

## Cont. From Page 1

## NDPS Act to be amended to crush narco-syndicates: Shah

forts made at the state level in the direction of making meetings result-oriented can alone lead us to success," Shah said.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, he said India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, had launched a strong campaign against the global drug menace.

He reiterated the government's commitment to tackling drug abuse, saying the focus was on dismantling narcotics networks while ensuring care and rehabilitation for those affected by addiction.

"Extending best wishes to all the warriors in our national battle against drugs, on International Day Against Drug Abuse. India under Modi's leadership has mounted the strongest fight against the global challenge of drug abuse, by eliminating narco-cartels ruthlessly and healing the affected individuals with the care and empathy they deserve," Shah said in a post on X.

"May this day reinforce our commitment to shield our young generation from drugs," he added.

Observed every year on June 26, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a UN-recognised day aimed at raising awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and combating illegal drug trade. The day has been observed since 1989.

## Sinha joins Muharram procession, distributes refreshments

sion route. "A multi-layer security grid has been established with deployment of police, CRPF and other security personnel, while drone surveillance and CCTV monitoring are being used to maintain round-the-clock vigilance," a senior police officer said.

He said the observance was monitored closely at the highest level to ensure that Youm-e-Ashura passes off peacefully and without any untoward incident.

According to a police advisory, participants had been asked to maintain communal harmony, follow all directions issued by the administration and police authorities, cooperate with traffic police and volunteers for smooth movement, ensure that the procession remains confined to the permitted route and purpose, respect the religious sentiments and beliefs of all communities, and protect public and government property while maintaining cleanliness.

The advisory also stated that people should not display provocative banners, posters, placards or flags, should not disrespect the National Flag or glorify any country, organisation or group, and should not carry or display flags or symbols of any country, organisation or group. It also cautioned against engaging in any activity detrimental to the integrity, sovereignty and unity of the nation.

Meanwhile, Kashmir IGP Vidhi Kumar Birdi expressed gratitude to the public for their strong cooperation during the back-to-back Muharram processions and the ongoing pilgrimage arrangements.

He said that despite congested routes and tight security requirements, people, organisers, and volunteers extended full support by following guidelines and helping maintain order.

The IGP also acknowledged the coordinated efforts of police and other agencies, saying the smooth conduct of events was possible largely due to public participation and discipline.

## LG, CM pay tributes to Imam Hussain

In his message, the chief minister said the tragedy of Karbala remains an eternal symbol of courage, steadfastness and resistance against tyranny.

"The message of Karbala transcends time and geography. It inspires humanity to stand firm in the face of injustice, uphold moral values and safeguard the principles of truth and righteousness, irrespective of the challenges," he said.

NC president Farooq Abdullah also paid tributes to Hazrat Imam Hussain and his companions, saying that the unparalleled sacrifice of Karbala continues to illuminate the path of truth, justice, steadfastness and unwavering faith for all humanity.

## Dulhasti project gates to remain open for 2 days

den rise in water levels and increased flow velocity in Chenab.

In the interest of public safety, people were advised to stay away from the river banks and avoid bathing, swimming, fishing, rafting or any other activity.

## Army Chief calls on Ladakh LG

the civil administration in the strategically important

border region.

Sharing details of the meeting on X, the LG said the two discussed strengthening civil-military cooperation, enhancing coordination between the Union Territory administration and the armed forces, and promoting initiatives aimed at peace, stability and development in Ladakh.

"We discussed strengthening civil-military cooperation, fostering closer coordination between administration and armed forces, re-employment of aagneivers in the UT Administration and advancing collective efforts for peace, stability and development in the region," Saxena posted.

Gen Dwivedi, who assumed charge as the Chief of Army Staff in June 2024, is scheduled to complete his tenure on June 30, 2026.

## AI to determine contours of future growth: Jitendra

tum Mission (NQM) already achieving more than half of its targeted outcomes within three years of its launch in 2023," he said while speaking in a fireside conversation during a Media Conclave organised by a news channel here.

"India today stands at a stage where it is progressing alongside leading nations in several critical technology domains and is steadily building capabilities that will define the next era of economic growth, national security and global competitiveness," the minister said.

"Space, Nuclear and Quantum Technologies will play a decisive role in shaping the future world order, influencing not only economic advancement but also strategic strength and geopolitical positioning. Countries that fall behind in these technologies risk falling behind in both development and security," he added.

Referring to the National Quantum Mission, Dr Singh said several key milestones have been achieved ahead of schedule.

He said substantial progress has already been made in quantum-secure communication, an area with significant applications in defence, strategic communications, cyber security and protection of sensitive information.

## Govt officially releases names of 6 Op Sindoor martyrs

refers to the red vermilion traditionally worn by married Hindu women and was chosen to signify vengeance for the widowing of women whose husbands were killed in the terror attack.

The conflict between the two countries, which lasted four days, ended on May 10.

## India flags attacks on schools, children at UN

dren and armed conflict highlighted a sharp rise in violations against children, describing the situation in 2025 as reaching "shocking levels" with an unprecedented number of children affected.

According to the report, the UN verified 38,558 grave violations against children in 2025, affecting 24,174 children, including 15,493 boys, 7,990 girls and 691 whose sex was unknown. It marked the highest number of children affected by grave violations since the beginning of the mandate.

The report also noted that the number of children facing multiple grave violations increased from 3,137 in 2024 to 3,176 in 2025.

"Parties to conflict failed to uphold or proactively undermined their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and continued to commit grave violations with near-total impunity, resulting in excessive humanitarian consequences for civilians and civilian objects, disproportionately affecting children and the facilities and services they rely on," the report said.

It added that government forces were responsible for a majority of grave violations and were the main perpetrators of the killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access.

India pointed out that the Secretary-General's 2025 annual report presented "alarming statistics", noting that attacks on schools increased by 44 per cent in a single year.

Parvathaneni said nearly 473 million children, more than one in six globally - live in or are fleeing conflict zones, while over 85 million among them have no access to education.

"These figures are a damning verdict on humanity's collective failure to translate commitments into reality on the ground," he said.

Highlighting the importance of education during conflicts, the ambassador said protecting a child's education was equivalent to protecting a nation's future. He added

that governments carry the primary responsibility of safeguarding children's rights.

He also highlighted India's domestic efforts, noting that the Right to Education is a fundamental right under the Constitution, guaranteeing free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 years.

To expand access to quality learning, India launched DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing), the national digital platform for school education that provides interactive content and AI-powered tools in multiple languages.

"Our domestic commitment to ensure access to affordable and quality education also shapes our engagement on this issue internationally," Parvathaneni said.

He said India's experience during disruptions such as the Covid pandemic showed that digital learning could help children continue education when physical schooling is affected.

"Our experience has convinced us that access to digital learning can be the bridge that helps children access education during conflicts," he added.

Parvathaneni further stressed that investing in education for communities affected by war was essential.

"India has made sustained investments in facilitating education for refugees and displaced communities from across our neighbourhood, recognising that continuity of learning is among the most powerful tools for resilience and recovery," he said.

He added that India has also supported rebuilding education infrastructure, including schools and vocational training centres, in several countries, particularly in its neighbourhood.

## 6 cr names deleted so far; exercise continues in 19 states, UTs

hya Pradesh and Goa, the combined voters' list was pruned by 10.2 per cent.

The voter base before the poll roll clean-up across these states and Union Territories stood at more than 50.99 crore.

Post the exercise, the voters' list stands at 45.81 crore-a decline of over 5.18 crore. In percentage terms, the electoral rolls have been reduced by 10.2 per cent.

As many as 66,88,636 deceased electors were removed from the rolls, with the maximum of 25.47 lakh from Uttar Pradesh, followed by 24.16 lakh from poll-going West Bengal.

Additionally, 63.16 lakh names were deleted following objections and adjudication during the SIR exercise.

The final rolls for the 12 states and Union territories were released on different dates, with Uttar Pradesh being the last to release the data.

Third phase of the SIR in 16 states and three Union territories-Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, Telangana, and Uttarakhand, National Capital Territory of Delhi, Chandigarh, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu-involving 36.73 crore voters was rolled out on May 14 and would conclude later this year.

## Nadda calls for strengthening party at booth level

He attended an important organisational meeting with newly appointed state office-bearers at the BJP state headquarters in Patna. The meeting was attended by Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, Union Minister Giriraj Singh, BJP state organisational general secretary Bhikhubhai Dalsania, and MP Sanjay Jaiswal.

Congratulating the newly appointed office-bearers on their responsibilities, Nadda urged them to work towards making the organisation stronger, more active, and more effective.

Addressing the meeting, he said the BJP was not merely a political party but a strong organisation committed to nation-building. He noted that the party's real strength lay in its dedicated workers and its active structure at the grassroots level. He said every office-bearer must work to further strengthen the organisation at the booth level and play an active role in taking the party's ideology, policies, and programmes to every section of society.

Nadda also stressed the importance of spreading awareness about the welfare and development-oriented schemes of the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bihar Government. He said ensuring that people receive accurate information about government schemes was an important responsibility of the organisation.

He urged party functionaries to maintain continuous engagement with the public and present the achievements of the government in a factual and positive manner.

The meeting also discussed the successful implementation of upcoming party programmes, enhancing organisational activity, strengthening coordination among party workers, and accelerating the BJP's expansion campaign. Nadda called upon all office-bearers to work

with dedication, commitment, and full energy to further strengthen the organisation.

## 'Ulta chor kotwal ko daante': Omar on 'backdoor' appointments

lice chief)."

Accusing the former PDP-BJP coalition government of carrying out illegal recruitments themselves, he threw an open challenge to his critics to produce evidence supporting their allegations.

Interacting with media after taking part in Ashura commemorations in Srinagar, Abdullah said those making the allegations had themselves presided over backdoor appointments.

"Let them make an allegation with evidence. Give me the name of a single candidate who got a backdoor appointment under our government, and we are ready to explain," he said.

The CM said he was prepared to answer any allegation backed by proof, dismissing the accusations as "baseless" and said his government would soon present its detailed response.

"There is a Hindi saying: 'Ulta chor kotwal ko daante'. Those who made the largest number of illegal and backdoor appointments are now making these allegations," he said.

Referring to the Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP, Abdullah alleged that the son of her maternal uncle, Sartaj Madani, had secured a backdoor appointment before being removed following court directions.

Earlier this week, Mehbooba had alleged that 25,000 backdoor appointments had been made by the incumbent NC government.

## Transformational growth prime focus of India-UK FTA: Goyal

that India can deliver, that India must deliver," he said. On the topic of the Double Contribution Convention (DCC), which also takes effect alongside the CETA next month, the minister informed businesses that it will apply to temporary workers in either country for a period of five years.

"Indians who come to work here on temporary work permits up to five years can save 25 per cent straight into their savings. (Currently) 12.5 per cent that the employee used to pay, 12.5 per cent that the company used to pay was otherwise just going lost. It can now be paid into your Provident Fund account in India, and of course it earns 8.25 per cent interest tax free; not a bad return on sales and also provides for your family's social security," he said.

He also reiterated that the CETA is not just about tariffs and rules of origin but a far more comprehensive opportunity within the bilateral trading partnership, which is estimated to be around 48-billion-pounds annually.

"Transformational growth and entry into hitherto uncharted territory should also be a prime focus of this team (of businesses), and the message you take back home, and the message my British brothers and sisters in this room take to your companies and your colleagues here is going to be very important," he said.

The minister also launched a series of reports at the event, including 'Indian Roots British Soil' by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), which traces the journey of Indian investments through the past decade in the UK.

The UK India Business Council's (UKIBC) manual on CETA implementation, a report by CareEdge, India's ratings agency, and a report by FICCI on the evolution of the bilateral partnership were among the others launched at the plenary.

"So far, we only had Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor, and I can say on record that they have been unfair to India. They have not recognised the India growth story, the strong India fundamentals, and the Indian capability and future, and captured it as much as a rating agency should have done. I will not cast any motives to it, but I do express surprise.

"I think what CareEdge has done is do their job extremely objectively. They have assessed much weaker economies than India, with absolutely no future, to whom other agencies have given better ratings than India, for reasons best known to them," said Goyal.

During a discussion on India's enormous tourism potential, the minister offered to pitch in government funds into a public-private-partnership from an export promotion perspective to attract greater tourism numbers.

"We really need to work on boosting numbers. And, on how we can attract high-value tourism... getting board meetings (of global companies) to see the evolution of India. Seeing is believing," he said.

The minister also exhorted smaller and medium enterprises (SMEs) to enthusiastically participate in trade delegations, with 500 such initiatives planned for Indian businesses around the world.

Earlier, Goyal said he had "meaningful discussions" with his British counterpart, Business and Trade Secretary Peter Kyle, to explore new opportunities to deepen bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

"The conversation reflected the warmth, trust and forward-looking vision that continue to define our bilateral partnership... we remain committed to fostering an ecosystem that promotes innovation, investment, and holistic growth for both nations," he said.

## DLSA Ganderbal conducts district-wide Awareness Programmes on International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

**GANDERBAL, JUNE 26:** In observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, and in compliance with the directions of the J&K Legal Services Authority under the NALSA (DAWN - Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation for a Drug-Free India) Scheme, 2025, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal organized a series of awareness and outreach programmes across various locations of the district.

The awareness programmes were organised under the Chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary,

District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal.

The programmes were conducted by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Ganderbal at Benhama, Lar, Kondabal, Safapora, Bamloora and other areas of the district, where extensive interaction was held with members of the public, youth, students and shopkeepers.

During the programmes, the participants were sensitized about the harmful effects of drug abuse, substance addiction and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs. The PLVs highlighted the physical, psychological, social and legal consequences of drug abuse and encouraged the public, particularly the

youth, to adopt a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Awareness was also created regarding the availability of free legal aid, counselling services, rehabilitation facilities and other support mechanisms for persons affected by substance abuse under the NALSA (DAWN) Scheme. The participants appreciated the initiative and expressed their commitment towards spreading awareness against drug abuse and supporting collective efforts for building a drug-free society and safeguarding future generations from the menace of narcotic substances.

As part of the continuing observance of the campaign and to further achieve the objectives of

the NALSA Scheme, the DLSA will also organize awareness programmes in educational institutions of the district, with a special focus on sensitizing students about the dangers of drug abuse, preventive measures, legal awareness, rehabilitation support and the collective responsibility of society in ensuring a drug-free future.

Through these sustained awareness initiatives, DLSA Ganderbal reiterates its commitment towards promoting preventive legal awareness, empowering communities and strengthening the collective fight against drug abuse in furtherance of the objectives envisaged under the NALSA Scheme, 2025.

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 26**

Reaffirming the administration's zero-tolerance approach to narcotics, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary today led a massive anti-drug campaign in Nowshera held to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The Department of Social Welfare, under the overall supervision of the district administration Rajouri, organised a Walkathon, Signature

Campaign, and Anti-Drug Pledge at Sub-District Headquarters Nowshera to strengthen the community resolve against substance abuse.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister stressed that eradicating drug abuse is a collective responsibility of the society. He underscored the vital role of parents in closely monitoring their children to prevent them from falling into life-threatening habits.

The Deputy CM called upon the public to actively support the administration in identifying the drug

abuse victims so they can receive timely treatment and rehabilitation. He also asked them to share information on drug traffickers to enable strict action against those endangering the lives of local youth.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, Dr. Pritam Lal Thapa, also spoke on the occasion. He appealed to the public to extend full support to the administration in bringing drug abuse victims into the mainstream through proper treatment, and to help identify those involved in trafficking.

Earlier, District Social

Welfare Officer Rajouri, highlighted the significance of the day and created awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse. He also briefed the gathering on initiatives taken by the District Administration for treatment and rehabilitation of the victims.

The Walkathon was flagged off by the Deputy Chief Minister from PWD Dak Bungalow Nowshera which culminated at the Tehsil Office. More than 500 participants, including students, officials, civil society members and locals, enthusiastically took part in the event.