

Cont. From Page 1

Drug smuggler, terrorist 2 sides of same coin: LG

smuggler and terrorist are two sides of the same coin," he said.

"Drug smugglers profit by destroying the futures of our youth and the terror outfits use that money to fuel terrorism and radicalisation 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 the soil of Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

Sinha warned the narco-terror ecosystem, saying, "They no longer can hide and the law enforcement agencies are on their trail."

"We will hunt you down even in your deepest 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," he said.

Since April 11, 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 the Jammu and Kashmir divisions, nearly 5,045 drug stores have been inspected, licenses of 225 drug stores suspended, licenses of 27 stores cancelled, and FIRs registered against 6. From April 11 onwards, 3,93,000 programmes 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-day 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 real," the LG said.

Democracy, rule of law make us 'natural partners': Modi

By grounding the relationship in fundamental governance philosophies, the PM highlighted how these common ideals serve as a springboard for deeper strategic alignment.

He reached the Norwegian capital on Monday after successfully completing his bilateral engagements in Sweden.

The high-profile dialogue marks the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the Scandinavian nation in 43 years.

The summit brought together PM Modi and his counterparts from the five Nordic nations, including Iceland's Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir, Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, Finland's Prime Minister Petteri Orpo, and Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen.

This diplomatic push serves as a crucial follow-up to the previous iterations of the forum, building on a foundation that began with the inaugural summit in Stockholm, Sweden, in 2018, followed by the second edition in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2022.

Highlighting the deep economic significance of the trip, the Ministry of External Affairs noted that PM Modi's visit will provide an impetus to India's bilateral trade and investment ties with Nordic countries.

The engagement is slated to help build resilient supply

chains following the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) signed with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

To convert these agreements into actionable growth, the summit featured multi-sector negotiations.

These discussions highlighted a shared commitment to building sustainable economic security across both regions.

Modi arrived in Norway from Sweden as part of an extensive tour covering the UAE, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and Italy from May 15-20.

Following the conclusion of high-level engagements in the Norwegian capital, PM Modi will head to Italy for the final leg of his visit.

Op Sindoor reflected 'smart power' in most complete expression: Army Chief

vert a military moment into a strategic one," he asserted. The seminar, titled, 'Security to Prosperity: Smart Power for Sustained National Growth', hosted by defence think-tank Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), was attended by senior military officials, various retired Army officers and representatives from several countries.

Gen Dwivedi said today, the "world around us is sending a more complex signal - disorder, distrust, and dichotomy in alliances".

"We were promised a world where prosperity would make power politics obsolete... instead, we have a world where power politics is being used to reorganise prosperity," he argued.

In his address, he asked the audience if smart power is the "defining currency" of sustained national growth, or has the "raw calculus of hard power", once again reclaimed the centrestage of the global order.

But to answer it, one must first read the world as it is, not as one wishes it to be, the general officer cautioned.

"The 21st century opened with a confident thesis that forces of trade, supply chains, additional connectivity, would make nations too interdependent to conflict. Paradoxically same forces that promised binding nations together, have progressively become instruments of coercion," the Army chief said.

"Semiconductors and their selective availability have become tools for hedging. The Strait of Hormuz has become a zone of active contestation. Global defence spending has crossed USD 2.7 trillion, exceeding the entire UN budget for Sustainable Development Goals," he added.

The boundary between security and prosperity, is "no longer a boundary" at all. Contemporary conflicts now impose sustained demands, not only on armed forces, but also on industrial production, research systems, and governance structures, the general officer underlined.

Gen Dwivedi in his address emphasised that security is no longer a cost that prosperity must bear, it is the pre-condition for prosperity to commence its progressive journey.

"So, in this world, fractured, fast moving, and unforgiving, what must be the architecture of India's smart power. He cited Joseph Nye, who gave the concept of smart power - describing it as the strategic intelligence to know which instrument to deploy, with what intensity and towards what end.

"For India, it means, using national strength with strategic wisdom to secure peace, accelerate growth, and shape the global environment in our favour," Gen Dwivedi said.

The Army chief offered a moniker of 'SMART' and explained what each component of it stood for, and how it can help as a strategic design to navigate the present geostrategic landscape.

"I use the word 'SMART', the acronym not as a management construct, but a living framework for how we must think, prepare, and act in the world we now confront under the umbrella of the new normal of hard power," Gen Dwivedi said.

"The first is 'S' or statecraft. In a world that rewards those who simultaneously operate across the DIME (Diplomatic, Informational, Military, and Economic) construct, we must master the art of deploying each instrument of national power with precision and coherence," he underlined.

The second is 'M' or manufacturing depth. As supply chains get fragmented and technology gets leveraged, if

not weaponised, a nation that cannot produce what it needs will eventually lose the ability to decide what it wants, the general officer cautioned.

The third one is 'A' or accelerating innovation as part of the prime minister's clarion call of JAI (jointness, atmanirbharta and innovation), and the fourth is 'R' that is resilience, the Army chief said.

"And, the last one is 'T' that is technology primacy. Whoever commands the technology stack in the next decade, will take to command the conflict outcomes. We must not merely absorb emerging technologies. We must indigenise, operationalise, and lead in them," he asserted.

Bus overturns; 1 killed, 19 injured

the injured people to the nearby medical facilities, officials said.

One of the injured was pronounced brought dead. He was identified as bus conductor Ashu Singh, a resident of Panara in Udhampur district.

The injured were undergoing treatment and the condition of most of them was stated to be stable.

60 kanals of forest land retrieved

structures, mostly kaccha constructions, were demolished in the Mahamaya forest belt, officials said.

Nearly 60 kanals of land, worth crores of rupees in Raika-Bandi forest-belt of the lower Shivalik range, was reclaimed during the operation, officials said.

Officials said there were hardly few structures in Mahamaya forest-belt five to six years ago but not scores of illegal structures had come up and new constructions continued.

Officials said that the forest department would undertake mapping of tribal settlements and other habitations in forest areas across Jammu to check further encroachments.

"All such areas will be photographed and videographed and the records will be uploaded on official websites after verification of documents. We will not allow any forest land to be encroached upon and all illegal occupations will be removed," the official added.

IAS, JKAS officers transferred, posted

tional secretary, information technology department, holding additional charge of the posts of chief executive officer, JaKeGA, and director, defence labour procurement, J&K, is transferred and posted as additional deputy commissioner, Kathua, vice Vishavjeet Singh, who shall await further orders of adjustment in GAD.

Asha Choudhary Malhotra, awaiting orders of adjustment in GAD, is posted as chief executive officer, JaKeGA. She shall also hold the charge of the post of director, defence labour procurement, J&K, in addition to her own duties, till further orders.

Mohammad Raiyaz, deputy secretary, department of forest, ecology & environment, is transferred and posted as sub-divisional magistrate, Karnah-Tangdhar, against an available vacancy.

SC extends tenure of tribunal heads

September 8.

During the proceedings, Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, agreed to the extension on behalf of the Centre.

The bench noted that the selection committee is scheduled to convene on September 8 to deliberate on appointments and extensions.

'Strikes' on Iran halted; discussions underway for 'deal': Trump

weapon going into the hands of Iran, I think, and if they're satisfied, we will be probably satisfied," he said.

The US President said that serious negotiations are now taking place, and that, in their opinion, as Great Leaders and Allies, a Deal will be made, which will be very acceptable to the United States of America, as well as all countries in

West Asia and beyond.

Trump asserted that the deal will include "no nuclear weapons for Iran".

"I have instructed Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, the Chairman of The Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Daniel Caine, and The United States Military, that we will not be doing the scheduled attack of Iran tomorrow, but have further instructed them to be prepared to go forward with a full, large scale assault of Iran, on a moment's notice, in the event that an acceptable deal is not reached," he said.

Trump was expected to convene his top national security team in the Situation Room on Tuesday to discuss military options, two US officials said.

Before his announcement, Trump spoke on phone with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE, two sources with knowledge said.

Trump has been threatening for weeks that the ceasefire reached in mid-April could end if Iran did not make a deal, with shifting parameters for striking such an agreement.

"For Iran, the Clock is Ticking, and they better get moving, FAST, or there won't be anything left of them," the US President said over the weekend.

Trump said the current pause for negotiations was a "very positive development," while acknowledging there were times in the past when a deal seemed close but nothing came of it. "But this is a little bit different," he said.

The US and Israel launched the war with Iran on February 28, with Trump claiming that it would end in four to six weeks. The US and Iran agreed to a ceasefire on April 8 and have been negotiating a peace deal since then.

Putin to attend BRICS summit

ording to a presidential aide.

He would be in New Delhi on September 12 and 13.

President Putin earlier visited India in December 2025 for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit.

Rlys approves Rs 238 cr safety upgrade works on Jammu-Katra section

the corridor more resilient and improve operational reliability, particularly during adverse weather conditions.

The ministry said the safety upgrades will help ensure smoother and safer rail services on the important pilgrimage route connecting Jammu with the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, one of the country's highly revered and most visited religious destinations.

The approval forms part of Indian Railways' ongoing efforts to modernise infrastructure and enhance passenger safety across critical railway corridors in the country.

Gupta asks youth to pursue sports with dedication, passion

Youth Category, accumulating an outstanding aggregate score of 415.3. Her twin triumph is a testament to her exceptional talent, rigorous dedication, and indomitable spirit.

Laksh put up an equally commendable performance, securing 4th position in the Sub-Youth Category with an impressive score of 409.7. His perseverance and competitive excellence at the national level reflect the promising sporting future that lies ahead for him.

Gupta lauded the achievements of both the students and said, "They have demonstrated that talent combined with determination knows no age barrier. Their accomplishment at the national level is a matter of immense pride for the UT. I commend their families, coaches, and school for nurturing these young champions. I am confident that they will go on to represent our great nation on the highest sporting stages."

The governor also extended his heartfelt congratulations to the school management and staff for fostering a culture of sporting excellence and providing these young athletes with the environment and encouragement necessary to excel at the national level.

He urged the youth of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir to draw inspiration from these young achievers and pursue sports with dedication and passion.

Inter-Zone Cluster Level Trial-cum-selection held at GHS Sanai

POONCH, MAY 19:

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Poonch today organized the Inter-Zone Cluster Level Under-14 and Under-17 Boys Trial-cum-Selection here on GHS Sanai Grounds.

Held under the banner of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, the event witnessed a highly competitive, disciplined and enthusiastic display of sports talent.

The participants were the students who qualified the Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions from Zone Surankote and Zone Buffiaz. The selected participants competed for final selection to represent the cluster in the upcoming Dis-

trict Level Competitions.

A total of 188 boys from the twin zones participated in the Under-14 and Under-17 age groups, displaying remarkable sporting talent, discipline, dedication, and enthusiasm. The participants actively competed in various games including Kho-Kho, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Chess and Badminton, making the event vibrant and highly spirited.

Officials from the District Youth Services and Sports Office Poonch attended the programme as observers to ensure fair and transparent selection. The field staff of both Zone Surankote and Zone Buffiaz also remained actively engaged through-

out the event.

The programme was graced by MLA Surankote Choudhary Mohammad Akram as the Chief Guest. Other guests present included DYSSO, SHO, officers from the Indian Army and Headmaster GHS Sanai.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports along with the ZPEOs, honoured the Chief Guest with a shawl, bouquet and memento as a token of respect and appreciation.

While addressing the gathering, MLA Choudhary Mohd Akram appreciated the Department of Youth Services and Sports for organizing such a large-scale

sporting event in a far-flung border area. He termed the initiative a landmark achievement and praised the department for providing a strong platform to rural youth to showcase their talent through games like Kho-Kho, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Chess and Badminton.

He further assured full support from GHS Sanai School for future sporting events and stated that such programmes strengthen discipline, confidence, leadership qualities and sportsmanship among students. He also appreciated the dedication and hard work of PEMS, PETs, PELs, and REKs of both zones.

Mega Health Camp held at Mangit under Jan Bhagidari Campaign

RAMBAN, MAY 19:

A Mega Health Camp was organised today at village Mangit of Aspirational Block Khari to provide quality healthcare services to the tribal population residing in remote areas. The initiative formed part of the Jan Bhagidari "Sab Se Duur, Sab Se Pehle" Campaign and the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP).

A dedicated medical team comprising Medical Officers, AYUSH Medical Officers,

paramedical staff, laboratory technicians and ASHA workers from Medical Block Banihal provided comprehensive healthcare services to the villagers.

A large number of people were screened and treated for various health conditions, including Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), anemia, skin ailments, respiratory tract infections and pediatric ailments.

Free diagnostic services such as hemoglobin estima-

tion, blood sugar testing, blood pressure monitoring, urine examination and ANC check-ups were also conducted on the spot.

Free medicines under the National Health Mission were distributed among beneficiaries as per medical prescriptions. In addition, IEC activities were conducted to create awareness regarding health and nutrition, menstrual hygiene and the national health programmes, promoting preventive health-

care practices among the local population.

The camp received an overwhelming response from the local residents, particularly from tribal communities, and successfully ensured last-mile delivery of healthcare services. The initiative reaffirmed the commitment of the District Administration Ramban towards inclusive development and strengthening healthcare outreach in far-flung and underserved areas of the district.

Nasha Mukht Abhiyan Gains Momentum in Mendhar

POONCH MAY 19:

In a powerful initiative to combat drug addiction, a high-impact Nasha Mukht Abhiyan awareness campaign was successfully organized across Mendhar today area under the leadership and directions of Mission Director NHM, J&K Akriti Sagar, Deputy Commissioner, Ashok Kumar Sharma and Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Poonam Sethi.

The campaign was executed under the able guidance and direct supervision

of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan and local Block Medical Officer Dr. Gazala.

Utilizing the services of the 108 Ambulance Service, a dedicated team of health officials and medical staff conducted an intensive door-to-door and community outreach drive, visiting multiple schools, colleges, and bustling market areas of Mendhar.

The team delivered hard-hitting messages on the devastating physical, mental, social, and economic

consequences of drug abuse, alcohol, tobacco and other intoxicants.

Speaking on the occasion, health officials emphasized that addiction is not just an individual problem but a serious threat to the future of society, especially the youth. Students and local residents were urged to stay vigilant, adopt healthy lifestyles, and actively support the mission of building a Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir.

Awareness pamphlets, informative literature, and health education materials were widely distributed during the programme. The interactive sessions witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, youth, and the general public, who appreciated the proactive efforts of the Health Department.

The campaign received an overwhelmingly positive response from all sections of society and has significantly strengthened the resolve of the people of Mendhar towards a drug-free and healthier future.

Motivational lecture held on 'how to join Army

BANIHAL, MAY 18:

12 RR conducted a motivational lecture at Higher Secondary School, Neel Batu, to inspire and guide students of classes 10 to 12 on how to join the Indian Army and serve the nation with pride and honour.

The session was aimed at spreading awareness among the youth about the various career opportunities in the Indian Army, including officer and soldier entries, eligibility criteria, preparation tips, and the selection process. Students were also informed about the values of discipline, courage, and leadership that a career in the Armed Forces instills.

The lecture received an enthusiastic response, with students showing



keen interest and actively participating in the interactive session.

Many students expressed their aspiration to join the Indian Army in the future.

Such initiatives play a vital role in guiding young minds towards a purposeful career path while strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and the local population.

The Indian Army remains committed to encouraging and supporting the youth of the region by conducting awareness and motivational events regularly.