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Terrorism, drug trafficking 2 heads of same snake: LG

schools, colleges, and the streets of Jammu & Kashmir," the LG said.

"This fight against drugs is a long one. For decades, people in Jammu & Kashmir have seen drugs & terrorism as separate threats. But actually, it is not true: they are not two problems but they are the two heads of the same snake. One head makes money through drugs while the other uses that money to fuel terrorism. Our terrorist neighbour is involved in financing terror through drug smuggling, turning both drugs & money against innocent Kashmiris," he added.

"The drug smuggling is destroying families & communities, and providing oxygen to terror groups. By dismantling drug smuggling networks, the administration is cutting the lifeline that feeds the fire of terror," he asserted.

"28 drug smugglers from Kupwara & Handwara areas of the valley are now behind the bars. I want to urge police officers, the soldiers guarding Kupwara's borders with PoJK, and the Anti-Narcotics Task Force warriors that not a single guilty should escape. As a border district, Kupwara must stay extra vigilant and take the harshest action against drug smugglers," the LG said.

The LG asked all Kupwara police stations to gather full details on active drug smugglers and peddlers and launch decisive action within next 68 days.

He also urged citizens of Kupwara to participate in awareness drive. He emphasised on the rehabilitation of drug addicts, and asked officers and stakeholders to treat them as victims trapped in the dark web of narcotics.

"The drug addicts need our compassion. They are our responsibility. We have to support every young man and woman seeking counseling or treatment. We must ensure they return to the society's mainstream. Senior officials must ensure swift action on every complaint and the tip coming through the Manas portal and the toll-free number. This has to be done with commitment. Every Kupwara resident must remember that we need to reach every young person extending a hand for help. Together, we will dismantle the drug smuggling networks, free our youth from addiction, and reconnect them to the path of progress," the LG said.

He challenged those criticising the 'Nasha-Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan' and said they ought to name just one innocent person who was unfairly targeted.

"If anyone is found protecting drug smugglers, we must ask ourselves if they should face consequences or not. J&K people are very clear & firm, and they want stringent action against drug smugglers and when people unite, no force can stop us to achieve the intended results," he said.

"In the days ahead, our crackdown against drug smuggling network will grow tougher and more powerful. The Dardpora women had met and told how the weapons bought from the sale of drugs had slaughtered their families. That's why I am loud & clear in saying that drug traffickers and terrorists are inseparable partners in crime," the LG added.

On the occasion, he also unveiled the trophies of a volleyball championship held under 'Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan'.

Sinha also felicitated the winner of reel making competition on drug abuse.

School teacher among 2 held for sheltering terrorists

eight terrorists in Singhpora area of Chatroo, thereby providing logistical assistance to terror operatives active in the region, officials said.

Maneer Ahmed was arrested earlier also for similar offences. Officials said further investigation was underway to detect and dismantle the wider network involved in supporting terrorist activities in the district.

Reiterating its "zero-tolerance policy" against terrorism and supporters of terrorism, police warned of strict action against individuals found aiding anti-national activities.

According to officials, six Pakistan-backed terrorists were killed in Kishtwar-Udhampur region in February this year.

Sinha reduces convoy size to half

down their convoy size and foreign visits, after which several ministers announced steps in this regard.

Govt introduces MFA security system on JK BEAMS portal

tem has been made operational in the live environment and all Director Finances, Financial Advisors, Chief Accounts Officers, Accounts Officers, Drawing and Disbursing Officers and Maker/Checker users have been directed to ensure strict compliance with the new security measures

Deptt-specific officers' groups to implement AI

available data and digital systems within fixed timelines and with measurable outcomes.

The initiative has been launched in coordination with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology under the India AI Mission.

Paddy MSP hiked by Rs 72

southwest monsoon.

For paddy, the MSP for common and A-grade varieties stands at Rs 2,441 and Rs 2,461 per quintal, respectively for 2026-27 kharif marketing season (September-October).

The MSP for cotton (medium staple) has been raised by Rs 557 to Rs 8,267 per quintal, while the long staple variety will fetch Rs 8,667 per quintal - the second-highest absolute increase among all crops.

The highest absolute increase, however, has been recommended for sunflower seed at Rs 622 per quintal, taking its MSP to Rs 8,343 per quintal. Nigerseed (up Rs 515 to Rs 10,052/ qtl) and sesamum (up Rs 500 to Rs 10,346/ qtl) also received significant increases.

Among other oilseeds, soyabean (yellow) was raised by Rs 380 to Rs 5,708 per quintal and groundnut by Rs 254 to Rs 7,517 per quintal.

In pulses, tur (arhar) MSP was raised by Rs 450 to Rs 8,450 per quintal, urad by Rs 400 to Rs 8,200 per quintal, while moong saw a marginal increase of Rs 12 to Rs 8,780 per quintal.

The margins are estimated to be highest for moong (61 per cent), followed by bajra and maize (56 per cent each) and tur/arhar (54 per cent).

For the remaining crops, the margin is pegged at 50 per cent. The government estimates the total payout to farmers at Rs 2.60 lakh crore, with annual procurement projected at 824.41 lakh tonne.

Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) President Sudhakar Desai welcomed the MSP hike for oilseeds but reiterated the need for stable and dynamic import duty framework that can respond to changing global price cy-

cles, domestic crop economics and inflationary trends.

85 pc students clear class 12 exams

marks.

Further, 17,000-plus candidates secured more than 95 per cent score, according to Bhardwaj.

He said over 1.63 lakh students have been placed in the compartment category, marking an increase of nearly two percentage points from last year.

Girls once again outperformed boys in the examinations, recording a pass percentage of more than 88, while for boys, it stood at 82.

Modi urges cabinet colleagues to cut down on fuel costs

diture, welfare spending or subsidies.

A downsizing in the prime minister's convoy was implemented in his recent domestic visits. The reduction was done while maintaining essential security components as per the SPG protocol, the sources said, Modi's convoy size was cut in Gujarat and Assam, immediately after his speech in Hyderabad during which he suggested an array of measures for reducing expenditure on imports.

The sources said the prime minister also asked for electric vehicles to be included in his convoy, wherever possible, without making new purchases.

They emphasised that Modi's appeal to conserve fuel, adopt work-from-home where possible, and reduce avoidable foreign-exchange outflows were not "austerity measures", which have a negative economic connotation.

TVK govt wins trust vote

another NDA constituent, the PMK (4), also abstained.

Amidst questions of its stability in the wake of a lack of a majority, the win gives the maiden TVK Government the much-needed confidence to settle down and get on with delivery of governance, even as the ministers, including CM Vijay, are yet to be allotted portfolios.

For the next six months, another floor test may not be held.

The Vijay-led TVK Government won the trust vote with support from the Congress, VCK, Left, AMMK and the AIADMK rebel faction led by leaders SP Velumani and C Ve Shanmugam.

As soon as the House convened at 9.30 am, CM Vijay moved a vote of confidence resolution, and the legislators belonging to all parties spoke on the motion.

Speaker JCD Prabhakar, after conducting division-wise voting, declared that the resolution moved by the Chief Minister seeking vote of confidence of the Assembly has won, and as many as 144 MLAs voted with the government. He said 22 MLAs opposed and five took a neutral stand.

The main opposition DMK, which has a strength of 59 MLAs, staged a walk out before voting was taken up on the resolution.

MLA S Kamaraj, expelled from the TTV Dhinakaran-led AMMK, an NDA constituent, was among those who voted in favour of the government.

The ruling party has already secured the support of five Congress MLAs for its government. Besides, CPI, CPI (M), VCK and IUML - with two MLAs each, had also last week announced their outside support to the TVK government.

Further, a section of AIADMK MLAs, about 30 of them who are led by senior leaders Velumani and Shanmugam and opposed to party chief Palaniswami, have announced support to the Government.

Those AIADMK MLAs owing allegiance to Palaniswami had already said that they will vote against the government and warned that anti-defection would apply to party MLAs going against the diktat.

Omar lauds UMEED as Shivraj commends

J&K's women-led rural dev model

would continue to set benchmarks in women-led rural development.

In his communication, the union minister said that Jammu & Kashmir had emerged as a strong example of inclusive and women-led rural transformation under UMEED.

Highlighting the financial inclusion component, he said that the progress had been complemented by over Rs 3,106 cr in bank credit and Rs 820 cr in capitalisation support facilitated under the programme.

During his Budget Speech 2026-27, the chief minister had reiterated that under the Lakhpati Didi initiative, 2,00,952 SHG women had already become Lakhpati Didis, while the remaining 32,048 potential households would be covered by June 2026 to further enhance women's economic empowerment and rural enterprise.

Over 8.10 lakh women have been mobilised into more than 96,000 SHGs, with over Rs 3,106 cr in bank credit facilitated and more than 2.30 lakh women achieving annual incomes above Rs 1 lakh under the Lakhpati Didi initiative.

The chief minister had also stated that the government would proactively increase the number of Lakhpati Didis by converging the initiative with Mission Yuva.

Trump arrives in China for talks on trade, Iran war

egation accompanying him, Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social. "I will be asking President Xi, a Leader of extraordinary distinction, to 'open up' China so that these brilliant people can work their magic."

China's foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun was asked about Trump's post on CEOs to which he said Beijing stands ready to "expand cooperation, manage differences and inject more stability and certainty into the turbulent world".

Asked if the Iran war will be discussed with the Chinese president, Trump said, "We have a lot of things to discuss. I wouldn't say Iran is one of them, to be honest with you, because we have Iran very much under control."

Talks between Trump and Jinping would cover range of issues, including Iran war, US' arms sales to Taiwan among others. Beijing had earlier objected to Washington's sales of arms to Taiwan, which is a democratically governed island claimed by China.

UCC implementation approved in Assam: Himanta

assembly on May 26, the chief minister said at a press conference here after chairing the first cabinet meeting of his second term as the head of the government.

"This is a major decision taken in the first cabinet meeting and aligns with the commitment we made during the elections," he said.

Sarma said Uttarakhand, Goa and Gujarat have already implemented the UCC, but his government has customised it for the requirements of Assam.

"We have completely exempted the tribal population from the purview of UCC. All rituals, traditions and cus-

toms practised by the people of Assam outside the scope of UCC," he said.

The UCC will deal with succession, marriage, live-in relationships and compulsory registration of marriage and divorce, he added.

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

dealership partnership framework and collaborative growth opportunities aimed at enhancing automobile financing penetration in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager (Retail, Agriculture & MSME) Rakesh Magotra said the automobile sector is an important driver of economic activity and consumer aspirations.

"Through stronger engagement with our dealership partners, we aim to create a mutually beneficial framework that not only enhances business opportunities for all stakeholders but also ensures seamless and affordable financing solutions for customers," he said.

He added that J&K Bank remains committed to continuously upgrading its products and processes in line with market requirements and stakeholder feedback so that its vehicle finance offerings remain competitive, flexible and customer-centric.

During the programme, participants were apprised of the key features of the Bank's car loan scheme including competitive interest rates starting from 7.70 per cent, repayment tenure up to 84 months, flexible eligibility norms, family income pooling facility and financing of ancillary expenses such as insurance premium, registration charges and accessories.

Special benefits extended to government employees, pensioners, high net-worth individuals and other customer segments were also highlighted during the interaction.

The Bank also outlined its dealership collaboration framework aimed at streamlining loan sourcing, operational coordination and hassle-free credit delivery for improved service efficiency and business growth.

The participating dealers appreciated the Bank's initiative for holding the interaction programme and stressed the need for conducting such engagements regularly to facilitate idea sharing and strengthen long-term collaboration.

They also expressed satisfaction over the Bank's products and processes while voicing confidence that the enhanced partnership would contribute towards improved vehicle sales and greater customer convenience in availing finance facilities.

Withdrawal of retirement funds to be automated soon: EPFO

from filing the claim.

Speaking at the ASSOCHAM's National Seminar on New Labour Codes, Central Provident Fund Commissioner, EPFO, Ramesh Krishnamurthi, said, "We are also going to initiate, as far as feasible, auto-settlement for now...which was (available) only for advances. Now we are going in for auto-settlement of final withdrawals." He further added that the EPFO is going in for auto-settlement and auto-transfer of provident fund accounts in case a member shifts employers.

"You don't have to file a form anymore. We try to auto-migrate your accounts to your latest member account," he stated.

Talking about fully operationalising four labour codes by publishing rules under those, he stated that there has been a huge attempt to simplify, codify, standardise definitions and other terms.

The four new labour codes have already been notified by the government on May 8.

Krishnamurthi said that the next set of notifications that pertain specifically to the EPFO would be published shortly.

Under the new legal framework, the three schemes - EPF Scheme 1952, Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme 1976 and Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 - will also be renotified.

"We have not gone in for major changes. We have tried to integrate all the learnings from the past. We have included all the recent central board of trustees approved decisions, which include simplification of the withdrawals and

CGPWA launches 'Nasha Mukt Abhiyan'

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 13

Joining NashaMukt Abhiyan, launched by the Lt Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha in Jammu on 11th April, 2026, the Central Govt. Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu (CGPWA) today organised an impressive "Awareness cum Counseling Camp on Drug Abuse" at Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Welfare Sarvodaya Middle School, Rajeev Nagar, Narwal, Jammu. The former DGP and CVC, J&K and President CRPWA, Kuldeep Khoda was the Chief Guest and the former DGP, Dr Ashok Bhan was the Guest of Honour. The former Chief Secretary J&K, B R Sharma presided over the two and half hour multifaceted program in which over one hundred students and their parents, residents of the area and members of the CGPWA participated. The school area were carefully selected by the CGPWA for launch of this awareness campaign as it is one of the hotspots of drug mance in Jammu city. In the program itself two drug 'rehabilitated' students narrated their horrifying tale of falling in the drug trap, advising their fellow students to refrain from abuse. Specially made badges of Nasha MUKT Jammu, made by the CGPWA were pinned on the shirts of students, their parents and all guests. The Prin-



icipal Yogita Bakshi administered oath to the students, their parents and others present to desist from drug addiction and pledged to work to make our community, family, friends, themselves drug free, starting it from them. They also pledged to contribute towards the development of society and country. The artists of the Central Bureau of Communication presented some educative items on drug abuse, conveying the anti-drug message to the students and their parents. Divya Jamwal, Counselor, in the Police De-addiction Centre, created a very friendly environment with the students and their parents by her smart counselling. She said that every student has a dream to be something in life and they work for it. But once they fall in the trap of Drug Peddlers, all their dreams are crushed. The students responded positively to her occasional queries and explained to them about early symptoms

other such reforms, including a major overhaul of the provisions relating to the exempt trust. Those have been included in the new schemes," he added.

On this occasion, Union Labour Secretary Vandana Gurmani said that labour is in the concurrent list of the Constitution, and states will frame their own rules. The philosophy of the government has been to balance the compliance reduction, ease of doing business, ease of expanding business, and ensuring that the workers are not shortchanged, she said.

The onus is now on the industry to ensure that reform is not just viewed as a compliance checklist, but it is a commitment to dignity, a commitment to a happy, healthy and productive workforce, she added.

CBI apprehends 5 persons; more arrests likely

sive technical and forensic analysis and remains committed to conducting a comprehensive, impartial and professional investigation into the matter," an official in the know of developments said.

The CBI on Wednesday also visited the National Testing Agency (NTA) headquarters to collect documents related to the NEET UG examination, which was cancelled following allegations of paper leak, officials said.

The team also spoke to officials involved in the examination process, they said. The arrests of the suspects from Rajasthan turned into a political slugfest, with Congress leader and former chief minister Ashok Gehlot linking one of the accused with the ruling BJP, while the latter strongly denied the claims.

Gehlot said the accused he mentioned was identified as Dinesh Biwal. "The accused arrested in the NEET paper leak case, Dinesh Biwal, is a functionary of the Bharatiya Janata Party," he claimed in a post on X in Hindi.

Gehlot shared a photo of a poster featuring Biwal, portraying him as the district secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) in Jaipur Rural. However, BJP state vice president Mukesh Dadhich strongly denied these claims, stating that Biwal holds no position in the party.

Biwal hails from Jamwaramgarh in Jaipur, and his family members claim that he and his brother were detained by the police. They maintain that both are innocent and have been falsely implicated in the case.

The SOG has detained several individuals from various locations, including Sikar, Jaipur Rural (including Jamwaramgarh), Alwar, and surrounding areas.

The CBI had registered an FIR and formed teams to probe the NEET UG alleged paper leak case, which resulted in the cancellation of the paper held on May 3.

The NEET-UG 2026 was conducted across 551 Indian cities and at 14 overseas centres. Nearly 23 lakh candidates had registered for the test, which was administered by the NTA at centres across the country.

According to the NTA, information regarding alleged malpractice was received on the evening of May 7, four days after the examination was held. The NTA said the inputs were escalated to central agencies the following morning for "independent verification and necessary action".

The Rajasthan Police's SOG claimed that a "guess paper" for chemistry, allegedly circulated among students ahead of the examination, had approximately 410 questions, including roughly 120 questions that appeared in the test.

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

highest authority in all spiritual and philosophical matters?" he asked.

Responding to his submission, Justice Nagarathna said, "That is why Hinduism is called as a way of life. It is not necessary for a Hindu to mandatorily go to a temple or perform a ritual in order to remain a Hindu."

She said one need not be ritualistic and nobody can come in the way for people having their faith.

CJI also remarked, "Even if an individual lights a lamp inside his hut is enough to prove his religion."

The top court had earlier observed that if individuals start questioning every religious practice or matters of religion before a constitutional court, then there will be hundreds of petitions and every religion will "break" due to this.

A five-judge Constitution bench had lifted a ban that prevented women between the ages of 10 and 50 from entering the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple in a 4:1 majority verdict in September 2018, ruling that the centuries-old Hindu religious practice was illegal and unconstitutional.

cluding the message of nukkad play, and clean up their locality and the school. He advised them to stay away from peddlers and help their friends if trapped in this disease, to come to normal life, treating it as a bounded duty. He saluted two drug trapped students who came before everyone today bravely at the function and advised others to control themselves and stay away from this curse. Dr Ashok Bhan also commended the initiative of the CGPWA & VKWS School on drug abuse and told the students that the God has charted a path for everyone including them which may have, at times, challenges but if they work hard with focused attention on rightful things, things are achievable. He said that those who are tempted to take drugs for a few minutes' peace of mind, are going to destroy their career, lives and their families. He said that they have a bright future and should not go towards drugs to ruin them and their families. Advocate Rameshwar Singh Jamwal, who also spoke on the occasion, referred to the Nukkaddrama in which it was told that about 2kg plus was drained out of drug affected person in the hospital, and said that narcotic substances adversely affect the internal system of the body and gradually destroy organs one after another.