

Jal Shakti deptt tests 2.66 lakh drinking water samples across 6,122 villages in J&K during 2024-25

SRINAGAR, MAY 17: The J&K, comprising a network of 02 drinking water supplied across the Union Territory level and 20 Union Territory is safe for district level NABL accredited consumption with its regular labs besides 76 Sub-divisional monitoring under a robust and level testing facilities. During the financial year 2024-25, a total of 2.66 lakh monitoring and surveillance water quality tests were conducted covering 6,122 villages

in J&K. Out of these, only 78 samples were found to be contaminated, primarily due to turbidity, which is a temporary and seasonal phenomenon usually occurring during heavy rains. Immediate remedial measures were taken in 76 of these cases, UT's better performance in resulting in a 98% rate of corrective action, which stands significantly higher than the national average of 62%. Moreover, the contamination rate of 0.03% in J&K is notably lower than the national contamination average of 4.1%, showcasing the UT's better performance in ensuring water safety.

It is also pertinent to mention The Department of Jal Shakti that during the ongoing financial year 2025-26, around 25,000 samples have already been tested, providing safe and clean drinking water to every household in so far, and not a single case of Jammu & Kashmir. Any sporadic contamination has been reported. issue like those arising due to These figures reflect the turbidity are being swiftly seriousness with which the addressed through a well department treats water safety. established protocol.

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People first, always: CM Omar Abdullah reiterates commitment to resolving public grievances

Chairman of the Industrial Growth Centre, Lassipora brought attention to issues concerning the Industrial Estate at Lassipora, Pulwama, seeking policy and infrastructure support for industrial growth. A delegation from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) presented their grievances related to service conditions. All J&K Panchayat Secretaries Association highlighted issues surrounding their career progression and service regularization. Residents from Nishat, Srinagar brought local concerns to the notice of the Chief Minister, including land-related matters and basic civic infrastructure. In addition, several individuals met the Chief Minister to discuss a wide range of personal and community issues. The Chief Minister assured all deputations that their concerns would be addressed on priority and resolved through a responsive and people-centric approach.

Lieutenant Governor Addresses Soldiers at LoC

“Our neighbour is bent on destroying humanity on the strength of debt. I think they must have learnt a lesson from the reply given by our brave soldiers. I salute your valour, bravery and devotion towards Maa Bharti and pray to God that whenever such a crisis comes, the people should know that our country is in the safe hands of heroes like you,” the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor also reviewed security situation on the ground with army and police officials. He said the country is grateful to our Armed Forces for protecting the lives and ensuring the sanctity of our borders with alertness, dedication, bravery and supreme sacrifice. “I am confident that our Jawans will firmly deal with any misadventure by the enemy,” the Lieutenant Governor added.

Dy CM Surinder visits Shelling Victim’s Family in Khari Chinore, assures full support

Government stands in solidarity with every citizen who has been affected by the ongoing cross-border shelling. Our administration is committed to providing every possible support to the affected families.” He emphasized that the Omar government would ensure that proper compensation, relief, and rehabilitation are extended to victims and assured the people that safety measures are being strengthened along the border to prevent further loss of life and property.

Adv. Rattan Lal Gupta expressed resentment against the Central Government for maintaining a “criminal silence” over the plight of the people living along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC), who have been continuously facing the brunt of shelling. Rattan Lal Gupta highlighted that the recent spate of hostilities has taken a heavy toll, especially in the border district of Poonch, where 13 civilians lost their lives and over 50 sustained serious injuries. “These are not just statistics—they are shattered families, broken homes, and traumatized communities,” he added. The Provincial President lamented the absence of any concrete response or relief announcement from the Central Government, even after the passage of over a week. “The silence is deafening. What the border residents need now is not apathy, but empathy—and immediate action,” he stated.

The senior NC leader urged officials from the Revenue and Rural Development Departments to promptly conduct damage assessments and ensure that no genuine case is left out. He stressed the need for swift, transparent compensation disbursement as per norms. The Provincial President reiterated the demand for a comprehensive special package from the Centre for the shelling victims, along with concrete steps for the safety and long-term welfare of the border population. “The National Conference under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will continue to be the voice of the people and fight for justice and adequate relief at every relevant forum,” he affirmed.

Among others present during the visit included Sheikh Bashir Ahmad, Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Rakesh Singh Raka, Dilshad Malik Central Vice Presidents, Subash Bhagat former corporator, Block President and other party functionaries.

Shashi Tharoor, Eknath Shinde's son among seven team leaders to carry India’s message against terrorism

Minister Narendra Modi had called a meeting of only NDA chief ministers on 25 May to “take political mileage from Operation Sindoor”. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, who had complained about the PM’s meeting, later said: “Keeping national interest above all, Congress will certainly join the delegation of multi-party MPs. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has spoken to the Congress President, who will depute party leaders.” Members of Parliament from different parties, prominent political personalities and distinguished diplomats will be part of each delegation. “The All-Party Delegations will project India's national consensus and resolute approach to combating terrorism in all forms and manifestations. They would carry forth to the world the country's strong message of zero-tolerance against terrorism,” per the government.

Press Communique

In case of a death of a civilian, the ex-gratia has been increased from Rs.1 Lakh to Rs.2.5 lakh, which is two-and-a-half-fold increase (250% enhancement). In case of permanent disability due to violence or civil commotion, the ex-gratia has been enhanced from Rs.75,000 to Rs.1.5 lakh. In case of death of ex-servicemen (Police), the ex-gratia has been increased by 200%, from existing Rs.2 Lakh to Rs.4 Lakh. In case of permanent disability for ex-police personnel, ex-gratia has been enhanced from Rs.75,000 to Rs. 1.5 Lakh.

At present, in case of death of a Magistrate on duty, the existing ex-gratia is Rs.2 Lakh. This has been enhanced to Rs. 5 Lakh by the Lieutenant Governor. In case of permanent disability of Magistrate while on duty, the ex-gratia would be Rs.1.5 Lakh.

Under the SRE scheme, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has also approved the ex-gratia for village defence guards. In case of death of VDGs, the ex-gratia has been enhanced from Rs.1 Lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh

and in case of permanent disability, the ex-gratia would be Rs.1.5 Lakh. In case of death of government employee while on duty due to violence, the ex-gratia has been increased by 500% and it has been enhanced to Rs.5 Lakh from existing Rs.1 Lakh. In case of permanent disability, the ex-gratia has been increased from Rs. 75,000 to Rs.1.5 Lakh. The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to the people who made the supreme sacrifice in service to the nation. He said, India has been subjected to cross-border terrorism for many decades but “Operation Sindoor” has drawn a new red line, marking a shift from deterrence to direct action. “Pakistan will have to pay a very heavy price for any future misadventure. Our response will be visible and forceful. At the same time, we are focusing on the well-being of the people playing a highly effective role in ensuring internal security and holistic development of Jammu Kashmir Union territory. It is my commitment to ensure that the NoKs of martyred citizens, ex policemen, VDGs and Government employees live a life of comfort and dignity,” the Lieutenant Governor further said.

Power shutdown

May 18 from 6 am to 12 noon. Likewise, the power supply to Basohli, PHE, Dewal, Tandi, Bani, Bhandar, Sewa, Mashka, Duggan, Dhagger and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 18 from 7 am to 1 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Shant Nagar, Dhok Paloura, Patoli Chowk, PHE, EWS Colony, Roop Nagar some part of Muthi and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 18 from 8 am to 10 am. Likewise, the power supply to Pathi, Dairy Farm, Devik and Jakhani will remain affected on May 18 and 19 from 8 am to 12 noon. Similarly, the power supply to Battal Ballian and Airforce will remain affected on May 18 from 6 am to 10 am. Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Rajbagh, Jasrota, Channi and Amala will remain affected on May 18 from 7.30 am to 11 am. Similarly, the power supply to Jakh and adjoining areas will remain affected on May 18 from 6 am to 1 pm.

Marathon review meeting held to assess civic infrastructure within JMC Jurisdiction

relevant and beneficial to the local population’ they added. The MLAs highlighted various projects of developmental need from their respective constituencies and called for prompt action. These included beautification and upgradation of amusement parks, installation and repair of street lights and High Mast lights, regular maintenance of public parks, removal of encroachments from Nallahs, enhancement in the pace of projects being executed under Jammu Smart City Limited, ensuring uninterrupted water supply, and initiating e-bus services on underserved routes, conduct the drive for removal of posters which deface the public property, installation of decorative poles, installation of benches at jhullas in parks, time bound implementation of tenders, desilting of nallahs, allocation of funds as per population and area of wards, , e-bus service for Sainik Colony via Greater Kailash, construction of CTPT toilets. Dr. Devansh Yadav reiterated the importance of involving elected representatives in the planning process to ensure that developmental initiatives are grounded in community needs. He welcomed the suggestions from the MLAs and assured that the JMC would take proactive measures to address the identified concerns. “JMC remains committed to fostering inclusive, responsive, and citizen-centric urban governance in close coordination with public representatives and stakeholders,” he added. Among others, Joint Commissioner (A) Krishan Lal, Joint Commissioner (H&S) Abdul Star, Joint Commissioner (W) Firdous Qazi, Deputy Commissioner (south) Lal Chand, SE, PHE, Sunil Gandotra, besides other senior officers of JMC and senior engineers of various wings attended the meeting.

Swachhata Pakhwada 2025 underway at POWERGRID Jammu

virtues of Swachhata and healthiness. On the opening day i.e. 16th Of May,2025, the Swachhata Pledge was solemnly administered by Executive Director Northern Region-II, Shri Tarun Bajaj to all the employees at RHQ Jammu. During the event, Sh. Tarun Bajaj emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness in our surroundings and urged everyone to actively engage in Swachhata-related initiatives. His inspiring words served as a powerful reminder of our collective duty towards a cleaner and healthier environment, reinforcing our commitment to the nation. Simultaneously, the Swachhata Pledge was also taken by employees and supporting staff across all Stations under NRTS-II, marking a unified effort towards this noble cause.

Today on 17th of May, a massive cleanliness drive was undertaken by the employees of Regional Office, Jammu wherein they cleaned the areas in the vicinity of Bahu Plaza . The drive was effective as it managed to give a serene effect to the area and inspired the general public to keep their vicinity clean. The Drive was led by Sh. Sanjiv Chowan, Sr. General Manager(Projects) and Sh. Vinod P Baxla ,Genneral Manager(HR) and was joined by almost all employees posted in RHQ. The contractual employees also gave their contribution in this successful drive. Similar cleanliness drives are being organised in the rest of the establishments of the Region.

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED is a Maharatna Enterprise under Ministry of Power having its regional headquarters of Northern Region-II at Jammu. POWERGRID is engaged in inter-state bulk power transmission. POWERGRID has 180,239ckm of transmission lines, 283 Sub-stations and more than 564,961 MVA of transformation capacity. With the adoption of latest technological tools and techniques, enhanced use of automation and digital solutions, POWERGRID has been able to maintain average transmission system availability >99%. POWERGRID performance has been consistently Excellent by achieving very difficult measurable parameters which are set in MoU signed with Ministry of Power, Government of India.

POWERGRID, Northern Region -II with headquarter in Jammu is having its Transmission System spread over in the states of Punjab,

Himachal Pradesh, parts of Haryana and UT of Chandigarh, Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir.

Awareness event held at Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar

organised by Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr. Balvinder Singh in the conference hall of the Hospital and attended by senior Consultants, Medical Officers, Paramedics and nursing students. World Hypertension Day was also observed at Directorate of Health Services Jammu under the guidance of the Director Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar and support of ZLO/ Divisional Nodal Officer NCD Dr. Sushma Mattoo.

As part of the program, BP screening of all Officers and Officials of the Directorate and adjoining offices was conducted. They were advised to maintain a healthy lifestyle and incorporate physical exercise, avoid smoking, drink plenty of water, get routine checkup, reduce salt intake and to avoid stress to reduce the risk of hypertension.

The Day was also observed in health institutions of all Districts and Blocks of Jammu Division with active participation of Chief Medical Officers, Medical Superintendents and Block Medical Officers along with Officers and Officials of respective Districts and Blocks.

'Operation Sindoor' changed India's discourse, Indus Water Treaty done in haste: Dr Jitendra

opportunity to India to showcase before its countrymen and also the rest of the world its defence prowess based on the latest warfare technologies. But, what is more significant, he said, is that all this technology and the technical knowhow in warfare was acquired and developed only in the last 10 years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over in 2014. He said, defence purchases had virtually come to a halt and new defence equipment had virtually been stopped developing before 2014. All the technologies and equipment have been developed only in the last 10 years and any one is free to verify this with facts and figures. Even the TOTs-the Transfer of Technologies and some vital equipment development happened only in the last 10 years.

At the same time he pointed out that while the defence budget went up many times, India which was an importer of defence equipment has now turned into an exporter with its export going up several times. Operation Sindoor, said Dr Jitendra Singh, also provided an opportunity for the Modi government to vindicate all the spade work that had been done over the last ten years at two levels, (a) in the warfare against the hostile country and (b) in the protection of its border area residents. For example, he said, he can authenticate from his personal experience because a large span of International Border is a part of his Lok Sabha Constituency where nearly 2,500 family bunkers with all the living amenities, almost like a one room apartment, were built. At the same time, he added, roads were constructed up to zero line whereas the UPA government had adopted a policy of not constructing roads near the borders and at the same time to bring ease of living and given equal level playing field to the border dwellers mobile towers were also built up to the zeroline. All this came to utility during the few days of the warfare witnessed, which had raised the morale of the border dwellers very high because they were confident that any air attack on them would get defused before reaching the land. Dr Jitendra Singh said, Operation Sindoor has send out important message at three levels..... domestically it has convinced the countryman that India is now ready to play the role of a global leader, to Pakistan it has convincingly conveyed that India of today is no longer the India of 1965 or 1971 and internationally it has been loudly conveyed that India is emerging is a force to reckon with, a rising economy which no other country can stop and third that India's diplomatic credibility vis-a-vis other countries is much higher internationally. Earlier, speaking about the book released by him, Dr Jitendra Singh appreciated the book ‘Kashmir Chronicles' as a well documented, well chronicled and well researched account and one of the latest editions to a host of other books written on the subject. He said, the difference between this book and earlier books on Jammu & Kashmir on the subject is that it has been written by an author who had the advantage of keeping his writing above all kinds of biases or predetermined notions and at the same time as a Kashmiri Pandit settled abroad for several decades he could give a perspective of each event both from close quarters and it appears when seen from a distance. The Pahalgam incident Dr. Jitendra Singh said has also vindicated a longstanding view taken by the like minded thinkers like him that there is no such issue as the Kashmir issue and the militancy in Kashmir was also the creation of a vested interest and a dubious nexus between certain sections of polity, certain section of newer age and the foreign sponsored operators. Also it has vindicated our longstandingthat the terrorist is the biggest violator of human rights. Describing the mass-exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from Kashmir valley as one of the greatest tragedies of the recent history which could be compared only with the exchange of population that happened during partition in 1947 but what was worse in this case was that at that time the exchange of populations happened as a sequel to the creation of a new country whereas the Kashmiri Pandits had to suffer the agony of becoming homeless in their own homeland and at the same time being hounded out all of a sudden and forced to leave their homes without any definite destination to seek shelter. Before concluding his talk Dr. Jitendra Singh emphatically declared that the next destination for India is going to be the Viksit Bharat of 2047 when independent India would celebrate its 100th birthday and the next agenda for India would be to retrieve the Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir which also is possibly only by PM Modi. Earlier, the author of the book Dr Vijay K Sazawal spoke in detail about his personal experience both as a Kashmiri Pandit living in exile and also the perspective of Jammu & Kashmir viewed by him over the last several years as well as USA perspective visavis Jammu & Kashmir . Brig (Retd.) Brijesh Pandey as the defence expert spoke in detail about the defence aspects with relation to Jammu & Kashmir. Dr Kuldeep Ratnoo, Director , India Policy Foundation delivered the welcome address while Girdhari Lal Raina, former MLC delivered the Vote Of Thanks.

