

LG Saxena participates in celebrations marking formation of Sham district

LEH, MAY 26: Lieutenant Governor, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today visited Khatse, and participated in the celebrations marking the creation of Sham as a new district in Ladakh. This is L-G's first visit to Sham after its inception as a new district. Amid enthusiastic public participation and cultural performances, L-G Shri Saxena was accorded a grand traditional welcome by villagers, public representatives, students, cultural troupes and members of civil society on his arrival at Khatse, the district headquarters.



development of Ladakh and border areas.

The creation of Sham district followed the approval granted by the Lieutenant Governor on April 27, 2026, for the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh. Sham district comprises 27 revenue villages, including five villages carved out from Kargil district and 22 villages from Leh district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated the people on the fulfilment of their long-pending aspiration. He stated that the creation of the new district reflects the personal attention and commitment of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah towards the de-

L-G Shri Saxena said that with the creation of the new district, governance and public services would now become more accessible and responsive at the doorstep of the people. He said the formation of the Sham district would act as a bridge between the Administration and the public, ensuring faster service delivery and better governance.

Describing Sham as the "Apricot Valley" of Ladakh, Shri Saxena said the GI-tagged "Raktsey Karpo" apricot variety, which is grown abundantly in Sham valley, is now being exported to international markets.

He said that around 1000 metric tonnes of fresh apricots would be exported to

international markets this season — a historic milestone for Ladakh's horticulture sector. He stated that the UT Administration would facilitate packaging, branding and marketing of apricots through various institutional partnerships to ensure better returns for farmers.

Shri Saxena further informed that during his recent interaction with the Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Shri Chirag Paswan, support was assured for establishing food processing units and strengthening the horticulture sector in Ladakh. He observed that these initiatives would significantly benefit farmers, particularly from Sham, who are major producers of apricots and apples.

The Lieutenant Governor further stated that creation of the district would also lead to the generation of employment opportunities for local youth through the creation of new posts in government departments as well as indirect opportunities in construction, transport, trade, tourism and hospitality sectors.

"My aim is to ensure balanced and inclusive development of every region of Ladakh while protecting its fragile ecology. I want to see a real transformation in the lives of the people of Ladakh.

With the support and co-operation of the people, Sham will emerge as a vibrant, progressive and self-reliant district in the coming years," Shri Saxena said.

IGNOU Opens Online SAMARTH Portal for July 2026 Admission Cycle

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 26

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has started the online portal for fresh admissions for the July 2026 session. IGNOU Offers UG, PG, Diploma, PG Diploma, PG Certificate and Certificate programmes. The minimum eligibility criteria for UG courses are that students must pass 10+2 from a recognized university and for PG courses, candidates must be a graduate from a recognized university. The desirous candidates can submit the application form through online mode.

The applicants can access the admission portal on the University's National website www.ignou.ac.in Homepage or directly follow the link <https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in>. Candidates aspiring for admission will be able to complete their admission process on this portal before the deadline which is July 15, 2026.

As per the UGC guidelines, DEB ID is a mandatory step for students who wish to enrol in an ODL/Online programme at the university. The university notified that DEB ID shall be created by all students as per the UGC guidelines. The DEB ID is a unique number which will be provided by the University to each student seeking admission in the University for ODL as well as Online programmes. Students first need to register for the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC



ID), then use it to create their DEB ID. This is an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, with a sole purpose of creating a digital medium for students for their academic credits.

Before filling the admission form online, a candidate needs to create a User ID and Password on the SAMARTH portal and be ready with a Mobile No., Email ID, properly scanned academic documents, photograph and Bank Debit /Credit/Net Banking for payment of fee.

Students seeking admission must provide their own email ID and mobile number at the time of registration even if they are submitting their admission forms online from a Cyber Cafe. Students must exercise caution and be vigilant while submitting their admission forms. They must note their User ID and Password for future use.

It is pertinent to mention here that IGNOU has launched a number new programmes in the year which include programmes

in Commerce, Economics, History, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, Anthropology, Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, Social Work, Philosophy, Journalism & Digital Media, Biochemistry, Facilities and Service Management, Bhagwad Gita Studies, Environment, Geography, Criminal Justice, and many more.

"The desirous candidates who wish to be a member of IGNOU extended family must avail this opportunity and apply for any of the programmes of their choice well before the last date approaches", said Dr. Asha Upadhyay, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu. Dr. Asha also cautioned the prospective students not to fall in trap of any fraudulent persons or callers who may approach for payment of admission fees through QR Codes, WhatsApp or any other social media platforms because IGNOU does not ask for any such details on any platforms other than the University website itself.

Ladakh admin postpones eid holiday to May 28

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 26

The administration of Union Territory of Ladakh has postponed the holiday on account of Eid-ul-Azha (Bakrid) from May 27 to May 28.

According to an order issued by the UT's General Administration Department, the holiday will now be observed on May 28, instead of May 27, in partial modification of the earlier government order issued in November 2025.

"In partial modification of the order dated November 14, 2025, it is hereby ordered that the holiday on account of Eid-ul-Azha (Bakrid) shall now be observed on May 28 in UT of Ladakh instead of May 27," says the order.

Koshal temporarily appointed Ladakh DGP

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 26

The administration of Union Territory of Ladakh has handed over the additional charge of DGP to Koshal K Sharma.

According to an order issued by the home department, Koshal, who is currently serving as DIG of Leh-Kargil range, would hold the top post until a regular incumbent was permanently posted.

This decision followed the relieving of the current DGP, Mukesh Singh who has been directed to report to the government of Manipur for his next assignment.

'Wanted' gangster escapes after shootout

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 26

A 'wanted' gangster was said to have escaped during a police operation in the posh Gandhi Nagar locality after a brief exchange of fire with security personnel.

According to officials, acting on a tip-off about the gangster's movement in Green-Belt Park area of Gandhi Nagar, SOG teams and police launched a special naka in the area.

When the team proceeded towards the mini market area, the suspects attempted to flee and rammed their vehicle into an SOG vehicle and then opened fire at the police party, officials said.

The SOG personnel retaliated in self-defence by returning fire but the alleged criminals managed to escape unhurt, officials said.

The area was immediately secured and additional police reinforcements were rushed to the spot. Other details were awaited.

4 IPS officers of erstwhile J&K cadre empanelled for IG-level posts

NEW DELHI, MAY 26: In a significant administrative development, four senior IPS officers of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir cadre have been empanelled for appointment to Inspector General (IG) rank posts in the Government of India.

The officers, who have been cleared for empanelment, include Vikramjit Singh, Abdul Jabbar, Sarah Rizvi and Tejinder Singh.

The empanelment paves the way for their appointment to key positions at the Centre in various ministries, departments and central security agencies.



The move is being seen as an important recognition of the officers' service records and administrative experience.

Their empanelment was approved by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), according to an order issued by the union

home ministry. A total of 68 officers have been empanelled by the ACC. Nine of them are from AGMUT cadre.

BJP Mahila Morcha holds Pravas Meeting at Talab Tillo Mandal

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 26

BJP Mahila Morcha conducted a Pravas-cum-Monthly Organisational Meeting at Pounichak Ghou Manhasa Road, Jammu, under Talab Tillo Mandal, which was chaired by Preerna Nanda, Vice President BJP State Mahila Morcha and Prabhari District Jammu, in the presence of District President BJP Mahila Morcha Jammu Anuradha Sharma and Co-Incharge Shalu Gupta.

The meeting was organised by Chandni Sharma, Mandal President BJP Mahila Morcha Talab Tillo Mandal, along with her team. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from Mahila Morcha office bearers, Mandal team members, and women karyakartas of the area.

Among those present on the occasion were District Mahila Morcha Prabhari Asha Gupta, District General Secretary Ranju Sharma, BJP Talab Tillo Mandal General Secretary Amit Sharma, along with members of the Mandal team.

Prerna Nanda emphasised the importance of strengthening the organisa-



tional structure at the booth and Mandal levels and called upon women workers to actively participate in party programmes and public outreach campaigns. She stated that Mahila Morcha plays a vital role in taking the policies, achievements, and ideology of the Bharatiya Janata Party to every household.

Anuradha Sharma appreciated the active participation of women karyakartas and urged them to work collectively for strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding organisational activities, women empowerment initiatives, upcoming party programmes, and strengthening the organisa-

tion at the grassroots level. Senior office bearers and women karyakartas also shared their views and suggestions during the interaction.

A major highlight of the programme was that several new women members joined BJP Mahila Morcha during the meeting. The newly joined members expressed their faith in the leadership and policies of the Bharatiya Janata Party and pledged to work actively for the organisation and public welfare.

The programme concluded with a collective resolve by all karyakartas to further strengthen the party organisation and continue working dedicatedly for the welfare of society and empowerment of women.

Udhampur police rescues 8-year-old girl from alleged abduction

UDHAMPUR, MAY 26:

The Udhampur police successfully rescued an eight-year-old girl who had been allegedly abducted while on her way to school. The prompt intervention ensured the child's immediate safety.

The complainant Sindoor Singh, S/o Beli Ram, R/o Tikri Pangeri, Tehsil and District Udhampur, lodged a written complaint at Police Post Rehambal stating that his eight-year-old daughter was forcibly taken while going to school.

Based on the complaint, FIR No. 114/2026 under relevant sections of kidnapping (including section 137(2) BNS) was registered at Police Station Rehambal. The vehicle involved, bearing registration number HP64A-9928, was intercepted at Khoon Naka, Battal, on Monday. The minor girl was recovered from the vehicle.

Two persons found in the car were identi-

fied as Ganjan Singh and his wife, who is the complainant's ex-wife. Preliminary information indicates the child was taken from Udhampur by the woman amid a parental dispute following the father's remarriage.

The case was referred to the SHO of Police Station Udhampur for immediate care and assistance at Parisha (Home for Girls). The matter is under active investigation by the Udhampur police. Further legal proceedings will follow based on investigation findings. The vehicle and persons involved are in police custody.

The District Legal Services Authority, Udhampur is providing necessary assistance including protective measures, counselling services and medical care if required. DLSA has ensured that the child is placed in a safe environment and that all statutory safeguards under the Guardians and Wards and Protection of Children laws are observed.

BJP holds meetings of Morchas, Cells at party headquarters

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 26

J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma, accompanied by J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, chaired a series of meetings of senior party leaders at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to strategize and intensify the implementation of the party's nationwide programmes commemorating twelve years of the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre.

The meetings were attended by J&K BJP Vice-President Rakesh Mahajan, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Gopal Mahajan, Secretary Reema Padha, All Cells Incharge Ved Sharma, Morcha office bearers, Cell convenors, co-convenors, and other senior leaders. Sat Sharma, while addressing the meetings, said



that the twelve years of the Modi Government have transformed India politically, economically, strategically, and socially, while establishing a new era of development, good governance, national pride, welfare, and public trust. He said that every BJP activist must become the messenger of these historic achievements and ensure that the benefits and suc-

cess stories of the government reach every household and every section of society through extensive public outreach.

Sat Sharma stressed that the Morchas and Cells have a decisive role in making the upcoming programmes a mass contact campaigns across Jammu & Kashmir. He asked the leaders to ensure active public participation in programmes including Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabhas, professional meets, intellectual meets, youth outreach programmes, women-centric programmes, beneficiary contact campaigns, exhibitions on twelve years of Modi Government achievements, press interactions, workshops, natural farming awareness programmes, cleanliness drives, yoga programmes, blood donation

camp, plantation drives under "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", and large-scale booth-level public contact campaigns.

Sharma further directed the party leaders to intensify outreach among youth, women, farmers, traders, professionals, SCs, STs, OBCs, and every beneficiary section so that the achievements of the Modi Government are effectively communicated to the masses.

Ashok Koul, while addressing the meetings, emphasized that BJP's organizational strength lies in its continuous connection with the people and said that every Morcha and Cell must work in a coordinated and mission-oriented manner to take the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to the grassroots level.

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(Tender Id: 2026_PDD_309809_1)
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