

CCBL felicitates office bearers of Traders Federation Ware House

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: President of the Traders Federation Warehouse, Deepak Gupta reaffirmed his federations commitment to supporting the Citizens Cooperative Bank Ltd (CCBL) which is popular among Jammuites for its quick and best service.

He was speaking in an event organised by ware House Branch of the CCBL Jammu at its office while reiterating the promise he said that federation will provide all possible help to deal with the challenges arising at present.

Chairman of CCBL, Parveen Sharma, Director Charanjit Singh Raina, Managing Director Ravi Kant and several renowned businessmen of Jammu participated in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Deepak Gupta said that the Citizen Cooperative Bank Ltd has played an important role to boost the economy of Jammu City in particular and Jammu region in general.

He further said that the



CCBL office bearers felicitating President of Traders Federation Warehouse, Deepak Gupta.

bank contributes a lot to business community of Jammu and also providing employment opportunities to youth of Jammu region

He praised the present Chairman of the Bank, Parveen Sharma for his commitment towards bank and his honest approach to develop the institution .While praising the inclusion of Charanjit Singh Raina as director of the bank he said that persons of such an integrity helps the public to strengthen their trust upon the institution. He also lauded the staff for providing best service to its customers.

Parveen Sharma said that

the bank was established in the year 1978 and since then the bank continuously providing it's services to Jammuites and playing a vital role in strengthening the economy of Jammu region.

He disclosed that at present bank has about forty four thousand share holders and fifteen units are working in Jammu and Samba districts.

While explaining the facilities available in the bank, he said that the bank has provided Many modern facilities and soon other facilities will also be provided by the bank and present board is working

24 by 7 to achieve this goal. Sharma thanked Traders Federation Ware House for their full support to develop the institution.

Newly elected Director of the Bank, Charanjit Singh Raina said that the financials of the bank are improving and efforts are on to make this bank as one of the leading cooperative bank very soon.

Rampal, a leading businessman, praised the bank. He said that the service provided by the bank is unmatched. He assured the bank management that all the businessmen of ware House are with the bank.

The event started with the welcome address of the Branch Manager Rajeev Jandial and after that Managing Director Ravi Kant addressed the distinguished gathering.

Parveen Sharma honoured Deepak Gupta President Traders Federation Ware House Jammu with a memento, Chunri and portrait of Maa vaishno.

Other office bearers of federation who were honoured

on the occasion includes Dheeraj Mahajan Senior Vice President, Vishal Gupta Junior Vice President, Abhimanyu Gupta Secretary General, Rahul Mahajan Secretary, Nitish Mahajan Cashier, Satpal and Vivek Senior Members.

Branch office Ware House also honoured newly elected Chairman Parveen Sharma and Director Charanjit Singh Rain .

Bank also honoured few distinguished businessmen namely Rampal, Padam Dev Singh, Arun Sharma, Devinder , Vijay Kumar, Ghar Singh and Vivek Mehta.

Programme concluded the vote of thanks by Sanjeev Lamba, President the CCBL Staff Association.

The people who graced the occasion were Ranjna Sharma, Gopal Sharma, Tarsem Gupta, Sanjeev Khajuria, Sukhjeet Singh, Rajesh Gupta, Munish Angurana, Ashwani Bakshi, Ramnam Sharma, Rakesh Arora, Yashpal Singh, Rampal Gopi Nath Rana and Vikram Singh.

Sweets Shared, Spirits Lifted: Jammu Police South Zone spreads joy on Eid



SP City South, Ajay Sharma distributing sweet among children during Eid-Al-Adha celebration in Jammu.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion of Eid-Al-Adha, Jammu Police, South Zone, led by SP City South Ajay Sharma

along with SHOs and I/C PP's of South Zone, took a heartwarming initiative to strengthen bonds with the community by distributing sweets and extending festive greetings to citizens across various localities.

In a gesture of goodwill and brotherhood, police officers visited several areas within South Zone, personally interacting with the public, exchanging Eid Mubarak wishes, and offering sweets to the residents-especially children, shopkeepers, and senior citizens.

The initiative was well-received and created an atmosphere of joy and communal harmony.

The outreach reaffirmed Jammu Police's commitment to the motto "JKP - Awam Se, Awam Tak", ensuring that policing remains people-centric, compassionate, and inclusive. Jammu Police, South Zone wished everyone a safe, joyful, and peaceful Eid.

Vice-President Dhankhar calls on corporates to share profits with farm sector

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
BENGALURU: Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday stressed the critical role played by the farm sector in the nation's growth trajectory and called on corporates to share their profits with them. Interacting with industry leaders and entrepreneurs here, he said, "Time has come for corporates to share their profits with the farm sector. Your investment in research or farmland is not charity – it is a gainful investment."

He also urged the political parties in the country to bring down the political temperature and said, "The dialogue between political parties cannot be a confrontation–the dialogue has to be soothing. Democracy is defined, friends, by dialogue and discourse."

According to him, India is a thriving federal society where there has to be sync between the Centre and the States. Dialogue between leaders and political parties is vital–absence of dialogue will not be good for our national mindset.

"Issues of national security, issues connected with our nationalism, and issues connected to our development must be viewed from a national prism, not a partisan one. I do not doubt the political sagacity of people across the

spectrum—they are available in all political parties," he was quoted as saying in a statement issued by Vice President Secretariat. Invoking the Vedantic principle of freedom of expression, the Vice-President stated, "Democratic values—cannot be described without freedom of expression and debate. If someone attacks, frustrates or regulates your right to expression, then there is a deficiency in democracy." He noted that people in industry, unlike politics, are satisfied by balance sheets. "But greenfield projects are not emerging at the pace they should. Please think, converge in clusters to ensure equitable employment and growth," Dhankhar said. Speaking on farm-sector integration with industry, the Vice-President, said, "I come from a farming community. The farm sector plays a critical role in the nation's growth trajectory. But at the moment, it is only producing agro-products—it is not part of the marketing chain."

Calling for industry-farm convergence, he added, "Industry must brainstorm to bring greater synergy with the farm sector. Farmers need to be hand-held; agripreneurs must emerge, but they cannot do so without support."

On the future of India's

growth, Dhankhar underscored the role of research and innovation and said, "We must engage in research of the highest order. Our research capacity will define Bharat's global standing. Our technological innovation will define how secure we are." Touching upon strategic peace, he observed that, "peace is fundamental to business and people's harmony. But peace is never bargained—it comes from strength. The greatest peace is secured when we are ever prepared for war." Highlighting the evolution of industry's role in national security, he noted, "There was a time when industry only manufactured armoury. Now, it must lead in technology. Research is the spine of long-term growth."

Declaring that Bharat is on an unstoppable rise, the Vice-President stated, "Bharat is no longer a country of potential—it is a country on the rise. 'Viksit Bharat' is no longer our dream—it is our objective. But we must take a quantum leap by increasing per capita income manifold."

Urging a practical outlook, he added, "We must juxtapose our economic status with our demographic size –1.4 billion people. On empirical estimates, there must be an eightfold increase in per capita income."

Soldiers injured in Operation Sindoor again ready to give befitting reply to Pakistan: BSF DIG

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Asserting that soldiers injured in the attack carried out by Pakistan in response to Operation Sindoor have returned from hospital with high morale, a senior BSF officer on Saturday said they are once again ready to give Pakistan a befitting reply in case of any misadventure.

He said the Border Security Force (BSF) is guarding the borders excellently, and no one needs to worry as long as the Force is standing on the borders.

"It has been over one month since Operation Sindoor. The personnel from our forces who were injured have now returned from the hospital. The morale of the Border Security Force is extremely high," BSF DIG Prabhakar Joshi told reporters here. He said the soldiers who were injured have returned from the hospital and are once again ready to take revenge against Pakistan. "This time, they are prepared with double the strength compared to before to confront any fresh misadventure from Pakistan and to give a fitting reply, one that will make them remember it painfully for generations to come."

He praised the jawans and said these are the brave BSF jawans who gave a fierce reply

to Pakistan's shelling during Operation Sindoor from May 7-10. "They are ready for duty again. Our reply was so strong, Pakistan's future generations will remember it. India speaks less, strikes hard," he said.

The DIG said the BSF has responded on the border with full strength. "Not a single BSF post has been withdrawn and even those beyond the fence are holding their ground firmly," he said. On the security front, he said patrolling on the border is being carried out with utmost vigilance and the safety of the posts is being ensured. "The Border Security Force is guarding the borders excellently and as long as the BSF is standing on the borders, no one needs to worry," he added.

The DIG said the nation has full faith that her brave security forces will respond effectively, giving Pakistan such a lesson that it will never forget in its lifetime. "If Pakistan dares to repeat its misadventures, our forces are fully prepared to give a crushing reply once again," he added. The injured officers, four of them, have returned to their duties and expressed high morale to serve at their posts.

Sub-Inspector of BSF Vyas Dev, whose one leg suffered a major battle injury during Operation Sindoor, said he has suffered a major disability but

has not lost his spirit. "Even today, we stand ready to return to the border and give a befitting reply to Pakistan," he said.

Dev, who lost two colleagues during a bomb shell attack on his post, said this is the courage that defines the country's security forces. "We are proud of it. We are ready to give a befitting

reply. "I am ready to give a befitting reply to Pakistan if it dares to mess with us. It was an opportunity for me to take part in Operation Sindoor," he said.

Similarly, another jawan, Constable Bhupendra Vajpayee of BSF from Rachareli, Uttar Pradesh, has joined duty again after recovering from his battle

injury. "On May 9, during Operation Sindoor, Pakistan fired heavily on our BOP. We responded with full force.

"Despite injuries from a drone attack, I am back and ready for duty. This time, we will not only stop them but also hoist the Tricolour on their soil," he said.

Amit Shah to visit Tamil Nadu, to devise strategy for 2026 polls: BJP

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
CHENNAI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah would visit Madurai on June 8, during which he is set to review the preparedness of the party to face the Tamil Nadu Assembly election next year and devise a strategy to fight polls, BJP sources said on Saturday. Shah, in a post on 'X,' said: "Leaving for Tamil Nadu. Tomorrow, will chair a meeting of the state core committee of the Tamil Nadu BJP, in Madurai. In the evening, will interact with state, district, and mandal-level office bearers of the BJP in Madurai. Looking forward to attending the programs."

Senior party leader Tamilisai Soundararajan told reporters that Shah will be in Madurai on Sunday and leaders including her were going to the southern city with enthusiasm and she hit out at the ruling DMK alleging the Dravidian party feared that the Saffron outfit grow further by gaining more strength. According to BJP sources, on June 8, Shah would have darshan at the Madurai Meenakshi temple and then address party leaders and office-bearers on election preparedness, and also hold meetings with "various stakeholders." BJP state vice

president Narayanan Tirupathi said Shah's visit would be a big morale booster for the party cadres.

"He will be meeting our mandal, district and state office-bearers and discuss and devise the strategy to face the election in Tamil Nadu in 2026," he told PTI. Assembly election is due in Tamil Nadu by April-May 2026.

Asked on speculations on firming up an alliance with the PMK during Shah's visit, Narayanan said the top leader's visit had nothing to do with such matters. "Shah will be addressing party office-bearers and cadres till the level of mandal," he said, adding the visit was also about strengthening further the party organisation. BJP state general secretary Raama Sreenivasan, in his social media account, posted his sound-bite to a Tamil news media outlet, in which he said the "messaging" behind Shah's Tamil Nadu visit is the "commencement" of countdown to the DMK regime beginning June 8, and that was why the ruling DMK feared the top leader's visit.

On April 11, 2025, Shah, during his visit to Tamil Nadu, announced the revival of the alliance between the BJP and AIADMK.

Mithi River desilting: ED summons actor Dino Morea; freezes Rs 1.25-cr worth deposits, cash

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
MUMBAI: At least eight people, including actor Dino Morea, his brother and some BMC officials, have been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate for questioning next week in a money laundering case linked to an alleged Rs 65 crore worth Mithi River desilting "scam", official sources said on Saturday.

The federal agency, in a statement, said that it has frozen and seized cash and deposits worth about Rs 1.25 after conducting searches at 18 locations in Mumbai in Maharashtra and Kochi and Thrissur in Kerala on Friday.

The sources said around eight to nine people, including actor Dino Morea, his brother Santino Rocco Morea, some Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials and contractors, have been asked to appear before the agency in Mumbai on different dates next week.

Their statements will be

recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) once they depose, they said.

The ED said the raids covered the office and residential premises linked to BMC engineer Prashant Ramgude, contractor Bhupendra Purohit, Kerala-based company Matprop Technical Service Pvt Ltd., director of Virgo Specialities Pvt. Ltd. Jay Joshi, controller of Woder India LLP Ketan Kadam, Dino Morea's house in Bandra (West) area of Mumbai and that of his brother Santino.

The agency called the Morea brothers "close associates" of Kadam, an arrested alleged middleman in the case.

The money laundering case stems from a Mumbai Police economic offences wing (EOW) FIR filed in May against 13 people, including contractors and civic officials, for an alleged Rs 65.54 crore scam in the tenders awarded from 2017-2023 for desilting

of the Mithi River which flows through Mumbai and acts as a stormwater drainage channel for the metro city.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led undivided Shiv Sena controlled the cash-rich BMC from 1997 till the party's split in 2022. After the expiry of the general body in 2022, the civic body was controlled by the state government, which was then headed by Eknath Shinde. It was alleged by the police in its complaint that BMC officials tailored the tender for the desilting contract in such a way that it benefited a particular supplier of machinery, and the contractors reportedly generated fraudulent bills for transporting the sludge out of Mumbai.

Evidence collected during the course of the investigation and search operation prima facie indicate that Prashant Ramgude, Bhupendra Purohit, Jay Joshi, Ketan Kadam, officials of Matprop Technical Service and others "colluded" to form a "cartel"

with the intent to manipulate BMC tenders related to the desilting of the Mithi River, the ED said.

This action "effectively conferred a monopoly in the award of desilting contracts of Mithi river and caused payments at inflated rates for desilting works resulting in undue gains to the contractors and associated parties, thereby causing financial loss to the public exchequer," it alleged in the statement.

It claimed these "undue" financial gains have been concealed by layering them through certain shell companies (bogus firms), which were formed by collusion amongst Ketan Kadam, Bhupendra Purohit, Prashant Ramgude and other private individuals.

Morea and his brother were questioned by the Mumbai Police EOW in this case last month.

The 49-year-old actor has been questioned twice by the police. The Morea brothers, it

is understood, were questioned by the police about their purported links with Kadam and Joshi (also arrested by police) apart from some financial transactions made in a company linked to Santino. Kadam and Joshi, according to police, were involved in the renting out of 'silt pusher' machines and multi-purpose amphibious pontoon machines to contractors who were carrying out Mithi river desilting work.

The ED said it seized Rs 7 lakh in cash and froze 22 bank accounts and fixed deposits apart from a demat account during the searches. It was not specified by the agency what was seized from where.

"The total amount of seizure/freezing of proceeds of crime is more than Rs 1.25 crore so far," it said. The plan to desilt the river was under the Mumbai civic authorities following the 2005 floods, which brought the city to a grinding halt.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: The India Pavilion at the ongoing World Expo in Osaka is a celebration of the country's rich heritage, and its design with sustainability at core draws inspiration from the image of Bodhisattva Padmapani in the ancient Ajanta Caves.

A top official of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) here on Saturday said, the pavilion with its iconic facade with blue lotus motif, is currently among the "top five most-visited pavilions" at the mega fair in Japan.

Later, the IGNCA, in a statement, said that the other four countries in the top five list, whose pavilions are drawing huge crowd are – the US, Italy, Japan and France.

The India Pavilion stands as a testament to the nation's ancient wisdom, modern ambitions and global partnerships, officials said.

Strategically placed in the 'Connecting Lives' zone at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka, the pavilion captures India's civilizational depth while highlighting its technological advancement and commitment to sustainable development.

"It embodies the nation's values of inclusivity, sustainability and progress, serving as a bridge between its spiritual heritage and its ambitious future," according to a booklet on the pavilion shared by the IGNCA. The IGNCA is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture.

Sachidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA during an interaction with

reporters said the the blue lotus with 24 petals, also carries the message of Lord Buddha while adhering to the idea of sustainability as they are made of a type of fibre that is biodegradable. The imagery is drawn from a mural at the ancient Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra depicting the Bodhisattva Padmapani, holding a lotus in his right hand.

"The design of the pavilion is a tribute to Bodhisattva Padmapani (the Bodhisattva of Compassion) from the iconic Ajanta Caves, symbolising compassion, enlightenment and knowledge," the booklet says.

Through a seamless blend of architecture, storytelling and immersive experiences, the pavilion creates a dynamic space for cultural exchange, reinforcing its role in fostering global connections, it adds

The Pavilion comprises diverse sections dedicated to innovation, heritage, Ayurveda, ISRO, and sustainable development, offering a compelling narrative of India's journey from its subterranean treasures to outer space. While paying homage to the past, the Pavilion also envisions the possibilities of the future, IGNCA officials said

The cost incurred on the construction of the pavilion was around Rs 225 crore, exclusive of ancillary operational costs, they said.

Joshi said a huge 'Bodhi Tree' installation is inside the pavilion, besides sections on Indian textile heritage, terracotta artworks and a brass gallery.

"The pavilion spans 1,751 sq

m, the indoor display is in an 'x-box' category structure allotted by the expo authorities to which not even a nail can be added. So, we wrapped a simple looking box with a blue lotus artwork, thereby both enhancing its appeal and projecting India's cultural heritage," he said.

Besides, plaques made of soils brought from different states and UTs and mixed in India, depicting cultural elements of different states have also been showcased, to depict the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat', the member secretary said.

Other zones inside the pavilion include bilateral spaces for diplomatic engagements, the Bharat Bazaar, Indian food zone showcasing the country's street food besides a corporate hub. Sources said the huge petals of the blue lotus were manufactured in Bengaluru, and along with other artefacts and civil material were transported by air from Chennai to Japan via Hong Kong.

Since, some of the structures were very huge and had a massive weight, they had to be transported in parts in different flights, which were reassembled in Japan, they said, emphasising the challenges faced in putting together the pavilion.

This initiative is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Commerce, with the guidance of the Ministry of Culture, and is being realised with institutional collaboration from the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and the IGNCA.

AMNS India supplied 25,000 MT steel for Chenab Bridge project: Co statement

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: AMNS India has said it supplied 70 per cent steel for Chenab Bridge and 100 per cent steel for Anji Khad Bridge projects, which were inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday.

AMNS India supplied 25,000 metric tonnes of high-strength structural

steel, accounting for 70 per cent of the total steel used in the Chenab Bridge, the company said in a statement.

This included specialised steel grades for different components, high-strength steel for the arch and tailored grades for the pillars, it said.

For the Anji Khad

Bridge, AMNS India said it has supplied about 7,000 metric tonnes of customised fabricated steel structures, meeting 100 per cent of the bridge's steel requirement.

The steel for both projects was produced at its Hazira facility in Gujarat at Ranjan Dhar, Director and Vice President, Sales &

Marketing, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India), said, "The Chenab and Anji Khad Bridge is not just an engineering marvel but a symbol of India's advancing self-reliance and industrial strength. Our contribution to this landmark project reflects our deep alignment with the national develop-

ment goals championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) is a joint venture between ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel.

The company has a crude steel capacity of 9 million tonnes per annum at its plant in Hazira, Gujarat.

