



**Russia to fulfil all agreements on energy supply to India: FM Lavrov**

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**L'Oréal Paris Calls Aishwarya Rai 'Living Legend' After Cannes Poster Snub: 'Year After Year...'**

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## Sinha reduces convoy size to half

LG Manoj Sinha today decided to reduce his convoy size to half, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for cutting down fuel consumption and spending more wisely.

He decided to cut down the size of his official cavalcade by half following the prime minister's appeal to the countrymen for saving fuel, Lok Bhawan officials said.

The prime minister also urged the ministers to cut

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## Govt introduces MFA security system on JK BEAMS portal

The finance department has implemented Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) through Sandes SMS service on the JK BEAMS Portal to strengthen the security framework of the online system.

According to a circular issued by Financial Commissioner (ACS), Shaileendra Kumar, the MFA says

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## Deptt-specific officers' groups to implement AI

The government has constituted department-specific groups of officers for time-bound implementation of select Artificial Intelligence (AI) use cases under the India AI Mission.

According to a government order, the decision was taken following a meeting of the UT-Level Steering Committee on Artificial Intelligence held on April 7 this year.

The order stated that the groups had been formed to ensure focused on-ground execution of AI-based projects in key departments by using

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## Paddy MSP hiked by Rs 72

NEW DELHI, MAY 13: The government today announced a hike in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy by Rs 72 to Rs 2,441 per quintal for the 2026-27 kharif marketing season, while steeper increases for pulses, oilseeds and cotton aimed at reducing import dependency and encouraging crop diversification.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved MSPs for 14 kharif crops ahead of sowing, which typically begins in June with the onset of the

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## 85 pc students clear class 12 exams

NEW DELHI, MAY 13: The CBSE class 12 exam results were declared on Wednesday as a senior official announced that over 85 per cent candidates have cleared the exams this year.

The results show that the overall pass percentage dipped by over three percentage points compared to the last year.

Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said that while more than 85 per cent of the students have passed the exams, over 94,000 students scored above 90 per cent

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# Terrorism, drug trafficking 2 heads of same snake: LG

### Says drug trade financial engine driving vehicle of terror

**BHARAT BHUSHAN JAMMU, MAY 13**

**Against the backdrop of the widely held perception that 'terrorism' and 'illegal drug trafficking' are no longer distinct, isolated issues but rather interdependent activities that seek to disrupt peace, fund violence and threaten national security, LG Manoj Sinha today put them as two heads of the same snake, and asserted that 'drug trade is the financial engine driving the vehicle of terror'.**

His statement - illegal drugs & terrorism are a combined force of destruction - has been widely hailed. As per his assertions, drug trafficking provides the blood money that fuels terrorism, implying that drug networks act as subsidiary, funding the parent



company of terror.

Since April 11, 2026 when the LG launched the ambitious 100-day 'Drug-Free J&K Campaign' from the sprawling M A Stadium here, he has led from the front and undertaken 'padyatras' in several UT districts as an attempt to reach out to masses with the message - 'fight against drugs has to be

collective & not individual'.

Undoubtedly, he has convincingly told citizens that 'terrorism & drugs are inseparably linked as a combined threat to regional stability and stem from the same malicious source'. They are not separate; they are interconnected, & mutually reinforcing.

As part of his 'Drug-Free

ing blow to the entire drug smuggling ecosystem, and people's movement is transforming into a revolution against narco-terrorism," he said in his address on the occasion.

"Our consistent action is crippling narco-terrorist networks. Properties worth crores have been seized, assets confiscated, and passports of 15 narco-smugglers recommended for cancellation. Over 730 smugglers and peddlers have been arrested," he said.

"At the start of this campaign in April, many doubted the possibility of a mass movement against drugs, and underestimated the strength of an awakened public and the impact of determined governance with citizen support. However, with people's participation and massive support, a truly organic movement has emerged across villages, urban neighborhoods,

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## School teacher among 2 held for sheltering terrorists

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 13**

Police today arrested two OGWs, including a government school teacher, for providing logistical support and shelter to Pakistani terrorists of Jaish-e-Muhammad's Saifullah group in Kishtwar district of Jammu.

They were identified as Mashkooor Ahmed of Beighpora Singhpora and Muneer Ahmad of Bandeyan Naidgam.

According to officials, Mashkooor worked as a government school teacher.

The arrests came as part of the authorities' ongoing efforts to dismantle the terror network in the region.

On February 22 this year, Army had gunned down three terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammad's Saifullah group at Chatroo in Kishtwar district. The terror group had been operating in the upper reaches of the Kishtwar-Doda belt.

"In a decisive operation against anti-national elements, police have arrested the key accused providing

aid to foreign terrorists at a hideout located in Singhpora-Chatroo area of Kishtwar," officials said.

Officials said the arrests were made during an operation in connection with a case registered at Chatroo police station in March.

The case was filed under sections 61(2) (criminal conspiracy), 109 (attempt to murder), 147 (rioting) and 148 (armed with deadly weapon) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and sections 13 (punishment for unlawful activities), 16 (punishment for terrorist act), 18 (conspiracy, preparation for terrorist act), 19 (punishment for harbouring terrorists) and 20 (punishment for being member of terrorist organisation) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and the Arms Act.

Officials said investigations had led cops to the arrest of Mashkooor Ahmed, who was employed as a teacher in school education department.

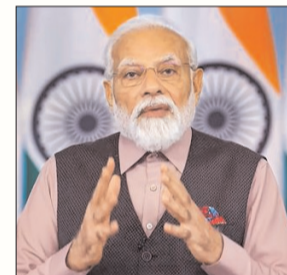
He was directly involved in facilitating the establishment of a hideout for

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## Modi urges cabinet colleagues to cut down on fuel costs

NEW DELHI, MAY 13: After a public call to reduce fuel use, stop gold purchase and other measures to reduce the import bill, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged his cabinet colleagues to cut down unnecessary expenditure, including on petrol.

During a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by the prime minister, he is learnt to have told ministers that they must focus on cost-cutting and consciously reduce spending of resources in the wake of the West Asia crisis.



Sources said the prime minister also urged the ministers to cut down their convoy size and foreign visits, after which several ministers announced steps in this regard.

Prime Minister Modi himself significantly reduced his convoy size, days

after he appealed for cutting down fuel consumption and spending more wisely, prompting several BJP chief ministers and other leaders to adopt similar measures.

Official sources said that the prime minister's appeal is not about spending less but spending more wisely by reducing fuel consumption, avoidable dependence on imported goods and foreign-currency-intensive services.

They also stressed that the Modi government is not cutting capital expen

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## TVK govt wins trust vote

CHENNAI, MAY 13: The four-day old TVK government in Tamil Nadu crossed a major hurdle on Wednesday, winning a confidence-boosting trust vote by a 144:22 margin amid a walkout by the principal opposition party DMK and a divided AIADMK whose one faction supported the C Joseph Vijay-led government.

In the 234-member House, 118 is the simple majority mark.

AIADMK MLAs backing chief Edappadi K Palaniswami voted against the Government.

The BJP, with its lone MLA, stayed neutral while

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## Omar lauds UMEED as Shivraj commends J&K's women-led rural dev model

**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 13**

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today congratulated Rural Development Department and J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission (UMEED) for their remarkable contribution towards transforming rural livelihoods and empowering women across Jammu & Kashmir.

He said the sustained efforts of the Rural Development Department and UMEED had brought about a significant socio-

economic transformation in rural areas by strengthening women-led Self Help Groups (SHGs) and promoting financial inclusion and entrepreneurship.

The chief minister's remarks came in the backdrop of growing national recognition received by Jammu & Kashmir's women-led rural development initiatives under UMEED.

Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Shivraj Singh Chouhan also commended the leadership of the Jammu & Kashmir govern-

ment and the J&K Rural Livelihoods Mission for the remarkable achievements across Jammu and Kashmir.

In a letter addressed to the chief minister, the union minister stated that continued focus on scaling high-value enterprises, strengthening market ecosystems and deepening convergence would further accelerate the progress achieved under UMEED.

Expressing confidence in the future trajectory of the programme, Chouhan said that Jammu & Kashmir

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## Trump arrives in China for talks on trade, Iran war



BEIJING, MAY 13: US President Donald Trump today landed in Beijing for bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping and discuss trade, Iran war and America's arms sales to Taiwan among other issues.

The summit is scheduled to begin on Thursday, when the two leaders will hold bilateral talks and a formal banquet. Trump is accompanied by CEOs of tech firms including, Elon Musk, Nvidia's Jensen Huang

among others.

Before departing the White House on Tuesday, Trump talked about US-China relations and told reporters, "We're two superpowers. We're the strongest nation on Earth in terms of military. China is considered second."

The summit in Beijing marks the first visit by a US president to China in nearly a decade as Trump aims to maintain a fragile trade truce with the second largest economy in the world and strike some deals.

Referring to the CEO del

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## UCC implementation approved in Assam: Himanta



GUWAHATI, MAY 13: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma today said that the Assam Cabinet had approved the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state, but the tribal population will be kept outside its purview.

The UCC Bill will be laid before the new legislative

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## Withdrawal of retirement funds to be automated soon: EPFO

NEW DELHI, MAY 13: Retirement fund body EPFO will soon automate the process for settling final provident fund withdrawal claims, fast-tracking the money transfer to the applicant's bank accounts.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has more than seven crore members.

At present, partial or advance withdrawal claims of up to Rs 5 lakh are settled through auto mode, and the deadline for the auto-settle mode is three days f

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## NEET-UG probe CBI apprehends 5 persons; more arrests likely

NEW DELHI, MAY 13: The CBI has arrested five persons and is conducting searches at multiple locations across the country in connection with the NEET UG paper leak case as the agency intensified its investigation.

Among those arrested are three individuals from Jaipur: Mangilal Biwal, Vikas Biwal, and Dinesh Biwal, along with Yash Yadav from Gurugram and Shubham Khairnar from Nashik. Several other suspects are being questioned in various cities and may be

arrested later, officials said.

Khairnar (30) is being brought to Delhi for further questioning after a local magistrate court granted the CBI a transit remand for him. He was detained by the Nashik Police on Tuesday following a request from the Rajasthan Police.

After taking over the investigation on Tuesday, the CBI is conducting searches at multiple locations across the country based on emerging leads, they said.

The CBI has seized several digital devices, includ-

ing mobile phones and laptops, from the suspects, which will be sent for forensic examination to trace messaging applications that may have been used to circulate the examination papers.

According to agency sources, the CBI is coordinating with the Special Operations Group (SOG), Rajasthan, which had conducted a preliminary enquiry in the case.

"The CBI is pursuing all leads relating to the alleged paper leak through exten

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## Hinduism way of life, not mandatory to go to temple to prove belief: SC

NEW DELHI, MAY 13: Observing that Hinduism is a way of life, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said it is not necessary for a Hindu to mandatorily go to a temple or perform a ritual in order to remain a Hindu and even lighting a lamp inside house is enough to prove one's belief.

The observation of a nine-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant came while hearing petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including the Sabarimala

temple in Kerala, and on the ambit of religious freedom practised by multiple faiths, including Dawoodi Bohras.

Justices BV Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joy-malya Bagchi were also part of the nine-judge bench.

As the hearing commenced on 15th day of hearing, advocate G Mohan Gopal, appearing for one of the intervenors submitted that there has been

demand for social justice emerging from within religious communities.

"Hinduism was defined as a religious category. Thereafter, in 1966, it was held that a Hindu is one who accepts the Vedas as the highest authority in all matters of religion and philosophy. They never asked me. None of us ever said that.

"Now, I have the highest respect for the Vedas and great admiration for it. But it is a fact that every person today classified as Hindu accepts the Vedas as the

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## J&K Bank holds interaction with car dealers to boost vehicle finance outreach



**Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 13**

Reinforcing its focus on strengthening retail lending partnerships and expanding vehicle finance business across the region,

J&K Bank organised an interaction programme with authorised car dealers of Kashmir at its Corporate Headquarters in Srinagar.

The programme witnessed participation from major automobile dealers of the valley representing

leading brands including Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Tata Motors, Mahindra, Kia, MG Motor and Toyota.

The interaction focused on the bank's customer-friendly car loan products,

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