



US Secretary Of State Marco Rubio Visits Taj Mahal With Wife
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Mouni Roy Opens Up On Her Journey From TV To Films, Says She Is 'Very Hungry' For Work
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Govt promotes incharge IOs, AIOs as IOs

The government today ordered the regularisation and promotion of 3 incharge information officers and 14 assistant information officers as information officers and equivalent in the information department.

According to an order issued here by the information department, the promoted officers included Showket Ahmad Khan, Riyaz Ahmad Fazili, Parshotam Dass, Rajinder Paul Singh, Gulshan Sumbria, Majeeb

Junior assistant held in graft case

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a junior assistant, working in the office of the superintendent engineer, PHE Mechanical Urban Circle, Narwal, here in a bribery case.

The CBI today registered a case against the accused based on a complaint which alleged that he had demanded a bribe of Rs 4,500 from the complainant for processing and clearing his pension case. The accused had shared

CPWs get regularisation orders

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today handed over regularisation orders to Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) of school education department in a function held at civil secretariat in Srinagar.

He individually handed over the regularisation orders to CPWs from

MHA appoints Rakesh Balwal as DIG in CRPF



NEW DELHI, MAY 25: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved the appointment of IPS officer Rakesh Balwal as Deputy Inspector General (DIG) in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on deputation basis.

According to an official order issued by the Ministry

Prof Shafi receives Padma Shri



Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 25

President Droupadi Murmu today conferred Padma Awards on 66 distinguished personalities during the first Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The awards, among the country's highest civilian

'Drug cartels being wiped out' Govt committed to fully eliminate substance abuse: LG Sinha

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 25

Asserting that action against narco-terrorists and drug smugglers would continue, LG Manoj Sinha today said that drug cartels were being wiped out in J&K and the administration was fully committed to eliminate substance abuse.

"Drug cartels that thrived for decades are being wiped out," he said in his address after participating in a 'padyatra' that was taken out at Bandipora in the valley as part of the administration's 100-day 'Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan'.

"45 days ago, I pledged not only to dismantle smugglers and narco-terrorists ecosystem, but also to spark a movement that uplifts youth and restores dignity to families scarred by addiction," the LG said.

"J&K is united & strong in



resolve, clear in purpose and fully committed to freeing our society from drugs once and for all," he added.

"The action against narco-terrorists and drug smugglers will continue. It will not stop until every drug smuggler is eliminated from the sacred soil of Jammu & Kashmir. Our agencies have launched an unprecedented

drive to dismantle narco-terrorists and their hidden network. No drug smuggler, drug peddler, or anyone seeking to poison our society is beyond reach. The entire narco-terror ecosystem is being pursued," the LG said.

"Several drug supply networks that until now remained hidden for various

reasons are being traced and dismantled. We have sent a clear message that Jammu & Kashmir will not be a safe haven for those who profit from other people's sufferings. I am determined that we will root out every narco-terrorist and drug smuggler from this soil. Those who tried to destroy our families

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52 receive appointment letters under SRO-43, RAS

Omar assures expeditious disposal of pending cases

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 25

Assuring expeditious disposal of all pending cases, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today handed over appointment orders to beneficiaries under SRO-43 and the J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS) at civil secretariat in Srinagar.

On the occasion, he reaffirmed government's commitment towards supporting families who had suffered irreparable per-



sonal loss.

A total of 52 appointees hailing from different dis-

NEET paper leak NTA has not learnt lessons, says Apex Court

NEW DELHI, MAY 25: It's sad that the NTA has not learnt lessons from the earlier NEET paper leak, the Supreme Court said on Monday as it sought the response of the Centre, NTA and CBI on pleas for the replacement of the testing agency with a robust and autonomous body to conduct the medical entrance exam.

A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Alok Aradhe directed that a copy

of the petitions be served to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, besides other parties, and asked the National Testing Agency (NTA), which is responsible for conducting the NEET exam, to file an affidavit by Thursday on compliance of directions issued by the court in 2024.

"It's sad that they have not learnt their lessons. The matter travelled to this court earlier also. There was a committee, a monitoring

committee which made some recommendations, and they were accepted. We want the NTA to file an affidavit on the steps taken for compliance of recommendations suggested by the committee," the bench said.

The top court, which issued notice on a plea filed by the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA), through lawyer Tanvi Dubey, said it is tagging all similar matters to

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Sinha approves selection of 39 civil judges

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 25

The administration has approved the selection list of 39 candidates for appointment as civil judges (junior division).

The approval was accorded by the LG on the recommendation of J&K Public Service Commission in terms of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Judicial) Recruitment Rules, 1967, according to an official order issued by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

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Jammu sizzles at 40.3°C

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 25

Amid continuing heat-wave conditions, Jammu city today experienced the maximum temperature of 40.3 degrees Celsius.

Jammu today recorded a maximum of 40.3 degrees Celsius, and the minimum was 24.6 degrees Celsius, while Katra town was the second hottest place at 37.8 degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature was 22.6 degrees Celsius. Banihal recorded 25.6

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India-Japan strategic partnership holds larger importance: EAM

NEW DELHI, MAY 25: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday said that the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership carries "larger implications, importance and impact", highlighting its significance in shaping regional and global outcomes while underlining the expanding scope of bilateral ties beyond the two nations.

Delivering his opening remarks during his meeting with Japan's Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu as part of the latter's two-day visit to the country, Jaishankar underlined that the bilateral relationship extends beyond traditional diplomacy and has a broader strategic footprint.

"Between India and Japan, we have a Special Strategic and Global Partnership and that signals that our ties have a larger implication, larger importance, and larger impact. And one example of that will be tomorrow when we meet in the Quad format to discuss how to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific," Jaishankar said.

Toshimitsu will also attend the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting - bringing together India, the United States, Australia, and Japan - scheduled for May 26 under the chairmanship of the EAM.

He noted that both countries, as major energy-importing and trading economies, share common interests in maritime security and regional stability, particularly amid ongoing developments in West Asia and the virtual blockade on the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

"Today, I look forward to discussing our



bilateral cooperation and to discussing global and regional issues. And I think particularly in this current situation, what is happening in West Asia or the Middle East is important because we are both energy-importing nations; we are big trading nations; we have maritime interests. I'd also like to discuss with you the economic security issues because I think today that is a very important concern for all major economies," he added.

In September 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe elevated the India-Japan relationship to a Special Strategic and Global Partnership, calling it the dawn of a new era in relations between the two countries.

Jaishankar also recalled recent high-level exchanges between the two sides, noting continued diplomatic engagement and frequent visits.

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Red Fort blast Accused visited Lucknow, planned attacks on key landmarks

NEW DELHI, MAY 25: NIA's probe into the Red Fort car blast case has revealed a chilling conspiracy by the accused to carry out a series of terror attacks in Lucknow with targets including legislative assembly and other prominent locations with high footfalls.

According to official sources, two of the key accused - Dr Muzammil Shaheel and Dr Shaheen Saeed - travelled from Haryana's Faridabad to Lucknow between August 25 and 30, 2025 as part of a "calculated reconnaissance trip" for this

terror conspiracy. Muzammil conducted hostile reconnaissance of various targets which were symbols of the government in Uttar Pradesh. He receded the general area of Vidhan Sabha, Babu Bhawan (civil secretariat) and areas with high footfalls like Imambara, Lal Bagh and Aminabad, sources said.

The accused found these places as suitable targets for their mission. "They were contemplating a plan to explode a car laden with explosives near these building complexes," a source said.

The probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has also found that accused Muzammil used his phone to search chemical shops in Lucknow stocking the two precursor chemicals required to manufacture Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP), the highly unstable peroxide explosive known internationally as the 'Mother of Satan', which was used in the Delhi Red Fort car blast on November 10 last year.

Shaheen, on Muzammil's instructions, copied the

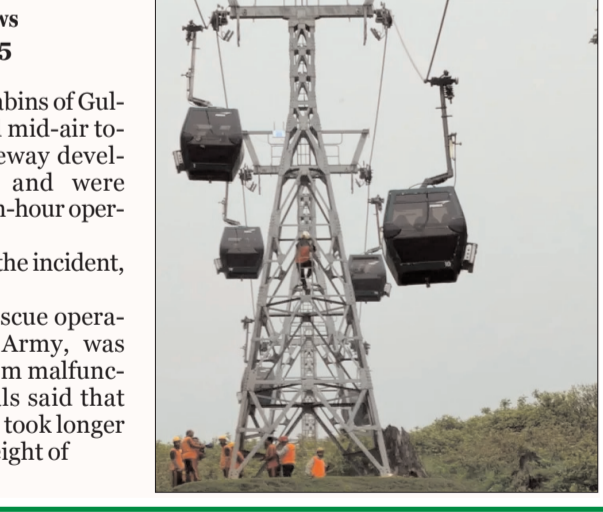
300 tourists rescued after Gulmarg Gondola malfunctions

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, MAY 25

At least 300 tourists in 65 cabins of Gulmarg Gondola were stranded mid-air today after Asia's highest ropeway developed technical problems, and were rescued after an arduous seven-hour operation.

There were no casualties in the incident, officials said.

The major multi-agency rescue operation, which also involved Army, was launched soon after the system malfunctioned around noon. Officials said that evacuation from some cabins took longer as these were hovering at a height of



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Jammu and the Valley should strive to come on same page on non-political issues

Sahil Mahajan

Following a major development in negotiations that Ladakh leadership had with the ministry of home affairs on May 22nd, there have been several calls for similar dialogue between J&K and New Delhi for restoration of statehood and other aligned issues between the two sides. Ladakh has not achieved as yet what it wanted, it has only covered some ground toward getting some of its demands it had made to the Centre. It is a work in progress. There is no doubt about it.

The issue of the restoration of statehood has been agitating the minds of many in J&K since the abrogation of Article

370 and Reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories of Ladakh and J&K in August 2019. Those in the political parties urging the Centre to restore statehood for J&K have two major pleas: one, that J&K was always a state and it was degraded to the UT against the conventions of such organizations since independence; second, that the Centre had promised on the floor of the Parliament that J&K would be given its statehood back at an appropriate time. The Centre, as it appears, is yet to hear the clock strike the right time for the statehood for J&K. There is yet another reason, there are voices within J&K, especially from Jammu region, opposed to this very thesis that

statehood alone can help the place and people regain their dignity and identity. In fact, they have openly been campaigning against the restoration of the statehood. Their argument is simple, why statehood when things are normal and the government has no chains restraining it from performing its duties.

This discussion will go on for many more months as nothing substantial on this issue is in sight. The narrative from Delhi is on governance and mention of the statehood is not in the discourse. This has given rise to other political debate in some circles, whether the statehood would ever be restored to J&K or not. Then, the issues of governance too have come to fore in which

it is being suggested that statehood is not mandatory for good governance. Many examples are being cited.

The real issue at the moment is that these issues have divided the narratives on the regional and on religious basis too. The two regions don't see eye to eye with each other. There is no internal dialogue, despite the claim by almost all the political parties that they stand for the unity of all the regions - there are only two now - Kashmir and Jammu.

In these times of global crisis owing to the West Asian conflict, Jammu and Kashmir is among the worst-hit areas because it sits on the northernmost edge of the country. The country, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has cau-

tioned time and again, cannot remain immune from the rattling of the energy crisis triggered by the war in Middle-East which is witnessing a fragile ceasefire after high-velocity conflict for more than five weeks. The war had begun on February 28, when America and Israel launched strikes against Iran. That was a suicidal moment for the world economy.

Now there are reports that the United States and Iran have reached a deal in principle that calls for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 per cent of global energy supplies passes, but how soon normal shipping resume through the strait, and when oil prices would begin to come down is

anyone's guess. In fact, no body knows. As long as this situation of suspense persists, India will continue to experience the rise in petrol, diesel and gas prices. Because of its distance from the mainland, Jammu and Kashmir bears maximum brunt.

These are the issues that the leadership and civil society of J&K should be discussing as one. All of them should be on the same page because this crisis and attendant consequences affect everyone from Kathua to Kupwara. That should result in better coordination at all levels and ways should be found, how to mitigate the crisis. Everything is not politics, and all issues should be looked beyond the political lens.