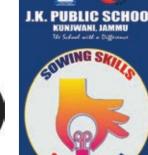


E BOLD VOICE OF J&K Vol. 30 Issue 121 • Jammu • Saturday • May 3, 2025 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00



AIIMS Jammu signs MoU with BMVSS Jaipur to establish Jaipur Foot Centre for Divyangs

J&K Excise Deptt organises drug awareness programme, poster making competition under NMBA in KCIS

Wushu selection trials from May 3

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Modi commissions Vizhinjam seaport; says it will bring economic stability to Kerala, India

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Prime Minister Narendra Modi officially commissioned the Vizhinjam International Seaport on Friday, stating that the capacity of this transshipment hub would triple in the coming years, allowing some of the world's largest cargo ships to dock smoothly.

In his speech following the commissioning of the Rs 8,686 crore project, he noted that 75 per cent of India's transshipment operations had previously been carried out at foreign ports, resulting in significant revenue loss for the

Emphasising that this scenario is now set to change, Modi asserted that Indian money would now serve India, and the funds that once flowed out of the country would instead generate new economic opportunities for Kerala and the people of Vizhinjam.

He said ships from Kerala had long carried goods to other nations, establishing it as a vital hub for global com-

"Today, the Government of India is committed to further strengthening this channel of economic power," the Prime Minister said, adding: "India's coastal



PM Narendra Modi dedicating to the Nation Vizhinjam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on Friday.

states and port cities will become key centres for the growth of a developed India.

Praising the Vizhinjam port, developed by Adani Ports, Modi said people from Gujarat might be disappointed with Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani for building such a large port in Kerala, despite hailing from the western

Modi also noted that Kerala Ports Minister V N Vasavan had referred to the Adani Group as a "partner" of the Communist-led state government, describing this as symbolic of the changes taking place in the country.

Highlighting the importance of the private sector in advancing India's maritime industry, Modi said that under the

WAVES declaration champions ethical AI, cultural pluralism, media integrity

MUMBAI: The Global Media Dialogue held during the World Audio Visual and Entertainment (WAVES), on Friday adopted a landmark 13-point 'WAVES Declaration', focusing on promoting ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI), media integrity, cultural inclusivity, and responsible content creation.

The high-level event, witnessing representatives from the 77 countries, was chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Information Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Both ministers emphasized the need to align tradition with technology, ensure responsible media practices, and address the challenges of the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

The External Affairs Minister underlined that the democratization of the global



Vaishnaw along with representatives from the 77 countries at WAVES in Mumbai on Friday.

cal and economic autonomy to include cultural identity and creative expression.

"Technology and tradition must go hand in hand," he said, stressing that AI should empower rather than erase cultural narratives. He said that modern innovation must build on the foundations of heritage, adding that modernity is not a rejection of the past, but a constant quest built on human achievements.

The WAVES Declaration

nations to curb misinformation, promote fact-based journalism, and support responsible advertising. It pledges to uphold open, inclusive platforms for creative expression and collaboration, while also addressing digital inequality by enhancing access, affordability, and choice in media consumption.

Acknowledging the transformative power of AI, Jaishankar urged for its responsible use, highlighting concerns about authenticity and ethical implications. He

cautioned that AI would bring unprecedented challenges, from intellectual property concerns to potential content bias, and called for urgent, collective action to address these.

Jaishankar said that AI can help deepen awareness of India's rich heritage, particularly among youth, and could be a powerful tool in realizing the vision of a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047. However, he stressed that policies, mindsets,

Law aids vigilant, not those who sleep over their rights: SC

ed on "earnest money" and

"advance money" for being

relevant to the matter, said

the Karnataka High Court

denied the relief of refund of

advance money to the appel-

lant as he did not seek an

alternative prayer for a

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

refund in the suit.

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: The law aids

the vigilant, not those who sleep over their rights, the Supreme Court on Friday said and upheld a high court verdict over a property-related dis-

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan was hearing the issue over the forfeiture of Rs 20 lakh paid as the first tranche of the total sale consideration of

The bench, which elaborat-Govt notifies ITR-3

for individuals/HUFs

NEW DELHI: The Income

Tax department has notified

ITR form 3 to be filed by

individuals and HUFs hav-

ing income from business or

The tax department in a

post on X late on Thursday

night said ITR-3 for

Assessment Year 2025-26

has been notified on April

30. ITR-3 is filed by individ-

uals and HUFs having

income from profits and

gains of business or profes-

The threshold for reporting

assets and liabilities under

'Schedule AL' has been

raised from Rs 50 lakh to Rs

1 crore, thus reducing the

disclosure burden on middle-

In Schedule Capital Gains of the ITR, capital gains

must now be split based on whether they arose before or

In the Budget presented on

July 24, 2024, the govern-

ment had proposed to lower

long-term capital gains tax

on real estate to 12.5 per

WEATHER

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

cent without indexation

income taxpayers

after July 23, 2024.

profession

STATE TIMES NEWS

US stands strong with India against terrorism, PM Modi has our full support: State Deptt

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW YORK/WASHING-TON: The United States stands strong with India against terrorism and Prime Minister Narendra Modi "has our full support", the State Department said underlining that Secretary of State Marco Rubio urges India and Pakistan to work towards a responsible resolution that maintains longterm peace and regional stability in South Asia. Department

Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said at a press briefing Thursday that Washington is "monitoring closely" the situation between India and Pakistan amid rising ten-

Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke separately with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday.

"As the President articulated to Prime Minister Modi last week, the United States stands strong with India against terrorism, and Prime Minister Modi has our full support," Bruce said.

Rubio "encouraged both countries to work toward a ...responsible resolution that maintains long-term peace

and regional stability in South Asia. We continue to be in touch with the governments of both countries, as I mentioned, at multiple levels," Bruce added.

"This government is in constant communication. We are asking for a responsible resolution from both parties. And beyond that, there's nothing I can give you, any other details," she said.

The US has encouraged India and Pakistan to deescalate tensions, reaffirming its commitment to cooperate with Delhi against terand

investigating the "unconscionable" Pahalgam terror

In his call with Jaishankar, Rubio expressed his sorrow for the lives lost in the "horrific" terrorist attack in Pahalgam that had killed 26 civilians.

Rubio "reaffirmed the United States' commitment to cooperation with India against terrorism. He also encouraged India to work with Pakistan to de-escalate tensions and maintain peace and security in South Asia,' a statement issued by Bruce

CBI Court awards 3 years imprisonment in corruption case to Bank's cashier

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Special Judge CBI

Adnan Sayeed on Friday awarded three years imprisonment to Javed Habib Khuroo, Cashier-Cum-Clerk J&K Grameen Bank Branch Office Kupwara in corruption According to the CBI, a

case was registered on June 30, 2011 and it is stated in the FIR that Javed Habib Khuroo, while working as Cashier-Cum-Clerk J&K Grameen Bank Branch Office Kupwara during the period from June 28, 2007 to December 31, 2010 committed fraud to the tune of Rs. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 19.12 lakh by making ficti-

tious credit entries in transfer vouchers and corresponding false entries in relevant ledgers and Bank documents of various account holders of the said Bank, whereas no such credit was legitimately due to these account holders.

The amount to the tune of Rs. 19.12 lakh was withdrawn from account holders mentioned in FIR thereby wrongful loss to the tune of Rs. 19.12 lakh was caused to the Bank

The fact and circumstances under the said false credits were given and huge amount was withdrawn accordingly this FIR was registered

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Time to teach Pakistan a lesson': Cong; adopts Pahalgam attack resolution

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: Congress on Friday urged the Centre to act with firmness in the wake of the Pahalgam attack"penalise" Pakistan for its continued export of terror and asserted this is a time for demonstrating our collective will as a nation to "teach Pakistan a lesson".

Calling for national unity and resolve, the Congress also pressed for "time-bound accountability" into the "serious lapses" in security and intelligence in one of the most heavily-guarded regions

The opposition party made the assertions in a resolution passed by the Congress Working Committee (CWC) at its meeting which was chaired by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge. Former Congress presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and general secretaries Jairam Ramesh, K C Venugopal and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra among others attended the meeting.

"This is a time for demonstrating our collective will as a nation to teach Pakistan a lesson and curb terrorism decisively. The masterminds ardly attack must face full consequences for their actions," the resolution said. The Congress urged the

government to act with firmness, strategic clarity and international coordination to isolate and penalise Pakistan for its continued export of terror into our territory, according to the resolution.

"We must rise above partisan divides and send out an unambiguous message that India stands together, and will not be broken. "The entire country awaits

accountability, answers and justice. In the face of such ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Drugs worth Rs 547 crore were seized by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and 15 people arrested in this connection, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on

"Bharat is axing down drug cartels with ruthless aggression. The Amritsar Zonal Unit of the NCB axed a drug diversion cartel through a 4-month-long operation across 4 states, seizing drugs worth Rs 547 crore and arresting 15," Shah wrote on X.

He said this action is a giant stride towards building a drug-free India under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a major step towards the government's zero tolerance approach against drugs, the NCB has seized 1.36 crore psychotropic tablets from a distributor



in Himachal Pradesh and Delhi, an official release said.

The NCB has also seized 11,693 Codeine-based cough syrup (CBCS) bottles and 2.9 kg of Tramadol powder from a manufacture in Haridwar, Uttarakhand. The total value of seized drugs is around Rs. 547 crore.

The Amritsar zonal unit of the NCB busted major networks involved in illegal diversion and distribution of phar-

maceutical medicines for non-medical use across Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi.

A sustained intelligence-driven operation and 'Top to Bottom and Bottom to Top' approach in investigation of cases from December 2024 to April 2025 led to significant seizures and arrests, exposing a complex nexus between manufacturers, stockist, and front operators, the release said.

On April 20-21, 2025, the raids were conducted in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

The search in Uttarakhand resulted in seizure of 11,693 CBCS bottles and 2.9 kg of Tramadol powder from J R Pharmaceuticals.

The search at the premises of key distributor, Embit Bio Medix, Himachal Pradesh, resulted in the seizure of $19,25,200 \text{ tablets} \quad \blacksquare \text{ CONTD ON PAGE 9}$

Heavy rain triggers mudslides in Ramban, Jammu-Srinagar NH closed

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN/JAMMU: The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was closed after cloudburst-induced heavy rain triggered mudslides in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Friday, a traffic police officer said.

The heavy rain triggered flash floods in the Chenab river, prompting the authorities in Reasi and Akhnoor sectors to issue warnings about avoiding the riverbank.

"Vehicular movement has stopped from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway due to mudslides at Chamba Seri in Ramban following flash floods caused by a cloudburst," the traffic police officer said.



Commuters have been advised not to travel until the road is cleared.

"Please check the status of roads before starting your journey," the officer

Officials reported heavy rainfall following a cloudburst in the Chamba Seri area, triggering flash floods and mudslides on the highway, and a landin Chamba that

blocked the highway, he

There was no loss of life clear the highway.

National

or injury, he said and efforts were underway to

Highways

Authority of India (NHAI) project director Parshotam Kumar said three machines had been deployed to clear the highway.

Heavy rain induced by cloudburst had triggered flash floods and landslides in Ramban district on April 20, resulting in the deaths of three people and damage to scores of houses, shops and roads.

Hundreds of vehicles were left stranded after traffic on the strategic 250-kilometre national highway -the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country -- was suspended due to debris from the mountains blocking the route at nearly a dozen places between Nashri and Banihal.

'Pak has history with extremist groups, as a result we suffered': Bilawal

AGENCY

LONDON/ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has a past with extremist groups and suffered because of this, Pakistan Peoples Party chief Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said while answering a question on Islamabad backing terror

Bhutto-Zardari was asked in an interview with Sky News on Thursday whether he agreed with Defence Minister Khwaja Asif's controversial remark last week. Questioned if Pakistan has been supporting, training and funding terrorists, the minister had then said his country did the West's "dirty work" for decades.

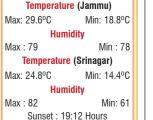
The Pakistan Peoples Party leader's remarks come amid heightened tension between India and Pakistan after ter-

rorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22.

Answering the question if he agreed with Asif's claim. Bhutto-Zardari said, "I don't think that it's a secret that Pakistan has a past as far as extremist groups are concerned. And as a result of this, we have suffered. Pakistan has suffered. We've gone through wave after vave of extremism.

"We went through the Islamisation and militarisation of our society. But as a result of what we suffered, we also learnt our lessons. We've gone through internal reforms in order to address this problem, not only for us, but also the concern of the international

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunrise: 05:44 Hours