

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan

Let's unite to crush narco-terror, save youth from addiction: LG Sinha to people

We'll hunt down drug peddlers even in their deepest hideouts | No innocent person was touched, nor will any innocent be targeted | Narcotic dealers, terrorists two faces of same coin

Jahangeer Ganaie

Pulwama, May 19: Likening drug smugglers to terrorists, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday urged people to unite to deliver the final blow against drug abuse and dismantle the narco-terror network to save the younger generation from addiction.

LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) joined people's movement against drugs in this South Kashmir town and addressed the citizens. "For many decades drug smuggling in Jammu Kashmir was treated as mere local crime but now the people have realized that narcotic peddlers and terrorists are two sides of the same coin."

"Drug smugglers profits by



destroying the futures of our youth and the terror outfits uses that money to fuel terrorism and radicalization in Jammu Kashmir. Every deal a drug peddler makes not only wrecks a young life but also finances the killing of innocent citizens. When drug smugglers earn money, our youth lose their future and that money arm terrorists against innocents in Jammu Kashmir. That is why my resolve is unshakable and my promise firm that we will remove drug smugglers and peddlers from Jammu Kashmir's soil," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He warned the narco-terror ecosystem that they no longer can hide and the law enforcement agencies are on their trail. "We will hunt you down even in your deepest | More on P6

'Op Sindoor' demonstrated India's smart power: Army Chief

'Coordinated military action showcased precision strikes, strategic messaging'



Sajid Raina

Srinagar, May 19: Army Chief General Uday Shankar Dwivedi on Tuesday described Operation Sindoor as a calibrated display of India's "smart power", saying the military action combined precision strikes, strategic messaging and diplomatic signalling in a coordinated national response.

Addressing a seminar on "Security to Prosperity: Smart Power for Sustained National Growth" organised by the Centre for Land Warfare Studies here, the Army Chief, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the operation demonstrated how military capability can be integrated with wider national objectives.

Recalling the operation carried out on the night of May 6 and 7 last year, he

said the Indian armed forces executed a "precise 22-minute operation window" that struck terror infrastructure deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. "Operation Sindoor delivered military precision, information control, diplomatic signalling and economic resolve as one coherent national act," Gen Dwivedi said.

He said the operation dismantled terror infrastructure and challenged what he termed a "long-standing strategic assumption", while the decision to halt the action after 88 hours reflected calculated restraint. "The deliberate halt after 88 hours was smart power in its most complete expression, knowing exactly which lever to apply and at what intensity," he said.

Pertinently, 'Operation Sindoor' was launched in response to the | More on P6

Parl panels make visits to J&K after budget session

Four committees visit, 5th on way

KNO Special Correspondent

Srinagar, May 19: In a significant development, Jammu & Kashmir has been witnessing frequent visits by parliamentary panels as part of their study tours.

Details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveal that four Department-related—Standing Committees have visited Kashmir Valley to discuss various issues at both the national level and those specific to J&K in the past 50 days.

The Department-related Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, led by MP Digvijaya Singh, visited Jammu & Kashmir immediately after the Budget Session. The committee undertook a two-day study tour to review educational reforms, youth engagement, and welfare initiatives in the Valley.

In the first week of May, the Department-related Standing Committee on Finance, headed by MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, visited Jammu & Kashmir to review key areas including financial literacy, digitalisation, GST reforms, pension regulation, MSME growth, insurance coverage, and grievance redressal.

Soon after, the Department-related Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs, chaired by Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, visited the Union Territory | More on P6

'Lal Ded National Award Ceremony'

Nari Shakti exemplifies sacrifice, compassion, equality: LG Sinha

'Blessings of saints like Lal Ded have nurtured, preserved nation's vision, arts, spiritual wisdom'



KNO Desk

Asserting that Nari Shakti exemplifies sacrifice, compassion, and equality, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that it is solemn duty of society and nation alike to secure full rights for women.

Addressing the "Lal Ded National Award Ceremony" here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Blessings of saints like Lal Ded have nurtured and preserved the nation's vision, its arts, literature, music, folk traditions, and | More on P6

Heatwave drives tourists towards Kashmir's cooler offbeat valleys

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, May 19: As large parts of the country continue to reel under an intense heatwave, tourists are flocking to Kashmir's offbeat destinations such as Razdan Top in Gurez, Tulail Valley, Bangus Valley and Sonamarg, seeking relief from soaring temperatures in the plains.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) with temperatures crossing 45 degrees Celsius in several states

tourists are thronging the Valley in large numbers.

At Razdan Top, the high-altitude mountain pass connecting Bandipora with Gurez Valley, tourists were seen enjoying fresh snow, an uncommon sight during the month of May.

"It feels unbelievable to see snow in May. We came from Delhi where temperatures are extremely high, and here we are playing in snow and wearing jackets," said Rohan Sharma, a tourist from New Delhi visiting Gurez with his family. | More on P6

MeT predicts light rain, thunderstorms till May 21

Srinagar records 30.7 C, Jammu 42.0 C

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, May 19: The Meteorological Department on Monday forecast light rain, thundershowers, gusty winds and hailstorms at scattered to many places across Jammu and Kashmir till May 21.

An official of the MeT department told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy till May 21, with spells of light rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds mainly during | More on P6

Dialysis centres in J&K on brink, face severe financial crisis

Pending bills under Ayushman Bharat—Sehat Scheme push units towards shutdown

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, May 19: Dialysis centres across Jammu and Kashmir are staring at a major healthcare crisis as mounting unpaid dues under the Ayushman Bharat—Sehat Scheme have pushed several private units to the brink of collapse. The Jammu and Kashmir Private Hospitals and Dialysis Centres Association (JKPHDCA), according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) warned that if the government fails to release pending payments, thousands of kidney patients dependent on regular dialysis treatment could be left without life-saving care. | More on P6

CS calls for concrete action plan to control cancer in J&K



Stresses creation of cancer registry, early detection protocols

KT News Desk

Srinagar, May 19: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on

Tuesday held detailed consultations with leading healthcare institutions and medical experts regarding the formulation of a comprehensive cancer control strategy for Jammu and Kashmir aimed at strengthening awareness, screening, diagnosis, treatment | More on P6

Census 2027

Over 1.50 lakh households complete self-enumeration in first three days in J&K

Special mechanisms devised for migratory, tribal population coverage, says CPCO Amit Sharma

KT News Desk

Jammu, May 19: More than 1.50 lakh households across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir have successfully completed their Self-Enumeration exercise within the first three days of its launch under Census 2027 through the official Self-Enumeration portal se.census.gov.in, Chief Principal Census Officer and Director of Census Operations, Jammu



& Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, IAS, said on Tuesday. He described the public response as highly encouraging and stated that

citizens across urban, rural, hilly, and far-flung areas are actively participating in India's first fully digital and paperless Census exercise. Addressing the media

here today alongside Zakir Nazeer, Media and Communications Officer, PIB, Jammu, Amit Sharma informed that all districts of the Union Territory are showing enthusiastic participation and an encouraging response to the Self-Enumeration exercise. He particularly highlighted that far-flung districts, including Kulgam, Baramulla, and Kupwara, besides remote areas of the Jammu division, | More on P6



OUR CENSUS

OUR DEVELOPMENT

(First Phase of Census 2027)

Common queries on Self-Enumeration (SE) and their Answers (Part-2)

WHAT IS SELF-ENUMERATION?

Self-Enumeration is an online process in which you fill and submit your household details on the SE portal (se.census.gov.in) yourself, without waiting for an enumerator



- ❖ What are the benefits of Self-Enumeration?
 - Fill details conveniently
 - Ensures privacy
 - Makes the Census process faster and efficient
- ❖ How to log in to the Self-Enumeration portal?
 - Select State/UT
 - Enter name of head of the family, mobile number and email (optional)
 - Verify through OTP
 - Start Self-Enumeration
- ❖ How to mark the correct location of your house?
 - Select district/PIN code
 - Enter area/landmark
 - Zoom on map and mark location near your house (Do not worry if exact address is not displayed)
 - Correct location marking is necessary
- ❖ Can I edit my information later?
 - Yes, you can edit before final submission during State/UT SE period
 - After final submission changes can be done during enumerator's visit
- ❖ Can SE portal be accessed outside India?

No, this facility is available only within India's geographical boundaries
- ❖ What if an error is found after submission?

Correction can be made when the enumerator visits your house
- ❖ Can I save and complete the form later?

Yes, you can save progress and complete the form within the stipulated time

TOLL FREE - 1855

Let us fulfill our responsibility, Let us participate in the Census [CensusIndia2027](https://www.census.gov.in)

CBC 19108/13/0101/2627

Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani reviews Jammu Smart City projects

Calls for expedited completion before Amarnath Yatra

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, MAY 19: Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani Tuesday conducted an extensive review of key infrastructure and development works being executed under the Jammu Smart City Limited and stressed the need for timely completion of all major projects ahead of the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra. During the visit, the Advisor, as per an official statement, was accompanied by Dr. Devansh Yadav, Director Projects Sunil Thusu and other senior officials of Jammu Smart City Limited.

The Advisor first visited the TATA e-Bus Depot being developed under the FAME-II initiative and reviewed the ongoing works related to the PM e-Bus Sewa project. The officials informed him that the modern electric bus infrastructure is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs 16 crore to strengthen the eco-friendly public transport facilities in Jammu city.

Appreciating the efforts of Jammu Smart City Limited in modernising the urban transport infrastructure, Nasir Aslam lauded the progress achieved so far and directed the officials to ensure early completion and inauguration of the PM e-Bus Sewa project. He said that the Smart City



initiatives are visibly transforming Jammu into a cleaner, greener and more organised urban centre and stressed that all developmental projects must be expedited in a mission mode. Later, the Advisor visited the upcoming Waste to Wonder Park project and expressed happiness after witnessing the artistic monuments being created from recycled waste material. He also interacted with the artisans and workers engaged in the project and appreciated their

creativity and dedication.

Describing the initiative as a unique and innovative addition to Jammu city, the Advisor congratulated the Jammu Smart City team for undertaking such a commendable project aimed at promoting tourism, environmental awareness and public recreation.

The officials informed him that the Waste to Wonder Park is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs 11 crore and is expected to be

completed by the end of June 2026.

The Advisor, however, directed the concerned authorities to make all possible efforts to complete the project before the commencement of the Amarnath Yatra so that the pilgrims and tourists visiting Jammu can also experience the attraction.

According to the officials, the physical progress of the project has already reached nearly 80 percent. The park will feature 14 replica monuments created from scrap and recycled materials, including seven international monuments, five national landmarks and two monuments representing Uttar Pradesh.

The officials further stated that this will be the first-of-its-kind Waste to Wonder Park in Jammu, envisioned as a major recreational and educational destination for school children, tourists and local residents alike. The project is also expected to promote the concept of waste recycling and environmental sustainability through creative public infrastructure. Nasir Aslam reiterated the commitment of the government towards accelerating the urban development works and ensuring that Jammu city emerges as a modern and citizen-friendly urban centre equipped with sustainable infrastructure and enhanced public amenities.

Awareness programmes organised under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in Bandipora

KT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, MAY 19: HKM Government Degree College (GDC) Bandipora on Tuesday organized a series of awareness programmes under the banner of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan to educate students and the local community about the harmful effects of drug abuse and tobacco consumption.

The programmes, as per an official statement, were conducted under the guidance of Principal Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra. The Department of Botany, in collaboration with the Red Ribbon Youth Club, organized an awareness lecture on the harmful effects of drug abuse. Head of the Department of Botany, Dr. Mehrajuddin Talie, delivered an insightful lecture highlighting the growing menace of drug addiction and its social, psychological and health-related impacts. He urged the students to spread anti-drug awareness in their localities and among their peers.

The programme concluded with a pledge to work towards a healthy and drug-free society.

Meanwhile, the NCORD Cell of the college organized another awareness programme focusing on the ill effects of drug abuse on youth.

NCORD Convener Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay



delivered a detailed lecture on the adverse physical, mental, social and economic impacts of drug addiction on society. He emphasized the importance of awareness, counselling and collective responsibility in eradicating the menace of drugs and encouraged students to stay away from all forms of addiction.

The programme witnessed active participation from students and faculty members.

In continuation of the awareness initiatives, the College COTPA Committee also organized an anti-tobacco awareness drive in the nearby market vicinity

of the college. Students and volunteers, accompanied by committee members interacted with local shopkeepers and residents to spread awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and related products.

The participants appealed to shopkeepers not to sell tobacco products, particularly to the youth, and encouraged the public to further spread awareness in the locality.

The programmes reflected the college's commitment towards promoting a healthy, aware and drug-free society through educational and community outreach initiatives.

Accelerate awareness drives to ensure benefits of pension, financial security schemes reach to all eligible beneficiaries: DC Srinagar

Reviews sector wise implementation of PM SYM, JK Samadhan, PM KMY, Traders & Self-Employment Pension Yojana

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR MAY 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday chaired a comprehensive meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the progress achieved under various flagship welfare and pension schemes including Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, JK Samadhan, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana and National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, undertook a detailed sector-wise review of targets and achievements registered under the schemes aimed at providing social security, pension coverage



and grievance redressal support to workers, farmers, traders and self-employed persons in the district.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was given a department wise brief through a detailed presentation highlighting the progress of PM-SYM, JK Samadhan, PM KMY and Traders & Self-Employment Pension Yojana in the

district. The DC reviewed the status of beneficiary registration, enrollment progress, awareness generation activities and overall implementation of the schemes by the concerned departments and agencies. He emphasized the need for intensified outreach efforts to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are covered under the schemes within the stipulated

timelines.

Highlighting the significance of the schemes, the DC stated that the schemes are aimed at providing social security, pension coverage and grievance redressal support to workers, farmers, traders and self-employed persons in the district.

He further instructed line departments to work closely with field staff and other agencies to conduct on-the-spot registrations of the left-out population across the district, ensuring maximum outreach and coverage under the schemes.

With regard to implementation of the National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons, the DC directed the General Manager DIC to begin implementation of the scheme in coordination with other line departments to achieve considerable

progress by June 10, 2026.

The meeting was attended by IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, District Programme Officer, ICDS, Chief Planning Officer, General Manager DIC, Assistant Commissioner Development, Deputy Director, Tourism, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Sericulture Officer, Assistant Commissioner, State Taxes, Deputy Director, Employment, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Floriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, AD Handicraft/Handloom, AD Food & Supplies, AD Fisheries, Assistant Labour Commissioner, ARTO, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety, District health Officer, District Officer, KVIB/KVIC, District Programme Manager, NRLM, District Manager CSC and other concerned.

Sericulture Deptt Bandipora concludes 3-day farmers skill development programme in Hajin



employment-generating and sustainable rural enterprise capable of transforming the socio-economic condition of farming communities. He emphasized that the favourable climatic conditions of the district, coupled with the active participation of women in sericulture activities, provide a strong foundation for the rapid growth and strengthening of the silk industry in the district.

During the programme, farmers were imparted practical and technical training on scientific silkworm rearing practices, chawki rearing management, disease prevention measures, mulberry plantation management and modern cocoon production techniques aimed at enhancing cocoon yield and improving farmers' income. The programme mainly focused on creating awareness among farmers regarding sericulture as a profitable and sustainable alternative to traditional farming practices.

Technical sessions during the programme were conducted by various expert resource persons, including Zonal Incharge ISDP Sonawari, Peer Nazir Ahmad and other field functionaries of the department.

KT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, MAY 19: A three-day Farmers Skill Development Programme conducted under Capacity Building Activities (Silk Samagra-2/HADP), organized by the Sericulture Development Department ISDP Sonawari of District Bandipora, concluded successfully Tuesday at Mulberry Nursery Vijpara Hajin.

The programme, as per an official statement, witnessed enthusiastic participation from silkworm rearers and progressive farmers from different areas of Sonawari.

Speaking on the occasion, Development Officer Sericulture ISDP Sonawari, Dr. Inayat Saleem Fazili, highlighted the immense potential of sericulture as a low-investment,

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, SRINAGAR

Subject:- Select list for the post of Lecturer Sociology in school Education Department.

NOTICE

Pursuant to the recommendations of the J&K Public Service Commission vide letter No. . PSC/DR/Lect/School Edu./Sociology (7853908) Dated 28-04-2026, the following candidates are hereby directed to submit their e-mail id and contact number details in the School Education Department, (Gazetted Section) Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, in person or e-mail id: school_edu@jk.gov.in within a period of fifteen (15) days positively, for uploading their verification rolls on the Employees Verification System:

S. No	Name	Parentage	Address	Category
1	Riyaz Ahmad Naik	Ab Aziz Naik	Kaladrang Frisal	OM
2	Aquib Kirmani	02 Nishtiq Hussain Shah	Nil Baila Mandi	ST-2/OM
3	Abid Farooq	Farooq Ahmad Bhat	162 Trigam Sumbal Sonawari	OM
4	Tantray Uman	Ghulam Ahmad Tantray	117/3 Duderhama Ganderbal	OM
5	Bilawal Aijaz Khan	Aijaz Ahmad Khan	71 Iqbal Colony Naik Bagh Natipora	OM
6	Sakshi Verma	Kuldeep Raj	R/o Maniwala P/o and Tehsil Jourian	ALC/OM
7	Ahsan Ahmad Dar	Mohd Abdullah Dar	5 Prongroo Mawar Qalamabad Langate	RBA
8	Aditi Mandla	Rachh Paul Bhagat	NA Vill. Bagga Janna R.S Pura	SC
9	Mehvish Naaz	Mohd Majid	1 village Tawa Bhalwal	ST-1
10	Affifa Samoon	Mohammad Ismail	10 Noorani Colony Dharambugh B.K Pora	ST-1
11	Muskan Khan	Shahzad Ahmad Khan	7 village Maina Chandi Marh Surankote	ST-2
12	Sheetal Rajput	Ajay Kumar	Pallanwala Jammu and Kashmir Khour	ALC/IB
13	Rayees Azam	Ab Rahman Teli	39 Peth Dialgam Peth Dialgam	SLC

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DIPK-1443/26
DATED: 19-05-2026

Deepika Sharma JKAS Under Secretary to the Government

CS reviews mega YEP implementation roadmap

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, May 19: In a major initiative aimed at harnessing the potential of the youth and creating a unified ecosystem for their engagement, empowerment and development an ambitious Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP) is set to be rolled out soon by the Planning Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD) across the districts of J&K.

The implementation of the programme was on Tuesday reviewed by the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo in a meeting attended by Principal Secretary, Home; Principal Secretary, Culture; Commissioner Secretary, Planning; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, School and Higher Education Departments; Commissioner Secretary, YS&S; Secretary, RDD; Secretary, SDD; Secretary, Floriculture; MD, HADP; Director, EDI and Special Secretary, Planning (Nodal Officer YEP) along with other concerned officers.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir and Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through video conferencing.

During the presentation, Chief Secretary took a first-hand appraisal of the YEP portal presently under development and reviewed in detail the range of services proposed to be offered to the registered youth through the platform. He appreciated the department for first time creating a robust and interactive platform for the youth of the UT.

He also reviewed the dedicated interface developed for departments and Deputy Commissioners, including the workflow



mechanism for creation of action plans, approval processes, uploading of events and documentation of activities through photographs and videos on the portal.

The initiative, as elucidated by Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD, R. Alice Vaz is first-of-its-kind integrated digital platform designed to connect the youth of this region with different career opportunities, services, counselling, skill development and participatory governance for their empowerment irrespective of their social, economic or geographical background.

She further added that the programme envisions creating a comprehensive framework for empowering youth in the age group of 15 to 35 years across all the 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir by integrating the schemes and services of more than 18 government departments onto a single platform to ensure

convergence, transparency, efficiency and targeted outreach during the tenure of this mega orientation programme.

In the presentation by Nodal Officer, Dr Owais Ahmad it was highlighted that once registered on the portal, the youth would gain access to a tailored list of dozens of government schemes, programmes and opportunities based on the outcome of their psychometric assessment tests. The system has been designed to map the aptitude, interests and aspirations of the youth and accordingly recommend suitable interventions, career pathways and developmental programmes.

It was further highlighted that the programme would channelise the energies of youth towards all constructive nation-building and community-development activities by encouraging their active participation in social service campaigns, awareness drives and

community participation initiatives including the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan. The initiative aims to create socially responsible youth leadership committed towards uplifting society and improving the quality of life in urban as well as rural areas across Jammu & Kashmir.

Additionally, the platform would provide AI-enabled chatbot support through the YEP Assistant, an intelligent guidance and counselling mechanism designed to assist youth in addressing specific issues and challenges faced by them. The AI-based assistant would provide guidance, counselling, mentoring and handholding support system in multiple languages to youth while helping them access appropriate schemes, services, career opportunities and wellbeing interventions.

The meeting was further informed that Application Programming Interface (API)

integration with multiple schemes and services has already been incorporated into the YEP portal, enabling eligible youth to apply online for various schemes and programmes directly through the platform without the need for separate registrations on different departmental portals.

The programme also includes the development of a dedicated mobile application for both Android and iOS platforms, enabling youth and officials alike to access services, events, counselling, certificates and dashboards on the go. The mobile application is being developed with offline functionality and feature parity with the main portal to facilitate seamless field operations and youth participation even in remote areas.

The immediate roadmap for implementation includes completion of security audits, OTP integration, onboarding of departments and districts, creation of a Programme Management Unit (PMU), capacity building of stakeholders and phased rollout of pending modules. Future phases of the programme would focus on DigitalLocker integration, onboarding of additional departmental databases, advanced analytics, predictive modelling and AI-driven enhancements.

The meeting emphasized that the Youth Empowerment Programme would emerge as a landmark initiative in shaping a unified, technology-driven and inclusive youth development framework for Jammu & Kashmir by creating "One Platform, One Generation, One State" for the youth of the Union Territory.

Fuel dispensing continues uninterrupted across J&K



PIB

Jammu, May 19: The public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) continue to maintain uninterrupted supplies of Petrol (MS), Diesel (HSD) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) across Jammu & Kashmir, despite the prevailing global uncertainties impacting the Oil and Gas sector.

State Level Coordinator-Oil Industry, Himanshu Sharma informed that the Oil industry remains fully geared to ensure seamless availability of fuel through an extensive supply network comprising of terminals, depots, LPG bottling plants and retail outlets.

"Fuel dispensing operations are continuing smoothly across all outlets in Jammu and Kashmir and the supplies are being maintained without any restrictions, in line with

prescribed safety and operational norms" said Sharma.

Adequate stocks of petroleum products are available across the supply chain and replenishment is being carried out continuously to meet the demand efficiently, he further added.

He informed that LPG supplies to domestic consumers are also being maintained normally and deliveries are progressing smoothly across the Union Territory.

The Coordinator further said that the OMCs are ensuring uninterrupted energy access to citizens by closely coordinating on logistics, stock positioning and distribution planning.

He appealed to the consumers to continue with the normal purchasing behaviour, avoid panic buying and rely solely on the official communications issued by OMCs related to fuel availability.

Sharma stressed that the overall supply situation remains stable and under constant monitoring.

GMC Jammu issues dengue advisory

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, May 19: Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu has issued a detailed public advisory on dengue management, urging people to remain vigilant against the mosquito-borne disease and seek immediate medical attention in case of worsening symptoms. The hospital has warned that re-infection with another strain of the virus can significantly increase the risk of severe complications, including internal bleeding and organ damage.

According to the advisory shared by GMC, dengue fever is caused by the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito carrying one of the four dengue virus types (DENV). The infection is not contagious from person to person, except in rare cases where it can spread from a pregnant woman to her baby. Health experts at

GMC Jammu warned that while the first dengue infection is usually mild, re-infection with another strain can significantly increase the risk of severe complications. Symptoms generally begin four to ten days after the mosquito bite and may continue for three to seven days, including high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pain, nausea and vomiting, skin rash, and extreme weakness.

The advisory noted that nearly one in every 20 dengue patients may develop severe dengue after initial symptoms subside. People experiencing severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, difficulty breathing, bleeding from gums or nose, blood in vomit or stool, or excessive tiredness should not delay medical consultation.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

Traffic police issues advisory ahead of Eid rush

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, May 19: Traffic Police Srinagar on Tuesday urged commuters to maintain road discipline during the Eid rush, avoid roadside animal sales, use designated parking spaces, and cooperate with traffic diversions to ensure smooth vehicular movement and public safety.

In a statement, a spokesperson said that in view of the ensuing Eid-ul-Azha and the expected public rush, commuters and pedestrians are requested to strictly adhere to traffic advisories to prevent congestion and inconvenience.

He said the public should park vehicles only at designated parking places and avoid the sale or display of sacrificial animals on or along roads, ensuring such activity is carried out only at approved locations. Overloading in passenger vehicles must be avoided, while car-pooling is encouraged. Hawkers and vendors have also been directed not to occupy footpaths.



"Commuters are advised to use diversion and alternative routes to avoid congestion. Public Service Vehicle (PSV) operators should avoid slow movement, intermittent stops, and unauthorised boarding or alighting of passengers. Road discipline must be treated as a collective responsibility. Follow the route plan, lane discipline,

and avoid overtaking to prevent traffic jams," the spokesperson said.

He further advised motorists to give way to emergency and referral services, avoid unnecessary loitering in congested areas, and refrain from last-minute travel during the rush. Traffic diversions should be followed strictly without altercations. The

spokesperson said all citizens are requested to adhere to the advisory and cooperate in ensuring smooth traffic movement. "Your cooperation will help those in distress and urgent need."

"MAY THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE REJUVENATE OUR THOUGHT TOWARDS DECENT LIVING (Ameen)," he added—(KNO)

Er Rashid hints at quitting electoral politics



WARIS FAYAZ

Handwara, May 19: Bara-mulla Member Parliament (MP) Engineer Rashid on Tuesday hinted at stepping away from electoral politics while delivering an emotional address during the last rites of his father Khazir Mohammad, saying his struggle was far beyond Article 370 and statehood and centred on the dignity and freedom of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Rashid, who was granted interim bail from Tihar Jail to attend the funeral, said he may not contest future elections, asserting that his political journey had come at a high personal cost.

"I want to give a message to those who keep counting votes that Er Rashid is most likely not to contest elections. It is my heart's choice, though a final decision will be taken later," he said.

The AIP chief said his fight was never for personal or political gains but for the dignity and status of Kashmiris. "My struggle is beyond Article 370 and statehood. It is for the dignity and honour of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, while thanking even those who "did not bother to take my name".

Rashid said politics should remain a battle of ideas and urged people not to fear him. "Don't frighten. I don't know whether I will continue politics or not, but I will never forget what happened to me," he said.

Recalling his release from Tihar Jail to attend the funeral, the MP said he had initially resisted coming out but was persuaded by family

members and friends. "I was forced yesterday by my family and friends to come out of Tihar," he said.

On detentions and imprisonment of youth in Jammu and Kashmir, Rashid cited the example of a man-eating leopard in Handwara that had killed several people. "If the government can mend the behaviour of an animal after killings, why can't the hearts of Kashmiris who made small mistakes be won instead of sending them to jails under PSA?" he asked.

He said reconciliation and trust-building were the only ways to address the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. "I have shown them the way to win hearts," he added.

Rashid maintained that prison could not break his resolve. "Let me live in Tihar only. Tihar can't break me because I have done nothing wrong," he said.

He also appealed to both India and the neighbouring country to stop violence in Jammu and Kashmir and allow people to live peacefully. "I urge everyone, whether from this side or the neighbouring country, not to kill people of J&K, whether Hindu or Muslim. Let us live freely," he said.

Addressing the people of India, MP Rashid said Kashmiris were not enemies and reiterated that Islam teaches peace and coexistence. "We welcome tourists from across the country and want them to visit every corner of Kashmir, including Bungus. But don't come with the mindset that you have won Kashmir," he said—(KNO)

Airtel unveils priority postpaid, upgrades 5G network

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar May 19: Bharti Airtel on Tuesday announced the launch of Priority Postpaid, a new service that leverages 5G slicing technology to deliver superior and more consistent experience to customers on postpaid. This service is specially built for busy customers who depend on uninterrupted connectivity for work, entertainment, or online collaboration.

For this service, Airtel has upgraded its 5G network with advanced capabilities of slicing technology. This makes the network more efficient; creates more

capacity; and provides the capability to use this capacity in a targeted manner for delivery of superior experience for Priority customers. By intelligently and dynamically segmenting network capacity, Airtel is offering stable and dependable experience for postpaid customers, even when traffic demand is high.

Over the past year, slicing based 5G services have been launched in many countries like USA, Singapore, United Kingdom and Malaysia. Airtel's launch is the first such launch in India, reflecting Airtel's continued investment in building a smarter, more resilient, and future-ready digital network and reinforces its

commitment to combining advanced technology with customer-centric innovation.

Commenting on the launch, Shashwat Sharma, MD & CEO - Airtel India, said, "Our focus at Airtel is on delivering meaningful innovations that enhance our customers' experience. Priority Postpaid is our latest innovation powered by the 5G slicing technology. It provides a superior, more reliable, and dependable experience to our customers - whether they are attending a client call in traffic, or streaming at a packed concert, or booking a cab in a crowded market."

Airtel Priority service is available for

customers on all our postpaid plans. Existing customers will start enjoying the benefit automatically. Prepaid customers or customers wanting to switch to Airtel Priority postpaid can do so easily through the Airtel App or by visiting any Airtel Store.

Customers can enjoy our Priority service on any 5G SA-enabled smartphone, with their latest software upgrades. Customers for whom an upgrade is pending, will see a pending action showing in the 'Settings' section of their phones. Customers can also check their phone readiness for Airtel Priority services by logging on to the Airtel App.

EDITORIAL

A Green Push That Cleans And Cares

The Omar Abdullah-led government's approval of nearly Rs 433 crore for solid waste and used-water management projects in Srinagar, Baramulla and Rajouri is a long-overdue acknowledgement that a clean city is not a luxury but a basic right. For years, residents of Achan in Srinagar have lived with foul smells, pest infestation, and the sight of open dumping. For years, untreated wastewater has flowed through drains in Baramulla and Rajouri, poisoning streams and endangering public

health. This green push finally addresses those neglected realities. The largest project is the 800 TPD Integrated Solid Waste Management facility at Saidpura Achan in Srinagar, costing Rs 361 crore. Srinagar generates around 600 tonnes of waste daily, with 60 per cent wet and 40 per cent dry. While door-to-door collection exists, scientific processing and disposal have remained a gap. This project will fill that gap. It will reduce open dumping, control pollution, and bring relief to the Achan area, which has

suffered environmental neglect for decades. The used-water management projects in Baramulla (Rs 37.96 crore) and Rajouri (Rs 34.43 crore) are equally significant. Both towns have grown rapidly due to trade, education, and administration, but sewerage infrastructure has not kept pace. Untreated wastewater has become a major health hazard. These projects will intercept and divert wastewater, set up sewage pumping stations, treatment plants, and septage facilities using advanced technology. Cleaner drains

and rivers will follow. What makes this initiative commendable is its balanced regional focus. Srinagar in Kashmir, Baramulla in north Kashmir, and Rajouri in the Jammu region are all covered. No region has been left behind. This reflects a holistic vision of urban development, not piecemeal politics. The benefits will be multiple. Cleaner cities, reduced pollution, lower public health risks, and improved quality of life. The projects will also generate employment and promote resource recovery. For the common

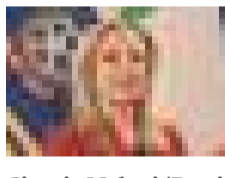
citizen, this means fewer diseases, cleaner neighbourhoods, and a government that finally listens. The government deserves praise for moving from promises to projects. But the real test lies in execution. Timely completion, transparent tendering, and proper operation of these facilities will determine whether this green push becomes a success story or just another file. The citizens of Srinagar, Baramulla and Rajouri are watching. They have waited long enough. Now they deserve results.

Italy And India: A Strategic Partnership For The Indo-Mediterranean

India's vision of putting humans at the centre of technology meets Italy's leadership in human-centric 'algor-ethics' rooted in its humanist tradition. AI must act as a catalyst for social empowerment. Technology cannot replace individuals or undermine their fundamental rights.



Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India)



Giorgia Meloni (President of Italy)

The relationship between India and Italy has now reached a decisive stage. In recent years, our ties have expanded with unprecedented momentum, evolving from a cordial friendship into a special strategic partnership grounded in the values of freedom and democracy, and a common vision for the future.

At a time when the international system is undergoing a profound change, the partnership between Italy and India is guided by regular exchanges at higher political and institutional levels, and is gaining a new and higher dimension that combines our economic dynamism, societal creativity, and millennia-old civilisational wisdom. Our cooperation mirrors our shared awareness that prosperity and security in the 21st century will be shaped by the ability of nations to innovate, manage energy transitions, and strengthen strategic sovereignty. To this end, we have committed to deepen and diversify

our bilateral relationship with a view to pursuing new objectives and pooling our complementary strengths. We aim to forge a powerful synergy between Italian design, manufacturing excellence, and world-class supercomputers—reflecting Italy's position as an industrial powerhouse—and India's rapid economic growth, engineering talent, scale, and innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem with over 100 unicorns and 200,000 start-ups. This is not a simple integration, but a co-creation of value where our respective industrial strengths amplify one another.

The Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and India paves the way for increased trade and investment in both directions. We want to reach and exceed the Euro 20 billion target for trade between Italy and India by 2029, with a focus on defence & aerospace, clean technologies, machinery, automotive components, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agri-food, tourism and more.

"Made in Italy" has always been synonymous with excellence worldwide, and today it finds a natural synergy with the high-quality goals of the "Make in India" initiative. In this context, the growing interest of Italian businesses in the production for India and the increasing presence of Indian industries in Italy, numbering over 1000 from both sides now, is a positive sign that will strengthen the integration of our supply chains.

Technological innovation lies at the very heart of our partnership. The coming decades will be shaped by a technological revolution of unmeasurable scope, marked by advances in sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, quantum computing, advanced manufacturing, critical minerals, and digital infrastructure. India's dynamic innovation

ecosystem, coupled with highly skilled professional talent pool, and Italy's advanced industrial capabilities make our cooperation in the above sectors both natural and strategic. The growing partnership between our Universities and Research Centres will support this. India's Digital Public Infrastructure is already finding resonance with a large number of countries particularly in the Global South. Artificial Intelligence, in particular, is already impacting our societies and the global economy. Italy and India have long been collaborating to ensure that AI development is responsible and human-centred. From this perspective, India and Italy also see AI as a powerful instrument for inclusive development, especially for the Global South, where digital public infrastructure and accessible, multilingual technologies can bridge divides rather than deepen them. Building on India's vision of MANAV—putting human at the centre of technology—and Italy's leadership in promoting a human-centric 'algor-ethics' rooted in its humanist tradition, our partnership seeks to ensure that AI acts as a catalyst for social empowerment. Our approach combines India's digital scale with Italy's ethical and industrial expertise, ensuring technology serves human dignity. By sharing best practices in secure digital cooperation, capacity-building and resilient cyber infrastructure, we aim to create an open, trustworthy and equitable digital space in which every nation can shape and benefit from AI. This perspective forms the core of Italy's G7 Presidency and outcomes of the AI Impact Summit 2026, held in New Delhi. Conceiving AI as a tool created by humans for humans means firmly asserting that technology cannot replace individuals or undermine their fundamental rights,

nor be used to manipulate public debate or alter democratic processes. Our approach to defending freedom and human dignity in an increasingly interconnected world hinges on this very challenge.

Our cooperation also covers the space sector. India's impressive advancements in space exploration and satellite technology, together with Italy's aerospace engineering excellence, offer significant opportunities for joint initiatives and next-generation technology development.

Security and stability remain essential to ensuring nations' prosperity. Italy and India intend to further strengthen their cooperation in sectors such as defence, security and strategic technologies. Our collaboration will help ensure the security of critical maritime routes, strengthen resilience in the face of threats, such as terrorism, international criminal networks, drug trafficking, cyber-crimes and human trafficking.

Energy is another key pillar of our partnership. The global transition towards diversified energy sources requires innovation, investment, and cooperation. India and Italy are collaborating from renewable energy to hydrogen technologies, and from smart grids to resilient infrastructure. While India's push for becoming a hub for Green Hydrogen exports offers immense potential, it perfectly complements Italy's advanced technology in renewable infrastructure and its strategic role as an energy gateway for Europe. Our collaboration along with other countries in key India-led initiatives—International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)—is also important in this context.

Physical, digital and human connectivity

is the thread that weaves us together. Both India and Italy are located at the very heart of two crucial hubs of the global economy, the Indo-Pacific and the Mediterranean—regions that cannot be viewed as separate spheres, but instead as increasingly interconnected spaces. As a matter of fact, we are witnessing the emergence of what might be termed the Indo-Mediterranean, an important corridor for trade, technology, energy, data and ideas tying the Indian Ocean to Europe. It is precisely within this interconnected space that our bond naturally evolves into a special strategic partnership—one that bridges two continents and shapes new global dynamics.

In this context, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) represents a vision aimed at connecting our regions through modern transport and infrastructure, digital networks, energy systems, and resilient supply chains. India and Italy are also committed to working together with other partners to make this vision a reality.

We can address our shared challenges by drawing upon the profound partnership and the enduring cultural ties between our nations. Within Indian culture, the concept of "Dharma" evokes the sense of responsibility that must guide our actions, whilst the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"—the world is one family—resonates powerfully in this interconnected digital age. Such values find a natural echo in Italy's humanist tradition, rooted in the Renaissance, which highlights the dignity of each individual and the power of culture to unite peoples and societies. Our shared vision, therefore, aims to lay the foundation for a strong and forward-looking India-Italy Partnership with our people at the centre.

Stop Diagnosing Yourself From Social Media Posts

Why vague mental health content feels so personally accurate

Isabelle Morley

If you spend enough time on Instagram or TikTok, you could be convinced that you have ADHD. Or autism, or a personality disorder, or depression, or anxiety. You may learn you have an insecure attachment style, too, whether it's anxious or avoidant. Short-form content has led to an increase in inaccurate self-diagnosis, and we need to look at why it's happening.

The Positive Aspects of Increased Access to Information

A lot of good has come with increased awareness of and access to mental health information. It has lowered stigma, encouraging people to seek help from their support system or professionals. It has helped people better understand when their experience moves from a normal degree of difficult to a clinical-level issue that requires more intervention. People have found community with others who share diagnoses or have had similarly challenging experiences.

Further, some people have been able to identify a clinical problem that might otherwise have gone undiagnosed due to lack of awareness

or access to healthcare. As people learn more about disorders and their criteria, they are better able to spot these clinical issues in themselves.

The problem is, people are also able to spot a clinical issue even when one doesn't actually exist.

Without a better understanding of how diagnoses are determined and the specific criteria that need to be met, people are at risk of checking off a few symptoms and labeling themselves with a disorder. But diagnosis can be quite complicated, as any therapist will tell you. There are rule-outs, comorbidities, thresholds for duration and severity, and distinguishing between what's situational versus persistent.

Vague Descriptions Feel Personally Relatable

Do you know why people believe their daily horoscopes? It's because of the Barnum effect (also known as the Forer effect) — our tendency to see vague, widely applicable statements as deeply resonant and personal.

When you read, "You've been feeling uncertain and are hesitant to take bold steps in an important relationship, but today you will gain clarity that shows you which direction to go in," it's hard not to identify with

it. Almost everyone feels uncertain about a relationship on a daily basis and doesn't take "bold" steps.

And, as we know from the idea of the self-fulfilling prophecy, if we believe something to be true, we might just make it that way. If you think you'll be gaining clarity, you'll look for it and find some insight or explanation that makes you think, "Aha, my horoscope was right! Now I know what to do in that relationship." For example, a fight with your partner that day could convince you that maybe things are coming to an end, just as coming home to a thoughtfully prepared meal from your loved one could prove that you should invest more in the relationship.

The same is true for mental health disorders, especially when you read about the descriptions or symptoms on social media, where short-term content condenses incredibly complex concepts into bite-sized take-aways. Brief and largely applicable sentences feel true. And because they feel personally resonant, we're at risk of drawing inaccurate conclusions from them.

For example, do these describe you?

"I feel overwhelmed by everything I need to do, even the very small tasks. Something as simple as grabbing more paper towels can feel like a burden."

"I can focus really well on things I like, but I struggle to stay on track when something feels boring or repetitive."

"I have certain routines, just the way I like to do things, and I get stressed or irritated when my routines get disrupted."

"I'm sensitive to loud sounds, especially when I'm already stressed."

The statements above may feel like they describe you, because they probably describe everyone at least some of the time. Who doesn't feel overwhelmed amid endless demands and never-ending to do lists? We all focus better on tasks we enjoy and struggle to maintain attention on boring ones. We all have routines that feel comforting — and it's rare that people actually like loud noises, particularly when they're already overstimulated.

You can see how people can become convinced that they have a psychological disorder after reading brief social media posts that include vague statements like the ones

above. Short-form content loses nuance, and the most engaging posts and reels distill complex diagnoses into relatable snippets. It's easy to see yourself reflected in an Instagram post without realizing that almost everyone reading it will also feel it's personally relatable.

Social media can reduce diagnoses to one-sentence descriptions that feel personally applicable and lead people to conclude they have a disorder. "If I can only focus on tasks that I find interesting, I must have ADHD," or, "Since I dislike crowded places, I probably have social anxiety."

Not All Unwelcome Experiences Are Symptoms

Social media has also contributed to a trend of people believing that any unpleasant experience is pathological. Our culture has forgotten that a lot of life includes discomfort and struggle, and that this is normal.

An uncomfortable experience isn't automatically an indicator of a clinical issue. We can all get distracted, overwhelmed, tired, withdrawn, sensitive, or stressed. These aren't symptoms but inevitable parts of the human experience.

Many symptoms of psychological

disorders are extremes of otherwise normal feelings or behaviors and aren't, in themselves, pathological. They only become problematic when they fall into a constellation of other issues (a clinical disorder's criteria) and cause distress and an impairment in functioning.

The combination of vague and relatable descriptions of disorders along with our growing belief that all suffering can (and should) be solved has led to a culture of excessive self-pathologization. We are losing the ability to differentiate normal (albeit difficult) human experiences from genuine clinical problems. And so we may limit our own capacity for nuanced self-awareness, growth, and resilience.

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Isabelle Morley, Psy.D., is a clinical psychologist and author of *They're Not Gaslighting You*. Courtesy: *Psychology Today*

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Machail Mata Yatra: CS Atal Dulloo reviews arrangements for smooth, safe conduct

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MAY 19: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the arrangements being put in place by the concerned Divisional and District Administrations for the smooth, safe and hassle-free conduct of the annual Machail Mata Yatra scheduled to commence in August this year in the mountainous region of Kishtwar.

The meeting, besides Additional Chief Secretary, PWD and Principal Secretary, Home, was attended by Director General, Fire & Emergency Services; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; IGP, Jammu; Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar; SSP, Kishtwar; Managing Director, JPDCL; Chief Engineer, Project Sampark and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary, as per an official statement, took a detailed assessment of the arrangements being made for ensuring safe and smooth conduct of the pilgrimage this year, including sanitation measures entrusted to the Rural Development Department and arrangements related to water supply, power, medical facilities, transport management and emergency response by the concerned line departments.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the implementation of the directions issued in the aftermath of the last year's disaster incident along the yatra route. He took a detailed



appraisal of measures such as introduction of online and RFID-based registration systems, disaster mitigation initiatives, installation of Automatic Rain Gauges (ARG) and Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) for real-time weather alerts and development of detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) aimed at ensuring safety and smooth movement of pilgrims throughout the Yatra period.

The Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar apprised the meeting that elaborate accommodation arrangements are being made at various locations including Kishtwar headquarters, Gulabgarh, Chishoti and Machail to cater to the expected rush of devotees.

Government accommodations, private lodging facilities, homestays and tented accommodations are being augmented, while a dedicated tent city is also being established at Machail for the convenience of pilgrims.

Special emphasis was laid on crowd management and real-time monitoring of pilgrims through implementation of 100 percent online registration and RFID-enabled tracking mechanisms. The arrangements for daily monitoring of pilgrim movement, deployment of adequate manpower at sensitive points and strengthening coordination among departments for effective management of the Yatra were also detailed out

by the Divisional Commissioner during this meeting.

To enhance pilgrim safety, the administration is also undertaking landslide mitigation measures and strengthening monitoring systems at vulnerable stretches along the route. The departments concerned were directed to maintain strict vigil and ensure immediate response to any weather-related exigencies during the pilgrimage period.

The Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma divulged the details about the comprehensive traffic and transport management plans prepared to ensure smooth vehicular movement and timely restoration of road

connectivity, wherever required. He apprised the meeting about the establishment of designated parking areas, regulation of traffic movement and ensuring uninterrupted access for emergency response vehicles.

The Chief Secretary further reviewed medical preparedness and emergency response arrangements for the Yatra. The meeting was informed that medical camps, ambulance services, emergency response teams and first-aid facilities would be established at key locations along the route. Adequate healthcare personnel and essential medicines are also being arranged to meet any eventuality during the pilgrimage.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements related to drinking water supply, uninterrupted electricity, communication facilities, sanitation and solid waste management made for this year's yatra.

Directions were issued to all departments to work in close coordination to ensure efficient delivery of essential services and maintain cleanliness and environmental protection along the pilgrimage route.

Reiterating the administration's commitment towards ensuring a spiritually fulfilling and incident-free pilgrimage, the Chief Secretary called for coordinated efforts among all stakeholder departments and agencies for successful conduct of the Machail Mata Yatra this year.

Rural Development Schemes

Director RDD Kashmir reviews implementation in Bandipora

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, MAY 19: Director Rural Development Department (RDD) Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad wani Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora to assess the functioning and implementation of various rural development schemes in District Bandipora.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Joint Director RDD Kashmir, SE REW, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Bandipora, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP) Bandipora, Exen REW Bandipora, Block Development Officers (BDOs), Assistant Executive Engineers (AEE's) and Assistant Engineers (AEs) and other concerned officers of the department.

During the meeting, a detailed review of major schemes and developmental activities being implemented across the district was conducted, with special focus on MGNREGA, PMAY-G, convergence works, desilting activities, Panchayat infrastructure and rural connectivity projects.

The Director stressed upon officers to ensure timely completion of works and effective utilization of available resources for maximum community benefit. A detailed review of desilting works and convergence projects taken up across various blocks was also conducted.

The Director emphasized the need to accelerate

execution of desilting works and strengthen convergence efforts for sustainable rural development and better public utility creation.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation and physical progress achieved under PMAY-G. Officers informed the chair that significant progress had been achieved in completion of sanctioned houses across the district. The Director stressed the importance of timely completion of all pending houses and ensuring benefits reach genuine beneficiaries in a transparent manner.

During the review, the Director also took stock of the status of Panchayat Ghars, UT Capex works and geo-tagging of assets under various schemes. He appreciated the efforts of the department in achieving substantial progress in implementation of developmental programmes.

The Director laid special emphasis on the development and maintenance of play fields across Panchayats and directed officers to identify suitable land and prioritize creation of sports infrastructure for youth engagement and promotion of sports activities in rural areas.

The meeting also discussed staff position, infrastructure requirements and measures for strengthening field-level implementation of schemes across all blocks of the district.

The Director stressed better coordination among field functionaries, regular monitoring of works and adherence to timelines for ensuring effective and transparent implementation of all rural development schemes in the district.

Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

District Admin, DYSSO organise painting competition in Bandipora



KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, MAY 19: Youth Services and Sports Department Bandipora, in collaboration with the District Administration Bandipora, organised a painting competition at Nishat Park Bandipora under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan-100 Day Campaign on the theme "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Sports."

The competition, as per an official statement, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and young artists who expressed powerful messages against drug abuse through their artwork.

The event aimed to create awareness about the harmful

effects of substance abuse while promoting healthy lifestyles through sports and creative expression. Participants showcased remarkable creativity, imagination, and commitment towards the cause of building a drug-free society.

In the competition, Mohammad Hanan from HS Bagh secured the first position, while Shayma Lone from AGS Bandipora secured the second position and Navreen Nabi bagged the third position. The organisers appreciated the active participation of the youth and reiterated the importance of engaging students in meaningful and awareness-oriented activities under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Abhiyan campaign.

Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

Mission Vatsalya, Police conduct inspection drive in Bandipora

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, MAY 19: In a major step towards safeguarding children from tobacco exposure and substance abuse, Mission Vatsalya (Child Protection Services) Bandipora in collaboration with Bandipora Police conducted a special inspection drive across shops and market-places in the district to check the illegal sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products to minors in and around educational institutions.

The drive, as per an official statement, was conducted under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan aimed at creating awareness against drug abuse and ensuring a safe environment for children and youth.

The inspection drive was also joined by members of the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), officials from the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and Child Helpline (CHL), who actively participated in the inspection and awareness



campaign.

During the drive, several shops were inspected for violations under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Several violators found selling tobacco products near schools were fined on the spot and strictly warned against repeating the offence.

The inspection aimed to ensure strict implementation of laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors and

near educational institutions. Officials reiterated that such practices pose a serious threat to the health and wellbeing of children.

Speaking during the awareness campaign, Chairperson Child Welfare Committee Bandipora, Dr Asima, and Protection Officer Bandipora, Gowhar Mahmood sensitized the general public about the provisions of the JJ Act, 2015 and urged citizens to immediately report any violations related to child protection, sale of tobacco to minors, child labour, abuse or neglect.

They appealed to the public to actively support child protection mechanisms and report such incidents on emergency helpline numbers 1098 and 112 for immediate intervention and assistance.

Officials stated that such inspection drives and awareness programmes would continue across the district to ensure a safe, healthy and drug-free environment for children and youth.

Awareness programme on NALSA Veer Parivar Sahayita Yojana 2025 held in Shopian

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, MAY 19: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian in collaboration with the Indian Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), organized a comprehensive awareness programme Tuesday focusing on the NALSA Veer Parivar Sahayita Yojana 2025.

The event witnessed large-scale participation from ex-servicemen, serving Army personnel, and their families.

The programme, as per an official statement, was graced by several prominent judicial and military dignitaries, including, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary, Principal District & Sessions Judge (PD&S)/Chairman, DLSA Shopian; Mudasar Farooq, Secretary, DLSA Shopian, Col. Jaspreet Singh, 21 Sector, 44 RR.

During the event, Rafie Ahmad Ganie, Chief LADC Shopian provided a detailed explanation of the NALSA Veer Parivar Sahayita Yojana 2025. He highlighted the core pillars of the scheme, which include,

legal aid and advocacy support, financial assistance mechanisms, Welfare support tailored for the families of martyred soldiers, disabled soldiers and ex-servicemen in distress.

Additionally, Mehraj-ud-Din Wani, Chief LADC Pulwama and Secretary DLSA, Mudasar Farooq, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of community reach and legal literacy.

Food Safety Team Anantnag conducts inspections ahead of Eid-ul-Adha



KT News Desk

Anantnag, May 19: In view of the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha celebrations, the Food Safety Department Anantnag Tuesday conducted intensified inspections of food establishments across various markets of the district to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food for consumers.

The inspection drive, as per an official statement, particularly focused on establishments dealing with bakery products, milk and milk products, meat and meat products, as well as fruits and vegetables. The initiative was launched with the objective of safeguarding public

health and ensuring compliance with food safety standards during the festive season.

During the inspections, bakery establishments were thoroughly checked and directed to strictly adhere to Schedule IV of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which prescribes hygiene and sanitary guidelines for food business operators. Samples of various food items were also procured during the drive for comprehensive analysis to assess their quality and safety standards.

Meanwhile, 32 cases of cream with labelling violations were seized from M/S S.S. Enterprises, Laizbal K.P. Road, Anantnag during the inspection process.

NMBA: AYUSH Srinagar holds awareness programme

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MAY 19: Under the aegis of the Directorate of AYUSH, J&K, District AYUSH Srinagar Tuesday organized an awareness programme under the 100-day-long Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) at Royal House Academy, Patli-Pora Bala, Chattabal, Srinagar. The programme, as per an official statement, was conducted in compliance with the directions of District Ayush Officer Srinagar, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Payer.

During the programme, an awareness lecture on drug abuse and preventive measures was delivered by Mohammad Younis, Yoga Instructor and De-Addiction Expert, along with Shahida Fayaz, Yoga Instructor and De-Addiction Expert from the Directorate of AYUSH, District Srinagar.

The speakers highlighted the harmful effects of drug addiction on individuals and society and stressed the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle. They also emphasized the role of yoga, meditation and holistic wellness practices in preventing substance abuse and promoting mental and physical well-being among students and youth. The programme witnessed active participation and support from the school administration, including Chairman Shafat Ahmad, Principal Waseem Mushtaq, Incharge Supervisor Hussain Mujtaba and Sabreena Ayoub. Students and staff members actively participated in the session and appreciated the initiative aimed at spreading awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and encouraging a drug-free society.

Divisional Seed Certification Officer visits SM Farm Watapora



KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, MAY 19: Divisional Seed Certification Officer Kashmir Tuesday visited the Seed Multiplication Farm (SM Farm) Watapora in Bandipora and reviewed the ongoing agricultural activities at the farm.

During the visit, the officer, as per an official statement, inspected the crop condition and expressed satisfaction over the scientific crop management practices being adopted at the farm. He highly appreciated the excellent condition and overall quality of the crop and

commended the efforts of the farm staff in maintaining high standards of cultivation and farm management.

The officer also interacted with the field staff and reviewed various activities related to seed multiplication and crop maintenance. He stressed the importance of adopting scientific and technical practices to ensure quality seed production and sustainable agricultural development.

The visit reflected the department's continued focus on promoting scientific farming methods and strengthening quality seed production in the district.

PLVs of DLSA Budgam visit bereaved Family at Khansahib



KT News Desk

BUDGAM, MAY 19: In compliance with the directions issued by the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority Budgam, the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Budgam Tuesday visited the residence of the deceased woman at Khansahib, Budgam.

The primary objective of the visit, as per an official statement, was to extend legal awareness and provide information regarding the legal aid services and welfare schemes available to the bereaved family, particularly the daughter of the deceased. During the interaction, the PLVs sensitized the family about their legal rights

and the assistance available under various legal aid mechanisms, including support in matters relating to criminal proceedings.

The team also apprised the family about the free legal services and other support measures available for the welfare and protection of the minor daughter of the deceased. The family members were assured that the Legal Services Institutions, especially DLSA Budgam, stand committed to providing all necessary legal guidance and assistance during this difficult time.

The visit was conducted as part of the continuous efforts of DLSA Budgam to ensure access to justice and legal

SC allows euthanasia of rabid, dangerous dogs; says right to life stands at highest pedestal

PTI

New Delhi, May 19: The Supreme Court in a significant verdict on Tuesday allowed euthanasia of rabid, incurably ill, dangerous and aggressive dogs to curb threat to human lives, saying the right to live with dignity encompasses the right to move freely without the threat of harm from canines.

In a first of its kind order, the top court ruled that when the safety and lives of human beings are weighed against the interests and welfare of sentient beings, the constitutional balance must necessarily and unequivocally tilt in favour of the preservation and protection of human life.

A bench of justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and NV Anjaria, which dismissed all the petitions and applications for recall, modification of the

November 7, 2025 order including directive on relocation and sterilisation of dogs from institutional areas, said the right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution stands at the "highest pedestal of constitutional protection".

It said, "In areas where the population of stray dogs has assumed alarming proportions and where incidents of dog bites or aggressive attacks have become frequent and pose a continuing threat to public safety, the concerned authorities may, subject to due assessment by qualified veterinary experts and strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 and other applicable statutory protocols, take such measures as may be legally permissible, including euthanasia in cases involving rabid, incurably

ill or demonstrably dangerous/aggressive dogs, so as to effectively curb the threat posed to human life and safety."

It said that the Constitution casts upon the State an affirmative, non-negotiable and continuing duty to take all expedient, effective, preventive and legally permissible measures necessary to secure citizens against threats to life and safety arising from stray dog attacks and related dangers.

The bench, which heard several animal welfare organisations, activists, NGOs and state governments, said it must be emphatically reiterated that the States and Union Territories are under a continuing and untrammelled constitutional obligation to ensure the protection of the fundamental right to life and safety of citizens under Article 21.

It said such obligation

necessarily extends to the creation, augmentation and sustained maintenance of adequate infrastructure for the effective implementation of the Animal Birth Control framework, including sterilisation, vaccination, sheltering and overall scientific management of stray dogs.

"The right to live with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution of India necessarily encompasses the right of every citizen to move freely and access public spaces without living under a constant apprehension of physical harm, attack or exposure to life-threatening events such as dog bites in public areas.

"The State cannot remain a passive spectator where preventable threats to human life continue to proliferate in the face of statutory mechanisms specifically designed to address them," the bench said.

It pointed out that after re-servicing judgment in the present matter on January 29, the court has been apprised of multiple reports indicating that incidents of dog bites and stray dog attacks continue to occur across different parts of the country with alarming frequency and severity.

"The reports brought to the notice of this court reveal that the magnitude of the problem and the resultant threat posed to public safety has assumed deeply disturbing proportions. The incidents disclosed are not isolated or sporadic occurrences, but reflect a continuing and widespread pattern of attacks resulting in severe physical injury, psychological trauma and, in several cases, loss of human life.

"It is clear that the unchecked population of dogs has become increasingly feral, and such animals have no place in areas

densely populated by human beings owing to the serious threat they pose to public safety," it said.

The bench, which issued a slew of directions to the states and Union territories, said any failure, hesitation or administrative apathy in adopting measures to secure citizens would strike at the very core of the constitutional guarantee under Article 21 and would render the fundamental rights guaranteed to citizens illusory, hollow and incapable of meaningful enforcement in the lived realities of society.

"Compassion for animal life, however important, cannot be interpreted in a manner that compels citizens to endure recurring threats to their own lives, safety and bodily integrity," it ruled in its 131-page verdict.

The top court also dismissed applications and petitions challenging the validity of SOPs

dated November 27, 2025 of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) issued pursuant to November 7, 2025 directions of the court.

"The SOPs issued by the AWBI, in substance, seek to operationalise the directions issued by this court in a structured and implementable manner, and cannot be said to transgress either the statutory framework or constitutional principles, but rather constitute an administrative mechanism to give effect to the mandate of this court in a uniform and effective manner across jurisdictions," it said.

While directing the states and Union territories to augment infrastructure to deal with stray dogs and other animals, the top court directed all the high courts to register a suo moto case to ensure compliance of its August 22, 2025, November 7, 2025 directions issued by the court.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Let's unite to crush

hideouts. Our mission is not just arrests but the complete destruction of narco-terror empire and tearing out the very roots from which this poison spreads," the Lieutenant Governor said.

"This past month, Jammu Kashmir has witnessed public spirit awaken. In Baramulla I saw thousands raising their voices against drugs. Similarly, in Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, Kathua, Srinagar and other districts I saw young people and parents resolutely committed to this fight," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that over the last 39 days, across different districts of Jammu Kashmir, neighbours became each other's support and most importantly long-standing silence that hung over Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir began to break.

"Today that silence has turned into a loud, collective outcry against drugs. Our fight is against a vast narco-terror network fueled by fear, greed, and destruction. In Pulwama alone, more than 11,000 local events have been organized in recent days. FIRs have been registered against 48 drug smugglers, and 56 drug traffickers have been arrested. These figures show we are striking directly at the roots of terror," the Lieutenant Governor said.

It is pertinent to mention that since 11th April, about 897 drug smugglers and peddlers have been arrested. Recommendations have been made to cancel passports of 18 traffickers. Additionally, driving licenses of 382 traffickers and peddlers and registrations of 386 vehicles have been cancelled. Forty-nine immovable properties have been seized and 45 properties demolished.

Across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions nearly 5,045 drug stores have been inspected; licenses of 225 drug stores have been suspended; licenses of 27 stores cancelled, and FIRs registered against 6 stores. From 11th April until now, 393,000 programs have been held throughout Jammu and Kashmir, with millions taking part through awareness and outreach activities. To strengthen ground-level monitoring and rehabilitation, 6,646 village women's committees and 2,997 youth clubs have been formed across Jammu and Kashmir, to block drug trafficking and ensure rehabilitation of those trapped by addiction. More than 100 helpline calls are being received each day, and over 52,000 patients have received treatment in addiction treatment facilities so far.

"As this 100-days campaign advances, we must fuel its momentum. Stay vigilant. Stay united. I want people of Jammu Kashmir to remember that stopping one peddler saves a life, and every life saved weakens terror in the valley. Together, we will break addiction's chains in Jammu Kashmir, end terrorism, and light up our streets, homes, and future. A month ago, we dreamed of a drug free Jammu Kashmir. Today, we are proving it is real," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also pointed to the lavish lifestyles and illegal wealth accumulated by traffickers, saying such fortunes had been built "on the tears and destruction of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir."

Assuring the public that innocent people would not be harassed during anti-drug operations, the Lieutenant Governor said law enforcement agencies have been directed to ensure fairness, accountability and transparency during the campaign.

"No innocent person was touched, nor will any innocent be targeted during this campaign. If anyone believes an innocent person has been wrongly implicated, they should directly contact the IGP Kashmir, and I assure you action will be taken," he said. (KNO)

Nari Shakti exemplifies

deep spiritual wisdom." The prestigious award event was organised by Sarhad. "Nari Shakti, honored by Lal Ded National Award, has achieved remarkable accomplishments in their respective fields."

"By setting new standards in their fields, remarkable women achievers have helped shape the soul of society. Women empowerment must be a top priority for both society and government. We must also prioritize women in innovation and entrepreneurship so enterprises led by them become stronger," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said in today's world, Lal Ded's message can become a lifeline for humanity and her philosophy of compassion, truth, and morality is the foundation of a global society that seeks peace, inclusion, and

fraternity.

"Lal Ded's life teaches society that no matter how great the challenge, a person's inner strength, faith, and courage can turn even the toughest trials into opportunities for growth and learning. Lal Ded became a beacon of hope for all seekers who dared to believe that humanity can truly become better and her ideals guided people toward a more harmonious world," the Lieutenant Governor said.

"I believe gender equality is a call for men to stand shoulder to shoulder with women and to be partners and allies, and to jointly build a just society and developed India while fulfilling their responsibilities. I firmly believe that when women progress, families progress and families progress, the nation progresses. Women play a crucial role in nation-building and its evidence is visible across every sphere of life," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The prestigious award was conferred on contemporary Kashmiri poet Bimla Raina; Sahitya Akademi Award-winning poet Prof. Naseem Shafai; scholar, author and Rajbhasha expert, Dr. Sakina Akhtar; Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board and the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to eminent writer, academician, and translator Prof. Neeraja Mattoo.

Vijaya K. Rahatkar, Chairperson, National Commission for Women; Vijay Dhar, educationist; Sanjay Nahar, Founder President, Sarhad; Sushma Nahar, Founder Secretary, Sarhad; senior officials, members of Sarhad Foundation, and prominent citizens from different walks of life attended the award ceremony. (KNO)

'Op Sindoor' demonstrated

April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead and targeted terror camps deep inside Pakistan.

Indian armed forces struck nine terror-linked targets, including locations in Bahawalpur, Muridke and Sialkot in Pakistan, besides camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, using precision-guided munitions in a coordinated tri-services operation.

"WORLD WITNESSING DISORDER, DISTRUST DICHOTOMY IN ALLIANCES"

In his address, General Dwivedi also spoke about changing global security dynamics, saying the world was witnessing "disorder, distrust and dichotomy in alliances".

"We were promised a world where prosperity would make power politics obsolete. Instead, we now see power politics being used to reorganise prosperity," he said.

The Army Chief said global defence spending had crossed USD 2.7 trillion, surpassing the estimated budget required for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

He noted that modern conflicts were no longer limited to battlefields and now placed demands on industrial production, research ecosystems and governance mechanisms.

"The boundary between security and prosperity no longer exists," he said, adding that security should now be viewed as a prerequisite for economic growth and national development. (KNO)

Parl panels make

and assessed the progress of Smart City and other urban projects.

The Department-related Standing Committee on Home Affairs, headed by BJP MP Radha Mohan Das Aggarwal, visited Jammu & Kashmir from May 10 to May 15, to discuss several issues.

The Department-related Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment is also visiting Jammu & Kashmir as part of their study tour.

According to observers, these visits are significant as they enable MPs to gain firsthand information about the problems faced by Jammu & Kashmir, on the development and economic front.

They said these visits are also important from the perspective of tourism in Kashmir. (KNO)

Heatwave drives

Another tourist, Mehak Gupta from Punjab, said the weather in Kashmir was a "huge relief" from the scorching heat in the plains.

"We had seen videos of Razdan Top on social media, but witnessing snow here in May is completely different. The beauty of this place is unmatched," she said.

Tourist movement has also increased in Sonamarg and Bangus Valley, where visitors

are spending time near snow-covered peaks, streams and vast green pastures.

At Sonamarg, tourists were seen taking pony rides and enjoying the cool breeze along the Sindh stream.

"Back home in Rajasthan, it is impossible to step outside during daytime because of the heat. Kashmir's weather is pleasant and refreshing," said tourist Ankit Verma.

In North Kashmir's Bangus Valley, known for its dense forests and sprawling meadows, tourists described the landscape as peaceful and untouched.

"The natural beauty of Bangus is extraordinary. It is less crowded and feels very close to nature," said Sana Khan, a tourist from Mumbai. Local tourism stakeholders said offbeat destinations in Kashmir were witnessing increased footfall this season as more tourists explored lesser-known locations beyond Srinagar and Gulmarg.

"Tourists are now looking for unexplored places. Gurez, Tulail and Bangus are attracting visitors because of their natural beauty, pleasant weather and peaceful atmosphere," said local tourist guide Hilal Ahmad in Gurez.

Another guide in Sonamarg, Mushtaq Ahmed, said many tourists were extending their stays due to the cool weather conditions.

"People arriving from Delhi, Rajasthan and Punjab are enjoying the climate here. Many tourists are surprised to witness snow at Razdan Top during May," he said.

Officials in the tourism sector said the recent weather conditions and social media promotion of offbeat destinations had contributed to the rise in tourist arrivals across the Valley. (KNO)

MeT predicts light

afternoon and evening hours. An advisory issued by MeT stated:

"Possibility of thunder, lightning and gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph exists at a few places in Kashmir and Jammu divisions during May 19-21."

The department said weather is likely to remain generally dry during the forenoon from May 22 to 25, although brief showers may occur at isolated to scattered places during afternoon or late afternoon hours.

From May 26 to 28, weather conditions are expected to remain generally dry, while light rain and thundershowers are likely at isolated places between May 29 and 31.

The MeT department also warned of hot and dry weather conditions at many places during the next two days, with heatwave conditions expected at isolated places in the Jammu division.

Meanwhile, temperatures remained significantly above normal across several parts of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

According to data compiled by Kashmir Weather Watch, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 30.7 degrees Celsius, 5.3 degrees above normal, while Qazigund settled at 30.2 degrees Celsius, 5.8 degrees above normal.

Kokernag recorded 29.2 degrees Celsius, 5.4 degrees above normal, Kupwara 28.3 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 21.6 degrees Celsius, also 5.3 degrees above normal. Pahalgam recorded a maximum temperature of 22.4 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded 42 degrees Celsius, 3.9 degrees above normal, while Katra registered 39 degrees Celsius, 5.4 degrees above normal.

Banihal recorded 31 degrees Celsius, Batote 30.6 degrees Celsius and Baderwah 30.4 degrees Celsius, the data showed.

In the Ladakh region, Leh recorded a maximum temperature of 21.6 degrees Celsius, while Nubra Valley settled at 18.1 degrees Celsius. (KNO)

Dialysis centres in

General Secretary of JKPHDCA, Dr. Masood-ul-Hassan told KNO that private dialysis centres in Jammu and Kashmir are facing severe financial distress due to the non-clearance of payments by the State Health Agency (SHA), with some claims allegedly pending since 2021.

He said that hundreds of crores of rupees in legitimate dues remain unpaid, making it nearly impossible for dialysis centres to sustain operations any longer.

"Dialysis centres across J&K are on the verge of shutting down because of the massive delay in release of funds under the Ayushman Bharat-Sehat Scheme. Some of the bills have remained pending for years, and the situation has now become unbearable," Dr. Hassan said.

He stated that the financial crisis has directly affected the functioning of dialysis units, many

of which are now struggling to procure essential consumables such as dialyzers, tubing sets, medicines and other critical supplies required for dialysis procedures.

"Vendors have stopped supplying material because previous bills remain unpaid. In several centres, there is no money left even to pay salaries to doctors, technicians and nursing staff," he added.

Highlighting the gravity of the situation, Dr. Hassan said dialysis is not an optional treatment but a life-saving medical necessity for patients suffering from kidney failure.

"A single missed dialysis session can prove fatal for a patient. Yet the private dialysis centres, which are handling more than 70 percent of Golden Card patients in Jammu and Kashmir, are now being pushed to choose between paying staff salaries or purchasing consumables. We have reached a stage where neither is possible," he said.

The association also criticized the existing "Trust Mode" mechanism under which the Ayushman Bharat-Sehat Scheme is being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that the system lacks accountability and timely payment mechanisms.

Dr Hassan said the present model has "completely failed" in the Union Territory and demanded a shift to the Insurance Mode system, which, according to the association, would ensure fixed timelines and greater accountability in disbursement of payments.

"Unlike Insurance Mode, the current Trust Mode has no effective accountability framework. The prolonged delay in payments has broken the backbone of dialysis services in J&K," he said.

He further said that many healthcare workers in dialysis centres have continued to serve patients despite not receiving salaries for months.

"Our staff has worked tirelessly without salaries just to keep patients alive. But we cannot continue to function without basic operational funds. The government must act immediately," he said.

The JKPHDCA appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to personally intervene and ensure immediate release of all pending dues.

The association warned that failure to address the issue urgently could trigger a humanitarian crisis, particularly affecting poor patients who rely entirely on Golden Card coverage for dialysis treatment.

"If these centres collapse, thousands of dialysis patients across Jammu and Kashmir will be left with no access to treatment. Immediate release of pending payments and transition to Insurance Mode is the only way to prevent this crisis," the association said. (KNO)

CS calls for concrete

and preventive oncology across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department; Director, SKIMS; Principal, Government Medical College, Srinagar/Jammu/SKIMS Medical College; Managing Director, National Health Mission; representatives from Indian Council of Medical Research and Tata Memorial Centre besides faculty members and experts from various medical colleges and healthcare institutions of the UT.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary outlined the broad framework of the strategy to ensure an effective and sustainable impact on the ground. He emphasized the need for extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities to generate awareness among the masses about cancer prevention and early diagnosis.

He further stressed the importance of establishing a robust Cancer Registry for collection and analysis of disease-related data, besides undertaking population-based screening in accordance with the guidelines of the Indian Council of Medical Research.

The Chief Secretary observed that early detection and timely management of cancer cases remain critical for reducing the burden of the disease and improving survival outcomes. He underscored the need for ensuring proper treatment of patients strictly in line with established medical protocols while simultaneously promoting preventive oncology measures to safeguard the population from this life-threatening disease.

Reviewing the progress made so far, the Chief Secretary directed the expert committees constituted earlier to come up with concrete action plans within the next one month after

conducting a detailed analysis of the prevalence of cancer and the existing treatment facilities available across Jammu and Kashmir.

He also asked the committees to assess the requirement for capacity building and strengthening of manpower in the healthcare sector for effective implementation of the proposed strategy.

He further instructed the Health and Medical Education Department to establish a dedicated core team of professionals drawn from different medical college faculties to ensure that the formulation and execution of the cancer control plan is taken forward in a coordinated and time-bound manner.

He also called for expediting the framing of comprehensive screening guidelines in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research so that early detection of the disease becomes a practical reality across the UT.

During the meeting, experts from various health institutions shared their inputs regarding the prevalence and incidence of cancer in Jammu and Kashmir and highlighted the challenges faced by patients in obtaining timely diagnosis and treatment, particularly in far-flung districts. The participants also offered several suggestions aimed at strengthening cancer care infrastructure, improving accessibility of treatment facilities and bringing quality oncology services closer to patients' homes across the Union Territory.

Over 1.50 lakh

have also witnessed remarkable public participation during the initial phase, reflecting growing awareness and confidence among citizens regarding the digital Census process.

The Director said that the strong response received during the first few days reflects the success of extensive awareness campaigns, media outreach, district-level mobilisation, and citizen facilitation mechanisms established by the Directorate of Census Operations and district administrations across the Union Territory.

Amit Sharma further informed that dedicated support systems and facilitation arrangements have also been established at district and field levels to assist citizens in completing their Self-Enumeration smoothly and accurately through the online platform.

During the press meet, the Director also gave detailed information regarding special arrangements being put in place for the coverage of migratory and nomadic tribal populations across the Union Territory, including Gujjar, Bakarwal, and other nomadic communities.

The Director assured that no person from the tribal or migratory population would be left out of the Census enumeration exercise and stated that dedicated operational mechanisms are being devised in coordination with various departments, including the Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, the School Education Department, the Tribal Affairs Department, and the Sheep Husbandry Department, to ensure comprehensive coverage of migratory and nomadic populations during Self-Enumeration and subsequent House Listing Operations.

Amit Sharma further informed that special deployment plans for Enumerators and Supervisors are being prepared for remote, hilly, and migratory routes so that tribal and migratory households residing in difficult geographical locations are fully covered during Census operations.

The Director also reassured the public that the Self-Enumeration portal and Census mobile applications have been specifically designed to function effectively even in difficult terrain and low-connectivity environments. He stated that offline and synchronisation-based mechanisms have been incorporated into the digital systems so that enumeration activities can continue smoothly even in areas where internet connectivity may not be consistently available.

Highlighting the importance of accurate demographic data, Shri Amit Sharma appealed to all residents of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to complete their Self-Enumeration within the notified timelines and to furnish correct, clear, and transparent information for the generation of reliable data essential for governance, welfare schemes, infrastructure planning, and developmental policy formulation.

Amit Sharma also clarified that all information collected during Census operations remains completely confidential under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948, and reiterated that no bank account details, PAN details, financial transaction information, or similar sensitive personal data are collected during the Census exercise.

Authorities not expected to support any party to a case: SC

PTI

New Delhi, May 19: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the duty of the State and its officials while arguing a case and filing a counter-affidavit before a court is to provide real assistance and it is not expected from authorities that they will support any party, contrary to the law.

The observations came from a bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and A S Chandurkar that referred to the conduct of certain officers of the Uttar Pradesh government and the contentions raised by them that they "vociferously support" the stand of an appellant in a case.

The bench delivered its verdict on an appeal challenging a May last year order of the Allahabad High Court in a matter relating to the appointment of a college principal.

The bench said it was clear that after the commencement of the Uttar Pradesh Education Service Selection Commission Act, 2023, on August 21, 2023, it was not open to the authorities to act in terms of the list prepared under the Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Services Commission Act, 1980, which was repealed.

It said there was absolutely no occasion for the director to get the old list revived and write in favour of the appellant on December 13, 2023.

"It is suffice to say that the chief secretary of the state of Uttar Pradesh may look into the conduct of the officers who have filed the affidavit taking such unlawful stand before the high court and even before this court, which is completely impermissible



under the law and contrary to the findings of the high court," the bench said.

"It is necessary to observe that the duty of the State and its officials while filing their counter-affidavit and arguing the case before the court is to provide real assistance," it said.

The bench added that such assistance ought to be based on facts and by applying the law applicable to the case at hand.

"It is not expected from the authorities to support any party, contrary to the law, or by filing affidavit which does not disclose the facts in conformity with the law," the top court said. The bench said it was not

inclined to issue any adverse direction since the officers concerned were not a party to the case before it.

It, however, left it open to the Uttar Pradesh government to look into the court's observations and take the recourse in accordance with law, if necessary.

The court noted that the appellant before it had found a place in the panel of waitlisted candidates for the posts of principal in post-graduate and under-graduate non-government aided colleges in Uttar Pradesh.

It said an advertisement was issued by the Uttar Pradesh Higher Education Service

Selection Commission in 2019, inviting applications for the posts of principal in PG and UG colleges.

The selection proceedings were held by the commission and a final list of 290 candidates, along with 73 waitlisted candidates, was published in October 2021, the bench pointed out.

It said in August 2022, the appellant's name came to be recommended for the principal's post in a college at Ballia but he did not take any step to take charge there on account of his family circumstances.

The bench said the appellant had requested to be appointed as a principal on the vacant posts in some other college, which also included a college in Meerut.

It said a consequential order was issued in January 2024 to the director for a change in the place of posting of the appellant to a college in Meerut in exceptional circumstances and in the interest of higher education.

Thereafter, the then officiating principal of the Meerut college filed a petition before the high court, contending that once a waitlisted candidate was issued a direction for appointment at one place, the scheme of the old Act does not allow any change to the same.

The high court allowed his petition and quashed the order for a change in the place of posting of the appellant to a college in Meerut.

Dismissing the appeal, the top court said after the commencement of the new Act, the validity of the list or the panel under the old law would automatically lapse.

HCs should set up special courts for cases pending for over 5 years: Amit Shah

PTI

Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh), May 19: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said High Courts should set up special courts for the speedy disposal of cases pending for more than five years.

Chairing the 26th meeting of the Central Zonal Council (CZC) in Jagdalpur, headquarters of Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, Shah also said timely DNA testing in cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and rape cases could raise conviction rates in these offences to "100 per cent".

The meeting was attended by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami along with senior officials, said an official release.

Shah said it was a matter of "great joy" that the meeting was being held in Bastar after achieving the "historic milestone" of a Naxal-free India.

The entire credit for making India Naxal-free goes to the hard work and bravery of the jawans of our security forces, he said, adding that coordinated efforts by intelligence agencies, state police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) ensured timely and decisive action against Naxalites. He said



development initiatives were simultaneously carried out in areas freed from Naxalism under the "Whole of Government Approach", with state governments and central departments working together.

"Our fight is not over yet because Naxal-affected areas have been lagging behind in the race for development for nearly five decades. The effort would continue until these regions matched the rest of the country in terms of development," the release quoted Shah as saying.

After resolving all contentious issues between the states (in the central zonal council) as well as those between the states and the Centre, the meeting was being held in a very positive and cordial atmosphere, he said.

The meeting focused mainly on monitoring development works, including Jal Jeevan

Mission-2, nutrition, health, education, financial inclusion and power sector reforms.

Union Home Minister said that if timely DNA testing is conducted in POCSO and rape cases, the conviction rate in these cases can increase to 100 per cent.

The High Courts should establish special courts for the speedy disposal of cases pending in courts for more than five years, Shah said, adding that the administration must demonstrate seriousness in dealing with serious crimes. He also called upon all the chief ministers and chief secretaries to join hands and move forward shoulder to shoulder with the Government of India in the fight against malnutrition.

The Union minister also stressed the need to reduce school dropout rates and improve the quality of education.

Ensuring

banking facilities within a five-kilometre radius was a major achievement as most welfare schemes are linked to Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), he said. Shah also urged states to implement their 1930 cybercrime helplines in line with the Union Home Ministry's model format, and modernise their call centres.

On food adulteration cases, he said penalties imposed on guilty establishments should be widely publicised to create public awareness.

Referring to the implementation of the new criminal laws, Shah said the three "Naveen Nyaya Sanhitas" had been implemented effectively but further emphasis was needed on certain aspects. The government should aim to ensure disposal of every criminal case, including those reaching the Supreme Court, within three years before 2029, he said.

Industry wants to build nuclear reactors in India, possible with SHANTI Act: US delegate

PTI

New Delhi, May 19: The recent enactment of the SHANTI Act, 2025 has opened up numerous opportunities for the commercial nuclear industry to work with India, one of the top US delegates currently visiting the country has said.

A high-level senior US delegation is in India this week as part of the 'US Executive Nuclear Mission to India', jointly led by Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), a lobby group for the American commercial nuclear industry, and the US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). It also includes companies' representatives from across the nuclear energy value chain.

Speaking to PTI, Maria Korsnick, president and CEO of the NEI said the industry wants to work with the Indian commercial nuclear sector and the government to build nuclear reactors in the country.

"The SHANTI Act has given us an opening to create a relationship between the US industry and the Indian industry," Korsnick said.

On Monday, the delegation met Union Ministers Manohar Lal Khattar and Jitendra Singh and discussed expanding the scope of India-US cooperation in clean energy and critical technologies.

"The innovation in commercial nuclear power in the United States is absolutely amazing. For many years, we have had light-water technology. Now, we also have advanced reactors, high-temperature gas reactors and molten salt reactors," Korsnick said.

"All of these are happening in the United States, including large reactors, medium reactors, and small reactors. So it is really up to India -- what it wants and what it is interested in so that we can form partnerships," she added.

It is not the first time NEI representatives have travelled to India for such talks. Their first visit came back in 2006.

"Twenty years ago, we came to India for a trade mission. However, it did not take off due to nuclear liability concerns, which were different in India compared to other countries," Korsnick said. She added that the SHANTI Act had addressed those concerns, and the nuclear industry had also evolved in the past 20 years.

"Before, it was just about large reactors, and now, here are large, medium and small reactors with many different opportunities to work together," she said.

Korsnick added, "It is really a new day for the nuclear sector."

India, Vietnam looking at joint production of military hardware

PTI

New Delhi, May 19: India and Vietnam on Tuesday underlined the importance of maintaining peace, stability, and freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific region and resolved to work closely to jointly produce military hardware in line with their "enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership".

Expanding defence ties was the central focus of the meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Vietnamese counterpart, General Phan Van Giang. The meeting took place in Hanoi.

"Both the ministers reviewed the growing defence partnership between the two countries

and discussed ways to further deepen cooperation in maritime security, defence industry, training and regional stability," the defence ministry said.

Sources said defence industrial cooperation for joint production of military hardware was one of the key areas of the Singh-Giang meeting.

It is also learnt that Vietnam has shown keen interest in procuring BrahMos missiles from India.

Singh landed in the Vietnamese capital on Monday on a two-day visit.

Following the talks, India and Vietnam signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence and quantum technology.

SP-Congress alliance will continue, focus will be on victory, not seats: Akhilesh

PTI

Lucknow, May 19: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday said the alliance with its partners would continue in future elections, asserting that the formula will be "victory, not seats." Responding to a media query at an event organised by Amar Ujala newspaper, Yadav said his party has vast experience in running alliances and always ensured that its allies benefited from the arrangement. "We have entered into many



alliances. We have experience of alliances and the Samajwadi Party has always ensured gains for its allies. We have never betrayed anyone. The alliance that exists today

will continue ahead," Yadav said.

He said that future alliance discussions would not revolve around bargaining for seats but around ensuring electoral

success. "There will not be a question of seats in the alliance. Even during the Lok Sabha elections, I had said that the issue was not about seats, the issue was about victory. The same formula will work again. The question will not be of seats, the question will be of victory," he said.

Asked about the face of opposition, Yadav said it would be inflation, rising price of fuel, Agniveer youths, farmers, labourers and also 69,000 sikhshamitras, who did not get a permanent job.

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE
In the case of: **Raja Begum D/o: Sona Bhat R/o: Sangrama.**
Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Self namely Raja Begum D/o: Sona Bhat as 01-01-1970 at Home.

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

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE
In the case of: **Mohd Ashraf Sheikh s/o: Lal Sheikh R/o: Bilal Colony Sopore.**
Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Self namely Mohd Ashraf Sheikh S/o: Lal Sheikh as 01-12-1987 at Home.

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

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE
In the case of: **Shabeena Begum w/o: Tariq Ahmad Ganai R/o: Ashpeer Sopore.**
Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Daughter namely Barcees Tariq D/o: Tariq Ahmad Ganai as 25-10-2021 at Guru Hospital Sopore.

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

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE
In the case of: **Bashir Ahmad Ganaie s/o: Ghulam Mohd Ganai R/o: Mazbugh Sopore.**
Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Father namely Ghulam Mohd Ganaie S/o: Sonaullah Ganaie as 22-09-2024 at Home Mazbugh Sopore.

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

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE
In the case of: **Ghulam Mohi-ud-din S/o: Habibullah Ganaie R/o: Malpora Panditham Bomai.**
Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Daughter namely Mehnor Mohi ud din Ganaie D/o: Ghulam Mohi ud din Ganaie as 07-10-2025 at Sopore Nursing Home.

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

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

India, Nordic nations agree to elevate ties to Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership

PTI

Oslo, May 19: India and the Nordic countries on Tuesday decided to elevate their relationship to a Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with his Nordic counterparts, focusing on clean energy, sustainability, innovation, emerging technologies and other key areas.

In a joint press statement following the 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo, Prime Minister Modi said that in this era of global tensions and conflict, India and the Nordic nations will continue to work together to strengthen the rules-based global order.

"Whether it is Ukraine or West Asia, we will continue to support the earliest resolution of conflicts and efforts towards peace," he added.

Other Nordic leaders echoed his call for strengthening the rules-based international order.

"We focused on support for international law, a rules-based order that needs also reforms and progress, and also emphasising the need for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine and finding a way diplomatically on the ongoing conflict in the Middle East," Norwegian PM Jonas Gahr Store said.

Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo said the Nordic nations share many objectives with India, including strengthening the rules-based international order.

"Our shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and multilateralism makes us natural partners," said Modi, who was joined by Norwegian PM Store, Finnish PM Orpo, Icelandic PM Kristrun Frostadottir, Danish PM Mette Frederiksen, and Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson.

Modi also said that India and the Nordic nations "have a clear and united



stand on terrorism: No compromise, no double standards."

"Today, we decided to elevate India-Nordic relations to a Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership. With this green technology partnership, we will ensure a better future for the entire world," Modi said, noting that the format was established eight years ago to energise and accelerate India's relations with the Nordic countries.

This will combine innovation with scale and talent, while advancing our shared commitment towards sustainability, trusted technologies and a better future for humanity, he said.

The summit "reflected the expanding scope and growing strength of India's partnership with the Nordic region. The leaders discussed cooperation in sustainability, innovation, clean energy, emerging technologies and more," the prime minister's office said.

PM Modi said that the two sides have agreed that reform of multilateral institutions is both "necessary and urgent."

He said that today's discussions focused on several aspects, including sustainability, innovation, clean energy, emerging technologies and

strengthening cooperation for a peaceful and prosperous future.

"India and the Nordic countries are united by shared democratic values, trust and a common commitment towards human-centric development," he said.

Modi said India and the Nordic nations have made exceptional progress in the last few years. Trade ties have grown stronger, and investment linkages have deepened significantly.

Noting that investment funds from Nordic countries are also becoming important partners in India's rapid growth, he said that over the past decade, investment from Nordic countries to India has increased by nearly 200 per cent.

"Rapidly increasing trade and investment have not only contributed to India's growth story, but have also played a very positive role in the Nordic economies, creating thousands of new jobs," he said.

Modi said the two sides have taken some important initiatives to take the relationship to the next level, highlighting the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement with Norway, Iceland, and other EFTA countries, the

India-EU Free Trade Agreement, in which Denmark, Finland, and Sweden are also partners.

"With these ambitious trade agreements, we are ushering in a new golden era in relations between India and the Nordic countries," he said.

Noting that an important pillar of the India-Nordic partnership is extensive research and innovation ties, Modi said the two sides will jointly enhance linkages between universities, labs, and start-up ecosystems to strengthen this.

"We will deepen our cooperation in Arctic and polar research and ensure new opportunities for skill development and talent mobility between India and the Nordic countries," he added.

"Although we all speak different languages, sometimes even a single word is enough to underline our natural partnership. Today, I used the word 'relationship' several times. In many Nordic languages, the word 'relationship' means connection, relations or a bond. 'Relationship' also means the same in Hindi. This is not just a similarity of words. It reflects the closeness of our thoughts," he added.

The two sides also agreed to enhance cooperation in multilateral fora, and Nordic leaders reiterated their support for India's permanent membership for a reformed and expanded UN Security Council.

The leaders decided to hold the next India-Nordic Summit in Helsinki.

The Ministry of External Affairs shared a list of eight outcomes of the summit that included India-Nordic initiatives in climate action, research initiative in identified STEM areas, enhancing cooperation in the blue economy, promoting mobility of talent and building up defence industrial collaboration with Nordic countries.

Trump says US may need to hit Iran again in coming days

REUTERS

Dubai/Washington, May 19: US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that the United States may need to attack Iran again, and he was only an hour away from deciding on a strike before he postponed the attack.

Trump was speaking to reporters at the White House a day after saying he had paused a planned resumption of attacks following a new peace proposal by Tehran. "I was an hour away from making the decision to go today," Trump said on Tuesday.

He also said Iran's leaders are begging to make a deal, but that a new US attack would happen in the coming days if one was not reached.

"Well, I mean, I'm saying two or three days, maybe Friday, Saturday, Sunday, something, maybe early next week, a limited period of time, because we can't let them have a new nuclear weapon." Earlier on Tuesday, Iranian state media said Tehran's latest peace proposal involves ending hostilities on all fronts including Lebanon, the exit of US



forces from areas close to Iran, and reparations for destruction caused by the US-Israeli war.

In Tehran's first comments on the proposal, Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said Tehran also sought the lifting of sanctions, the release of frozen funds and an end to the US marine blockade on the country, according to IRNA news agency.

The terms as described in the Iranian reports appeared little changed from Iran's previous offer, which Trump rejected last week as "garbage."

Reuters could not determine whether preparations had been made for strikes that would mark a renewal of the war Trump started in late February.

Under pressure to reach an accord that would reopen the Strait of Hormuz — a key supply route for global supplies of oil and other commodities — Trump has previously expressed hope that a deal was close on ending the conflict, and similarly threatened heavy strikes on Iran if Tehran did not reach a deal.

IPL money can put players in cosy space, but find drive to commit to sport for 10-15 years: Kohli



handle pressure for too long. I can just go out there and smash the ball. Or you can say, I want to play for 15-20 years. I want to get recognition and respect of the cricketing world, of my own heroes and I want to fulfil this opportunity.

"That's a very different zone. You have to be very driven to be able to say, I'm going to commit to this (sport) for the next 10-15 years and it's going to be very, very hard but I'm up for it," he added.

However, Kohli did not belittle the skillsets of modern day cricketers, especially their serial six-hitting ability.

"It's exciting, there are a lot of exciting players who come in and play in a way that I didn't grow up learning. Honestly, these guys are way more advanced in terms of power hitting and explosive cricket," he said.

But the former Indian skipper said the real test of their skill will come in the business end of the IPL when the pitches grow more testing, which will demand a more cerebral approach to batting.

PTI

Bengaluru, May 19: Bating talisman Virat Kohli urged the younger generation players to rise above the lure of instant fame that IPL offers to remain committed to the sport for a longer period and earn the respect of the wider cricketing world.

Kohli, who now plays just the 50-over format internationally, asked the upcoming cricketers to find their inner drive to be true all-format players.

"It's the drive. A lot of people relate drive to money nowadays. Yes, it's

a big factor because when a format that gives you the hype and the recognition, the fame by scoring 40-50 off 20 balls and the kind of money that people can make in the IPL today, it can put you in a very comfortable space," said Kohli during the third edition of the RCB Innovation Lab's Indian Sports Summit.

Kohli, who gave his absolute best for the Test format before calling it a day, asked the budding cricketers to take the hard but hugely rewarding walk.

"They can say, you know what, this (T20 cricket) is brilliant. I don't need to

Islam takes 4 wickets as Bangladesh closes in on series sweep against Pakistan after Day 4

AP

Sylhet, May 19: Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam claimed four wickets as Bangladesh moved within three wickets of a series sweep against Pakistan after reducing the tourists to 316-7 on day 4 of the second test in the chase of an improbable 437.

Mohammad Rizwan was batting on 75 as the last hope for Pakistan, with Sajid Khan on 8 at stumps. Salman Agha and skipper Shan Masood added 71 runs each to help Pakistan take the test to a fifth day.

Taijul put Bangladesh on top, breaking the threatening partnership of Agha and Rizwan, who shared 134 runs for the sixth wicket to give Pakistan a glimmer of hope. Taijul bowled Agha with a slider to break the stubborn rearguard before removing Hasan Ali for duck.

Fast bowler Nahid Rana took 2-58 with raw pace that troubled Pakistan throughout the day. He gave Bangladesh the first breakthrough when he dismissed Abdullah Fazal (6), who steered a short-pitch



ball to gully. Soon after, offspinner Mehidy Hasan trapped Azan Awaish lbw for 21, giving Bangladesh control of the game.

But Masood and Babar Azam resisted, negotiating Nahid Rana's bowling well and keeping the runs flowing. The 91-run stand between them came to an end when Taijul strangled Babar down the leg for 47.

Saud Shakeel then edged a pacy delivery of Nahid behind while Taijul had Masood caught at short-leg, leaving Pakistan 162-6 as Bangladesh sensed a victory inside four days.

Franchises fielding injured players: Saikia says 'BCCI can't interfere during IPL'

PTI

Guwahati, May 19: Kolkata Knight Riders have courted controversy by forcing India's centrally contracted player Varun Chakravarty to play despite a fractured left foot but BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia conceded that the board "cannot interfere" in franchise's affairs when the IPL is on.

There is a common understanding that for all centrally contracted players, franchise physio keeps the India physio updated and the BCCI could red flag teams if one of their players could potentially aggravate his injury. Chakravarty hobbled through his entire spell during the match against Gujarat Titans, raising questions on how Abhishek Nayar and company fielded Chakravarty despite a hairline fracture.

Movie Schedule

Wednesday, 20th May

BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+)
Hindi - 10:45 AM, 02:30 PM

Michael (U/A 13+)
English with English Subtitles
11:45 AM, 06:25 PM

Dhurandhar: The Revenge (A)
Hindi - 02:00 PM

WAR OF SHERA (U/A 16+)
PUNJABI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
06:00 PM

PATI PATNI AUR WOH DO (UA16+)
Hindi Atmos -
11:15 AM 01:45 PM
04:15 PM 06:45 PM

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