

North in News

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Amit Shah to review Amarnath Yatra security preparedness on June 8

NEW DELHI, JUN 3: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a high-level security review meeting in the national capital on June 8 to assess preparations for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting is expected to be attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, intelligence agencies, the Army, Central Armed



Police Forces (CAPFs), and key officers of the Jammu and Kashmir administration. According to official sources, the Home

Minister will evaluate the readiness of security and civil departments involved in the annual pilgrimage and review measures aimed at ensuring the smooth, secure, and successful conduct of the Yatra. Discussions are likely to focus on deployment of security personnel along the traditional Pahalgam and Baltal routes, counter-terrorism strategies, protection of pilgrim convoys, emergency response mechanisms, healthcare facilities, communication systems, and overall logistical arrangements. Officials are also expected to brief the Home Minister on the prevailing security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the steps

being taken to safeguard pilgrims throughout the pilgrimage period. Special attention is likely to be given to intelligence coordination among various agencies, surveillance measures along the Yatra routes, and contingency plans to tackle any unforeseen challenges or security threats. The review meeting forms part of the Centre's broader strategy to ensure robust security coverage and efficient facilities for thousands of devotees expected to participate in this year's Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Media's role vital in guiding society towards positive change: Governor Kavinder Gupta

SHIMLA, JUNE 3: The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Kavinder Gupta today described the media as an integral pillar of the democratic framework, emphasizing that its role extends beyond the dissemination of information to educating society and guiding people towards constructive and positive change. The Governor was addressing a gathering at the launch of High Flyer, a coffee table book published by a leading media group, in Shimla. On the occasion, he felicitated distinguished achievers from diverse fields whose accomplishments have been featured in the publication. Highlighting the



growing importance of responsible journalism in the age of rapid information exchange, Kavinder Gupta said that the credibility of the media rests on its commitment to truth, accuracy and objectivity. He observed that balanced and fact-based reporting strengthens democratic values, promotes transparency and helps create an informed and aware citizenry. The Governor commended the media for its role in shaping public opinion and fostering social awareness. He noted that initiatives such as High Flyer not only recognize excellence but also provide a platform for showcasing inspiring stories of individuals who

(Contd on Pg 2)

Ladakh to develop 10 Model Border Hamlets

LEH/JAMMU, JUNE 3: Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Wednesday said the union territory will develop 10 model border hamlets under the vibrant village programme, with the foundation stone of the first such village laid at Chumur in eastern Ladakh. Addressing locals during the launch of the project, Saxena described the initiative as a matter of pride and said the enthusiastic participation of villagers reflected their aspirations and wholehearted support for the ambitious programme. "The vibrant vil-



lage programme, envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to create self-reliant, climate-resilient, tourism-enabled and economically vibrant border villages in India's high-altitude frontier regions", he added. Located at an altitude of 16,700 feet along the Indo-China border, Chumur comprises 24 households with a population of 91 people, all of whom are engaged in Pashmina rearing and production. Saxena

(Contd on Pg 2)

21 killed in South Delhi Hotel Fire, several foreigners among dead

Manoj Sinha, Omar express grief over loss of lives

NEW DELHI, JUN 3: A massive fire broke out in a hotel in a congested bylane in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar area on Wednesday, killing at least 21 people, including foreigners whose ailing relatives were being treated in hospitals nearby. The blaze at the Flourish Stay B&B in Hanz Rani in Malviya Nagar started around 8.30 am and quickly spread, catching everybody unawares. Rescue workers, including many locals, rushed to the spot to pull out those trapped inside the five-floor narrow building. About 40 people were rescued and rushed to hospital where 21 were declared brought dead, offi-



cial said. The death toll could rise with several of the injured in a critical condition. The hotel had permission for only six rooms, granted under the Delhi govern-

ment's bed and breakfast policy, but was operating 25 police officials said. Rooms had also come up in the basement. In a tragedy that was perhaps waiting to hap-

pen, they said the hotel had only one entry-exit. The fire NOC is under the scanner. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. Among the casualties were foreign nationals, many from Central Asian and African countries, staying in the hotel to attend to their kin admitted in Max Hospital minutes away. Visuals from the area - with narrow lanes, overhanging wires and cramped buildings haphazardly sharing space - showed high flames rising in the air and wires twisted out of shape in the heat bearing precariously. Glass lay shattered all around the smoke charred building. Teams from the

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BRIEF NEWS

J&K Bank wins Gold at Finacle Innovation Awards 2026

SRINAGAR, JUN 3: J&K Bank has bagged Gold award at the Finacle Innovation Awards 2026 in the category for "Modern Technologies-led Innovation - Data Insights & Analytics Platform". Its MD and CEO Amitava Chatterjee, along with General Manager (Strategy & IT/CIO) Mohammad Mazaffar Wani, received the award at an event organised by Infosys Finacle in Mumbai, a spokesperson said. This award underscores J&K Bank's emergence as a technology-driven financial institution, marking another significant milestone in its digital transformation journey. The significance of the recognition

(Contd on Pg 2)

Raids carried out in 6 Kashmir districts in terror related case

SRINAGAR, JUN 3: Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) unit of police on Wednesday carried out raids in several districts of the valley in a case related to terror activities, officials said. The officials said based on recent intelligence inputs, technical analysis and sustained investigation, they had identified eight locations in six districts where searches were conducted in the early hours of Wednesday. The searches were conducted at two places each in Srinagar and Baniptora districts; and one each in Kupwara, Anantnag, Kathgam and Baramulla districts. The case

(Contd on Pg 2)

Anti-Terror 'Operation Sherwali' Enters Its Twelfth Day in Rajouri

RAJOURI, JUN 3: A joint anti-terror operation by the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) entered its twelfth day on Wednesday in the dense forest areas of Gambhir, Mughlan and Dorimal in the Manjakote sector of Rajouri district. The security forces are continuing efforts to track down suspected terrorists believed to be hiding in the region. The security forces were seen checking the ID cards of travellers and locals, conducting intensive search operations in

(Contd on Pg 2)

HC Upholds Acquittal in 680 Grams Heroin Recovery Case

JAMMU, JUNE 3 (JNF): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has upheld the acquittal of a Ramban resident in a case involving the alleged recovery of 680 grams of heroin, ruling that the prosecution failed to comply with mandatory safeguards prescribed under the NDPS Act. A Division Bench comprising Justice Sindhu Sharma and Justice Shahzad Azeem dismissed an appeal filed by the State challenging the 2012 acquittal of Mohd. Irfan, who had been booked by Police Station Ganyal under Section 21 of the NDPS Act. According to the prosecution, Irfan was intercepted during a naka checking operation near City Farm, Greater Kailash, Jammu, on March 8, 2010, and a packet containing 680 grams of heroin was allegedly recovered from his person. However, the High Court found that the prosecution had failed to establish compliance with Section 50 of the NDPS Act, which mandates that an accused must be informed of his right to be searched before a Gazetted Officer or a Magistrate. The Bench observed that the evidence on record did not show that the accused was ever apprised of this statutory right. The Court noted that

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CBSE Says 40,000 Students Complete Re-Evaluation Process Without Issues

NEW DELHI, JUN 3: Nearly 40,000 students have availed the verification and re-evaluation facility and completed the application process successfully without any issues till Wednesday morning, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said. The board said payment gateways of State Bank of India (SBI), Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda and Indian Bank are available on the Verification and Re-evaluation portal, adding that students are not required to have an account with these banks to complete the payment process. "Students need not have an account with these banks to complete payment but can use any of these payment gateways to make payments," CBSE said.

Candidates may use online payment options including UPI, net banking, credit card and debit card through the designated gateways, it said. "Please rely on official CBSE communications for correct information," the board added. The portal was launched after a delay, with the CBSE having earlier said that applications for verification and re-evaluation of answer books were expected to begin by May 29. The development comes following concerns raised by some students and parents over the on-screen marking (OSM) system used by the CBSE. The board has faced criticism from students and parents over technical

(Contd on Pg 2)

NC says its MLAs will protest in Delhi for JK statehood

SRINAGAR, JUN 3: Upping the ante, the ruling National Conference (NC) on Wednesday announced that its legislature party will launch a protest in New Delhi on the first day of the forthcoming Monsoon session of Parliament to press for the immediate restoration of statehood and constitutional guarantees for Jammu and Kashmir. The announcement was made by the party's chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq following a marathon meeting of NC lawmakers and allies, including CPI

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CM Omar Abdullah flags off Cyclothon on World Bicycle Day, launches Jammu Cyclothon campaign



SRINAGAR, JUNE 3: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today flagged off a Cyclothon at the Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC) here to mark World Bicycle Day, reaffirming the government's commitment to promoting fitness, healthy lifestyles and sports culture among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. The event, organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council under its flagship initiative "My Youth My Pride", witnessed enthusiastic participation from cyclists, youth

and sports enthusiasts from different parts of the Valley. On the occasion, the Chief Minister launched the mascot, jersey and publicity campaign for the forthcoming Jammu Cyclothon and announced the dates for the event. He also announced the conduct of the Kashmir Cyclothon as a national-level event, aimed at attracting participation from cyclists across the country and promoting Jammu and Kashmir as a hub for adventure and sporting activities. Interacting with the participants, the Chief Minister appreciated the growing interest in cycling and emphasized the importance of adopting active lifestyles to ensure better physical and mental well-being. He highlighted cycling as an environmentally sustainable mode of transport that contributes to public health while supporting efforts towards environmental conservation. The Chief Minister also lauded the initiatives being undertaken by the Youth Services & Sports Department and the J&K Sports Council to encourage mass participation in sports and recreational activities. He said such events not only promote fitness but also strengthen community engagement

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Writ Petition Not Maintainable Against Revisable Building Permission: HC



JAMMU, JUNE 3 (JNF): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed a writ petition challenging revised building permission granted by Srinagar Municipal Corporation, holding that such orders are revisable before the statutory forum and cannot be directly assailed through writ jurisdiction. Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal observed that the petitioner had an efficacious remedy under Section 403 of the J&K Municipal Corporation Act before the J&K Special Tribunal, but instead chose to bypass the statutory mechanism. The case arose from a dispute over alleged deviations in construction at Chinara Avenue, Naseembagh, Srinagar. The petitioner had challenged Revised Building Permission Order No. 27 of 2019 dated May 20, 2019, issued in

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FROM PAGE ONE

Media's...

have made significant contributions to society. Such efforts, he said, motivate others, particularly the youth, to pursue excellence and contribute meaningfully to nation-building. Expressing concern over the growing menace of drug abuse, Shri Kavinder Gupta said that substance abuse has emerged as one of the most serious challenges confronting society today and poses a grave threat to the future of the youth. He observed that social distortions often arise when individuals become disconnected from their cultural roots and values. The Governor also linked the rise of such problems to the gradual decline of the joint family system, which traditionally provided guidance, emotional support and value-based upbringing. He emphasized that government initiatives alone cannot effectively address the challenge of drug abuse without active public participation. Calling upon society to remain vigilant, he urged the people of the state to support awareness campaigns and community-driven efforts to combat the menace. He further stressed that the media has a significant role to play in spreading awareness against substance abuse and mobilizing collective action. Congratulating the awardees recognized as the "Best of Himachal," the Governor said that the coffee table book is a compilation of inspiring success stories of extraordinary individuals who have dedicated themselves to the progress, prosperity and development of Himachal Pradesh. He observed that the State, renowned for its natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and vibrant traditions, has always been a land of immense talent and potential. Appreciating the constructive role of media in promoting public awareness and social responsibility, the Governor called upon the people of Himachal Pradesh to contribute their share towards building a stronger society and taking the nation to new heights of progress and development. Earlier, Editor of the newspaper group Shri Bavindra Vashisht, welcomed the Governor and briefed him about the objectives of the coffee table book and the initiative behind recognizing outstanding achievers from across the State. Shri Suresh Shandil, Bureau Chief proposed a vote of thanks. Prominent personalities from various fields, media representatives and distinguished guests were also present on the occasion.

Ladakh to...

said under the project, 24 modern climate-resilient houses with thermally insulated walls will be constructed for the villagers. "Each house will include an additional room suitable for homestay facilities to enhance livelihood opportunities", he added. The houses are expected to be completed by September 2026, subject to weather conditions. The Lieutenant Governor said the development plan for Chumur will focus on infrastructure creation, employment and livelihood generation, tourism promotion, all-weather functionality and stronger civilian-defence integration. "Special emphasis will be placed on promoting Pashmina products and local handicrafts to encourage self-reliance and help reverse migration from border areas," he said, adding the vibrant village programme is a transformative initiative that goes beyond conventional development and seeks to enhance national security, stability and resilience by strengthening border settlements. The project is expected to serve as a model for sustainable development in remote border regions while improving living standards and economic opportunities for local communities.

21 killed...

Delhi Fire Services, police and disaster response units searched the smoke-blackened structure for survivors. Victims were seen being pulled out of the basement and rushed to hospitals in ambulances. The urban village of Hanz Rani is minutes away from swanky malls, upscale hotels and the Saket court complex as well as the residential localities of Malviya Nagar and Saket. Officials said the fire started at Lemon Green Restaurant, but police later clarified that it was a hotel building. The building has a basement, ground floor and five upper floors, according to fire officer A K Malik. The restaurant was on the ground floor while the rest of the building was being used as a hotel. "We have cordoned off the entire area. Multiple teams have already reached the site. Teams are checking the number of rooms the hotel had. Every single angle will be probed. Some of the police personnel and fire officials also received injuries," a senior police official said. According to one eyewitness and a first responder, the basement was locked and he helped the fire team to help open it. "It took more than 20 minutes to open the basement area," he alleged. Horrifying scenes played out all over. As thick smoke engulfed the building and flames spread rapidly, several people were seen breaking window panes and calling for help. "A woman holding a young child jumped from the third floor after local residents spread mattresses on the ground below in an attempt to save those trapped inside," an eyewitness said. "She was carrying the child tightly and jumped when there was no other way out. People had already arranged mattresses below the building. Both survived, but she appeared to have suffered injuries," he added. A mattress-seller spread his mattresses on the ground to cushion the fall of people while others administered CPR to injured victims. At the Max Hospital across the road, stunned relatives crowded the waiting area searching for their loved ones,

scanning lists and making frantic phone calls as the injured and the dead were brought in.

"We can't recognise them by looking at pictures; it's unrecognisable. Everyone is severely burnt," said one man sobbing uncontrollably.

Also searching desperately was Namit Goel, who said six of his relatives were among those caught in the fire. While four bodies had been identified, two were yet to be identified. "Four bodies are in Max Saket mortuary and two bodies are in another hospital. We are trying to locate them," he said.

Max Hospital said in a statement that 39 patients were received at the emergency department. Of these 18 were brought dead, while 15 were admitted to the ICU, including eight who are on ventilator support and are in critical condition, the hospital said.

The patients suffered from asphyxiation, minor burn injuries and fractures, it said.

Five patients with minor injuries were treated and discharged after primary medical care, while one patient was shifted to Safdarjung Hospital due to extensive burn injuries, it added.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences received 13 patients - three of them sustained injuries from fall and 10 were those who got hurt while rescuing those trapped in the burning building.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among those who expressed their condolences.

"The news of the loss of lives in the fire incident in Malviya Nagar, Delhi is extremely heartbreaking. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the swift recovery of those injured," Murmu said in a post on X in Hindi. The prime minister described the loss of lives as tragic. "My condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Wishing a speedy recovery to the injured. Authorities are providing all possible assistance to those affected," Modi said in a post on X.

The prime minister said ex-gratia payment of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund would be given to the next of kin of each deceased and Rs 50,000 for those injured. Congress leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge and leader Rahul Gandhi, expressed their grief.

"I urge all Congress workers to extend every possible assistance in the relief and rescue operations. I hope for the speedy recovery of the injured," Gandhi said in a post on X. "Deeply saddened by the tragic fire incident in Malviya Nagar, Delhi. My heartfelt condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured." State government authorities should provide adequate and timely compensation, including prompt medical care to the victims, Kharge said.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday expressed grief over the loss of lives in a fire incident in Delhi.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives in a tragic fire incident in Malviya Nagar, Delhi. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief. Prayers for early recovery of injured," LG Sinha said in a post on X. A massive fire broke out in a hotel in a congested lane in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar area on Wednesday, killing at least 21 people, including foreigners whose ailing relatives were being treated in hospitals nearby. Chief Minister Abdullah also expressed profound grief over the tragic incident.

He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured, his office said on X.

The chief minister expressed solidarity with all those affected by the tragic incident.

Anti-Terror...

forces to proceed cautiously while maintaining constant surveillance. Security agencies are using all available resources to track the movement of the suspected terrorists and eliminate any threat posed by their presence in the region.

The entire area remains under heightened security, with access to certain locations being closely monitored. Officials said search operations would continue until the area is fully sanitised and all security concerns are addressed.

CBSE Says...

glitches, payment failures and access-related issues during the verification and re-evaluation process.

The CBSE on Tuesday opened the online portal for verification of issues observed in scanned copies of answer books and re-evaluation of answers for students dissatisfied with their Class 12 board exam evaluation. According to the board, the facility is available only to those students who have obtained scanned copies of their evaluated answer books.

"The portal for applying for verification of issues observed in supplied scanned copy of answer book and re-evaluation of answers has been made live on June 2, 2026. Students can avail the facility of verification of issue(s) observed in supplied scanned copy of answer book, if any and re-evaluation of answer(s) if not satisfied with the evaluation," the CBSE said.

The portal will remain open from June 2 to June 6 (midnight), and no offline applications or requests submitted after the deadline will be accepted. Students will have to log in through the CBSE website using their Aadhaar number and submit applications online. The board said

the entire process, including payment of fees, will be conducted digitally.

For verification of issues in scanned copies of answer books, students can report concerns such as missing pages, missing supplementary sheets, missing maps or graphs, blurred pages, incorrect answer books or evaluation against a different question paper set.

"Students are advised to ensure that all requests across subjects are included before final submission," the board said.

The fee for verification of issues observed in supplied scanned copies of answer books is Rs 100 per answer book, while re-evaluation of answers will be charged at Rs 25 per question, it said.

"Students may submit only one application each for verification of issues/re-evaluation and are therefore advised to decide in advance whether to apply for one or multiple subjects," the board said.

The CBSE said once the 'freeze and proceed to payment' button is clicked, the details will be locked and cannot be edited. Hence, students are advised to ensure that all details are correct.

The board said applications will be treated as successfully submitted only after online payment is completed. It also said that only one application each for verification of issues and re-evaluation will be permitted. "Students may also apply online for re-evaluation of one or more questions across one or more subjects by providing the required details, including question number, page number, as the case may be," the board said.

The CBSE said the outcome of the requests will be communicated after completion of the process and advised candidates to submit their applications within the stipulated timeline.

A visual guide and a tutorial video have also been made available to help students complete the process, it added. The CBSE had also said that "malicious actors" attempted to disrupt services on its re-evaluation portal through a barrage of cyberattacks, including a denial-of-service attack that caused 1.5 million hits on the platform within two minutes and more than one lakh attempts at unauthorised file access.

"While thousands of students accessed the CBSE re-evaluation portal today, malicious actors attempted to disrupt services through a barrage of cyberattacks," the board said on X.

"The most recent being a denial-of-service (DoS) attack attempt causing 1.5 million hits on the portal within a matter of two minutes and more than one lakh attempts of unauthorised file access," it added.

The board said that based on student feedback, further improvements 'including extended session time limits' have been implemented to enhance user experience.

"Our teams remain on constant watch to ensure a secure, reliable and student-friendly platform," it added. The CBSE had said that Aadhaar-based verification has been introduced for security reasons while applying for verification of issues and re-evaluation of answers.

"For children who do not have Aadhaar, the Aadhaar details of parents, relatives or guardians may be used," the board said. "In this case, the Aadhaar name, date of birth and gender must be of the person whose Aadhaar number is used," it added.

"NC says..."

The announcement comes amid pressure on the NC over the issue of restoration of statehood and special status, after the Centre's offer to agitating groups in Ladakh, who are also seeking statehood for the Union Territory, for safeguarding the region's special identity and constitutional rights.

Sadiq described the atmosphere of the meeting as highly positive, stating that the chief minister patiently heard three-hour discussions on critical issues facing the region, including development, drug abuse, alcohol ban and the local economy.

"There was a review of the progress made by this government. But, the most important thing was the discussion about special status (of J-K that was revoked by the Centre in 2019)," he said.

The high-stakes meeting, which discussed governance progress, public welfare, and regional development across Jammu, Kashmir, Pir Panjal and Chenab, was marked by a surprise change of scenery.

While the chief minister had originally invited legislators to his official residence, the MLAs were immediately boarded onto mini-buses and driven away from the media glare for an off-site at the Dachigam National Park.

The meeting came in the backdrop of claims by the Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma that the National Conference government can fall anytime and that several ruling party MLAs were on the verge of jumping ship.

"Their MLAs are unhappy and are fighting with ministers every day. The ship can sink anytime," he said. Sharing pictures of the MLAs on a bus ride on the social media platform X, Abdullah, however, sought to downplay any speculation of secrecy or panic.

"We are off for an off-site to spend the day taking stock of the last 19 months - the good, the not so good and everything in between," Abdullah posted.

He later said that the move was entirely intentional. "I'm sorry to disappoint you but it has NOT been shifted at the last moment". It was always my intention to conduct this meeting off-site and all arrangements have been made, days in advance..."

The meeting was seen as a display of unity with MLAs. MLAs of both Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha as well as CPM leader Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami and the four independent legislators present.

The NC's Lok Sabha MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, who has been critical of the party on the issue of restoration of special status, was not invited for the meeting.

To a question about claims made by Sharma, Sadiq was emphatic in his reply: "We told you about our meeting and our decision. We are with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and our decision is in the interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

When questioned by reporters about a potential expansion of the state cabinet, Sadiq remained guardedly. "That is the prerogative of the chief minister. He will do it when he thinks it is right," he said.

HC Upholds...

prosecution witnesses had given contradictory statements regarding who conducted the search, the colour of the envelope containing the contraband, the place where the substance was weighed and the type of weighing scale used. Such inconsistencies, the Bench held, struck at the root of the prosecution case.

Referring to settled law laid down by the Supreme Court, the High Court observed that strict compliance with procedural safeguards is essential in NDPS cases and any violation thereof renders the recovery suspect.

The Bench held that the alleged recovery stood vitiated due to non-compliance with mandatory provisions of law and, consequently, the prosecution case could not be sustained. Finding no infirmity in the judgment of the trial court, the High Court dismissed the State's appeal and affirmed the acquittal of the accused. (JNF)

CM Omar...

and create awareness about important social issues.

The cyclothon carried the message of combating sedentary lifestyles, drug abuse and excessive screen time among youth, while promoting the spirit of fitness and sports. The event echoed the theme: "Say No to Drugs, No to Screen Addiction and Yes to Fitness & Sport."

Minister for Youth Services & Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Youth Services & Sports Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary RSGC Haris Ahmed Handoo, Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gul and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The cycling awareness ride commenced from RSGC and proceeded towards Duck Park on Foreshore Road, covering a distance of approximately 20 kilometres.

A large number of participants from different age groups took part in the event, which passed through designated routes in the city.

Writ...

favour of the private respondent after the deviations were treated as compoundable by SMC. The Court held that issues relating to the extent of deviations, permissibility of compounding, sanctioned plans, measurements and applicability of building bye-laws are disputed factual and technical questions which cannot ordinarily be adjudicated under Article 226 of the Constitution. Rejecting allegations of mala fides, collusion and corruption, the Court said such allegations were bald, omnibus and unsupported by cogent material. The Court also closed the connected contempt proceedings, holding that no wilful or deliberate disobedience of any judicial order was established. Observing that the dispute was essentially between neighbouring parties over construction activity, the Court held that merely referring to planning laws or public rights would not convert an individual dispute into a matter of public interest.

Accordingly, the writ petition and connected contempt petition were dismissed. (JNF)

J&K Bank...

is further amplified by the fact that the awards attracted nearly 500 nominations from financial institutions across the ecosystem, making the achievement highly competitive this year.

The Fincle Innovation Awards honour banks that are redefining banking through innovation and technology-led transformation.

"At J&K Bank, our innovation journey has been defined by transforming data into decisions. We have built a robust Data Insights and Analytics Platform that delivers real-time intelligence across operations.

"The platform has enabled us to serve our customers with greater precision, speed, and personalisation, driving measurable business outcomes and setting a new benchmark for technology-led banking excellence," Chatterjee said after receiving the award.

He said that the recognition validates the bank's strategic focus on building a digitally agile, data-driven, and future-ready institution capable of delivering superior value to customers while maintaining high standards of governance, efficiency, and risk management.

Raids...

registered in 2015 pertains to Pakistan-sponsored terrorist outfits, their sleeper-cell networks and activities related to recruitment, radicalisation and facilitating terrorism in J-K.

The officials said the suspects are alleged to be in contact with Pakistan-based terrorist handlers through encrypted communication platforms and are suspected to be involved in dissemination of extremist propaganda and radicalisation activities.



DC Ramban holds Public Outreach Programme at Batni

Resolves several issues on the spot, Assures time-bound redressal of genuine issues

RAMBAN, JUNE 03: To strengthen grassroots governance and ensure doorstep delivery of public services, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alys Khan today convened a comprehensive Public Outreach Camp at Panchayat Batni in Block Gandhri. Leading a team of officers from across line departments, the DC patiently listened to public grievances and resolved most of the issues on the spot. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, women groups, youth, former PR representatives. They raised a wide range of demands related to development and public welfare. Several public grievances and developmental demands projected by the residents were resolved on-the-spot by the Deputy Commissioner by issuing necessary directions to the concerned officers. PO ICDS Abdul Qayoom, ACD



Sheraz Ahmed, Chief Medical Officer, Tehsilidar, Executive Engineers of PWD, PMGSY and JPDC, CHO, CAHO, DSHO and other senior officers attended the outreach programme. The Deputy Commissioner also encouraged the locals and youth to join hands with the administration in making Ramban a drug-free district under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan. To promote environmental conservation, he

also planted a sapling during the programme. Highlighting the government welfare initiatives, he urged farmers and youth to avail themselves of the schemes being implemented by the Agriculture, Horticulture and allied departments. He noted that Gandhri possesses immense horticulture and agriculture potential and encouraged residents to take advantage of available subsidies, quality planting material, seeds and other support mechanisms. He also elaborated on self-employment initiatives, including Mission YUVA under which aspiring entrepreneurs are provided financial assistance along with hand-holding support to establish sustainable livelihood ventures. The Deputy Commissioner urged residents to provide feedback regarding the implementation of directions issued by the administration. He encouraged them to directly communicate with the administration regarding genuine issues for timely action. Regarding road connectivity, he informed the gathering that a comprehensive project is being formulated to address the recurring landslide problem on the Gandhri road. "A technical team has been engaged to prepare a permanent mitigation plan, including retaining and protection structures, to stabilize the vulnerable stretch," he informed.

DM Kishtwar invokes PSA against habitual Bovine Smuggler

KISHTWAR, JUNE 03: To safeguard public order and communal harmony, the District Magistrate Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma has ordered the preventive detention of Mohammad Saleem S/o Nissar Ahmed R/o Bagla Dali, District Doda, under the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978. The action was taken on the basis of a dossier submitted by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar - which revealed the accused person's repeated involvement in organized illegal transportation and smuggling of bovine animals across District Doda, District Kishtwar and adjoining areas. Despite previous criminal involvement, the subject



continued to indulge in similar activities, demonstrating a habitual tendency and complete disregard for the law. The District Magistrate observed that such activities possess serious communal ramifications and have the potential to disturb public tranquillity, communal harmony and the even tempo of life. It was further found that ordinary criminal law had failed to deter the subject from pursuing his unlawful activities. Satisfied that the subject's activities were highly prejudicial to the maintenance of public order, the District Magistrate invoked the provisions of the Public Safety Act and ordered his detention.

Thathri Cloudburst SDM reviews relief, restoration measures



THATHRI, JUNE 03: In the aftermath of the cloudburst that struck parts of Sub-Division Thathri yesterday, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Thathri Sheela Sharma today undertook an extensive field assessment of the affected areas to review the extent of damage and oversee the ongoing relief and

restoration operations. During the inspection, the SDM assessed damage caused to residential houses and public infrastructure, including assets belonging to the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department and the Power Development Department (PDD). The highway, which was temporarily dis-

rupted due to the incident, was restored for single-lane traffic yesterday itself. Efforts are presently underway on a war footing to achieve full restoration and facilitate smooth two-way movement at the earliest. The SDM emphasised the need for seamless inter-departmental coordination and directed field functionaries to maintain a continuous presence in the affected localities to oversee relief measures reach every affected household without delay. To provide immediate succour to affected families, the Revenue Department has initiated the distribution of essential relief material, including mattresses and blankets. Additional assistance, wherever warranted, shall also be extended in accordance with established norms and procedures.

JMC ramps up sanitation efforts; Deploys Advanced Cleaning Machines for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

JAMMU, JUNE 03: The Jammu Municipal Corporation has formulated a comprehensive sanitation plan to maintain cleanliness along major roads, market areas, pilgrimage routes and public spaces during the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026. To strengthen mechanized cleaning operations, a fleet of specialized sanitation vehicles has been deployed across the city. The fleet includes three compact road-sweeping machines that vacuum litter, dust and other waste materials directly from road surfaces. These machines are particularly effective in cleaning narrow stretches and urban roads. In addition, four Italian-made Dulevo 6000 road-sweeping vehicles have been deployed for cleaning major roads and important traffic corridors. Two GVP vehicles equipped with powerful vacuum suction systems have also been pressed into service to collect accumulated waste and debris from roadsides and other public areas. All these vehicles operate primarily during



night hours when traffic movement is significantly lower. Since mechanized sweeping vehicles move at a relatively slow speed while carrying out cleaning operations, night deployment allows them to clean roads more efficiently and safely without disrupting the movement of commuters. The reactivation of these machines after necessary maintenance and repairs is expected to considerably improve sanitation standards across the city. Providing details about the mechanized sanitation fleet, Chief Transport Officer Zone

III Jammu Municipal Corporation Balkar Angurana stated that the vehicles have been strategically deployed to maximize their effectiveness and ensure better cleanliness outcomes. He informed that the three compact road-sweeping machines are capable of vacuuming dust and litter directly from road surfaces, while the Dulevo 6000 and GVP vehicles are being utilized for cleaning larger roads and public spaces. He added that all the machines are being operated during night hours to facilitate smooth operations and comprehen-

sive road cleaning with minimal interference from traffic. Besides mechanized cleaning, the Corporation continues to undertake regular sanitation activities, including door-to-door waste collection, manual sweeping, drain cleaning and public awareness campaigns. Citizens are being urged to cooperate by avoiding littering and disposing of waste only through designated collection systems. Municipal Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav stated that Jammu Municipal Corporation is fully committed to ensure a clean, hygienic and welcoming environment ahead of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 and the forthcoming Swachh Survekshan. He said that all available resources have been mobilized to strengthen sanitation services across the city and appealed to the public to actively support the cleanliness drive by maintaining civic responsibility and helping keep Jammu clean and green.

DM Jammu reviews 100-day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan impact

Orders strict action against scheduled drug misuse; Directs de-addiction centres to comply with SO-91

JAMMU, JUNE 03: District Magistrate Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas today chaired the District Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) meeting to review the implementation of anti-drug initiatives in the district. The meeting reviewed the impact of the rigorous 100-day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan. The DM appreciated inter-departmental efforts and discussed course corrections for the rest of the programme. He reviewed "Drug Free Panchayat" declarations and scrutinised administrative and police actions in identified drug hotspots. Emphasising awareness, the DM discussed strate-



gies to engage school children. He stressed amplifying information dissemination to reach every individual. He also directed regular, rigorous inspections of psychiatric institutions and de-addiction facilities.

The meeting was attended by ADCs Anusuya Jamal and Vidhu Shekhar, CMO Dr Harbaksh Singh, Joint Director Information Deepak Dubey, DSWO Preeti Sharma and other stakeholders.

Earlier, the DM chaired a meeting with psychiatrist, medical officers and managers of private de-addiction centres. He set a strict six-month deadline for these facilities to comply with Statutory

Order (SO) 91 of 2026, warning of severe legal action for non-compliance. While assuring administrative support to those actively working to eradicate the drug menace, he welcomed constructive suggestions from stakeholders. Warning against the misuse of prescription medicines, the DM directed the Assistant Drugs Controller to maintain strict surveillance over the stock and sale of scheduled drugs. "Each pill has to be accounted for," the DM stated categorically, ordering strict legal action against any establishment failing to maintain proper stock and sale records.

Samba Cricket Premier League U-19 Tournament begins at Kehli Ground

SAMBA, JUNE 03: The Samba Cricket Premier League (SCPL) U-19 Tournament, being organized under the 100 Day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, commenced today here at Kehli Ground. The tournament was formally inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha during his visit to the District. The tournament has been organised under the overall supervision and guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan to promote sports among youth and reinforcing the message of a drug-free society. The ADC also conducted the toss before the commencement of the match and extended his



Jagdish Singh visited the venue and interacted with the participating players. He encouraged the young cricketers to pursue sports with dedication and discipline. He highlighted the role of sports in promoting a healthy and drug-free society. The ADC also conducted the toss before the commencement of the match and extended his

best wishes to both teams. The first league match of the tournament was played between Purmandal Panthers and Samba Fighters. Batting first, Purmandal Panthers scored 158 runs in 20 overs. In response, Samba Fighters managed 131/7 in their allotted 20 overs, with Purmandal Panthers securing a 27-run victory.

ADC Bhandarwah reviews functioning of Higher Secondary School Bhalra



BHANDARWAH, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner Bhandarwah Sumit Kumar Bhatnagar on Wednesday visited Higher Secondary School Bhalra to review the functioning

of the institution and assess the overall educational environment. He was accompanied by local Naib Tehsilidar. During the visit, the school Principal Asha Balwal,

Senior Lecturer Ajit Kumar, Lecturer Om Prakash, Lecturer Shagufa Tabassum, NCC Officer Dr Sanjeev Koul and Incharge Anish Kumar along with staff members of the institution briefed the ADC about academic activities, infrastructure and other facilities available in the school. The ADC emphasized the importance of maintaining the quality of education, discipline and provision of proper facilities for students. It is pertinent to mention that ADC Bhandarwah has been designated to monitor the functioning of educational institutions in the subdivision.

DDC Samba reviews proposed works under Vibrant Village Programme-II

SAMBA, JUNE 03: District Development Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee to finalize the projects and works proposed by the designated Village Nodal Officers under the Vibrant Village Programme-II. The meeting was held in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office, Samba. During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the village-wise work plans prepared for the 16 selected villages covered under the programme. The proposed developmental



aimed at strengthening infrastructure, improving public services and enhancing livelihood opportunities in these villages were reviewed comprehensively.

The DDC stressed that before the district-level plan is finalized, the proposed work plans should be shared with all Visiting Officers nominated by the UT Government so that

they remain apprised of the developmental needs and projects identified for transforming the selected villages into vibrant and sustainable communities. She further directed the

officers representing the Forests to identify and propose projects of strategic significance from the security perspective and submit the same at the earliest for consideration under the programme. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Chief Planning Officer, Superintending Engineer, O&M Jammu-Samba; Executive Engineer, PWD; District Social Welfare Officer.; Assistant Director, Tourism; Principal, ITI and other concerned officers.

Rekha Mahajan leads farmers' outreach programme, highlights Modi Govt's commitment to agricultural growth

Samba, June 3: BJP Kisan Morcha organized a significant farmers' outreach meeting in Samba to discuss issues concerning the farming community and spread awareness about various farmer-centric initiatives launched by the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The meeting witnessed the participation of party leaders, office bearers, and farmers from different parts of the district. The programme was attended by BJP Vice President J&K and Prabhari Samba District Rekha Mahajan, District President Asha Rani, BJP Kisan Morcha State Spokesperson and Prabhari Samba Ravi Kumar, District President Kisan Morcha Ajay Kumar, General Secretaries Mohinder Singh Mankotia



and Parveen Sharma. Addressing the gathering, Rekha Mahajan said that the Narendra Modi-led government has ushered in a new era of agricultural development by placing farmers at the centre of policymaking. She highlighted several flagship schemes and reforms aimed at improving farmers' income, strengthening

agricultural infrastructure and promoting sustainable farming practices. She elaborated on major initiatives including PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Soil Health Cards, promotion of natural farming, food processing

initiatives, millet cultivation under the 'Shree Anna' campaign, and technology-driven agriculture. She also referred to the government's decision to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif crops, stating that it ensures remunerative prices and greater financial security for farmers. Mahajan said that schemes

such as PM-Kisan provide direct financial assistance to farmers, while Kisan Credit Cards ensure easy and affordable access to credit. She noted that PM Fasal Bima Yojana has significantly reduced farmers' vulnerability to crop losses caused by natural calamities, and the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is helping create modern agricultural infrastructure across the country. She added that the use of drones, digital technologies, AI-based farming solutions and improved market linkages is transforming India's agricultural landscape. Asha Rani in her address raised concerns regarding challenges faced by farmers in border areas of Samba district, including crop damage, irrigation shortages, stray animal menace and losses caused by adverse weather.

NGO Anti Crime distributes stationery and sports items among students of GGMS Khairi

Jammu, June 3

In a commendable initiative aimed at supporting education and encouraging sports activities among young students, NGO Anti Crime organized a distribution programme at Government Girls Middle School, Khairi, where notebooks and sports items were distributed among the students.



The programme was conducted under the supervision of NGO Anti Crime Chairman Sham Lal Gupta, who emphasized the importance of providing educational resources and sports equipment to students belonging to different sections of society. He stated that education and physical fitness are essential pillars for the overall development of children and that collective efforts are needed to ensure that every child receives adequate opportunities to learn and grow. The event was attended by Sub-Inspector Nareesh Dogra and Inspector Balraj Singh as chief guests. Addressing the gathering, the guests appreciated the efforts of NGO Anti Crime in promoting social welfare and extending support to deserving students. They highlighted the importance of encouraging children to focus on their studies while also participating in sports and extracurricular activities for their holistic development. During the programme, notebooks were distributed

to students to assist them in their academic pursuits, while sports items were provided to promote physical activity and teamwork among the children. The students expressed happiness and gratitude for the support extended by the organization. Several members of NGO Anti Crime actively participated in the event, including Mukhtar Saini, Vikas Saini, Tushar, Saloni Gupta, Akshay Sharma, Vansh, Rohit, and other volunteers who helped in the successful conduct of the programme.

A Landmark Achievement for CDOE: First CBCS M.A. Education Batch Passes out

Jammu, June 3

The Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE), University of Jammu, successfully organized a mark sheet distribution ceremony for the first graduating batch of the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) M.A. Education Programme. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Anuradha Goswami, who described the occasion as a significant milestone in the academic journey of both the students and the institution. She highlighted that this was the first two-year CBCS-based M.A. Education programme offered by CDOE and that the students receiving their



mark sheets constituted the department's first passing-out batch. The Director, Prof. Pankaj Srivastava, along with faculty members Prof. Anju Thappa, Dr. Anuradha Rani, Dr. Pooja Sharma, and other staff members, congratulated the students on their successful completion of the programme and

wished them success in their future endeavors. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Pankaj Srivastava reiterated the department's commitment to academic excellence and continuous development. He emphasized the vital role of education in shaping society and encouraged students to effectively utilize

Shiv Sena (UBT) will support every positive initiative for the Restoration of J&K's Rights, Identity, and Statehood

Jammu, June 3

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), Jammu & Kashmir unit president Manish Sahni has welcomed the letter written by PDP President and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti to various political parties, describing it as a positive step towards meaningful dialogue on the restoration of Jammu & Kashmir's rights and statehood. In a statement issued to the press, Sahni said that the question of restoring Jammu & Kashmir's identity, constitutional rights, and full statehood is not the concern of any single political party or ideology, but is intrinsically linked to the



aspirations, sentiments, and future of the people of the region. Therefore, Shiv Sena (UBT) will support every positive initiative taken in the larger public interest. Sahni stated that following the developments of August 5, 2019, Jammu & Kashmir lost its statehood and was reorga-

nized into a Union Territory. Since then, the people have been awaiting the restoration of their full democratic rights and constitutional status. The demand for statehood is a shared aspiration of the people of Jammu, Kashmir, and all other regions and should not be

confined within the boundaries of partisan politics. He said that Shiv Sena (UBT) will firmly stand with every platform, movement, and initiative that works towards protecting the rights of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, safeguarding employment opportunities for local youth, securing land and natural resources, protecting business interests, and preserving the region's unique identity. Public welfare remains the guiding principle of the party's policies. Sahni emphasized that the demand for the restoration of statehood should not be fought through the prism of political alliances or electoral calculations. It is fundamentally an issue concerning the rights, dignity, and future of the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Unfortunately, even on such an important public issue, several political parties remain engaged in blame games instead of working towards a common objective. Drawing a comparison with Ladakh, Sahni noted that various political, social, and religious organizations there have risen above their differences to collectively fight for land rights, employment safeguards, constitutional protections, and regional interests.

Unchecked rise in C-Sections alarming: Raman Suri

JAMMU, June 3:

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Raman Suri has expressed serious concern over the steadily increasing number of Caesarean Section (C-Section) deliveries in Jammu and Kashmir, describing the trend as alarming and requiring immediate attention from health authorities. Referring to reports indicating a sharp rise in surgical deliveries in both government and private hospitals, Suri said that while C-sections are often necessary to save the lives of mothers and newborns in complicated cases, their growing prevalence in routine pregnancies warrants a thorough examination. Suri observed that healthcare data and surveys conducted over the years have shown a significant increase in Caesarean deliveries across urban as well as rural areas. He said that the trend is no longer



confined to private healthcare institutions and has become increasingly common in government hospitals as well. Such a situation, he noted, raises important questions about maternal healthcare practices, awareness levels, lifestyle changes and other factors contributing to the growing dependence on surgical intervention during childbirth. Calling for urgent action, Raman Suri urged the

Health and Family Welfare Department to undertake an in-depth and scientific study to ascertain the exact reasons behind the rising number of C-section deliveries in the Union Territory. He said that the department should collect and analyze district-wise data, identify medical, nutritional, lifestyle and institutional factors responsible for the trend and submit a comprehensive report so that evidence-based policy decisions can be taken to address the issue effectively. The senior BJP leader emphasized that preventive healthcare measures should be strengthened to promote normal deliveries wherever medically feasible. He suggested that based on the findings of the proposed study, healthcare authorities should formulate specific dietary guidelines for pregnant women, provide regular nutritional counselling and encour-

age healthy lifestyles during pregnancy. He further stressed the need for trained medical professionals to guide expectant mothers regarding safe physical activities, prenatal exercises and other scientifically proven methods that improve maternal health and increase the possibility of normal childbirth. Suri said that awareness programmes should be launched at hospitals, health centres and community levels to educate women and their families about pregnancy care, nutrition and the benefits of normal delivery. He added that expectant mothers must be provided complete information about delivery options and that every effort should be made to ensure normal childbirth before opting for a Caesarean Section, except in cases where surgery is medically necessary for the safety of the mother or the child.

Skeet Shooting Practice Sessions Conducted for NCC Cadets at SMVDU

Jammu, June 3:

A series of skeet shooting practice sessions were conducted for NCC cadets at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) under the aegis of Air NCC. The sessions provided cadets with an excellent opportunity to gain practical exposure to the sport of skeet shooting and develop essential shooting skills. The practice sessions witnessed enthusiastic participation from NCC cadets, who learned the fundamentals of target shooting, safety procedures, and techniques required for accurate shooting. Skeet shooting demands a high level of concentration, precision, coordination, and quick reflexes, making it an ideal



activity for developing discipline and mental alertness among the cadets. Through these multiple practice sessions, cadets were able to progressively improve their shooting abilities and build confidence in handling shooting equipment under supervision. The initiative also encouraged cadets to explore opportunities in competitive shooting sports. Skeet

shooting is one of the recognized shooting disciplines in the Olympic Games and has produced several distinguished sportspersons at the national and international levels. These sessions served as a valuable platform for cadets to experience an Olympic sport firsthand and inspired many to pursue excellence in shooting and other sporting activities.

District Table Tennis Championship under Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan commenced at Udhampur

Udhampur, June 3:

The District Level Table Tennis Tournament under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan was inaugurated today at the Indoor Sports Hall, Subash Stadium, Udhampur. The event is being jointly organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council and the District Udhampur Table Tennis Association with the objective of promoting a drug-free society and encouraging youth participation in sports. The tournament was formally inaugurated by Sh. Tarseem Singh, DYSSO Udhampur, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. While addressing the participants, he highlighted the importance of sports in shaping the char-



acter of young athletes and emphasized that active involvement in sports is one of the most effective ways to keep youth away from drug abuse and other social evils. The tournament witnessed an enthusiastic response with around 150 players, including both boys and girls, participating from different parts of Udhampur district. The

event provides a competitive platform for young table tennis players to showcase their talent, improve their skills, and foster the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play. Officials of the organizing committee stated that the tournament is not only aimed at identifying and nurturing sporting talent but also at spreading awareness.

APS Damana organizes five-day capacity building programme for educators

Jammu, June 3:

Army Public School Damana successfully organized a five-day Capacity Building Programme for educators from 28 May 2026 to 3 June 2026 under the theme "Innovation and Inclusion." The programme aimed at enhancing the professional development of teachers, fostering innovative teaching practices and promoting inclusive education. The programme was inaugurated by the Principal, Mrs. Pushpinder Kaur, who highlighted the significance of continuous professional development in line with CBSE guidelines. She emphasized the importance of adopting innovative pedagogical approaches, maintaining high standards of work ethics, ensuring safety and security, and creating happy classrooms that nurture students' academic growth as well as their emotional well-being. Each day of the



programme commenced with a rejuvenating session of Yoga and Meditation, reinforcing the belief that a healthy mind resides in a healthy body. The workshop featured a series of enriching sessions led by distinguished resource persons from diverse domains, offering educators practical insights and fresh

perspectives. Dr. Neha Rajput, a renowned gynecologist, conducted a ground breaking and eye-opening session on menstrual health and hygiene, sensitizing teachers on the importance of well-being and creating supportive classroom environments. Ms. Nisha Pandita, Programme Officer - NDF, led an informative and empowering ses-

sion on POCSO Act 2012, enhancing teachers' awareness on child protection laws and their responsibility in safe guarding students. Dietician Manmeet Kour and Ms. Akriti, Physiotherapist from VLCC, delivered a practical and holistic session on health and wellness through balanced nutrition, mindful lifestyle choices, and self-care practices for educators and students alike. Dr. Poonam Tandon conducted a thought-provoking and hands-on practice session on Designing Competency-Based Assessments, equipping teachers with strategies to evaluate skills beyond rote learning. The workshop culminated with an empathetic and transformative session by Dr. Devedika a specialist from GRC who shared actionable strategies for early identification and intervention of learning

Ministry of Tribal Affairs and BPCL established 75 space labs in Eklavya model residential schools

NEW DELHI, JUNE 3: Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Establish 75 Space Labs in Eklavya Model Residential Schools Across India New Delhi: In a landmark initiative aimed at strengthening scientific education among tribal students, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), has successfully established 75 Space Labs in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) across 18 States. The initiative has been implemented through BPCL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support, with an investment of nearly ₹12 crore, reinforcing the shared commitment of both institutions towards advancing quality education and fostering scientific temper among tribal youth. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs operates EMRS to provide quality residential education to Scheduled Tribe students, enabling them to pursue higher education and build meaningful careers across diverse sectors. Alongside academics, these schools focus on

holistic development, including health, nutrition and personality enhancement. At present, 499 EMRS are functional across the country, serving as centres of excellence for tribal education. The newly established Space Labs are designed to provide students with experiential learning opportunities in space science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). By introducing advanced scientific infrastructure and interactive learning tools, the initiative seeks to nurture curiosity, innovation and scientific inquiry among young learners from tribal communities. The project has been executed through agencies recognised by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Each laboratory is equipped with advanced educational and demonstration facilities, including LVM3 launch vehicle and Earth Observation satellite models, static models of PSLV, HRLV, IRNSS and GSAT missions, astronomy exhibits, tabletop scientific demonstration models, star-tracker telescopes, Cansat working models, STEM learning kits, and curated educational resources on India's

space programme. More than 50,000 tribal students are expected to benefit from the initiative, gaining access to resources that were previously limited to specialised educational institutions. The Space Labs will play a pivotal role in promoting hands-on learning through experiments, simulations, model-based demonstrations and observational activities. The initiative is expected to strengthen analytical thinking, problem-solving abilities and innovation-driven learning among students while fostering a deeper understanding of scientific concepts through practical exposure. The programme is expected to ignite scientific curiosity among students by introducing them to subjects such as astronomy, satellite technology, planetary sciences and space exploration. Early exposure to STEM disciplines will encourage inquiry-based learning and help build a strong foundation for future academic and professional pursuits. By bringing advanced STEM infrastructure to remote and tribal regions, the programme helps reduce educational disparities and ensures

that students receive opportunities comparable to those available in urban educational ecosystems. It also creates awareness about emerging career pathways in fields such as aerospace, astronomy, geospatial sciences, meteorology, artificial intelligence, satellite technology and scientific research, thereby expanding students' aspirations and access to future opportunities. The initiative is also expected to boost students' confidence and participation in science exhibitions, innovation challenges, astronomy camps and other national-level scientific engagements, encouraging greater representation of tribal youth in India's scientific and technological ecosystem. Aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the initiative promotes experiential learning, critical thinking and equitable access to quality education. It represents a significant step towards empowering tribal students to actively participate in India's scientific advancement while contributing to the nation's future innovation and knowledge-driven economy.

Cyber awareness essential to combat rising digital threats: Expert at PTTI Vijaypur



VIJAYPUR, JUNE 3: With cybercrime emerging as one of the fastest-growing challenges in the digital era, the Police Technical Training Institute (PTTI), Vijaypur, organized an informative lecture on "Cyber Security and Fraud Prevention" for its staff and BRTC trainees of SDRF/Telecommunication. The programme was aimed at enhancing awareness and strengthening the capabilities of police personnel in dealing with evolving cyber threats and digital frauds. The lecture was delivered by Shri Vikas Rajdhan, Assistant Engineer (AE), SIA Jammu, who attended the event as the Chief Guest. In his detailed presentation, he highlighted various aspects of cyber security, cyber-related offences, digital devices, cyber tools, and the growing menace of online frauds. He explained the methods commonly adopted by cybercriminals to target individuals and organizations and stressed the need for vigilance while using digital devices. Shri Vikas Rajdhan elaborated on different forms of cybercrime, including phishing attacks, identity theft, social media frauds, malicious software, and digital payment scams. He urged participants to adopt safe online practices, use strong passwords, regularly update software, and exercise caution while sharing personal or financial information online. He also discussed preventive measures that can help citizens and law enforcement agencies counter digital payment frauds effectively. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Ranjit Singh Sambyal, IPS, Principal, PTTI Vijaypur, expressed his gratitude to the resource person for sharing his expertise with the trainees and staff. He said that cybercrime has become a serious concern in today's technology-driven world and requires continuous learning and awareness among police personnel. The programme concluded with an interactive session during which participants discussed practical cyber security challenges and sought expert guidance on tackling cyber frauds effectively.

Among those present on the occasion were Shri Satish Kumar, Dy.SP (Indoor), Shri Khushwant Singh, Dy.SP (Administration/Outdoor), Ms. Neha Bhagat, Senior PO, Shri Asif Iqbal, Senior PO, and Ms. Sonali Kohli, Dy.SP, along with staff members and trainees of the institute. The programme concluded with an interactive session during which participants discussed practical cyber security challenges and sought expert guidance on tackling cyber frauds effectively.

Congress holds strong protest against price rise, unemployment and paper leaks

JAMMU, JUNE 3: In a strong show of public mobilization against rising prices and the escalating cost of living, the District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Urban on Tuesday organized a protest at Shaheed Chowk Jammu. The demonstration, held under the leadership of DCC Jammu Urban President Yogesh Sawhney and was presided over by JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla. It was joined by Chief Spokesperson PCC Mr. Ravinder Sharma, EX-MP T.S. Bajwa, EX-MLC Incharge HQ Ved Mahajan, Ex-MLA Smt. Indu Pawar, Ex-Minister Yash Paul Kundal, EX-DCC President Jammu Urban Th. Mannohan Singh, Kanta Bhan and Scores of Congress workers, local residents, women, youth and senior party leaders, expressing strong concern over the growing economic hardships faced by common citizens due to persistent inflation and rising prices of essential commodities, besides the frustration amongst youth & students due to record unemployment and repeated paper leaks.



Addressing the gathering, Raman Bhalla said that inflation has emerged as the biggest challenge confronting ordinary families across the country. He alleged that the continuous rise in the prices of food items, cooking gas, fuel, medicines, electricity and other essential commodities has severely affected household budgets, particularly those of middle-class families, daily wage earners, pensioners and economically weaker sec-

tion. Bhalla maintained that while incomes have remained largely stagnant, expenditures have increased dramatically, forcing many families to cut down on essential needs such as healthcare, education and nutrition. He warned that unchecked inflation not only weakens purchasing power but also slows economic activity by reducing consumer spending and increasing financial insecurity among citizens. Bhalla further stated that the economic burden is being felt across all sections of society, including farmers, traders, transporters, small business owners and salaried employees. He said that rising fuel prices have triggered a cascading effect on transportation costs, which in turn has pushed up the prices of food grains, vegetables and other daily-use items. He emphasized that the widening gap between income and expenditure is creating unprecedented stress on households and undermining the quality of life of millions of peo-

ple. The Congress leader urged the government to take immediate corrective measures to stabilize prices and protect vulnerable sections from the adverse effects of inflation. Outlining the party's proposed way forward, Bhalla called for a comprehensive strategy to curb inflation, including rationalization of fuel prices, strengthening of the public distribution system, enhanced support for farmers and small businesses, measures to check market profiteering, and targeted relief for economically weaker families. He also emphasized the need for employment generation, increased investment in productive sectors and stronger social welfare initiatives to improve household incomes and restore economic confidence. He asserted that addressing inflation requires coordinated action rather than temporary measures and urged the government to engage with stakeholders to formulate a sustainable roadmap for economic

stability and public welfare. Speaking on the occasion, DCC Jammu Urban President Yogesh Sawhney said that the Congress Party's agitation was a reflection of the growing frustration among citizens who are struggling to make both ends meet. He observed that inflation has become a major concern for housewives, youth, senior citizens and small traders alike. Sawhney said that many families are being compelled to revise their monthly budgets, postpone important expenditures and curtail educational and healthcare expenses due to escalating prices. He asserted that the Congress Party would continue to raise the voice of the people both on the streets and at institutional forums until meaningful relief measures are announced. Chief Spokesperson JKPC Mr. Ravinder Sharma highlighted the adverse impact of inflation on employment generation and economic growth. He said that higher prices reduce consumer demand, affecting businesses and ultimately limiting job opportunities for young people. He expressed concern over the growing difficulties faced by small and medium enterprises, which are struggling with rising operational costs and declining purchasing power among consumers. Singh emphasized that a healthy economy requires both price stability and employment growth, and called upon policymakers to adopt measures that stimulate economic activity while safeguarding the interests of ordinary citizens.

CPCO Amit Reviews Census Preparations in Kulgam, Appeals for Public Cooperation

KULGAM, JUNE 3: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Mr. Ashish Sharma today visited Kulgam and chaired a meeting with Principal Census Officer, District Census Officer, Charge Officers, Enumerators and Supervisors at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam.

The meeting focused on the ongoing preparations for the Census and the implementation of the first phase of the House Listing Operation (HLO), which is being conducted from June 1 to June 30. During the meeting, CPCO Amit Sharma reviewed the arrangements made by the district administration and emphasized the importance of accurate data collection and effective coordination among field staff. Addressing the participants, Amit Sharma highlighted the significance of the Census exercise and urged enumerators and supervisors to discharge their duties with dedication and professionalism to ensure the successful completion of the House Listing Operation. Principal Census Officer Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, along with other district officers, was present during the meeting. Various aspects related to census operations, field-level coordination, and public cooperation were also discussed. During the meeting, the officials of Kulgam reaffirmed their commitment towards conducting this important national exercise smoothly and efficiently across the district.

NORTHERN RAILWAY ESTENDER NOTICE			
Be DISTRICT/AT/STG for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders on https://www.nwr.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433_Sig_28_28_Civty Date/Time: 24.06.2026 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to access their registered profiles up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be rejected.			
Conditions are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment mode available on NEFT (National Real Time Banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker Cheque, Demand Receipt, PO etc. are not allowed).			
BID HEADERS			
Contract Type	Work		
Work	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract (AMC) of 01 Meter MED204 under the supervision of SER/CE/ST/AT (over Jammu) division for three (3) years.		
Tender Closing Date/Time	24.06.2026	Date/Time of Opening	22.06.2026
Advertised Value (Rs.)	420000.00	Bidding Start Date	17.06.2026
Estimated	84700.00	Period of	30 Months
Tender Notice No: 433_Sig_28_28_Civty - 02.06.2026 Closing Date/Time: 24.06.2026 15:00 14632026			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

Looks Salon Unveils 'Summer Slay Offer' with Massive Discounts on Beauty & Wellness Packages

JAMMU, JUNE 3: Bringing together beauty, wellness and affordability, Looks Salon Beauty & Spa, located at Channi Himmat near Hotel Ritz Manor, Jammu, has launched its much-awaited 'Summer Slay Offer', featuring attractive discounts on a range of premium beauty and spa services. Designed to help clients stay refreshed, confident and rejuvenated during the scorching summer months, the special campaign offers comprehensive beauty care packages at significantly reduced prices. As part of the limited-period offer, the salon has introduced two specially curated combo packages that combine some of its most sought-after services. Combo 1, available at ₹7,000 against its original value of ₹11,000, includes Facial, Threading, Full Body Bleach, Full Body Wax, Manicure and Pedicure. Combo 2, priced at just ₹4,000 instead of ₹7,000, offers O3+ Cleanup, Threading, Full Body Bleach, Full Body Wax, Manicure and

Pedicure, making professional beauty care more accessible to a wider range of customers. The salon said the initiative is aimed at encouraging self-care and wellness while helping clients combat the effects of extreme summer weather. With the tagline "Glow, Relax, Slay, All Summer Long," the campaign emphasizes not only outward beauty but also relaxation, rejuvenation and personal well-being. According to the management, the packages have been thoughtfully designed to provide head-to-toe grooming and skin-care solutions that leave customers feeling refreshed, confident and radiant throughout the season. Adding further excitement for beauty enthusiasts, Looks Salon has also announced a Flat 40% Discount on every service as part of its reopening celebrations. The salon has reopened with a refreshed ambience, enhanced facilities and new service additions while continuing its commitment to delivering quality care.

Block Diwas held at Gai Dassa

Residents highlight key issues; DC directs officers to expedite dev works

DODA, JUNE 03: To redress public grievances and strengthen grassroots governance, a public outreach and grievances redressal programme (Block Diwas) was today held here at village Gai Dassa. The Block Diwas was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal. He listened to the grievances and developmental demands of the residents, directing the concerned departments to take

prompt action to address the same. The residents raised concerns regarding the shortage of lecturers and MTS staff at the local Government Higher Secondary School. They also demanded upgradation of GHS Bhatta to Higher Secondary level. Further, the residents demanded improvement in healthcare facilities, posting of doctors and pharmacists at NTPC and other health institutions in the

area. The demand for introduced ambulance services was prominently raised by the locals. The locals also demanded immediate measures to improve water and electricity supply and road connectivity, particularly upgrading of Gai Dassa-Bhatta road. The demands for resolving land compensation matters, filling of potholes, construction of retaining walls and road connectivity to unconnected Panchayats

were extensively discussed. Residents urged the PMGSY and R&B Departments to expedite the pending works. Further, the locals demanded beautification of ponds and playgrounds, timely release of developmental funds and clearance of pending payments related to ongoing works of the Rural Development Department. The public also demanded the development of a Tourist Village Network to tap the tourism

potential in the region. Responding to the grievances, the XEN PMGSY informed that the Gai Dassa-Mangal Thatha road project is nearing completion with 90 per cent work already complete. He informed that the remaining work would be completed within the stipulated time frame. Officials from the PHE Department stated that around 70 to 80 per cent ongoing water supply works in the area.



North in News

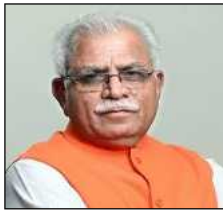
EDITORIAL

Political turmoil in West Bengal, BJP now eyeing Punjab

The BJP's evolving electoral strategy, the regional churn in India's federal polity, and the way state-level unrest reshapes national calculations ahead of 2029, and West Bengal Assembly election in which the Trinamool Congress lost badly. Now the latest political development of West Bengal is such that 59 MLA's now have gone all against their own party. TMC's political identity is in a state of crisis. After Bengal BJP now is eyeing Punjab. Although BJP in Punjab is not in a strong position, but political analysts are of the view that in 2027 Assembly elections BJP can surprise political pundits. Assam, West Bengal are classic examples of Hindu vote consolidation. Punjab has almost 45 percent Hindu population. Hindu vote consolidation and probability of BJP- Akali Dal alliance can change political picture of Bengal. Also BJP argues that only a "double-engine" government can bring jobs and central schemes. This formula has done good for BJP in Assam, Bengal and even UP alongwith Hindu consolidation factor. There are chances of this formula working in Punjab also as people of Punjab has in last decade felt they have been left behind other states in development of all forms. Unemployment and most importantly the deteriorating law and order situation, can impact upcoming assembly elections. Under current and unrest has done this in Bengal also. Although Bengal and Punjab has different issues and cannot be compared but illegal mining issue and Drugs network are some serious issues that can help BJP. Congress over the years have not been able to gain strength. Most importantly anti incumbency and the Delhi AAP wing's interference is not liked and loved by locals of Punjab. The spilt and specially the Rajya Sabha MP's split case will also dent AAP to some extent. Also the voters in both states are watching each other because Bengali and Punjabi media carry each other's stories, and the 2026 Bengal and 2027 Punjab elections will be fought on these interlinked narratives, and if BJP succeeds in one, it will gain momentum for the other, and if it fails, it will have to rethink its expansion doctrine, and that is why political turmoil in West Bengal, BJP now eyeing Punjab, is not two headlines but one continuum of India's changing electoral map where regional dominance is contested by national ambition, and where turmoil in one corner creates opportunity in another, and the next two years will decide whether BJP can turn eastern unrest and western aspiration into a new axis of power.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

PM SVANidhi Scheme: A Transformative Journey of Empowerment and Financial Inclusion for Street Vendors



SHRI MANOHAR LAL

Urbanization in India is advancing rapidly. It is estimated that by 2050, nearly 50% of the country's population will reside in urban areas. At present, approximately 66% of the urban workforce is engaged in the informal sector, which forms a vital pillar of the urban economy. Among those working in this sector, street vendors play a particularly significant role. Millions of vendors selling fruits, vegetables, tea, snacks, clothing, and other daily-use items not only make life easier for citizens but also contribute substantially to the urban economy.

Despite their importance, street vendors historically had limited access to formal banking and credit facilities. In the absence of a credit history, they often relied on informal sources of finance at high interest rates, resulting in a significant portion of their income being spent on loan repayments. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 further exacerbated their challenges, severely impacting their businesses.

In response to these unprecedented difficulties, the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme was launched in June 2020 under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is India's first comprehensive micro-credit scheme for street vendors, providing them with simple, dignified, and institutional access to formal finance for the first time.

Under the scheme, banks and financial institutions provide collateral-free working capital loans in three tranches of ₹15,000,

₹25,000, and ₹50,000. To encourage timely repayment, beneficiaries who timely repay their loans receive an interest subsidy of 7%. Over the past six years, the PM SVANidhi Scheme has benefited nearly 76 lakh street vendors and facilitated the disbursement of loans exceeding ₹17,800 crore across its three lending cycles.

Indian street vendors are known for their resilience and perseverance amid changing global circumstances and economic disruptions. PM SVANidhi has infused new energy into their entrepreneurial spirit. The scheme has gone beyond merely providing loans; it has become a powerful vehicle for dignity, recognition, and new opportunities.

A key factor behind the scheme's success has been the "Who is it for? Governance Approach," which brought together coordinated efforts of the Central Government, State Governments, Urban Local Bodies, and banking institutions. This collaborative framework has enabled the scheme to achieve unprecedented outreach and remarkable outcomes across the country.

Under this scheme, the bank accounts of millions of street vendors became active, their financial transactions began to be recorded, and for the first time, a formal credit history was established for them. This made it easier for them to access larger loans and other financial services in the future, and today they have emerged as respected bank customers and entrepreneurs.

Another significant aspect of the scheme is digital empowerment. Cashback incentives have been introduced to promote UPI and QR code-based digital payments. Through this initiative, over 55 lakh vendors have been integrated into the digital economy, making their transactions more transparent and strengthening their financial credibility.

The scheme's vision extends beyond business support. Through the SVANidhi se Samridhi initiative, beneficiaries and their families are connected to eight major welfare schemes of

the Government of India. More than 50 lakh street vendor families have been profiled so far, and over 1.52 crore benefits have been sanctioned under these schemes. By facilitating access to pensions, insurance, healthcare, and social security benefits, the initiative has emerged as a comprehensive social protection mechanism for street vendors and their families.

In addition, collaboration with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has enabled the provision of training on food safety and hygiene. This has particularly benefited street food vendors by improving quality standards, hygiene practices, and customer confidence.

The scheme has also made a noteworthy contribution to women's empowerment. Women constitute nearly 46% of all beneficiaries. As a result, their income levels, social standing, and participation in household decision-making have significantly improved.

Independent impact assessments conducted in 2023 and 2025 have further validated the scheme's far-reaching impact. Approximately 95% of beneficiaries accessed formal credit for the first time in their lives, marking a historic achievement in financial inclusion. Moreover, nearly 30% of beneficiaries subsequently succeeded in obtaining loans from other formal financial institutions, reflecting growing financial confidence and stronger credit profiles.

Beneficiaries have reported an average annual increase of nearly 20% in income. Improvements have also been observed in housing conditions, nutrition, healthcare access, and children's education. Between 2023 and 2025, the use of UPI-based transactions among beneficiaries increased significantly from approximately 45% to 83%.

Recognizing the scheme's broad and positive impact, the Union Cabinet, in August 2025, approved its extension in a restructured form until March 2030.

Under the revamped scheme, loan limits for street vendors have been enhanced, and the scope

has been expanded beyond Urban Local Bodies to include Census Towns and peri-urban areas. Greater emphasis is also being placed on capacity building to help vendors strengthen and adapt their enterprises to evolving economic needs. In this direction, the introduction of the SVANidhi Credit Card marks another important step. The card provides vendors with access to short-term, interest-free credit to meet immediate financial and personal requirements.

While PM SVANidhi has significantly advanced the financial empowerment of street vendors, many of them are still not adequately recognized as an integral part of urban planning frameworks. They continue to face challenges such as the lack of designated vending spaces. The absence of organized vending zones affects both their livelihoods and customer accessibility. To address this challenge, State Governments and Urban Local Bodies should work toward integrating street vendors into urban planning framework in the coming years. One promising initiative in this regard is the development of Street Food Hubs, which will provide vendors with organized and accessible business spaces. Such efforts will not only strengthen their livelihoods but also contribute to cleaner, more organized, and more vibrant urban environments.

The PM SVANidhi Scheme embodies the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Vocal for Local at the grassroots level. Its success demonstrates that the benefits of inclusive development are reaching the most vulnerable sections of society.

The scheme has established an effective model of financial inclusion and social security for street vendors. It is expected that in the years ahead, PM SVANidhi will continue to empower millions of vendors, create new stories of transformation, and play a significant role in building a viksit Bharat.

(The Author is Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs.)

Born Guilty

BY PAROMITA ROY

On 12 May 2026, Twisha Sharma, 33, was found hanging in her matrimonial home in Bhopal's Katara Hills. The FIR named her husband and mother-in-law on allegations of dowry harassment. Within days the Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of "alleged institutional bias and procedural discrepancies" in the handling of her unnatural death. AIIMS Delhi conducted a second autopsy, and the case was transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Six days later in Greater Noida, 25-year-old Deepika Nagar died after allegedly falling from the terrace of her three-storey matrimonial home, seventeen months into her marriage. Her father told police she had telephoned him minutes earlier saying she was being assaulted over dowry demands: the post-mortem found a brain bleed and multiple contusions. Police registered the case under Section 80(2) and Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act. The alleged demand was a Toyota Fortuner and around Rs 50 lakh in cash.

Both cases remain under investigation. That caveat matters. A republic governed by law must not convict through grief, television, or public fury. Yet it is also true that these names entered a queue already too long

for innocence to be the only national posture. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita defines dowry death as the unnatural death of a woman within seven years of marriage where cruelty or harassment connected with a dowry demand is shown to have occurred soon before her death: the punishment is a minimum of three years and may extend to life imprisonment.

If the statute is precise, the social disease it addresses is older, more elusive, and far more difficult to prosecute. India's tragedy is not that it lacks laws. It is that the law arrives after the daughter has already been culturally priced. The old phrase for this pricing is *paraya dhan*: another's wealth. It sounds gentle almost spoken in a courtyard, almost affectionate, as though a daughter is a guest whose departure must be prepared with tears and jewellery. In truth, it is one of the most efficient phrases patriarchy has invented. It converts a child into a transfer asset.

It tells parents that investment in her education, autonomy, and inheritance is generosity rather than duty. It tells the groom's family that acceptance carries a price. It tells the daughter that her belonging is provisional from birth. This idea did not descend from nowhere. Manusmriti 9.3, in Ganganath Jha's canonical translation, declares that the father guards her during virginity, the husband guards her in youth, the

sons guard her in old age. The woman is never fit for independence.

It would be lazy to pretend that one verse explains a civilisation. India's own traditions contain counter-memories of learned women, ruling women, argumentative women, and *saini*-poets who refused to be contained by domestic grammar. But the Manu-like imagination found a durable home in everyday custom because it served power. It made control look like protection. It made exclusion look like honour. That grammar survives in the numbers. The National Family Health Survey-5 put India's sex ratio at birth at 929 girls per 1,000 boys, still below the natural range: Rajasthan stood at 891 and Punjab at 904.

Reuters, citing the United Nations Population Fund, reported in 2022 that India was losing approximately 5.9 lakh girl children to prenatal sex selection each year between 2015 and 2020, contributing to an estimated forty-six million women and girls "missing" from the population by 2020. A country does not arrive at such figures merely through medical misuse. It arrives there when son preference becomes household economics, ritual expectation, old-age insurance, lineage anxiety, and matrimonial bargaining combined. Dowry is not an aberration within this system.

It is its invoice. The legal archi-

ecture appears formidable. The Dowry Prohibition Act has existed since 1961. Section 80 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita criminalises dowry death. Section 85 punishes cruelty by the husband or his relatives, and Section 86 defines that cruelty to include wilful conduct likely to drive a woman to suicide or cause grave injury, and harassment tied to unlawful demands for property or valuable security. Yet the National Crime Records Bureau, in Crime in India 2023, recorded 6,156 dowry deaths in that year alone, with Uttar Pradesh accounting for 2,122 and Bihar for 1,143.

The provisional figure for 2024, since released, is 5,737. The decline is welcome. Survival is not victory when more than five thousand women are still dying each year at the intersection of marriage, money, and impunity. And the official count is itself a floor: under the NCRB's "principal offence" rule, where an FIR carries multiple charges, only the most heinous is recorded, so dowry deaths are routinely subsumed within murder or abetment. Researchers have argued the true figure is plausibly two to three times the published one. The most frightening part of dowry violence is not always the fatal end. It is the long normalisation before it: the first "small" demand, the comparison with another bride's wedding gifts, the taunt about a car.

Jammu Police Organizes Drug Awareness Programme in Purani Mandi and Parade Areas Under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan

Jammu, June 03: As part of its sustained efforts to eradicate the menace of drug abuse and promote a healthy, responsible, and drug-free society, District Police Jammu today organized a Drug Awareness Programme in the Purani Mandi and Parade areas of Old City Jammu. The programme was conducted under the ongoing anti-drug campaign of Jammu Police and witnessed the participation of senior police officers, students, teachers, community leaders, and members of the general public. Among others, SSP Jammu, Shri Joginder Singh, SP City North, SDPO City North, and other officers of District Police Jammu were present on the occasion. The primary objective of the programme was to educate the public, particularly the youth, about the harmful effects of drug addiction and to encourage collective action against the growing threat of substance abuse. During the



awareness session, resource persons and police officers highlighted the severe physical, psychological, social, and economic consequences of drug abuse. Participants were sensitized about the importance of making informed life choices, resisting peer pressure, and seeking timely assistance in cases of addiction. Addressing the gathering and media persons, SSP Jammu emphasized the critical role of community participation in the fight against drugs. He urged parents, educational institutions, and civil society organizations to work closely with law enforcement agencies in identifying

vulnerable individuals and preventing the spread of drug abuse among the youth. SSP Jammu also apprised the participants of the various initiatives being undertaken by Jammu Police under its anti-drug campaign and reiterated the department's commitment to taking stringent action against drug peddlers and traffickers. At the same time, he stressed the importance of rehabilitation, counselling, and awareness measures to help affected individuals reintegrate into society. The programme concluded with a collective pledge and an appeal to all stakeholders to join hands in creating a drug-free environment and safeguarding the future of the younger generation.

District Police Jammu remains committed to its mission of building a safe, healthy, and drug-free society through sustained enforcement, awareness, and community engagement initiatives.

GCW Gandhinagar organises Wall Painting Activity under NMBA 100 Days IEC Campaign

JAMMU, JUNE 03: As part of the ongoing 100 Day Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), a wall painting activity was organized at Government College for Women (GCW) Gandhinagar, with the active participation of NCC cadets from 1

JK Naval Unit NCC and 9 JK Girls Battalion NCC, Sringeri. The programme was conducted under the guidance of the Principal, Dr. Kulvinder Kour, who appreciated the efforts of the cadets and emphasized the role of youth in spreading awareness against substance abuse. In her message, she highlighted that

wall art serves as a powerful medium to educate society about the harmful effects of drugs and inspire collective action towards prevention and rehabilitation. She encouraged students to become ambassadors of a drug-free society and actively contribute to the mission of Nasha Mukta Bharat.

Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu, Promotes Women's Health Through Community Yoga Outreach at Aap Shambhu Mandir, Roop Nagar

Jammu, June 3: As part of the ongoing activities under the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 campaign, the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute (RARI), Jammu, organised a Yoga Awareness and Practice Programme for women at Aap Shambhu Mandir, Roop Nagar, Jammu, on 3rd June 2026. The programme was conducted under the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing" with the objective of promoting physical, mental, and emotional well-being among women through the practice of yoga. The session witnessed enthusiastic participation from women of different age groups from the local community. The programme commenced with an introduction to the significance of yoga in maintaining a healthy lifestyle and preventing lifestyle-related disorders. Participants were informed about the benefits of incorporating yoga into their daily routine for enhancing



flexibility, strength, mental peace, and overall health. The practical session included demonstrations and guided practices of various yoga asanas, pranayama techniques, and relaxation exercises. Special emphasis was laid on simple and effective yoga practices that can be easily adopted by women to improve their physical fit-

ness, manage stress, and support healthy ageing. The resource persons from the Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu, highlighted the role of yoga as an integral component of holistic healthcare and encouraged the participants to practice yoga regularly for maintaining health and wellness. Informative interactions

The Regional Ayurveda Research Institute, Jammu, continues to organise a series of yoga awareness activities across the region in the run-up to International Day of Yoga 2026, reaffirming its commitment to the promotion of traditional health practices and holistic well-being.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIVISION - III, JAMMU

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No.10 of 2026-2027 Dated 16-05-2026 and
Fresh Short e-NIT No. 15 of 2026-2027 Dated 02-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on **item rate basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class Of Contractor
1.	Procurement and purchase of machinery and equipment's for civil sectt. and various others Estates colonies, VIP residence, bungalows and other houses etc. Supply, Erection, testing and commissioning of various types of Coolers in VVIP and VIP bungalows and lodges and other Quarters under the jurisdiction of Projects Division-III, Jammu for the financial year 2026-27. CWO-21 P (2 nd Call)	PWD (R&B) Project Div. III, Jammu	600	20000	Upto March 2027	(1300 Hrs) on or after 09-06-2026	Manufacturers/Authorized Dealer/Distributor / Supplier registered with the company

Position of AAA :- **Accorded**
Position of TS :- **Under Process**

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> per below schedule:-

S. No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-06-2026
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-06-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02-06-2026 to 08-06-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	05-06-2026 at 12:00 hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	02-06-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date	08-06-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	09-06-2026 at or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 059 (Revenue) favoring **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu** and upload the same in treasury challan/Receipt. Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu. The date of both should be in between publishing and closing of NIT. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu within 03 (three) days after the issuance of the Letter of Acceptance.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per severities. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-Bids of responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of **Technical bids**.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-**
 - any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in into account bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above or on the next working day if the mentioned date happens to be a holiday.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.

No :- PWD(R&B)/PD-III/1753-65sd
Dated: 02-06-2026

(Er. Rahul Gupta)
Executive Engineer
Project Division III
Jammu

DIP/J-3072/26

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS TEHSILDAR RAJGARH

ABDUL QUYOOM S/O ABDUL JABAR R/O CHHUCHATER CHAKKA, TEHSIL RAJGARH DISTT. RAMBAN

Applicant

Versus

UT OF J&K THROUGH BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, ASSAR

Non Applicant

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the applicant's children named as SHABNAM BANOO AND MUHAMMED YASEEN SHAH AND SHAHISTA BANOO have sought a direction from Block Development Officer, Assar register who was born on 01-02-2009 and 01-02-2009 and 15-06-2013 at home. Whereas the public at large is informed through the medium of this notice that if any person / persons have any objection regarding the correction of the Birth of applicant mentioned above, he or she shall file his/her objections within 07 days to this court from the date of publication of this notice in the newspaper, falling which appropriate order shall be passed. In case the date fixed is declared as holiday, the matter shall be taken up on the next working day. Given under my hand and seal of this Court on 01-06-2026

Executive Magistrate
1st Class Rajgarh

IN THE COURT OF NAIB TEHSILDAR EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS RAJGARH

Zaferullah Shah S/o Mohd Qasim R/o Chakka Tehsil Rajgarh District Ramban

Applicant

Versus

Through BDO Assar

IN THE MATTER OF

Non Applicant

Application for seeking direction upon the non applicant to enter/register the birth Particular of the applicant's son in the Birth Register.

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC AT AT LARGE

Whereas the applicant named above has filed an application seeking direction to the Non Applicant to register the date of birth particulars of applicant's son as mentioned, below in the concerned register:

S. No Name I, Inman Ahmed Father Name Zaferullah Shah Mother Name Shekeela Begum Date of Birth Gender 04.04.2008 Male At Home

Therefore by virtue of this notice at large is informed that if any person have any objection is respect in the above mentioned application, he/she file his/her objection in this office within seven days from the issuance of this notice falling which said application shall be dealt into accordance with law

Issued under my hand and seal of this court today on date 01-06-2026

Executive magistrate
1st class Rajgarh

NOTICE

I Sheesh ram S/o Falail Singh R/o Chakka kundi Tehsil Rajgarh Distt. Ramban have applied for correction of my Daughter name name which has been wrongly written as Sonka devi Sharma instead of correct name Sunka devi in my Aadhar Card bearing No 692321238559 objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I Dev Raj S/o Sham Lal R/o chakka tehsil Rajgarh District Ramban have applied for correction my daughter namely Kneiya Devi which has been wrongly written as kenaya Devi instead of correct Kneiya Devi in her Aadhar card bearing No.80864409838. objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.



Mullanpur gears up for maiden Test as India face Afghanistan

Chandigarh, June 3: The Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) has finalized preparations for the historic Test match between India and Afghanistan, scheduled to be played from June 6 to June 10 at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur, New Chandigarh. The match will mark the first-ever Test fixture at the venue, making it a significant milestone for Punjab cricket. PCA Secretary Gurmeet Singh Mehtapour said the upcoming contest would be a landmark occasion not only for the stadium but also for cricket lovers across the state. He noted that Mullanpur would become the 31st Test venue in India and only the third venue in Punjab to host a Test match after Mohali and Jalandhar.



According to him, the opportunity reflects the growing stature of the stadium and the state's crick- eting infrastructure. Both the Indian and Afghan teams have already arrived in Chandigarh and have begun practice sessions at the venue. Officials said all logistical and operational arrangements have been completed, including play- er facilities, security mea- sures, spectator manag-

ing and the freedom to attend the entire day's play or visit the stadium during any ses- sion of their choice throughout the match. Meet Hayer said the PCA wanted cricket enthusiasts from across Punjab and neighbouring states to wit- ness the traditional format of the game in a world- class facility. He particu- larly appealed to parents to bring their children to the stadium during the ongoing summer vacations so that young fans could experi- ence international cricket from close quarters and watch top players in action. He said exposure to live international matches can inspire youngsters to take up the sport and better understand the nuances of Test cricket, which remains the most prestigious form of the game. The PCA expects a strong turnout from families, students,

and cricket followers dur- ing the five-day encounter. The match also holds spe- cial significance for Punjab cricket, with Punjab's star batter Shubman Gill set to lead the Indian Test side. Gill's appointment as cap- tain has generated consid- erable excitement among local fans, who will have an opportunity to watch one of the state's most prominent cricketers lead the national team on home turf. Adding to the local interest, Punjab cricketer Gurnoor Brar has also been included in the Indian squad. PCA officials expressed confidence that the presence of Punjab players in the national team would further boost specta- tor interest and create a vibrant atmosphere at the stadium throughout the match. The Mullanpur stadium, which has already hosted several

BCCI considering a winter window for IPL



New Delhi, June 3: Watching IPL matches in the sweltering heat of April and May is often exhaust- ing for cricket fans, while frequent thunderstorms and rain interruptions often spoil the spectacle. Cricketers also get dog tired after performing on the field. That is the reason why a winter IPL could make the world's premier franchise cricket league even more enjoyable. At the IPL final in Ahmedabad on Sunday, the afternoon tem- perature touched nearly 40°C. Even when the match began in the evening, it hovered around 35°C with humidity levels at approximately 55 per- cent. Players were fre- quently seen wiping sweat off their faces with towels. This was the case for most matches in this year's IPL. Only the games played in the hill town of Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh offered relatively comfortable weather con- ditions. At almost every other venue, both specta- tors and players had to endure intense heat and humidity. Several crick- eters also suffered from muscle cramps due to the extreme conditions. To avoid staging the IPL in such harsh weather and to make the tournament more comfortable for every- one involved, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is reportedly con- sidering offering a winter window to

September-October. Sources within the board suggest that BCCI may seek approval from the International Cricket Council (ICC) for a winter IPL window. However, before any formal proposal is made, the board's mem- bers would need to reach a consensus through internal discussions. In an exclu- sive chat with The Statesman, a senior mem- ber of the IPL Governing Council acknowledged the possibility.

Jharkhand launches women's premier league to nurture cricket talent



Ranchi, June 3: The Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) launched the inaugu- ral edition of the Jharkhand Women's Premier League (JWPL) at the JSCA International Cricket Stadium complex in Ranchi on Wednesday. The four-team T20 tourna- ment aims to provide com- petitive match exposure to women cricketers from across the state.

The league features Chotanagpur Blasters, Kolhan Dynamos, Palamu Warriors and Santal Challengers, with players representing different regions of Jharkhand. JSCA president Ajay Nath Shahdeo, vice-president Sanjay Pandey, secretary Saurabh Tiwari and joint secretary Shahbaz Nadeem inaugurated the tourna- ment in the presence of officials and representa- tives of district cricket associations. Speaking on the occasion, Tiwari said the association felt the need for a dedi- cated competition for women cricketers and hoped the league would expand in the coming years. JSCA decided to provide financial sup- port to participating play- ers. Shahdeo announced a cash prize of Rs 3 lakh for the winning team and Rs 2 lakh for the runners-up. Individual awards will also be presented during the tournament. The league is part of efforts to expand competitive opportunities for women cricketers in the state and strengthen the domestic cricket structure. Matches will continue over the coming days among the four participating teams.

Satwik injury forces India's star doubles pair out of Indonesia Open

New Delhi, June 3: India's challenge in the men's dou- bles at the Indonesia Open suffered a setback on Wednesday as Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were forced to retire from their opening-round match due to Satwik's shoulder injury. The world No. 4 pair were trailing 6-11 in the opening game against Malaysia's Kang Khai Xing and Aaron Tai when Satwik, who has been dealing with a recurring shoulder problem, signalled dis- comfort and decided not to contin- ue. The Indian duo subsequently conceded the match.



The injury has troubled Satwik for some time and had also forced the pair to withdraw from the Badminton Asia Championships earlier this year. Confirming the development, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) said, "Satwiksairaj

Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have withdrawn from the Indonesia Open 2026 due to the former's injury. The pair will now focus on recovery and rehabilita- tion as they prepare for the impor- tant tournaments ahead. We wish Satwik a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing the duo back on court soon." The withdrawal

comes just days after Satwik and Chirag created history by becom- ing the first Indian men's doubles pair to win the Singapore Open. The duo had fought back from a game down to defeat Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 in the final. There was better news for India in mixed doubles, where Rohan Kapoor and Rutvikha Gadde progressed to the second round with a straight-games win over world No. 20 pair Yang Po-Hsuan and Hu Ling Fang of Chinese Taipei. Earlier in the tourna- ment, Lakshya Sen's campaign ended in the first round after the world No. 10 lost to Indonesia's Alwi Farhan. However, two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu made a winning start. Sindhu, who returned to the world's top 10 this week for the first time since October 2023, defeated Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrangphan in her opening-round match. India also enjoyed success in men's doubles through Haritaran Anasakannan and MR Arjun, who pulled off an upset win against Malaysia's Tan Wee Kieng and Nur Mohd Azriyn Ayub. Tan is a Rio Olympics silver medalist in men's doubles, making the victory one.

Charles Leclerc signs fresh multi-year Ferrari contract ahead of Monaco Grand Prix

New Delhi, June 3: Ferrari have secured the long-term future of Charles Leclerc after announcing a new multi-year contract extension that will keep the Monegasque driver with the Italian team for the coming seasons. The deal strengthens a relationship that has spanned nearly a decade, with Leclerc having been part of Ferrari's driver academy since 2016 before graduating to a full-time Formula One seat in 2019. Since then, he has established him- self as one of the team's leading figures and a fan favourite among the tifosi. Leclerc has enjoyed several mem- orable moments in Ferrari colours, including victories at Monza in 2019 and 2024, as well as an emo- tional maiden triumph at his home Grand Prix in Monaco last year. The 28-year-old now ranks second on Ferrari's all-time list for



Formula One starts, behind only Michael Schumacher. By extending his stay, Leclerc has reaffirmed his commitment to Ferrari's quest to return to the top of Formula One and end the team's long wait for a drivers' world championship. "I couldn't be hap- pier to continue this journey with Scuderia Ferrari HP. It has always been so much more than just a team to me. It's the team I've loved

and dream of being part of since I was a child, and after these years it has become a second fam- ily," Leclerc said. "Together we've shared incredible moments and some tougher ones, but I believe in this team more than ever, and I'm deeply grateful that we will keep pushing side by side toward our shared goal of bringing the World Championship back to Maranello. "Being a Ferrari driver is a dream, but it's also a responsibility I never take for granted. I'll continue to give absolutely everything I have to bring this team back to where it belongs, at the very top, for every- one in Maranello, and above all for the tifosi, whose passion is the heartbeat of this Scuderia," he added. Ferrari Team Principal, Fred Vasseur added: "Charles has been part of the Ferrari family for many years now and this renewal feels like something very natural

for us. Over these seasons we have seen him grow to become not only one of the strongest drivers in Formula 1, but also a person who is completely at one with the team and everything Ferrari represents. We appreciate his talent, we love his determination and the way he approaches every day with the people in the Scuderia, both on and off the track. We know how much this project means to him and we are happy to continue working towards our shared goals." Leclerc's new deal confirmation arrives ahead of his home race in Monaco this weekend. Ferrari is expected to perform well, even though Mercedes has won every Grand Prix so far this year. Ferrari has performed well in the Principality in recent years, with their car handling the street cir- cuit's low-speed bends.

Richa Ghosh bags Impact Fielder medal after stellar keeping display in England T20I series

New Delhi, June 2: India wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh was awarded the Impact Fielder medal for the recently-concluded T20I series against England, with the team management recognising her impressive work behind the stumps despite the visitors suffering a 2-1 series defeat. Richa stood out with a series-high three catches and several crucial interventions with the gloves, earning praise from fielding coach Munish Bali during the post-series medal presentation ceremony. Announcing the award, Bali highlighted the wicketkeeper's consistency and alertness through- out the three-match con- test, where India also pro- duced several encouraging displays in the field ahead of the upcoming Women's



T20 World Cup. "Richa Ghosh, three catches, excellent keeping. Very well done. Two excel- lent stumps too. Best impact fielder of the series, Richa Ghosh. Well done to you. Very well done. Congratulations," Bali said in a video shared by the BCCI on its social media platforms. The fielding coach also lauded the team's overall effort in the field, pointing to India's improved catching stan-

dards, energetic body lan- guage and commitment to excellent keeping. "Very well done. As Amol said, lots of positives, especially on the field. Throwing was very good. Our body language was excellent throughout the three-match series. Energy, effort, no complaints, and catching percentage were little good, 87 percent catching. Out of 15, we took 13 catches, 87 per- cent."

RCB deserved IPL 2026 title: Bhuvneshwar hails team's historic double

New Delhi, June 3: Star pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar believes Royal Challengers Bengaluru fully deserved its back-to-back IPL titles, crediting the collective effort of the team over the last two seasons for the historic achievement. RCB defended their title with a five-wicket win over Gujarat Titans in the IPL 2026 final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, becoming only the third team in tourna- ment history to win con- secutive championships. Reflecting on the achieve- ment, Bhuvneshwar said the success was the result of contributions from every

member of the squad. "I think the way RCB have waited all these years, they deserve to win back-to-back titles. I think every- one gets credit for it. The way the team has been performing for the past two years, I don't think anyone is dependent on the player. It's not an easy task to win back-to-back, but I think it was a great job by every- one," he said. Bhuvneshwar himself enjoyed an excellent sea- son, finishing with 28 wickets and playing a key role in RCB's title-winning campaign. Looking back on his performances, the veteran seamer expressed satisfaction with how his



plans came together throughout the tournament. "Individually, it's been a very great season. A lot of things have gone well. Execution has been good.

Execution after the thought process has worked. So I think it was a good season for me, for sure. "There is no bigger high- light than winning the trophy, for which we work hard for 2-3 months. All teams do it - it's not that we don't. But to end up with the trophy, I think it takes a lot. So, we have done that," he said. Batting all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer, who played a crucial role in RCB's successful cam- paign, described the title triumph as one of the most memorable moments of his career. "I've played a couple of finals before, but this felt

totally different. It felt as if the entire country were present this team and bring glory to it," he added. Iyer also reserved special praise for captain Rajat Patidar and Bhuvneshwar. "I think this season, the way Rajat has carried him- self with the bat and as a leader, I think he's been a standout performer for us. But my vote for the player of the season for RCB has to go to Bhuvneshwar Kumar. He shows us that vintage is always special. Keeps things very basic, but so effective. It was such a pleasure to watch him in his full flow," Iyer said.

for this day. For allowing me the opportunity to rep- resent this team and bring glory to it," he added. Iyer also reserved special praise for captain Rajat Patidar and Bhuvneshwar. "I think this season, the way Rajat has carried him- self with the bat and as a leader, I think he's been a standout performer for us. But my vote for the player of the season for RCB has to go to Bhuvneshwar Kumar. He shows us that vintage is always special. Keeps things very basic, but so effective. It was such a pleasure to watch him in his full flow," Iyer said.

Swayamshree conclave showcases Odisha's women-led livelihood success stories

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The second edition of the Swayamshree Conclave was held in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday, bringing together policymakers, development practitioners, industry leaders, civil society organisations and women's collectives to deliberate on strategies for strengthening and scaling women-led livelihood models across Odisha. Organised under the Swayamshree programme—a collaborative initiative of the Department of Mission Shakti, Reliance Foundation and the Gates Foundation—the conclave served as a platform to share field-level learnings, foster Public-Private-Community Partnerships (PPCPs), and explore pathways for expanding sustainable livelihood opportunities for women. Speaking at the event, Jyotishankar K. Chhapra, Additional Secretary, Department of Mission Shakti, underscored the importance of collaborative action in achieving large-scale socio-economic transformation. "In a resource-constrained environment, collective efforts are essential for



delivering meaningful outcomes. The learnings emerging from the Swayamshree programme offer valuable insights, and the government is keen to replicate successful models on a larger scale," he said. Highlighting the programme's impact, N. Deepthi Reddy, Chief - Women Empowerment, Reliance Foundation, said Swayamshree has enabled more than 4.2 lakh women across seven districts of Odisha to transition from subsistence-based activities to enterprise-driven livelihoods. She noted that women from diverse geographies—from the tribal hinterlands of Kandhamal to the handloom clusters of Bargarh—have adopted

modern technologies, strengthened collective enterprises and gained improved access to markets. Through producer groups and institutional market linkages, women are increasingly emerging as entrepreneurs and community leaders, she added. Saachi Bhalla, Deputy Director, Gender Equality, Gates Foundation, said the programme complements the national vision of creating "Lakshadi Dids" by building sustainable income opportunities for women through strategic partnerships among government agencies, philanthropy, the private sector and grassroots institutions. A key highlight of the conclave was the launch of a com-

pendium titled "Best Practices from Odisha for Strengthening Women's Livelihoods." The compendium captures successful interventions across farm, off-farm and non-farm sectors, including paddy cultivation, vegetable farming, dairy, food processing, handloom, retail businesses and service-based enterprises. It is expected to serve as a practical resource for policymakers, development agencies and institutions seeking to replicate proven livelihood models. An exhibition showcasing products developed by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) provided participants with a firsthand glimpse of the transformative impact of the programme. As the Swayamshree initiative expands its footprint in Odisha, the conclave reinforced the importance of sustained collaboration among government, private sector, philanthropic organisations and community institutions in advancing women's economic empowerment and building resilient, inclusive livelihood ecosystems across the state.

Malviya Nagar fire: Harsh Malhotra calls it the result of 27 years of corruption by successive govts



New Delhi, June 3: Delhi BJP president and MP from East Delhi Harsh Malhotra on Wednesday expressed deep sorrow over the untimely death of 21 people in a fire incident at a hotel allegedly operating illegally in Haaz Rani area of Malviya Nagar Assembly constituency. Malhotra called it a matter of grave concern that during the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in 2024, a Bread and Breakfast license issued for only six rooms was allegedly used to operate

an illegal hotel across the entire building. During the AAP regime, the establishment also received high-load electricity connections, and reportedly, even the mandatory Fire NOC was reportedly not properly verified. The Delhi BJP chief said that the alleged collusion between the then Congress and Kejriwal governments and hoteliers clearly allowed numerous illegal hotels to open across Delhi between 1998 and 2024 using incomplete licenses. He added that the present

chaotic conditions in Delhi's hotel sector resulted from 27 years of corruption under successive Delhi governments. The Delhi BJP chief further stated that the National Capital's residents are astonished to see AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj making political statements about the tragic fire incident, as the Tourism Department granted an incomplete license to the hotel during his tenure as a minister in May 2024. Bharadwaj should explain how such a serious lapse occurred while he was in office. Malhotra also said that Delhi government's Minister Ashish Sood, along with local MLA Saurabh Upadhyay, visited Haaz Rani this morning. Based on their report, CM Rekha Gupta immediately ordered inspections of hotels, motels and similar establishments not only in Haaz Rani.

Odisha govt reviews reform framework for settlement of Shree Jagannath Temple land

Bhubaneswar, June 3: The state government on Wednesday reviewed a proposed framework for settling lands recorded in the name of Lord Jagannath and occupied for generations by servitors, Nijogs and religious institutions (Maths). A high-level review meeting, chaired by Law, Works and Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, deliberated on measures to provide eligible long-term occupants with legally recognised land tenure while ensuring the orderly management of temple properties. The proposed initiative seeks to address longstanding issues relating to the occupancy and settlement of temple lands by traditional stakeholders



associated with the Shree Jagannath Temple. Officials discussed modalities for granting land rights to servitors, Nijogs and Maths that have resided on or managed such lands for decades, thereby providing them with greater legal security and clarity over their holdings. The Minister emphasised the need for a transparent, equitable and legally robust settlement mechanism that protects the interests of traditional beneficiaries while preserving the sanctity and ownership of temple assets. He noted that the proposed reforms would bring greater efficiency and accountability to the administration of Shree Jagannath Temple lands.

Sattar grumbles against BJP despite Shinde urging him to follow coalition ideals

Mumbai, June 3: An Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena leader, who complained against the BJP's moves to cut its junior ally on Tuesday, spoke against the BJP again on Wednesday. This occurred despite Deputy CM Eknath Shinde asking him at a Tuesday night meeting to follow the ideals of the Mahayuti coalition's ideals and refrain from speaking openly against the government. Significantly, sources also said that Deputy CM Eknath Shinde skipped the cabinet meeting held on Tuesday morning, indicating that perhaps all is not well in the Mahayuti ruling alliance. After Shinde instructed Abdul Sattar, his party's Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, not to criticise the BJP openly, Sattar said here on Wednesday, "We had a detailed discussion with Eknath Shinde regarding the obstacles faced by



like this from now, will there be any Mahayuti alliance in the 2029 elections? We will have to consider this possibility. Eknath Shinde has instructed us to fight elections as part of the Mahayuti and we will follow it. Whatever decision our party chief Eknath Shinde makes, we will accept it. As per his advice, we decided to join hands with the BJP. So the BJP should value our good work," Shinde-led Shiv Sena leader Abdul Sattar said here on Wednesday. When asked about his statement that Eknath Shinde's Sena must merge with the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, Abdul Sattar replied, "It was not me who made the statement that both Shiv Sena parties should come together. It was Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena MLA Ambadas Danve who said it. I merely reacted to Danve's statement. We are worried about the current situation. There are no elec-

tions at present, but the picture that has emerged in all elections is that the elder brother (BJP) is taking away all the power from the younger brother (Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena). Shinde-led Shiv Sena leader Abdul Sattar said. Shinde-led Shiv Sena leader Abdul Sattar's statement came after Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena Rajya Sabha MP and Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Raut said on Tuesday that, "Those who still have self-respect, and those who have realised the true nature of the BJP, should come to Matoshree and meet Uddhav Thackeray." On Tuesday, Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena leader Abdul Sattar had spoken out against the BJP after his son Sameer Sattar's candidature for the Legislative Council election was rejected and the BJP fielded Sulabhi Shirsat from the Chhatrapati.

In big jolt to Mamata Banerjee, TMC rebel Ritabrata Banerjee chosen as Bengal LOP

New Delhi, June 2: In a major jolt to Trinamool Congress Supremo Mamata Banerjee, expelled party MLA Ritabrata Banerjee has been chosen as the Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. "We have claimed that the legislative party belongs to these MLAs. Two-thirds of the MLAs who have won in the symbol of the Trinamool Congress. The West Bengal State Legislative Assembly, the Speaker, has granted us our claim. So we want to go one step forward, one step at a time..." he said. Speaking to reporters in Kolkata, the leader of the rebel TMC MLAs claimed that his faction has been accepted as the principal Opposition in the 18th West Bengal Legislative Assembly. "This two-thirds strong legislative team of the Trinamool Congress inside the 18th West Bengal



Legislative Assembly does not believe in 'I', it believes in 'we'. Whatever norms are framed out, we have followed every norm, and that's why we have been accepted as the principal opposition in the 18th West Bengal Legislative Assembly," he said. Ritabrata sug-

gested an advisor role for Mamata Banerjee, while launching a scathing attack on her nephew Abhishek Banerjee. "We want Mamata Banerjee to be our chief advisor, to give us advice that will help us in strengthening our position as the opposition. 80

members were elected by the Trinamool Congress symbol. More than two-thirds of them have given our claim, and the claim has been accepted," he added. Slamming Abhishek Banerjee, he said that the Diamond Harbour MP will now have no role in the party. "Abhishek Banerjee will have absolutely no role in it. Neither our legislative party nor the party organisation has any connection whatsoever with him. Nor does the public have any connection with him," he said. He further remarked that Abhishek was seen as "a thief" by the public. "After being beaten like a thief, Abhishek Banerjee had declared that the public would protect him. Yet, it was observed that he had submitted a letter to the Central Government requesting an enhancement of his security..." he added.

No compromise with zero-tolerance policy towards crime: CM Yogi

Gorakhpur, June 3: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, "Security is the most essential requirement for development and enterprise. Without security, neither good governance nor prosperity can be achieved. Since 2017, the government has moved forward with a policy of zero tolerance against crime and criminals. There can be no compromise with this policy. Those who do not accept the policy of zero tolerance will be dealt with in the language they understand, but no one will be allowed to rob young people of employment opportunities." CM Yogi was addressing a public gathering on Wednesday after inaugurating Eastern Uttar



Pradesh's first and the state's second Flatted Factory Complex, constructed at a cost of ₹42.50 crore in Sector-13 of GIDA (Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority), Chief Minister, CM Yogi also distributed certificates to youth trained by NIELIT. In his address, the Chief Minister informed, "Since 2017, Uttar Pradesh has presented a model of security. Various sectors of GIDA. The Chief Minister distributed certificates to the allottees of the EWS and LIG housing units. Allottees of industrial land also received allotment letters from the Chief Minister. CM Yogi also distributed certificates to youth trained by NIELIT. In his address, the Chief Minister informed, "Since 2017, Uttar Pradesh has presented a model of security.

PhysicsWallah fined Rs 5 lakh, McAfee Rs 1 lakh for practices affecting informed consumer choice

New Delhi, June 2: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), headed by Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare and Commissioner Anupam Mishra, has imposed penalties on PhysicsWallah Limited and McAfee Software India Private Limited for using dark pattern practices that misled consumers and influenced their choices on digital platforms. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said on Wednesday. "PhysicsWallah has been fined Rs 5 lakh, while McAfee has been fined Rs 1 lakh. Both companies have been directed to remove such practices from their platforms and ensure that consumers are able to make informed choices without pressure or manipulation," the Ministry said in a statement. The action has been taken under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020, and the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark



Patterns, 2023. The CCPA took suo motu cognisance of certain practices on the PhysicsWallah platform and found that consumers were being influenced through interface designs that affected their ability to make free and informed choices. A donation of Rs 10 to the PW Foundation was automatically selected during checkout and added to the total payable amount without the consumer's explicit consent.

Chhattisgarh bolsters fertiliser stocks ahead of Kharif season, tightens monitoring of distribution

Raipur, June 3: With the kharif sowing season approaching, the Chhattisgarh government has intensified efforts to ensure an uninterrupted supply of fertilisers to farmers across the state. Officials say adequate stocks have been positioned in districts and a close watch is being maintained on distribution to prevent shortages during the peak agricultural period. The state has also drawn up contingency plans in view of global uncertainties that could affect the supply of imported fertilisers. The concerned departments have been asked to ensure timely transportation, proper storage and smooth distribution of fertilisers at the grassroots level. According to the Agriculture Department, around 9.29 lakh metric tonnes of fertilisers are currently available in warehouses, coop-



erative societies and distribution centres across Chhattisgarh. The Centre has allocated 15.55 lakh metric tonnes of fertilisers to the state for the 2026 kharif season, including 7.25 lakh metric tonnes of urea, 3 lakh metric tonnes of DAP, 2.5 lakh metric tonnes of NPK, 2 lakh metric tonnes of SSP and 80,000 metric tonnes of MOP.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said that the government is committed to ensure that no farmer faces difficulty in obtaining fertilisers or other agricultural inputs during the cultivation season. He has directed officials to regularly review storage, transportation and distribution arrangements and ensure that supplies reach farmers

on time. Concerns over possible disruptions in fertiliser imports due to tensions in West Asia prompted the government to begin advance planning. The Agriculture Department, Cooperative Department, Marketed and district administrations have been working in coordination to strengthen the supply chain before the onset of large-scale sowing operations. Agriculture Director Rahul Dev said that additional stocks are continuing to arrive in the state. As of June 1, about 6,600 metric tonnes of urea was expected to reach Chhattisgarh through railheads at Tilda in Raipur district, Belsanda in Mahasamund, Kharsia in Raigarh and Balod. District level reports indicate that fertiliser availability remains comfortable in major agricultural regions. Bastar district.

Celebrity dog with over 1.5 million followers stolen, slaughtered in China as 'thief' mistook it for a stray

Beijing, June 3: In a bizarre incident, a celebrity dog in central China, with more than 1.5 million followers on social media, was stolen and slaughtered as the alleged thief mistook it for a stray. The dog's owner is now seeking justice and has highlighted major gaps in the country's legal protections for pets. The eight-year-old Border Collie was known as Chutou, and was famous for his intelligence and energy. It was owned by Guo, a travel influencer from China's Henan province, South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported. In several photographs and videos on mainland social media, Chutou was seen accompanying its owner on years of journeys across multiple regions in China ranging from snowy mountains to deserts. Often, viral clips showed Chutou guarding Guo outside his tent at night. The dog was bought by the travel influencer from a street vendor for over 2,000 yuan (US\$300) in 2018. At that time, the puppy was three months old, according to



Fengming News. The incident took place when Guo recently went on a solo road trip in Georgia and left Chutou with his parents at home. On May 11, Guo's father noticed that the dog was missing from the family fields. Later on, the family found out through surveillance footage that two strangers took Chutou away on an electric bike. After hearing him, Guo decided to cut short his trip and came back to China to look out for his pet. Within a few weeks, Guo was able to identify the man accused of stealing the dog. After locating the

person, he offered him 10,000 yuan (US\$1,500) and requested to return the dog. The alleged thief later told Guo that he mistook Chutou for a stray and claimed that the dog started following him after being called. However, the travel influencer rejected the offer and highlighted that his pet was wearing a collar and tracker. He added that the dog was resting on the family's farmland. Thereafter, Guo was informed that Chutou was ultimately sold to a dog meat restaurant for 180 yuan (US\$27). Without offering any apology, the

person reportedly said, "The dog is dead, so stop making a fuss. I did not break the law." Post that, Guo decided to confront the restaurant worker, who slaughtered Chutou. He was hoping to recover his pet dog's remains or fur. However, the butcher told him that the "hair was thrown in the rubbish long ago". After feeling devastated, Guo then decided to file a case with the police and even submitted evidence of Chutou's market value, with the hope that the matter would lead to criminal charges. Du Wei, a lawyer at Sichuan Weixun Law Firm, has shared that theft cases can be pursued criminally in the country only if the value of the stolen property is more than 2,000 yuan. Suspect could face a three-year charge if Chutou's value is established, according to South China Morning Post. Notably, there is no companion animal protection law in China, since pets are mostly treated as property and disputes get handled mainly via civil compensation.

Bangladesh measles outbreak: Death toll crosses 600 as 7 children die in 24 hours

Dhaka, June 3: The death toll from measles outbreak in Bangladesh crossed the 600-mark after seven children died of suspected measles in the 24-hour period ending 8 a.m. on Wednesday, as per the latest data provided by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). After the latest fatalities, the cumulative number of suspected and confirmed measles-related deaths in the South Asian country has reached 601 since March 15, Dhaka Tribune reported. Out of the total deaths in the country, 511 were classified as suspected measles deaths, while 90 were laboratory-confirmed. Notably, no confirmed deaths were reported during the latest 24-hour reporting period. Also, Bangladesh recorded 1,210 new suspected measles cases in the past 24 hours,



which raises the overall number of suspected infections to 74,572 since the outbreak began, according to the Health Emergency Operations Centre and Control Room of the DGHS. During the same period, 55 new cases of measles have been confirmed through laboratory testing, taking the total number of confirmed infections to 9,191. Health authorities informed that among the 60,158 suspected measles patients, who were hospitalised since March 15, 55,942 have recovered and been discharged. Among major cities in Bangladesh, Dhaka continues to remain the worst-affected district in terms of mortality, recording the highest number of both suspected and confirmed measles deaths, as per Dhaka Tribune. During the past 24-hour period, six of the seven deaths were reported in the capital city.

India-US trade deal 99% finalised, says Sergio Gor

Washington, June 3: US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor on Wednesday, June 3, said that the proposed trade agreement between India and the United States is "99 per cent there", with only a few remaining issues left to be resolved.

While speaking to media-persons on the sidelines of the GTI India 2025 Conference in Mumbai, Gor expressed optimism that the two sides are close to finalising the interim trade deal, IANS reported. He shared that officials from both the nations are actively engaged in discussions and remain committed to conclude the agreement. He further described it as a "win-win" outcome for India and the US. This morning, I met with the United States delegation visiting from Washington,



D.C. Our Deputy Trade Negotiator, who was in Delhi for several days of discussions, is here with a large team... We are very optimistic about the agreement. We are 99 per cent there, and the remaining one per cent is being worked out," Gor said. He shared that the delegation is scheduled to return to Delhi and hold a meeting with Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, since the negotiations are entering the final phase. "The delegation is

meeting officials from the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of External Affairs, and we will travel back to Delhi tomorrow morning to meet Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal," he said. The US Ambassador to India shared that negotiations between India and the US have been underway for nearly one-and-a-half years, compared to nearly 19 years taken for the European Union's trade agreement with New Delhi.

Rubio faces fierce Senate fire over Iran War, Taiwan Arms deal and Cuba policy

Washington, June 2: Facing Congress for the first time since the latest escalation in the Middle East, Secretary of State Marco Rubio defended the Trump administration's foreign policy approach, insisting that the US military capabilities had been "significantly degraded" and that Tehran was showing greater openness to negotiations over its nuclear programme. While he suggested that previously "non-negotiable" issues were now on the table, Rubio cautioned that a final agreement could still take months to achieve.

The hearing, however, quickly turned combative as Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen launched a sharp attack on the administration's handling of global crises, setting the tone for a tense and confrontational session. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he's been waiting 40 years to do this," Van Hollen said. "It turns out he finally found a president who was both stupid and reckless enough to join him



Let's face it, Mr. Secretary, the Trump foreign policy has become a dumpster fire," Rubio's testimony, which coincided with a fresh round of Israel-Lebanon political talks at the State Department, offered few definitive answers on several key issues. On Iran, Rubio said Tehran would not receive major economic benefits simply for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for global oil ship-

ments. He stressed that meaningful sanctions relief would require further concessions on its nuclear programme. "The more they give, the more they would get," he said, later adding, "They're not going to get it as a signing bonus." Rubio also suggested that Iran's new Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, was playing an increasingly active role in negotiations despite remaining out of public

view since the war began. "I think there are indications out there that he is increasingly engaging at some level, although all of his communications have been in writing and through intermediaries," he said.

Rubio faced questions over the legality of Pentagon strikes targeting suspected drug-smuggling vessels in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean, operations that have reportedly killed more than 200 people since early September.

Democratic Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia noted that the military's classified targeting criteria do not list the presence of drugs on a vessel as a justification for a strike. Calling the situation "odd," he said he was limited in what he could disclose publicly. Rubio rejected concerns over the operations, stating that legal officers review every strike before approval and that the military had repeatedly cancelled planned attacks when they failed to meet targeting requirements.

Iran's nuclear programme hit hard by war, key operations halted after strikes: IAEA

Tehran, June 3: The conflict surrounding Iran's nuclear infrastructure has significantly altered the trajectory of Tehran's atomic programme, according to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi, who said ongoing military action and attacks on nuclear-related facilities have brought several previously active activities to a halt.

The assessment marks a notable shift in how international monitors view Iran's nuclear capabilities following months of heightened tensions and strikes targeting key sites. Speaking during a visit to the United Arab Emirates, Rafael Grossi said the situation surrounding Iran's nuclear programme had changed substantially as a result of the war and attacks directed at nuclear assets. According to Rafael Grossi, several activities that were previously underway inside Iran



have now stopped, leading to a reassessment of the country's nuclear programme. He indicated that the disruption caused by the conflict has affected ongoing operations and altered the overall picture being monitored by international inspectors and intelligence agencies. The IAEA chief's comments come amid continuing international scrutiny of Iran's nuclear

ambitions and growing concerns over regional stability. Uranium stockpile remains a concern on Tuesday, Rafael Grossi had discussed proposals aimed at addressing concerns surrounding Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium. He said Iran currently possesses approximately 440 kilograms of uranium enriched to 60 per cent purity, a level that is significantly

above civilian requirements and closer to weapons-grade enrichment. According to Rafael Grossi, one US proposal that has repeatedly surfaced in discussions involves moving the enriched material outside Iran.

While calling the proposal as technically feasible, Rafael Grossi cautioned that transferring the material would involve considerable operational difficulties. He explained that the uranium is stored in gaseous form, making transportation and handling more complicated because of contamination and safety concerns. Despite those challenges, he said such a move remains possible if the parties involved decide to pursue it. Alternative options discussed Another approach being considered involves reducing the enrichment level of the uranium or diluting the stockpile to make it less sensitive from a proliferation perspective.

ByteDance's Doubao loses 6 million users as payroll gamble 'backfires'

Beijing, June 2: ByteDance's payroll gamble seems to have backfired in China as its flagship chatbot Doubao has witnessed a massive 6.1 million drop in monthly active users (MAUs) in May. In China's fierce AI consumer race, this marks a rare slump for the app that came out in 2023, South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported, citing data released by global AI market tracker Aicpb.com on Wednesday.

Analysts have suggested that ByteDance could be risking throwing away its lead in artificial intelligence consumer race by monetising too early. The assessment comes after the company teased its first-ever subscription options. Li Bangzhu, founder of Aicpb.com, said that the



1.81 per cent month-on-month decline is a "worrying sign" for the TikTok owner in the competitive domestic market where user numbers dictated "everything". "The era of free AI services in China is still far from over, so Doubao definitely might be monetising too early," Li said. This comes after Doubao's iOS App

Store page was updated last month to unveil the new subscription tiers. Under this, ByteDance announced that the standard paid plan starts at 68 yuan (US\$10) per month (688 yuan per year), while users will be required to pay 500 yuan per month (5,088 yuan per year) for the premium "professional" plan.

Henry Nowak murder; how a British Sikh man killed an 18-year-old student and triggered a debate about racism

London, June 3: Henry Nowak was an 18-year-old British-Polish student in his first year studying accountancy at the University of Southampton. He grew up in Chafford Hundred, Essex. Friends and teammates described him as someone who loved football and was fully embracing university life. On the evening of 3 December 2025, before 11:30 pm, Nowak was walking in the area of Belmont Road in the Portsmouth suburb of Southampton. He had been

drinking at the Hobbit Pub but was under the drink-drive limit. Nowak began filming Vickram Digwa. Video recovered from his phone captured him saying "Hello car" and singing to himself before yawning, while Digwa walked away from him.

The stabbing Digwa, a 23-year-old British Sikh man, cut and stabbed Nowak a total of five times with a dagger. The attack included two stab wounds to the back of Nowak's legs and a fatal

wound to his heart. The blade measured 21cm. Digwa was carrying two ceremonial knives at the time of the murder; a smaller one known as a kirpan under his clothing, and a larger Sikh dagger, which was used as the murder weapon. Officers were led to the scene by Digwa's brother. On arrival, they encountered Digwa, who was injured, while Nowak was being held against a wall by Digwa's father. When police officers from Hampshire and Isle of



Wight Constabulary arrived, Digwa accused Nowak of assault and officers handcuffed Nowak. Nowak told an officer he

had been stabbed. The officer replied: "I don't think you have mate," before placing him in handcuffs. Officers subsequently

reassessed the situation and began providing emergency medical treatment. Nowak repeatedly told the officers that he couldn't breathe and pleaded for help. He died shortly after being handcuffed. Nowak's father said that Digwa was not handcuffed at the scene and may never have been handcuffed at all. Digwa alleged that Nowak had earlier threatened him with racist remarks and then began recording him. In his account, after being taunted, he grabbed Nowak's phone and a fight broke

out, during which Nowak said "I'm going to kill you." Digwa said he acted in self-defence.

Defence barristers told the jury they had to consider whether Digwa had acted "in the heat of the moment." Prosecutors agreed that Digwa's allegations of physical and racial abuse were baseless and fabricated. The video footage recovered from Nowak's phone showed Digwa walking away, concluding the claim that Nowak had been the aggressor. Digwa testified

that his mother and father arrived at the scene and took the knife back to their home. His mother, Kiran Kaur, aged 53, was found guilty of assisting an offender by removing the weapon from the scene. Kaur's sentencing was scheduled for 17 July 2026.

The jury convicted Digwa of murder on 28 May 2026. The judge rejected Digwa's accusations that Nowak had physically or racially abused him. Digwa was also convicted of carrying a bladed weapon in public.

SKUAST-K empowers Tribal Farmers of Nagwani-Dardpora through Vegetable Development Initiative

SRINAGAR, JUNE 03: In a significant step towards strengthening livelihood opportunities and nutritional security among tribal communities, the Division of Vegetable Science, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), organized an Input Distribution-cum-Awareness Programme for tribal farmers of Nagwani-Dardpora, Arin, Bandipora under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) Project titled "Transforming Tribal Agriculture in Kashmir: A Comprehensive Vegetable Development Initiative", sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).



The programme was conducted under the guidance of Prof. Ishfaq Abidee, Head, Division of Vegetable Science, and Dr. Asima Amin, Assistant Professor and Principal Investigator of the project, with the objective of promoting scientific vegetable cultivation and enhancing the socio-economic well-being of tribal farming households. Addressing the participants, the experts highlighted the immense potential of vegetable cultivation as a means of improving farm productivity, household nutrition, and income generation. Farmers were sensitized about improved vegetable production technologies, scientific crop management practices, efficient utilization of natural resources, and sustainable cultivation methods suited to the local agro-climatic conditions. As part of the programme, vegetable tool kits were distributed among 60 tribal families to facilitate the adoption of improved cultivation practices and encourage year-round vegetable production at the household level. The initiative is expected to contribute significantly towards improving access to quality planting material and strengthening nutritional security among benefited tribal families. The programme witnessed

enthusiastic participation from tribal farmers, who actively engaged with scientists and sought technical guidance on various aspects of vegetable cultivation. The interactive sessions provided an effective platform for addressing field-level challenges and disseminating practical, research-based solutions to the farming community. Speaking on the occasion, the organizers reiterated SKUAST-K's commitment to ensuring that the benefits of agricultural research and innovation reach the remotest and underserved communities of Jammu and Kashmir. They emphasized that technological backstopping,

DC Pulwama reviews Arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram 2026

PULWAMA, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a meeting at Circuit House Pulwama to review and finalize arrangements for the smooth observance of Muharram-ul-Haram across the district. During the meeting, the DC took a detailed review of the arrangements being put in place by various departments for the forthcoming religious observances. Discussions were held regarding the provision of essential services including uninterrupted power and water supply, healthcare facilities, sanitation, traffic



management, fire and emergency services, public transportation, and other civic amenities. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of close inter-departmental coordination to ensure that all necessary facilities are made available to the general public during the holy month. He directed the concerned officers to remain proactive in addressing public requirements and to ensure that all arrangements are completed well in advance.

Colleges organize Awareness Programmes under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in Bandipora



BANDIPORA, JUNE 03: Various educational institutions across Bandipora on Tuesday organized awareness programmes under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among youth. At HKM Govt Degree College Bandipora, the NCORD Cell in collaboration with the Department of Kashmiri organized an Interaction-cum-Counselling Session on "Drugs and Their Negative Impact on Society". Speakers highlighted the

social, psychological, and health-related consequences of substance abuse and encouraged students to make informed and responsible life choices. The programme was organized under the guidance of Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay, Convener NCORD Cell. A pledge ceremony was also organized by the Red Ribbon Youth Club in collaboration with the Department of Botany, where students reaffirmed their commitment towards a drug-free society. Meanwhile, the NCC Youth Club of HKM Government Degree College Bandipora organized counselling interaction sessions with students appearing in mid-term examinations under the guidance of Dr. Nasarul Islam.

DDC Anantnag convenes Block Diwas at Srigufwara, assures time bound resolution of genuine public grievances

ANANTNAG, JUNE 03: To address the concerns and grievances of the local community and ensure efficient public service delivery, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohaiddin Bhat today visited Srigufwara and convened a Block Diwas cum grievance redressal camp at Tehsil Office, Srigufwara. The program was attended by ADC, SDM and Tehsildar Bijbehara, BDO, officials from Health, Education, R&B, PDD, PHIE, IKFC, Agriculture, Horticulture, Banks and other departments besides Ex PRI and civil society members and local public. During the program, the DDC gave a patient hear-



ing to the residents who raised issues pertaining to surface connectivity and widening of roads, healthcare services, school infrastructure, beautification and tourism promotion, water and power supply including infrastructure and utilities, functioning of lift irrigation facilities,

public transport including bus/taxi stands, telecom connectivity in upper reaches, compensation for crop damage by adverse weather, relocation of government offices, encroachment on state land, rural sanitation, release of wages under MGNREGA, among others.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC assured that major issues would be taken up with the suitable authorities and emergent ones shall be resolved by the concerned departments in a time bound manner. He issued on spot directions to the concerned authorities for prompt redressal of genuine public concerns ensuring efficient and hassle free service delivery. Terming people's welfare paramount responsibility of district administration, the DDC said that such programs help to get valuable public feedback so that necessary measures can be taken as per their requirement and local aspirations. He directed the revenue authorities to take immediate action on certain grievances raised by

locals related to land access, encroachment etc during the outreach program. At conclusion, the DDC said there is need to conduct more such camps in the area and assured public that the outreach will continue in near future. Local public and civil society members hailed the initiative hoping such programs will be held in routine for their overall well-being and community development. Following the Block Diwas, the DDC visited PHC Srigufwara to take stock of the health care facilities being provided by the centre. He interacted with the medical staff, officials and patients and inspected various sections of PHC.

DYSS Baramulla marks World Bicycle Day 2026 with enthusiastic District-Wide Celebrations

Hundreds of Young Cyclists Participate across Multiple Zones under Fit India Movement

BARAMULLA, JUNE 03: In a vibrant display of fitness, environmental awareness, and sporting spirit, the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Baramulla celebrated World Bicycle Day 2026 across various educational zones of the district under the flagship Fit India Movement.



The district-wide celebrations witnessed the enthusiastic participation of hundreds of students, teachers, and officials, reaffirming the department's commitment to promoting healthy and active lifestyles among the youth. At Zone Sopore,

a grand Cycling Championship was organized in collaboration with Boys Higher Secondary School Chankhan, attracting hundreds of boys and

girls from various government and private educational institutions. The event witnessed thrilling competition and remarkable sportsmanship. BHS Chankhan emerged as the winner in the boys' category, while MET Higher Secondary School secured meritorious honors in the girls' category. Meanwhile, Zone Singapore Pattan organized an impressive cycling rally to commemorate the occasion. More than 50 students, along with officials from the Youth Services and Sports Department, participated in the event. The rally com-

menced from Railway Station Mazhama and concluded at Higher Secondary School Chankhan. Khawaji Qasim, spreading the message of fitness, environmental conservation, and the importance of cycling as a sustainable mode of transport. Similarly, Zone Tangmarg celebrated World Bicycle Day with great enthusiasm under the Fit India Movement, witnessing the participation of nearly 200 students who actively took part in cycling activities and awareness programmes highlighting the benefits of regular.

Startup India, DPIIT, JKEDI to organize TEJAS workshop in Kupwara on June 06

SRINAGAR, JUNE 03: In a significant step towards strengthening the startup and entrepreneurial ecosystem at the district level, the Startup India, DPIIT in collaboration with the JKEDI and District Administration Kupwara, is organising the TEJAS Workshop on June 06, 2026 at District Kupwara.

The workshop aims to bring together aspiring entrepreneurs, startups, innovators, students, industry experts, institutional stakeholders, and government representatives on a common platform to promote entrepreneurship-led economic growth and innovation.

The event will be attended by Ateesh Kumar Singh, Additional Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Senior officers and officials from the J&K Government shall also attend the event. The workshop is being organised with

the objective of creating awareness about startup opportunities, government support mechanisms, innovation-driven entrepreneurship, incubation support, and market linkages for emerging enterprises. The event will focus on enabling local entrepreneurs to understand the evolving startup ecosystem and explore pathways for business growth, funding, mentorship, and institutional support. The agenda includes inaugural and context-setting sessions highlighting the entrepreneurial landscape and opportunities in the district. Key sessions during the workshop will cover Startup India initiatives and benefits, insights into the startup ecosystem, innovation and design thinking, intellectual property awareness, incubation support, entrepreneurship development, and strategies for building scalable and sustainable ventures.

Hotellers Association meets SMC Commissioner, Civic Infrastructure, Sanitation measures reviewed

SRINAGAR, JUNE 03: A delegation of the Hotellers Association today called on the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lal Haseeb, and held detailed deliberations on a range of civic, sanitation, and urban service-related issues affecting the hospitality sector across Srinagar. During the meeting, the delegation highlighted concerns regarding sanitation management, waste collection, cleanliness of public spaces, and the need for intensified civic interventions in areas witnessing significant tourist footfall and a high concentration of hotels and guest houses. The members urged the Corporation to undertake focused sanitation drives and strengthen routine civic services in these localities to ensure a cleaner and more welcoming urban environment. The representatives emphasized that maintaining high standards of sanitation and civic infrastructure is essential not only for the hospitality industry but also for enhancing the overall visitor experience and reinforcing Srinagar's image as a premier tourist destination. Giving a patient hearing to the issues raised by the delegation, the Commissioner assured the

members that all genuine concerns would be addressed in a time-bound manner. He reiterated SMC's commitment to providing efficient civic services and maintaining robust sanitation standards across the city. The Commissioner further stated that the Corporation remains focused on stakeholder engagement and collaborative governance, recognizing the important role of the tourism and hospitality sector in the economic growth of Srinagar. He emphasized that sustained coordination between civic agencies and industry stakeholders is vital for creating a clean, sustainable, and tourist-friendly urban ecosystem. Senior officers of the Corporation, including Joint Commissioners, the Chief Revenue Officer, concerned Sanitation Officers, and other officials, attended the meeting and took note of the issues and suggestions put forth by the delegation for appropriate follow-up action. The members of the Hotellers Association expressed their appreciation to the Commissioner and the SMC officers for the constructive interaction and for the assurance extended towards the resolution of the issues raised during the meeting.

Round-1 UG Allotment List published on jkadmissions.in

Revised timelines notified for Fee Payment, Verification, Round-2, Spot Round

SRINAGAR, JUNE 03: Directorate of Colleges, Higher Education Department, has published the Round-1 College/Major Allotment List for the Undergraduate (UG) admissions, Academic Session 2026-27, on the centralised admission portal, <https://jkadmissions.in>. Allotted aspirants can now log in to the portal, check their allotment, and proceed with the prescribed admission formalities. Allotted aspirants are required to deposit the prescribed admission fee online on the portal, and may either confirm their allotment by paying the full admission fee, or opt for upgradation by paying an upgradation fee of ₹1,000 to be considered for

Block Diwas Programme held at Qalamabad ADC Handwara listens to Public Grievances, inspects Departmental Stalls

KUPWARA, JUNE 03: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, a Block Diwas programme was today held at Government Higher Secondary School Qalamabad in Block Mawar as part of the Government's public outreach initiative. The programme was chaired by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, who interacted with local residents, reviewed developmental issues, and listened to public grievances. A large number of people, including officers from various departments and members of civil society, participated in the programme and highlighted various issues and

demands related to road connectivity, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare, education, welfare schemes, and other developmental sectors. The ADC gave a patient hearing to the grievances and demands projected by the public and assured them that all genuine concerns would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner. He directed the concerned officers to take immediate action on issues that could be resolved at the sub-divisional level and ensure prompt follow-up on the remaining matters. On the occasion, the ADC also inspected stalls installed by various departments showcasing government schemes, welfare programmes, public services, and developmental

initiatives. He interacted with the officials managing the stalls and emphasized the need for greater public awareness and effective implementation of beneficiary-oriented schemes so that the benefits reach every eligible citizen. Addressing the gathering, the ADC reiterated the administration's commitment to transparent governance, responsive public service delivery, and inclusive development. He stressed that Block Diwas serves as an important platform for direct interaction between the administration and the people, enabling timely redressal of public issues and strengthening public confidence in governance. Officers from various line departments were present during the programme.



CS reviews preparedness for rollout of VB-G RAM G across J&K

SRINAGAR, JUNE 03: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the preparedness of the Rural Development Department and district administrations for the smooth rollout of the Viksit Bharat Gramin Rozgar Abhiyan Mission (VB-G RAM G) across Jammu and Kashmir from July 1, 2026.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress achieved by the department in transitioning from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) framework to the newly enacted VB-G RAM G, which was notified by the Government of India on May 11, 2026. Stressing the importance of meticulous planning and coordinated execution, the Chief Secretary directed the officers to adhere strictly to the timelines prescribed for operationalization of the scheme and ensure that all preparatory activities are completed well before its commencement on July 1, 2026. He called for expediting all prerequisites, including



notification of the scheme in consultation with the Law Department, completion of e-KYC of all eligible workers, and advance planning and approval of works to facilitate a smooth and seamless transition to the new framework. The Chief Secretary also directed the Directors of Rural Development, Jammu and Kashmir, to take personal responsibility for capacity building and training of all functionaries associated with the implementation of the scheme. He emphasized that every employee at the district, block and Gram Panchayat level should be adequately trained and fully conversant with the provisions, procedures and technological platforms under VB-G

RAM G before its rollout. During the meeting, the Rural Development, Aijaz Asad apprised that extensive awareness and outreach campaigns have been conducted across all districts, covering all 4,291 Gram Panchayats through special Gram Sabhas, community engagement programmes, social media campaigns and newspaper outreach initiatives. Reviewing the planning process under the Yuktidhara platform, the Chief Secretary was informed that all 20 districts, 285 blocks and 4,291 Gram Panchayats have been onboarded, with 100 percent login creation. Planning activities have commenced in more than

94 percent Gram Panchayats, while over 92 percent have already submitted their plans. Around 3,849 Gram Sabhas have approved development plans and more than 63,000 works have been identified, providing a robust shelf of projects to cater to anticipated labour demand under the new programme.

The meeting was further informed that Jammu and Kashmir has emerged among the top-performing States and Union Territories in e-KYC coverage and face authentication compliance of MGNREGA workers, with all Gram Panchayats achieving full coverage. The Chief Secretary noted that the adoption of technol-

ogy-driven governance mechanisms under VB-G RAM G, including face authentication, geofencing, AI-enabled analytics and real-time monitoring dashboards, would further strengthen transparency, accountability and service delivery. Regarding the operational readiness of the new scheme, the meeting was apprised that the draft notification for implementation of VB-G RAM G has been prepared and submitted for approval, while the rules, dedicated accounts, budgetary provisions and integration of financial management systems are being pursued in accordance with timelines prescribed by the Ministry of Rural Development. The categorisation of Gram Panchayats and other preparatory activities are also progressing as scheduled. The Chief Secretary also called for sustained public outreach and close monitoring at all levels so that the objectives of the flagship rural employment and development initiative are realized effectively across Jammu and Kashmir from day one of its implementation.

PM SHRI Girls High School Degwar M, Poonch Organizes Seminar on Cyber Safety Awareness



POONCH, JUNE 3: PM SHRI Girls High School, Degwar M, Poonch today organized a comprehensive seminar on Cyber Safety Awareness with the objective of sensitizing students and teachers about the growing challenges of cybercrimes and the importance of safe digital practices. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DAR) Shashikant Raina was the Chief Guest on the occasion, while Inspector Shakeel Ahmed, SHO Cyber Police Station Poonch, served as the Key Speaker. During his address, Inspector Shakeel elaborated on various forms of cybercrimes and the modus operandi adopted by cybercriminals to deceive unsuspecting individuals. He highlighted common online frauds, cyber threats, and preventive measures that citizens should adopt to safeguard themselves in the digital world. He urged students to remain vigilant while using social media, online banking platforms, and other internet-based services. Speaking on



the occasion, Chief Guest Deputy Superintendent of Police Shashikant Raina stressed the need for mass awareness regarding cyber safety. He remarked that drug abuse and cybercrime are two of the major challenges confronting society today and called upon teachers to play a proactive role in educating the masses. He also advised students to use mobile phones and the internet responsibly and with utmost caution. Earlier, Darshan Kumar, School Nodal Officer (SNO) for Cyber Safety and PM SHRI Component, welcomed the guests and highlighted the various initiatives being undertaken by the school for the holistic development and safety of students. Parveen Kumari, Master, presented bouquets to the distinguished guests as a token of respect and appreciation. Addressing the gathering, Headmaster Ms. Nozreen Akhter emphasized the importance of digital literacy and responsible

online behaviour. She urged students to become informed and responsible digital citizens and thanked the resource persons for enlightening the students on a highly relevant and contemporary issue. Sub Inspector Surali Saini also spoke on the occasion. A symposium on cyber safety was also organized in which students participated enthusiastically and expressed their views on safe internet practices and cyber awareness. In the Higher Classes Category, Shahida Fatima secured the first position, Suranshi Sharma secured the second position, and Toiba Tabassum secured the third position. In the Middle Classes Category, Misba Sajad secured the first position. The proceedings of the programme were conducted efficiently by Neetu Sharma, while the event concluded with a vote of thanks to the guests, participants, and organizers for making the programme a success.

DC reviews progress of infrastructure upgradation projects, traffic decongestion measures at SKIMS, Associated Hospitals



SRINAGAR, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the progress of healthcare infrastructure projects and traffic decon-

gestion measures being executed by multiple departments at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura and Associated Hospitals under Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar. The meeting was attended

by the Administrator Associated Hospitals GMC Srinagar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Superintending Engineers of various departments, Additional CEO and Chief Engineer of Srinagar Smart City Limited, Medical Superintendent SKIMS Soura, Executive Engineers of R&B, Mechanical and Hospital Divisions, representatives from Police Housing Corporation, KPDC, Water Works Division, District Youth Services & Sports Department, Traffic Police, Revenue Department and other concerned officers. During the review, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of several key initiatives relating to the expansion of healthcare infrastructure, implementation of traffic decongestion measures, enhancement of access to SKIMS Soura.

DC presides over public grievances redressal camp at Sewna- Udhampur Listens to people's issues, demands; assures time-bound remedy

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Mings Shepa today conducted a public outreach-cum-grievances redressal camp at multi-sports playground, Sewna to address the issues and concerns of the people and ensure prompt redressal of public grievances. The camp was attended by IAS Probationer Dr. Shagun Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan; Assistant Commissioner Development Om Parkash; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Chenani Dr. Ranjeet Singh Kotwal; district and sectoral officers; former PRI representatives and a large gathering of people from Sewna and adjoining Panchayats.

During the interaction, former PRI members and locals projected several demands and highlighted issues affecting the area. Key demands raised included the permanent restoration of Kera Bridge, meeting shortage of drinking water, renovation of local roads, introduction of Science Stream at GHSS Pakhlai, establishment of a



Kendriya Vidyalaya at Dhar Gadiya, promotion of the area as a tourist destination, redressal of land compensation issues, adequate staff in government schools, opening of a bank branch, measures to end monkey menace, establishment of a First Aid Sub-Centre and ambulance facility at Bant village, construction of an overhead footbridge and ensuring uninterrupted power supply. While responding to the demands, the Deputy Commissioner assured the public that all genuine issues would be addressed in a time-bound manner. Several grievances were resolved

on the spot by issuing necessary directions to the concerned officers. The DC directed the department to take immediate action on the genuine demands raised during the camp. He further asked them to submit detailed report on pending issues so that the same could be projected to higher authorities for appropriate consideration. Interacting with the residents, the Deputy Commissioner said that the primary objective of such outreach programmes was to resolve day-to-day public issues at the grassroots level and to monitor the implementation of the government

initiatives and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. He also sensitized the participants about flagship schemes and programmes, including HADP, JKPCIP, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and Mission YUVA, urging them to avail maximum benefits under these initiatives. Earlier, officers and officials from various government departments educated the public about different welfare schemes and flagship programmes being implemented by the government and encouraged eligible beneficiaries to come forward and avail advantage of these initiatives.

DAJ inspects Seed Processing Plant, Agriculture Engineering Workshop

JAMMU, JUNE 03: Director Agriculture Jammu (DAJ) Anil Gupta today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Seed Processing Plant and Agriculture Engineering Workshop.

He reviewed the ongoing projects, infrastructure, machinery and overall functioning of the twin establishments.

The Director was accompanied by Deputy Director (Central) Sanjeev Rai Gupta, Agriculture Research Engineer (ARE) Firdous Ahmad Tak, ASCO (I&P) Sanjeev Mehta and Assistant Agriculture Engineer Bharti Thusso.

During the visit, the Director took a detailed round of the facilities and interacted with officers, engineers and technical staff to assess the progress of various agricultural development activities and projects being undertaken at the Seed Processing Plant and the



Engineering Workshop. He reviewed the operational status of seed processing units, storage facilities, workshop machinery, repair and maintenance infrastructure and the availability of technical resources. The Director emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards of quality, efficiency and

transparency in all operations. He directed the concerned officers to ensure proper upkeep and regular maintenance of machinery and equipment so that services to the farming community are delivered in a timely and effective manner. While inspecting the Seed Processing Plant, Anil Gupta stressed the need for expediting the

dispatch and distribution of processed seed stocks lying in storage to transmit quality seeds to farmers well before the sowing season. He instructed the concerned officials to prepare a time-bound action plan for the disposal and movement of available seed stocks and avoid unnecessary accumulation in the Warehouses. The Director also laid special emphasis on cleanliness, sanitation and proper housekeeping within the premises of both establishments. He directed the staff to maintain a clean and organized working environment, ensure safe storage of seed and follow all safety protocols to enhance operational efficiency at workplace safety. At the Agriculture Engineering Workshop, the Director reviewed the status of repair and maintenance of agricultural machinery and equipment.

DC Samba reviews preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026

SAMBA, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a comprehensive review meeting in the Conference Hall of the District Administrative Complex, Nandan Hills to assess and streamline arrangements for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the preparedness of all concerned departments regarding facilities and services to be provided to the pilgrims. Detailed discussions were held on the availability of accommodation at lodge-centres, drinking water supply, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation



and cleanliness measures, healthcare facilities, traffic regulation and overall pilgrim convenience. The DC also reviewed the arrangements being put in place for RFID Registration and Verification Centres to ensure smooth processing and hassle-free movement of pilgrims. Emphasizing

the significance of inter-departmental coordination, Ayushi Sudan directed all concerned officers to work in close coordination and ensure that all necessary arrangements are completed well in advance. She stressed the need for maintaining high standards of service delivery to facilitate a safe, comfortable.

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