. Uzma Jan, wife of Sadam Ahmad Lone resident of Mustafabad Zainakote HMT do hereby declare that my correct name is AZIMA JAN.

That my name has been wrongly mentioned as "Uzma Jan" in my Aadhaar Card due to an inadvertent error, whereas my correct and actual name, as recorded in my Election Card and other official records, is "AZIMA JAN."

Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by the name AZIMA JAN for all official and legal purposes.

If anyone has any objection regarding this correction/change of name, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the publication of this notice.

AZIMA JAN
R/o: Zainakote HMT Srinagar
Date: 08-05-2027

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Fatima Akhtar D/o: Waseem Ahmad Dar R/o: Ningli 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 Ehsaan Waseem S/o: Waseem Ahmad Dar as 20-07-2021 at Mother & Child Hospital 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: Rehana Bashir w/o: Javid Ahmad Wani R/o: Lalab 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 Daughter namely Sidra Wani D/o: Javid Ahmad Wani as 20-07-2018 at Mother & Child Hospital 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: Nadeem Ahmad Dar S/o: Nazir Ahmad Dar R/o: Yunisoo Tehsil Langate.

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 Mujibul Rehman S/o: Nadeem Ahmad Dar as 23-02-2023 at Mother & Child Hospital 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

NC to hold district-level conventions, membership drive

KNO

Srinagar, May 07: The ruling National Conference (NC) has decided to hold district-level conventions and launch a membership drive ahead of its organisational elections in 2027.

Sources said that NC's provincial working committee meeting chaired by NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah and attended by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, cabinet ministers, legislators, and party office-bearers, decided that conventions will kick off across the Kashmir Valley later this month, with a detailed roster expected within three days.

The party also decided to initiate a membership drive in preparation for the organisational elections scheduled for 2027.



According to sources, a few MLAs of the party complained against certain ministers, while some also raised objections to the appointment of the district president in Bandipora without their consultation.

According to sources, NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice-president Omar Abdullah urged MLAs and party leaders to remain

responsive to the public and actively engage with people in their constituencies. "They also asked them to work towards strengthening the party," the sources said.

Talking to reporters after chairing the meeting, NC president Dr. Farooq Abdullah said the meeting discussed all issues and ways to strengthen the organisation.

Satish Sharma assures tourists of safety, hassle-free travel in J&K

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, May 07: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma on Thursday held an interactive session with the tourists, assuring them their safety, comfort and seamless travel experience across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the interaction, the Minister warmly welcomed the tourists and said that the government is making all necessary efforts to facilitate smooth movement and comfortable stay for the visitors arriving in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir. He assured them that the administration remains fully geared to provide all requisite logistical assistance and basic support services, including transport facilitation, accommodation coordination, food and essential supplies, medical assistance and tourist guidance wherever required. Satish



Sharma said that the tourists are valued guests and ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir's hospitality and culture. He added that every possible step is being taken to ensure that the visitors feel secure, supported and well-connected throughout their journey.

"The government is committed to provide a safe, welcoming

and hassle-free environment for the tourists. All the departments are working in close coordination to ensure that the visitors receive timely assistance and necessary facilities without inconvenience," the Minister said.

Highlighting the importance of tourism for the region's economy and livelihood generation, the

Minister said Jammu and Kashmir continues to attract the visitors from across the country and abroad owing to its unmatched natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and warm hospitality. He said sustained efforts are underway to further strengthen tourism infrastructure, improve transport connectivity, enhance public amenities and promote new tourist destinations.

The Minister also interacted individually with several tourists and sought feedback regarding their travel experience, facilities and arrangements. He assured that any genuine concern brought to the notice of the administration would be addressed promptly.

Satish Sharma further stated that the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is focused on creating a tourist-friendly ecosystem that promotes confidence among the visitors and contributes towards economic growth and employment generation in the region.

CM Omar condoles demise of Imtiyaz Hussain's father

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, May 07: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has expressed deep sorrow over the passing away of the father of Police Officer Imtiyaz Hussain Mir.

In his condolence message, the Chief Minister conveyed heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

He also prayed for strength and fortitude for the family to bear this irreparable loss.

The Chief Minister said that the demise of a parent is an immense personal loss that leaves a deep void in the lives of family members and loved ones.

He expressed solidarity with the bereaved family during this difficult time of grief.

He further prayed that the departed soul attains the highest place in Jannah.

GDA tighten rules for pony operators

KNO

Srinagar, May 07: The Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA) has introduced a strict "one person, one trade" policy in Gulmarg, banning multiple trade licenses and stopping ponywallas from using hired labourers.

The move comes a day after the Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA) rolled out a similar "one licence, one horse" policy in Pahalgam to regulate pony services and reduce overcrowding.

GDA Chief Executive Officer Tariq Hussain said that the new rules are aimed at reducing congestion and protecting Gulmarg's environment.

"The policy of 'one person one trade' is imperative to provide ample opportunities to the unemployed and to every deserving service provider," he said.

Under the new rules, each registered person will be allowed to keep only one pony and pony entry will be allowed only through designated points.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Won't campaign for those who 'deceived people: MP Ruhullah

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Anantnag, May 07: Member of Parliament (MP) and senior National Conference (NC) leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the functioning of the present dispensation, saying he cannot "commit the mistake" of campaigning for those who have "deceived the people".

Speaking to reporters in the Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district, Ruhullah expressed serious reservations over the performance of the current government while maintaining that his views remain in line with the broader ideology and commitments of the National Conference.

"I cannot commit a mistake by campaigning for those who deceived the people," Mehdi said while responding to questions regarding his political stand and criticism of the government.

The MP asserted that the concerns he has been raising publicly are rooted in the promises and commitments made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The policy of National Conference is the same that I am speaking about," he said, indicating that his criticism is aimed at governance and performance rather than the party's foundational political ideology.

However, Ruhullah openly acknowledged dissatisfaction with the functioning of the present administration and said he has objections to its performance on several fronts. When asked how long he would continue in the NC



while maintaining such a critical stand, the MP hinted at a possible political development in the near future. "You will come to know about it very soon," he said without elaborating further, triggering speculation in political circles.

Mehdi called for empowering the youth economically and said the younger generation in Jammu and Kashmir must become job creators rather than remain dependent on government employment.

"Our youth need to become job givers instead of job seekers," he said, underlining the importance of entrepreneurship, innovation and economic self-reliance.

Commenting on recent political developments in West Bengal, Ruhullah alleged that constitutional principles and democratic norms had been undermined. He said the events that unfolded there ran counter to the spirit of the Constitution and the country's unity.

"Whatever happened in Bengal was against the Constitution of India and against the unity and spirit of the country. It will have very bad

consequences," he said. The NC MP further alleged that the foundations of fair and free elections had been compromised through communal polarisation and misuse of institutions. "Every basis for fair and free elections was violated, and everything was done on the basis of communalism and polarisation," he said.

Ruhullah also accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of using agencies and officials to target political opponents during elections in Bengal. "BJP used agencies, UP officials and others against those who were fighting elections against the BJP in Bengal," he alleged.

Referring to remarks made by a BJP chief ministerial face in Bengal, Ruhullah said any statement suggesting governance for one community alone goes against the very foundation of India's secular and democratic framework.

"The statement that someone would work only for Hindus is against the basis of the country, and it will have a bad impact in the long run," he said.

Drawing a strong comparison, Ruhullah further claimed that the BJP appeared to be moving

beyond the slogan of "One Nation, One Election" toward what he termed "One Nation, One Party".

"In North Korea, there is an announced dictatorship, but here it is an unannounced dictatorship," he said.

The MP also spoke on the growing drug menace in Jammu and Kashmir and called for collective efforts to combat narcotics and rehabilitate addicts. At the same time, he cautioned against punitive actions that impact innocent family members.

"We all need to fight against drug peddlers and help drug addicts leave this menace, but it should not be used to bulldoze the houses of innocent persons. If one person in a family has committed a mistake, the whole family should not become a victim," he said.

The MP also referred to the controversy surrounding the reservation issue in the Assembly and said the humiliation faced by the MLA from Bijbehara was not an individual matter alone.

"The MLA Bijbehara was humiliated in the Assembly over the reservation issue, and it was not only his humiliation but the humiliation of everyone," he said.

However, he also questioned the political stance of the concerned MLA, stating that the same legislator was later seen closely accompanying the same ministers just days after the incident.

"You also need to know the stand of the concerned MLA as he was seen with the same ministers neck to neck just days after the humiliation," Ruhullah added—(KNO)

Media Studies HoD relieved after harassment allegation

RIYAZ BHAT

Srinagar, May 07: Authorities on Thursday removed the Head of the Department of Media Studies at Amar Singh College following an alleged harassment complaint filed by a student.

Top officials of Higher Education Department informed that HoD, Department of Media Studies had been 'disassociated' from all academic affairs of the Department with immediate effect, pending the outcome of the inquiry.

In the meantime, Principal of Amar Singh College Srinagar in an order said, "In response to the demonstration held by the

students of the College regarding the alleged harassment of a female student, Dr Parvaiz Ahmad Lone, HoD, Department of Media Studies, is disassociated from all academic affairs of the Department with immediate effect, pending the outcome of the inquiry."

It also said that the Proctorial Board has been entrusted with conducting a transparent and time-bound inquiry into the matter and shall submit its report within two days.

"In the meantime, Prof Nusrat Sayed shall look after the affairs of the Department of Media Studies till the completion of the investigation," it reads—(KNO)

Operation Sindoor anniversary: High alert in Jammu

YOGESH

Jammu, May 07: Security agencies across Jammu were placed on high alert on the first anniversary of 'Operation Sindoor', launched in response to the gruesome April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead.

According to the details available, special prayers were held at Gurdwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha in the bordering Poonch district to pay homage to those killed in Pakistani shelling.

Devotees gathered at the gurdwara to pray for peace and remember the victims, while condemning attacks on civilian areas and religious places during the cross-border shelling.

Twelve people were killed and

34 others injured in artillery and mortar shelling in Poonch — the worst-hit border district — shortly after India launched Operation Sindoor in the early hours of May 7 last year. As per officials, security arrangements were significantly intensified across the border Union Territory, with intelligence agencies directing law enforcement units to heighten vigilance in sensitive areas. Meanwhile, the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Jammu and Kashmir Police launched a large-scale search operation across Jammu city and adjoining areas. Continuous search drives were carried out in vulnerable locations, while SOG commandos maintained close surveillance on suspicious activities.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Govt mandates JKPaySys for PDD staff salaries

KNO

Srinagar, May 07: The government Thursday ordered shifting of salary disbursement for employees of four power corporations under the Power Development Department (PDD) to the Jammu & Kashmir Payment System (JKPaySys) platform, mandating an 'employee-wise CPIS based' drawl.

Financial Commissioner (ACS), Shaileendra Kumar in an order said the employee-wise salary after its shifting to JKPaySys Portal, shall continue to be debited to the Account Head - Grants-in-Aid (GIA-036)- Salary, which is already mapped and available within the JKPaySys system.

"Sanction is accorded for 'employees-wise CPIS based' drawl of Salary of the employees of JKPCCL, JKPTCL, KPDCCL & JPDCL Corporations falling under the administrative control of the PDD," it reads.

The order said that the shifting of salary disbursement shall be done after updation of the CPIS system on HRM Portal to ensure standardization, transparency and efficiency in salary



processing, the Employee-wise salary disbursement shall be processed through the JKPaySys platform in line with the system already in

operation across other Government Departments, Sectors.

"The implementation of the system shall

be carried out at the level of the concerned CP&AO/AOs who are already operating upon the treasuries," it reads.

It also said that the coverage under this system shall be restricted only to those employees of the Power Development Department (PDD) who are on deputation (including those from other Government Departments) to these Corporations: viz JKPCCL, JKPTCL, KPDCCL & JPDCL and are registered on the HRMS platform; and were appointed prior to October, 2019 (i.e., the date of unbundling).

"Employees directly engaged by the Corporations, whether before or after unbundling, shall not be mapped in the JKPaySys system and they shall continue to receive their salaries through the existing procedure to remain out of this arrangement," reads the order.

The order further said that the entire process for shifting the drawls of salaries to JKPaySys Portal shall be carried out in accordance with the flow chart issued by the government and shall be operated from the month of May, 2026—(KNO)

The order said that the shifting of salary disbursement shall be done after updation of the CPIS system on HRM Portal to ensure standardization, transparency and efficiency in salary processing, the Employee-wise salary disbursement shall be processed through the JKPaySys platform in line with the system already in operation across other Government Departments, Sectors.

EDITORIAL

Friday Brief: Social Welfare In Islam Is Not Complicated

In Islam, faith is not just about prayer and fasting. It is about how we treat other people. The Quran and the Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) have given clear instructions about social welfare. Taking care of the poor, the orphan, the widow, and the needy is not optional. It is a duty. The Quran says: "Have you seen the one who denies the Day of Judgment? That is the one who pushes away the orphan and does not encourage feeding the poor" (107:1-3). These verses are very direct. If someone ignores the orphan and the hungry, it

is as if they are denying the Hereafter. This shows how seriously Islam takes social welfare. Charity does not go to waste. Even a small amount given to the right person is seen by Allah. The Prophet (PBUH) was the best example of caring for others. He said: "He is not a believer whose stomach is full while his neighbour goes hungry" (Al-Adab Al-Mufrad). This is a strong warning. You cannot call yourself a true believer if you eat well while the person next door has nothing. The Prophet (PBUH) also said: "The best people are those who are

most beneficial to others" (Al-Mu'jam al-Awsat). Your value as a Muslim depends on how much you help those around you. Zakat is the most well-known form of social welfare in Islam. It is one of the five pillars. Every year, Muslims with enough savings must give 2.5 per cent of their wealth to the poor and deserving. But Zakat is just the start. Sadaqah, or voluntary charity, is encouraged at all times. The Prophet (PBUH) said that even a smile is a form of charity. Removing a stone from the road is charity. Giving water to someone

thirsty is charity. Every small act of kindness counts. Social welfare in Islam is not complicated. Feed the hungry. Clothe the naked. Visit the sick. Help the orphan. Be kind to your neighbour. Do not hoard wealth while others suffer. These are not suggestions. They are commands from Allah and His Prophet (PBUH). If every Muslim followed these teachings, there would be no poverty or loneliness in our communities. Let us start today. Look around. Someone near you needs help. Do not wait for tomorrow.

Somnath And Bharat's Unconquerable Spirit!

The vast sea before Somnath evokes timelessness. The waves tell us that no matter how fierce the storms are or how turbulent the tides, one can always rise again with dignity and strength. Marking 75 years since the restored Temple's inauguration, let's recall Sardar Patel's dream, Dr. Rajendra Prasad's vision, and a thousand years of resilience. Empires rose and fell, yet Somnath continued to endure in our consciousness.

Narendra Modi

At the start of 2026, I had gone to Somnath for the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, marking a thousand years since the first attack on the Somnath Temple. Now, I will be back in Somnath on 11th May to mark 75 years since the inauguration of the restored Temple by the then President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. In less than half a year, it is a privilege to be attending two important milestones relating to Somnath and its journey from ruin to renewal or what we describe as from Vidhvans to Srijan.

Somnath gives us a civilisational message. The vast sea before it evokes timelessness. The waves tell us...that no matter how fierce the storms are or how turbulent the tides are, one can always rise again with dignity and strength. The waves return to the shore, as though reminding every generation that the spirit of the people can never be subdued for long.

Our ancient scriptures say: प्रथमं च परिक्रम्य पृथिवीक्रमसंभवम्. It means, a Pradakshina of the divine Prabhasa (Somnath) is equal to a Pradakshina of the whole earth itself! While people have come here to pray, they have also experienced the remarkable continuity of a civilisation whose flame could never be extinguished. Empires rose and fell, tides changed, history moved through conquest and upheaval, yet Somnath continued to endure in our consciousness.

It is time to remember the countless greats who stood firm in the face of tyranny. There were Lakulisha and Soma Sarman, who transformed Prabhasa into a great centre of philosophy. Chakravarti Maharaja Dharasena IV of Vallabhi built the Second Temple three centuries ago. Bhima Deva, Jayapala and Anandapala will always be remembered for



defending civilisational honour against invasions. It is said that Raja Bhoja too helped with the reconstruction. Karna Deva and Siddharaja Jayasimha played a vital role in restoring Gujarat's political and cultural strength. Bhava Brihaspati, Kumarapala Solanki and the Pashupata Acharyas rebuilt and sustained the shrine as a great centre of worship and learning. Vishaladeva Vaghela and Tripurantaka protected its intellectual and spiritual traditions. Mahipaladeva and Ra Khangar were instrumental in reviving worship after destruction. Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, whose 300th birth centenary is being marked, ensured the continuity of devotion in the most difficult of times. There were the Gaekwads of Baroda, who safeguarded the rights of pilgrims. And of course, our soil is blessed to have nurtured brave personalities like Veer Hamirji Gohil and Veer Vegdaji Bhil, whose sacrifice and courage have become a part of Somnath's living memory.

In the 1940s, when the spirit of freedom swept across India and the foundations of a new republic were being laid under the leadership of towering figures like Sardar Patel, one thing continued to trouble him deeply...the condition of Somnath. On 13th November 1947, during Diwali time, he stood next to the dilapidated ruins of the temple with sea-water in his hands and said, "On this auspicious day of the (Gujarati) New Year, we have decided that Somnath should be reconstructed. You, people of Saurashtra, should do your best. This is a holy task in which all should participate." On one clarion call of Sardar Patel, it was not only the people of Gujarat but also the people of the whole of India that responded enthusiastically.

Unfortunately, fate did not allow Sardar Patel to witness the fulfilment of the dream he had so passionately championed. Before the restored Somnath Temple could open its doors to devotees, he had departed from

this world. Yet, his impact continued to be felt over the sacred shores of Prabhas Patan. His vision was championed by Shri KM Munshi, ably supported by the Jamsaheb of Nawanagar. In 1951, when the Temple was complete, it was decided to call the President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, for the ceremony. Overcoming strong objections from the then Prime Minister Pandit Nehru, Dr. Prasad graced the ceremony, thus making it even more special and historic.

My mind also goes back to October 2001, when I had just taken over as Chief Minister. On 31st October 2001, the Jayanti of Sardar Patel, the Gujarat Government had the honour of organising a programme to mark 50 years since the Somnath Temple opened its doors. It also coincided with the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Patel. The then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the then Home Minister Shri LK Advani attended the programme.

During his speech on 11th May 1951, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said that the Somnath Temple proclaims to the world that anything with unparalleled faith and love cannot be destroyed. He expressed hope that this Temple will live in the hearts of people. He also said that the restoration of the Temple was a fulfilment of Sardar Patel's dream, but taking that spirit forward, it is important that we restore prosperity to the lives of people. These are important and inspiring messages he gave.

This is the path we have been walking for over a decade. I consider it my good fortune that, inspired by the principle of 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi', from Somnath to Kashi, Kamakhya to Kedarnath, Ayodhya to Ujjain, Trimbakeshwar to Srisailem, our team has had the opportunity to equip our spiritual centres with the latest facilities while at the same time preserving their traditional

character. This, along with efforts to improve connectivity, ensures more people can visit them. It boosts the local economy, secures livelihoods and deepens the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.'

The struggles and sacrifices of those who laid down their lives to protect Somnath and those who rebuilt it time and again will never be forgotten. Countless individuals from different corners of India contributed to restoring its glory. They saw every part of Bharat as sacred, bound together by a sense of oneness that transcended geography. In a world often marked by divisions, this spirit of unity is more relevant than ever. Somnath will continue to stand tall in all its glory because the sense of unity and shared civilisational consciousness lives on in the hearts of every Indian. As a tribute to this, remembering the extraordinary courage of a thousand years, there will be special Pujas at Somnath for the next thousand days. It is gladdening to see several people donating for these Pujas as well.

I urge my fellow Indians to travel to Somnath in this special time. When you stand on the shores of Somnath, let its ancient echoes speak to you. You will not only be overwhelmed by devotion but will also feel the strong pulse of a civilisational spirit that refuses to fade, that is unbroken and unyielding. You will experience Bharat's unconquerable spirit and understand why, despite every effort, our culture remained undefeated and you will have the opportunity to behold the vision of eternal triumph. It will surely be unforgettable.

Jai Somnath.

Narendra Modi is the Prime Minister of India and is also the Chairman of the Shree Somnath Trust

AI Is Coming For Psychotherapy

The field of therapy is being disrupted whether we prepare for AI or not

Marianne Brandon Ph.D.

It's a new world. Technology is affecting all aspects of humanity at breakneck speed. And the field of psychotherapy is no exception. While undergraduate and graduate schools continue to train therapists for the world that was, they will be entering a dynamic situation where, rather than their professional lives being exclusively augmented by AI, AI is now also their competition. Available 24/7; free or \$20.00 a month, at most; endlessly kind, compassionate, patient, and non-judgmental, with flawless memory and focus, the new world of mental health privileges clients with options like it never has before. That's not to say that there are no downsides to using AI as therapy—there are many, and these downsides can be so serious as to be life-threatening for some. But for the masses, no need for insurance approvals, wait lists, waiting rooms, or being expected to pay for missed visits will be a welcome shift in the power differential between clients and therapists.

And yet, we as a profession aren't talking about this.

The Transition We Didn't Expect

AI is considered a disruptive technology. I asked Chat GPT how to define disruptive technologies, and it answered immediately in its kindhearted, affable style, "Disruptive technology is basically a new innovation that shakes up an entire industry. It often starts out seeming niche or less capable compared to existing solutions, but over



time, it improves quickly and ends up overtaking or even replacing the established way of doing things."

That says it all. We hope that this disruption will ultimately serve humanity. But in the meantime, many, if not most, professionals will meet and be forced to adapt to new challenges never before expected. And rather than denial, we therapists will benefit by cultivating the skills we encourage in our clients: flexibility, resilience, and accepting the things we cannot change.

What the field of psychotherapy will look like in 10 years, or even five years, is anyone's guess. What seems clear to me: despite all we know about the importance of the

physical presence of others for attunement and healing, many of our clients, and potential clients, already have the felt sensation of attunement with AI. They feel understood, seen, heard, and cared for. Reminding them they actually aren't "cared for" by the LLM, that this is actually big business identifying their vulnerabilities and capitalizing on them, that the algorithm is programmed to tell them whatever will keep them engaged, and that while the intimate details of their lives feel privately shared, these details are in fact used to train the next generation of algorithms and will live on servers for many years to come, may or may not affect their decision to seek more traditional forms of

treatment.

Will therapists experience these changes positively? Some already enjoy automated note-taking, treatment planning, report writing and editing, and scheduling. But ultimately, it remains to be seen which therapists (and which clients) will thrive in this new environment. But what will it take to achieve that goal?

Adapting to the New Reality

Last year, Allen Francis, a prominent and outspoken past president of the American Psychiatric Association and chair of the DSM-IV task force, authored "Warning: AI Chatbots Will Soon Dominate Psychotherapy." He recommended that therapists prepare for this transition by specializing in areas of psychology that chatbots can't yet compete with, such as inpatient mental health, suicidality, trauma work, and family therapy. He encouraged us to become competent with AI tools so that we can offer a hybrid model of therapy, combining the best of AI with our own, unique humanity.

Those of us who take this advice seriously will likely weather the upcoming changes more comfortably than those who do not. I've been experimenting with this in my own practice. One shift has been toward being more fully, deliberately human in the therapy room, leaning into the warmth and moments of genuine humor that no chatbot can replicate. Another has been increasing my availability to clients in crisis, since the moments when someone is most destabilized are precisely the moments when a real human voice

matters most. These aren't dramatic overhauls, yet they feel significant to me.

It's also the case that while we are feeling the emotional impact of this disruption to our profession, many of our clients and our own family members will also be navigating these uncertainties. You may be reading this as a client or a therapist who has already turned to AI for support. This is new territory for all of us.

So here we are. We spend our professional lives helping others tolerate uncertainty, sit with discomfort, and adapt to changes they didn't ask for. Now it's our turn. It's likely to amplify our issues of countertransference, anxiety, and even fears for the future. We need to extend the same compassion we extend to clients so regularly to ourselves now, too. The disruption is real. The grief about what the profession was, and anxiety about what it's becoming, are legitimate. And like the best work we do in our therapy rooms, the path forward starts not with having the answers, but with being willing to stay present with the questions.

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Marianne Brandon, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist, diplomate in sex therapy, author, and lecturer with over 20 years of experience working with couples. She is the author of *Monogamy: The Untold Story*. Source: *Psychology Today*

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State Taxes Enforcement Wing (Central) Jammu achieves record revenue of Rs 3.45 Crore in FY 2025-26

KT News Desk

JAMMU, MAY 7: The State Taxes Enforcement Wing (Central) Jammu has achieved a historic milestone, realizing a record penalty of ₹3.45 crore from 878 established GST violation cases during the 2025-26 financial year, marking an enhancement of 21% increase in revenue realization as compared to the last financial year.

The achievement, as per an official statement, marks the highest revenue collection within the Jammu division, underscoring the department's intensified crackdown on tax evasion.

In a massive operational sweep, the enforcement team verified over 3.75 lakh E-Way bills. The inspections targeted critical compliance gaps, including the movement of goods without E-Way bills or e-invoices, misclassification of goods, quantity mismatches and incorrect tax rate declarations. Major commodities involved in these penalties included metal scrap, marble/granite, cement, electronics, tobacco products and TMT.

The successful operations were



led by Deputy Commissioner State Taxes, Enforcement (Central), Jammu Sonu Pargal, under the strategic supervision of Namrita Dogra, Additional Commissioner State Taxes (Enforcement & Administration)

and P.K. Bhat, Commissioner of State Taxes, J&K. Building on this momentum, the Central Enforcement team has already realized ₹30 lakh in penalties in the current financial year. Beyond enforcement,

the department has launched extensive awareness drives in remote areas to educate traders, transporters and consumers on the GST Act, 2017.

Lauding the outstanding performance of team Enforcement Wing Central Jammu, Ms. Dogra stated "Our goal is to foster a culture of voluntary compliance. While we remain firm in curbing tax evasion through data analytics and continuous monitoring, we also prioritize supporting the business community through education and transparent processes."

The enforcement team including Assistant Commissioner Saima Sharief Khan and State Taxes Officers Ranjeet Kour, Sonia Parihar, Simmi, Ashwani Kumar, Chander Badan and Amit Jain expressed appreciation for the majority of transporters and drivers who consistently adhere to GST regulations.

The State Taxes Department reiterates its commitment to maintaining a balanced approach of rigorous enforcement and proactive stakeholder engagement to ensure a fair and compliant tax regime in Jammu & Kashmir.

MP Assembly's Committee on Govt Assurances calls on Speaker JKLA

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MAY 7: A delegation of the Committee on Government Assurances of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly Thursday visited the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly and called on the Speaker, J&K Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rafter.

The Committee was comprised of its Chairman Harishankar Khatik and members including Gourav Singh Pardhi, Rajan Mandloi, Rannivas Saha besides other senior officials.

The high-level visit, as per an official statement, focused on a bilateral exchange of knowledge, aiming to deepen the mutual understanding of legislative work culture and the specific procedural functions of their respective committees. The visit marks a significant step in fostering inter-state co-operation between the legislative bodies.

During the interaction, the delegates shared best practices and discussed the evolving mechanisms used to ensure government accountability through the assurance process.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker, J&K Legislative Assembly, highlighted



the important role of the Committee on Government Assurances in ensuring accountability and transparency in governance. He stated that engaging with the committees from other states is essential to understand the diverse legislative landscapes across our country. It is through this collaborative spirit that all assemblies can work together to uphold and strengthen the democratic values of the nation, he added.

The engagement highlighted the shared commitment of both Jammu & Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh to enhance the efficacy of legislative oversight. By studying the work

culture and functioning of their counterparts, the committees aim to implement more robust frameworks for tracking and fulfilling the government promises made on the floor of the House.

The visiting delegation appreciated the functioning of the J&K Legislative Assembly and expressed satisfaction over exchange of knowledge and best practices during the visit.

The Speaker concluded the session by emphasizing that such parliamentary exchanges are the bedrock of a healthy, unified democratic system, encouraging continued dialogue between the two regions.

Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan intensified across Shopian



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, MAY 07: Under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan, a series of awareness and outreach activities were organized across various educational institutions and public spaces of district Shopian to educate youth and the general public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Awareness programmes and counselling sessions, as per an official statement, were conducted at AWC DK Pora, Zone Harman; Polytechnic College Shopian, and Government Middle School Heerpora by AHC Heerpora, where participants were sensitized about substance abuse and measures to prevent addiction.

The Department of AYUSH

Shopian also organized awareness programmes under the campaign. After administering the anti drug pledge, students were educated about the ill effects of drug abuse.

Guest lectures, storytelling sessions, and pledge ceremonies were organized at various institutions including GHS Heff Shirmal and other schools across the district. Students actively participated in storytelling activities highlighting the negative impact of drug addiction on individuals, families and society.

Meanwhile, MC Shopian and the Department of Labour also carried out awareness initiatives as part of the campaign.

Industrial units were encouraged to support the movement by displaying anti drug messages on their official invoices to strengthen public outreach and awareness.

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan Awareness, sports, enforcement activities continue across Pulwama

KT News Desk

PULWAMA, MAY 07: As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of enforcement, awareness, outreach and sports activities were conducted across District Pulwama Thursday by multiple departments to spread awareness against drug abuse and promote a healthy and drug-free society.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Pulwama, as per an official statement, organised a wide range of activities and competitions across various educational institutions of the district, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students and youth. The programmes included pledge-taking ceremonies, rallies and sports competitions aimed at raising awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

In Zone Pulwama, zonal-level badminton tournament was organised at CHS Pulwama, while awareness programmes were conducted at BHS Payer and UPS Chewakalan. In Zone Tahab, chess and badminton competitions were held at HSS Arihal while awareness programme was organised at HSS Panzgam and volleyball competition was conducted at UPS Ladermar.

In Zone Kakapora, zonal-level badminton tournament was conducted at GMS Kakapora. In Zone Tral, zonal-level U-17 girls volleyball competition was organised at Sports Stadium Bajwani, while badminton competition was held at Indoor Stadium Bajwani.

Similarly, chess and carrom competitions for girls were organised at HSS Rajpora in Zone Shadimarg, while zonal-level Kho-Kho competition for girls was conducted at GMS Lurgam in Zone Lurgam.

At the culmination of each sports event, the participants also took pledge to work



collectively towards building a healthy, prosperous and drug-free society. The best performers in various zonal-level tournaments were awarded mementos and certificates for encouragement.

Meanwhile, under the ongoing campaign, the Drug Control Department, in coordination with Police Awantipora, intensified enforcement activities to curb drug abuse and prevent misuse of controlled substances.

Continuing its inspection and surveillance drives, the department Thursday ordered the closure of two retail medical shops for violation of prescribed laws and regulations. Officials stated that strict compliance with record-keeping provisions under drug laws is essential to ensure transparency and prevent illegal sale and misuse of medicines. They warned that any deviation from prescribed norms would invite strict legal action.

Besides, the Ayush Department organised awareness programmes at Ayush Health and Wellness Centre Reshipora Kakapora, Government Middle School Bagendar Sangarwani and Higher Secondary School Drubgam Pulwama. During the programmes, participants were sensitized about the harmful effects of drug abuse, preventive measures and the importance

of collective responsibility in creating a drug-free society. The programmes concluded with pledge-taking ceremonies, while NCD screening and free medicines were also provided among the participants.

Meanwhile, as part of the campaign, an awareness programme was also organised at Aripal, Tral bringing together officers from multiple departments and witnessing enthusiastic public participation.

During the session, officers and resource persons highlighted the adverse impact of substance abuse and stressed the importance of coordinated community efforts in tackling the menace. A signature campaign was also organised on the occasion to mark the collective resolve against drug abuse. The event culminated with a padyatra aimed at spreading the message of a drug-free lifestyle in the society.

Similarly, awareness sessions were organised at Danak Mohalla, Khrew and Pinglena Kakapora, where officers from various departments interacted with participants and highlighted the ill effects of substance abuse. The programmes witnessed participation from local residents, youth and students, and included pledge-taking ceremonies and awareness activities to promote collective responsibility in curbing drug menace.

Javed Rana expresses grief over passing of Executive Engineer Harish Chander Sharma

KT News Desk

JAMMU, MAY 07: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the sudden demise of Harish Chander Sharma, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department.

In his condolence message, the Minister, as per an official statement, described the departed officer as a sincere, dedicated and committed officer who served the department and

the people with utmost professionalism and integrity. He said that the contributions and services rendered by Harish Chander Sharma towards public welfare will always be remembered with respect and gratitude. The Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, colleagues and loved ones in this hour of immense grief and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. He also prayed for strength to the family to bear the irreparable loss.

DC Shopian reviews Eid-ul-Azha preparedness

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, MAY 07: In view of the forthcoming auspicious festival of Eid al-Azha, Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta Thursday chaired a comprehensive meeting to review and finalize arrangements for smooth celebration of the festival across the district.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, took stock of the availability and supply of essential commodities including meat, poultry, vegetables and other daily use items in markets.

Directions were issued to ensure uninterrupted availability of quality essentials at notified rates for the convenience of the general public.

Threadbare discussions were held on security arrangements, smooth regulation of traffic, uninterrupted power and drinking water supply, sanitation measures, healthcare facilities, fire and emergency preparedness besides market checking across the district.

Deputy Commissioner also reviewed arrangements regarding establishment of mandis for sale of sacrificial animals and

stressed upon proper management and monitoring at all designated locations.

To ensure cleanliness and hygiene during the festival days, the concerned departments were directed to identify suitable sites for scientific disposal of qurban animal waste and maintain proper sanitation in urban as well as rural areas.

The meeting further discussed coordination with Auqaf Committees to facilitate smooth conduct of congregational prayers and related arrangements at Eidgahs and major mosques across the district.

Officers were instructed to remain available in the field, work in close coordination and ensure prompt response to public grievances so that people celebrate the festival in a peaceful, smooth and hassle-free manner.

Among others the meeting was attended by SSP, Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary, ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar, SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed and officers from civil administration, Police.

Ramban gears up for World Red Cross Day celebration

KT News Desk

RAMBAN, MAY 7: To review preparations for the observance of World Red Cross Day and finalise the action plan for humanitarian activities in the district, Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban Varunjeet Singh Charak Thursday chaired a meeting to discuss arrangements for organising awareness and service-oriented programmes under the banner of the Indian Red Cross Society.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kamal Jee Zadoo; Chief Education Officer Shakeel-Ur-Rehman; ARTO Varun Bhasin; DSWO Sahil Bhagotra; Tehsildar



Headquarters Reejuta Mahajan, representatives from NGOs and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the ADC reviewed preparations for the district-level observance of World Red Cross Day and took stock of activities planned to promote humanitarian values, public awareness and voluntary blood donation across the district. Detailed discussions

were held regarding the organisation of a Mega Blood Donation Camp at District Hospital on May 8, besides awareness campaigns, IEC initiatives and public outreach programmes.

The ADC issued necessary directions to all concerned officers for the smooth conduct of the programmes and stressed close inter-departmental

coordination for the successful observance of the day. He directed the Chief Medical Officer to formulate a comprehensive roadmap for organising similar blood donation camps in other medical blocks during the week-long Red Cross Day celebrations to strengthen voluntary blood donation initiatives and ensure adequate availability of blood for emergency medical needs.

Emphasising the significance of such humanitarian initiatives, the ADC said these efforts play a vital role in fostering social responsibility and community participation, while reaffirming the district administration's commitment to promoting the spirit of service, compassion and humanitarian values.

Awareness programme on Lok Adalat held at Doda

KT News Desk

DODA, MAY 07: An awareness programme on Lok Adalat was organised on Thursday at Doda under the directions of the Chairman and Secretary District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), with the aim of educating the public about the significance and benefits of Lok Adalat and amicable settlement of disputes.

The programme, as per an official statement, was conducted by LADC Advocate Tahir Hussain Dar, Advocate Noman Rafiq and Para Legal Volunteer (PLV) Suriya Begum, who highlighted the vital role of Lok Adalat in ensuring accessible, speedy and



cost-effective justice for the common people.

During the awareness session, the participants were informed about the alternative dispute resolution mechanism and the advantages of settling disputes through Lok Adalat without lengthy court procedures.

The speakers emphasised that Lok Adalat serves as an

effective platform for resolving cases amicably, thereby reducing the burden on courts and promoting harmony in society.

The resource persons also encouraged the public to actively utilise legal aid services and participate in Lok Adalats for early resolution of disputes in a fair and transparent manner.

J&K Govt fast-tracks NFSA integration of migrant ration cards 19,000 digitized, free ration for April-May assured

KT News Desk

Jammu, May 07: In continuation of the earlier meeting, Principal Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, Chandraker Bharti, chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of ration distribution under the Special Relief Ration Scheme for Kashmiri/Jammu Migrants, notified vide Government Order No. 15-JK(FCS&CA) of 2026 dated 05.03.2026, and the extension of social sector scheme benefits to the eligible migrants.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Saurabh Bhagat, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, State Informatics Officer, NIC J&K and senior officers of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, Social Welfare Department, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department and

National Informatics Centre.

It was observed that more than 19,000 migrant ration cards have already been punched into the NFSA database and the process of integration of about 8,000 migrant ration cards is in the pipeline. It was apprised that the full quota of ration has been made available at all designated ration depots and more than 5200 families have, so far, lifted the ration in terms of the Special Relief Ration Scheme, distribution in terms of which has commenced w.e.f. 18-04-2026. It was further informed that those who could not lift ration in the month of April are being provided two months' free ration (April & May 2026).

Worthwhile to mention that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has made necessary amendments in the Jammu & Kashmir Food Security Rules, 2021, and the Targeted Public Distribution (Control) Order 2023 for integration of the Migrant Ration Cards into the National Food Security Act (NFSA) database, to enable the migrants avail the benefits of various

Government Schemes. The migrants were not able to avail the benefits of the social sector schemes for the last 35 years due to their ration cards being non-digitized and not integrated with the national database.

The Government, in terms of various Government Orders and notifications, has repeatedly clarified that the earlier scale of ration distribution to the migrants registered under the relief category and norms/procedures for inclusion, deletion, bifurcation, conversion and corrections, etc shall continue and that all relief ration card holders (irrespective of categorization into PHH, NPHH or Special category) shall continue to receive 11 Kg free ration per person per month and 1 Kg sugar as per the extant scale of ration distribution. Besides, those registered with the Relief Organisation under the non relief category (Pensioners etc) and categorized into NPHH category will also receive 5 Kg ration on the Government-approved rates as per their entitlement under NFSA on cost basis.

The Government has also given an extension in the distribution period of ration against the migrant ration cards for the month of April 2026 into May 2026 (in addition to the ration of May 2026), so as to ensure that migrant beneficiaries are not deprived of their entitled ration. It was assured by the Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department that all eligible migrant beneficiaries shall be provided free ration as per their entitlement and no genuine beneficiary shall suffer on account of the transition to the NFSA based digitized system.

It was also decided that the officers of DMRRR, FCS&CA, and Relief Organization shall take proactive steps to reach out to all households and ensure ration supply to all migrant beneficiaries who have enrolled for integration on NFSA database, even if e-KYC formalities are pending/ in process. It was decided that extensive IEC campaign shall be launched on ground to make migrants aware that the integration of migrant ration cards into

NFSA database is purely a welfare-oriented governance reform aimed at inclusion of migrants into the mainstream welfare architecture, extension of social security benefits, digitization and modernization of records, transparency and accountability in beneficiary management. Under the new dispensation, the continuation and protection of all the existing relief provisions/guidelines/entitlements available to Kashmiri/Jammu Migrants is being ensured.

The directions were also issued for strict action against those FPS dealers who do not abide by the Government directions to dispense free ration to eligible categories as per the entitled scale. Instructions were also issued for strict legal action against rumour-mongering elements trying to derail the government-approved scheme and intimidating the migrant beneficiaries to join protests. The officers were directed to ensure close supervision of the integration of migration ration cards and e-KYC in field and

supervise ration distribution at FPS level.

It was also decided that more special camps shall be organized by the Social Welfare Department in coordination with Relief Organization to reach out to the eligible potential beneficiaries and facilitate them in filling various online applications for availing benefits of different social sector schemes like Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, Disability Pension, Marriage Assistance, Ayushman Bharat and various scholarships. About 600 families who so far availed the benefit of various social sector schemes after the integration of migrant ration cards into NFSA database.

"The government is fully committed to operationalize the new scheme for all the migrants within the shortest time period and will make full efforts to achieve the same. All the genuine migrant beneficiaries will be provided ration as per the entitlement with full protection of the existing relief provisions," maintained the Principal Secretary.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'No safe haven

Armed Forces," she said, adding that the Pahalgam attack was met with "befitting and exemplary precision".

She said India remains vigilant and prepared to respond to any threat to its sovereignty.

HM AMIT SHAH: PRECISE STRIKING POWER

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Operation Sindoor sent a strong message that those involved in terror activities would not be spared.

He said the operation demonstrated India's "precise striking power" and the effectiveness of intelligence-led operations.

"History will remember it as the day when armed forces, intelligence agencies and political leadership came together to destroy terror camps across the border," he said.

Shah said the mission would remain a reminder to adversaries that India can strike terror networks wherever they operate.

DEFENCE MINISTER RAJNATH SINGH: SYMBOL OF NATIONAL RESOLVE

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said 'Operation Sindoor' represents "national resolve and preparedness".

In his message, Singh said the operation reflected unmatched precision and jointness among the services.

"Operation Sindoor stands as a powerful symbol of national resolve and preparedness," he said, adding that it demonstrated India's progress towards Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence capability.

He said the armed forces had set a benchmark in modern military operations through coordinated action.

LG MANOJ SINHA: COMMITMENT TO TERROR-FREE J&K

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Operation Sindoor reflected India's resolve to protect sovereignty and eliminate terrorism.

He said the operation was a declaration of the armed forces' commitment to national security.

"We bow in reverence to the men and women in uniform whose unwavering resolve delivered a fitting response to the enemy," he said.

He added that India remains committed to dismantling terror networks and ensuring a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir.

MILITARY LEADERSHIP: PRECISION STRIKES AND COORDINATION

Senior military officials also detailed the operational aspects of the mission.

Vice Admiral AN Pramod said the operation demonstrated India's capability to strike deep inside Pakistan and effectively counter nuclear threats through precision capability.

He said naval forces, along with the Army and Air Force, executed coordinated strikes and forced Pakistani forces into defensive positions near their coastline.

Former DGMO Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai said Pakistan "requested cessation of hostilities" after sustaining heavy losses.

He said more than 100 terrorists were killed across nine terror camps and described the strikes as calibrated and intelligence-driven.

Deputy Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti said Indian forces struck multiple airfields and terror infrastructure.

He said 13 Pakistani aircraft were destroyed or damaged and added that Pakistan failed to inflict significant damage on Indian infrastructure.

OPERATION SINDOOR BACKGROUND
Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7, 2025, following the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians, mostly tourists.

Indian armed forces targeted terror infrastructure linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, killing over 100 terrorists.

The military confrontation lasted four days. The hostilities ended after Pakistan Directors General of Military Operations reached out to his Indian counterpart and requested for a ceasefire.

Officials said the operation was intelligence-led, precise and designed to minimise

collateral damage while delivering a strong message against cross-border terrorism. (KNO)

India remains steadfast

#OperationSindoor. They gave a fitting response to those who dared to attack innocent Indians at Pahalgam. The entire nation salutes our forces for their valour.

Operation Sindoor reflected India's firm response against terrorism and an unwavering commitment to safeguarding national security. It also highlighted the professionalism, preparedness and coordinated strength of our armed forces. At the same time, it showcased the growing jointness among our forces and underlined the strength that India's quest for self-reliance in the defence sector has brought to our national security.

Today, a year later, we remain as steadfast as ever in our resolve to defeat terrorism and destroy its enabling ecosystem."

"A year ago, during #OperationSindoor, our armed forces showcased their valour and gave a firm response to those who attacked our people. Every Indian is proud of our armed forces. As a mark of respect to our forces and their success during #OperationSindoor, let us all change our display pictures on social media, including X, Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp to the picture shared below."

Pertinently, on April 22, 2025, terrorists killed 26 civilians, mostly tourists at Pahalgam, in retaliation, India launched Operation Sindoor — a tri-services military mission — on May 7, 2025, carrying out precision strikes on nine specific terror-camps deep inside Pakistan and PoK. It led to skirmishes between both the countries that continued till May 10. The hostilities ended after Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) reached out to his Indian counterpart and requested for a ceasefire. (KNO)

India called bluff

'NUCLEAR BLUFF CALLED OUT': NAVY OPERATIONS CHIEF

Vice Admiral AN Pramod said Operation Sindoor demonstrated India's capability to conduct deep precision strikes inside Pakistan and effectively challenged what he described as "nuclear blackmail".

"By striking terror hubs in the heart of Pakistan using long-range precision weapons, India effectively called the bluff on Pakistan's nuclear threats," he said.

He added that the operation reflected clear strategic direction from the national leadership, coupled with operational freedom to the armed forces.

Pramod said personnel from the Navy participated alongside the Army and Air Force in the strikes carried out on the night of May 6-7, 2025, highlighting the level of jointness achieved during the mission.

He also noted that forward deployment of Indian naval assets forced Pakistani naval and air units into a defensive posture near their coastline and harbours, limiting their operational movement during the conflict.

'JOINT OPERATIONS WITH FULL FREEDOM': AIR MARSHAL BHARTI

Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti said the operation was executed with "complete clarity of objectives" and full operational freedom granted to the forces.

He said Indian strikes targeted terror infrastructure across Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and deep inside Pakistan.

"When the first weapon hit its target on May 7, 2025, it represented the resolve of the Indian people and partial justice for the victims of the Pahalgam attack," he said.

Bharti added that the Indian Air Force, Army and Navy operated in seamless coordination under a unified command structure.

He said Indian forces struck 11 Pakistani airfields and destroyed 13 aircraft, including a high-value airborne asset at long range.

"They have not been able to inflict any major damage on our side. Victory is measured by hard facts, not narratives," he said.

Bharti further said Pakistan's retaliatory drone and UAV attacks were effectively neutralised by India's layered air defence systems, including indigenous platforms

deployed across multiple sectors.

'PAKISTAN REQUESTED CEASEFIRE': LT GEN RAJIV GHAI

Former DGMO Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai said Operation Sindoor achieved its objectives within a calibrated framework, after which Pakistan sought cessation of hostilities.

He said intelligence inputs and award records indicated significant losses on the Pakistani side, including more than 100 terrorists neutralised across nine camps.

"Pakistan suffered more than 100 casualties in exchanges along the Line of Control and in targeted strikes on terror camps," he said.

Ghai also remarked that Pakistan should focus on strengthening combat capability rather than narrative building.

"If they invested as much in warfighting as they do in narratives, they would have fared better," he said.

INDIGENOUS CAPABILITY AS FORCE MULTIPLIER

Highlighting India's defence preparedness, Ghai said Operation Sindoor demonstrated the effectiveness of indigenous systems, including missiles, surveillance platforms and electronic warfare equipment.

He said over 65 per cent of the equipment used in the operation was domestically manufactured, describing it as a "force multiplier" for the armed forces.

He added that coordinated action across intelligence agencies, cyber units and border forces ensured precision targeting and minimal collateral damage.

MULTI-DOMAIN COORDINATION AND ESCALATION CONTROL

Officials said the operation involved integrated planning across land, air, sea, cyber and electronic warfare domains, making it one of the most coordinated military responses in recent years. The Navy maintained maritime dominance, the Air Force executed precision strikes and air defence operations, while the Army managed ground-based counter-response and border security.

According to the officials, India's response included nine major standoff strikes—seven by the Army and two by the Air Force—targeting terror hubs across Pakistan and PoJK.

OPERATION SINDOOR OUTCOME

Launched on May 7, 2025, Operation Sindoor was initiated after the Pahalgam terror attack. Indian forces targeted terror infrastructure linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen, killing over 100 terrorists.

The confrontation continued for four days before both sides agreed to a ceasefire on May 10, 2025, following military-level communication between the two countries.

Officials said the operation has since been recognised as a benchmark in joint military planning and precision counter-terror action. (KNO)

Dir Info reviews

called upon the DIOs to adopt innovative communication strategies and maximize the use of digital and social media platforms for wider public engagement.

While reviewing the activities being carried out by the DIPR under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan, the Director underscored the importance of sustained awareness campaigns to combat the drug abuse and promote a healthy and informed society. "Intensify the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities in the educational institutions, rural areas and urban centres through seminars, awareness programmes, cultural activities and social media outreach", she instructed the DIOs.

The Director appreciated the efforts being undertaken by the DIPR in generating awareness regarding the harmful effects of substance abuse and called for greater community participation in making the campaign more impactful and result-oriented.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; Deputy Director

Information Srinagar, Mohammad Rafiq; Deputy Director (Hqrs) Srinagar, Zubair Ahmad, Cultural Officer Burhan Hussain and District Information Officers (DIOs) from Kashmir Division.

CM Omar chairs

conducted again in the month of June to review the progress achieved on the Budget announcements. The Chief Minister emphasized that all responses and implementation measures must be carried out in a timely manner to ensure that the commitments and promises made to the people are fully realised.

Stressing the importance of translating Budget announcements into tangible outcomes on the ground, the Chief Minister underscored the need for efficiency, transparency and public welfare in implementation.

Indus Waters Treaty

the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, continues to remain operational with gates closed even a year after the decision.

Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, 2025, was carried out in response to the Pahalgam terror attack and targeted terror infrastructure across the Line of Control and deep inside Pakistan. Officials said the strikes were part of a calibrated tri-services operation aimed at dismantling terror networks. (KNO)

Supporting families

the enhanced health insurance cover facilitated by the Bank, he said the provision ensures that serious illness or injury does not become a financial burden on the families of those serving in difficult operational conditions.

"The peace and stability witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir today has come at a tremendous cost borne by the brave personnel of the force," Prabhat said, reiterating that the leadership of J&K Police remains fully committed towards the welfare, dignity and future security of all police personnel and SPOs.

He directed all field formations and senior officers to ensure the effective dissemination of information regarding the enhanced benefits among all ranks.

"There can be no better institution than J&K Bank to lead this initiative and ensure that the families left behind by our martyrs are cared for with dignity and security. I express gratitude to J&K Bank for steady support and am hopeful we will continue to nourish this relationship," the J&K Police chief added.

Speaking on the occasion, J&K Bank MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said the Bank shares a long-standing relationship with J&K Police, an institution that has played a key role in maintaining peace, law and order and public safety in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Today's addendum to the MoU reflects our continued commitment towards the welfare and financial security of police personnel, SPOs and their families," he said.

He added that the peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir have come through the sacrifices of J&K Police personnel and their families, and appreciated the support extended by J&K Police to the Bank in tackling cyber frauds and digital financial crimes linked to online banking channels.

In his remarks, ADGP Manish K Sinha commended the role of the Bank, saying J&K Bank has been playing a transformative role in the financial domain by powering the engines of the J&K economy.

"In this backdrop, two of Jammu & Kashmir's most vital institutions have come together to further strengthen the financial security and welfare ecosystem for the brave personnel and families who have contributed immensely towards ensuring peace and stability in this part of the world," he said.

Earlier, General Manager Rakesh Magotra gave a detailed presentation on the Bank's enhanced welfare framework devised for police personnel and their families.

According to a police statement, the Group Personal Accidental Insurance cover for

regular J&K Police personnel has been enhanced from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 75 lakh, while the cover for SPOs has been enhanced from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 35 lakh.

It said an additional PAI cover of Rs 10 lakh has been introduced for regular police personnel attaining martyrdom, while ex-gratia assistance for SPOs attaining martyrdom has been enhanced from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 15 lakh, bringing SPOs at par with regular police personnel.

The total financial assistance for martyred regular police personnel has been enhanced from Rs 40 lakh to Rs 1 crore, while total assistance for martyred SPOs has been enhanced from Rs 31 lakh to Rs 50 lakh.

Permanent total disability insurance cover has been enhanced from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 75 lakh for regular police personnel and from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 60 lakh for SPOs, while permanent partial disability cover has been enhanced from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 55 lakh for regular police personnel and from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 45 lakh for SPOs.

The SPOs have also been brought at par with regular police personnel for disability-related benefits, including Rs 15 lakh for permanent total disability and Rs 7.5 lakh for permanent partial disability.

Air accidental insurance cover has been enhanced from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1.35 crore for regular police personnel and Rs 1 crore for SPOs, while financial assistance for repatriation of mortal remains and ambulance charges has been enhanced to Rs 50,000 each.

Air ambulance support of Rs 10 lakh has also been introduced under the revised welfare framework.

On the occasion, J&K Bank MD & CEO presented a cheque of Rs 30 lakh to the DGP under CSR funding for the transformation of Police Public School classrooms into smart classes.

SDGP Coordination SJM Gillani and CGM J&K Bank Ashutosh Sareen were present on the occasion, while various unit heads of J&K Police joined the ceremony virtually. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by DIG Headquarters JS Johar and was conducted by DSP Welfare Anjana.

Meanwhile, DGP Prabhat released a booklet titled "Dos and Don'ts in Terror Related Investigations", compiled by the State Investigation Agency (SIA).

Calling it a "remarkable weapon and bedrock for successful investigation in terror cases," the DGP urged all officers of J&K Police to use it effectively in terror-related investigations. (KNO)

'Drug addiction

condition. Such individuals require support, treatment and social acceptance. Isolation and humiliation only worsen their condition," Dr Nizam ud Din said.

He called for stronger action against drug trafficking networks and urged authorities to focus on stopping the inflow of narcotics into the region at its source. "The lack of parental engagement, peer pressure, social isolation and easy availability of drugs are among the major factors contributing to rising addiction cases among youth," he said.

The psychiatrist advised parents to maintain open communication with their children, monitor behavioural changes, encourage healthy activities and seek professional help whenever necessary.

He urged teachers and educational institutions to increase awareness programmes and counselling sessions to identify vulnerable students at an early stage.

According to Dr Nizam ud Din, the enforcement measures are important; long-term success against the drug menace depends largely on community participation, rehabilitation support and awareness at the grass-roots level.

"If society fails to act collectively and urgently, the growing drug crisis could severely impact the social fabric and future of the region," he said.

He said safeguarding the younger generation is a shared responsibility and called upon people from all walks of life to actively contribute towards building a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

India, Vietnam must deepen ties amid profound changes in world: To Lam



PTI
Mumbai, May 7: Vietnamese President To Lam on Thursday pitched for deepening of ties between Vietnam and India amid "profound changes" like advent of AI at the global level.

Reconstruction of global supply chains, strategic competition between major economies, emergence of digital technologies like artificial intelligence, green transformation and increasing demands for economic autonomy are the profound changes happening in the world, Lam said.

"These developments challenge and open up historic opportunities for Vietnam and India to upgrade economic cooperation, from traditional cooperation to strategic integration in new value chains," Lam said at the India-Vietnam Business Forum here.

Lam, who is on a state visit, said the bilateral cooperation between Vietnam and India has developed strongly and comprehensively ever since the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2016. He, however, said that there is far more that the two countries can do.

"We have even more opportunities to write a new chapter in this story, not just cooperation but co-creation in the global supply chain," Lam, who is also the general secretary of the Communist

Party of Vietnam Central Committee, said.

Business community from both countries needs to be bolder in taking advantage of the facilitative environment ushered by the two governments, he said, adding that they should work together, and share experiences and technology.

Lam urged the business community to broaden ties and make the bilateral trade more balanced, and also invest more into key areas of the future such as AI, semiconductor, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, clean energy, logistics, data centre and research and development.

"We pledge to uphold the legitimate rights and interests of investors, foster dialogue and create a transparent business environment and healthy competition," he said.

Speaking at the same event, Maharashtra's Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis asked Vietnamese companies to make his state as their gateway to the vast Indian market. He also welcomed the USD 6.5 billion investment commitment made by the Vin Group in Maharashtra across many sectors.

Earlier in the day, Lam attended a bell-ringing ceremony at India's largest stock bourse NSE.

A delegation from Ho Chi Minh City also attended a roundtable organised by the MVRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

Primary accused in 96.6 pc POCSO cases were close acquaintances: NCRB



PTI
New Delhi, May 7: In 96.6 per cent of 44,126 cases of sexual abuse of minors, close acquaintances have emerged as the primary offenders, according to the latest data released by the NCRB.

In its report 'Crime in India 2024' released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 44,126 total cases have been registered under the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act under Sections 4 and 6 which pertain to penetrative sexual assault on minors during the year across the country.

The figures present a grim picture as close acquaintances emerged as primary accused in 42,634 (around 96.6 per cent) of the 44,126 total cases falling in that category, according to the latest NCRB data.

The data shows that

family members were involved in 3,658 cases, while family friends, neighbours, employers or other known persons were named in 16,668 cases.

The largest share came from friends, online friends or live-in partners acting on the pretext of marriage, with 22,308 cases.

Cases where the offender was unknown or not identified stood at mere 1,492, or 3.4 per cent of the total.

Among states, Tamil Nadu reported the highest number of POCSO cases at 5,320, followed by Maharashtra at 4,829 and Madhya Pradesh at 3,721. Uttar Pradesh was next with 3,671 cases.

In Union territories, Delhi accounted for the highest number of cases at 1,038, followed by Jammu and Kashmir at 228 and Puducherry at 82. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands reported 77 cases.

'Let's realise resolve to build strong Bihar': PM Modi

Congratulates new ministers

PTI

New Delhi, May 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Bihar's newly appointed ministers who took oath on Thursday and said he was confident that their commitment to the all-round development will take the state to new heights of prosperity.

In a major expansion of the Cabinet of Bihar's first BJP-led government, JD(U) president Nitish Kumar's son Nishant Kumar and 31 others took oath as ministers in the presence of Prime Minister Modi and several Union ministers.

"Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to all my colleagues who took oath as ministers in the Bihar's NDA government! I am fully confident that your commitment to all-round development of the state will take our province to new heights of prosperity.



Let us all together realise the resolve to build a strong Bihar and a developed India," Modi said in a post on 'X' in Hindi. In another post, reacting to overwhelming public response to his roadshow in Patna, the prime minister said he was deeply grateful "to all of you from the bottom of my heart for this warm welcome".

"I am overwhelmed by the love and blessings of my family members from Bihar in Patna! I am deeply grateful to all of you from the bottom of my heart for this warm welcome. Your unprecedented enthusiasm clearly shows that our resolve for development and public service is receiving full support from the people," he said. A total of 32 leaders, drawn from all five constituents of the NDA in the state, were administered the oath of office by the Governor, Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (retd), at a grand ceremony in Patna.

Rajnath, Shah, other Union ministers change social media profile photos to 'Op Sindoor' logo

PTI

New Delhi, May 7: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and other top ministers on Thursday changed the display pictures on their social media profiles to mark the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor following a call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The prime minister, earlier in the day, shared a digital poster depicting the now widely recognised logo of Operation Sindoor and urged others to do the same as a mark of respect to the armed forces.

Operation Sindoor was launched in response to the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, with Indian forces conducting precision strikes on multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK).

After launching the military operation, the Indian Army, in a post on X, at 1:51 am on May 7 had said, "Justice is served. Jai Hind!"

On its first anniversary, the Indian military on Thursday said, Operation Sindoor -- "precise in action, eternal in memory" -- reflected the country's determination to defend its sovereignty with courage, coordination and strength.

The Army, the Navy, the Indian Air Force, the



Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and the defence ministry also updated the display pictures on their social media profiles to mark the anniversary.

Defence Minister Singh, while updating his profile photo on X, said Operation Sindoor stands as a "powerful symbol" of national resolve and preparedness, and that their actions reflected unmatched precision, and set a "benchmark" for modern military operations.

"On the anniversary of Operation Sindoor, we salute the valour and sacrifices of our armed forces, whose courage and dedication continue to safeguard the nation. Their actions during the operation reflected unmatched precision, seamless jointness and deep synergy across services, setting a benchmark for modern military

operations," he wrote.

"Operation Sindoor stands as a powerful symbol of national resolve and preparedness, showing that our armed forces are always ready to act decisively when it matters most. It also stands testament to India's steady advance towards achieving #Atmanirbharta, enhancing capability while reinforcing resilience," he added.

The Ministry of External Affairs, led by its minister Jaishankar, also marked the anniversary, and reassured and amplified India's diplomatic stand on this operation. "A year ago, #Operation-Sindoor demonstrated the nation's resolve to defend itself against cross-border terrorism from Pakistan. With its decisive actions, India ensured accountability for terrorist actions. And underlined that such a serious threat to peace

and security will be effectively countered. Under the leadership of PM @narendramodi, India stands strong and determined to convey a message of zero tolerance for terrorism," the EAM posted on X.

Earlier in a separate post, Jaishankar too changed his profile picture and posted an image of the Operation Sindoor logo on the timeline.

Home Minister Shah, in a post on X, said, "Operation Sindoor stands as an epochal mission of India that will always remind our enemies of the infallible striking power of our armed forces."

After Indian forces had launched the operation in the early hours of May 7, Pakistan later also launched offensives against India, and all subsequent counter-offensives by India were also carried out under Operation Sindoor. The military conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, lasting nearly 88 hours, halted after they reached an understanding on the evening of May 10.

Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, Women and Child Development Annapurna Devi and Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil too updated their profile photos.

Mumbai family deaths: Rat poison ingredient zinc phosphide found in viscera, watermelon sample



PTI

Mumbai, May 7: Four members of a family in Pydhonie area of south Mumbai died last month due to rat poison, police officials said on Thursday.

The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report has confirmed the presence of zinc phosphide in viscera (liver, kidney, spleen), stomach contents, bile, and abdominal fat samples of the deceased identified as Abdulla Dokadia (44), his wife Nasrin (35) and their daughters Aayesha (16) and Zaineb (13), said Deputy Commissioner of Police Pravin Mundhe.

"The watermelon sample also tested positive for zinc phosphide, while all other food items were negative. The report will be studied in depth. We will consult forensic doctors. Further probe in the case is underway," the DCP said. Zinc phosphide is used primarily as a highly

toxic acute rodenticide to control rats and mice.

"The forensic experts who examined the viscera of deceased Abdulla Dokadia, Nasrin (35), Aayesha (16) and Zaineb (13) found traces of zinc phosphide. It is, however, unclear whether the rat poison was consumed accidentally (or on purpose). So far, we have found no strong reason why the whole family would take such an extreme step," another official said. Further probe is being conducted by the JJ Marg police station, which has recorded statements of kin and neighbours, he added.

The Dokadia family, residents of Ghari Mohalla on Ismail Kurte Road, had hosted a get-together of relatives on the night of April 25. At around 1 am, hours after the guests had left, Abdullah Dokadia, his wife Nasreen, and daughters Ayesha and Zaineb ate pieces of a watermelon.

TVK lacks numbers to form govt: TN gov to Vijay

PTI

Chennai, May 7: Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on Thursday rejected TVK chief Vijay's claim to form the government, stating that his party lacks the requisite numbers, adding another layer of political uncertainty and prompting the single largest party to step up efforts to seek support again from the Left parties, VCK and the IUML.

Vijay visited the Lok Bhavan, based on an invitation from Governor Arlekar, for the second time in 24 hours.

"During the meeting, the Hon'ble Governor explained that the requisite majority support in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, essential for forming the government, has not been established," Lok Bhavan said in a statement after the meeting.

Amidst renewed efforts by the TVK to reach out to them, the Left parties, VCK and the IUML said a decision on Vijay's request for

support will be taken tomorrow.

However, indications that they may extend support to Vijay emerged when VCK chief Thirumavalavan joined the Congress and the Left to condemn Arlekar's decision not to invite Vijay to form the government despite TVK emerging as the single largest party with 108 seats in the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly.



Also, according to sources, Vijay was open to accommodating prospective allies in his cabinet.

As gubernatorial discretion and coalition arithmetic played out in Tamil Nadu, many interpret the delay as more political than administrative or constitutional.

Virtually no debate took place in Par while passing law on CEC, EC appointments, SC told

PTI

New Delhi, May 7: There was virtually no debate in Parliament while passing the 2023 law governing the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs), and legislation was passed by a voice vote, the Supreme Court was told on Thursday.

This submission was vociferously made by several lawyers before a bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma during the hearing on a clutch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the law governing the appointment of the CEC and ECs which replaced the chief justice of India (CJI) in the selection panel with a Union cabinet minister nominated by the prime minister.

Lawyer Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), argued that the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment,

Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 undermines the independence of the Election Commission by placing the process of appointments under the sole executive dominance.

"There was virtually no debate because a number of MPs were suspended. Mr Owaisi had submitted strongly that this Act goes against the Anoop Baranwal (judgment) and made the appointment totally on subjective satisfaction of the government," he said. "There was no attempt, it seems by the government, to defend this. They just moved a resolution and in a voice vote, it was passed," Bhushan added.

At the outset, the bench reiterated its observation whether it can direct Parliament to make a law for regulating appointment procedures of the chief election commissioner and the deputies.

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 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.

Continuing with the final hearing on pleas on the second day, the bench heard detailed submissions of the law from various lawyers. Under the 2023 law, the selection committee for appointing the CEC and ECs comprises the prime minister, a Union cabinet minister and the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, appearing for one of the petitioners, resumed arguments by contending that the legislation departed from the constitutional principles laid down by the Constitution Bench judgment in the Anoop Baranwal case which had directed that appointments to the Election Commission be made by a committee consisting of the prime minister, the leader of opposition and the CJ until Parliament enacted a law.

Chinese-linked oil tanker faces attack near Strait of Hormuz after Trump pauses ship-protection plan

REUTERS

Dubai, May 7: A Chinese-owned oil products tanker was attacked near the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, Chinese media outlet Caixin reported, as President Donald Trump launched a US plan that day to help stranded vessels but suspended it a day later.

This was the first time a Chinese oil tanker has been attacked, a person with knowledge of the matter told Caixin on Thursday.

Traffic through the vital strait, through which 20 per cent of the world's oil and gas supplies pass, has been at a virtual standstill since the Iran conflict began on February 28.

The unnamed vessel's deck caught fire and the ship was marked "CHINA OWNER & CREW," according to Caixin.

It was not clear if any of the vessel's crew were injured.

China remains a key buyer of Iranian oil, which has been targeted by a US blockade in the Gulf of Oman.

China's foreign ministry did not respond to an out-of-hours request for comment.

Trump said on Monday the US would begin efforts to assist ships stranded in Hormuz, though he suspended it a day later, after Iran responded by launching drones and



missiles at several ships and at its neighbours, particularly the UAE.

Incident occurred off UAE coast. Maritime security sources said the Chinese vessel that was damaged was believed to be the Marshall Islands-flagged oil products and chemical tanker JV Innovation, which had reported a fire on its deck to nearby ships on Monday.

The incident took place off the United Arab Emirates coast in the Gulf close to Mina Saqr, the report said.

Due to the ongoing conflict between the US and Iran, hundreds

of ships and 20,000 seafarers remain trapped inside the Gulf, with traffic through Hormuz paralysed after renewed attacks on ships this week.

China's foreign minister Wang Yi met with Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi in Beijing a day earlier and they discussed reopening the strait, a Chinese foreign ministry statement said.

The US and Iran are edging toward a limited, temporary agreement to halt the war, sources and officials said, with a draft framework that would stop the fighting but leave the most contentious issues unresolved.

MEA says Canada urged to act against 'anti-India extremist elements'

PTI

New Delhi, May 7: India on Thursday called upon Canada to act against "anti-India extremist elements" operating from Canadian soil against the backdrop of a Canadian intelligence report highlighting the national security threat posed by Khalistani elements.

The annual report for 2025 by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), released last week, said the involvement of Canada-based Khalistani extremists in "violent extremist activities" continues to pose a national security threat to Canada.

"India has repeatedly urged the Canadian government to take effective action against anti-India extremist elements operating from its soil. This includes addressing the issue of glorification of violence, threats against Indian leaders and diplomats, vandalism of places of worship, and attempts to promote secessionism through so-called 'referendums'," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

Jaiswal was responding to a question on the report by CSIS.

He said India has consistently spoken out about concerns regarding the use of Canadian territory as a "safe haven" by extremist and separatist elements.

"The CSIS assessment acknowledges the presence of supporters of the Khalistan separatist movement in Canada and notes that Canada-based Khalistani extremist



(CBKE) groups continue to pose a national security threat not only to India but also to Canada," he said.

Jaiswal said the report also highlights that such elements "misuse democratic freedoms and institutions to promote extremism and raise funds that are diverted towards violent activities".

To a separate question on the CSIS report mentioning India, alongside China, Russia, Iran and Pakistan, among the "main perpetrators of foreign interference and espionage against Canada", Jaiswal said New Delhi has consistently and categorically rejected such "baseless imputations".

"India's position on this issue has been clear and consistent. We categorically reject such baseless imputations," he said.

"India is a democracy that adheres to international norms and respects the sovereignty of other nations. It is not our policy to interfere in issues of other countries.

Marco Rubio calls meet with Pope Leo 'great' amid Trump-Vatican dispute over Iran war

REUTERS

Vatican City, May 7: Pope Leo welcomed U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio to the Vatican on Thursday for talks at a time when President Donald Trump's repeated attacks on the pontiff over the Iran war have created unprecedented tensions with Washington.

Vatican video showed Leo shaking hands with his guest and addressing him formally as "Mr Secretary", to which Rubio, a Catholic, responded: "Great to see you." The two then sat down together at the pope's official desk in the Apostolic Palace.

Leo, the first U.S. pope, drew Trump's ire after becoming a firm critic of the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and the Trump administration's headline anti-immigration policies. Trump has kept up an unprecedented series of public attacks on the pope in recent weeks, drawing a backlash from Christian leaders across the political spectrum. Rubio's meeting with Leo is a sign of a "strong" relationship between the Vatican and the U.S., State Department spokesman Tommy Pigott said. The Vatican did not immediately provide any comment on the meeting.

It became untenable to have IPL final in Bengaluru: league Chairman

PTI

New Delhi, May 7: IPL Chairman Arun Dhumal on Thursday said it became "untenable" to have the league's final in Bengaluru due to high demand for complimentary tickets from the state government at the relatively low-capacity venue. Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, which can accommodate 1.30 lakh spectators, will host the final of the glitzy T20 event on May 31. As per convention, Bengaluru was the originally designated host as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) are the defending champions.

However, the BCCI on Wednesday said "owing to certain requirements from the local association and authorities that were beyond the scope of BCCI's established guidelines and protocols, the venue has been shifted and reassigned."

Speaking to PTI, Dhumal elaborated on the issues that BCCI faced. The Karnataka government has a quota of three complimentary IPL tickets each for the state's MLAs, MLCs and MPs, which would have been difficult to implement at a venue which cannot accommodate more than 40,000.

Grassroots sports can shape young leaders, transform communities: Mandaviya

PTI

New Delhi, May 7: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday said sports can shape young minds and provide meaningful direction to youth while attending the special screening of the documentary 'Bicharpur - Junoon Football Ka', a film capturing inspiring stories from grassroots football and the transformative role of sports in society.

Addressing the gathering after the screening, the minister said sports is not merely a competition, but a way of life that strengthens culture, discipline, mental ability and collective spirit.

"Twenty-five years ago, many youngsters were moving in the wrong direction, but when they became connected with sports, their lives changed. Sports gives direction to young leaders and channels their energy positively," Mandaviya was quoted as saying in a media release.

Highlighting the larger social impact of community participation in sports, the minister referred to the example of the Kodava

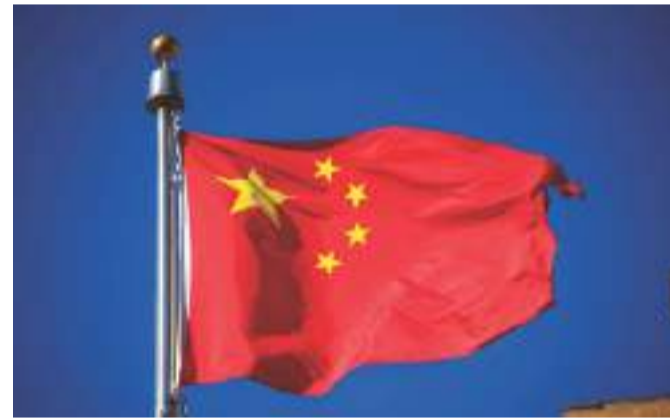


community of Coorg and their deep-rooted hockey culture.

He said such community-driven sporting movements help build unity, discipline, collective responsibility and national pride.

"Sports develops a sense of togetherness and contribution towards the nation. While individuals pursue sports for themselves, they also bring glory to the country," he said.

China sentences two former defence ministers to death over corruption charges



PTI

Beijing, May 7: Two former Chinese defence ministers, Wei Fenghe and Li Shangfu, were sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve over graft charges on Thursday, official media reported.

Their sentences were separately handed down by China's military court, the state-run

Xinhua news agency reported.

Wei was convicted of accepting bribes, while Li was convicted of both accepting and offering bribes, the agency reported, citing the court rulings.

Wei and his successor Li, who worked under President Xi Jinping's watch, were expelled from the ruling Communist Party in 2024. They were also former members of the Central Military

Commission headed by Xi. Wei served as Defence Minister from 2018 to 2023, and Li barely served a few months as his successor.

Both Wei and Li headed the People's Liberation Army's all-important Rocket (Missile) Force, established in 2015 as part of Xi's military overhaul.

Wei, who headed the rocket force from its inception until 2017 and later served as the defence minister, was detained and expelled from the ruling Communist Party over corruption charges.

Li was personally picked up for the top defence post by Xi himself.

After Li's sacking, several of its top officials were removed and charged with corruption.

Since he came to power in 2012, President Xi has carried out a massive anti-corruption campaign in which over a million officials, including several generals, have been punished.

Ben Stokes '100 per cent ready to bowl' on return to cricket



AFP

London, May 7: Ben Stokes is expected to bat and bowl for county side Durham as he returns to action for the first time since England's disastrous Ashes campaign.

The England captain is set to face Worcestershire in a second division County Championship match starting on Friday.

The all-rounder suffered a freak injury when he was hit in the face by a ball during a net session while coaching academy players in February.

Stokes, 34, who suffered a groin strain during England's recent 4-1 Ashes humbling in Australia, had to undergo reconstructive surgery.

Durham coach Ryan Campbell said Stokes could open the bowling at New Road in the absence of West Indies fast bowler Kemar Roach. "He'll be bowling for us, 100 per

cent," Campbell told Britain's Press Association news agency.

"In one of the innings he might even go with the new ball, that's in our thinking.

"We won't expect him to bowl a million overs, it will be probably be around 20 to 25 overs for the game, but once he gets into the battle it's hard to get him out of it."

England's international season starts with a three-Test series against New Zealand at Lord's commencing on June 4.

Stokes enjoyed a revival as a Test-match bowler last year, taking 33 wickets at just over 23 apiece.

England has struggled to fill the position of opening bowler since the retirements of James Anderson, Stuart Broad and Chris Woakes but Stokes' recent injury record counts against using him in that slot.

Campbell underlined his plan was designed to benefit Durham rather than England.

Movies Schedule

Friday, 8th May



BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+)

Hindi - 04:20 PM

Michael (U/A 13+)

English with English Subtitles
07:35 PM

The Devil Wears Prada 2 (A)

English with English Subtitles
02:00 PM

Dhurandhar: The Revenge (A)

Hindi - 02:05 PM

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (UA 7+)

English - 02:00 PM

DAADI KI SHADI (U)

Hindi - 06:30 PM

MORTAL KOMBAT II (A)

English Atmos with English Subtitles
04:30 PM, 07:00 PM