



J&K was & will always remain India's integral part: LG Sinha

» Says peace, prosperity prevail in J&K; misgovernance continues in POJK

» Inaugurates 'Shaurya Gatha' Complex at SM Hill near Line of Control

**Waris Fayaz**

Tangdhar (Kupwara), May 14: Reaffirming that Jammu & Kashmir was, and will always remain an integral part of India, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that peace and prosperity prevail on this side of the Line of Control, while Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) continues to grapple with neglect and misgovernance.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the 'Shaurya Gatha' Complex at SM Hill at Tangdhar, Karnah near LoC, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) highlighted the stark contrast between development on this side of the LoC and the conditions in illegally occupied PoJK. "Jammu & Kashmir is witnessing an era of peace, progress and prosperity, while PoJK continues to suffer from neglect and

misgovernance." "Jammu & Kashmir was, and will always remain an integral part of India," he added. LG Sinha said, "Jammu & Kashmir is moving forward with development on all fronts. There is a renewed sense of self-confidence, and the society is prosperous and peaceful than ever before." LG Sinha said that 'Shaurya Gatha' Complex at SM Hill marks a | [More on P6](#)

Under PM Modi, youth realising sporting dreams: LG

Inaugurates South Kashmir Volleyball League-2026

Urges sportspersons to act as role models for new generation

Jahangeer Ganaie

Shopian, May 14: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi a strong foundation has been laid for the youth to realise their dreams and showcase their immense talent at national and international sports arena.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the South Kashmir Volleyball

League-2026 here in South Kashmir, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "By engaging large number of youth across the Union Territory in volleyball and various sporting activities and national integration programmes, the administration is successfully channeling the energy of the youth towards nation-building."

He reiterated administration's resolve to eliminate the narco-terror ecosystem from Jammu Kashmir and urged young sportspersons to act as role models and mentors and guide new generation towards a drug-free, brighter and healthier future. "The | [More on P6](#)

ISI-linked operatives pushing narcotics into India will be hunted down: DGP

'LG Sinha's backing strengthened anti-narcotics campaign; 806 arrested in 724 NDPS cases; J&K Police ranks 1st in PIT-NDPS detentions'

**Rehan Qayoom Mir**

Srinagar, May 14: Warning ISI-linked operatives involved in pushing drugs into India of stern action, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir Police are targeting narcotics syndicates and their cross-border support structures.

Addressing a press conference at PCR Kashmir, DGP Prabhat, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The anti-narcotics campaign stands with sustained action against drug networks since 2023. J&K Police have stepped up action under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan

with a focus on arrests, seizures and financial disruption of drug networks."

He said, "The fight against narco-terrorism has been strengthened under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, launched on April 11, 2026 under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha."

The DGP expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for continued support, saying sustained institutional backing has strengthened the anti-narcotics campaign.

Issuing a stern warning to Pakistan-based Shehzad Bhatti, described as an ISI-linked operative involved in pushing narcotics into India, the DGP said, "ISI-linked | [More on P6](#)

CM-led Cabinet clears waste plant at Achan

**KT News Desk**

Srinagar, May 14: The Council of Ministers headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has accorded approval for the establishment of an 800 TPD Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) Project at Achan, Srinagar, at an estimated cost of 361 crore. The decision was taken

during the 6th meeting of the Council of Ministers with the objective of strengthening scientific waste management infrastructure in Srinagar and ensuring sustainable disposal and processing of municipal solid waste in an environmentally responsible manner.

The proposed Integrated Solid Waste Management Project is aimed | [More on P6](#)

We dominated escalation matrix in 4-day conflict: CDS Chauhan on Op Sindoor

KNO News Desk

Srinagar, May 14: India "dominated the escalation matrix" during the four days of conflict under Operation Sindoor, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan said on Thursday, highlighting the role of superior situational awareness and integrated military systems.

Speaking at the 'Kalam and Kavach' defence conclave at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, Gen Chauhan, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said India maintained an operational edge throughout the engagement due to its ability to track and respond effectively to adversary actions.

"We dominated the



escalation matrix on all four days because we had superior situation awareness," he said. "We knew what we had to do, what the adversary was doing, and were able to counter it effectively."

He emphasised that this advantage stemmed from

integrated systems that enabled real-time monitoring not only within India but also across borders. "That situational awareness wasn't limited to our own territory; it extended beyond. That's why we were able to maintain dominance," he said.

Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7 last year in response to the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, with Indian forces carrying out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Addressing future warfare challenges, Gen Chauhan underlined the evolving nature of conflicts, pointing to the increasing relevance of non-contact and non-kinetic warfare alongside | [More on P6](#)

Don't provoke India again, we will hit back: Rajnath warns Pak

Says Operation Sindoor reflected India's zero tolerance policy against terrorism

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, May 14: Reiterating India's "zero tolerance" policy against terrorism, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday warned Pakistan of a stronger response if India is provoked again.

Addressing a public gathering in Rajasthan's Nagaur after unveiling statues of former vice president Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Rajput ruler Rao Duda Mertia, Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) referred to the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack and said the country had moved away from what he described as a passive



approach to terrorism.

He said India had demonstrated through the 2016 surgical strikes, the 2019 Balakot airstrikes and Operation Sindoor that it would respond firmly to terror attacks originating from across the border.

"India does not provoke anyone, but | [More on P6](#)

Srinagar records below-normal temps

Light rain forecast for J&K

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, May 14: Jammu and Kashmir witnessed generally mild weather on Thursday, with the Meteorological Department forecasting light rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds at scattered places over the next two days.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 22.8 degrees Celsius, which was 1.5 degrees below normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 8.6 degrees Celsius, 2.3 degrees below normal.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jammu city | [More on P6](#)

RED FORT BLAST CASE

NIA files 7,500-page chargesheet against 10 accused

KNO News Desk

New Delhi, May 14: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a 7,500-page chargesheet against 10 accused persons in the Red Fort area car bomb explosion case, in which 11 persons were killed, and several others were injured.

The high-intensity blast that rocked the national capital on November 10 last year had also caused extensive damage to the property.

In a statement, issued to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the NIA said

all 10 accused, including the main perpetrator, Dr Umer Un Nabi (deceased), were linked to the organisation Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGUH) – an offshoot of the Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS).

It said that AQIS and all its manifestations were notified as terrorist organisation by the Ministry of Home Affairs in June 2018.

"The chargesheet has been filed under relevant sections of the UA(P) Act 1967, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Explosive Substances Act 1908, Arms Act 1959, and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act

1984," the statement reads. It reads that charges against Dr Umer, an ex Assistant Professor of Medicine at Al-Falah University in Faridabad (Haryana), have been proposed to be abated.

"Apart from Dr. Nabi, others named in the chargesheet are: Amir Rashid Mir, Jasir Bilal Wani, Dr. Muzamil Shakeel, Dr. Adeel Ahmed Rather, Dr. Shaheen Saeed, Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay, Soyab, Dr. Bilal Naseer Malla and Yasir Ahmad Dar".

The NIA said the chargesheet is based on extensive investigation spread across the states of Jammu & | [More on P6](#)

J&K to begin inland water transport soon

CS assesses progress achieved in partnership with IWAI

KT News Desk

Srinagar, May 14: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday reviewed the progress and future roadmap for development of inland water transport infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir during a high-level meeting held to assess the initiatives being undertaken by the Transport Department in collaboration with the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).

The meeting focused on the promotion of sustainable, eco-friendly and modern water transport systems across major rivers of the Union Territory, with special emphasis on development of cruise tourism,



urban water transport facilities and navigational infrastructure on the notified National Waterways in Jammu and Kashmir.

Those who attended includes ACS, PWD; Chairperson, IWAI; Secretary, Transport

Department; Transport Commissioner; other officers from line departments and senior officers from the Transport Department.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the | [More on P6](#)

Kanyakumari to Kashmir: Australian physiotherapist on 5,000-km run mission against leprosy stigma

Umair Gull Ganie

Qazigund, May 14: Australian physiotherapist Om Satheja has completed nearly 4,900 kilometres of his 5,000-km run across India – from Kanyakumari to Srinagar's Lal Chowk – to raise awareness about leprosy and fight

the stigma surrounding the disease.

Talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) at Qazigund, the 23-year-old said the journey was aimed at spreading awareness about leprosy, promoting compassion and inspiring youth through what he termed the

"One India Run". Om, who belongs to an Indian-origin family settled in Australia, said he left for the mission on January 26 this year and reached Qazigund on the 109th day of his journey.

The runner said the idea for the campaign emerged from a childhood experience



in Rishikesh when he first encountered people suffering from leprosy near Ram Jhula bridge. "When I was 10 years old, I saw leprosy patients for the first time. Years later, when the idea came to run across India, I wanted to support the children of leprosy patients and help fight the stigma attached

to the disease," he said.

Calling the run both a personal and social mission, Om said he wanted to challenge himself physically while also serving society. "When you try to do something difficult, you discover your true self," he said.

During the journey, he covered | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar-led cabinet approves SDH Hazratbal upgradation

Hospital expected to be equipped with expanded infrastructure, improved medical facilities

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: The Council of Ministers, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has approved the upgradation of Sub-District Hospital Hazratbal by granting relaxation in the buffer zone restrictions under the Srinagar Master Plan-2035. The decision was taken during the 6th meeting of the Council of Ministers, with the objective of strengthening healthcare infrastructure and ensuring improved healthcare delivery in the interest of better patient care.

The project, as per an official statement, had remained stalled for several years due to various obstacles arising from restrictions under the buffer zone provisions, causing considerable inconvenience to the public.

Recognising the hardships faced by the people and the urgent need for enhanced healthcare facilities in the area, the Cabinet headed by the Chief Minister took a historic decision to intervene and relax the restrictions, paving the way for the long-pending upgradation of the hospital.

With the approval, the hospital is expected to be equipped with expanded infrastructure and improved medical facilities, including blood bank services, operation theatres and specialised treatment facilities for various ailments.

The move is aimed at reducing the



need for patients to seek admissions and treatment elsewhere.

Locals of the area expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for the decision, stating that the hospital currently suffers from severe space constraints and lacks adequate

facilities for patients and attendants.

They said the upgradation of the hospital would significantly ease public difficulties and provide better healthcare access to the people of Hazratbal and adjoining areas.

DDC Anantnag reviews progress on Mission YUVA, HADP, Financial Inclusion schemes

KT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, MAY 14: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, chaired a comprehensive review meeting on Thursday to assess the progress of Mission YUVA, the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), and several Financial Inclusion Schemes at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the CPO, SE KPDC, ACD, CMO, DD Employment, CAO, CAHO, DFO Social Forestry, ALC, DEPO, DYSSO, EOs of M/Cs, LBM, representatives of different departments, District Coordinator CSCs and other concerned officials.

During the session, the DDC evaluated the implementation and saturation levels of key financial inclusion initiatives including PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PM SBY), PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PM JJBY), Atal Pension Yojana (PM APY), and PM Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM).

The meeting was informed that cumulatively 46303 beneficiaries have been enrolled under these schemes to date with the focus to register most



eligible and vulnerable sections of the district.

Taking strong note of the low performance of these schemes, the DDC directed Lead Bank Manager to enroll all eligible beneficiaries under PM JJBY, PM SBY, APY and PM SYM Schemes adding these have been tailored to meet the requirements of low income and vulnerable groups. He emphasized that any procedural bottlenecks must be cleared immediately to ensure that the benefits of these government-led initiatives reach the target population without delay. Departments were assigned specific targets and

were asked to ensure the enrollment of beneficiaries from their target groups in coordination with the LBM and CSCs in a time bound manner.

On flagship initiatives of HADP and JKIP, department-wise application status, unit establishment, fund utilisation, approval rate, tracking, farm registration and measures to improve credit score and approval rates were reviewed threadbare.

The meeting was informed that 34351 applications have been approved under HADP, of which 15525 have established their units, which are

being tracked on OTA. Highlighting low performance of certain parameters, the DDC stressed on enhancing coverage, unit establishment, registration of farms and real-time tracking of units on OTA besides ensuring swift disbursement of loan and subsidy components to the beneficiaries.

Reviewing Mission YUVA, the DDC said it is a transformative flagship initiative aimed at empowering youth by enabling them to become self-reliant entrepreneurs.

He emphasised that the goal is not only to provide financial support but to create a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem in which youth have access to training, market linkages, guidance, and long-term mentorship.

The DDC directed all concerned departments, banks and implementing agencies to enhance the mobilisation and coverage of potential beneficiaries including college students, SHGs, etc. by creating sustained awareness in close coordination with each other adding the mission holds special significance for underprivileged and marginalised youth, needing proper support and guidance to improve their socio-economic conditions.

Govt committed to strengthening education sector: Sakeena Ito

Presides renaming ceremony of GBHSS Gandhinagar at Jammu

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, MAY 14: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Ito Thursday presided over a grand function held in connection with renaming of Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS), Gandhi Nagar, Jammu as 'Shri Kuldip Kumar Badyal Memorial Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Gandhi Nagar'.

MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas; Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javaid Chowdhary; Director Health Services Jammu Poonam Sethi, family members of late Kuldip Kumar Badyal, faculty members of the institution and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister, as per an official statement, paid glowing tributes to the late educationist and described him as a visionary whose dedication



and commitment left an indelible mark on the academic landscape of the region. She said that renaming the institution after Shri Badyal is a befitting tribute to his relentless service and unwavering efforts in shaping the future of countless students. She added that Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah took the decision of renaming this institution while inaugurating the statue of late Kuldip Kumar Badyal in the institution last year.

The Minister highlighted that educators like Kuldip Kumar Badyal serve as guiding lights for society and continue to inspire generations through their noble work.

She underlined that the

government remains committed towards strengthening the education sector and preserving the legacy of individuals who have significantly contributed to social and educational development.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa and other dignitaries also spoke, recalling the invaluable role played by late Shri Badyal in promoting quality education and mentoring young minds with dedication and compassion.

On the occasion, the Minister also unveiled the newly installed name board of the institution in honour of Late Shri Kuldip Kumar Badyal. She also garlanded the statue of the Late Principal.

Sakeena Ito highlights transformative role of education in building inclusive, innovation-driven society

Inaugurates 2-day International Conference on "Manoeuvring Business, Society and Culture in the New World Order" at Govt. SPMR College of Commerce Jammu

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, MAY 14: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito inaugurated Two-Day International Conference on "Manoeuvring Business, Society and Culture in the New World Order" at Government SPMR College of Commerce here Thursday.

MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi; Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. Dr. K. S. Chandrasekar Rao; Director Colleges, Prof. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir; Director, CEC, UGC, Prof. Prikshit Manhas; Principal SPMR College, Prof. Sunil Gupta; Deans of different faculties of Cluster University of Jammu, Principals and former Principals of various Government Degree Colleges from across the Jammu Division, senior academicians, intellectuals, administrative officers and other distinguished dignitaries from the fields of higher education,

research and public administration, faculty members of the college and large number of students were also present on the occasion. The conference, as per an official statement, also witnessed the presence of eminent academicians, policymakers, administrators, researchers, industry experts from across the country and abroad.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized on the transformative role of education in building an inclusive, progressive and innovation-driven society. She highlighted the urgent need for academic institutions to cultivate ethical leadership, social responsibility and global perspectives in order to effectively navigate the emerging challenges of the new world order.

The Minister highlighted the need for collaborative thinking and innovative approaches to ensure sustainable growth, inclusive development and preservation of cultural

values amid changing global realities. She appreciated the efforts of Government SPMR College of Commerce for organizing an international platform aimed at encouraging meaningful discussions on issues of global significance.

The Minister also interacted with scholars and participants and expressed confidence that the deliberations during the conference would contribute towards generating valuable insights and policy-oriented recommendations.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Yudhvir Sethi applauded the initiative of the college in organizing a conference of international significance and remarked that such academic engagements provide valuable opportunities for constructive dialogue on pressing socio-economic and cultural issues confronting modern societies.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER, GANDERBAL

(Mini Secretariat Complex, Duderhama, 191201)

Subject: Appointment Order for Contractual Engagement for the position of SBDU Lead under Mission YUVA.

ORDER

In pursuance of Mission YUVA Operational Guidelines issued vide No. ED/Plan/Mission YUVA/233/368-414 dated 18-07-2025, and on the basis of the re-advertisement notification issued vide No. ADDC/GBL/PS/2025-26/3445-3449 dated: 12/02/2026 regarding temporary engagement of personnel for SBDU-Lead under Mission YUVA, it is hereby notified as follows:

A total of 75 applications were received through the online Mission YUVA Portal, out of which 08 candidates were provisionally shortlisted by the District Selection Oversight Committee based after cross verification of the automated profile evaluation Sheet. After detailed verification of credentials, 08 candidates were shortlisted by the District Selection Oversight Committee for interview. Subsequently, this office issued an Interview Notification vide No. ADDC/GBL/PS/2025-26/285-88 dated 06-05-2026, and interviews were conducted on 12-05-2026 at the VC Room, DC Office Complex, Ganderbal. Out of the shortlisted candidates, 05 candidates appeared before the Interview Committee.

The claims and supporting documents relating to work experience submitted by the candidates were examined in accordance with Clause 4.5.3 of the Mission YUVA Operational Guidelines for SBDUs and BHDs. Based on the recommendations of the District Selection Oversight Committee and the merit secured by the candidates, final selection has been made against the single sanctioned post of SBDU Lead. Consequently, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of the following candidate for contractual engagement under Mission YUVA against the post of SBDU Lead, as indicated below:

S. No.	Name of Candidate	Father's Name	Address	District	Mobile No.
1	Saleem Rashid Pandith	Ab Rashid Pandith	Safapora Kulpora	Ganderbal	7889611084

Now in view of standing Guidelines of Mission YUVA a waiting list equivalent to 50% of total sanctioned Posts is hereby notified as mentioned below. The said waiting list shall remain in force for a period of Six (06) Months from the date of issuance of this selection order.

S. No.	Name of Candidate	Father's Name	Address	District	Mobile No.
1	Aamir Rashid	Ab Rashid Khaja	Seeloo Sopore	Baramulla	9596425393

1. Nature of Engagement

The engagement shall be purely contractual and governed by Mission YUVA Operational Guidelines. The appointment shall not confer any right to permanent absorption or continuation beyond the approved project period.

2. Duration of Contract and Renewal

);-- The initial engagement period shall be ii months from the date of joining. Performance shall be reviewed as per predefined KPIs of Mission YUVA.

Renewal for an additional ii months may be granted based on satisfactory performance and approval of the competent authority, subject to the project life cycle.

3. Roles and Reporting

The selected personnel shall perform duties and report as prescribed in the Mission YUVA Operational Guidelines.

4. Terms and Conditions

1. The selected candidates shall report to the Assistant Director Employment, DE&CC Ganderbal (Member Secretary Mission YUVA) within 7 days of issuance of this order, along with the following original documents for verification and completion of joining formalities:

A Domicile Certificate

- > Date of Birth Certificate
- > All Qualification Certificates
- > Experience Certificates
- > Undertaking

Character Certificate issued by competent authority

- > Cross Verification of Salaries Drawn from respective companies

2. Failure to report within the stipulated time shall be construed as unwillingness to join and shall render the appointment liable to cancellation without any further notice.

3. The selectee shall execute a contractual agreement outlining:

- Terms of engagement and service conditions

A Roles, responsibilities, and deliverables

- > Performance evaluation parameters
- > Compensation and payment terms
- > Disciplinary and termination clauses
- > Monthly consolidated remuneration shall be paid as per Mission YUVA norms, subject to verification of all documents.

4. Engagement shall be subject to verification of character, antecedents, and document authenticity.

5. The appointee shall maintain utmost integrity, discipline, and confidentiality in official duties. 5. Termination of Contract

The contract may be terminated at any time under the following circumstances:

- > Poor performance or failure to meet KPIs
- > Misconduct, indiscipline, or violation of code of conduct
- > Submission of false or misleading documents
- > Unauthorized absence exceeding seven consecutive working days
- > Activities inconsistent with the objectives of Mission YUVA.

The CEO Mission YUVA / Director Employment / SPV, on the recommendation of the District Nodal Officer, may terminate the services of any SBDU/BHD personnel at any time during the contract period, with appropriate notice as per the contractual agreement.

All other terms and conditions shall remain governed strictly under Mission YUVA Operational Guidelines for SBDU and BHD engagements.

DIPK-1279/26
Dated: 14-05-2026

Sd/-
District Development Commissioner,

One Bite Too Far

Pulwama's tainted meat crisis leads to mass vaccination

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Pulwama, May 14: Panic and anxiety spread across Parigam area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district after meat from an ill bovine animal, slaughtered by a local butcher, was sold to dozens of residents, prompting hundreds of people to visit the Primary Health Centre (PHC) for precautionary anti-rabies vaccination.

The incident triggered widespread concern after rumours surfaced that the animal had been bitten by a dog before being slaughtered. As the news spread rapidly across the locality, worried residents rushed to the health centre, fearing possible exposure after consuming or handling the meat.

A police officer said that an FIR has been registered and an investigation has started to ascertain the facts surrounding the incident. "The animal was ill, and an investigation in this regard is underway. However, it was not a case of a dog-bitten animal as being rumoured," the officer clarified, urging



people not to panic unnecessarily.

Medical authorities at PHC Parigam said that an immediate response mechanism was activated soon after the matter came to light.

"We received information yesterday that suspected contaminated meat had been consumed by locals. Following this, we immediately started a vaccination drive as a precautionary measure. Hundreds of people have already been vaccinated," Dr Jureeda, a Medical Officer at PHC Parigam, told KNO.

She said the chances of infection are comparatively low since the meat had been cooked before consumption, but added that precautionary vaccination was being provided to all concerned individuals.

"People should not panic because the meat was cooked, which reduces the risk considerably. Still, as a precautionary measure, those who consumed or handled the meat can take the anti-rabies vaccine here," she said.

The doctor further advised residents to remain alert and seek immediate medical attention if they develop symptoms such as vomiting, nausea, fever, unusual behavioural changes or any other health complications.

"Anyone who consumed the meat and experiences any concerning symptoms should report to the nearest hospital without delay," she added.

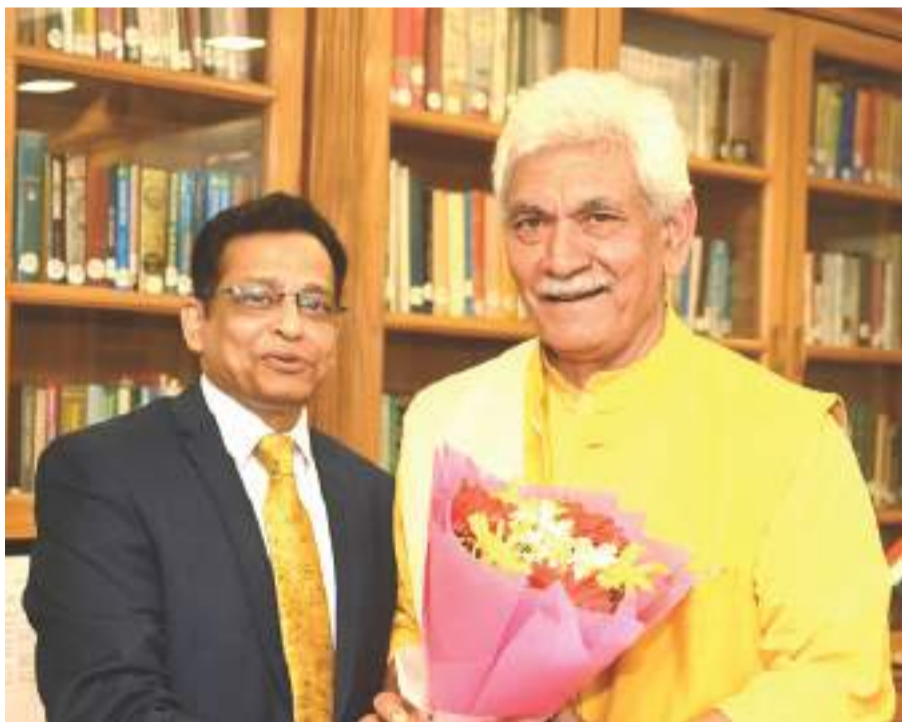
Meanwhile, residents said the reports created fear among families across the area, particularly among those who had either purchased the meat or came into contact with it during cooking.

Many residents called for stronger veterinary monitoring, regular inspection of animals before slaughter, and greater public awareness regarding zoonotic diseases and food safety practices.

Authorities said the situation is being closely monitored and that all necessary preventive and medical measures are being taken while further investigation into the incident continues—(KNO)

“We received information yesterday that suspected contaminated meat had been consumed by locals. Following this, we immediately started a vaccination drive as a precautionary measure. Hundreds of people have already been vaccinated.”

MLA Kangan, FICCI General Secy call on LG Sinha



KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, May 14: Mian Mehar Ali, Member of Legislative Assembly from Kangan called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday.

In the meantime, Anant Swarup, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

MP Jugal Kishore chairs DISHA meet in Samba

KT NEWS DESK

Samba, May 14: Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma on Thursday chaired the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting at the Conference Hall of District Administrative Complex, Nandani Hills, Samba to review the progress of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) being implemented in the district.

The meeting was attended by MLA Samba Surjeet Singh Slathia; MLA Ramgarh Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal; MLA Vijaypur Chander Parkash Ganga; District Development Commissioner Ayushi Sudan; Additional Deputy Commissioner, nominated members of the DISHA Committee, besides district and sectoral officers of various departments.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the achievements and progress recorded under different Centrally Sponsored Schemes, besides updating the chair about the status of the iconic developmental projects being executed by different departments and agencies in the district.

The DDC also presented comprehensive details regarding the implementation



of different schemes and responded to the observations and queries raised by the Members during the meeting.

Detailed discussions were given on Rural Development Schemes and IWMP, Urban Development Schemes, Road Projects, Ayushman Bharat, Jal Jeevan Mission, Power Development Schemes, Social Security Schemes, PM-KISAN, Financial Inclusion Schemes and other flagship programmes being implemented in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner apprised the chair that a number of works taken up under different Centrally Sponsored Schemes have already been completed, while several others are at different stages of execution.

Speaking on the occasion, the Member Parliament stressed upon the officers to work with dedication, sincerity and coordination to ensure timely achievement

of targets during the current financial year. He appreciated the efforts of the district administration in implementing various welfare and developmental schemes in the district.

The Members of the Legislative Assembly also projected various public issues and developmental demands pertaining to their respective constituencies, which were noted by the concerned departments for appropriate consideration and necessary action.

The MP expressed satisfaction over the overall progress achieved by the district administration under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and emphasized the need for continued focus on effective implementation for the benefit of the people.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

'NEET' paper leak' Sakina Itoo seeks fair probe

Says virtual education switch not on table yet

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, May 14: Jammu and Kashmir Health and Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Thursday called for a transparent investigation into the alleged 'NEET-UG paper leak' incident.

The minister said all those involved in the fraud must face strict punishment, irrespective of their influence or position. Speaking to reporters, Itoo said the alleged fraud has deeply affected students who worked tirelessly for years to qualify one of the country's most competitive examinations. "This is unfortunate because children work very hard and put immense effort into qualifying this examination," she said.

She said any malpractice in such examinations amounts to playing with the future and careers of deserving students.

"The investigation should be conducted properly and in a transparent manner. Whoever is involved should face strict action and severe punishment," she said.

Responding to a question regarding downsizing of government vehicles and related measures announced by the administration, the minister said everyone should contribute if any step helps reduce the country's problems.

"If there is any problem in the country and if we can help in reducing it in any way, then we should also play our role," she said.



Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Ministers review desilting, micro irrigation works

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, May 14: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana and Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar on Thursday jointly chaired a review meeting to assess the progress on desilting works of irrigation khuls and execution of Micro Irrigation projects being undertaken under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act for the financial year 2025-26. The meeting also took stock of the proposed action plan for the financial year 2026-27 aimed at strengthening the irrigation infrastructure and improving the water availability for agriculture across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra along with other senior officers. The Ministers were presented a detailed overview of the physical and financial progress achieved for the works



in progress, so far. The presentation highlighted a comprehensive action plan for the Micro Irrigation Works including desilting of irrigation khuls, covering all 20 districts of the Union Territory for the Financial Year 2026-27. The plan envisages a total of 4,41,315 works across the UT, of which, 82,563 have been specifically identified for micro irrigation and 9,034 for desilting operations.

Of the desilting works, 2,384 are to be executed in convergence mode, reflecting a coordinated,

inter-departmental approach to water resource management and irrigation infrastructure. The action plan covers diverse geographical zones thereby ensuring equitable distribution of irrigation facilities across all regions.

During the meeting, it was highlighted that the action plan represents a significant push towards modernising and revitalising the irrigation infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. This will directly benefit the farming communities, particularly in remote and rain-shadow areas heavily dependent on khuls and traditional water channels for agricultural sustenance.

A detailed presentation on the convergence plan for FY 2026-27 revealed that maintenance and desilting of khuls, nullahs and distributaries would be carried out in coordination with the Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department. The plan envisages desilting works across the districts covering thousands of khuls and canals with substantial silt removal targets.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Controversy over assembly committees escalates

BJP to meet soon to decide on boycott: LoP Sharma

KNO

Jammu, May 14: The tussle over the allocation of chairmanships in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly's House Committees has intensified, with Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma Thursday saying that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will soon convene a meeting to decide whether to boycott the panels.

Sharma said that the distribution of committee chairmanships was unfair and tilted in favour of the National Conference and its allies. "We will decide whether to stay away from the proceedings of the committees," he said.

The LoP said the Assembly is being turned into the headquarters of the National Conference, and the voice of the opposition is being muzzled to prevent them from highlighting failures and blunders of the "incompetent" government.



Sharma accused the Speaker of acting with bias and violating the principle of proportional representation. "The Speaker is undermining democratic norms by openly siding with the ruling alliance," he said.

He said negligible representation to opposition in chairmanship of committees was "an insult to the mandate of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Assembly committees balanced: Tanvir Sadiq

Rejects LoP Sunil Sharma's allegations

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, May 14: National Conference (NC) Chief Spokesperson and MLA Tanvir Sadiq on Thursday rejected allegations regarding the constitution of Assembly committees, asserting that the party has consistently strengthened democratic institutions in Jammu and Kashmir over decades.

Rejecting the Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma's allegations over the constitution of Assembly committees as "false



accusations", Sadiq said committee allocations were made in a balanced way.

The MLA said that comparisons with Parliament were being misinterpreted, adding that representation across committees reflects proportional distribution.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

EDITORIAL

Friday Brief: Dhul Hijjah Is A Gift From Allah

The month of Dhul Hijjah is nearing. For many Muslims, Ramadan gets all the attention. But Dhul Hijjah is just as special. In fact, the first ten days of this month are the best days of the entire year. The Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) said that no good deeds are more loved by Allah than those done in these ten days. This includes the days of Ramadan. That is how important Dhul Hijjah is. The Quran also points to the greatness of these days. Allah takes

an oath by "the ten nights" in Surah Al-Fajr. Scholars say these are the first ten nights of Dhul Hijjah. When Allah swears by something, it means that thing is very significant. The ninth day of Dhul Hijjah is the Day of Arafah. On this day, millions of pilgrims stand on the plain of Arafah, praying and asking for forgiveness. For those who are not on Hajj, fasting on this day brings a huge reward. The Prophet (PBUH) said that fasting on the Day of Arafah removes

the sins of the past year and the coming year. Think about that. One day of fasting can wipe away two years of mistakes and sins. This is Allah's mercy at its best. The tenth day is Eid al-Adha, the festival of sacrifice. On this day, Muslims who can afford it sacrifice an animal like a goat, sheep, or cow. This is to remember Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH), who was ready to sacrifice his son because Allah commanded him. At the last moment, Allah replaced the son

with a ram. So every year, Muslims celebrate this act of complete submission to Allah. The meat from the sacrifice is shared with family, friends, and most importantly, the poor. No one should be left hungry on this day. The Prophet (PBUH) called the Day of Sacrifice the greatest day in the sight of Allah. It is not about killing an animal and eating meat. It is about obeying Allah, being grateful, and taking care of those who have less. As Dhul Hijjah approaches, we

should increase our good deeds. Pray extra prayers. Give charity. Fast the first nine days, especially the Day of Arafah. Remember Allah as much as you can. If you can afford it, offer a sacrifice. Involve your children. Explain to them why we do this. Do not let these days pass like any other day. They are the best days of the year. Use them to get closer to Allah. Seek forgiveness. Help the poor. And thank Allah for giving us another chance to earn His mercy.

Empowering The Grassroots Economy: A Comprehensive Push For Rural And Semi-Urban Msme

Press Information Bureau

MSMEs continue to drive India's economic growth. They contribute over 31% to GDP, 48.58% to exports, and support livelihoods for nearly 32.8 crore people across the country. The Government has accelerated formalization of unregistered enterprises through Udyam and Udyam Assist platforms. This has brought over 7.9 crore enterprises into the formal economy. Targeted policy measures are improving access to credit, strengthening legal safeguards, and enhancing ease of doing business. Digital platforms like GeM, TReDS, and SAMADHAAN are enabling better market access and faster payments. Together, these efforts are strengthening the MSME ecosystem and advancing inclusive growth across rural and semi-urban India.

MSMEs Strengthening Domestic Economy Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) play a vital role in India's economic development. They promote entrepreneurship, generate employment, and support decentralized industrial growth. MSMEs are especially important for strengthening rural and semi-urban economies. Recognizing this, the Government has introduced several policy initiatives for the sector. These initiatives aim to improve access to finance, encourage formalization, strengthen market linkages and promote digital integration of small enterprises.

These measures aim to strengthen local production systems and encourage self-employment. They also support traditional crafts and rural industries, contributing to inclusive and balanced economic growth.

Sectoral Overview

MSMEs contribute about 31.1% to India's GDP, account for 48.58% of total exports, and generate around 35.4% of manufacturing output. The sector encompasses more than 7.47 crore enterprises across manufacturing, services, and trade activities. It provides livelihoods to approximately 32.8 crore people, making it the second-largest source of employment after agriculture.

A large share of these enterprises operates in rural and semi-urban areas. They support local value chains, promote non-farm employment, and contribute to regional economic development.

Given their importance, strengthening MSMEs in rural and semi-urban areas is critical. This helps promote inclusive growth, improve productivity, and integrate small enterprises into national and global supply chains. Many of the MSMEs exist as unregistered and informal enterprises. It is necessary to formalize them so that they can avail credit and other support being extended to the sector. In recent years, formalization has accelerated through digital registration platforms. As of March 2026, over 7.9 crore MSMEs and informal micro enterprises have been registered through Udyam and Udyam Assist Platforms. This reflects the expanding reach of institutional support mechanisms for small businesses.

Credit and Financial Support Measures

Access to affordable and timely credit remains one of the most critical requirements for MSME growth. It is more important for micro enterprises in rural and semi-urban areas. The Government has put in place multiple credit and financial support mechanisms to address this gap.

Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS)

The Ministry of MSME implements the Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) through the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE). It is a joint initiative of the Government and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). The scheme facilitates the flow of collateral-free and third-party guarantee credit to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). It enables first-generation and underserved entrepreneurs to access institutional finance.

As per the Union Budget 2025-26, the ceiling of guarantee coverage under CGS has been enhanced from 5 crore to 10 crore for banks. The revised guidelines are applicable to all guarantees approved on or after 1 April 2025. Additionally, a special provision has been introduced for MSEs promoted by transgender entrepreneurs. These enterprises are eligible for a 10% concession in



guarantee fees along with enhanced guarantee coverage of up to 85%, effective from 1 March 2025.

Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund

The Self-Reliant India (SRI) Fund was launched to provide 50,000 crore in equity support to MSMEs through a Fund of Funds mechanism. The Fund comprises 10,000 crore from the Government and 40,000 crore to be raised through Private Equity and Venture Capital funds. It operates through a Mother Fund-Daughter Fund structure, managed by NSIC Venture Capital Fund Limited (NVCF), a SEBI-registered Category-II Alternative Investment Fund.

As of November, 2025, the SRI Fund has supported 682 MSMEs with investments worth 15,442 crore. Union Budget 2026-27 has provided an additional 2,000 crore to the Self-Reliant India Fund. This is to keep supporting micro enterprises with risk capital.

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

The ECLGS (2020) supports eligible MSMEs and business enterprises in meeting their operational liabilities. It is also aimed at helping them restart their businesses in the context of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The scheme was extended till March 2023.

As on January 2023, guarantees amounting to 3.61 lakh crore were issued under ECLGS. These guarantees benefited 1.19 crore borrowers. A State Bank of India research report on ECLGS noted that almost 14.6 lakh MSME accounts were saved from slipping into NPA classification. About 98.3% of these accounts belonged to the micro and small enterprises categories. The report also noted that MSME loan accounts worth around 2.2 lakh crore improved since the inception of ECLGS.

Legal and Institutional Support for MSMEs Timely realisation of payments for goods and services is essential for the financial stability and operational continuity of MSMEs. These enterprises often operate with limited working capital. Recognising this, the Government has established a robust legal and institutional framework to address this

issue.

MSMED Act, 2006 – Payment Protection

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 provides statutory protection to Micro and Small Enterprises against delayed payments. Under the Act, buyers are mandated to make payments to MSEs within 45 days of acceptance of goods or services. This may be as agreed upon in writing, not exceeding 45 days. To adjudicate disputes arising from payment delays, 161 Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Councils (MSEFCs) have been set up across States and Union Territories.

SAMADHAAN Portal

The Ministry of MSME launched the SAMADHAAN Portal (samadhaan.msme.gov.in) in October 2017. It provides a technology-enabled mechanism for MSEs to file and monitor delayed payment applications online. Cases are automatically referred to the respective MSEFC for adjudication. This eliminates the need for physical visits or engagement of intermediaries.

A dedicated sub-portal was created in June 2020 to track payment dues from Central Ministries, Departments, and Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). As of December 2022, dues of 1,65,034 crore had been paid to MSME by Central Ministries, Departments, and CPSEs since May 2020.

Building on this framework, the Ministry of MSME launched an Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Portal in June 2025. The portal provides end-to-end digitized resolution of delayed payment cases. It further reduces the time and cost involved in redressal for MSEs across the country.

Formalisation and Priority Sector Inclusion

A large proportion of India's micro enterprises operate outside the formal economic system, without official registration or documented financial history. This structural informality limits their access to institutional credit, government schemes, and formal markets. The Government has undertaken targeted measures to bring these enterprises within the formal fold.

Udyam Portal and Udyam Assist Platform

(UAP)

The UAP, launched in January 2023, brings Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs), lacking formal registration, into the formal financial system. It enables such enterprises to register and access Priority Sector Lending benefits, facilitating their integration into the institutional credit ecosystem. Between the Udyam Registration Portal and the Udyam Assist Platform, the Government has significantly accelerated the formalisation of micro enterprises.

As of March 2026, over 7.9 crore enterprises were registered across both platforms, 4.72 crore on the Udyam Portal and 3.21 crore on the Udyam Assist Platform. This marks a significant milestone in MSME digitization.

Inclusion of Traders under MSME

From July 2021, retail and wholesale traders have been included within the ambit of MSMEs through revised government's guidelines. This has enabled enterprises to register on the Udyam Registration Portal and avail benefits under Priority Sector Lending (PSL) norms. This measure expanded MSME coverage and facilitated the integration of trading activities into the formal MSME ecosystem.

Support during MSME Classification Transition

To avoid penalising growth, the Government allows non-tax benefits to continue for three years. This applies in cases where an MSME graduates to a higher classification category. This measure removes a key disincentive for smaller enterprises to scale up their operations.

Digitalisation and Market Access Initiatives

Digital integration is increasingly central to MSME competitiveness. It enables enterprises to access government procurement markets, obtain faster payment realisation, streamline compliance, and expand their customer base. The Government has built a comprehensive ecosystem of digital platforms to support MSMEs at each stage of their operational lifecycle.

Digital India Support for MSMEs

Under the Digital India programme, the Government has focused on strengthening digital infrastructure. It also aims at delivering governance and services on demand, and promoting digital empowerment of citizens and enterprises. For MSMEs, digital enablement translates into improved market access, better financial inclusion, and enhanced ease of compliance.

Key MSME Digital Platforms

A wide ecosystem of digital platforms has been developed to support MSME formalisation, financing, market linkages, and dispute resolution. These include:

- Udyam Portal for online MSME registration and issuance of Udyam Registration Number;
- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) for public procurement and enabling MSMEs to sell directly to government buyers;
- Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) for facilitating invoice financing through multiple financiers;
- MSME Champions Portal for grievance redressal and handholding support;
- MSME SAMBANDH for monitoring public procurement from MSMEs;
- PMEGP Portal for application, approval, and tracking of PMEGP-supported projects;
- PM Vishwakarma Portal for registration and support to traditional artisans and;

Online Dispute Resolution portal for digital resolution of disputes.

Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Promotion Schemes

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

PMEGP is a flagship credit-linked subsidy scheme of the Ministry of MSME. It is implemented nationally through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). At the State level, it operates via KVIC offices, KVIBs, and District Industries Centres (DICs). The scheme aims to generate self-employment opportunities by supporting the establishment of new micro enterprises in non-farm sectors.

The maximum project cost eligible for Margin Money subsidy is 50 lakh for the manufacturing sector and 20 lakh for the service/business sector. Margin Money Subsidy is a government-funded financial assistance provided as a back-ended subsidy on bank loans to set up new micro-enterprises.

Under the scheme, subsidy varies based on the beneficiary category and location. For special categories, the subsidy is 35% of the project cost in rural areas. It is 25% in urban areas.

Special category includes SC/ST, OBC, minorities, women, ex-servicemen, persons with disabilities, and applicants from the North-East Region, Hill and Border areas.

From FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26, PMEGP has supported the establishment of over 5.8 lakh projects. Bank loans worth more than 60,000 crore have been sanctioned. During the same period, margin money subsidy of over 13,450 crore has been disbursed to over 4 lakh units. This has resulted in estimated employment generation of nearly 36.3 lakh persons.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

PM Vishwakarma Scheme (2023) provides end-to-end holistic support to artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools. The scheme provides a comprehensive package of support across 18 traditional trades. It includes formal recognition through a PM Vishwakarma Certificate and ID card. It also offers skill upgradation through Basic Training of 5-7 days and Advanced Training of 15 days or more. A stipend of 500 per day is also provided under the scheme. Beneficiaries also receive a toolkit incentive of up to 15,000 through e-vouchers, along with market linkage support.

Collateral-free Enterprise Development Loans of up to 3 lakh are provided in two tranches of 1 lakh and 2 lakh. The tenures are 18 months and 30 months respectively. These loans are offered at a concessional interest rate of 5%, with the Government providing an interest subvention of 8%.

As of March 2026, over 30 lakh artisans have registered under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. Among them, more than 26.7 lakh beneficiaries have completed skill verification, while over 23.7 lakh have undergone basic training. This reflects the scheme's focus on skill upgradation. In addition, nearly 5.9 lakh loans amounting to nearly 5,050 crore have been approved. This is along with the issuance of more than 25.8 lakh e-vouchers to support toolkit incentives and enterprise development.

Towards a Stronger MSME Ecosystem

The Government's approach to strengthening MSMEs, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, reflects a comprehensive strategy. It addresses structural barriers across credit, compliance, formalisation, and market access. A 10,000 crore SME Growth Fund and additional allocations to SRI Fund under Union Budget 2026-27 have further strengthened equity support. It also mandates TReDS across Central Public Sector Enterprises. These measures are reinforcing the policy framework to meet evolving sectoral needs.

Going forward, continued convergence between digital platforms, financial institutions, and grassroots implementation agencies will be crucial. It will ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach last-mile entrepreneurs, artisans, rural traders, and first-generation micro enterprise owners. These stakeholders form the foundation of India's self-reliant economic growth.



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Javid Dar reviews status of veterinary units, infrastructure across Kashmir

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Thursday chaired a review meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to assess the status of veterinary units across Kashmir and review the progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Union Territory sector schemes of APD.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Director Finance, APD, Director Planning APD, Deputy Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir besides other senior officers of the department.

Taking stock of the manpower requirements in the Animal Husbandry Department, the Minister was informed that all requisite formalities for filling vacant posts of Veterinarians and Para-Veterinarians have been completed in accordance with the established guidelines. He was also told that the tendering process for the pending works is set to commence shortly.

Emphasising the urgency of strengthening the veterinary



healthcare infrastructure, the Minister directed the officers to ensure that the tendering process is completed within one week while adhering strictly to the procedural norms and maintaining complete transparency.

During a detailed review of the budgetary allocations and expenditure under various developmental schemes, the

Minister sought a comprehensive account of the physical and financial progress achieved under Centrally Sponsored and UT sector schemes being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasising timely execution of development works, the Minister directed the concerned officers to further intensify monitoring of all

ongoing projects, particularly those being implemented under NABARD and other flagship programmes. He made it clear that random field inspections should be undertaken to verify the on-ground progress and ensure that the intended benefits of these projects are reaching stakeholders effectively.

Highlighting the importance of modernizing the livestock sector, the Minister stressed the need for comprehensive upgradation of farms and strengthening of training infrastructure to equip the farmers with improved technical knowledge and better resources. He underscored that judicious and timely utilisation of allocated funds is imperative for achieving the targeted outcomes, directing the officers to ensure strict adherence to project timelines so that developmental initiatives are translated into tangible benefits for the farming community.

Earlier, Director Finance APD presented a detailed financial review, outlining the sanctioned allocations, fund releases and expenditure incurred under various schemes for the financial years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

Shaleen Kabra visits Sempora Housing Colony, reviews facilities for move employees

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Estates Department, Shaleen Kabra, Thursday conducted a detailed inspection of the newly constructed Estates Housing Colony at Sempora.

He reviewed the quality of construction, availability of essential services and overall living conditions for the employees.

During his interaction, as per an official statement, with the move employees residing in the colony, the ACS had feedback on accommodation, mess facilities, transport and sanitation. He emphasized that employee welfare remains a top priority and called for co-ordinated efforts by all the line departments to ensure seamless provision of services.

Shaleen Kabra directed the Estates Department and concerned agencies to address minor deficiencies on priority. He instructed the PHE and PDD to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply, with dedicated helplines for quick grievance redressal.



The ACS asked the department for running of dispensary within the colony 24*7 and directed the R&B Department to complete the remaining landscaping and internal road works within 15 days. Stressing inter-departmental synergy, he called for a nodal officer to be designated for real-time co-ordination between Estates, JKTC, JKRTC, and District Administration.

Shaleen Kabra was accompanied by Director Estates Kashmir Mohd Ashraf Hakak, Deputy Director Kashmir, Assistant Director, and senior engineers from PHE, PDD, R&B, and UEED. The team made a comprehensive round of the colony, inspecting the flat interiors, common areas, parking, drainage and the mess facility. He appreciated the efforts of field staff in making

the colony functional ahead of the Darbar Move.

The flats at Sempora had remained under construction for more than a decade due to funding and logistical constraints. They were completed after substantial funds were provided in recent years. The colony has now proved highly useful in accommodating the officers and officials during the Darbar Move period, reducing pressure on private arrangements.

The mess facility is being managed by Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation to provide quality meals to the residents. Besides, the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation has deployed a dedicated fleet of vehicles for daily movement of the employees.

Additional Commissioner Kashmir reviews digitisation of Jamabandis in Shopian



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, MAY 14: Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Akramullah Tak, along with ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone Thursday took stock of the digitisation of Jamabandis in the district during a review meeting held at the Conference Hall of the Tehsil Office, Shopian.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faz; Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Shopian, Shakoor Ahmed Dar; besides all Tehsildars and revenue officials of the district.

At the outset, the Additional Commissioner, as per an official statement, conducted a detailed assessment of the ongoing digitisation process across all Tehsils and directed the concerned

officers to expedite the remaining work related to backlog mutation updation.

While reviewing the progress of digitisation of revenue records in the district, Tak was informed that 100 percent of Jamabandis across Shopian district have been digitised, while the work on updation of backlog mutations has also been completed.

Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that digitisation of revenue records is a vital governance reform aimed at ensuring transparency, efficiency and citizen-centric service delivery, besides facilitating easy access to land-related information.

He instructed the officers to maintain close coordination and ensure accuracy in the digitised records so as to avoid discrepancies and inconvenience to the public.

Rather reviews development scenario in Budgam

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Speaker Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Thursday chaired an extensive review meeting to assess the overall development scenario in Budgam district, with special focus on his constituency Charar-i-Sharief.

During the meeting, the Speaker, as per an official statement, conducted a comprehensive review of various departments including Rural Development Department (RDD), Roads & Buildings (R&B), Jal Shakti, Health, Education under District Capex and other sectors. Detailed discussion was held regarding the performance and achievements of the departments during the previous financial year as well as finalization of plan for the current financial year.

Reviewing the sector-wise progress, the Speaker sought updates on the ongoing works, utilization of allocated funds, status of pending projects and implementation of various government schemes in Budgam district, particularly in Charar-i-Sharief constituency.

While providing the abstract of works during 2025-26 and 2026-27 (ongoing) under different sectors, the CPO Budgam apprised that in total 730 works were approved during the previous financial year in Charar-i-Sharief constituency, of which, 665 have been completed.



Regarding CDF, it was informed that 172 identified works had been identified by the MLAs, of which, 160 have been approved and 67 completed. Similarly, in RDD, out of 1628 approved works 1533 have been completed. In R&B sector, Charar-i-Sharief division, total 41 works have been approved and 30 have been completed during 2025-26. In Education, out of 97 approved works 24 have been completed so far. In Jal Shakti, a total 67 works have been approved in Budgam and Chadoora division, out of which 41 have been completed.

A detailed discussion was also held regarding restoration of Chadoora bridge which is a vital link connecting a vast population of the area with Budgam and other parts of Kashmir.

The Speaker directed the officers of R&B to expedite the restoration of this important bridge in order to mitigate

the suffering of people. He also instructed the Engineers to keep the road leading to Bailey bridge on both sides in good condition for hassle free movement of vehicles.

The Speaker stressed the need for timely execution of developmental works and emphasized effective coordination among the departments to ensure that public welfare schemes reach the grassroots level efficiently. He directed the officers to prioritize the projects of public importance and maintain transparency, accountability and quality in execution.

The Speaker emphasized a "people-first" approach to governance. He issued firm directives to the concerned departmental heads to prioritize immediate redressal of public grievances and proactively resolve any administrative or technical bottlenecks hindering the completion of

vital infrastructure projects.

"Our objective is to ensure that the benefits of development are not just statistics on paper but tangible improvements in the daily lives of our citizens," said the Speaker. "Administrative hurdles must be cleared swiftly to ensure that essential services reach the doorsteps of the common man without delay."

In a significant directive aimed at enhancing the grassroots representation, Speaker JKLA instructed the district officers to actively involve the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) during the drafting and identification phase of developmental works.

The Speaker said that local representatives are uniquely positioned to identify the projects of high public importance. By collaborating with the MLAs, the administration can ensure that proposed works align with the genuine needs of the community and receive the necessary legislative approval and support to proceed without delay.

The Speaker reviewed the performance of all the major departments, directing the officials to address the public grievances with urgency.

"Governance must be inclusive and responsive," Speaker JKLA stated. "By involving local MLAs in the planning process, we ensure that development is prioritized where it is needed most. Our goal remains the seamless delivery of basic amenities and essential services directly to the doorsteps of the people", he added.

DC Srinagar inspects progress of infrastructural upgradation works at GBMS Baghat Shoor

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Thursday visited Government Boys Middle School (GBMS), Baghat Shoor in LalBazar area to review the progress of ongoing infrastructure upgradation works.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Executive Engineer, R&B Division Core, Arif Rehman Hazari, Tehsildar, Eidgah, Mohammad Iqbal Zargar, Deputy CEO, Anjum Raja, Officers from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and other concerned accompanied the DC during the visit.

During the inspection, the DC assessed the pace and quality of construction being carried out by the R&B Department under the Samagra Shiksha scheme. He inspected various sections of the building. He reviewed the pace and quality of construction work being carried out by R&B department under Samagra Shiksha.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned agency to complete the finishing works. He emphasized that improved School infrastructure will provide a better learning environment for students in the area.

Commissioner FDA reviews enforcement measures

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MAY 14: Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, Khalid Jahangir held an introductory meeting with senior officers and field functionaries of Drug and Food Wing of the department, after assuming charge Thursday.

During the meeting, as per an official statement, held at the Conference Hall Combined Drug and Food Laboratory, Srinagar, the Commissioner emphasized the critical role of the department in safeguarding public health and ensuring the availability of safe food and quality drugs to the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

He stressed that field functionaries must remain visible, accessible, and proactive on the ground and should discharge their duties strictly in accordance with the mandate of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Drugs & Cosmetics Act. He directed officers to strengthen surveillance and inspection mechanisms to ensure that food business operators (FBOs) and pharmacy establishments comply with the prescribed legal standards and regulatory requirements.

The Commissioner stressed that enforcement activities should be carried out in a fair, transparent, and professional manner. He further emphasized the need for coordinated teamwork among all enforcement officers of the department to

ensure effective implementation of food safety and drug control measures.

Drawing attention towards growing menace of drug abuse and its adverse impact on society, particularly on the younger generation, the Commissioner highlighted the importance of awareness and strict enforcement measures. He stated that the UT of J&K has already launched a comprehensive 100-day Nasha Mukht J&K Abhyan campaign against drug abuse, and directed all field officers to actively participate in the campaign by conducting awareness programmes, public outreach activities, and coordinated enforcement drives at the grassroots level.

In view of the forthcoming Eid festivities and Moharram, the Commissioner directed a field staff to intensify market surveillance and enforcement activities, particularly focusing on highly consumed food items during the festive season. He asked the enforcement teams to remain extra vigilant and proactive in checking the quality, hygiene, adulteration, storage, and sale of food products in markets across Jammu & Kashmir.

Reaffirming the commitment of the Food & Drugs Administration towards public welfare, he called upon all officers and stakeholders to work collectively with dedication and integrity to strengthen the regulatory framework and ensure a healthier and safer society for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

NASHA MUKT J&K ABHIYAN

DC Bandipora interacts with Youth Clubs

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, MAY 14: Continuing the ongoing efforts under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, District Administration Bandipora on Thursday organised an interaction programme with Youth Clubs to strengthen community participation and youth engagement in the fight against drug abuse.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of building a strong mind among youth through positive engagement and constructive activities.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, highlighted the need for establishing and strengthening knowledge centres to channelise the energy of youth towards education, creativity and personality development.

The DC also urged parents to actively engage with their children through prayers, sports activities and spending quality time with children, stating that stronger family bonding and communication play an important role in preventing substance abuse among youngsters. To ensure regular interaction



and coordination with youth groups, the Deputy Commissioner directed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to convene meetings with Youth Clubs at least once every month.

She encouraged participants to remain actively involved in the campaign against drug abuse and report any issue requiring administrative intervention.

The Deputy Commissioner stated that Youth Clubs shall serve as a vital bridge between youth, vulnerable individuals, and the Waqar Knowledge Centres. She informed participants that as part of the anti-drug initiative one such centre is nearing completion and will soon be operationalised at the Mini Secretariat, while four more centres will be developed in the coming time with an eventual target of one such centre in each Rural Block. These centres will function

as hubs of knowledge, recreation, and information, providing meaningful avenues for youth and vulnerable sections of society through constructive engagement, awareness, and personal development.

The programme focused on creating awareness regarding the harmful effects of substance abuse, implementation of the COTPA Act, and the need for sustained collective action to safeguard future generations from the menace of drugs.

During the interaction, emphasis was laid on the active role of Youth Clubs in spreading awareness at the grassroots level and promoting a healthy and drug-free society. Participants were informed that women are also increasingly becoming victims of substance abuse and, in some cases, involved in peddling activities, which calls for stronger community vigilance and awareness.

Awareness programmes organised across Budgam

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, May 14: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), a series of awareness and sensitization programmes were organised across various educational institutions, villages and public places in District Budgam to spread awareness regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse, tobacco consumption and narcotic substances.

At GHSSB Budgam, a Nukad Natak was organised wherein students delivered impactful performances highlighting the dangers of drug addiction and the importance of building a healthy and drug-free society. Similar awareness activities were also organised by Babul Qira under Cluster HSS BK Pora and at GMS Batpora Wathora, where students participated enthusiastically in street plays and awareness campaigns aimed at sensitising the public, especially youth, about the ill effects of substance abuse.

Meanwhile, under NMBA, Health Services Budgam conducted awareness and

sensitization programmes at Brick Kiln Batpora and health facilities of Kharigund. During the programme, labourers and members of the general public were educated about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption, particularly gutka and bidi smoking. Participants were sensitised about various tobacco-related diseases including oral cancer, lung ailments, heart diseases and respiratory disorders.

The awareness sessions focused on encouraging people to quit tobacco products and adopt healthier lifestyles. In another initiative, the Excise Team Budgam carried out a door-to-door awareness campaign at Village Chowdribagh, Panchayat Halqa Dreygam, Tehsil Khansahib. The team sensitised the local population regarding narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, their abuse, and the legal punishments and penalties associated with such offences.

The Excise Team also conducted a survey of nearby fields, farms and orchards to check for any illicit cultivation.

Iran allows Chinese ships to cross Strait of Hormuz

PTI
Beijing, May 14: Iran has allowed dozens of Chinese ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz as China toughened its stance against the militarisation of the key waterway during talks between US President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping.
Iran shut down the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, following the launch of the US-Israeli attacks on February 28.
Since Wednesday night, Iran permitted 30 Chinese ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz in compliance with Iranian management protocols, Iran's semi-official Fars news agency reported, quoting a senior official of the Revolutionary Guard-Navy as

saying, according to China's state-run Xinhua news agency on Thursday.
Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Thursday said that the Strait of Hormuz is open to all commercial vessels, provided they cooperate with Iranian naval forces to pass through the waterway.
The reports of Iran permitting Chinese ships came as Trump and Xi agreed that the Strait of Hormuz must remain open to support the free flow of energy, according to a readout of their Thursday meeting by the White House. However, Beijing has not made any comment to back the US claims.
Xi also opposed any implementation of tolls on vessels crossing the strait, which has effectively been closed since the start of the Iran war, it said.
Xi expressed interest in

purchasing more American oil to reduce China's dependence on the strait in future, according to the readout.
Iran has tightened its grip on the Strait of Hormuz and made use of it to build pressure on Trump to end the US war against it. As a result, hundreds of ships have been stranded, causing a major global energy crisis.
Iran has occasionally allowed ships of China, its strategic ally, which has been buying 90 per cent of Iranian oil, disregarding the US sanctions.
However, the situation changed after Trump imposed a blockade of Iranian ports, halting the movement of all ships. This also resulted in anxiety in Beijing, which, despite the massive stockpile of oil reserves, expressed concern over the impact.

IAS Officer Trainees call on LG Sinha



KT News Desk
Srinagar, May 16: A group of six Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer Trainees of the 2025 batch on Thursday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Lok Bhavan.

During the interaction, the young officers, who are currently undergoing their district training in the Union Territory, shared their experiences in Jammu Kashmir.
They also shared their insights on several flagship initiatives like

Block Diwas, Nasha Mukh Abhiyan, currently being implemented across the Union Territory.
The Lieutenant Governor exhorted the officers to work with dedication and people-first approach and make their valuable contribution to

the nation's development journey. He extended his best wishes to them for an impactful career in the civil services.
The group of Officer Trainees included Alfred Thomas, Ruchika Jha, Nidhi, Mohd. Haris Mir, Shagun Singh and Jitendra Kumar.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K was & will

significant milestone in the promotion of battlefield tourism, heritage preservation and border area development.

The Lieutenant Governor applauded Northern Command, Chinara Corps, and all officers, soldiers, engineers, workforce and local residents for the completion of the prestigious project in a short span of time. He said our brave soldiers laid down their lives to defend the motherland, and their courage and sacrifice should be instilled in every Indian as a powerful source of pride and inspiration.

"The dedication of our forces and people is the true strength of the nation. The Shaurya Gatha Complex stands as a tribute to the valour and sacrifices of Indian soldiers. This initiative will create new opportunities for border area and battlefield tourism, homestays, local crafts and youth entrepreneurship," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also reiterated that the administration is committed to the development of the border region. He observed that the initiative like promotion of valour site under Bharat Rannbhoomi Darshan initiative will usher economic growth and prosperity in Tangdhar-Karnah region, besides showcasing the rich defence legacy and culture of the region.

He said that seven villages of Tangdhar, Karnah have been included under the Vibrant Village Programme, ensuring improved infrastructure, livelihood opportunities and quality of life.

Highlighting the importance of the Sadhna Tunnel, the Lieutenant Governor stated that it will significantly enhance connectivity, security, and economic activity in the region by providing all-weather access and facilitating trade, education, healthcare and disaster response.

"I urge citizens across the nation to visit Shaurya Gatha Complex and plan their holidays at the offbeat destinations of Kupwara," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the Army for their significant contribution to the Nasha Mukh Jammu Kashmir campaign.

"Tangdhar remains a strategic location where our neighbour persistently attempt to escalate narco-smuggling activities. The development of an airport-like facility by the Army in the region will serve as a critical asset in our mission against drug smuggling," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon the police department and security forces to maintain the highest level of alertness. Our surveillance must be foolproof to ensure that no illegal drugs enters our territory, he further said.

He also expressed his deepest gratitude to the people, especially the school students for their unwavering support to Nasha Mukh J&K campaign.

Lieutenant General Pratish Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command; Lieutenant General Balbir Singh, GOC Chinara Corps; Javid Ahmad Mirchal, Member of Legislative Assembly Karnah; Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Maj Gen Rakesh Nair; GOC 28 Infantry Division; Brig Dharmendra Yadav, Commander, Shakti Vijay Bde, senior officers from the Army, Civil Administration, Police and Security Forces attended the inaugural ceremony. (KNO)

Under PM Modi,

administration is committed to resolve to eliminate the narco-terror ecosystem from Jammu Kashmir."

LG Sinha also dedicated the Multipurpose Sports Indoor Hall at Arhama constructed at a cost of Rs 4.94 crore to the youth.

He hailed sports tournaments like South Kashmir Volleyball League as a powerful declaration of the youth's transition from spectators to the architects of their own destiny.

LG Sinha emphasized that the league started in 2021, has emerged as a major platform for youth engagement, promotion of competitive sports culture and strengthening of volleyball activities across South Kashmir.

"South Kashmir Volleyball League is significantly contributing towards the campaign of 'Nasha Mukh J&K' by promoting sports as a positive avenue for youth participation and social transformation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Every serve and every spike on this volleyball court is a message that our youth are confronting challenges and moving forward as an integral part of the national mainstream," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that

Shopian is at the heart of South Kashmir's sports revolution.

"Approximately Rs 22 crore spent on sports infrastructure in Shopian over the last six years. Ongoing works worth Rs 8.80 crore are currently underway in the district. 20 Khelo India centers are operational across South Kashmir, with five in Shopian alone, providing training and equipment to 600 regular trainees," he said.

Pertinently, the four-day South Kashmir Volleyball League is being organized by Volleyball Association J&K and Jammu Kashmir Sports Council.

Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services & Sports; Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Member Legislative Assembly from Shopian; Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Youth Services and Sports; Javid Iqbal Matoo, DIG South Kashmir; Shishir Gupta Deputy Commissioner Shopian; Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary, SSP Shopian; Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council, senior officers of Police and civil administration, members of Volleyball Association, prominent citizens, sports personalities and youth in large number attended the inaugural function. (KNO)

ISI-linked operatives

operatives pushing narcotics into India will be hunted down and their entire network will be dismantled."

He added that J&K Police remain fully committed to dismantling the narco-terror ecosystem operating through cross-border channels.

He said J&K Police have been maintaining sustained pressure on narcotics networks since 2023, achieving consistent results across arrests, seizures, preventive detentions and financial disruption of drug trade.

"There has been a sustained increase in attachment of properties linked with narcotics trafficking during the past three years. J&K Police were ranked third nationally in 2025 in this regard," he said.

The DGP said 240 PIT-NDPS preventive detentions were carried out in 2025, in which J&K Police ranked first in the country, reflecting a strong preventive enforcement strategy.

He said there has been nearly a seven-fold increase in NDPS cases compared to the corresponding period last year, indicating intensified detection and crackdown on drug networks.

A total of 806 persons have been arrested in 724 NDPS cases, FIRs registered across Jammu and Kashmir during the ongoing drive, he said.
Among major arrests, he said Gulzar Ahmad alias "Love Gurjar," wanted in 28 cases and Avneet Singh alias "Nagi," wanted in 17 cases, were recently apprehended by Jammu Police.

The DGP said enforcement agencies have seized 667 kilograms of narcotics and 19,000 units of psychotropic substances, while action has also been taken against habitual offenders.
He said 97 properties worth Rs 41.85 crore linked to narcotics trade have been identified and attached so far.

Highlighting key achievements, he said Anantnag Police attached properties worth Rs 6.17 crore in a single case, the largest attachment recorded so far.

In a significant development, he said J&K Police has carried out first-of-its-kind attachment of narcotics-linked properties beyond the Union Territory, including in Bathinda, Gurdaspur, Pathankot and Chandigarh, establishing backward linkages of the drug network.

He added that Jammu Police attached properties worth Rs 93 lakh in Balicharana, Jammu, as part of sustained financial disruption of narcotics syndicates.

The DGP said 41 properties worth nearly Rs 15 crore, identified as proceeds of crime, have been demolished after due legal procedure.

He said illegal poppy and cannabis cultivation spread over 117 kanals of land has been destroyed during enforcement drives.

On awareness initiatives, he said 2,401 sensitisation programmes were conducted across educational institutions, public places and identified hotspots, covering more than three lakh participants.

He added that 5,238 chemist and druggist shops were inspected, with action initiated against 151 erring establishments.

The DGP said 4,962 kilograms of narcotics and 6,493 units of psychotropic substances were disposed of during the campaign.

Further, driving licences of 162 individuals involved in narcotics cases were cancelled or suspended, while registration certificates of 92 vehicles used in drug trafficking were also revoked. In addition, 10 passports have been recommended for impounding. (KNO)

Don't provoke India

if somebody provokes us, we do not spare them," Singh said while addressing the gathering.

Without naming specific groups, the Defence Minister said Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead had angered the entire country and forced India to deliver what he termed a "fitting reply."

Singh said "Operation Sindoor" had sent a clear message to Pakistan and claimed the operation showcased unprecedented coordination among the Army, Air Force and Navy.

"Pakistan may now think twice before attempting such acts again. But if it repeats such actions, India's response will be even stronger," he said.

The Minister asserted that no border would prevent India from acting against terrorism if national security was threatened.

He added that the country's policy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi was based on zero tolerance towards terrorism.

Referring to India's changing security doctrine, Singh said the country was no longer willing to "silently suffer" attacks on its citizens and would retaliate decisively against those responsible.

He also said Indian culture promoted justice and humanity without discrimination based on caste or religion, contrasting it with what he alleged was the conduct of terrorists involved in attacks on civilians.

Meanwhile, Rajnath Singh has also decided to reduce the size of his official convoy to less than half of its earlier strength following Prime Minister Modi's recent appeal to conserve fuel and encourage economic resilience amid the ongoing West Asia crisis. (KNO)

We dominated escalation

conventional operations.

"You've seen operations moving towards non-contact and non-kinetic formats," he said, while cautioning that India must remain prepared for traditional warfare as well, given its disputed land borders.

At the same time, he noted that newer domains of warfare offer advantages. "If given an option, we should fight in newer domains where it is easier to create asymmetry and achieve results," he said.

The CDS also flagged the importance of clearly defined military objectives and exit strategies, warning against prolonged engagements.

"There is a growing tendency among nations to use force, but exiting a conflict is a major challenge. Objectives must be clear, and once achieved, there should be a defined withdrawal plan. There is no point in lingering," he said.
Gen Chauhan's remarks come amid ongoing discussions on modernising India's military strategy to address both conventional threats and emerging domains of warfare. (KNO)

CM-led Cabinet

at enhancing the waste processing capacity of Srinagar city through modern and efficient systems for collection, segregation, treatment and disposal of solid waste. The project is expected to significantly improve sanitation standards, reduce environmental pollution and contribute towards cleaner and healthier urban surroundings.

The establishment of the facility at Achan is also expected to support long-term urban planning and environmental sustainability efforts while addressing the growing waste management requirements

J&K to begin inland

issues requiring inter-departmental coordination including removal of coffer dams under bridges, raising of HT and LT power lines, provision of electricity and water connections at terminals, construction of connecting roads, sewage treatment facilities at key ghats and permissions related to tree cutting and construction activities.

Emphasising the immense tourism, economic and environmental potential of inland waterways in Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination with IWAI for timely execution of all components of the project. He stressed that development of modern water transport infrastructure would not only provide a sustainable mode of transportation but also significantly enhance tourism potential, generate employment opportunities and create new avenues for economic activity along riverfronts across the Union Territory.
He further underscored the need for ensuring

seamless integration of water transport facilities with tourism infrastructure while maintaining ecological sensitivity and preserving the natural character of rivers and surrounding landscapes.

During the presentation made by Chairperson, IWAI, Sunil Paliwal it was elucidated that significant progress has been achieved on the development of National Waterway-49 on river Jhelum, where a river cruise corridor from Pantha Chowk to Wular Lake spanning nearly 76 kilometres is being developed.

It was further informed that construction of eight floating jetties along the Jhelum corridor is underway and is expected to be completed by July 2026. The development of associated onshore infrastructure is targeted for completion by July 2027, while installation of navigational aids is scheduled to be completed by July 2026. Fairway maintenance along the river stretch is being carried out jointly by IWAI and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir through deployment of dredgers to ensure safe and uninterrupted navigation.

The meeting was informed that the procurement of ten hybrid electric boats with a carrying capacity of 20 passengers each is being processed by IWAI, with bids presently under evaluation. The contract is likely to be awarded by May 2026, while delivery of the vessels is expected by July 2027.

Reviewing the interventions being undertaken in the Jammu region, the Chief Secretary was informed that cruise tourism infrastructure is also being developed on river Chenab under National Waterway-26. A nine-kilometre river cruise stretch from Reasi to Akhnour Fort is proposed, where construction of two jetties has already been awarded and is expected to be completed by July 2026.

Moreover development of onshore facilities has been entrusted to Indian Port Rail and Ropeway Corporation Limited (IPRCL), with preparation of Detailed Project Report presently underway and expected to be completed by June 2026. The meeting was informed that adequate water depth is available throughout the year for cruise operations in the proposed stretch.

Similarly, under National Waterway-84 on river Ravi, a fifteen-kilometre river cruise corridor is being developed at Sohar in Jammu district. Construction of jetty has already been awarded and is likely to be completed by July 2026. DPR preparation for onshore facilities is also in progress through IPRCL and expected to be finalised by June 2026, while navigational aids are proposed to be tendered by July 2026 and completed by December 2026.

The presentation also highlighted the status of several enabling interventions necessary for smooth navigation and operation of inland waterways. It was informed that eleven land parcels required for various components of the project have been identified, with approvals and transfer formalities at different stages of completion.

NIA files 7,500

Kashmir, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and the Delhi NCR region. "It includes detailed evidence in the form of 588 oral testimonies, more than 395 documents and over 200 seized material exhibits".

NIA, which has unravelled a major Jehadi conspiracy through detailed scientific and forensic investigation, had found the accused, some of whom were radicalised medical professionals, to have been inspired by AQIS/AGuH ideology to carry out the deadly attack.

"At a clandestine meeting in Srinagar in 2022, the accused had reconstituted the AGuH terror outfit as "AGuH Interim" following a failed Hizrat to Afghanistan via Turkey. Under the umbrella of the newly constituted outfit, they had launched "Operation Heavenly Hind" aimed at overthrowing the democratically established Indian Government and imposing Sharia rule," it said.

It added that NIA investigation revealed that, as part of the Operation Heavenly Hind, the accused had recruited new members, actively propagated the violent Jehadi ideology of AGuH, stockpiled arms and ammunition, and manufactured explosives on a large scale using commercially available chemicals.

"The accused had also fabricated and tested various types of IEDs, NIA found during its investigation in the case RC-21/2025/NIA/DLI. The explosive used in the blast was Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP) which was manufactured by the accused clandestinely procuring constituent ingredients and conducting experiments

to perfect the explosive mixture".

The NIA, which had taken over the investigation from Delhi Police, had established the identity of the deceased accused as Dr. Umer Un Nabi through DNA fingerprinting.

"Evidence collected from the scene of the crime, as well as various locations identified by the accused in and around the Al Falah University in Faridabad as well as Jammu & Kashmir, were subjected to thorough forensic examination, voice analysis etc. as part of the investigation".

It further said the NIA probe had further revealed that the accused had also been involved in illegal procurement of prohibited arms, including an AK-47 rifle, a Krinkov rifle, and country-made pistols with live ammunition.

They had experimented with rocket and drone-mounted IEDs with the objective of targeting security establishments in the state of Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of India. It was also revealed during the investigation that the accused procured laboratory equipments including specialised items like MMO Anode, electric circuits, and switches from various off-line and online sources".

It said the accused also had plans to expand their operations in other parts of the country, which were foiled by the busting of the terror module.

"A total of 11 persons have so far been arrested in the case, in which NIA is continuing with its efforts to track absconders whose role had surfaced during the investigation," it said. (KNO)

Srinagar records

recorded the highest maximum temperature in the region at 34.8 degrees Celsius, though it remained 2.3 degrees below normal. The minimum temperature there was 21.1 degrees Celsius, 2.9 degrees below normal.

Gulmarg, the famous ski resort in north Kashmir, recorded a maximum temperature of 15.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 3 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam registered 19.6 degrees Celsius as the maximum and 4.6 degrees Celsius as the minimum.

The MeT office said isolated places in Kashmir and Jammu divisions received light rainfall during the day. Pahalgam recorded 3 mm rainfall, while Qazigund and Kukernag received 0.8 mm each.

It said the weather is likely to remain partly to generally cloudy on May 15 and 16, with light rain, thundershowers and gusty winds expected at scattered to many places across the Union Territory.

The department has issued an advisory warning of thunder, lightning and gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph at a few places in Kashmir and Jammu divisions during the two days.

"People have been advised to suspend boating and shikara riding generally towards the afternoon and late afternoon hours," the advisory said.

The MeT office said weather conditions are likely to remain generally dry on May 17 and 18, while another spell of light rain and thundershower is expected at scattered places on May 19 and 20. (KNO)

Kanyakumari to Kashmir:

around 50 to 55 kilometres daily, with his highest single-day distance touching 70 kilometres. He said the run took him through 12 states where he interacted with students, villagers and local communities.

Om said he faced several challenges, including extreme heat in states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and West Bengal, where temperatures crossed 42 degrees Celsius, along with injuries, exhaustion and health issues. "Running eight hours daily in such heat was very difficult. Even in J&K, the mountains have been challenging. But difficult situations help you find inner strength," he said.

Speaking about leprosy stigma, Om said the disease is completely curable, but the lack of awareness continues to create fear and discrimination. "People fear what they don't understand. My message is not only about leprosy but about treating everyone with love, empathy and compassion. Once you understand people, you realise we are all the same," he said.

Satheja said the journey received overwhelming support from people across the country, with hundreds joining him during different stages of the run. "I call this the One India Run because I believe movement and compassion can unite people. My message to the youth is to believe in themselves, work together and make positive changes for society," he added. (KNO)

Modern warfare respects no silos, success to rely on forces' integration across domains: Rajnath

PTI
New Delhi, May 14: Modern warfare does not respect silos; success will depend on how efficiently the Indian defence forces are brought together across all domains, including land, sea, air, space and cyberspace, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday.

In a video message played at the defence conclave 'Kalam & Kavach' at Manekshaw Centre here, Singh said, "A nation's strength will increasingly depend on how quickly its defence forces, laboratories and industries think and act as one."

He underscored the importance of self-reliance and jointness in securing strategic autonomy and remaining future-ready to tackle emerging security challenges.

The conclave was attended by policy makers, members of the military leadership, defence industry stakeholders, diplomats, innovators, representatives of start-ups and the field of academics, besides several strategic experts, according to a defence ministry statement.

In his message, Singh emphasised that battlefields of tomorrow will reward those who can shorten the time between an idea, a prototype,



and its operational deployment. He added that national security cannot rest on "old assumptions" in the current geopolitical scenario of tensions, ongoing conflicts, cyber threats, supply-chain vulnerabilities and new forms of hybrid warfare.

"National security demands our preparedness, resilience, innovation and strategic confidence," Singh said.

He said self-reliance was not only an economic goal, but also a strategic necessity, and asserted that a nation that depends excessively on others for critical defence capability remains vulnerable in times of crisis.

"We must design, develop, produce, maintain and upgrade key systems within our own national ecosystem. That is how we will be able to secure our strategic autonomy," the defence minister said.

Underlining the need to achieve jointness, he said that modern warfare does not respect silos, and success will depend on how efficiently "we bring together our defence forces across land, sea, air, space and cyberspace."

It will also depend on how closely laboratories, industries, start-ups, policymakers, and military institutions work together, he added.

Congress names Satheesan as next Kerala chief minister

PTI
New Delhi, May 14: The Congress on Thursday named VD Satheesan as the next chief minister of Kerala, ending days of suspense and speculation over the post.

The decision was announced here at a press conference by AICC in-charge of Kerala Deepa Dasmunshi and the party's central observers for the state Ajay Maken and Mukul Wasnik, as well as Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh.

"Based on all the discussions, it has been decided that VD Satheesan be appointed as the leader of the CLP," Dasmunshi told reporters.

The three main contenders for the post of chief minister were Satheesan, KC Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala.

"The Congress Legislature Party had met in Thiruvananthapuram on May 7, 2026 and had unanimously resolved to authorise Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to appoint the new leader of the CLP in the state," Dasmunshi said.

Accordingly, the Congress president has held extensive



discussions with Chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party Sonia Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, AICC observers who had met with the newly-elected MLAs and many other leaders, including MPs, and former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee chiefs, she said. Asked when the swearing-in will take place, Dasmunshi said she will be going to Kerala and after that it will be decided. She also brushed aside any talk of divisions within the party and said all were united.

Dasmunshi along with the two observers - Maken and Wasnik -- will be going to Kerala later in the day.

Sources said after her

arrival in Kerala, the Congress Legislature Party in the state would meet the Governor and stake claim for government formation. Leaders of like-minded parties are likely to attend the swearing-in of the chief minister.

Sources add that Kharge spoke with UDF allies this morning and informed them that an announcement of the CLP leader in Kerala will be made at noon in Delhi on Thursday. A senior Congress leader brushed off talk of delay in the selection of the CM, saying the process was extensive and intensive with everybody participating in the discussions.

There were many able people for the CM post and their views were considered, the

leader said. He said the Congress is a democratic party unlike the BJP, as the party chief held wider consultations.

He held discussions with the Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson, leader of opposition, MPs, all MLAs, former Kerala Congress state chiefs and other senior leaders before taking the decision.

The announcement came a day after former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi met Kharge for about 40 minutes, after which the party stated that all deliberations and discussions by the high command were complete. A decision on the next Kerala chief minister had been pending since May 4 when the Congress-led UDF won 102 seats out of the 140, which is more than a two-thirds majority.

The party's central leadership held wider consultations as the uncertainty continued for days even after party observers Maken and Wasnik met Congress MLAs and gathered their views. The party leadership had also held discussions with the three main contenders for the post and Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee chief Sunny Joseph.

NEET exam leak: Delhi court sends five accused to 7-day CBI custody

PTI
New Delhi, May 14: A Delhi court on Thursday sent five people arrested in a case related to the NEET-UG exam leak to seven days' CBI custody.

Special CBI judge Ajay Gupta was hearing a CBI plea to interrogate all five accused for seven more days in the case to unearth the whole conspiracy. The agency arrested the five for their alleged involvement in the leak of the exam conducted on May 3 by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

The five arrested were identified as Shubham Khairnar from Nashik, Mangilal Biwal from Jaipur, Vikas Biwal and Dinesh Biwal from Jaipur, and Yash Yadav from Gurugram. They were taken into custody by the agency after a transit remand was secured from different states.

The NEET (UG) 2026 exam for admission to undergraduate courses in medical colleges, held on May 3, was cancelled on Tuesday amid allegations of paper leak. The government asked the CBI to carry out a comprehensive inquiry into the "irregularities."

In a remand plea, the agency alleged that the exam was compromised after questions



were circulated in PDF format through WhatsApp and Telegram before the exam.

An FIR was registered on May 12 on a complaint by Department of Higher Education (NTA Division) director Varun Bhardwaj.

Special Public Prosecutor VK Pathak and Special Public Prosecutor Neetu Singh informed the court that an inquiry by Rajasthan's Special Operations Group (SOG) had reportedly confirmed the authenticity of some leaked questions, following which the government cancelled the exam.

"In April 2026, one Shubham of Nasik informed Yash Yadav

that Mangilal had approached him for arranging leaked NEET UG 2026 question papers before the examination for his younger son for 10-12 lakhs," Pathak said.

The agency claimed that on April 29, Yash Yadav shared the leaked Physics, Chemistry and Biology question papers in PDF format through Telegram.

According to the CBI, Mangilal allegedly received the leaked papers from Yadav as part of a Rs 10 lakh deal and distributed printed copies to NEET aspirants, including his son Aman Biwal, and his relatives and acquaintances.

The agency also alleged that

Vikash Biwal contacted several candidates and shared their details with Yadav through WhatsApp and Instagram for the circulation of leaked papers.

"On April 29, 2026, Shubham allegedly informed Yash Yadav that he would provide leaked question papers of Physics, Chemistry and Biology papers, which will have approximately 500-600 questions capable of securing around very good marks, which can ensure admission in reputed medical colleges," it said.

The CBI said incriminating chats, leaked question papers, and other digital evidence were recovered from the mobile phones of the accused, while some deleted data would require forensic examination.

Seeking custodial interrogation, the agency told the court that police custody was necessary to identify other accused, trace the source of the leak, analyse digital and financial trails, recover evidence and probe the possible involvement of NTA officials.

"The purpose of conducting investigation, the arrested accused persons are required to be taken under police custody for custodial

Stock markets continue upward march Sensex jumps 789.74 points, Nifty climbs 277 points

PTI
Mumbai, May 14: Stock markets rose for the second consecutive day on Thursday with the benchmark Sensex jumping by nearly 790 points in a volatile session, driven by value buying in telecom, pharma and private banking shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 789.74 points, or 1.06 per cent, to close at 75,398.72. The index opened higher but slipped into negative territory in late morning deals. However, value buying in telecom and banking shares helped the barometer pare losses and later jump more than 1,000 points to a high of 75,681.88.

Extending gains to the second day, the 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 277 points, or 1.18 per cent, to finish at 23,689.60.

Among Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel emerged as the biggest gainer, rallying over 5 per cent after the telecom carrier's annual revenue crossed the Rs 2 lakh crore mark for the first time.

Eternal rose by 3.32 per cent while HDFC Bank advanced 2.67 per cent, emerging as the major contributor to the Sensex gains. Adani Ports, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, NTPC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Titan, Trent, UltraTech Cement, ITC and State Bank of India



were among the other gainers.

On the other hand, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, HCL Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services, Hindustan Unilever, Axis Bank and Maruti Suzuki India ended lower.

"Indian equities staged a counterintuitive recovery from intraday lows and ended higher despite the rupee hitting a record low and crude remaining elevated," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

Investor confidence was bolstered in anticipation of potential government measures to mitigate INR weakness, including consideration of bond tax relief for foreign investors and potential tightening of the Liberalized Remittance Scheme to stem capital outflows, he added.

"Sentiment was further anchored by positive cues from the Trump-Xi summit, which raised hopes of expanding economic cooperation.

"Sectorally, while pharma and healthcare advanced owing to sectoral rotation, metals gained on higher metal prices and improving demand expectations from China. Conversely, the IT stocks extended their decline," Nair said.

In Asian markets, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Japan's Nikkei 225 benchmark ended lower, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled flat. However, South Korea's Kospi closed higher.

European equity markets traded in positive territory. Wall Street ended mostly higher on Wednesday.

Brent Crude, the global oil benchmark, rose nearly 1 per cent to USD 106.48 per barrel.

The rupee fell to a low of 95.73 against the US dollar due to high crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold equities worth Rs 4,703.15 crore on Wednesday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) purchased stocks for Rs 5,869.05 crore, according to exchange data.

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Mehnaza Bashir w/o: Showkat Hassan Dar R/o: Chagal Handwara.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore

(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Mohd Affan Dar S/o: Showkat Hassan Dar as 18-04-2017 at Guru Hospital.

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: Danish Nazir w/o: Nazir Ahmad Shah R/o: Doabgah.

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 Bisma Danish S/o: Danish Nazir Shah as 07-10-2017 at M.C.H Hospital.

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: Mehnaza Bashir w/o: Showkat Hassan Dar R/o: Chagal Handwara.

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore

(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Mohd Safwan Dar S/o: Showkat Hassan Dar as 28-06-2014 at Guru Hospital.

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: Habibullah Sheikh S/o: Ghulam Rasool Sheikh R/o: Tawheed Bagh.

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 Self namely Habibullah Sheikh S/o: Gh Rasool Sheikh as 25-03-1955 at Home.

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

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: Mohammad Yaseen Bhat S/o: Mohammad Afzal Bhat R/o: Edipora Bomai.

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 Mohammad izhan Bhat D/o: Mohammad Yaseen Bhat as 22-08-2019 at Mother and 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 20-02-2018 at Mother and 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

Xi warns Trump on Taiwan as US, China discuss trade, Iran war



PTI

Beijing, May 14: Chinese President Xi Jinping warned his US counterpart Donald Trump that mishandling the Taiwan issue could trigger "clashes and even conflicts" between the two countries, as the leaders held wide-ranging talks on the Iran war, energy security and trade on Thursday.

After concluding the first round of talks in Beijing, which lasted for around two hours, Trump invited Xi and his wife to the White House on September 24, even as both leaders were in agreement that the Strait of Hormuz needs to be opened to support global energy needs.

China and the US have agreed on a "new vision" for building constructive bilateral ties, Xi said. "I have agreed with President Trump on a new vision of building a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability."

Xi said the "new vision" would provide strategic guidance for bilateral relations over the next three years and beyond and should be welcomed by the people of both countries as well as the international community, official media reported.

He, however, stressed that the Taiwan question remained the most important issue in China-US relations.

If it is handled properly, the bilateral relationship "will

enjoy overall stability", Xi said. Otherwise, the two countries could face "clashes and even conflicts", putting bilateral ties in great jeopardy, the leader was quoted saying by state-run Xinhua news agency.

He urged the US to exercise extra caution in handling the Taiwan issue.

China regards self-ruled Taiwan as a renegade province that must eventually be reunified with the mainland, by force if necessary. It opposes formal diplomatic ties between Taipei and countries that recognise Beijing. Since establishing diplomatic relations with modern China in 1979, the US has maintained unofficial ties with Taiwan and continued supplying arms to the island while formally acknowledging Beijing's position that Taiwan is part of China without explicitly endorsing it.

According to statements released by the White House, the two leaders discussed expanding economic cooperation, keeping the Strait of Hormuz open and preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

The two sides also discussed ways to enhance economic cooperation, including expanding market access for American businesses in China and increasing Chinese investment in US industries, it said.

Leaders from several major American companies joined a

portion of the meeting, according to the White House.

The leaders also highlighted the need to build on progress in ending the flow of fentanyl precursors into the US, while increasing Chinese purchases of American agricultural products, it said.

"The two sides agreed that the Strait of Hormuz must remain open to support the free flow of energy," the White House said, adding that Xi "made clear China's opposition to the militarisation of the Strait and any effort to charge a toll for its use".

According to the White House statement, Xi also "expressed interest in purchasing more American oil to reduce China's dependence on the Strait in the future".

"Both countries agreed that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon," the White House said.

The Strait of Hormuz - which is a major transit route for roughly one-fifth of the world's energy supplies - and Iran's nuclear ambitions remain the two main sticking points in the ongoing peace talks between Iran and the US.

Earlier, Trump had described the meeting as "maybe the biggest summit ever", saying the two countries would have a "fantastic future together".

Calling Xi a "great leader", Trump said the talks covered the Iran war, trade tensions, tariffs, technology and Taiwan.

Trump, who arrived in Beijing on Wednesday, is accompanied by several top American business leaders, including Nvidia's Jensen Huang, Apple chief Tim Cook, Tesla and SpaceX chief Elon Musk, and BlackRock CEO Larry Fink. This is the first visit to China by a US president in nine years. Trump himself was the last US president to visit the country in 2017 during his first term.

The meeting comes amid growing geopolitical tensions over the Iran conflict, renewed tariff disputes, export controls, rare earth supply chains and US arms sales to Taiwan.

World shares mostly gain as investors watch Trump-Xi summit

AP

Hong Kong, May 14: World shares were mostly higher Thursday after Wall Street set more records, as investors closely monitored takeaways from US President Donald Trump's summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing.

Trump met with Xi at the Great Hall of the People and they talked about US-China relations and Taiwan, but analysts did not expect major breakthroughs.

US futures edged higher.

In early European trading, Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.3 per cent to 10,351.36, after the UK reported its economy expanded at a faster-than-expected pace at 0.3 per cent for March despite impacts from the war in Iran.

France's CAC 40 rose 0.6 per cent to 8,057.64, and Germany's DAX gained 1.4 per cent to 24,462.22.

In Asia, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index was down 1 per cent to 62,654.05, after briefly reaching another all-time intraday record at above 63,700, partly supported by robust corporate results.

South Korea's Kospi closed 1.8 per cent higher at 7,981.41 at a fresh record helped by technology-related stocks on the artificial intelligence boom.

The Shanghai Composite index lost 1.5 per cent to 4,177.92. Hong Kong's Hang Seng flatlined at 26,389.04.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged up 0.1 per cent to 8,640.70.

Taiwan's Taiex was up 0.9 per cent, and India's Sensex climbed 1.1 per cent.

Oil prices were mixed, with no clear ending to the Iran war after more than two months. Some were hoping the Trump-Xi meeting could bring results, after US officials said Beijing could use its close economic ties with Tehran to press Iran to reopen the Strait or Hormuz.

On Thursday, the White House said Trump and Xi discussed enhancing US-China economic cooperation. Both sides also agreed that the Strait of Hormuz must remain open.

Three IPL captains likely to lose leadership roles after disastrous campaigns



PTI

New Delhi, May 14: Three IPL captains are in the line of fire due to campaigns that have been nothing short of disastrous and they could end up losing their jobs when the season winds up later this month, sources tracking developments in various franchises have indicated.

Axar Patel, Ajinkya Rahane and Rishabh Pant have captained for two successive seasons and failed miserably in their bid to take their respective teams into the playoffs.

Only Lucknow Super Giants are officially eliminated, making Pant the biggest fall guy of back-to-back poor seasons.

But for all practical purposes, Kolkata Knight Riders led by Rahane and Delhi Capitals helmed by Axar are also unlikely to be around during the business end of the high-profile league.

Axar's numbers as captain and player make for poor reading. He has scored only 100 runs in nine innings at a strike-rate of 112.50, with 56 coming in one innings and the remaining 44 aggregated across eight knocks despite batting mostly in the top-five.

In 12 games, Axar has bowled only

36 overs, exactly three overs per game, and picked up 10 wickets at an economy rate of 8.08.

While the economy rate looks respectable considering the punishment endured by fellow spinner Kuldeep Yadav, Axar has often under-bowled himself.

With Delhi Capitals having an arrangement of equal owners -- JSW and GMR split management responsibilities in alternate cycles -- next season will see Parth Jindal and JSW taking charge of cricket operations.

"With Axar completely failing to prove his leadership worth and mostly being dependant on Hemang Badani and Venugopal Rao for decision making, it will be a miracle if he retains captaincy next year.

"The entire coaching staff is also unlikely to be retained," an IPL source tracking developments told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

The decisions to ignore a flamboyant batter like Abhishek Porel, not using an all-rounder like Madhav Tiwari consistently, and throwing an out-of-sync youngster like Sahil Parakh into the deep end expecting him to do a Vaibhav Suryavanshi have not gone unnoticed.

Pope Leo decries European military spending as 'betrayal' of diplomacy

REUTERS

Rome, May 14: Pope Leo on Thursday decried rising European military spending, which grew last year by the highest amount since the end of the Cold War amid pressure from US President Donald Trump, saying it was a betrayal of diplomacy.

Leo, who has drawn Trump's ire in recent weeks after criticizing the Iran war, told university students in Rome that they should not refer to such rearmament as defense spending, adding that the world was being "maimed by wars." "Let us not call 'defense' a rearmament that increases tensions and insecurity, impoverishes investments in education and health, betrays trust in diplomacy, and enriches elites who care nothing for the common good," said the pontiff.

Military spending across the

continent rose 14 percent in 2025 to \$864 billion, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and rearmament by European NATO members.

Trump has repeatedly chastised European allies to spend more on arms, and signed an executive order in February that would re-prioritize the customer list for US weapons in favor of countries with higher defense spending.

At Trump's urging, NATO in 2025 supported a new defense spending target of 5 percent of GDP for its members.

Leo has been speaking out against the direction of world leadership in recent weeks. On Thursday, he was addressing students at Rome's Sapienza University, the largest institution of higher learning in Europe.

UN says can feed a million more Afghan children if wars stop

AFP

Kabul, May 14: The United Nations could feed a million additional children at risk of malnutrition in Afghanistan if the country's conflict with Pakistan and the Iran war had not inflated prices and transport costs, a senior official told AFP.

Afghanistan saw a record rise in malnutrition cases in 2025, following

a deadly earthquake, climate disasters, and the return of millions of Afghans expelled from Iran and Pakistan.

"It is a nutrition crisis here in Afghanistan," Carl Skau, Deputy Executive Director of the UN's World Food Programme (WFP), told AFP.

"The surge last year was the worst we've ever seen. It's worse this year."

The WFP estimated in January that five million women and children in

Afghanistan, out of a population of more than 40 million, will experience a life-threatening level of malnutrition this year. Afghanistan's ongoing conflict with its neighbor Pakistan has led to a near-total border closure for around eight months.

Along with the global economic fallout from the Iran war, that has driven up prices for food and fuel and disrupted the supply chains needed

to deliver them.

"If we weren't struggling with the supply chain, both delays and costs, we would be able to feed a million more children here in Afghanistan," Skau said.

He cited the example of thousands of tons of fortified biscuits meant for Afghan schoolchildren, which the WFP had planned to send into the country via Pakistan.

Sooryavanshi named in India A squad for SL tri-series

Tilak to lead side

PTI

New Delhi, May 14: Teenage batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was on Thursday named in the 15-member India A squad for the tri-nation 50-over series in Sri Lanka, starting June 9.

Apart from the hosts, the other team in the tournament is Afghanistan A. The matches will be played in Dambulla. India A will also play two multi-day (4-day) 'Tests' in Galle but the squad for that will be announced later.

It is understood that Sooryavanshi has been included as selectors wanted to give him a chance to check him out with the Pathways squad (India A) before he is picked for the senior team for the upcoming tour of the United Kingdom (Ireland and England) starting June 26. The tri-nation series ends on June 21.

A look at the 15-member squad indicates that average age of the team is around 23 years. Only the pace bowlers Arshad Khan, Yuvvir Singh and Yash Thakur are the ones who are above 25 years of age. None of the players in the squad are above 30 and all have been performers in Vijay Hazare Trophy (National One Day Championship) apart from being contracted with IPL squad.

Apart from Tilak and vice-captain Riyan Parag, who are the



mainstays for MI and Rajasthan Royals respectively, Sooryavanshi (Rajasthan Royals), Priyansh Arya, Prabhsimran Singh, Suryansh Shedge (both PBKS), Harsh Dubey (SRH), Nishant Sindhu, Arshad Khan (both GT), Badoni (LSG) have been first team regulars at various points during this edition of IPL.

In the squad, Anshul Kamboj (Test), Riyan Parag and Tilak Varma (T20Is and ODIs) have already played for the senior team while Ayush Badoni was picked in the Indian squad earlier this year although he didn't get a game.

Tilak has earlier led India A squad while Arya had scored a hundred against Australia A last year.

The spinners include Dubey, Shedge, Vipraj Nigam while Prabhsimran and Kumar Kushagra are the two wicketkeepers.

India A will play Sri Lanka A (June 9 and 15) and Afghanistan A (June 11 and 17) twice and the top two teams will meet in the final slated on June 21.

India A squad for the tri-series: Tilak Varma (Captain), Priyansh Arya, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Riyan Parag (Vice-Captain), Ayush Badoni, Nishant Sindhu, Harsh Dubey, Suryansh Shedge, Prabhsimran Singh (WK), Kumar Kushagra (WK), Vipraj Nigam, Yash Thakur, Yuvvir Singh, Anshul Kamboj, Arshad Khan.

Movies Schedule

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