



## Army Chief to Pak: Decide whether you want to be part of geography or history

'If Pakistan continues to harbour terrorists, it will face dire consequences'

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, May 16: Issuing a stern warning to Pakistan, Army Chief General Uday Shankar Dwivedi on Saturday said Islamabad must stop harbouring terrorists and acting against India, or decide "whether it wants to remain a part of geography or become part of history."

Addressing an interactive session titled 'Sena Samwad', organised by 'Uniform Unveiled' at the Manekshaw Centre here, days after the country marked one year of Operation Sindoor, General Dwivedi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "I think if you have heard me earlier, what I have said is that Pakistan, if it continues to harbour terrorists and operate against India, then they have to decide whether they want to be part of geography or history."

Responding to a question on how the Indian Army would react if circumstances similar to those that led to Operation Sindoor emerged again, General Dwivedi said India's position on cross-border terrorism remained unchanged. "If Pakistan continues to harbour terrorists and operate against India, it will face dire consequences."

Referring to his earlier



statements on the issue, the Army Chief said India had already made its stand clear regarding terrorism emanating from across the border.

Pertinently, "Operation Sindoor" was launched by the Indian armed forces last year following a series of terror-linked provocations and attacks attributed to Pakistan-based terror groups. Under the operation, Indian forces carried out precision strikes targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The military confrontation

between the two countries later intensified, with Pakistan launching offensives against India. Indian retaliatory actions and subsequent counter-offensives were also conducted under the broader framework of Operation Sindoor.

The conflict lasted for 4-days. The hostilities ended after Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) approached his Indian counterpart and requested for a ceasefire.

Military officials had earlier stated that India's air defence systems, | More on P6

## Future's strength will depend on how we honour our roots: LG Sinha

Attends 9th Maati Samman Samaroh in Mumbai | Says Purvanchal not just region but consciousness



KT News Desk

Srinagar, May 16: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday attended 9th Maati Samman Samaroh, a Purvanchal festival of art, culture, food and tourism. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also felicitated distinguished personalities from Purvanchal.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said that

historical, cultural and spiritual bonds between Purvanchal and Maharashtra run very deep. A glimpse of it seen in Lord Ram's Vanvas, when he visited Panchvati and worship at Kashi Vishwanath and Trimbakeshwar has strengthened spiritual traditions of both the regions.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Purvanchal is not just a region on the map but Purvanchal is a consciousness. | More on P6

## LG condoles loss of lives in Pahalgam accident

KT News Desk

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed his deep anguish and grief over the loss of lives in a tragic road accident in

Aru, Pahalgam.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said, "I am deeply anguished by the road accident in Aru, Pahalgam, in which two tourists from Gujarat lost their lives and few | More on P6

## Self-enumeration for Census-2027 begins in J&K, Ladakh

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, May 16: The process of self-enumeration for Census 2027 will officially commence at midnight tonight across the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Talking to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Director of Census Operations for J&K and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, said that citizens can fill in their household details online through the official portal starting from 12:00 am.

"The facility of self-enumeration for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh under Phase I of the Census will be available from May 17 to May 31," he said, adding that details filled through self-enumeration will be verified by enumerators during the Houselisting Operation from June 1 to June 30 in both Union Territories.

Sources told KNO that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is likely to submit census



details tomorrow as part of the self-enumeration exercise.

"LG Ladakh Vinay Kumar Saxena is also expected to submit his details tomorrow morning," they said.

The Houselisting Operations (HLO) constitute Phase-I of the Census, while the Population Enumeration forms Phase-II. The latter will be carried out in September 2026 in snow-bound areas of both UTs and in February 2027 in the plains.

The Census 2027 is significant for Jammu and Kashmir for both political and social reasons. It will form the basis for the future delimitation of Assembly seats as well as Parliament, | More on P6

## MEA rejects Indus Waters Court Award, defends treaty suspension

Says parallel arbitration process violates treaty provisions, maintains suspension imposed after deadly Pahalgam terror attack

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, May 16: India on Saturday rejected the latest award issued by the Court of Arbitration (CoA) on the Indus Waters Treaty dispute with Pakistan, maintaining that the tribunal had been constituted "illegally" and New Delhi doesn't recognise its authority or jurisdiction.

Responding to media queries, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said India categorically rejects the award issued by the so-called Court of Arbitration on May 15 regarding matters linked to the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

He said India has consistently opposed the establishment of the arbitral body and



considers all proceedings and decisions issued by it as "null and void".

"The illegally constituted so-called Court of Arbitration has issued what it termed an award concerning maximum pondage supplemental to the award on issues of general interpretation of the Indus

Waters Treaty," Jaiswal said. He added that India had never recognised the constitution of the tribunal and reiterated that the country's decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance would continue.

India had earlier announced that the treaty | More on P6

## Asian Boxing Championship

### CM hails Mohammad Yasser's historic gold medal win

KT News Desk

Srinagar, May 16: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday congratulated Rajouri's young boxer Mohammad Yasser on winning the gold medal at the Asian Boxing Championship held in Uzbekistan.

In his congratulatory message, the CM said the young athlete's remarkable achievement has brought pride and honour to Jammu & Kashmir and the entire country. He lauded Mohammad Yasser's dedication, hard work and determination, saying that his success on the international stage reflects the immense sporting talent emerging from the region.

Abdullah extended his best wishes to the boxer for his future endeavours and expressed hope that his achievement would inspire aspiring



sportspersons across Jammu & Kashmir to pursue excellence in sports with commitment and perseverance. He reiterated the government's commitment towards promoting sports infrastructure and providing opportunities to talented youth to excel at national and international platforms.

Fourteen-year-old Mohammad Yasser scripted history by becoming the first boxer from Jammu & Kashmir to win a gold medal at the Under-15 | More on P6

## 'Kashmir feels complete again': Sopore witnesses emotional return of Pandits

Waris Fayaz

Sopore, May 16: Emotional scenes were witnessed in North Kashmir's Sopore area on Saturday as Kashmiri Pandits returned to the historic Nandkishwar Ji Maharaja temple in Seer Jagir to offer prayers, reconnect with old neighbours and revive memories of coexistence disrupted by decades of conflict.

The visit, held on the occasion of Jyeshtha Amavasya, per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) saw devotees from the displaced community participating in



religious rituals amid a peaceful atmosphere, with local Muslim residents joining them in a display of brotherhood

and shared heritage. For many attendees, the gathering marked more than a religious occasion. It

symbolised a return to roots, identity and relationships that had remained fractured since the mass migration of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley in the 1990s.

"We had once thought returning here would never be possible," said Sanjay Pandith, one of the devotees. "Today the atmosphere is peaceful and normal. The love shown by our Muslim brothers made us emotional. Kashmir is in our veins."

Several devotees recalled childhood memories linked to the area and described the reunion with | More on P6

## In one year, SMHS reports over 17,000 dog, cat bite cases

Cat bite cases out number dog bites; highest in last decade; around 85,000 reported since April 2015

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, May 16: A whopping 17,127 bite victims, mostly from dog and cat bites, sought treatment at the Anti-Rabies Clinic at Srinagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital in the past year.

An official while sharing details with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the prevalence of dogs across the valley has contributed to human-dog conflicts, leading to a rise in cases of dog bites in the region while cats are being reared at home now which leads to cat bite cases.

"In the last one year that is from April 2025 to March 2026 ARC SMHS Hospital received 17,127 including 7,307 dog bites 9,144 cat exposures and 676 other bite cases," the official said, adding, "The cat exposure is increasing exponentially and have overpassed dog bite cases as many people are keeping them as pets while almost all dog bites are reported from stray dogs."



"We receive around 1500 animal bite scratch exposures every month in Anti Rabies and in the last one year around 17,000 cases have been reported," he said.

"This figure of 17,127 cases marks the highest recorded in the past decade, underscoring the urgent need to address the issue immediately."

Details reveal that 14,554 bite cases were reported in Srinagar in last one year followed by 751 in Budgam, 266 in Baramulla, 231 Kupwara, 304 in Bandipora, 235 in Ganderbal, 152 in Pulwama, 96 in Shopian, 99 in Kulgam, 111 in Budgam and | More on P6

## NRPC forecasts over 42% surplus power for J&K, Ladakh

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, May 16: For the first time in nearly six months, power regulatory authorities have forecasted more than 42 percent surplus energy availability in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for the ongoing month of May.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) in its updated anticipated power supply position for May 2026 has forecasted 42.5 percent surplus power availability.

The committee said that the regions in the ongoing month will likely have availability of 4310 Megawatts (MWs) of power and a requirement of 3024 MWs. It has anticipated 1286 MWs of surplus power for the month of May-2026.

Earlier in April KNO reported that in the peak winters of 2025-2026, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were utilizing | More on P6

## Kashmiri Pandits return to Bandipora after 37 years for Sumbli Mawas festival

'Muslim neighbours took care of temple'; DC Chib hails communal harmony

Sajid Raina

Bandipora, May 16: Hundreds of displaced Kashmiri Pandits on Saturday returned to the historic Nand Kishore Temple in Sumbal area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district after 37 years to participate in the annual

three-day Sumbli Mawas festival.

The festival, observed on the birth anniversary of Nand Kishore Maharaj, drew devotees from different parts of the country who gathered to offer prayers, reconnect with their roots and meet old neighbours and friends.

According to | More on P6

## Equitable, inclusive development priority of Government: Sakeena Itoo

KT NEWS DESK

KULGAM, MAY 16: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Saturday visited the Nihama area of district Kulgam and held a mega public darbar to listen to the grievances, issues and demands of the local residents and other adjoining areas.

During the Darbar, the locals, as per an official statement, highlighted several issues related to healthcare infrastructure, road connectivity, drinking water supply, electricity, educational facilities, social welfare schemes, irrigation, employment opportunities and other developmental concerns affecting the area.

They also demanded upgradation of PHC Nihama, upgradation of schools, establishment of a Tehsil, macadamization of various roads, augmentation of safe drinking water supply, installation of street lights in the market and other public welfare issues.

While addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo reiterated the Omar Abdullah led Government's commitment towards equitable and



inclusive development of all regions, particularly rural and far-flung areas. "Present Government is focused on strengthening public service delivery as well as ensuring that the benefits of welfare and developmental schemes reach every deserving household of Jammu and Kashmir", she stated. The Minister added said that the government is continuously strengthening the healthcare sector in all areas, particularly in rural regions, to ensure better medical facilities and improved healthcare services for the people. She further stated that sustained efforts are also being made for the

development of roads and infrastructure across J&K to improve connectivity and public amenities.

The Minister assured the people that all genuine issues and demands raised during the darbar would be addressed on priority. She also gave onspot directions to concerned officers for resolution of various grievances and public issues.

Sakeena Itoo also assured the locals that such Public Darbars will be held on routine basis as they provide an important platform for understanding grassroots concerns and formulating responsive governance mechanisms.

The Minister also urged the officers to maintain

close coordination with the public and work with dedication, accountability and transparency for overall public welfare.

Senior officers from various departments accompanied the Minister during the visit and responded to several grievances on the spot, while many issues were resolved immediately through on-site directions issued by the Minister.

The locals, while interacting with the Minister appreciated her for conducting this massive public Darbar, highlighting that it provided them an opportunity to directly project their concerns and developmental aspirations before the Government.

## Govt approves major cadre review, restructuring of J&K Engineering (Gazetted) Service in Jal Shakti Department

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: In a significant step aimed at enhancing the water supply, quality monitoring and engineering administration across Jammu and Kashmir, the government has approved a comprehensive cadre review and restructuring of the J&K Engineering (Gazetted) Service of the Jal Shakti Department.

The reforms, as per an official statement, have been sanctioned vide Government Order No. 91-JK(JSD) of 2026 dated 15.05.2026, following concurrence from the Finance Department and approval by the Council of Ministers.

The restructuring exercise was undertaken to enhance the administrative efficiency, improve technical supervision, streamline field operations and address the emerging challenges in the water sector, particularly in remote and underserved regions.

As part of the approved reforms, the government has sanctioned creation of the post of Secretary Technical in the Jal Shakti Department to strengthen technical coordination and policy implementation at the departmental level.

To improve water quality

surveillance and monitoring mechanisms, the government has also approved the setting up of a separate Drinking Water Inspection and Quality Control (DIQC) wing within the department.

Further strengthening the field engineering setup, new offices of Superintending Engineer have been created for Hydraulic Circle Jammu-I and Hydraulic Circle Bandipora to ensure better operational management and supervision of water supply infrastructure.

The government has also approved creation of six new divisions, including Hydraulic Divisions at Gandoh, Gurez and Tangdar, PHE Division Mendhar and two Water Quality and Monitoring Divisions for the Jammu and Kashmir provinces. These divisions are expected to significantly improve the service delivery in geographically challenging and border areas.

In another major reform, Mechanical Sub-Divisions of the department have been restructured to optimize manpower utilization and improve efficiency in mechanical operations and maintenance.

The order also provides for creation of 43 posts through rationalization and corresponding reduction of 62 existing posts

besides encadrement of 10 posts and reassignment of 137 posts within the cadre structure.

Additionally, the government has revised deputation and leave reserve provisions across various engineering levels to ensure better human resource management and career progression opportunities within the department.

The cadre review is expected to substantially strengthen the institutional capacity within the Jal Shakti Department and enhance delivery of safe drinking water and allied public utility services across Jammu and Kashmir.

Notably, under the leadership of Jal Shakti Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, the department has witnessed major human resource reforms aimed at revitalizing the engineering and technical workforce while expediting the long-pending promotions and direct recruitment processes.

In a major breakthrough for the sector, nearly 300 engineers were appointed recently, significantly strengthening the human resource capacity of the department.

The latest cadre restructuring and recruitment initiatives are being viewed as transformative measures for improving the governance, efficiency and public service delivery in the Jal Shakti sector across the Union Territory.

## PACS CP DLIMC Meeting 17 Additional M-PACS recommended for computerization in Anantnag

KT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, MAY 16: To assess and monitor the implementation of the centrally sponsored scheme Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) Computerization Project in the district, the 3rd meeting of the District Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee (DLIMC) of the project was convened Saturday under the chairmanship of the District Development Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat at the DC Office.

At the outset, the committee confirmed the minutes of the 2nd DLIMC meeting held earlier, as no objections or observations had been received from any quarter. Addressing the meeting, the DDC, as per an official statement, stressed the need to implement the project of computerization and digital transformation of Cooperative Societies in a swift and time bound manner. He said the digital transformation will allow the PACs to unleash their true potential, making them profitable and sustainable in the long run. During the meeting, the committee deliberated upon the inclusion of additional Multipurpose PACSs under Phase-II of the PACS Computerization Project launched by the Government of India.

## JKREGP: DLTFC approves 31 applications in Anantnag

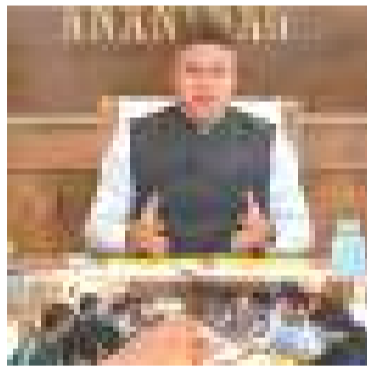
KT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, MAY 16: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Anantnag Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Saturday chaired the meeting of the District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) under J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) at the DC Office.

CPO, District Officer, KVIB, LBM, FM DIC, officials from Bank and KVIB and others attended the meeting.

During the meeting, as per an official statement, 37 applicants appeared before the committee for sanction of loans and establishment of different types of units under the JKREGP. After detailed interaction and assessment, the committee recommended 31 candidates for establishing their units under the scheme. The approved cases involve a total project cost of Rs. 312.05 lakh, with a proposed margin money assistance of Rs 109.375 lakh under the JKREGP scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC stressed that the sanctioned loan amount be swiftly disbursed in favor of the approved cases for establishing their units in a time bound manner adding that proper guidance be provided to the beneficiaries so their units become profitable and sustainable. He said that proper



implementation of the self employment and sponsorship schemes is vital to ensure meaningful employment for youth of the district.

The DDC advised the beneficiaries to work hard and make sustained efforts while keeping themselves updated with the market trends for securing the future of their units. Sustainable units will not only generate employment for the unit holders but will also provide livelihood opportunities to others, he remarked.

Expressing their gratitude to the authorities, the beneficiaries vowed to work with commitment and dedication to ensure their units remain profitable and sustainable in the long run.

## DDC Anantnag reviews progress of PM SGMB Yojana, RRP, MHA scheme

KT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, MAY 16: District Development Commissioner Anantnag (DDC), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Saturday chaired a meeting at DC Office to review the implementation and progress achieved under the Scheme for Revival, Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Heritage and Architecture, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli (SGMB) Yojana and Solarization in the district. The meeting was attended by ADC, SES PWD and KPDC, CPO, Exens PWD and PDD, representative of JAKEDA, AEs and other concerned officials. During the

meeting, officers, as per an official statement, from concerned departments briefed the chair about the physical and financial progress achieved under these schemes in the district so far.

Regarding the Scheme for RRP&MHA, it was informed that out of 21 approved projects, four have been completed while 16 are under execution, of which 10 are expected to be completed this year. Highlighting the significance of the scheme, the DDC issued directions to the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work on all pending projects while ensuring the durability and quality of the buildings

and structures. He said the completion of these projects will be instrumental to revive heritage and preserve old architecture in the district.

Reviewing the progress of PM SGMB Yojana, the DDC directed the concerned officers to expedite disposal of pending inspections and ensure timely completion of installations in favor of the feasible cases. He emphasized maintaining quality standards and ensuring maximum public outreach and beneficiary facilitation. He said the scheme is highly beneficial to harness clean and green energy while reducing the electricity bills of the consumers.

GOVT. OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR UNION TERRITORY

## OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER, SALLAR

(Medical Director SANJY-2026, Pahalgam Axis)

No: Est/BMO/Yatra/2026/205-08 Dated: 16/05/2026

Subject: Submission of Representations/Queries Regarding the Tenders Floated by Medical Director Yatra for SANJY-2026

### PUBLIC NOTICE

In connection with the subject cited above, this office has floated various tenders on the JK e-Tenders and GeM Portal for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026, pertaining to services/items including Ponies, Porters, Tents and Huts, Iron Tin Shed, Labours, Cooks, Common Articles, LPG Refilling, Oxygen Cylinders, Hotel Accommodation, etc.

In this regard, it is hereby notified for the information of all participating bidders that any query/representation/objection, if any, with respect to the aforesaid tendering process shall be submitted in hard copy in the office of the undersigned within two (02) days positively from the date of issuance of this notice, so that the same may be placed before the constituted committees for examination and consideration.

Failure to submit such representation/query within the stipulated time period shall be construed that the bidder has no query/objection regarding the tender process/allotment. No representation/query shall be entertained after expiry of the stipulated period of two days

Sd/-  
Medical Director Yatra  
Pahalgam Axis

DIPK-1343/26  
DATED: 16-05-2026

## DPHQ ANANTNAG

### TENDER NOTICE

Subject:- Hiring of Ponies / Porters in connection with SANJY-2026 duties.  
Reference:- PHQ 1841 (authorization order No. PHQ/P&T/MT/COC-13/2026/7895616 dated 12.05.2026 read with ZPHQ U.O No.YC/ZPHQ/P/18/2026/2022-24 dated 13.05.2026

In view of forthcoming Shri Amar Nath Ji Yatra-2026 and to facilitate the devotees from security point of view, applications are invited from interested registered Pony/Porter Wallas for providing of Ponies / Porters and Riding Ponies to District Police Anantnag for carriage of Defense material / Equipment items! Ration/ Tin Sheets/ Tents/ Arms- Ammunition/ Bag & Baggage and other items required for raising of accommodation, Security Gadgets etc. for CAPF/ Mahila Police /X Police and its wings via Chaadanwar & Baltal axis upto Holy Cave and vice versa.

- The applications along with its relevant documents shall reach to the office of undersigned within Onlays from the date of publication of this tender notice in daily leading news paper.
- No application form shall be entertained after expiry of stipulated date.
- The tender documents should be deposited with concerned clerk in person by the license holder, failing which the documents will not be entertained.
- The approved pony-porter walla shall have to provide ponies-porters as per the requirement of In-charge pony/porters of District Police Anantnag camp Baltal/Chandanwarl during SANJY-2026 duties.
- The approved pony/porter wallas will not leave the camping location without prior permission of WC pony porter of District Police Anantnag and no substitute will be entertained without authorization of registered pony/porter wallas/ authentication of undersigned.
- The approved pony-porter wallas have to remain available at Saltal/Chandanwari round the clock in close liaison with the In-charge pony-porter of District Police Anantnag till the culmination of SANJY-2026 duties and obey the directions of VC Pony/Porter and maintain discipline.
- If any pony-porter walla fails in providing ponies & porters at any stage during the Yatra period, his CDR/payment shall be forfeited without issuing any notice thereof.
- The department will not be responsible for any accidental or natural loss caused to the pony/porter while providing the service for SANJY-2026 duties.
- The approved pony- porter wallas have to surrender his original license, photo state copy of Ration Card and pass book of bank account Number in the office of undersigned till the culmination of SANJY-2026 duties.
- The interested registered pony-porter wallas have to deposit CDR of 11.1, a5.1, Le. Q duly pledged to Accounts Officer to SSP Anantnag as security deposit.
- The pony-porter wallas have to submit an affidavit mentioning therein that they will abide by the terms and conditions mentioned in the notice. (Affidavit format can be had from the office of undersigned). The payment in respect of ponies/porters shall be made as per the rates fixed by Deputy Commissioner Anantnag & Ganderbal.
- The pony/porter wallas will not claim for the payment before the funds are released by PHQ AK.
- The undersigned reserves the right to reject the services of any pony/porter walla during the period of SANJY-26, without assigning any reasons whatsoever.
- The payment shall be made only after release of funds from PHQ J&K

Amod Ashok Nagpure- IPS  
Sr. Superintendent of Police  
District Anantnag

No. Accts/SANJY-PP/2026/33303-06  
Dated:- 15/05/2026

DIPK-1348/26  
DATED: 16-05-2026

## CM Omar-led Govt okays Rs 72 Cr for development works

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, May 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved Used Water Management Projects for Baramulla and Rajouri at an estimated cost of Rs 37.96 crore and Rs 34.43 crore respectively, aimed at strengthening sanitation infrastructure and addressing wastewater management challenges in the two urban areas.

The projects, cleared by Omar Abdullah led Government, are expected to ensure scientific treatment of sewage, prevent pollution of water bodies and significantly improve public health, hygiene and overall living conditions for the residents of



Baramulla and Rajouri. The Housing & Urban Development Department has formulated Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the Used Water Management Projects for Municipal Council Baramulla and Municipal Council Rajouri under the

CAPEX component of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0. The DPRs have been technically vetted by National Institute of Technology Srinagar. The projects will be executed using Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) Technology, which provides high treatment efficiency through

a single-step biological treatment process. The projects have been conceived to improve sanitation facilities and create sustainable wastewater treatment systems in Baramulla and Rajouri. Both projects are scheduled to be completed within a period of 18 months.

## Chirag Paswan visits PMFME-Supported Unit at Tirith, Nubra

PIB

Nubra, May 16: Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Chirag Paswan visited the PMFME-supported unit of Jigmat Gyalson, proprietor of M/s Gyalson Dairy and Food Processing Unit, at Tirith village in Nubra on Saturday.

The unit, supported under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, is engaged in processing local produce and promoting value addition in the region.

During the visit, the Minister reviewed the functioning of the unit and interacted with Gyalson regarding the progress of the enterprise and the scope for further strengthening processing, packaging, branding and market access for local products.

The Minister also interacted with local entrepreneurs engaged in food processing and allied activities in Nubra.

The entrepreneurs shared their experiences and discussed the role of food



processing in promoting self-employment, enterprise development and livelihood opportunities in the region.

The Minister appreciated the efforts of local entrepreneurs in strengthening food processing activities in Ladakh's difficult terrain. He noted that value addition to local produce can support farmers, youth and women by creating income and employment opportunities

in remote areas.

The General Manager, District Industries Centre, Leh, A.G. Zargar, JKAS, along with officials of the department, was also present during the visit.

The visit underscored the Government's continued focus on strengthening micro food processing enterprises, promoting value addition to local produce, and supporting the development of the food processing sector in Ladakh.

## 15 locations raided in JeI linked UAPA case

WARIS FAYAZ

Sopore, May 16: Sopore Police on Saturday conducted searches at more than 15 locations across the police district in connection with a case linked to the banned Jamaat e Islami organisation under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

A Police officer said that the searches were carried out in connection with FIR No. 42/2025 registered at Police Station Sopore under Sections 10 and 13 of the UAPA Act.

The raids were conducted in several areas including Jamia Qadeem, Naseem Bagh, Krankshivan, Tarzoo, Amargarh, Warpora, Bomai and Boitingoo.

"Searches were conducted after obtaining warrants from the designated UAPA Court. The operations were carried out in the presence of Executive Magistrates and independent witnesses as per legal procedure," he said, adding, "During the searches, police seized incriminating material, including literature linked to the banned organisation. The material has been taken into custody for further investigation and examination."

The official said the action is part of the ongoing crackdown against the terror and separatist ecosystem as well as networks linked to banned organisations in the region. He added that further investigation in the case is underway—(KNO)

## Transport Minister opts for Tonga ride to promote fuel conservation

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, May 16: Minister for Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, on Saturday opted for a traditional horse-drawn Tonga ride on Gupkar Road instead of an official vehicle, responding to the nationwide appeal for austerity and fuel conservation amid rising economic pressures linked to the ongoing West Asia crisis.

Accompanied by Kunwarani Ritu Singh - wife of former minister and royal scion Ajjatsharu Singh, the minister said the ride aimed to promote the "Save Petrol" campaign while encouraging environmental protection, traditional tourism and reduced fuel consumption.

Speaking during the ride, Sharma said the initiative was a "small gesture" in response to the austerity appeal by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

"Jai Hind, Jai Mata Di. Save petrol and diesel, enjoy nature and avoid pollution. This is a small gesture towards austerity measures. Instead of using cars everywhere, people should consider economical and

environmentally friendly alternatives," he said.

The minister added that the tonga ride reflects Kashmir's cultural heritage and tourism potential during the peak summer season. "We want visitors to experience the traditional charm of Kashmir. These horse carriages were once a common sight in the Valley and are part of our heritage. Promoting such modes also supports tourism and local livelihoods," he said.

Kunwarani Ritu Singh described the experience as nostalgic, saying the initiative carried both environmental and cultural significance.

"We have left our vehicles behind today to support the message of conserving petrol, diesel and gas. It is also a way of reconnecting with Kashmir's old traditions while promoting sustainable tourism and protecting the environment," she said.

The ride comes amid renewed national-level calls for fuel conservation and austerity measures in view of rising global energy pressures linked to the West Asia crisis—(KNO)

## Stay off drugs, hit playgrounds & libraries: SSP Srinagar

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, May 16: Urging youth to shun drugs, excessive social media use and other harmful influences, SSP Srinagar Dr. G.V. Sundee Chakravarthy on Saturday called on youngsters to actively engage in sports and constructive activities.

Speaking during an inter-college cricket tournament organised by the district administration in Srinagar, Dr. Chakravarthy said such events provide an important platform for youngsters to channelise their energy positively. "We are very happy to be here at the inter-college cricket tournament organised by the district administration. I would like to thank the district administration, our colleges and the notarial office for starting this wonderful initiative. This is a good platform for our youth to display their energies and channelise them into constructive activities," he said.

The SSP said sports activities are the need of the hour, especially at a time when various national missions aimed at youth engagement and nation-building are progressing rapidly across the country.

"As we all know, the national mission of Bharat Aavahan is running at a very fast pace in the country. In this season, such cricket tournaments keep our youth busy in positive and constructive activities. And it is the need of the hour," he said.



Highlighting the importance of youth participation in nation-building, Dr. Chakravarthy said youngsters should spend more time in educational and sporting spaces instead of falling prey to negative distractions.

"Every platform says that our youth is the future of our country. So, they should be busy in libraries and playgrounds. They should stay away from negative influences like social media, mobile phones and drugs," he said. He said sports not only encourage fitness and discipline but also help build team spirit, confidence and character among students. "Everybody will play to win. But cricket is such a game where you get a platform to show your team

spirit and character," he said.

The SSP assured participants that Jammu and Kashmir Police and Srinagar Police will continue to support youth-oriented and sports-related initiatives. "JK Police and Srinagar Police are always with them. We are always here to support," he said.

He further congratulated district administration for organising the event and promoting constructive engagement among youth.

"I would like to congratulate the district administration again for this wonderful initiative," he added.

Replying to a question regarding the misuse of online platforms for the illegal sale of drugs and medicines, Dr. Chakravarthy said police and

the district administration have intensified monitoring and enforcement against such activities.

"You must have seen that the police along with the district administration are checking the online platforms. We already released in the press that a lot of licences have been cancelled. We will be more aggressive in this," he said.

The SSP said police are carrying out continuous surveillance against those involved in online narcotics networks and warned of strict action against violators.

"It is a strict warning for those who are involved in this. Don't do this hanky-panky. We will be behind you and we will keep you out of circulation," he said—(KNO)

## Police officer shoots wife dead, attempts suicide

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, May 16: A probationary sub-inspector of Jammu and Kashmir Police allegedly shot his wife dead following a domestic quarrel and later attempted suicide in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said on Saturday.

According to the details available, the accused officer, identified as Deep Singh, was posted at a Special Operations Group (SOG) camp in the Kandi area of the district. "The incident took place late on Friday night after an argument broke out between Singh and his wife, Bhawana, at their residence," said an official.

"In a fit of rage, the officer allegedly opened fire on his wife, resulting in her death on the spot," he added.

"After the shooting, Singh allegedly turned the weapon on himself and sustained critical injuries. He was immediately shifted to a hospital and later referred to the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) in Srinagar for specialised treatment," the official said.

Hospital sources described Singh's condition as "life threatening."

Police have taken cognisance of the incident and started an investigation to ascertain the circumstances that led to the incident. The body of the deceased woman has been sent for post-mortem examination, the official said—(KNO)

## Authorities undertake repair work of Sopore Bypass Bridge

WARIS FAYAZ

Sopore, May 16: Authorities in North Kashmir's Sopore town have initiated repair work on the vital Sopore bypass bridge after growing concerns over its deteriorating condition.

The bypass bridge, considered a crucial connectivity link between Sopore, Kupwara and other parts has for months been giving a difficult experience to commuters due to visible damage at several spots despite repeated patchwork repairs in the past.

The bridge also serves as an important route for transport movement towards Asia's second largest fruit mandi in Sopore, making its condition a matter of concern for traders, transporters and daily commuters.

An official notice issued by the Additional District

Magistrate Sopore said the traffic diversion has been ordered following a request made by OC 56 RCC Beacon for smooth execution of repair work and after discussions with the Senior Superintendent of Police Sopore.

According to the order, vehicular movement on the Sopore bypass road will remain diverted from Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 7:00 PM till Monday 7:00 AM.

During the repair period, traffic moving from Sangrama towards Sopore will be diverted via Degree College route to Badam Bagh Sopore, while vehicles travelling from Badam Bagh towards Sangrama will follow the route through Degree College.

Authorities have also directed magistrates already deployed on duty to remain present on the spot to ensure proper traffic regulation and minimize inconvenience to the public.

Earlier, MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar publicly raised concern over the safety of the bridge and revealed that he had already sought a safety audit of the structure in the Legislative Assembly—(KNO)



## BJP's liquor issue a drama: Tanvir Sadiq

Says NC alone will ban alcohol in J&K

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

Srinagar, May 16: National Conference Chief Spokesperson and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq on Saturday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of enacting drama over the liquor sale issue in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the NC alone would ensure a ban on alcohol in the Union Territory.

Speaking to reporters here, Sadiq said the BJP remained silent when the liquor policy was framed during the period of Lieutenant Governor's rule. "The BJP protested a lot. It is good that they protested. But unfortunately, when the policy was made during (Lieutenant) Governor's rule, they were nowhere to be seen," he said.

The NC chief spokesperson said his party understands the public sentiment, particularly in Kashmir, regarding the issue of alcohol sale and promised that



the Omar Abdullah-led government would act on it soon.

"I won't go much into politics, but I will promise one thing: when it comes to banning liquor, the National Conference will do it and do it very soon," he said.

Referring to the BJP leaders' protest and hunger strike call, he said, "First, they should go on a hunger strike against those who made the policy during (Lieutenant) Governor's rule in

2023," he said.

When asked whether the government would move on the issue during the upcoming autumn session of the Assembly, Sadiq replied, "We will do it."

Replying to a question about a possible cabinet expansion, Sadiq said it was entirely the prerogative of the Chief Minister. "That is the prerogative of the honourable Chief Minister. He will do whatever he wants to

do," he said.

The NC Chief Spokesperson also hit back at opposition parties over allegations of corruption against NC ministers and legislators, particularly targeting the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). "If you remember, when the PDP was in power, there was a senior PDP leader who had a rate list. Everybody knows his name," he said. "Those who do such things point fingers at us. First look into themselves."

Sadiq said the party leadership would take immediate action if any complaint of wrongdoing surfaced against any minister or MLA. "If anyone has a complaint against a minister or an MLA, bring it to the leadership. There will be immediate action on it," he said. He said no NC minister or legislator was involved in malpractice, corruption or irregularities. "In our government, no minister or MLA is involved in any malpractice, irregularities or corruption," he said—(KNO)

## PM Modi's UAE Visit

### Advancing Energy, Technology, Connectivity And Strategic Cooperation

#### Press Information Bureau

India-UAE strategic partnership is anchored in political trust, economic cooperation, and people-to-people connections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the UAE on 15 May 2026 further strengthens cooperation across energy security, defence, maritime infrastructure, artificial intelligence, supercomputing, investment, and skill development. The growing convergence between the two countries across strategic, technological, and economic sectors reflects a shared commitment towards long-term growth, regional stability, innovation, and future-ready development.

From Historical Ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

India and the United Arab Emirates share a long-standing relationship shaped by trade, cultural exchanges, and strong community connections across the Arabian Sea. Trade in pearls, dates, spices, textiles, and fisheries connected western India with the Gulf region for centuries. Formal diplomatic relations were established in 1972, followed by the opening of embassies in Abu Dhabi and New Delhi.

Bilateral ties gained new momentum after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the UAE in 2015, the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 34 years. PM Modi has visited UAE seven times since 2014 and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has visited India 5 times. During this period, cooperation has expanded across trade, investment, energy, technology, defence, and the digital economy. The UAE is now one of India's largest trading partners, a major energy supplier, and a key investor in infrastructure and renewable energy.

Trade and Investment ties: Bilateral merchandise trade between the two countries crossed US\$100 billion for the first time, reaching US\$101.25 billion in FY 2025-26. Both sides have committed to doubling bilateral trade to US\$200 billion by 2032.

Investment has also become a significant component of this bilateral relationship. The two nations signed the Bilateral Investment Treaty in February 2024 which entered into effect from 31 August 2024. From April 2000 to March 2025, the cumulative FDI from the UAE into India amounted to US\$25.19 billion, making UAE the seventh-largest overseas investor in India. UAE's investments are well-diversified with focus on sectors like real estate, infrastructure, energy, private equity and financial services. UAE's Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWF) have a strong presence in India. Local Currency Settlement (LCS) system between India and the UAE is in place, enabling bilateral trade and remittances to be settled in INR and AED, reducing dollar dependence and transaction costs.

Energy Trade: India and the UAE share a close and dynamic partnership, particularly in the areas of the hydrocarbon sector. In FY 2024-25, the UAE stood as the fourth largest source of crude oil, third largest source of LNG, largest supplier of LPG and second largest export destination



for India's finished petroleum products. Currently, the UAE is the only country participating in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve programme

Bilateral Connectivity: Apart from energy and trade, connectivity and logistics cooperation are also emerging as important pillars of the bilateral partnership. Both countries are working to strengthen maritime connectivity

Defence Cooperation: Bilateral defence cooperation between India and the UAE has been steadily growing in consonance with other domains of the bilateral relationship. It is steered through a Joint Defence Co-operation Committee (JDCC) at the Ministry level, with the signing of MoU on Defence Cooperation in June 2003. At Service HQ level, Service (Army, Naval and Air) Staff Talks are held annually to discuss security and defence cooperation avenues.

People-to-people ties: Indians constitute the largest group of expatriates in the UAE. They form the backbone of the UAE economy and society. Their wellbeing is important to both countries. Despite the challenges to the global economy, the diaspora remains a consistent source of remittance to India, having a positive impact on the forex reserves.

15th May 2026: Prime Minister Visit to UAE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the United Arab Emirates on 15 May 2026 and held discussions with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The visit reaffirmed the strong momentum in the bilateral strategic partnership. Both countries committed to expanding

cooperation across strategic, economic, technological, and social sectors. The discussions also emphasized resilient supply chains, long-term economic collaboration, and growing convergence on regional and global priorities.

Key Outcome and its Strategic Importance

The PM visit marks another significant step in the expanding India-UAE bilateral Partnership. The outcomes span critical sectors, reflecting the growing strategic convergence between the two countries. These will strengthen long-term economic resilience, technological collaboration, and regional connectivity.

Outcome 1: MoU on Strategic Collaboration between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)

The agreement will strengthen India's energy security through deeper cooperation in the hydrocarbons sector. It will ensure reliable access to critical energy resources. The partnership will also enhance India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves framework. This will improve resilience against global supply disruptions and energy market volatility.

The agreement will create new opportunities in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) storage infrastructure. It will support India's efforts to diversify energy sources and expand storage capacity. The partnership will also help build a secure and future-ready energy ecosystem.

Outcome 2: Strategic Collaboration Agreement between Indian Oil Limited

(IOCL) Company and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) on supplies of Liquefied Petroleum gas (LPG)

The collaboration will strengthen India's long-term LPG supply security. It will ensure a stable and reliable energy source for domestic demand. The initiative will also deepen strategic energy cooperation between both countries. It will further reinforce the UAE's position as one of India's most trusted energy partners.

Outcome 3: Framework for the Strategic Defence Partnership

The framework will strengthen defence industrial cooperation between both countries. It will encourage joint partnerships, co-development, and greater industry engagement. The agreement would also promote innovation and technology sharing in strategic sectors. This will support cooperation in advanced defence manufacturing and capabilities. At the broader level, the partnership is expected to enhance national and regional security cooperation.

Outcome 4: MoU between Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Drydocks World (DDW) on setting up Ship Repair Cluster at Vadinar, Gujarat

The initiative will boost shipping, port, and coastal infrastructure development. It will strengthen India's position as a growing maritime and logistics hub. The collaboration will also improve the maritime logistics ecosystem. It will enhance ship repair and allied industrial capabilities. This will support efficient trade and connectivity. The partnership will also advance the Make in India initiative. It will promote domestic manufacturing, infrastructure

development, and indigenous maritime capabilities.

Outcome 5: MoU between Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Drydocks World (DDW) and Centre of Excellence in Maritime & Shipbuilding (CEMS) on Skill Development in Ship Repair

The arrangement will strengthen the capabilities of the Indian maritime workforce. It will support specialised training, technical upskilling, and capacity-building in shipbuilding and ship repair. The initiative will also support India's emergence as a global hub for skilled maritime professionals. It will strengthen industry-ready expertise and expand opportunities in the maritime sector. The collaboration also aligns with the objectives of the Skill India Mission. It will help create a future-ready workforce for the evolving global maritime industry.

Outcome 6: Term Sheet for setting up 8 Exaflop Super Computing Cluster in partnership between CDAC, India and G-42, UAE

The partnership will accelerate India's sovereign AI and high-performance computing capabilities. It will strengthen the country's supercomputing infrastructure. The collaboration will also boost the IndiaAI Mission. It will support digital innovation, AI research, and next-generation technological development.

Outcome 7: Investment from UAE to India

The investment commitments will strengthen economic and financial cooperation between both countries. They will boost investments in India's infrastructure and banking sectors. The commitments will also enhance long-term capital flows and investor confidence. They will support India's economic development and infrastructure expansion goals.

Overall, the outcomes of the Prime Minister's visit reflect the transformation of bilateral ties into a future-oriented strategic partnership. The cooperation is anchored in trust, innovation, and shared prosperity. The agreements deepen collaboration across traditional sectors such as energy, trade, and defence. They also open new opportunities in frontier technologies, logistics, digital infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing.

Towards a Future-Ready India-UAE Partnership

The relationship between India and the UAE has transformed from traditional trade linkages into a wide-ranging strategic partnership. Sustained political engagement and economic cooperation have driven this transformation. Today, the partnership spans energy security, trade, technology, investment, and defence cooperation.

The outcomes of the Prime Minister's 2026 visit have further strengthened bilateral ties. They expand cooperation in emerging technologies, maritime infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and strategic industries. As both countries align their economic and geopolitical priorities, the partnership is expected to play a larger role in regional stability, economic growth, and technological advancement in the coming years.

## How Temporary Emotions Of Teenagers Are Destroying Permanent Success

Every hour wasted today may become regret tomorrow. Mobile phones and social media should be used carefully. Friendships should never become obstacles to ambition.



Abrar Hassan

In today's world, thousands of young students dream of becoming doctors, IAS officers, IPS officers, engineers, scientists, and leaders of society. Many prepare day and night for highly competitive examinations such as NEET, JEE, UPSC Civil Services, IAS, KAS, and other government exams. These examinations demand discipline, patience, focus, and

sacrifice. However, one of the biggest distractions affecting teenagers today is emotional attachment and immature relationships at an early age.

Teenage is a sensitive stage of life. At this age, emotions are stronger than experience. Many students confuse attraction with true love and slowly become emotionally dependent on someone. What starts as simple chatting or friendship often turns into a major distraction. Hours that should be spent studying are wasted on phone calls, social media, overthinking, arguments, and emotional stress. As a result, concentration decreases, and academic performance suffers.

Competitive exams like NEET and UPSC are not ordinary examinations. Every year, lakhs of students

compete for a limited number of seats and positions. A student preparing for NEET must study biology, chemistry, and physics with complete dedication for years. Similarly, becoming an IAS, IPS, IFS, or KAS officer requires deep knowledge, mental strength, consistency, and self-control. Success in these fields is not achieved through temporary emotions but through long-term discipline and sacrifice.

Unfortunately, many talented students lose their direction during this important stage of life. Instead of building their future, they become trapped in emotional confusion. Some lose confidence after heartbreak, while others waste valuable years trying to maintain relationships that distract them from their real goals. By the time

they realise the importance of time, opportunities may already be lost.

This does not mean love is wrong. Love is a natural human emotion. But every emotion has the right time and maturity. A student's primary responsibility during youth should be education, self-development, and career building. Once a person becomes successful and independent, relationships become more stable, respectful, and meaningful. Dreams achieved with hard work bring honour not only to the individual but also to their family and society.

History shows that successful people often spent their youth focused on learning and discipline. Officers who clear UPSC or students who crack NEET usually sacrifice entertainment, distractions, and unnecessary

emotional involvement. They understand that temporary pleasure can destroy permanent success.

Young students must realise that time is priceless. The teenage years are the foundation of the future. Every hour wasted today may become regret tomorrow. Instead of getting trapped in emotional distractions, students should invest their energy in books, skills, health, and personal growth. Mobile phones and social media should be used carefully, and friendships should never become obstacles to ambition.

Parents and teachers also have an important role. They should guide teenagers with wisdom rather than anger. Motivation, counselling, and positive support can help students stay focused on their dreams and

avoid harmful distractions.

The youth of today are the future officers, doctors, scientists, and leaders of tomorrow. A student who remains disciplined today may one day wear the uniform of an IPS officer, serve the nation as an IAS officer, heal patients as a doctor, or represent the country through the IFS. But such success requires patience, focus, and control over emotions.

In the end, every student must ask themselves one question:

Do I want temporary emotional distraction, or a lifetime of respect and achievement?

The answer to this question can decide an entire future.

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The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

## Govt committed to creating better educational infrastructure, providing conducive learning environment for students: Deputy CM

Conducts extensive tour of Akhnoor, inspects colleges, development projects

KT News Desk

JAMMU, MAY 16: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary conducted an extensive tour of Akhnoor and adjoining areas on Saturday to review the progress of ongoing developmental works besides assessing the institutional infrastructure across several educational establishments.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official statement, inspected various projects and interacted with the students, faculty members and staff to take first-hand appraisal of the academic facilities, infrastructure development and overall functioning of the institutions.

At the Government College of Engineering and Technology, Chak Bhalwal, Jammu, the Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the ongoing developmental works and inspected the institutional facilities.

He stressed the need for creating quality infrastructure, ensuring timely completion of projects and strengthening the academic environment for the benefit of students. He directed the concerned authorities to maintain high standards in execution of works and ensure that modern educational facilities are made available to the student community.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the Government



Ayurvedic Medical College, Sangani, Akhnoor, where he reviewed the ongoing hostel construction works along with MLA Akhnoor, Mohan Lal Bhagat.

During the visit, he interacted with the students and staff members and sought feedback regarding institutional facilities and accommodation needs.

He emphasized timely completion of the hostel project with quality construction standards so that better facilities are provided to the students.

The Deputy Chief Minister also inspected the ongoing works at Government Nursing College, Akhnoor along with MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal Bhagat.

During detailed interaction with the faculty members and students regarding the academic activities, the Deputy Chief

Minister called for speedy infrastructure development.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure speedy execution of all ongoing works while strictly adhering to quality standards and timelines.

"The government is committed towards creating better educational infrastructure, providing a conducive learning environment for the students across Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also visited Indrapattin Bridge project site at Pragwal, Akhnoor and reviewed the progress of ongoing works.

Termining the project as vital, he stressed upon timely execution and completion of the bridge to improve the connectivity and public convenience in the area.

## District Admin Srinagar's Rolling Trophy for Inter-College Cricket Tournament inaugurated at S.P. College

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr G.V. Sandeep, on Saturday inaugurated the District Administration Srinagar's Rolling Trophy for the Inter-College Cricket Tournament (Men & Women)-2026 at S.P. College Srinagar under the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Programme.

The inaugural ceremony, as per an official statement, was attended by several dignitaries, including Dr. Seem Naz, Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges; Elford Thomas, IAS Probationer; Dr. Haris Izhar Tantray, Principal, S.P. College Srinagar; Dr. Hudda Gazali, Principal, Government College for Women Nawa Kadal Srinagar; Dr. Tehmeena Yousuf, Principal, Islamia College of Science and Commerce Srinagar; and Dr. Deeba Sarmad, Principal, GDC Eidgah Srinagar, besides SSP Traffic Srinagar, SP East Srinagar, and SHO Kothi Bagh.

Officials from the Youth Services and Sports Department Srinagar, the Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Srinagar, Physical Training Instructors (PTIs), Assistant Physical Training Instructors (APTIs), and other officers were also present on the occasion.

The inaugural match of the tournament was played between Amar Singh College and Government Degree College Hyderabad. Amar Singh College won the toss and elected to field first.

A total of 18 teams from various



Government Degree Colleges have registered for the tournament, including nine men's teams and nine women's teams.

The participating men's teams include Government College of Education (IASE) Srinagar, GDC Hyderabad, Amar Singh College, GDC Bemina Srinagar, GDC Women M.A. Road Srinagar, S.P. College Srinagar, GDC Eidgah, Islamia College of Science and Commerce Srinagar, and Gandhi Memorial College Srinagar.

The women's category included teams from GDC Zakura, Vishwa Bharati College, Amar Singh College, GDC Women M.A. Road Srinagar, S.P. College Srinagar, Gandhi Memorial College Srinagar,



Islamia College of Science and Commerce Srinagar, and GC Women Nawa Kadal Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Srinagar highlighted the importance of sports in character building and youth development. He said that tournaments and sporting events not only nurture talent but also channel the energy of young people toward productive and meaningful activities.

He emphasized that the discipline learned through sports plays a vital role in shaping responsible citizens.

He further urged students to stay away from drugs and adopt healthy lifestyles, stating that drug abuse poses a serious

threat to society and the future of youth.

"Youngsters must utilise their potential in positive avenues such as sports, education, and community service. Collective efforts from parents, teachers, police, and society are essential to eradicate the menace of drugs," he said.

Addressing the gathering, Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges Dr. Seem Naz emphasized the importance of sports in promoting youth engagement, discipline, and empowerment. She said that sporting activities help students develop leadership qualities, teamwork, and mental resilience while keeping them focused on constructive pursuits.

She encouraged students to actively participate in extracurricular and sports activities to build confidence and maintain both physical and mental well-being. Highlighting the growing concern of drug abuse among youth, she stated that educational institutions and society must work collectively to create awareness and provide positive platforms for young people.

"Sports can become a powerful tool in protecting youth from falling prey to substance abuse and other social evils," she remarked.

The event concluded with enthusiasm among participating students and teams, marking the beginning of the much-awaited inter-college cricket tournament aimed at promoting sports culture and youth empowerment across Srinagar.

## Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan: Vibrant, participative anti-drug awareness programmes held across Shopian



KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, MAY 16: Under the ongoing Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan campaign, a series of awareness and outreach programmes were organised across District Shopian Saturday to educate the people about the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan.

Yoga sessions, awareness lectures and interactive programmes were conducted in educational institutions of the district where students and staff actively participated and pledged to promote a healthy & drug-free lifestyle.

An inter-school debate competition, as per an official statement, was also organised at HSS Vehil under the banner of NMJKA, where students highlighted the growing menace of substance abuse and stressed the collective responsibility of society in eradicating it.

Similarly, awareness

activities were held at HS Pinjoora and HS Mantribugh Shopian, sensitizing participants about the social, psychological and health-related consequences of drug addiction.

Other departments also organised scheduled activities. GDC Shopian, KPDCI, ICDS, Ayush and Revenue department conducted various awareness events where officials, students, youth and local residents participated enthusiastically.

Speakers highlighted the hazards effects of drug abuse and urged people especially youth to stay away from narcotics and stressed the need for coordinated and committed efforts towards the goal of drug free society.

Participants were also encouraged to proactively spread awareness at the grassroots level and contribute actively towards building a healthy, safe and drug-free Shopian.

## YSS sets up district-based monitoring, participation framework for sports sector

Department presently developing infrastructure across 16 sports and activity categories

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: The Department of Youth Services & Sports carried out a comprehensive Union Territory-level review of sports infrastructure, youth engagement programmes and district action plans for 2026-27, while laying down a time-bound and outcome-oriented roadmap for expanding sports access and strengthening youth development initiatives across Jammu & Kashmir.

The review meeting, as per an official statement, was chaired by Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, and attended by Director General Youth Services & Sports, senior officers of the Department and newly posted District Youth Services & Sports Officers from all 20 districts. The exercise aimed at a structured monitoring and planning framework focused on participation, infrastructure utilisation, inclusion and execution efficiency. The Department outlined a district-driven approach aimed at ensuring that sports infrastructure translates into regular sporting activity, youth engagement and talent development at the grassroots level.

A detailed review of 521 projects involving an investment of over 644 crore was undertaken during the meeting. The portfolio includes 344 ongoing works with an estimated cost



of 396.72 crore and 177 new projects proposed under the Action Plan 2026-27 involving an estimated investment of 247.34 crore. During the review, district-wise progress, expenditure patterns, project execution timelines and implementation bottlenecks were examined in detail. Districts were asked to move towards measurable outcomes in terms of participation, outreach and infrastructure usage rather than limiting focus to physical construction alone.

Dr Shahid Iqbal said the Department intends to build a more participatory and inclusive sports ecosystem in which schools, panchayats, local communities, clubs, associations, federations and youth institutions play an active role in identifying talent and sustaining sporting activity. He said sports infrastructure must function as community assets that promote discipline, fitness, leadership and constructive youth engagement.

The Commissioner Secretary directed all districts to strengthen monitoring mechanisms

and ensure faster completion of projects through close coordination with district administrations and executing agencies. A clear implementation timeline was prescribed under which land identification is to be completed within 30 days, parallelly technical sanctions within 45 days, administrative approvals and tendering within 60 days. The Department is presently developing infrastructure across 16 sports and activity categories including multi-purpose playfields, volleyball, badminton, football, cricket, basketball, athletics, kabaddi, wrestling and indoor sports facilities. Out of the total projects reviewed, 176 relate to multi-purpose playfields while 98 are linked to volleyball infrastructure, reflecting the Department's focus on accessible, community-based sports infrastructure with high youth participation.

Several major initiatives proposed across districts were also reviewed, including Khel Gaons, Khel Bhawans, Border Sports Academies, sports science

centres, synthetic courts, indoor stadiums, youth hostels, wrestling akharas and district-level training facilities.

Projects aimed at improving sports access in border, tribal and far-flung areas were given particular emphasis during the discussions. The meeting also stressed the need for better utilisation of existing infrastructure, regular sporting calendars, coaching support and district-level talent mapping. Officers were directed to ensure that infrastructure development is linked with actual sports participation and athlete progression.

The Commissioner Secretary appreciated districts including Shopian, Anantnag, Budgam and Kulgam for strong utilisation and implementation performance, while directing districts with lower expenditure levels to intensify monitoring and expedite pending works. Institutional strengthening measures were also discussed during the meeting, including efficient cadre management, timely regularisation and promotions, improved coordination between field offices and capacity building of departmental staff. It was decided that district-level review meetings would now follow across Jammu & Kashmir to monitor implementation, remove bottlenecks and ensure that the Department's youth and sports initiatives deliver visible outcomes on the ground.

## NCDRC member visits Baramulla, reviews functioning of DCDRC

KT News Desk

BARAMULLA, MAY 16: Members of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), New Delhi, Dr. Inder Jeet Singh and Shashi Nandan Keolyar, Saturday visited the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDRC) Baramulla to review its functioning and assess the consumer grievance redressal mechanism in the district.

President, DCDRC Baramulla, Peerzada Qousar Hussain; Member, Nyla Yaseen; and Registrar National Commission, Iqbal Ahmad accompanied the delegation during the visit.

During the visit, the members, as per an official statement, reviewed the overall functioning of the Commission and held discussions on the timely disposal of consumer cases, strengthening institutional mechanisms, and ensuring the effective implementation of consumer protection laws. Later, the delegation visited Dak Bungalow Baramulla, where they interacted with members of the Bar Associations Baramulla-Kupwara and exchanged views on consumer rights, legal awareness, and access to justice.

President Bar Association Baramulla Neelofer Masood and members of the Bar Associations of Baramulla and Kupwara appreciated the visit of the delegation and the continued efforts towards strengthening the consumer dispute redressal system.

## J&K Judicial Academy conducts training programme on 'Code of Civil Procedure' for Judicial Officers

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MAY 16: Under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy, a one-day training programme on the Code of Civil Procedure was conducted Saturday at the J&K Judicial Academy, Moominabad, Srinagar, for Judicial Officers of Kashmir Province under the guidance of the Chairman and Members of the Governing Committee of the Academy.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairman, J&K Judicial Academy, as per an official statement, in his keynote address, observed that the Code of Civil Procedure, though procedural in nature, is rooted in

the principles of natural justice and serves as an effective instrument for implementation of substantive law.

He emphasized that civil adjudication is foundational to a progressive civil society and stressed the need for judicial officers to handle civil litigation with procedural discipline, sensitivity and commitment. Referring to Section 89 CPC, he highlighted the importance of Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanisms in facilitating amicable settlement of disputes and ensuring accessible and efficient justice delivery.

Naseer Ahmad Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, in his welcome address, stated that the Code of Civil Procedure forms the backbone of civil adjudication and its effective application is essential for fair,

efficient and timely administration of justice. He informed that the programme was designed to deliberate upon practical application of procedural provisions, strengthen judicial efficiency, improve case management and reduce delays in civil trials. He further stated that the sessions would focus on pre-trial proceedings, framing of issues, pleadings, admissions and procedural tools available under the CPC for effective adjudication.

The first and second technical sessions were delivered by Justice Mohammad Yaqoob Mir, Former Chief Justice, High Court of Meghalaya, on "Role of Court in Pre-Trial Proceedings and Effective Case Facilitation" and "Case Management, Framing of Issues and Discovery Procedures." He emphasized

the importance of judicial intervention in effective pre-trial management for narrowing controversies and ensuring expeditious disposal of civil cases.

The sessions covered examination of parties under Order X CPC, use of Section 89 CPC for Alternate Dispute Resolution, summoning and attendance of witnesses under Order XVI CPC, framing of issues under Order XIV CPC and discovery and inspection under Order XI CPC.

The concluding session was delivered by Mohammad Ashraf Malik, Former District and Sessions Judge, on "Pleadings, Admissions and Expeditious Adjudication." The resource person emphasized the importance of continuous judicial learning, effective case management and procedural discipline in civil adjudication.

## WMDA Organises sanitation, anti-drug awareness rallies

Around Manasbal Lake  
KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, MAY 16: The Wullar Manasbal Development Authority on Saturday organised a series of sanitation drives and anti-drug awareness rallies in the catchment areas of the famous Manasbal Lake to spread awareness about environmental conservation and the harmful effects of substance abuse.

The programmes, as per an official statement, were conducted in collaboration with Sainik School Manasbal, local volunteer group QRT and a local educational institution. The initiatives witnessed active participation of students, volunteers, teachers and officials of the Authority.

The rallies and cleanliness drives were organised as part

of the ongoing "100 Day Nasha Mukh Abhiyan" launched across Jammu and Kashmir on April 11, 2026, with an aim to eradicate the growing drug menace from society and encourage public participation in awareness campaigns.

During the programme, participants carried placards and raised slogans highlighting the importance of preserving the ecological balance of Manasbal Lake, which is considered one of the most scenic freshwater lakes of Kashmir. They also stressed the need for maintaining sanitation in and around the lake to protect its natural beauty and biodiversity.

Speakers on the occasion underlined that environmental degradation and drug addiction are serious concerns requiring collective efforts from

all sections of society. The students and volunteers appealed to people, especially the youth, to stay away from drugs and contribute towards building a clean and healthy society.

Chief Executive Officer of Wullar Manasbal Development Authority, Ahsanul Haq Chishti, while addressing the participants, said that the Authority has placed cleanliness within and around the lake among its top priorities. He said such awareness programmes with active citizen involvement would continue in the coming days as well.

He also sought cooperation from the public in preserving the fragile ecosystem of Manasbal Lake and supporting the campaign against drug abuse for the betterment of society.

## Pahalgam accident: DC visits injured tourists at GMC Anantnag

### Assures full support for treatment, recovery

KT News Desk

Anantnag, May 16: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat on Saturday visited Government Medical College, Anantnag and met the injured tourists who suffered an unfortunate accident at Pahalgam.

Two visitors have died and 3 got injured due to the tragic incident that occurred on Saturday.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the injured and enquired about the status of their health and recovery besides the quality of



treatment and health care services being provided to them. He directed the medical staff to ensure the best possible

healthcare facilities and proper medical attention for the patients so they recover soon. Expressing sympathy with the affected families, the DC prayed for eternal peace of the deceased and speedy recovery of the injured visitors. He advised them to stay connected with the authorities and assured them of all possible support from the district administration at this difficult time.

Dr. Bilal instructed the hospital staff to maintain high standards of patient care and ensure that all patients including the injured tourists don't face any undue inconvenience. He also issued directions to the concerned to extend necessary assistance to the attendants of the injured tourists.

## Committee for establishment of AD&SC calls on Speaker LA

KT News Desk

Srinagar, May 16: A Committee for establishment of Additional District and Session Court Chadoora led by its chairperson Advocate AR Hanjoora on Saturday called on Speaker Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather with a demand to establish an Additional District and Session Court at Chadoora.

The delegation highlighted severe hardships faced by the locals due to absence of a higher-level court in the area. Chadoora, which comprises of three vast tehsils, is currently burdened with a heavy backlog of litigations. As a result, the residents and the legal professionals are

forced to travel nearly 60 kilometers to the District Court in Budgam for ordinary legal proceedings.

The Committee apprised the Speaker that Chadoora represents a massive population base that generates significant legal volume. The sheer volume of pending litigations justifies a localized court to de-congest the main Budgam District Court and speed up the judicial process.

The Committee also impressed upon the Speaker to get the funds released for construction of new building of the Munsiff and Sub-judge court complex which is long-pending due and DPR stands prepared already.

The Speaker listened patiently

to the issues presented by the Committee. Acknowledging the merits of the case, the Speaker assured the Committee that the matter would be taken up with the concerned authorities immediately to ensure an early redressal of the genuine grievance.

The Speaker emphasized that establishing this court is not just an administrative convenience but a critical step toward ensuring "justice at the doorsteps" for the people of Chadoora.

The delegation included Advocate Waseem Rasool Mir, Convenor of the Committee, Advocate G.M Baba, Advocate Javid Iqbal Dar, Advocate Nasir Dar, Advocate Ilyas Dangroo, Advocate Firdous Ahmed and Advocate Javid Iqbal.

## Govt committed to env conservation: Rana

KT News Desk

Poonch, May 16: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana on Saturday inspected the ongoing construction work of the Eco Hut near Chatta Pani, Poonch being developed at an estimated cost of 1.27 crore.

The Eco Hut project is being developed with the objective of promoting eco-tourism in the region and providing modern, eco-friendly resting and recreational facilities for the tourists, trekkers, and nature lovers.

The project, being executed by the Forest Department under the Eco-Tourism Development Plan, is expected to significantly enhance the tourism potential of the region while ensuring conservation of its rich natural and ecological heritage.



The Minister interacted with the concerned officers and executing agency. He directed them to ensure that the project is completed within the stipulated timeframe without compromising on quality standards or environmental safeguards.

## Vikramjit Singh reviews implementation of NMBA in Pulwama

KT News Desk

Pulwama, May 16: Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Vikramjit Singh, who is the District Mentor for overseeing the implementation of Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan in Pulwama district, on Saturday chaired a meeting to review implementation of the activities being conducted under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) in the district.

While reviewing the activities, the Commissioner Secretary highlighted the need to sensitise youth regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse and emphasised the importance of preventive awareness at the grassroots level. He further directed the departments to make effective use of

audio-visual means including documentaries, short films and testimonials of rehabilitated victims for impactful outreach and wider public awareness.

Emphasising the importance of community participation, Vikramjit Singh directed the concerned departments to intensify awareness programmes, outreach activities and youth engagement initiatives across educational institutions and rural as well as urban areas of the district.

He called for coordinated efforts among the administration, police, civil society and community stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan and to make it a mass movement.

The officers on the occasion also informed regarding various activities being conducted under NMBA including awareness programmes, counselling

sessions, sports activities, pledge ceremonies, padyatras, signature campaigns and community outreach programmes across different zones and institutions of the district.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, briefed regarding the department-wise activities being carried out across the district under the ongoing campaign. The Deputy Commissioner apprised of the district action plan, activities conducted by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, involvement of SHG members, revitalisation of youth clubs and their trainings, constitution of Mahila Nigrani Samitis in Panchayats and urban wards, participation of religious leaders and elderly clubs besides

drug de-addiction and counselling facilities available in the district along with rehabilitation and follow-up mechanisms for affected individuals.

On the occasion, Senior Superintendent of Pulwama, Tanushree and Senior Superintendent of Police Awantipora, Sajad Ahmad Shah, also apprised the chair regarding the enforcement measures and anti-drug operations being undertaken in the district to curb the menace of drug abuse.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary visited Sports Stadium Pulwama to take stock of the arrangements being put in place in connection with the mega padyatra and the forthcoming VVIP visit to Pulwama scheduled on May 19.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama; and senior officers from Civil Administration and Police.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Army Chief to Pak

including the Indian Air Force's Air Command and Control System, successfully neutralised multiple swarm drones launched by Pakistan during the confrontation.

According to official accounts, Pakistan failed to inflict damage on any major Indian military installation during the escalation. (KNO)

### Future's strength

"It is a living energy that has offered humanity a fresh perspective. Purvanchal is an idea. To me Purvanchal is both a celebration of spirituality and an expression of devotion. Purvanchal brings the fragrance of art and the exuberance of culture. It is the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and Sarasvati, and the restraint of ascetic, selfless sages," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The LG observed that in modern times, the contributions of Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar, Raghunath Rao and Malhar Rao Holkar were extraordinary. He said when Purvanchal was wounded by invaders and it was struggling to reclaim its spiritual and cultural radiance, Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar took up the mantle. Lieutenant Governor said that from Kashi Vishwanath Temple to Manikarnika, Dashashwamedh and Ahilyabai ghats, many temples and ghats came into being because of Lokmata Ahilyabai's patronage.

The Lieutenant Governor said that saints from Maharashtra and Purvanchal, Sant Tukaram, Sant Gyaneshwar, Sant Namdev, Sant Ekknath, Sant Ramdas, Goswami Tulsiadas, Sant Kabir and Sant Ravidas awakened social consciousness and showed society a new path.

He added, "I believe Purvanchal, which embodies a heritage from Lord Rama to the Buddha, created ways to reach truth. Several Tirthankaras of Jainism were born in regions of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Places from Ayodhya to Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, Sarnath, Varanasi and Kushinagar continue to guide humanity. In Purvanchal's soil many Upanishads were born, the Ramcharitmanas took shape, Kabir's anthologies and Sant Ravidas's immortal sayings emerged, and numerous Jain and Buddhist texts found their voice. The words of Munshi Premchand and Bharatendu Harishchandra shaped the new ideas. Pandit Ravi Shankar, Bismillah Khan, Girija Devi and Birju Maharaj breathed life into art. Heroes of independence struggle like Mangal Pandey, Chandrashekhar Azad, Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rani Lakshmi Bai and Chittu Pandey changed the nation's destiny, and selfless leaders like Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Babu Shiv Prasad Gupta helped shape the new generation through education."

The LG said that in its deepest form Purvanchal is humanity's story. He said millions of indentured laborers from Purvanchal carried India's culture to Fiji, Mauritius, Trinidad, Suriname and Guyana, so Purvanchal belongs to every person who stands at the crossroads of global human exchange. He observed that many districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have made significant contributions to Maharashtra's economy, and large numbers of migrant workers have powered its industries.

"Today Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh function as two of India's principal economic engines and Maharashtra leads with 15.7% of the nation's GDP, while Uttar Pradesh contributes 9.2% and ranks second in the country," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized that new generation must be connected to the roots and traditions. "No tree grows tall by abandoning its roots. It rises because its roots reach deep into the earth. The deeper the roots, the bolder the branches that stretch toward the sky. This nation was shaped by generations who sacrificed, who lived by values, who nurtured society like a family, and who tended the soul of culture. A nation that knows its own spirit never loses its way. The strength of the future will depend on how deeply we honor our roots," he said.

### Lok Bhavan J&K

the forefront of the nation's vision. He said the emotional bond shared among all Indian states/UTs is deeply rooted in the core values of unity, compassion and brotherhood.

The LG also highlighted that the landmark July 2022 J&K-Sikkim horticulture agreement has yielded groundbreaking results in fostering interaction among youth, farmers and researchers from both regions. "I regard this thriving collaboration as a prime example of the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. This spirit of mutual partnership will prove instrumental in realizing our collective resolve for a 'Viksit Bharat'."

May Sikkim, known for its breathtaking natural beauty and remarkable achievements in sustainable development and organic farming, continue to scale new heights of growth and development. I pray for the well-being and prosperity of all its citizens," the Lieutenant Governor said.

### LG condolences

others are injured. Directed senior officials to provide all possible support. My condolences to bereaved families. Praying for speedy recovery of the injured."

### CM hails Mohammad

Asian Boxing Championship held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

A trainee at the Khelo India Centre in Rajouri, Yasser delivered a dominant performance throughout the tournament. He defeated boxers from Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Iran before overcoming host nation Uzbekistan by 4-1 in the final to clinch the gold medal in the 58-kg category.

### MEA rejects Indus

would remain in abeyance following the April 22, 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam in which 26 civilians were killed.

Pertinently, the Indus Waters Treaty, signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 with the mediation of the World Bank, governs the sharing of waters of the Indus river system between the two countries. Under the agreement, the waters of the eastern rivers — Ravi, Beas and Sutlej — were allocated to India, while Pakistan retained rights over the western rivers — Indus, Jhelum and Chenab — with certain

usage provisions granted to India.

The current dispute relates to hydroelectric projects being developed by India on western rivers, including the Kishanganga and Ratle projects, which Pakistan has challenged under the treaty's dispute resolution mechanism.

India has maintained that disputes under the treaty should first be addressed through the mechanism of a Neutral Expert, as provided under the agreement, and has objected to parallel proceedings before the Court of Arbitration constituted under the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague.

New Delhi has argued that initiating arbitration proceedings without following the agreed dispute resolution sequence amounted to a violation of the treaty provisions.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration, headquartered in the Netherlands, facilitates arbitration and dispute resolution between states and international entities. India, however, has refused to participate in the proceedings related to the Indus Waters Treaty dispute. (KNO)

### Self-enumeration for

beneficiaries will help ascertain community-wise beneficiaries of quota in the Union Territory. This is expected to facilitate the government in addressing the issue of reservation, which has become a major concern. (KNO)

### 'Kashmir feels

local families as overwhelming.

Another devotee, Rakesh, said the return to the temple revived old bonds of communal harmony. "Coming here brings back memories of the same brotherhood we grew up with. We are hopeful that next year we will organise a full hawan with even greater participation," he said.

Local Muslim residents said the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the shrine carried deep emotional significance for the entire community.

"Kashmir feels complete again when our Pandit brothers are among us," said Rameez Ahmad, a local resident. "They are part of our society and culture. Seeing them here again strengthens trust and brotherhood."

Younger residents, many of whom had only heard stories about Kashmiri Pandits from their elders, also described the moment as historic. Umar Fayaz, 24, said his father broke down after meeting a childhood friend after decades. "I had only heard stories about Pandits living here. Today I saw those stories come alive. This is not just their return, it is the return of our shared identity," he said.

Another resident, Mohammad Shafi Lone, said rebuilding trust must remain a collective responsibility. "The administration has created a peaceful environment, but it is now our duty as locals to ensure they always feel safe and welcomed," he said.

It is worth mentioning, Sopore, once considered among the worst militancy affected towns in Kashmir, has in recent years witnessed improving security conditions and increasing inter-community participation in religious and cultural events, offering fresh hope for reconciliation and return. (KNO)

### Kashmiri Pandits

the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the temple premises witnessed emotional scenes as several families reunited during the annual gathering, which members of the community described as a symbol of remembrance and communal harmony.

Authorities had made elaborate security and administrative arrangements for the smooth conduct of the festival. Senior police and civil administration officials remained present during the event.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora Indu Kanwal Chib visited the shrine and participated in special prayers, while Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora reviewed security arrangements ahead of the celebrations.

Chib appreciated the participation of residents, saying the involvement of the Muslim community reflected Kashmir's shared traditions and communal harmony. "It is heartening to see the local community actively participating in the event and welcoming the visiting families. Such gatherings strengthen bonds between communities and preserve our collective heritage," she said.

Many visiting devotees said returning to the Valley after decades was an emotional experience. "We are happy to return to our motherland after so many years. Our Muslim neighbours took care of this temple in our absence, and we will always remain thankful to them," said Sunil Kaul, a devotee visiting from outside Kashmir.

Another devotee, Ramesh Bhat, said returning to the ancestral village and meeting old neighbours brought back memories of earlier times. "It is the best feeling to return home after decades. Praying at our ancestral temple fills our hearts with emotion," he said.

Ashok Kumar, another participant in the festival, said the annual gathering helped the displaced community maintain its connection with Kashmir. "No matter where we live, our roots are here. Coming back every year keeps our traditions and memories alive," he said.

Locals welcomed the visiting families and assisted in arrangements for the festival. "Pandits are part of our family. Their return reconnects us with our shared traditions and old memories," said Rather Mehraj, a Sumbal resident.

Community members said the annual festival had now become a symbol of reconciliation and hope for renewed communal harmony in Kashmir. (KNO)

### In one year, SMHS

328 from other districts.

An expert told KNO that cats do transmit Rabies similar to dogs and cat bite cases are on rise and people need to take precautions in this regard. "The trend of keeping cats as pets has gone up especially post COVID times but in many instances the owners are not following norms like vaccination, deworming, timely treatment and hygiene practices," he said.

"We have seen many fold increases in the number of cases visiting Anti Rabies Clinic SMHS over the last four years. More than half cases are victims of cat exposures now," he added.

Reviewing the yearly data on bite cases, the official said that from April 2015 to March

2016, 7,061 bite cases were reported to ARC SMHS, followed by 5,832 cases from April 2016 to March 2017, 6,802 from April 2017 to March 2018, 6,397 from April 2018 to March 2019, 6,139 from April 2019 to March 2020, 4,808 from April 2020 to March 2021, 5,469 from April 2021 to March 2022, 6,875 from April 2022 to March 2023, around 8800 from April 2023 to March 2024, around 12000 from April 2024 to March 2025 taking total cases since April 2015 to over 85,000.

"Kashmir is witnessing a surge in pet ownership for the last decade and in contrast to farm animals that provide milk, meat and eggs; pets are companion animals and are kept purely for companionship," he said.

"Adherence to personal hygiene while handling pets is important for keeping Zoonosis at bay. A person who intends to keep a pet must be mentally prepared to take proper care of his pet animal with respect to behavioural requirements, adequate feeding, shelter and healthcare facilities. There is no fun in bringing home an animal without taking due care of it," he added.

They said that regular hygiene practices, such as routine grooming and dental care, help prevent skin infections and dental diseases in pets.

In Kashmir, dog bites pose a serious public health concern, with thousands of people becoming victims of animal bites, particularly dog bites, and some developing rabies.

Rabies is a universally fatal viral disease, resulting in approximately 59,000 human deaths annually worldwide, with 95 percent of cases occurring in Africa and Asia. (KNO)

### NRPC forecasts

nearly 1,000 Megawatts (MWs) of coal and gas energy amid dip in hydel power generation.

The official figures in this regard had revealed that in the month of January-2026, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were utilizing 999.21 MWs of thermal energy including 870.14 MWs of coal and 129.7 MWs of gas energy from the allocated shares in joint and central sector utilities.

The figures reveal that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were allocated with a total of 3767.44 MWs of power from state, private and central share out of which 999.21 MWs were thermal energy and 2673.1 MWs were from the renewable energy.

It also said that out of the total allocated energy, the regions were utilizing 95.13 MWs of nuclear and 1115.88 MWs of hydel energy.

The figures also reveal that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the month of January-2026 were relying on nearly 66 percent of imported power.

Pertinently, as already reported by this news agency Jammu and Kashmir was importing more than 95 percent of its electricity in the month of December.

The officials earlier in the month had informed that Jammu and Kashmir is importing electricity ranging from 2900 MWs to 3100 MWs during the peak hours.

It also had informed that during the other hours, the region is importing electricity ranging from 2400 MWs to 2800 MWs. (KNO)

## Judiciary needs to function like 24x7 hospitals to address common man's pain, aspirations: CJI



PTI

Jabalpur, May 16: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Saturday said it was time for the judiciary to address the pain and aspirations of the common man through an immediate relief-giving mechanism, and stressed the need for the judicial system to function like hospitals that work round-the-clock.

He said technology was the only effective answer to wastage of judiciary's time, and called for deepening technology and artificial intelligence (AI)-based judicial architecture to expedite justice delivery. The CJI was speaking at a programme organised by the Madhya Pradesh High

Court on "Fragmentation to fusion, Empowering justice via united digital platform integration". He also launched the high court's newly-developed digital platforms.

"Indian judiciary is committed to ensuring optimum utilisation of not only technological advancements that have been going on and which are integral part of our system since 1990, but also of latest AI designs and how we can use them for the benefit of the common man," he said.

"We should think of deepening technology and AI-based judicial architecture. Technology is the only effective answer to wasting judicial time," CJI Kant said.

The time has come when the judiciary needs to address

the aspirations, requirements, demands, pain and agony of the common man through an immediate relief-giving system, he said.

"For that, the judiciary needs to work like hospitals that function 24x7," he added.

Recalling the COVID-19 pandemic, the CJI said the Indian judiciary was praised globally for discharging its constitutional duties during difficult times.

"We did not close our courts," he said, elaborating on how technology enabled courts to conduct urgent hearings during the pandemic. He stressed the need to make use of technological advancements in judiciary for expediting the justice delivery system.

Praising Madhya Pradesh HC for developing digital platforms, the CJI said that as stated by the Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, there was a need to roll out these technological advancements at the pan-India level.

A committee has been constituted by the Supreme Court on how to use AI for the benefit of the judicial system, especially in speedy disposal of cases, according to him.

Minister Meghwal, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and MP High Court Chief Justice Sanjeev Sabharwal also spoke on the occasion.

### CJI Kant clarifies 'parasites' remarks, says 'pained' over media reports

PTI

New Delhi, May 16: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday issued a strongly worded clarification on his 'parasites' remarks, saying he was "pained" by media reports that suggested he criticised youth.

"I am pained to read how a section of the media has misquoted my oral observations made during the hearing of a frivolous case yesterday," the CJI said in a statement.

Kant emphasised that his remarks were specifically directed at individuals entering the legal profession through "fake and bogus degrees" and were "misquoted by a section of the media."

The clarification follows a controversy during a hearing on Friday, when the CJI used words like "parasites" and "cockroaches" while pulling up a lawyer for his plea seeking senior designation.

"What I had specifically criticised were those who have entered professions like the Bar (legal profession) with the aid of fake and bogus degrees. Similar persons have sneaked into the media, social media, and other noble professions as well, and hence, they are like parasites."

"It is totally baseless to suggest that I criticised the youth of our nation. Not only am I proud of our present and future human resource, but every youth of India inspires me. It is not an exaggeration to say that Indian youth have great regard and respect for me, and I too see them as the pillars of a developed India," the chief justice said about his remarks.

### India for boosting intra-BRICS trade through stronger value chains

PTI

New Delhi, May 16: The intra-BRICS trade has increased multiple times over the last few years but it accounts for only around 5 per cent of the global trade, reflecting huge untapped potential for deeper integration and stronger value-chain linkages, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal has said.

BRICS is a grouping of 11 developing countries - Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

It acts as a platform for consultation and cooperation on contemporary issues having global as well as regional significance, and issues of global political and economic governance.

India has assumed the BRICS Chairship for the fourth time, after 2012, 2016 and 2021.

Addressing the 2nd Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Trade and Economic Issues, held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on May 14-15, Agrawal said intra-BRICS merchandise trade has risen 13-fold, from USD 84 billion in 2003 to USD 1.17 trillion in 2024.

However, he said, this "trade still accounts for only around 5 per cent of global trade, indicating significant untapped potential for deeper trade integration, stronger value-chain linkages and enhanced economic cooperation".

Issues such as promoting more balanced trade, and opening new opportunities in the services sector were also discussed in the meeting.

India's exports to BRICS member countries were estimated at USD 82 billion in merchandise goods in 2025-26 and USD 31.3 billion in services calendar year 2024.

### TN Cabinet: CM Vijay to helm gen admin, police, women, youth welfare

PTI

Chennai, May 16: In his maiden government, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay will handle key portfolios including police, general administration and welfare of women, youth and children, while veteran leader K A Sengottaiyan has been designated as the Finance Minister, the Lok Bhavan said on Saturday. By keeping Home for himself, Vijay continues the trend of Chief Ministers in TN retaining the important portfolio with themselves.

The portfolios for all the 10 ministers, including Vijay, were approved by Governor Rajendra Viswanath Arlekar as per the recommendation of the chief minister, a Tamil Nadu Lok Bhavan press release said.

The portfolio allocations came a week after the council of ministers led by Vijay was sworn in



on May 10.

According to the Lok Bhavan, Vijay will handle public, general administration, police, women and youth welfare, welfare of children, aged, differently abled persons, municipal administration and urban and water supply. N Anand was designated minister for rural development and water resources. Aadhav Arjuna will take care of public works (buildings, highways and minor ports) and sports development. Dr K G Arunraj will be the minister for health, medical education and family welfare, the release said.

### Biology lecturer, part of NTA's paper-setting committee for NEET-UG, arrested

PTI

New Delhi, May 16: The CBI on Saturday arrested a biology lecturer who was part of the National Testing Agency's (NTA) paper-setting committee for NEET-UG held on May 3, officials said.

The arrest was made on the basis of questioning of alleged kingpin P V Kulkarni and other accused in the paper leak case, they said.

The biology lecturer Manisha Mandhare was arrested here after being questioned by the agency at its headquarters, they said.

She was allegedly involved in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) examination process and was appointed by the NTA as an expert, they said.

Officials said Mandhare had complete access to the Botany and Zoology question papers.

Mandhare is alleged to have mobilised prospective NEET examination candidates in April 2026 through Manisha Waghmare of Pune, who was arrested on May 14, and conducted special coaching classes for these students at her Pune residence.

It is alleged that Mandhare dictated leaked questions and responses to select students and took lakhs of rupees as fee.

Most of these questions tallied with the questions that appeared in the examination on May 3. The NEET exam was cancelled following allegations of a paper leak.

The CBI had arrested Professor P V Kulkarni, a domain expert in chemistry

from Latur on Friday. Kulkarni for years served on panels involved in setting the NEET question paper.

Exploiting his privileged access to confidential material, Kulkarni allegedly hosted special coaching classes at his house in the last week of April and dictated to his students questions, options and answers which appeared in the NEET UG paper on May 3.

"During the last week of April, 2026, he had mobilised students, with the help of another accused namely Manisha Waghmare who was arrested on May 14 by CBI," a spokesperson said in a statement.

Students allegedly paid several lakh rupees to attend the sessions where they wrote the questions down in their notebooks and later "tallied exactly" with the actual NEET-UG paper conducted on May 3, the spokesperson said. The federal agency has registered an FIR and formed teams to probe the alleged paper leak that resulted in the cancellation of the exam held on May 3.

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) was conducted across 551 Indian cities and at 14 overseas centres. Nearly 23 lakh candidates had registered for the test, which was administered by the NTA across the country.

According to the NTA, information regarding alleged malpractice was received on the evening of May 7, four days after the exam was held.

The NTA said the inputs were escalated to central agencies the following morning for "independent verification and necessary action."

### Women's safety, education most important: Delhi CM

PTI

New Delhi, May 16: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday said that the safety and education of women is a matter of paramount concern for her government.

Gupta was attending a cycle distribution event in the R K Puram area, organised by the local MLA.

"In my city of Delhi, the safety, education, and respect of our daughters are the most important issues for me. For this, we have started a scheme called the 'Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana', Gupta said. The chief



minister said that as part of the fuel-saving initiatives underway across the country,

a cycle per family would be helpful.

"When I became the chief minister, I felt that my biggest responsibility was to work for my sisters and daughters. Roads, flyovers, bridges - all of these are necessary. Education must be improved, and hospitals must be built. These are all part of our responsibilities," she said.

The chief minister also said that tenders for providing free cycles to girl students, as announced by her government earlier this year, have been floated, and soon her government will distribute cycles.

### FIR filed against TMC's Abhishek over 'inflammatory' remarks during Bengal polls



PTI

Kolkata, May 16: The West Bengal Police on Saturday said they have registered an FIR against Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee for allegedly making inflammatory statements during the recently concluded assembly elections.

The FIR was lodged based on a complaint filed by social activist Rajib Sarkar at Baguiati Police Station in North 24 Parganas district on May 5, a day after the assembly election results were declared, alleging that the TMC national general secretary made provocative comments on post-poll violence and the vote counting process, a senior officer said.

The complainant also claimed that Banerjee's inflammatory comments were linked to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, he said.

"Following due procedure after the filing of the complaint, an FIR was formally registered at the Cyber Crime Police Station under the Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate on May 15," the officer said.

### Hindu devotees flock to Bhojshala day after HC declares it temple; situation peaceful

PTI

Dhar (MP), May 16: A day after the Madhya Pradesh High Court declared the disputed Bhojshala complex in Dhar a temple of Goddess Saraswati, devotees thronged the medieval-era monument on Saturday to offer prayers.

Devotees carrying garlands were seen performing 'Saraswati Vandana' and chanting mantras at the monument, protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Gokul Nagar, a young devotee, said, "We have struggled for years to see this day. We are very happy that we will now be able to worship at Bhojshala every day, whereas previously we had that opportunity only on Tuesdays."

Another devotee, Sanjay, said he carried a picture of Goddess Saraswati to

the monument with the intention to install it there but was stopped by officials, who told him that ASI rules and regulations on this matter were yet to be finalised.

He said he understands the legal status of the disputed monument and will follow the instructions of ASI officials at the Bhojshala complex.

Indore Rural Range Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Manoj Kumar Singh stated that the situation in Dhar is peaceful and devotees are visiting the Bhojshala. He added that 1,200 police personnel have been deployed in Dhar to maintain law and order.

The Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on Friday ruled that the disputed Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex in Dhar district is a temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswati.

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ  
INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHI RAJIOUN

**CONDOLENCE**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of

**Ghulam Qadir Mir**

Resident of Narwara eidgah Srinagar

Who left for heavenly abode on 16.05.2026 after brief illness.

The congregational Fatiha Khawani will be held on

**19 of May - Tuesday - 2026 at**

their ancestral graveyard Narwara Near Ahad Zargar shrine

**at 10:00 am.**

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُ وَارْحَمْهُ وَعَافِهِ وَاعْفُ عَنْهُ  
May Almighty grant him highest place in Jannah.

**BEREAVED FAMILY**  
Farooq Ahmad Mir (Son)  
Shabir Ahmad Mir (Son)  
Contact No. 7006511708

## India's aspirations 'no longer limited to its borders': Modi to diaspora in Netherlands

PTI

The Hague, May 16: Describing India as a "land of opportunities", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the country is undergoing an "unprecedented transformation" and its aspirations are "no longer limited to its borders".

Addressing the Indian community in The Hague, the Prime Minister also said that India is dreaming big and its youth aspires to reach the sky.

"India of the 21st century is a land of opportunities. India is both technology-driven and humanity-driven. India is becoming as modern as it is ancient. Therefore, this is also the time to connect with your ancestral villages in India, and to participate in the journey of developed India," Modi said in his over 40-minute speech.

He urged all "friends of India" in the Netherlands to increase cooperation with India as much as possible. "This will also increase India's potential, and the return on your investments will also be higher. This is Modi's guarantee," he said, amid applause from the audience.

"Today, our India is dreaming big. Today, the country is saying - we don't just want transformation, we want the best. And we don't just want the best, we want the fastest. And that's why when aspirations are unlimited in India, efforts are also becoming limitless," he said.

Modi said the youth of India want to touch the sky now, and cited that as a reason behind India's startup ecosystem getting stronger. "Now we are the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world," he added.

"India's aspirations today are no longer limited to its borders. India wants to host the Olympics, become a global manufacturing hub, emerge as a leader in green energy and become the growth engine of the world," he said.

Modi said that India is currently experiencing an "unprecedented transformation". He further said: "You must have seen recently that India hosted the world's largest and most successful AI Summit. Before that, India also successfully hosted the G20 Summit. And this was not a one-time event. This has now become the character of today's India."

"India reached the moon where no one could reach before," said Modi, referring



to India's space mission.

India made history when its Chandrayaan-3 mission successfully executed a soft landing on the lunar far side - often referred to as the 'dark side' - in 2023.

Recalling how India had only four unicorns in 2014, Modi on Saturday said the country now has nearly 125 active unicorns.

"Today, our startups are doing remarkable work in AI, defence, and the space sector. This culture of research and innovation is becoming even more expansive," he said.

The PM said India's aspiration-driven journey is also strengthening its democracy, mentioning the recently held assembly elections in several regions.

"This time, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry witnessed nearly 80-90 per cent voter turnout. Women's participation also increased significantly, and this trend is visible across every state. Today, voters in India are enthusiastic. We feel proud that voting records are being broken every year," he said.

India values the democratic participation of every citizen, the prime minister said. Calling India the "Mother of Democracy", Modi said it is "a matter of great pride for all of us."

Modi also took a jibe at the opposition parties, asking the audience if the popular snack Jhalmuri has reached The Hague as well.

During campaigning ahead of the recently held assembly elections in West Bengal, Modi was seen enjoying Jhalmuri

at a local shop. His party later won the elections in the state with a sweeping majority.

Modi on Saturday said the Netherlands will become the "natural gateway" for Indian businesses to enter Europe and added that the Indian diaspora can serve as a trusted bridge in this journey.

Referring to the COVID pandemic, global conflicts, and the energy crisis caused by the ongoing conflict in West Asia, Modi said this decade is becoming a "decade of challenges" for the world.

"If these situations are not changed rapidly, the achievements of the past several decades will be washed away. The vast majority of the world's population will again slip into the quagmire of poverty," he warned.

Modi said India and the Netherlands are working together to create a trusted, transparent and future-ready supply chain.

"From energy security to water security, the Netherlands and India are working together. Our cooperation on green hydrogen is very important. And the historic trade agreement between India and the EU will further strengthen the partnership between India and the Netherlands," he added.

Underlining that the Netherlands is known for tulips, Modi said India is known for the lotus. "Both tulips and the lotus teach us that whether the roots are in water or on the earth, if proper nutrition is given, one gains both beauty and strength," he said, adding that this is also

the basis of the partnership between India and the Netherlands.

Modi also said both countries are doing a lot together in the field of sports. Hailing the Indian community's contribution to Netherlands' cricket, Modi said, "We all feel great when we see Teja Nidamanuru and Vikramjit Singh in the Netherlands jersey, or when young players like Aryan Dutt contribute to the future of Dutch cricket."

Modi also said that many cultures have vanished over time. But India's diverse culture "still beats in the hearts of its people".

"Generations have changed, countries have changed, environments have changed... but the family values have not changed," he said.

Prime Minister Modi assured the diaspora that the Government of India stood firmly behind every Indian living abroad and remained committed to their welfare.

On arrival, Modi was accorded a warm and colourful reception by a large gathering of the Indian diaspora and friends of India in the Netherlands.

"I express my gratitude to all of you for this warm welcome. And when I was entering here, the whole of Maharashtra, and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and my beloved Rajasthan, and A for Assam..." he said.

Modi said that for a while, he had forgotten he was in the Netherlands. "It feels like a festival is going on somewhere in India."

Highlighting the relevance of May 16, Modi told the audience how his party won the general elections in India on this date 12 years ago, adding that "a stable and absolute majority government was set to be formed in India after decades."

Modi said he was painted in the "colour of patriotism" from a young age. "When I look back, 13 years as chief minister, 12 years as prime minister, the continuous support of millions and millions of voters for 25 years in the democratic world is a very great fortune for me," he said.

Modi arrived in the Netherlands on Friday - after a brief stopover in the UAE - on the second leg of his five-nation tour to further deepen bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, technology, defence and renewable energy. Other countries in the official tour include Sweden, Norway and Italy.

## Israel strikes south Lebanon day after ceasefire extension



Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported strikes on at least five villages on Saturday, including one more than 50 kilometers from the border.

AFP

Beirut, May 16: Israel launched a series of airstrikes on southern Lebanon on Saturday, despite the extension of the truce between the two countries.

Israel says it is targeting Hezbollah but the strikes were preceded by an evacuation warning covering nine villages.

And the continuing bombardment has only increased skepticism about the truce among the many thousands of Lebanese driven from their homes in the south.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported strikes on at least five villages on Saturday, including one more than 50 kilometers from the border.

At the same time it reported an new exodus of residents toward the southern city of Sidon and the

capital Beirut.

On Friday, the two countries agreed to extend a ceasefire, which began on April 17 but has been marred by numerous violations, by another 45 days.

Since the start of the ceasefire, Israel has repeatedly issued evacuation warnings for south Lebanese villages ahead of strikes. Over this period their geographical scope has expanded to include areas north of the Litani River and further from the border.

The Israeli military also struck at least one town that was not included in the warning, near the southern city of Nabatieh.

Despite the ceasefire, Israel continues to conduct strikes in Lebanon, and its forces are occupying territory near the border.

Hezbollah, meanwhile, regularly claims attacks on northern Israel and against the Israeli military in southern Lebanon.

## PCB chief Naqvi to virtually attend ICC Board Meeting in Ahmedabad

PTI

New Delhi, May 16: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi will not travel to Ahmedabad for the ICC Annual Board Meeting, scheduled to be held on May 31 on the sidelines of the IPL final. However, it is learnt that Naqvi will attend the ICC Board of Directors meeting through video conference, a provision that has always existed for member representatives who are unable to travel.

The ICC meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Doha last month but had to be postponed because of the prevailing crisis in West Asia. Sources aware of the developments said Naqvi was never expected to attend the meeting in person and his participation through virtual mode was in line with standard ICC practice.

## Afghanistan Series

### Focus on Bumrah's workload, Prince could be 'dark horse' for ODIs

PTI

New Delhi, May 16: Jasprit Bumrah will either play the one-off Test or the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan next month as the national selection committee is keeping an eye on the pace spearhead's workload while naming the squads for the series on May 19.

The one-off Test, which isn't a part of World Test Championship cycle, will be played at New Chandigarh from June 6-10 while the three ODIs will be held on June 14 (Dharamsala), 17 (Lucknow) and 20 (Chennai) respectively.

The bilateral ODIs have gained



traction because that is the only format that Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma play internationally.

However, Delhi speedster Prince Yadav's name will certainly be discussed by the

selection committee considering his stellar show in the last edition of national one-day championship. Prince took 17 wickets from 8 Vijay Hazare Trophy games.

Besides that, his effort in the ongoing IPL 2026, 16 wickets from 12 games, including the dismissal of Virat Kohli with a lovely seaming delivery, has underlined the fact that there couldn't be a better series to try out Prince since Harshit Rana is unlikely to get fit anytime soon.

No experiment with Test squad

It can be said with a degree of certainty that the selection committee led by Ajit Agarkar is not going to experiment with the red ball format squad.

The tried and tested faces in the past one year are expected to fill the squad with an eye on the away series against Sri Lanka and New Zealand, where contrasting conditions could be on offer.

While Bumrah has had a hectic IPL, it is unlikely that he will skip the entire two-week series starting June 6. For someone who takes pride in wearing the India Whites, whether Bumrah will be required for a lone Test against Afghanistan is the moot point.

As per sources, if he plays the Test match, he wouldn't take part in the three-match ODI series. In case he plays the ODI series, then he would be rested for the Test match.

## FIFA finally seals World Cup broadcast deal in China at just \$60M

AP

Geneva, May 16: FIFA finally sealed a World Cup broadcast rights deal for China on Friday, just 27 days before the opening game and at a much lower reported price than the soccer body wanted.

The overall agreement with China Media Group covered the next four World Cups - two each of the men's and women's - through 2031, FIFA said in a statement. It includes the 48-team, 104-game men's tournament in North America starting on June 11 that China did not qualify for.

Chinese state-affiliated media reported on Friday the 2026 World Cup rights were valued at \$60 million.

FIFA originally sought \$300 million, Chinese media reported in recent weeks as the deadline to strike a deal drew closer.

A rights deal for India has not been confirmed.

"It's a real pleasure that we have found an agreement with CMC," FIFA secretary general Mattias Grafstrom said in the soccer body's statement. He was in China this week, also for meetings with officials from the Chinese soccer federation.

FIFA's leverage in China was less because of the time difference of up to 15 hours from Beijing to the 16 host cities spread across the United



States, Canada and Mexico.

Chinese companies have already made a big investment in the 2026 World Cup which is set to earn FIFA more than \$11 billion.

Technology firm Lenovo is one of FIFA's eight top-tier sponsor partners, and second-tier deals were signed by dairy firm Mengniu and electronics manufacturer Hisense.

Chinese conglomerate Wanda signed a long-term deal with FIFA in 2016 which was terminated two years ago.

The value of the TV rights were not disclosed for the 2030 World Cup, which once might have been hosted by China and which Wanda said was part of its strategy with

FIFA. The country's ambitions to host international soccer competitions stalled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2030 men's tournament will be mostly hosted in Spain, Portugal and Morocco, with single games currently scheduled to be played in Argentina, Paraguay and the original 1930 World Cup host Uruguay.

The 2027 Women's World Cup will be played in Brazil and the 2031 World Cup mainly in the United States, along with Mexico, Costa Rica and Jamaica.

That hosting decision with no rival candidate is due to the confirmed in November by FIFA member federations.

# Movies Schedule

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Sunday, 17th May

<b>BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+)</b> Hindi - 11:35 AM, 04:05 PM	<b>Michael (U/A 13+)</b> English with English Subtitles 01:15 PM	<b>Dhurandhar: The Revenge (A)</b> Hindi - 02:50 PM
<b>AAKHRI SAWAL (UA 16+)</b> Hindi - 10:45 AM, 07:15 PM	<b>WAR OF SHERA (U/A 16+)</b> PUNJABI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES 07:30 PM	<b>PATNI AUR WOHO DO (UA16+)</b> Hindi Atmos - 11:15 AM, 01:45 PM, 04:15 PM, 06:45 PM

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