

# Northin News

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Postal Regd. No. JK/504/19-21

VOL. NO. 14 | ISSUE NO. 142

JAMMU, FRIDAY, 5 JUNE 2026

E-paper: <https://northinnews.com/epaper/> PAGE 12

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## Lieutenant Governor Attends 'Rishiwar' Inter-Faith Conference 2026 in Srinagar

*The idea of honoring all faiths equally has been woven into fabric of India's philosophy for millennia. While many nations today struggle with challenge of coexistence, diversity has been our natural rhythm of life: LG Sinha*

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 4:** The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today attended the 'Rishiwar' Inter-Faith Conference 2026 in Srinagar. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said that the idea of honoring all faiths equally has been woven into fabric of India's philosophy for millennia.

"While many nations today struggle with challenge of coexistence, diversity has been our natural rhythm of life. While many societies have devised measures to safeguard unity, India embraced ethos and value of coexistence and practiced seamlessly for thousands of years," the Lieutenant Governor



said. The Lieutenant Governor observed that respecting all ideas and beliefs has always been tradition of Sanatan Dharma. He said that India has consistently emphasized unity in diversity and shown respect to every faith that emerged thousands of years after Sanatan Dharma. The Lieutenant Governor said that the Rigeveda also teaches

that hearts and minds should be aligned, our aim should be the same, our feelings in harmony, and our thoughts united. "Scholars and researchers worldwide agree that the spirit of equal regard for all religions finds its philosophical roots in the ancient traditions of our great country. When I reflect

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Grand Preparations in Daman ahead of PM Modi's Visit, to Inaugurate NaMO Hospital & NaMO Airport

**NEW DELHI, JUNE 4:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Daman on Friday, where he will inaugurate the new terminal building of NAMO Airport and also dedicate the NAMO hospital to the nation. An atmosphere of excitement and joy has gripped the Union Territory, even as the district administration gives final touches to the elaborate preparations for the Prime Minister's visit tomorrow. Strict measures have been put in place, with the police department stepping up security and vigilance around the College Ground, the venue for the Prime Minister's



public rally. The two big-ticket projects, including 'Namo Hospital' and 'Namo Airport,' are expected to usher in a 'new era' in the region's health care and transportation sectors. Also, the laying of foundation stones for significant projects, such as the iconic bridge and the convention center, is

expected to provide fresh momentum for tourism and economic growth in the future. The Union Territory has been decked out to give a grand welcome to PM Modi, and the local population is also curious and excited to get a first-hand glimpse of the Prime Minister. BJP leader Aspi Damania informed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting Daman for the eighth time. "An atmosphere of enthusiasm currently prevails in the region ahead of PM Modi's visit. The Prime Minister will also conduct a roadshow. I urge the people to come out during this event

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## CM hands over disbursement letters worth Rs. 1.12 Cr. to 6 beneficiaries under Mission YUVA



**SRINAGAR, JUNE 4:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today handed over disbursement letters to 6 beneficiaries worth ₹1.12 crore under Mission YUVA here at the Civil

Secretariat. Under Mission YUVA, Rs.209 crore has been disbursed in 3,367 cases during April and May, reaffirming Government's focus on youth entrepreneurship and

employment generation. During the event, it was informed that out of a total of 5,016 sanctioned cases amounting to Rs.269 crore, Rs.209 crore covering

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Dr Jitendra Chairs Joint Meeting of Union Secretaries, Announces Portal For 'Patent' Training

**NEW DELHI, JUN 4:** In a major step towards strengthening India's research ecosystem, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today announced an ANRF-supported digital portal aimed at facilitating training in patent filing and research paper writing for researchers, students and innovators across the country. The announcement was made while



chairing a Joint Review Meeting of the Secretaries of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space during which the Minister reviewed progress on key scientific initiatives, institutional coordi-

nation mechanisms, science administration reforms, outreach activities and preparations for upcoming national science programmes. The review meeting was attended by Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood; Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale; Chief Executive Officer of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman; and senior officials from the Department of Science &

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### BRIEF NEWS

#### Ganderbal Police Seize large quantity of LPG Cylinders

**GANDERBAL, JUN 4:** In a major crackdown on the illegal hoarding and suspected black marketing of LPG cylinders, Ganderbal Police conducted a search operation in the Nunner Takiya area and recovered a large quantity of domestic and commercial gas cylinders allegedly stored without valid authorization. According to officials, the operation was launched following specific inputs regarding the unlawful storage of LPG cylinders. During the search, police recovered cylinders belonging to various companies from the premises of Javid Ahmad Sofi, a resident of Nunner Takiya, who was allegedly storing them without the requisite

(Contd on Pg 2)

#### Court Frames Charges Against Patwari, Associate Caught

**JAMMU, JUNE 04 (JNF):** The Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Jammu, has framed charges against a Patwari and his alleged associate in a corruption case involving alleged demand and acceptance of Rs 4,000 as bribe for providing a copy of mutation of land. Special Judge Anti-Corruption Sonia Gupta framed charges under Sections 7/12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act and 120-B IPC against Monish Dev Singh, then Patwari Halsa Tahqa, Tehsil South Jammu, and Asif Chowdhary, resident of Kamal Nagar, Keran Bantalab, Jammu. The case pertains to FIR No. 14/2021 registered at

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#### IGP Kashmir reviews security preparedness at Baltal base camp ahead of Amarnath Yatra 2026

**GANDERBAL, JUN 4:** In preparation for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V.K. Bhat, on Thursday conducted a comprehensive review of security and logistical arrangements at the Baltal Base Camp in Ganderbal district. The IGP was accompanied by Rajiv Pandey and Siddhantu Dhama during the visit. The officers inspected various facilities established for personnel of the Jammu and Kashmir

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#### No Individual Right Over Kahcharai Land for Public Project Compensation: HC



**JAMMU, JUNE 04 (JNF):** The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has dismissed a petition seeking compensation for land allegedly utilised in the construction of a road in Kulgam, holding that no individual can claim compensation in respect of Kahcharai land used for a public project. Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal ruled that the right to claim compensation arises only where a person establishes legally recognised proprietary rights over land taken over or utilised by the

(Contd on Pg 2)

#### BJP announces candidates for RS Polls in Five States, Fields Tarun Chugh From MP

**NEW DELHI, JUN 4:** The BJP on Thursday announced candidates for upcoming Rajya Sabha polls in five states, fielding party national general secretary Tarun Chugh from Madhya Pradesh and Satish Poonia from Rajasthan. The names of Union ministers Ravneet Singh Bhatia and George Kurian did not figure in the list of BJP candidates. Both ministers' term in the Upper House ends on June 21. While Bhatia is a Rajya Sabha member from Rajasthan, Kurian represents Madhya Pradesh cur-



rently in the Upper House. The BJP's central election committee has named Debashish Samantaryas as its candidate for Rajya Sabha poll from Odisha. Samantaryas had recently joined the BJP, quitting the

(Contd on Pg 2)

#### Major Terror conspiracy foiled in Punjab, 2 Held With RDX-Based IED

**CHANDIGARH, JUN 4:** In a breakthrough against cross-border terror networks, State Special Operations Cell (SSOC) SAS Nagar (Mohali) thwarted a terror conspiracy by arresting two associates of a foreign-based terror operative and recovering one fully assembled RDX-based Improvised Explosive Device (IED) from their possession, officials said on Thursday. Those arrested are Mani Singh (32), a resident of Gujjarpura in Amritsar and Abhishek Kumar (28), a resident of Gillwali Gate in Amritsar. The Director General of Police, Gaurav Yadav, said the recovered IED, weighing approximately 2.5 kilograms, was fully assembled and ready for use. The operation foiled a nefarious plot aimed at targeting critical public infrastructure in SAS Nagar and averted a potentially catastrophic threat to public safety and security, he said in a post on X. The DGP said further investigations are underway to uncover the entire terror network, including handlers, associates, and linkages involved in the conspiracy. Sharing operational details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Counter Intelligence, Ashish

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#### Integrated Job Portal launched in Ladakh to boost Employment Opportunities



**LEH/JAMMU, JUNE 4:** Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Thursday launched an integrated job portal in Ladakh, a dedicated online platform aimed at connecting job seekers and employers through a single-window digital interface and enhancing employment opportunities across the Union Territory. The portal has been developed to provide a centralised employment ecosystem that brings together job opportunities from various sectors and simplifies the recruitment process for both candidates and employers, officials said. Speaking at the launch, Saxena said employment was not merely about filling vacancies but about creating opportunities, nurturing talent and enabling aspirations. "The



integrated Job Portal Ladakh has been created to bridge the gap between job seekers and employers by providing a single-window digital platform where they can connect seamlessly. "It is not merely a website but a complete employment ecosystem that will empower our youth, simplify recruitment processes and create a transparent and accessible employment environment in Ladakh," he said. The lieu-

(Contd on Pg 2)

#### Suppression of Failed Bail Cancellation Vitiates PIT-NDPS Detention: HC

**JAMMU, JUNE 04 (JNF):** The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has quashed the preventive detention of a Udhampur resident under the PIT-NDPS Act, holding that the failure to disclose rejection of an earlier bail cancellation plea constituted a serious lacuna in the detention process. Justice Rahul Bhatia passed the order in a habeas corpus petition filed by Mahkan Din, 45, son of Hakam Din alias Huakan Din, resident of Narsoo, Tehsil Chenani, District Udhampur, who was lodged in Central Jail, Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. Mahkan Din had challenged detention order No. PITNDPS 46 of 2025 dated July 19, 2025,

passed by the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, under Section 3 of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988. He was taken into preventive custody on September 27, 2025. The detention order was based upon a dossier submitted by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Udhampur, referring to a habeas corpus petition filed by Mahkan Din, 21 and 22 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Chenani, besides four Daily Diary entries recorded between February 5 and June 19, 2025. During arguments, Advocate Rajesh Singh Parihar, appearing for the petitioner, contended that

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# FROM PAGE ONE

## Lieutenant...

on the ideals and philosophies India has gifted humanity, it becomes evident that through both thought and deed, our Vedas, Upanishads, saints and seers have illuminated a path toward lasting world peace," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor stated that every thread of society must be woven together, advancing with a shared commitment to the welfare of humanity.

"That is precisely what humanity needs most today. The ethos of equal respect for all religions is India's most precious gift to the world. We must continuously nurture it so we can move forward together in unity and bring prosperity to every community," the Lieutenant Governor said. Highlighting Jammu Kashmir's exceptional performance during the three phases of the Vande Mataram initiative, the Lieutenant Governor described the achievement as extraordinary and a testament to the people's enduring patriotic spirit. The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the overwhelming public support for the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan. He said that participation from all sections of society has been organic and inspiring. He called upon citizens, institutions and community leaders to embrace the campaign as a people's movement and work together towards building a drug-free and healthier society.

Shri Justice Sanjay Dhar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Dr. Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board, Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice-Chancellor, Kashmir University, Prof. Meena Sharma, Organiser (Convener), saints, senior officers of the judiciary, police and civil administration, faculty members of various universities, students and public in large number attended the conference.

## Grand...

and express their gratitude to the Prime Minister," he stated. Notably, PM Modi is visiting this Union Territory for the eighteenth consecutive time and is set to present the region's residents with several new developmental projects.

During this visit, he will dedicate himself to the nation and lay the foundation stones for 56 development projects, costing approximately 72,970 crore.

Among these projects, the two mega projects that will get the spotlight include the New Terminal Building at NAMO Airport, which will significantly enhance regional air connectivity and facilitate economic growth in the region.

NAMO Hospital is another crucial project that will cater to nearly 1,500 OPD patients per day and will strengthen access to quality healthcare services for the people.

## CM hands...

3,367 cases have been discussed between April 1 and May 31. The programme was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani. Senior officers present on the occasion included Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, ACS APD Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, ACS Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Planning, Development and Monitoring Alice Vaz, Secretary Labour & Employment Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, Mission Director Mission YUVA, Director HIM Jammu, representatives of J&K Bank, and other concerned officers.

The Chief Minister congratulated the beneficiaries and expressed hope that the financial assistance would enable them to establish and expand sustainable business ventures, thereby generating employment and contributing to the region's economic growth.

Speaking on the broader vision of Mission YUVA, the Chief Minister said the initiative represents a transformative step towards building a robust ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that the government is committed to ensuring that young people are not job seekers alone, but job creators who drive innovation and economic progress.

He emphasized that Mission YUVA is designed to provide structured handholding, access to credit, skill development, and mentorship support to aspiring entrepreneurs. The Chief Minister said the programme is intended to bridge the gap between ideas and execution by simplifying access to institutional finance and improving coordination between banks, government departments, and training institutions.

He further added that sustained focus on youth empowerment through Mission YUVA would help unlock the immense potential of Jammu and Kashmir's young population, particularly in sectors such as services, agriculture-based enterprises, tourism, and small-scale manufacturing.

The Chief Minister reiterated that inclusive economic growth remains a top priority of the government, and initiatives like Mission YUVA are central to achieving long-term self-reliance and employment generation in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Dr Jitendra...

Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) and Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the newly announced portal will serve as an important capacity-building resource for researchers and young innovators by providing structured support in scientific writing, publication processes, intellectual property protection and patent-related procedures. He noted that improving access to such resources would strengthen the quality of research output, enhance innovation outcomes and help researchers translate scientific work into publications and intellectual property assets.

Emphasising the need for greater coordination among scientific departments and institutions, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that scientific organisations working under different departments must function in a collaborative and integrated manner to maximise national outcomes from research, innovation and public investments in science and technology.

Observing that several scientific institutions often undertake complementary work without adequate awareness of developments across departments, Dr. Jitendra Singh stressed the need for regular interaction among laboratories and institutions. He directed that structured mechanisms be established for sharing information on major projects, technological achievements and institutional capabilities so that expertise available within one department can be effectively leveraged by others.

The Minister particularly emphasised the importance of showcasing institutional achievements and success stories. He suggested that every review mechanism should include presentations on notable scientific achievements from laboratories and institutions on a rotational basis. Such an approach, he said, would not only enhance visibility of scientific accomplishments but also promote cross-learning and collaboration among institutions working in similar domains.

Reiterating the growing importance of science communication, Dr. Jitendra Singh called for a more coordinated outreach strategy across scientific departments. He stressed the need to utilise digital platforms, social media and emerging communication tools to present scientific achievements in a manner that is accessible to citizens, students, startups and researchers. He also suggested exploring common communication platforms to improve dissemination of scientific success stories and innovation outcomes across the scientific ecosystem.

Reviewing the Capacity Building for Science Administration initiative, the Minister further said that scientists assuming leadership and administrative responsibilities require greater familiarity with governance procedures, financial rules and institutional management systems. He advocated expanding such programmes and integrating them with ongoing capacity-building efforts under Mission Karmayogi to strengthen scientific administration across institutions.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also reviewed departmental performance indicators relating to file disposal, grievance redressal, litigation management and expenditure. Stressing the importance of administrative efficiency, he directed departments to closely monitor governance-related performance parameters and ensure timely disposal of files, effective grievance handling and improved implementation of schemes and projects.

The Minister further reviewed preparations for ESTIC 2026 and emphasised that the event should serve as a platform for showcasing India's scientific achievements, innovation ecosystem and emerging technology capabilities. He suggested wider participation of scientific institutions, startups, industry representatives, students and young innovators, while also encouraging stronger engagement with international experts and thought leaders.

## IGP Kashmir...

to maintain the highest level of preparedness and ensure that all necessary arrangements are completed well before the commencement of the Yatra. He reiterated the commitment of the police and security agencies towards providing a safe, secure, and hassle-free pilgrimage experience for devotees undertaking the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026. According to Ganderbal Police, all necessary measures are being put in place to maintain a secure environment and facilitate the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage, one of the most significant religious events in the region.

## No Individual...

proprietary land without following due process amounted to violation of their constitutional right under Article 300-A. Advocate H. Furrahi, appearing for the petitioners, argued that private agricultural land had been used for the road without notification, acquisition or payment of compensation. Government Advocate Ilyas Nazir Laway, representing the official respondents, contested the claim and submitted that no private land of the petitioners had been utilised.

The Court noted that, pursuant to its earlier directions, the Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, filed a status report supported by an affidavit on the basis of a demarcation carried out by the Tehsildar, Qainmoh.

The demarcation report established that the road passes exclusively through Survey Nos. 356, 356/1 and 357 of Estate Khrewan Lassipora. The land under Survey Nos. 356 and 356/1 was recorded as Kahcharai land, while Survey No. 357 was recorded as State land. The report categorically stated that no proprietary land belonging to the petitioners had been utilised for construction of the road.

Justice Nargal observed that the petitioners had failed to place on record any credible material to discredit the findings of the competent revenue authority or to show that the demarcation exercise suffered from any illegality, arbitrariness or factual infirmity.

The Court referred to its earlier rulings holding that Kahcharai land is Government property and can be used for public purposes, particularly where no suitable alternative land is available. It further observed that compensation, if any, in respect of such land is payable to the concerned Panchayat for the welfare of the local community and not to private individuals.

Rejecting the plea under Article 300-A, the Court held that constitutional protection against deprivation of property can be invoked only when deprivation of a person's property is first established.

"Since no infringement of any proprietary right of the petitioners has been established, the question of payment of compensation does not arise," the Court held. Accordingly, the High Court dismissed the writ petition along with all connected applications, finding no merit in the compensation claim. (JNF)

## BJP announces...

BJD. He was a Rajya Sabha MP from Odisha before he quit the party and resigned from the Upper House. According to the list released by the party, Rajubhai Shukla, Mukeshbhai Rathwa, Mansingh Parmar and Jitendra Meghijbhai Kanariya will contest as BJP candidates from Gujarat, while Rajneesh Agrawal will join the fray from Madhya Pradesh. Alka Gurjar and Satish Poonia will contest as BJP candidates from Rajasthan. The party has fielded A Sharda Devi as its candidate from Manipur and Tai Tagak from Arunachal Pradesh, according to the list released by party national general secretary Arun Singh.

The Rajya Sabha polls in 10 states including Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Manipur will be held on June 18. Bypoll to the Upper House from Odisha will also be conducted the same day.

## Major...

Choudhary said acting on intelligence inputs, police teams apprehended both suspects near a park opposite YPS Chowk, Mohali; they had travelled from Amritsar to Mohali by bus along with the explosive device.

Officials immediately summoned the bomb disposal squad, which successfully neutralised and dismantled the IED while following all prescribed safety protocols. The IGP said the preliminary investigation revealed that the accused, Mani Singh, recently contacted a foreign-based handler via a social media platform and introduced his brother-in-law Abhishek Kumar to him.

During their interactions, a foreign-based handler offered financial assistance in return for carrying out certain tasks, and both agreed to work for him due to their financial difficulties, he said.

An FIR has been registered under the relevant provisions of the BNS and the Explosive Substances Act at Police Station SSOC, SAS Nagar.

## Integrated...

vacancies. The portal will provide access to a wide range of employment opportunities, including full-time, part-time, contractual and outsourced positions across different sectors.

The portal is expected to reduce paperwork and administrative burden while providing real-time employment analytics and promoting local talent across the Union Territory.

Designed as a one-stop solution for employment needs, the platform offers features such as creation of professional candidate profiles, online job searches, easy application submission, real-time application tracking and direct communication between employers and applicants.

Employers, meanwhile, will be able to post vacancies, define job requirements, screen candidates through advanced filters and directly connect with prospective employees through the portal.

Officials said the initiative is expected to strengthen the employment landscape in Ladakh by leveraging technology to create a seamless, efficient and transparent recruitment ecosystem.

## Suppression...

before the dossier was submitted for preventive detention,

the prosecution had already sought cancellation of bail granted to the petitioner in the NDPS case. However, the application was rejected by the Additional Sessions Judge/Special Judge under the NDPS Act, Udhampur, on April 5, 2025.

The respondents were represented by Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli.

The High Court noted that despite the failure of the prosecution's attempt to secure cancellation of bail, there was "not even a whisper" about this important fact in the dossier placed before the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu.

Justice Bharti observed that the detention record itself constituted the application moved for cancellation of bail, yet the SSP, Udhampur, did not mention the fact that the exercise had failed.

The Court held that the omission deprived the detaining authority of complete facts while considering whether preventive detention was warranted. It observed that while cancellation of bail had failed on one hand, the petitioner was subsequently subjected to preventive detention on the other, which was a situation "antithetical to each other".

Finding the processing of the preventive detention case seriously flawed, the High Court quashed detention order No. PITNDPS 46 of 2025 dated July 19, 2025, along with the confirmation order dated October 28, 2025.

The Court further directed the Superintendent of the concerned jail to restore Makhhan Din to his personal liberty with immediate effect (JNF)

## Ganderbal...

licence or permission. The seized cylinders were taken into custody on the spot in the presence of officials from the Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) Department after completion of all legal formalities. Police said the unauthorized storage of such a large quantity of LPG cylinders not only violated the provisions of law but also posed a serious threat to public safety due to the potential risk of accidents and explosions.

In this regard, FIR No. 91/2026 has been registered at Police Station Ganderbal under Sections 3/7 of the Essential Commodities Act and Section 287 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Officials said further investigation is underway to ascertain the extent of the alleged illegal activity and identify any other individuals involved in the case.

Ganderbal Police reiterated their commitment to taking strict action against activities that endanger public safety and disrupt the supply of essential commodities. Citizens have also been urged to report any instances of hoarding, black marketing, or other unlawful practices to the nearest police station.

## Court...

Police Station ACB, Jammu, on the complaint of Om Parkash Gupta, resident of Durga Nagar, Bantala, Jammu.

According to the prosecution, the complainant had approached the Patwari for attestation and copy of mutation relating to his land situated at Pooja Colony, Thather, Bantala. It was alleged that the Patwari demanded Rs 4,000 as illegal gratification for providing the mutation copy. Following verification of the complaint, the Anti-Corruption Bureau laid a trap. The prosecution alleged that during the trap proceedings, Asif Chowdhary, stated to be associated with the Patwari, accepted the bribe money from the complainant on the directions of Monish Dev Singh. The tainted amount of Rs 4,000 was allegedly recovered from Asif Chowdhary in the presence of independent witnesses. During arguments on charge, Additional Public Prosecutor Jitender Kumar Anand, appearing for the ACB, submitted that the chargesheet, statements of witnesses recorded during investigation and documentary evidence disclosed a prima facie case against both accused. He argued that there was sufficient material to presume their involvement in the alleged offences and sought framing of charges.

The accused, however, denied the allegations and sought discharge from the case, contending that they had been falsely implicated and that the prosecution material was insufficient to proceed against them. The Court observed that at the stage of framing charge, it was not required to conduct a detailed appreciation of evidence or hold a mini-trial. It noted that strong suspicion founded on the material on record was sufficient to frame charges and put the accused to trial. Referring to the complainant's statement, the shadow witness account, the alleged recovery of tainted currency notes and other material collected during investigation, the Court held that a prima facie case was made out against both accused. Accordingly, charges under Sections 7/12 of the Prevention of Corruption Act read with Section 120-B IPC were framed against Monish Dev Singh and Asif Chowdhary. Both accused pleaded not guilty and claimed trial. (JNF)

## DC Ramban presides over Mahila Jan Sunwai at Chanderkote

Women raise key issues, most grievances resolved on the spot

RAMBAN, JUNE 04: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today presided over a Mahila Jan Sunwai at Pancharhat Ghar Chanderkote. The programme was organised by the District Administration Ramban to provide a dedicated platform for women to voice their concerns, seek redressal of grievances and obtain information about welfare schemes and public services.

The event saw participation from a large number of women from Chanderkote and adjoining areas, who interacted with the district administration and raised issues relating to public services, basic amenities, welfare schemes, health, education, livelihood opportunities, infrastructure development and other community concerns.

Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Varunjeet Singh Charak,



Dy SP Headquarters Waqar Bhat, Tehsildar Ramban Deep Kumar, District Social Welfare Officer Sahil Bagotra, Tehsildar Headquarters Reetja Mahajan, Block Development Officer Ramban, representatives of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and officers from various line departments. The Deputy Commissioner listened to the grievances and suggestions put forth by the women

participants. He resolved most issues on the spot by issuing directions to the concerned officers. For matters requiring further examination of departmental intervention, he directed the concerned departments to take immediate action and ensure time-bound resolution. The Deputy Commissioner urged women to actively join the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan and contribute towards making Ramban a drug-free dis-

trict. He emphasised the vital role of women in spreading awareness against substance abuse and safeguarding future generations from the menace of drugs. The women participants expressed satisfaction over the opportunity to directly interact with senior district officers and present their concerns before the administration. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the District Administration's commitment to inclusive development and accessible platforms for women to raise their issues. He emphasised that women play a vital role in social and economic development and that their active participation in governance is essential for building a progressive society. He also urged women to avail themselves of various government welfare schemes and directed officers to ensure wider awareness and effective outreach among eligible beneficiaries.

## DC Reasi reviews arrangements for Annual Baba Aghar Jitto Mela 2026

REASI, JUNE 04: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek, today chaired a review meeting to assess and finalise arrangements for the Annual Baba Aghar Jitto Mela, scheduled to be held from June 26 to June 30, 2026. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed preparations by various departments covering security arrangements, traffic regulation, drinking water supply, power supply, sanitation, healthcare services, fire safety, parking facilities and other essential amenities for devotees and visitors. The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to establish departmental stalls at the mela venue to showcase government-sponsored schemes, welfare programmes and public services and to use these stalls as a platform for creating awareness among the public. He instructed PWD Katra to undertake necessary repair and maintenance of roads leading to the shrine and ensure smooth movement of pilgrims and vehicles, with all road works to be completed well before the commencement of the mela. The Health Department was directed to deploy additional medical staff, establish first-aid facilities and ensure the availability of ambulances throughout the mela period. The Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Katra, was directed to make comprehensive sanitation arrangements in and around the shrine area.



## Traffic Police (Rural) Jammu lodges two FIRs for forged route permit, MV Act violations

JAMMU, JUNE 04: Acting on specific and reliable information about violations of Route Permit norms by Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) on NH-144A (Jammu-Poonch Highway), the Traffic Police (Rural) Jammu conducted a special enforcement drive at Salani Bridge, Rajouri, registering two FIRs against violators.

During checking, DTI Rajouri intercepted a bus (Registration No. JK02DP-8989) travelling from Poonch towards Jammu. The vehicle was owned by Kewal Krishan, son of Chatur Ram, resident of House No. 373, Lane No. 45, Digiiana Ashram, Jammu and driven by Suksham Sharma, son of Kewal Krishan, resident of Solki Brehvi, Tehsil

Kalokote, District Rajouri. When asked to produce the relevant documents, the driver furnished a photocopy of a Route Permit indicating authorisation for the Poonch-Jammu route. Suspecting foul play, the police verified the document through the Regional Transport Office (RTO) concerned. Verification revealed that Route Permit No. 1168JP/RTAJ/1380 was forged, as the original permit was valid only for the Jammu-Banihal route. The vehicle was seized and the driver detained. FIR No. 291/2026 was registered at Police Station Rajouri under Section 336/340/318 of the BNS and 66/192(a)/182 of the MV Act. In another incident, a bus (Registration No. JK02DK-0502) oper-

ating from Poonch to Jammu was intercepted at the same location. The vehicle was owned by Jagjeet Singh, son of Jagdev Singh, resident of Akhnour, Jammu and driven by Rameez Ahmed, son of Nazir Hussain, resident of Surankote. The driver failed to produce a valid Route Permit during inspection, and subsequent verification confirmed that the vehicle was operating illegally on the Poonch-Jammu route. The driver also failed to comply with the lawful directions of the Traffic Police officer on duty. The vehicle was seized, the driver detained and another FIR, No. 292/2026, was registered at Police Station Rajouri under Section 221 of the BNS and 66/192(a) of the MV Act.

## Div Com reviews flood preparedness and heatwave management in Jammu Division

JAMMU, JUNE 04: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today reviewed department- and district-wise flood preparedness and heatwave management across Jammu Division. The meeting was attended by Managing Director JPDC, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners from Jammu Division, Director ULB, Director Food Civil Supplies, Director Health, Chief Engineers of JPDC, Jal Shakti, PWD, UEDD and PMGSY, Joint Director Information (Jammu), Regional Officer NHAI and concerned officers from NHIDCL and Fire and Emergency Services.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner sought details of steps taken by district administrations and heads of departments regarding flood preparedness ahead of the forthcoming monsoon. He directed Deputy Commissioners to establish district-level control rooms for quick response, restoration of essential services and flood mitigation. He asked them to constantly monitor water levels in rivers and other water bodies in their respective districts. The Deputy Commissioners of hilly districts were directed to deploy expert teams to assess slope stability in vulnerable areas and take necessary precautionary measures in advance.



Reviewing department-wise preparations, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Commissioner JMC to complete the desilting and cleaning of nullahs and the drainage system in Jammu city. He directed that men and machinery be designated for vulnerable and low-lying areas to mitigate waterlogging and prevent flood-related damage. Necessary directions were issued to the Mechanical Department,

PMGSY, BRO, NHAI and NHIDCL to keep roads and bridges open for smooth connectivity. District Health Services informed the Divisional Commissioner that sufficient medical supplies have been dispatched to district hospitals, PHCs and CHCs to prevent the spread of waterborne and vector-borne diseases. The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed heatwave management and directed the Health Department to regularly issue advisories on heatwave precautions and dos and don'ts for the general public. Chief Engineer JPDC informed that an adequate number of transformers, poles and conductors have been stocked at key locations and Quick Response Teams have been deployed to ensure immediate power restoration in the event of floods or heavy rains.

## Acting on a tip, Jammu administration seals illegal arms dealership



JAMMU, JUNE 4: Acting swiftly on a credible tip received by the district administration, a surprise inspection team led by Tehsildar Bahu, Raju Sambhal and Tehsildar HQ, Mona Chakota, today raided the premises of Aman Arms Company at Railhead Shopping Complex and unearthed a series of serious violations flagged as of immediate concern to public safety and firearms regulation. The inspection, carried out under the direct directions of District Magistrate Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, revealed that the establishment had been operating entirely without

a valid arms dealership licence. The dealership licence application of Aman Shop had been rejected in the year 2024, rendering all commercial activity conducted by the shop in the capacity of an arms dealer not only unauthorised, but a direct violation of the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 2016. More alarmingly, the inspection team recovered multiple Cur Licences from the premises which were last renewed from other districts including Poonch, Kishtwar, Ganderbal, Pulwama. A number of personal documents belong to licence holders were also

retrieved. Complaints had also been received by the district administration that the establishment was refusing to return firearms licences to their rightful holders; a practice strongly suggestive of exploitation of licence holders under the pretext of offering renewal or allied facilitation services through unauthorised, illegal means. The District Magistrate, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, while taking serious cognisance of the violations, has directed that appropriate legal action be initiated against those responsible. He further reiterated that the district administration will continue to conduct

inspections of arms dealerships and enforce full compliance with applicable laws and Home Department directives without exception. The District Administration, Jammu, once again calls upon all arms licence holders and members of the public to exercise extreme caution and vigilance. No middleman, agent or unlicensed shop has any authority whatsoever to assist, facilitate, expedite, or accept any payment in connection with the renewal, application or surrender of firearms licences. All services related to arms licences, including renewal

of existing licences, application for fresh licences and surrender of weapons etc, can be accessed conveniently, transparently and without any intermediary through the National Database of Arms Licences - Arms Licensing and Information System (NDAL-ALIS), the official Government of India portal, accessible at <https://ndal-alis.gov.in>. Citizens are strongly urged to report any individual or establishment soliciting money, licences or documents on the pretext of facilitating arms licence services to the office of the District Magistrate, Jammu.

## Govt. ITI conducts workshop on solar energy and PM Surya Ghar Scheme under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 04: As per the directions of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Mings Sherpa, Government Industrial Training Institute Udhampur, in collaboration with JPDC Udhampur today conducted a workshop-cum-awareness session on the benefits of solar energy, the PM Surya Ghar Scheme and the installation of rooftop solar systems under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

The programme aimed to create awareness among youth about the harmful effects of drug abuse while promoting skill development and employment opportunities in the renewable energy sector. Participants were sensi-

tised about the social, economic and health consequences of substance abuse and encouraged to contribute towards building a drug-free society. The workshop featured expert interactions by Aashish from Nehru Solar Solutions, Rishav Gupta from Vijay Builders, Udhampur and Er. Sandeep, Junior Engineer, JPDC Udhampur.

NORTHERN RAILWAY		TENDER NOTICE	
Tender Notice No. 402, Reg. JAT, 102, 24-27			
Closing Date/Time: 24.06.2026 15:00			
Bidding Documents available for sale on behalf of the President of India at the following E-Tenders on <a href="https://www.mep.gov.in">https://www.mep.gov.in</a> against Tender Notice No. 402, Reg. JAT, 102, 24-27			
Closing Date/Time: 24.06.2026 15:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not accepted against this tender, and any such manual offer received will be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender documents cost and amount payable only through online payment mode. Inquiries on RFPs, part B to the tender, may be made on the following dates and times: Monday to Friday, 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM. Inquiries on RFPs, part A to the tender, may be made on the following dates and times: Monday to Friday, 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM. For its attention visit <a href="https://www.mep.gov.in">https://www.mep.gov.in</a>			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of work	Replacement of UAC based BIPAC with UPSS & HASSUC in JAI-SIKR section/Jammu/Jammu		
Tender/Opening Date/Time	24.06.2026 15:00	Date/Time of Unpacking Tender	22.06.2026 15:15
Authorized Value (Rs.)	5193403.60	Bidding Start Date as per RFPs	10.06.2026
Estimate Money (Rs.)	168100.00	Period of Completion	8 Months
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1985/26			

## Mega rally under Nasha Mukta Abhiyan and communal harmony held in Bhandarwah

BHANDARWAH, JUNE 04: An awareness rally centred on the themes of drug-free living and communal harmony was held today in Bhandarwah. The event was a joint initiative of District Administration Doda, the Central Reserve Police Force, all line departments, Beopamandal Bhandarwah, the Youth Action Committee Bhandarwah and local civil society bodies. The rally was flagged off by Senior Superintendent of Police Doda, Kartik Shrotiyra from the main gate of Government Higher Secondary School (Boys) Bhandarwah. Guest of hon-



our included Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhandarwah, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, Chief Education Officer Doda, Additional Superintendent of Police Bhandarwah, Sub-

Principal of Government Higher Secondary School (Boys) Bhandarwah. Following the flag-off, participants marched through the town, chanting anti-drug slogans including "Say No to Drugs," conveying a strong message against substance abuse while reinforcing communal brotherhood. The rally culminated at Seri Bazar Park, where a large gathering of students and local citizens remained assembled despite sudden rain. The leadership of Beopamandal Bhandarwah extended a traditional welcome to the chief guest and

other dignitaries. A highlight of the programme was the administration of the anti-drug and communal harmony pledge, read out by SSP Doda Kartik Shrotiyra and repeated by the gathering. The event saw participation from all sections of society, including the Ex-Pradhan of Sanatan Dharam Bhandarwah, the President of Anjuman Islamiya Bhandarwah, members of Beopamandal Bhandarwah, ex-servicemen, NCC cadets and students from local schools and colleges.

# JDA Extension Jammu Leads Khet Bachao Abhiyan Awareness Programmes in Udhampur District

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 4

Under the ongoing Khet Bachao Abhiyan, Joint Director Agriculture Extension, Jammu, Shri Sanjay Anand, today led awareness programmes at Kallar, Sub-Division Udhampur, and Sub-Division Ramnagar in District Udhampur to promote sustainable agricultural practices and create awareness among farmers regarding the conservation and protection of agricultural land.

Sanjay Anand was accompanied by the District Agriculture Officer (Extension) Udhampur, ADO (Vegetables), Udhampur, Mushroom Development Officer, Udhampur, District Level Subject Matter Specialists, Sub-Divisional Level Subject Matter Specialists, field



officers, and staff of the Agriculture Department. Sanjay Anand attended and addressed well-attended awareness programmes at both the subdivisions. The events witnessed the participation of a large number of farmers, members of the District-Level and Sub-Divisional Level

Committees constituted for the Khet Bachao Abhiyan campaign, public representatives, officers and officials of the Agriculture Department, field functionaries, and other stakeholders. Addressing the gatherings, Shri Sanjay Anand highlighted the objectives of the month-long campaign, with special focus on

Kisan Credit Card (KCC) coverage, PM-KISAN saturation, Soil Health Card generation and utilization, and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), maintain regular interaction with farming communities, and conduct village-level awareness programmes throughout the campaign period. He further emphasized timely reporting, effective coordination among stakeholders, and extensive dissemination of key messages related

to, and ensuring all eligible farmers avail themselves of the benefits of various flagship Government schemes. The Joint Director also reviewed the progress of the campaign and directed officers and field functionaries to intensify awareness and outreach activities at the grassroots level. He instructed them to ensure maximum coverage of farmers under KCC, PM-KISAN, Soil Health Cards, and PMFBY, maintain regular interaction with farming communities, and conduct village-level awareness programmes throughout the campaign period. He further emphasized timely reporting, effective coordination among stakeholders, and extensive dissemination of key messages related

# SMVDU faculty member delivers invited talk at National Physics Conference PHYCON-26

KATRA, JUNE 4

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) has added another feather to its cap as Dr. Pankaj Biswas, Assistant Professor in the School of Physics, was invited to deliver a lecture at PHYCON-26, the prestigious National Physics Conference organized at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar.

Dr. Biswas presented an invited talk titled "Next-Generation Vanadate Phosphors for Photonic Sensing and Imaging Applications," highlighting cutting-edge research in the field of advanced optical sensing materials. His lecture focused on the development of rare-earth-doped vanadate phosphors and their promising applications in modern photonic technologies, and bio-



imaging systems. The presentation attracted considerable interest from researchers, academicians, scientists, and students representing leading universities, research laboratories, and academic institutions from across the country. During his talk, Dr. Biswas elaborated on the synthesis, characterization, and luminescence properties of novel phosphor materials designed for next-generation optical and imaging applications. He also discussed the challenges

and opportunities associated with the development of highly efficient phosphors for emerging technological requirements. PHYCON-26 served as an important platform for scientific exchange and collaboration among physicists and material scientists working in diverse areas of research. Dr. Biswas's participation and invited lecture underscored the growing reputation of SMVDU as a center of excellence in scientific research and innovation.

# NC Govt squandering time on internal discord while public issues suffer: Adv. Devraj Sharma

JAMMU, JUNE 4

Senior BJP leader and advocate Devraj Sharma has strongly criticized the National Conference (NC) government, alleging that it is prioritizing the resolution of internal political differences over addressing the pressing concerns of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Sharma said the protracted seven-hour-long meeting of the ruling party to settle internal disagreements has exposed the government's misplaced priorities at a time when citizens are struggling with a host of unresolved issues.

In a statement issued here, Sharma



remarked that while the ruling leadership remains occupied with managing its internal affairs, ordinary citizens continue to face hardships in securing basic services and administrative support. He alleged that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and several ministers, who are handling multiple

important portfolios, have failed to devote adequate time and attention to the day-to-day problems confronting the public. According to Sharma, people are being forced to make repeated visits to government offices, yet their grievances remain pending due to what he termed as administrative indifference. The BJP leader asserted that several sectors requiring immediate intervention, including drinking water supply, electricity, road infrastructure, healthcare services, revenue administration, and public grievance redressal, are suffering because governance has taken a back seat.

# Omar's MLAs need governance lessons, not picnic politics: Bali Bhagat

JAMMU, JUNE 4

Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat today launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and National Conference legislators, accusing them of neglecting governance and public welfare while remaining obsessed with political theatrics over statehood. Reacting to the day-long meeting of the National Conference MLAs and MPs at Dachigam National Park, Bhagat said the gathering was more like a political picnic than a serious review of the challenges confronting the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Reports indicate that the meeting culminated in a deci-

sion to stage a protest in New Delhi during Parliament's Monsoon Session demanding restoration of statehood. "People expected the Chief Minister and his Ministers to discuss unemployment, drinking water shortages, electricity problems, deteriorating road connectivity, healthcare deficiencies, inflation and development issues. Instead, they were taken on what appears to be a political excursion to Dachigam to discuss how to save the National Conference's fading credibility," Bhagat said.

The former Minister alleged that the National Conference government has spent months making excuses and raising a statehood issue while failing to provide even



basic amenities and effective governance to the people. Statehood has become a convenient shield behind which Omar Abdullah is hiding his government's failures. Every time the public raises questions about development, employment, roads, power supply or administrative inefficiency, the NC leadership starts crying about statehood. Governance

cannot be postponed indefinitely under the pretext of constitutional demands," he said. Bhagat said even before the meeting there was widespread political speculation that it was being convened amid growing dissatisfaction among legislators and discussions surrounding possible cabinet expansion. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir did not elect this government merely to pass resolutions and organize protests. They elected it to govern. If after months in office the government's biggest achievement is planning demonstrations in Delhi, it is an admission of administrative failure," he remarked. Taking a swipe at the secession surrounding the Dachigam gather-

ing, Bhagat said the ministers were transported from the Chief Minister's residence to the meeting with more curiosity than confidence among the public. Reports described it as a secretive off-site strategy session attended by NC legislators and allied members. "The government should spend less time on political posturing and more time addressing the day-to-day hardships of common citizens. Roads are in poor condition in many areas, unemployment remains a major concern, and grievances are mounting. Yet the ruling party appears more interested in photo opportunities and political messaging," Bhagat said.

# Yudhvir Sethi holds Public Darbar, ensures timely redressal of public issues

JAMMU, JUNE 4

Continuing his outreach programme to address public grievances and ensure effective governance, Yudhvir Sethi, MLA Jammu East Constituency, on Thursday held a Public Darbar at the BJP office in Kachi Chawri, here.

A large number of residents from different areas of the constituency attended the programme and apprised the MLA of various civic and developmental issues.

During the interaction, people raised concerns related to roads, drainage, sanitation, water supply, electricity, and other public utility services. Several individuals also submitted representations regarding issues requiring intervention from various government departments.



Listening patiently to the grievances, Yudhvir Sethi assured the people that their concerns would be taken up with the concerned authorities on priority. He reiterated his commitment to ensuring timely redressal of public issues and

emphasized that public welfare remains at the core of his developmental agenda. The MLA said that such public interaction programmes provide an effective platform for understanding the problems faced by citizens at the grassroots level.

He added that regular dialogue with the people helps in identifying local issues and finding practical solutions through coordinated efforts with government departments. Sethi further stated that the present central government is committed to transparent, accountable, and people-centric governance. Several issues raised during the Public Darbar were addressed on the spot through telephonic discussions with departmental officers. The meeting was forwarded to the concerned authorities for immediate action. Residents appreciated the initiative and thanked the MLA for making himself accessible to the public and personally monitoring the resolution of their grievances.

# Ganesh Kumar Sharma Conferred International Peace and Unity Certificate by IUCAS, Palestine

JAMMU, JUNE 4

Eminent contemporary sculptor and internationally acclaimed artist Ganesh Kumar Sharma has been conferred the prestigious "International Peace and Unity Certificate" by the International University of Culture, Arts and Sciences (IUCAS), Palestine in recognition of his remarkable contribution to promoting peace, unity, respect, and humanity through art. The honor has been bestowed upon Sharma for his unwavering dedication to fostering positive values through his creative sculptures over the past four decades. His artistic creations are known for conveying powerful social and humanitarian messages, have inspired individuals across the globe and contributed significantly to strengthening the ideals of harmony and mutual understanding.

According to the citation issued by IUCAS, the award recognizes Sharma's role as a creative ambassador of peace whose artistic endeavors have helped bridge cul-

tural divides and encourage a more compassionate and inclusive world. The International Peace and Unity Certificate was awarded with deep appreciation and respect by the management of IUCAS, which commended Sharma for his commitment to using art as a medium for social transformation and global harmony. The institution noted that in his work reflects universal human values and serves as a source of inspiration for artists and society alike. On the occasion, Director General and Ambassador Marcella Mendes Cabral of IUCAS and President of IUCAS Palestine, Dr. Bassam Zablah, extended their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Ganesh Kumar Sharma. They praised his exceptional achievements and wished him continued success in his future artistic and humanitarian endeavors. A distinguished son of the soil, Ganesh Kumar Sharma is among the most respected sculptors from Jammu and Kashmir, whose long career spanning more than forty-five years. He has received numerous international, national, and state-level awards and honors for his outstanding contribution to art and culture.

Governance is ultimately judged by the relief and opportunities it provides to citizens. The success of an administration lies in its ability to improve the lives of people. The implementation of policies, prompt grievance redressal and transparent decision-making," he said.

# Neglect of Vedic teachings after Mahabharata led humanity into ignorance: Swami Ram Swarup

JAMMU, JUNE 4

On the 54th day of the ongoing 78-day Chaturveda Yajna being conducted at Ved Mandir, Yot, renowned Vedic scholar and Yoga Acharya Swami Ram Swarup Ji delivered an enlightening discourse, emphasizing the eternal relevance of Vedic knowledge in guiding humanity towards peace, prosperity and righteous living. Addressing devotees and seekers, he explained the profound message of Rigveda Mantra 10/53 wherein God commands all humans to contemplate, study and practice the teachings contained in the Vedas.

Swami Ji stated that



until the era of the Mahabharata, society remained firmly rooted in Vedic principles. The regular study and recitation of Vedic mantras, association with learned scholars, and performance of Agnihotra and Yajnas fostered harmony, prosperity and spiritual advancement across the world. He noted that references found in the Bal Kand (Sarga

4) of the Valmiki Ramayana, the Mahabharata and other ancient Rishi-authored texts vividly describe an age marked by righteousness, social order and lasting peace. However, after the Mahabharata war, humanity gradually drifted away from the guidance of learned sages and abandoned the practices of Vedic study, Yajna and other noble deeds. As a result, the radiant light of Vedic wisdom began to fade, giving rise to ignorance and moral decline. Drawing an analogy, Swami Ji explained that just as the sun plunges the world into darkness, the disappearance of

# People's concerns must not be overshadowed by political priorities: Om Parkash Khajuria

JAMMU, JUNE 4

Prominent Human Rights Activist Om Parkash Khajuria has expressed concern over what he described as the growing gap between public expectations and governmental priorities, asserting that the administration must devote its energies to addressing the pressing concerns of citizens rather than becoming excessively occupied with political and organizational matters. In a statement issued here on Thursday, Khajuria said that at a time when people across Jammu and Kashmir are lobbying the government for timely solutions to their day-to-day problems, governance should remain the foremost priority. He observed that reports of prolonged political deliberations



within the ruling establishment have raised legitimate questions among the public regarding the government's focus and responsiveness to issues affecting ordinary citizens. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir expect their government to remain fully engaged in resolving matters

related to development, employment, public services, infrastructure and welfare. Political discussions have their place, but they should never come at the cost of efficient governance and public service delivery," Khajuria remarked. The noted human rights activist emphasized that citizens continue to face numerous challenges requiring immediate attention, including delays in administrative processes, deficiencies in civic infrastructure, concerns related to healthcare and education, and the need for greater transparency in governmental functioning. He said that people from both urban and rural areas expect a responsive administration capable of addressing their grievances in a timely and effective manner.

Khajuria observed that elected representatives and ministers are entrusted with a responsibility to serve the people and ensure that government departments function efficiently. He stressed that public confidence in democratic institutions is strengthened when governments remain accessible, accountable and committed to addressing the concerns of the common man. "Governance is ultimately judged by the relief and opportunities it provides to citizens. The success of an administration lies in its ability to improve the lives of people. The implementation of policies, prompt grievance redressal and transparent decision-making," he said.



# BJYM Protests Against NC Government Over Unemployment Issues In J&K

JAMMU, JUNE 4

The youth wing of the BJP on Thursday held a protest here against the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government in Jammu and Kashmir, accusing it of failing to fulfil its promise of providing one lakh jobs to educated youth.

Led by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) president Arun Prabhat, scores of party activists gathered at Kachi Chawani and raised slogans against the government.

The protesters also burnt an effigy of the chief minister.

Talking to reporters, Prabhat alleged the NC had promised one lakh jobs and creation of new employment opportunities in its 2024 election mani-



festos, but had failed to deliver on those commitments.

He accused the government of betraying the aspirations of unemployed youth and claimed that instead of filling vacancies, it had moved to surrender posts that had remained vacant for nearly two years.

Referring to a recent government order, Prabhat said the administration, under the pretext of austerity measures, had decided to surrender long-vacant posts and had further stated that such posts "shall not be revived." By doing so, the government has effectively signed the

death warrant of the employment dreams of the youth," he said, terming the decision unfortunate and anti-youth. The BJYM leader alleged that nearly two years after the NC assumed office, unemployment continued to remain a major concern, leaving many

educated people frustrated and disillusioned.

He further accused the government of imposing austerity on the youth while increasing its own expenditure, protocol arrangements and other official expenses. Prabhat said the youth had taken to the streets to remind the government of its poll promises and warned that the BJP's youth wing would continue its agitation until the decision was reversed and adequate employment opportunities were created.

They also alleged that the NC government had betrayed the trust of the youth and demanded immediate withdrawal of the order freezing and surrendering vacant posts.

# Khet Bachao Abhiyan by KVK Samba reaches block Vijaypur of district Samba

SAMBA, JUNE 4



The flagship "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" launched by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Samba continued with great enthusiasm and farmer participation on its fourth day in Block Vijaypur, covering the villages of GurahSlathia and Simbawali. The campaign is being conducted under the direct supervision and guidance of Prof. Sanjay Khajuria, who has been actively monitoring the progress of the programme across different blocks of the district.

The campaign aims to create awareness among farmers regarding sustainable agricultural practices, soil health management, crop protection measures, efficient use of fertilizers and pesticides, water conservation, and adoption of

scientific farming technologies for enhancing productivity and profitability while safeguarding agricultural lands.

During the programme, a team of scientists comprising Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Dr. Saurav Gupta, Dr. Ajay Kumar, and Dr. Shafiqi Khajuria delivered expert lectures on various aspects of modern agriculture. The experts highlighted the importance of balanced nutrient management, integrated pest management, conservation agriculture, climate-

resilient farming practices, and the need for preserving soil fertility for future generations.

Addressing the gathering, the scientists emphasized that the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" is not merely an awareness programme but a movement to promote sustainable farming and protect valuable agricultural resources from degradation. Farmers were encouraged to adopt scientific recommendations and maintain regular contact with KVK Samba for technical guidance and support.

# NC Legislatures party decision to hold protest in Delhi for the restoration of Statehood is eye opening for Modi Govt: NC

Jammu, June 4 The Jammu and Kashmir National Provincial President Mr. Rattan Lal Gupta said that the decision of the National Conference Legislature Party to hold a protest in Delhi on the opening day of the forthcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament for the restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is a significant and historic step in the democratic struggle of the people of J&K. While addressing a Jointing function at Shere Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu today, the joining function was organized by Vijay Laxmi Datta Senior leader. Mr Rattan Lal Gupta said that



Restoration of Statehood is not merely a political demand; it is a constitutional, democratic, and legitimate right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The continued denial of Statehood by the Centre Govt has deprived the people of their full democratic rights and weakened the federal structure that forms the foundation of the

Republic of India. Gupta emphasized that the proposed protest should serve as an eye-opener for the Modi Government. It is unprecedented and deeply concerning that legislators belonging to a democratically elected ruling party are compelled to protest in the national capital against the Union Government for the restoration.

# Ramban residents take to streets over Sawalkakote project, peaceful rally taken by SJAC

RAMBAN, JUNE 4



The peaceful town of Ramban witnessed a massive surge of public mobilization on Thursday as hundreds of residents, led by the Sawalkakote Joint Action Committee (SJAC), marched to demand "Justice and transparency" regarding the 1,856 MW S a w a l k a k o t e Hydroelectric Project.

The rally, which observers described as one of the largest displays of local solidarity in recent months, highlighted growing anxieties over land acquisition and the potential marginalization of local labor. Chanting slogans and carrying play-

cards such as "Our Land, Our Rights, Our Future" and "No Project Without Local Consent," the protesters marched from the Dak Bungalow through the central business districts of the town. Advocate Fairuz Khan, President of the SJAC, addressed the gathered crowd at a culminating public meeting. "We are not

anti-development," Mr. Khan stated, "but development cannot come at the cost of our dignity and livelihoods. Ramban must remain the central stakeholder. We are hearing reports of connectivity changes that could bypass our district. We will not stand for it."

The Sawalkakote project, slated to be one of the largest in the region, has been a point of discussion for decades. However, the recent push for its execution has reignited fears regarding rehabilitation. Khan emphasized that local youth should be the first beneficiaries of the employment boom the project is expected to generate.

The SJAC has submitted a memorandum of demands, insisting that compensation be paid strictly in accordance with the Fair Compensation Act. The committee warned that while today's rally was peaceful, the movement would intensify if the

administration failed to engage in a transparent dialogue with the project-affected families.

The SJAC also highlighted the issue of repeated extensions in the tendering process. Speakers noted that the tender process has reportedly been extended multiple times since February, with the latest deadline being extended from June 4 to June 16.

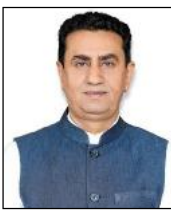
As the sun set over the Chenab, the message from Ramban was clear: the project's success will be measured not just in megawatts, but in the justice served to the people upon whose land it stands. The SJAC members who organized the rally and those who addressed were the gathering were Ali Shan, Sanjay Kumar, Rahi Manzoor, Mudaris Azmat, Sheetal Singh, Abdul Rahim Balli, Tauseef Mir, Iftiyaz Shol, Vakil.

# Governance can't be held hostage to political firefighting: Rajiv Jasrotia

KATHUA, JUNE 4

Launching a sharp attack on the National Conference-led government, BJP leader and MLA Rajiv Jasrotia on Thursday asserted that governance must never take a backseat to political firefighting, saying the people of Jammu and Kashmir are looking for solutions to their everyday problems rather than witnessing prolonged efforts by the ruling dispensation to resolve its internal differences.

Addressing party workers and members of the public, Jasrotia expressed serious concern over what he described as the government's misplaced priorities at a time when citizens across the Union Territory are grappling with a range of pressing issues. Referring to reports of lengthy deliberations within the ruling establishment aimed at address-



ing internal matters, he said such developments raise questions about the government's commitment to public welfare and efficient administration.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir elected this government to govern, not to remain consumed by internal political maneuvering. Every hour spent on settling

political differences is an hour lost in addressing the genuine concerns of citizens who expect accountability, responsiveness and development," Jasrotia said.

The BJP legislator observed that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and several cabinet ministers are entrusted with crucial portfolios carrying enormous responsibility. He maintained that the government should be devoting its full attention to improving public services, accelerating development projects, creating employment opportunities and ensuring timely delivery of essential services.

Instead, he alleged, governance appears to be suffering as political considerations continue to dominate the government's agenda. Jasrotia said people from every section of society—farmers, youth, traders,

employees, women and senior citizens—are increasingly voicing concerns over delays in administrative decision-making and inadequate attention to public grievances. He noted that citizens frequently approach elected representatives seeking intervention in matters relating to infrastructure, public utilities, welfare schemes and departmental functioning, underscoring the urgent need for a more proactive and people-centric administration. "The aspirations of the people are immense. They expect roads to be built, public services to improve, employment opportunities to expand and grievances to be resolved promptly. Governance must be visible not in conference rooms but on the ground where people's lives are directly

affected," he remarked. Calling for greater accountability and administrative efficiency, Jasrotia urged the government to institute regular performance reviews of departments and ensure that ministers remain accessible to the public. He stressed that the success of any government is measured by its ability to deliver results and improve the quality of life of its citizens rather than by its capacity to manage political contradictions within its ranks. The MLA further stated that Jammu and Kashmir stands at a crucial juncture where focused governance, transparent decision-making and speedy implementation of development initiatives are essential for sustaining public trust. He cautioned that any perception of governance being overshadowed by internal political concerns.

# DC Samba chairs Block Diwas at Palli, emphasises public grievance redressal and drug-free society

SAMBA, JUNE 04:

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ayushi Sudan today chaired a Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Palli, Block Bari Brahmana, aimed at addressing public grievances, assessing developmental needs and ensuring effective delivery of government services at the grassroots level. The programme commenced with a pledge under the 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, reaffirming the collective commitment towards building a drug-free society. The Deputy Commissioner also conveyed a message for a drug-free Samba, urging all stakeholders, particularly the youth, to actively participate in the campaign. During the public outreach, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with residents and heard various issues raised by the public. The grievances mainly pertained to water scarcity, renovation and maintenance of ponds, power supply, healthcare facilities, road connectivity, playground infrastructure and other civic amenities. The Deputy Commissioner assured the

public that all genuine concerns would be addressed in a time-bound manner and directed the concerned departments to take immediate action on the issues highlighted. She stressed the importance of prompt action, inter-departmental coordination and regular monitoring to ensure efficient delivery of public services. Special emphasis was laid on water and power supply in view of the prevailing summer season. Concerned departments were directed to ensure uninterrupted provision of essential services and take proactive measures to address public concerns. The programme was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Devi Thakur, Chief Planning Officer Samba Kasturi Lal, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Vijaypur, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Medical Officer Samba, Chief Education Officer Samba, Executive Engineers of various departments, Tehsildar Bari Brahmana, Block Development Officer Bari Brahmana, district officers and other stakeholders.

# MLA Arvind inaugurates Rs 63 Lakh Field Channel Extension Project at Pouni Chak

JAMMU, JUNE 4



MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta, today inaugurated the Field Channel Extension Project in Ward No. 32, Pouni Chak, a major irrigation infrastructure initiative being executed at a cost of ₹63 lakh.

The project is aimed at strengthening irrigation facilities in the area, ensuring efficient water management, and providing much-needed support to the farming community. The extension of the field channel is expected to improve water availability to agricultural lands, enhance crop productivity, and benefit a large number of farmers in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Arvind Gupta said that the development of irrigation infrastructure remains crucial for strengthening the rural

economy and improving the livelihoods of farmers.

"Farmers are the backbone of our economy, and providing them with reliable irrigation facilities is one of our foremost priorities. This Field Channel Extension Project will ensure better water distribution, reduce wastage, and help farmers increase agricul-

tural productivity. The BJP-led government's commitment to rural development and farmer welfare is reflected in such projects that directly benefit the grassroots," he said.

Gupta further stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, unprecedented attention has

been given to strengthening agricultural infrastructure, promoting water conservation, and improving the socio-economic condition of farmers across the country.

"The completion of this project will not only address irrigation-related issues in the area but will also contribute significantly to the overall development of the agricultural sector. We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every village and farming community receives the benefits of development and modern infrastructure," he added.

The MLA assured residents that several other developmental projects aimed at improving civic amenities, road connectivity, drainage, water supply, and public infrastructure are also being pursued across the Jammu West constituency.



# J&K PDD Secures National Recognition under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

SRINAGAR, JUNE 2026: Jammu & Kashmir Power Development Corporation (PDD) has achieved a significant milestone in the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, securing 2nd position (First Runner-Up) in the country for the month of May 2026 for RTS Applications, Installations and Inspections.

The award was conferred by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, during the national event '2 years of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' held at New Delhi.

The award, on behalf of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, was received by Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited. The pres-

tigious recognition reflects the collective efforts of the J&K Power Development Corporation, DISCOMs (KPDCL & JPDCL), field functionaries, district administrators, empanelled vendors and consumers in advancing the objectives of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana across the Union Territory.

The Government of India's flagship PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana aims to provide rooftop solar systems to one crore households across the country within a three-year implementation period from April 2024 to March 2027. At the national level, the scheme has achieved remarkable progress with 33,57,505 rooftop solar installations completed so far. In the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, although the scheme gained



momentum slightly later, with on-ground implementation commencing in July 2024, rooftop solar adoption has witnessed a consistent upward trajectory since its launch. The growing public response reflects increasing awareness of renewable energy benefits and the attractiveness of the financial incentives available

under the scheme. As of date, a total of 98,601 applications have been registered on the National Portal from J&K, comprising 29,402 applications under Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and 69,184 applications under Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited

(KPDCCL). Against these registrations, 33,987 rooftop solar installations have been successfully commissioned, including 12,730 installations in the Jammu region and 21,255 installations in the Kashmir region. The increasing deployment of rooftop solar systems has resulted in the addition of 121.61 MW of renewable energy generation capacity across the Union Territory, with 44.68 MW contributed by JPDCL and 76.92 MW by KPDCCL. This significant capacity addition is expected to contribute substantially towards reducing dependence on conventional power sources while promoting sustainable energy generation at the consumer level.

A cumulative central subsidy (CFA) amount of ₹258.18 crore has been disbursed

directly to beneficiaries across J&K and additional ₹10 Crore UT subsidy has been given as well. A key feature of PM Surya Ghar Yojana is the availability of affordable bank financing, with loan facilities offered at interest rates as low as 6 percent. In Jammu & Kashmir, J&K Bank has emerged as the principal financing institution supporting the scheme. A total of 45,321 loan applications have been received under the scheme, out of which 27,075 applications have already been sanctioned/distributed. The support extended by financial institutions has been instrumental in the successful implementation of the programme, with more than 80 percent of rooftop solar installations in the Union Territory being financed through lo-

an financing. Simultaneously, vendor participation under the scheme has expanded considerably. Out of approximately 900 vendors registered nationally on the PM Surya Ghar portal, Jammu & Kashmir presently has over 300 active State-level empanelled vendors. These vendors compete alongside national-level service providers, ensuring competitive pricing, improved service delivery and quality installations. The growing vendor ecosystem has also generated significant employment and entrepreneurship opportunities within the renewable energy sector across the UT. The progress achieved during the month of May 2026 has been particularly encouraging with 4,559 new applications.

## CPCO Amit Sharma visits Shopian; Reviews Census operations in meeting with officers

SHOPIAN, JUNE 04: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director of Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, today chaired a high-level meeting at Mini Secretariat, Shopian to review the preparations and operations of the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO), being conducted from June 1 to June 30, 2026.

At the outset, DSEO, Bilquees Zahoor briefed the chair about the topography and preparedness regarding census enumeration process and other training programmes being held in Shopian district. Principal Census Officer (PCO)/ Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Shishir Gupta, also briefed the CPCO about final preparedness for ongoing HLO while attending the meeting and held discussions on the ongoing conduct of census operations in the district.



During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on ensuring comprehensive enumeration of migratory households and streamlining field-level census operations. Amit Sharma, in his address, highly appreciated the hard work of the field staff and motivated all the enumerators and supervisors to perform their duties with dedication. He emphasized the importance of co-ordination amongst the census functionaries, timely data collection and strict adherence to census guidelines to ensure accuracy and completeness of the enu-

meration process. Officers were instructed to extend full support to census functionaries and undertake necessary measures for smooth conduct of the census exercise. The CPCO urged people to actively participate in the census exercise to ensure its smooth and timely completion and also co-operate with census enumerators and provide the required information. He reiterated the significance of the Census as a vital national census exercise and the need for collective efforts to achieve accurate and reliable population data for informed planning and development.

Arun Kumar, Joint Chief Principal Census Officer, also briefed the meeting regarding the monitoring framework of field operations and emphasized the need for real-time tracking of the data collection process.

The meeting was attended by prominent Census related officers including Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Census Officer), Dr Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Shaikoor Ahmed Dar, Charge Officers, Vijay Kumar, Assistant Chief Principal Census Officer, District Coordinator, Naveen Raghav among other concerned officers and officials.

## Dr Vinod Sharma assumes charge as Chief Medical Officer Doda

DODA, JUNE 04: Dr Vinod Sharma today assumed charge, as Chief Medical Officer Doda. After assuming charge, Dr Sharma interacted with officers and staff of the Health Department, including staff of the CMO Office and Dy CMO Office. He emphasized the importance of strengthening healthcare delivery, improving public health services and ensuring effective implementation of national health programmes across the district. The officers and staff of the Health Department welcomed Dr Sharma and expressed confidence that his administrative and professional experience would further strengthen healthcare services in District Doda. Dr Sharma reiterated his commitment to providing quality healthcare to the people of Doda and called upon all healthcare workers to serve with dedication and teamwork for the betterment of public health in the district.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**TENDER NOTICE**

For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, Jammu invites single tender through e-tendering system from O&M M/s. Cummins India Ltd. Pune, for the under mentioned work.

**Name of Work:** COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (CAMC) OF FOUR CUMMINS ENGINES INSTALLED IN SHAWAL AT BUDSAMA FOR THREE YEARS.

**Estimated Cost of Work:** Rs. 1,25,45,765.01/- (One Crore Fifty Five Lakh Forty Five Thousand Seven hundred Sixty Five and Paise zero only) (Approximate)

**Tender Security Amount (Earnest Money Deposit):** Rs. 3,10,000/- (Three Lakh Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Only)

**Tender Document available on website:** 04.06.2026

**Bidding Start Date:** As per www.reps.gov.in

**E-Tender closing Date & Time:** 26.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs.

**Date and time of opening of E-Tender on REPS website:** 26.06.2026 at 15:15 hrs.

**Validity of Tender:** 60 Days from the last date of submission of tender

**Type of Tender:** Single Tender (Single Packet System)

**Contract Period:** Three Years (36 Months)

**Tender No.:** 03-2026-DEMU-BDOM Dated: 04.06.2026 1897/2026

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

## Secretary Transport inspects ARTO offices in Rajouri, Poonch Stresses transparency, efficient public service delivery

RAJOURI/POONCH, JUNE 04: Secretary, Transport Department, Arunava today conducted an extensive inspection of the Assistant Regional Transport Offices in Rajouri and Poonch to review their functioning and assess the quality of transport-related services being provided to the public. The Secretary reviewed the disposal of online applications, grievance redress mechanisms and overall public service delivery. She emphasized the need for maintaining transparency, accountability and efficiency in functioning of the Transport Department to ensure hassle-free and citizen-friendly services. The Secretary directed the officers and staff to ensure timely pro-



cessing of applications and prompt resolution of public grievances. She underscored the importance of leveraging the digital platforms and technology-driven solutions to enhance service delivery and public convenience. At Chingus, the Secretary also inspected the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) System and reviewed its functioning in strengthening enforcement and moni-

toring mechanisms. Arunava reviewed the infrastructure and facilities available at both ARTO offices and took stock of the requirements for further strengthening their operational efficiency. She stressed the importance of adopting a citizen-centric approach and maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in service delivery. The Secretary also held meetings with DC Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma and DC Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, to discuss the transport-related issues and measures for improving transport services and road safety in the respective districts. During the inspection, she interacted with the officers and staff members and encouraged them to continue working with dedication and commitment towards providing efficient, transparent and responsive services to the public. ARTO Rajouri, Ashiq Rafiq Malik and ARTO Poonch, Mohd Nawaz, accompanied the Secretary during the inspection. They briefed her about the functioning of their respective offices, ongoing initiatives and measures being undertaken to further improve.

### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION JAMMU EAST

#### SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. 18 of 2026-2027/Jammu East dated 03-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir extenders are invited for submission of bids from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and State Staff / Central Govt. for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertisement Cost (in Rs.)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for submission of bids	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Gate with Pillars including Tile Path up to Ground and allied works at Govt. Hr. Secondary School (Boys) Sarwal, Jammu. (Jammu Smart City Budget)	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	13,600	600	2% of Adverted Cost	02 Month	08-06-2026 (1300 Hrs) on or after 11-06-2026	A, B, C & D

Position of AAA/TS: Accorded.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-06-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-06-2026 to 10-06-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	08-06-2026 at 12:00hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
4	Bid submission Start Date	04-06-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date	10-06-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	11-06-2026 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. 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 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East and upload the same in treasury challan / receipt. Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BC pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East. The CDR/FDR/BC 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 L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East at the time of allotment.

2. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. 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.

3. The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://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) Division Jammu East. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-  
a) 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.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.  
c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CE/J/1266/87 dated 07-10-2021.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1 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](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.

6.2 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.

6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.

Nr - 296-2305  
Dated - 03-06-2026

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Division  
Jammu East

DIP/J-3148/26

# Shakira, LISA, Tyla, Burna Boy among biggest stars on 18-track project

New Delhi, June 4: With the biggest football tournament in the world less than a year away, FIFA has unveiled the complete artist lineup for the Official FIFA World Cup 2026 Album, bringing together some of the biggest names in global music for an ambitious 18-track project. Scheduled for release on June 5, the album is already available for pre-save across major streaming platforms. FIFA described it as the largest multi-track music and culture initiative ever created for a FIFA World Cup. The album features an impressive mix of artists from across genres including pop, K-pop, Afrobeats, Latin music, hip-hop and dance music. Among the headline collaborations are LISA, Anita and Rema on Goals, Future and Tyla on Game Time, Major Lazer, Nelly



Furtao and Davido on No Place Like Home, and Ayra Starr and Latto on Show Me. Several other global stars also feature on the project, including Shakira, Burna Boy, Stormzy, The Rolling Stones, Daddy Yankee, 21 Savage, French Montana, Ava Max, Jelly Roll and internet sensation iShowSpeed. FIFA hails music's role in uniting fans. According to FIFA, the album reflects the scale, diversity and global reach of what it calls the biggest FIFA World Cup in history.

"FIFA has brought together an extraordinarily strong music squad and one befitting the biggest single-sport event in history," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said. "From global superstars to breakthrough voices who are shaping the future of music, the Official FIFA World Cup 2026 Album features artists from across continents, languages and genres in a project designed to unite fans worldwide through the power of music and foot-

ball," he added. Full tracklist revealed: The album includes several previously released singles such as Lighter, Por Ella, Echo, Illuminate, Goals and Game Time, while also featuring a number of first-time collaborations. The complete tracklist includes: Goals - LISA, Anita and Rema; Game Time - Future and Tyla; Illuminate - Jessie Reyez and Elyanna; Echo - Daddy Yankee and Shenseea; Por Ella - Los Angeles Azules and Belinda; Three Nations - 21 Savage, Nata Cano and French Montana; No Place Like Home - Major Lazer, Nelly Furtao and Davido; In the Stars (Remix) - The Rolling Stones; Show Me - Ayra Starr and Latto; Mi Mexico Lindo - Alejandro Fernandez; Blessings - Stormzy, Fridayy and Angel Energy - Ava Max and BIA; Lighter - Jelly Roll and Carin Leon; Siir - Nora Fatehi, Vegedream and Sanjoy Paritadzo - Danny Ocean; Champion - iShowSpeed; Love Always Wins - Shaggy; CimaFunk and Zemi Dai Dai - Shakira and Burna Boy. The announcement generated strong reactions online, with fans praising the diversity of artists and musical styles represented on the album. FIFA said the project is designed to go beyond music, serving as a platform for international collaboration inspired by football's ability to connect cultures and communities around the world. Several songs from the album are also expected to be performed live at FIFA World Cup 2026-related events, including Countdown Concerts in Mexico City, Toronto and Los Angeles, as well as opening ceremony celebrations across the tournament's.

# Vinesh Phogat case: Supreme Court closes WFI plea, declines to remove Delhi High Court observations

New Delhi, June 4: The Supreme Court on Thursday closed the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) challenge against wrestler Vinesh Phogat's participation in the Asian Games 2026 selection trials, ruling that the matter had become infructuous since the trials had already concluded. A bench of justices P.S. Narasimha and Arvind Kumar disposed of the petition while clarifying that its decision should not be construed as an endorsement of the observations made by the Delhi High Court against the WFI. "In view of subsequent developments, this SLP is rendered infructuous. This Court will not be taken as having reiterated the findings and observations of the High Court. The issues are kept open," the Justice Narasimha-led Bench said while disposing of the matter. WFI sought removal of High Court observations



submitted that already Phogat had been allowed to participate in the selection trials, the findings recorded in the High Court's order, particularly from paragraph 31 onwards, should be deleted as the matter remained subsistent. However, the Supreme Court declined to expunge the observations and instead closed the proceedings, making it clear that its order should not be interpreted as affirming the High Court's findings. Dispute arose over Asian Games trials eligibility he matter.

# Stokes Defends Archer rest, Says England risk Losing him if Situation in Mishandled



New Delhi, June 4: England captain Ben Stokes has backed the decision to rest Jofra Archer for the opening Test against New Zealand at Lord's, arguing that mismanaging player workloads in the modern game could push leading cricketers away from international cricket. Archer, who featured in 16 matches for Rajasthan Royals during IPL 2026 and helped the

franchise reach the playoffs, was left out of England's squad for the first Test. Head coach Brendon McCullum has also suggested the fast bowler could sit out the second Test as well. The move has drawn criticism, particularly in the wake of England's Ashes defeat in Australia, with some questioning why Archer was available throughout the IPL, but un-

available for England's immediate Test commitments. Stokes, however, urged critics to recognise the realities of the modern cricket calendar. "I completely understand people's frustrations, but there is another side to this," Stokes told reporters on Wednesday. "A lot of this has to do with where cricket is right now. There are opportunities for cricketers now that weren't available 10 or 20 years ago." The England skipper warned that failing to strike the right balance between franchise and international cricket could have long-term consequences. "If handled poorly, it could get messy, and players like Jofra might not play for England again. That would not be good for anyone," he said.

# FIFA bans reusable water bottles inside stadiums ahead of 2026 World Cup

New Delhi, June 4: FIFA has updated its Stadium Code of Conduct just a week before the start of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, banning fans from bringing reusable plastic water bottles into stadiums across the United States, Canada and Mexico. The revised policy, published on June 2, removes a provision that had previously allowed spectators to carry empty, transparent reusable plastic bottles with a capacity of up to one litre into venues. Under the updated regulations, reusable water bottles are now included among items prohibited inside stadiums, with FIFA citing safety concerns and the potential risk of bottles being thrown and causing injury. The decision comes ahead of the expanded 2026 FIFA World Cup, scheduled to run from July 11 to July 19, and has sparked concerns



among supporters over access to drinking water and heat management at tournament venues. As per the clause 3.1.11 of the official Stadium Code of Conduct, "bottles, cups, jars, cans or any other form of closed or capped receptacle that may be thrown or cause injury, as well as other

objects made of glass or any other breakable material or especially hard packages or hard thermal boxes (for the avoidance of doubt, reusable water bottles may not be brought into the Stadium)." Clause 3.1.20 suggests, "With the exception of hand sanitizers, no larger than 100ml, any liquids containing alcohol, including any alcoholic beverages, unless purchased and consumed within designated areas of the Stadium and in strict accordance with any additional alcohol consumption rules imposed by the Event Organisers." 3.1.21 adds, "any other liquids exceeding 100ml/3.38 oz. unless such liquids are purchased inside the Stadium, with the exception of (i) baby milk and sterilised water in containers (including in glass containers) not exceeding 1 litre/33.8 oz. per child, and (ii) liquids up to 500 millilitres/16.9 oz. that are required for medical reasons but only if presented with a medical certificate in English, French or Spanish and in the presence of the person for whom they are intended." According to The Athletic, FIFA, in a statement on Thursday, said, "The organisation made the decision to prohibit bottles to prevent risk and injury to players and attendees. Outside bottles are already prohibited at several of these venues for safety considerations, and FIFA is applying this consideration across its tournament stadiums. The move has raised concerns among fans about coping with heat. Access to drinking water inside the stadiums is also a concern. It added, "FIFA works closely with each Host City Committee and local authorities on heat mitigation factors for fans traveling to the stadium."

# Indonesia Open: PV Sindhu falls to Olympic champion An Seyoung in second round

New Delhi, June 4: India's change in women's singles at the Indonesia Open came to an end on Thursday as two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu suffered a straight-sets defeat to reigning Olympic champion and world No. 1 An Seyoung in the second round. The South Korean star continued her dominance over Sindhu, extending her unbeaten head-to-head record to 9-0 with a 21-17, 21-15 victory in 44 minutes to secure a place in the quarter-finals, according to Olympics.com. Sindhu matched An stride for stride for much of the opening game, with the scores locked at 16-16



before the top seed raised her level at the crucial moment, winning five of the next six points to take the lead in the contest. An carried that momentum into the second game, taking control early and opening up a commanding 17-8 advantage. Although Sindhu fought back to reduce the deficit, the

Olympic champion comfortably closed out the match with a quarter-final clash against Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong. Former world junior bronze medalist Ayush Shetty and mixed doubles combination of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani registered hard-fought wins to

advance to the second round of the Indonesia Open badminton tournament held on Wednesday. Shetty defeated China's Weng Hong Yang 8-21, 22-20, 21-15, while Rohan and Ruthvika upset world no 20 Yang Po-Hsuan and Hu Ling Fang of Chinese Taipei 21-14, 21-14 to advance, according to a release. Thomas Cup 2026 Bronze medallist Ayush came from a game down to beat world no.15 Weng for the second time in a row. Weng surrendered the first game. Ayush took an early lead in the second with a 4-point advantage at 8-4. Weng reacted quickly to close the gap, reaching his second game point.

From 19-20, the Indian scored the crucial three points, forcing a decider. While the second was an intense battle, Shetty earned a comfortable 6-point lead and maintained the advantage to close the match at an hour and six minutes. The Indian had defeated Weng previously at the Thomas Cup in April. In mixed doubles, Rohan and Ruthvika outplayed the higher-ranked Chinese Taipei pair, Yang Po-Hsuan and Hu Ling Fang, in straight games in just 34 minutes. Tough battle awaits as they meet the defending champions, Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delme of France, in the next stage.

# Sabalenka ousted by Shnaider as Shocks Continue To Rock French Open

New Delhi, June 4: Aryna Sabalenka was dumped out of the French Open on a windy Wednesday at Roland Garros as Daniela Shnaider staged an inspired comeback to beat the world number one 3-6 7-5 6-0 and further blow open the draw heading into the semi-finals. In a tournament that has already witnessed several shocks, including premature exits for defending champion Coco Gauff and four-times winner Iga Swiatek, Sabalenka's collapse was another unexpected jolt through the field. With world number one Jannik Sinner and 24-times major winner Novak Djokovic also early casualties, it means that for the first time since the 1977 edition of



Roland Garros there will be no Grand Slam champion featuring in the semi-finals of a major. "No thoughts, no emotions. I just want to quit tennis now," a downbeat Sabalenka told reporters after her defeat. "We'll see in a few days. Hopefully I'll get back on track mentally. I don't know when was the last time that happened to me that I lost 10 games in a row. I just mentally I got into very deep, dark hole over there, and I just couldn't get back on track mentally." While Sabalenka was left to rue her missed chances after going a set and a break up and being two points from winning the match, Shnaider said she had taken lessons from the Belarusian's struggles in last year's wind-hit final. Sabalenka produced a litany of unforced errors in similar tricky conditions 12 months ago to lose the title clash.

# World Boxing Rankings: Jaismine Lamboria reaches No. 1; Priya, Vishvanath enter top three

New Delhi, June 4: India continued to strengthen its position as a global boxing powerhouse in the latest World Boxing Rankings, with Asian champions Priya Ghanghas and Vishvanath Suresh breaking into the top three of their respective weight categories, while Jaismine Lamboria climbed to world No. 1 in the women's 57kg division. The rankings underline India's growing influence on the international boxing circuit, with Indian athletes featuring in the Top 10 across nine of the 10 women's weight categories and eight of the 10 men's divisions, according to a release from the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

In the women's rankings, Minakshi retained her position as world No. 1 in the 48kg category, while Preeti moved up to No. 3. Arundhati Choudhary (70kg), Pooja Rani (80kg) and Nupur (+80kg) were all ranked second in the world, further highlighting India's depth across multiple weight classes. Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) and former champion Nikhat Zareen (51kg) also remained among the sport's top-ranked athletes. The men's contingent also enjoyed a strong showing, with Sachin and Narendar breaking into the world's top five following

a series of impressive international performances. Hitesh Gulia (70kg) held on to his world No. 6 ranking, while Abhinav Jamwal (65kg) was placed eighth. Akash (75kg) and Lokesh (85kg) also secured spots in the global Top 10, reflecting India's growing competitiveness across the men's divisions. Ajay Singh, President, Boxing Federation of India, said: "These rankings are a reflection of the strong structures and systems that have been put in place over the past few years. From grassroots development to high-performance training, our focus has been on building a sustainable pipeline of



talent. It is encouraging to see that today, almost every weight category features a

strong Indian presence at the global level, firmly establishing India, as one of

the leading boxing nations in the world." India currently stands third overall

in terms of top-10 ranked athletes globally, while emerging as a dominant force in women's boxing, where it is placed second, and holding a strong fourth position in the men's category. Notably, in the elite Top-3 bracket, India is ranked third overall but leads the world in the women's category. The depth extends well beyond the Top 10. On the women's side, Parveen (60kg) is ranked 13th, Ankushita Boro (65kg) narrowly misses the Top 10 at No. 11, while Saweety (75kg), Sakshi (54kg), Sanju (60kg), and Neeraj Phogat (65kg) continue to hold competitive positions in the global rankings.

In the men's rankings, Ankush (80kg) sat just outside the elite bracket at No. 11, while Deepak (70kg) is placed second, Jyugnoo (85kg) occupied 14th position, Harsh Choudhary (90kg) ranked 10th, and Sumit (75kg) and Kumar Naveen (90kg) both placed 18th. Vishal Dubey (75kg) and Vikhal (90kg) tied 22nd in their respective divisions. India's incredible rise in the world rankings has been driven by record-breaking performances at the World Boxing Cup Finals, strong medal hauls at the World Championships, and consistent results across elite and age-group competitions.

# Classic fear-mongering, should stop selling panic: BJP slams Rahul Gandhi over 'economic tsunami' remark

New Delhi, June 4: Aditya Kumar, BJP national spokesperson, warned of an impending "economic tsunami," the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday slammed the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha stating that his claim is "classic fear-mongering."

In a lengthy post on X, Amit Malviya, head of the BJP's national IT cell, provided key facts to highlight that India is "not defenceless," despite facing an "external shock."

"Rahul Gandhi's claim that India is heading towards an 'economic tsunami' because the Government has removed all shock absorbers is not just wrong, it is classic fear-mongering. If India's shock absorbers had truly been removed, why is the economy continuing to show resilience despite elevated crude prices, conflict in West Asia, supply-chain disruptions, global finan-



cial tightening and persistent geopolitical uncertainty? The reality is exactly the opposite. India is facing an external shock, but India is not defenceless. The shock absorbers have not been removed. They have been built over the last decade," Malviya wrote. To back his claim, the BJP leader mentioned how E-way bill generation increased 11.8 per cent in April 2026 and 12.9 per cent in May 2026, "reflecting strong economic activi-

ties. He noted that manufacturing PMI remained firmly in expansion territory at 54.7 in April and further improved to 56.6 in May, while Services PMI was even stronger at 58.8 in April and 58.9 in May. "Electricity consumption grew 3.5 per cent in April and 5.9 per cent in May. Urban auto sales rose 11.8 per cent in April, while rural auto sales grew an even stronger 13.8 per cent. Retail inflation remained contained at 3.48 per cent in April—below the RBI's 4 per cent target. Rice and wheat buffer stocks stood at 817.53 lakh tonnes at the end of April, providing a strong food security cushion. Gross FDI inflows touched a historic high of \$94.5 billion in FY26. Forex reserves remain comfortable and provide insulation against global volatility. Strong services exports continue to support external stability and narrow the trade deficit," he wrote. "Rahul Gandhi should stop selling panic! Malviya went on to say that these were "not signs of an economy without shock absorbers" and rather "signs of resilience." "The Government has also taken direct measures to protect citizens, businesses and jobs... Airlines facing fuel-price volatility can receive assistance of up to ₹1,500 crore per borrower. The objective is clear: protect jobs, sustain supply chains and ensure uninterrupted production," he wrote.

He even highlighted that the Union Cabinet has approved ₹37,500 crore for surface coal and lignite gasification, targeting 75 million tonnes of gasification capacity and expected to mobilise investments worth ₹2.5-3 lakh crore. "These are not the actions of a government dismantling shock absorbers. These are the actions of a government actively strengthening them. Now compare this with the Congress-led UPA period. Between 2011 and 2013, the rupee plunged by 36 per cent. Forex reserves declined from around \$294 billion in July 2011 to approximately \$256 billion in August 2013. Import cover fell to just over six months by September 2013, down sharply from 17 months in March 2004," he noted.

# 'Emergency exists only in Congress': BJP's Shehzad Poonawalla rebuts Rahul Gandhi's 'institutional revolt' claim

Chandigarh, June 4: BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla on Thursday launched a sharp attack on Rahul Gandhi, accusing the Congress leader of spreading misinformation and creating panic for political gain, a day after the Leader of Opposition claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi may not remain in office for another year and that an "institutional revolt" was underway within the system. The BJP's response came after Gandhi, addressing tribal leaders at an event organised by the Adivasi Congress in Delhi, alleged that institutions, including the Election Commission, intelligence agencies and even members of the judiciary, were internally revolting against the government. He also claimed that information about Prime Minister Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other senior leaders was being passed



on to him. Taking aim at Gandhi's remarks, Poonawalla said the Congress leader was seeing the possibility of an Emergency everywhere because of his party's own political history. BJP accused Rahul Gandhi of spreading fear and propaganda at creating distrust among citizens. "Your model is to spread propaganda, create panic and then profit politically from that panic," Poonawalla alleged. He urged Gandhi to stop what he termed an "India defamation agenda" and refrain from making claims.

Operation Sindoor and military actions, and even spoke against India's democratic strength abroad," he said. The BJP spokesperson also criticised Gandhi's remarks on the electoral system, saying such statements were aimed at creating distrust among citizens. "Your model is to spread propaganda, create panic and then profit politically from that panic," Poonawalla alleged. He urged Gandhi to stop what he termed an "India defamation agenda" and refrain from making claims.

# Maharashtra: Man 'assaulted,' forced to transfer Rs.47.25 lakh over losses in share market; 4 booked



New Delhi, June 4: A 41-year-old man from Maharashtra's Thane district has claimed that four individuals assaulted and forced him to transfer ₹47.25 lakh after blaming him for incurring major losses in the stock market.

Mumbai's Police Inspector (Crime) from Kalyan, shared that the accused persons were middlemen. They used to take money from investors and

put that amount into shares through the complainant, named Vinay Kumar Raghunath Singh. PFI reported. The action was taken as they held Singh responsible for all the losses that their clients incurred in the stock market between January 2024 and April 2026, the official added. In his police complaint, Singh has claimed that he was forcibly taken to Bandra from his home in Kalyan, where the accused assaulted him and later made him to mortgage his flat. An FIR in this regard has been registered at the Khadakpada police station, according to Singh. Singh was allegedly forced by the accused to transfer ₹47.25 lakh from his bank accounts as well as those linked to his clients. As of now, it remains unclear why the accused routed their clients' investments via Singh. In connection with the matter, the police have booked the accused under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, related to kidnapping, cheating, voluntarily causing hurt and criminal intimidation, as well as the IT Act. Further investigation in the matter is currently underway.

# Over 12 kg chicken, fish and 3 bottles of liquor: 4 Nepalese found carrying prohibited items in Badrinath shrine area

Chamoli, June 4: Uttarakhand Police have taken major action against four Nepalese individuals after they were found carrying prohibited non-vegetarian food items as well as liquor into the Badrinath Dham area. This comes as part of the ongoing "Operation Prahar" initiative that is aimed at preserving the sanctity and religious decorum of the shrine. Police personnel have been deployed to conduct intensive vehicle checks in the area as part of the security and inspection protocols in place around Badrinath Dham.

As part of the operation, police officials stopped a taxi travelling from Jyotimath to Badrinath and conducted a search. Later on, they found out that the travellers were carrying more than 12 kg of chicken and fish packed in separate



packets, as well as three bottles of liquor. They seized the recovered material from the vehicle, since entry of such items remains strictly prohibited in the shrine area. IANS reported. After being questioned, the four persons identified themselves as labourers residing in Nepal. After informing them about the restrictions applicable within the Badrinath Dham area, police later initiated legal proceedings against them under provisions of the Police Act. The accused have been identified as Ghanshyam Damai, Manbahadur, Sandeep, and

Dattakami, all of them residents of Nepal. Local officials said that carrying such materials into the Dham violates local rules, besides hurting the religious sentiments of devotees visiting the sacred site. After due procedure, the recovered items - chicken, fish, and liquor - were disposed of by the authorities. Officials further noted that strict action will be taken against those found violating the rules governing the Badrinath Dham shrine. Also, the Chamoli police noted that there would be no compromise when it comes to preserving the sanctity, dignity, and religious traditions of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites. Notably, Badrinath Dham is one of the most revered pilgrimage sites in India and holds immense religious significance for millions of devotees around the world.

# Changing India, era of Sanatan values: BJP MLA on Ghaziabad madrasa demolition

Ghaziabad, June 4: Extending support to the ongoing anti-encroachment actions against illegal constructions, including unauthorised madrasas, BJP MLA from Ghaziabad's Loni Nand Kishor Gurjar on Thursday, June 4, said such measures reflect "changing India" that is deeply rooted in cultural unity and the values of Sanatan traditions.

This comes a day after local authorities carried out demolition proceedings against the alleged illegal Madrasa Jamia Arabia Ishatul Islam in Dasta. Also, they initiated action against unauthorised madrasas in the Khoda area. "Whether it is



madrasas, illegal land grabbers, or anyone giving Jihad teachings, nothing will be tolerated. This is a changing India. This is the era of Sanatan values," Gurjar told IANS. "The Partition happened based on religion and culture. Some people had said that they wanted to live in India and follow the cul-

ture and traditions; however, some of them are now dreaming about 'Ghazwa-e-Hind' and brutally murdering others," he added. Gurjar has called for strict enforcement of the law across Uttar Pradesh. He asserted that the authorities should take action against illegal encroachments and activities that violate legal provisions. "However, now India is changing, and all Sanatan followers are united. People are watching everything, and they want peace. I am sure that the Chief Minister will ensure strong enforcement across all the districts of Uttar Pradesh," he added. On Wednesday, the Ghaziabad administration launched a major demolition drive at Madrasa Jamia Arabia Ishatul Islam, located in Kallugarhi village of Dasta. While taking action on court directives and revenue department orders, officials had deployed six bulldozers to remove structures that are said to be built illegally on government land. Earlier,

Ghaziabad District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandar said that the madrasa in Kallugarhi village was allegedly constructed on about 14 to 15 acres of government land, with officials estimating the land's value at around ₹20-25 crore. The institution had been sealed earlier, while the demolition operation on Wednesday was conducted as part of the implementation of eviction orders that were issued under the Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Rules, 1952. Besides this, local authorities have ordered the recovery of nearly ₹1.23 crore as compensation.

# Malviya Nagar fire tragedy: Delhi Police arrest hotel owner after blaze kills 21

Chandigarh, June 4: The Delhi Police on Wednesday arrested Lavkesh Bajaj, the owner of the Malviya Nagar hotel where a fire killed 21 people, including foreign nationals and left several others injured.

The development comes hours after the fire broke out at the multi-storey building in South Delhi. Following the fire tragedy, the police had issued a lookout circular against Bajaj, who had been absconding since the incident on Wednesday morning.

He was arrested after sustained search operations involving multiple police teams. According to officials, the hotel violated building norms and illegally constructed rooms three



times the permitted limit, leading to the higher number of casualties. The police have registered a case under provisions of culpable homicide and other relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Investigators are also examining the role of "three partners" reportedly associated with the operation of the hotel. Sources said the group is believed to run multiple hotels and

# ICU turns death trap in Muzaffarpur: 4 killed in hospital fire; Bihar CM announces compensation

New Delhi, June 4: A devastating fire that tore through the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a private hospital in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district in the early hours of Thursday claimed four lives and forced the emergency evacuation of more than 20 patients, prompting the state government to announce compensation and order an inquiry into the incident. The tragedy at Prasad Hospital in the Brahmputra area has once again put the spotlight on fire safety standards in private healthcare facilities. While authorities suspect an electrical short circuit may have triggered the blaze, officials have said

the exact cause will be established only after a detailed technical investigation. A high-level inquiry committee has been constituted to examine the circumstances leading to the fire and identify any lapses. According to officials, the fire broke out in the ICU during the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday, filling the ward with thick smoke and triggering panic among patients, attendants and hospital staff. Eyewitnesses said cries for help could be heard from inside the building as local residents rushed to rescue those trapped. Windows



were reportedly broken to evacuate patients from the smoke-filled ICU. Fire officials said more than 20 patients were rescued from the ICU amid dense smoke as fire-fighters battled the blaze and evacuated those trapped inside the building. Speaking to ANI, Fire Officer Faiz Alam said preliminary findings point to a possible electrical short circuit. "Prima facie, the cause of fire appears to be a short circuit. We rescued 20-22 people from the ICU. Six fire engines were deployed to extinguish the fire. The post-mortem report will make clear the reason for death. We have information that a fire audit was conducted here," he

said. A firefighter involved in the rescue operation said visibility inside the building was severely affected by smoke. "I rescued around 15 people. There was a lot of smoke as we were busy rescuing people. My job was to extinguish the fire," he told ANI. Victims identified as probe gaps pacer District authorities said four people died in the incident. The deceased have been identified as Krishnandan Prasad Singh (76), a resident of

Gaurigima village under Minapur police station, Geeta Devi (62), a resident of Distolia village under Kathaiya police station, Shashank Kumar (30), originally from Ratanpur village under Aurai police station and presently residing at Newal Chowk in Ahiyapur, and Uday Kumar (57), a resident of Vishambharpur village under Taryami Chhapra police station in Sheohar district. Officials said between 13 and 15 patients were admitted to the ICU when the fire broke out. Several injured and critical patients were shifted to nearby healthcare facilities in Muzaffarpur, where they are undergoing treatment.

Authorities are also working to assess the damage caused to the hospital's ICU infrastructure. District Magistrate Subrat Kumar Sen said preliminary findings indicate that the fire may have been triggered by an electrical short circuit in the ICU ward, though he stressed that the exact cause would be established only after a detailed technical investigation. Officials said specialised forensic teams are examining the site while investigators assess the hospital's electrical systems, fire safety infrastructure and emergency preparedness protocols. Bihar government announces compensation xpressing grief over the incident. Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary announced an ex-gratia payment of ₹4 lakh each to the families of those who lost their lives. "The demise of four individuals in the fire at a private hospital in Muzaffarpur is deeply tragic. My deepest condolences to the bereaved families. May God grant peace to the departed souls and provide strength to their families during this difficult time. Instructions have been issued to immediately provide an ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh each to the families of the deceased. The local administration remains fully alert.

## Four Republicans join Democrats as House votes to curb Trump's Iran war powers

Washington, June 4: In a significant setback for President Donald Trump, the US House of Representatives on Wednesday approved a resolution seeking to prevent further military engagement with Iran unless Congress formally authorises such action. The vote marks the latest attempt by lawmakers to reassert Congress' constitutional role in decisions involving military conflict and comes amid growing scrutiny of the administration's handling of the Iran campaign. The measure also highlights emerging divisions within the Republican Party over Trump's foreign policy approach. The Democratic-led resolution was adopted by a narrow 215-208 margin, with four Republicans breaking ranks to support it. Representatives Thomas Massie, Brian Fitzpatrick, Tom Barrett and Warren Davidson joined Democrats in backing the proposal, according to CNN. The measure, introduced by New York Democrat Gregory Meeks, seeks to limit the president's



authority to continue military operations against Iran without congressional approval. Although the resolution requires passage by both chambers of Congress, it does not go to the president for signature and does not carry the force of law under normal congressional procedures. Speaking after the vote, Meeks welcomed the bipartisan support. "I am thrilled that we've had the opportunity to have some members from the Republican side stand up. I'm really thrilled and proud of my Democratic col-

leagues, because every Democrat, every single one voted for this," he told reporters. He said lawmakers would continue exercising their constitutional responsibilities and act as a check on the executive branch when necessary. Republicans divided over Iran conflict. The House action comes as concerns over the administration's conduct of the conflict appear to be widening within Congress. Democrats have repeatedly sought to curb Trump's war powers, and recent efforts have drawn support from a small but growing number of Republicans. The floor vote had initially been scheduled for May 21 but was pulled by Republican leaders amid concerns that member absences could result in an immediate defeat, CNN reported. Meeks had earlier accused House Speaker Mike Johnson of delaying the vote. He argued that Republican lawmakers were facing pressure from constituents concerned about rising living costs and broader government priorities. Before Wednesday's vote, Johnson defended opposition to the resolution, saying it could weaken the administration's ability to negotiate a lasting peace settlement. "I think it is a very dangerous prospect to take away from the administration and the commander-in-chief right now the ability to negotiate," Johnson told CNN. He argued that military objectives under "Operation Epic Fury" had been achieved and maintained that the administration should be given room to pursue diplomatic.

## What Rubio said when asked about an Iran nuclear 'warning' allegedly sent via Pakistan

Washington, June 4: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday dismissed reports suggesting Pakistan had conveyed a message from Iran warning of a possible nuclear demonstration if the ongoing tensions in the region escalated further. The issue surfaced during a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee when Republican Congressman Scott Perry referred to media reports claiming Pakistan's foreign minister had personally communicated such a message to the Trump administration. The exchange comes at a sensitive moment as Washington continues to navigate its approach towards Iran following months of military tensions and parallel diplomatic efforts aimed at curbing Tehran's nuclear programme. Questions over



Iran's capabilities and intentions remain central to the debate in Washington. Raising the matter during the hearing, Perry asked Rubio whether Pakistan's foreign minister had directly communicated such a message to the administration. Rubio responded to hypothetical Iran nuclear threat. The hearing later turned to a broader discussion on how the administration would respond if Iran threatened to demonstrate or test a nuclear capability in the event diplomatic efforts broke down. Rubio maintained that no such message had reached him. "I would be surprised if that message had been relayed. I would be aware of it if it was," he said. Rubio responds to hypothetical Iran nuclear threat. The hearing later turned to a broader discussion on how the administration would respond if Iran threatened to demonstrate or test a nuclear capability in the event diplomatic efforts broke down.

## 12 killed in fire at elderly care home in Sri Lanka; owner arrested

Colombo, June 4: At least 12 people were killed and seven others injured after a fire broke out at an elderly care home in Sri Lanka, police said on Thursday. The blaze erupted at around 5.30 pm on Wednesday at the Mawpitya Sevana Elderly Care Home in Anguruwatota, about 65 km southeast of Colombo, in Kalutara district. Police said 10 residents were found dead at the premises, while two succumbed to injuries after being admitted to the Horana Base Hospital. The owner of the privately run care home was arrested on Thursday as investigations into the incident continued, police said. More than 70 elderly residents were at the facility when the fire broke out. According to police, it was the "worst" incident involving fatalities from a



fire in recent times on the island. A total of 51 residents were rescued and included that of a cat. Initial reports had suggested that a gas cylinder explosion may have contributed to the rapid spread of the flames. However, authorities said the exact cause of the fire has not yet been determined. Police said investigations into the incident are continuing.

## Israel-Lebanon talks yield ceasefire breakthrough, but Hezbollah hurdle remains

Lebanon, June 4: Israel and Lebanon have agreed to implement a ceasefire and resume political and security negotiations later this month, marking a rare point of convergence between the two neighbours amid continuing tensions along their shared border. The agreement emerged after two days of intensive US-mediated discussions in Washington and comes amid continuing hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah. Officials hope the latest understanding will help create conditions for a broader security arrangement and reduce the risk of further escalation along the Israel-Lebanon frontier.



According to a joint statement issued after the talks, the ceasefire remains contingent on "a complete cessation of Hizbollah fire and the evacuation of all Hizbollah operatives from the South Litani Sector". The diplomatic progress comes days after Israel signalled it could step up military operations

in Lebanon, raising fears of a wider regional flare-up and casting uncertainty over other ongoing diplomatic efforts in the region, including talks involving Iran. The two sides also agreed to reconvene political and security discussions during the week of June 22 "with a view toward reaching a comprehensive agreement". The United States said it would continue facilitating communication

between the parties in the interim. Pilot zones proposed along border. One of the immediate outcomes of the talks was an agreement to advance the creation of pilot zones where the Lebanese Armed Forces would exercise exclusive control, excluding all non-state armed groups from those areas. According to the statement, Israel and Lebanon agreed "to swiftly advance the creation of pilot zones

in which the Lebanese Armed Forces will take exclusive control of the territory to the exclusion of all non-state actors". The statement did not specify a timeline for establishing the pilot zones. Hezbollah disarmament remains central to talks. The discussions also underscored the centrality of Hezbollah's military presence in any future settlement. Israel reiterated that its security concerns and territorial integrity could only be addressed through the disarmament of Hezbollah and the dismantling of the group's infrastructure across Lebanon. "Israel reaffirmed that its security and respect for its territorial integrity can only be achieved through the disarmament of Hizbollah and the dismantlement of its infrastructure throughout Lebanon," the statement said. The declaration also stressed that the future of relations between the two countries should be determined by their elected governments.

## Iran blames Patriot malfunction for Kuwait airport damage; ex-Qatar PM questions Tehran's motives

Tehran, June 4: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has denied responsibility for the damage caused at Kuwait International Airport, claiming the destruction was linked to a malfunction in the American-made Patriot missile defence system and not the result of an Iranian strike. The denial comes at a sensitive moment for the Gulf region, where a ceasefire that ended weeks of fighting involving Iran, the United States and its allies is facing renewed strain. The latest exchange has triggered fresh accusations, diplomatic protests and growing concern over the stability of the truce. Iran's response followed sharp criticism from former Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani, who accused Tehran of repeatedly targeting neighbouring Gulf states and questioned the rationale behind recent attacks on Bahrain and Kuwait.



In a post on X, Al Thani described Iran's actions as difficult to justify and suggested there were reasons to examine whether the operations had been planned well in advance. While reiterating Qatar's interest in maintaining positive relations with Iran, he said Doha would not accept being "blackmailed" by Tehran. The former Prime Minister also called on Gulf nations to pre-

sent a united response, arguing that collective action would demonstrate that attacks on any member state would not weaken regional solidarity. Iran, however, has maintained that its military actions are retaliatory measures against countries that allow the United States to launch operations against Iranian targets from their territory. Gulf governments have rejected that explanation, accusing Tehran of using military pressure to influence regional leaders and push them to persuade US President Donald Trump to end the conflict. Kuwait airport strike raises ceasefire concerns. The exchange of accusations intensified after Kuwaiti authorities reported casualties and damage at Kuwait International Airport following what they described as an Iranian attack. Officials said one person was killed and 63 others were injured. Kuwait's Foreign Ministry said projectiles landed on sovereign territory and damaged diplomatic facilities, though it did not identify the embassies affected. India also reacted to the incident. The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that the person killed was an Indian national and condemned attacks on civilian infrastructure. "We gain call on all parties to cease such attacks," the ministry said in a statement.

## Indian man charged in US crash that killed pregnant teen partner; victim's mother seeks deportation

Washington, June 4: The mother of a pregnant teenager who, along with her unborn child, was killed in a Range Rover Velar crash in Ohio, United States, has said she wants Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to deport the Indian man charged in the case. Annette Holmes said she does not want 33-year-old Tarsem Singh to remain in the country. According to a report citing Newsweek, the victim's family stated that Singh, an Indian national allegedly living in the US illegally, was the father of 17-year-old Ashlee Holmes' unborn child. The report added that Ashlee's relatives said she had tried to leave the relationship several times but was not successful. "Nobody should ever



deserve to die while pregnant with their first kid," Ashlee's mother told Newsweek. "I'm OK with him being kicked out of the country permanently... I don't want him in the States no more," she added. According to reports, Ashlee Holmes was a passenger in a Range Rover Velar that crashed on February 16 after Singh allegedly failed to stop for law enforcement and led her on a high-speed chase. The vehicle was initially speeding and later reportedly reached speeds of over 120 mph during the pursuit. It eventually failed to negotiate a curve, crossed the centre line and struck a Jeep before overturning multiple times.

## SpaceX Sets \$135 Price For Blockbuster IPO, Upending Wall Street Convention

Washington, June 4: SpaceX publicly set a \$135 price for shares in its initial public offering on Wednesday, upending the longstanding Wall Street price-discovery apparatus and underscoring Elon Musk's determination to raise record sums his way. The company's decision to publish a price a week ahead of its landmark offering has few if any precedents among major U.S. IPOs, and reflects Musk's standing in the financial world as an adventurer with a golden touch — even as the capital raise will value SpaceX at very lofty multiples.

SpaceX's amended IPO filing confirms a Reuters report on the \$135 price from earlier this week. The company is aiming to raise \$75 billion, the most ever for an IPO, in a deal that would value it at \$1.75 trillion, immediately placing it among the top 10 most valuable U.S.-listed firms. The company will kick off an investor roadshow on Thursday, with pricing expected on June 11; trading in shares will begin on the Nasdaq the next day. Musk has rewritten the IPO playbook for SpaceX in many other ways, from planning to give retail investors a larger role in



allocations to pushing for early index inclusion, and structuring governance to preserve strong founder control. "Nothing about this IPO is normal in any course or sense, but then again this is the largest IPO in history so maybe that is not surprising," said an investor who is planning on buying into the IPO. On Wall Street, there has been a rush to get a piece of the deal, given Musk's reputation and his control of an offering that stands to generate millions of dollars in fees — despite concern about the sky-high valuations that SpaceX will generate. The prospective investor said there has been a sense that major firms are "posturing" by saying "we put the money in early" — a position that both reflects and reaffirms Musk's leverage over investors. SpaceX lacks a clear public

market benchmark, given the paucity of public space companies and the company's interests across aerospace, telecom and defence. The company posted a net loss of \$4.94 billion in 2025, even as revenue rose 33% to \$18.67 billion. "On the face of it, a ~90x+ revenue multiple is high by any standard," said Tim Hatt, head of research and consulting at GSMA Intelligence, the research arm of global telecoms industry body GSMA. "But then again, SpaceX is not traditional in any way and there are no true public comparables." The road show is where companies and their bankers typically sound out investors in order to arrive at a price range for their share sale. The process emphasizes the bankers' relationships with potential investors and

their understanding of the market for the coming offering. After a series of testing-the-waters meetings with investors ahead of the roadshow, SpaceX indicated it was looking for a valuation of about \$1.75 trillion, while some investors sought \$1.5 trillion or less. An institutional investor who banks with Goldman Sachs said he tried to buy shares in the IPO, but was told SpaceX IPO allotments are a "David Solomon level decision," referring to the firm's CEO. The investor's banker suggested he buy after the company goes

public. Other aspects of the SpaceX offering stand out. Major international banks including Mizuho, Deutsche Bank, UBS, and Barclays have been urged to focus on lining up wealthy individual buyers in their home countries. In the past, little attention was paid to individual investors, as bankers sought out feedback from large asset managers such as Fidelity Investments and powerful hedge funds such as Citadel. Reuters previously reported that the company is considering allocating as much as 30% of the offering to individual investors.



## DDC Anantnag chairs Bankers' DLRC meeting Emphasises Priority Sector Lending, enrollment in Social Security Schemes

ANANTNAG, JUNE 04: A District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to review the performance of the banking sector in Anantnag district for the quarter ending March 2026 (Q4 FY 2025-26) and FY 2025-26 was held today under the chairmanship of District Commissioner, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat at DC Office.

The meeting was attended by GM DIC, CPO, CAO, CAHO, AD Fisheries, District Officers KVIB, KVIC and NRLM, LDO RBL, DDM NABARD, Cluster Heads of J&K



Bank, Chief Manager SBI, Lead District Manager (LDM), informed the chair that the total deposits in the district was Rs 5397.04, registering 95% achievement of the overall credit target of Rs. 5701.86 for FY 2025-26. During the meeting, the DDC reviewed the performance of banks for the Q4 as well as the whole FY 2025-26 in detail. He laid special

emphasis on improving the Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio and enhancing credit flow to priority areas, particularly agriculture and allied sectors. Reviewing the status of crop loans, the DDC advised the banks to ensure adequate and timely credit to farmers. He appreciated the progress shown in crop loan disbursement and urged the banks to intensify the efforts and achieve targets in coordination with the Agriculture Department. Observing the decline in some loan segments, the DDC directed the banks to take immediate corrective measures and improve lending performance.

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## State Taxes Commissioner reviews Kashmir division's tax compliance, enforcement measures

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Commissioner, State Taxes Department, P.K. Bhat, today chaired a review meeting of the State Taxes Department, Kashmir, to assess the progress of tax compliance, enforcement, and revenue monitoring across the division.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Commissioner, State Taxes Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad Raina, along with State Taxes officers from all circles of the Kashmir Division.



During the meeting, the Commissioner reviewed the action taken report on cases identified through BISAG, audit cases, and the demand raised and realised for the year 2021-22. He also took stock of action initiated against non-filers, taxpayers who have received TDS party credits but have not filed tax returns, scrutiny cases assigned for the year 2022-23, scrutiny of credit flow, and follow-up on notices issued by the department. The review further covered action taken against taxpayers whose registrations

have been cancelled, as well as those who have filed ITR and passed credit but have not filed GSTR-3B. The Commissioner also directed special focus on circles with a predominant hotel industry, keeping in view the revival in tourism activity, so as to check any possible revenue leakages and ensure proper tax compliance.

## DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Mela Kheer Bhawani in district



KULGAM, JUNE 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a comprehensive meeting with officers to review and finalize the arrangements for the smooth conduct of Mela Kheer Bhawani at Manzgam and Mata Tripur Sundari, Khatbari, Devsar.

The meeting focused on key aspects including security arrangements, availability of essentials, accommodation facilities, traffic management, medical services, sanitation, and uninterrupted power and water supply. DC Kulgam emphasized the importance of ensuring that all necessary facilities are in place to enable devotees to perform religious rituals with ease and comfort. He directed officers

from KPDC and Jal Shakti to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply at both locations during the Mela. The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) was instructed to establish medical camps at both sites. Executive Officers (EOs) were directed to ensure proper sanitation, while the ARTO and traffic authorities were asked to put in place a smooth and efficient traffic management plan. Additionally, concerned departments were instructed to install solar lighting at the venues. The R&B Department was directed to make arrangements for spacious and waterproof tents to accommodate devotees.

## Dr. Sagar Doifode Dattatray reviews functioning of APD in Baramulla

Stresses strengthening KKGs, promotion of mushroom cultivation, micro-irrigation, polyhouse farming

BARAMULLA, JUNE 04: Dr. Sagar Doifode Dattatray, Special Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD) and Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), today chaired a review meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to assess the performance and progress of Agriculture Production and Allied Departments in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, SF Hamid, along with officers from Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Sericulture and other allied departments attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Dr. Dattatray reviewed the



implementation and progress of various flagship schemes and programmes being executed under the Agriculture Production and Allied sectors. He emphasized the need for effective coordination among departments, timely achievement of targets and greater outreach to farmers for maximizing the benefits of government initiatives.

al and effectively cater to the needs of the farming community. He directed the concerned officers to strengthen farmer outreach and improve the delivery of agricultural services and advisory support through these centres.

Reviewing mushroom cultivation activities, he directed officers to create awareness among mushroom growers regarding scientific packaging, branding, marketing opportunities and various support mechanisms available under government schemes. He also emphasized the introduction and promotion of additional high-value mushroom varieties to help farmers diversify cultivation and enhance their income.

The Special Secretary

further stressed the promotion of micro-irrigation systems and polyhouse cultivation across the district to improve water-use efficiency, increase productivity and facilitate year-round cultivation.

He directed the concerned departments to encourage farmers to avail benefits under relevant schemes and ensure wider adoption of modern agricultural technologies.

The meeting concluded with directions to all departments to ensure implementation of ongoing projects and work in a coordinated manner to achieve the objectives of sustainable agricultural growth and improved livelihoods for farmers across the district.

## Director Agriculture stresses widespread adoption of NPSS Mobile App for Digital Transformation of Agriculture Sector

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Director Agriculture, Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah today stressed the widespread adoption of the NPSS Mobile Application, focusing on its practical implementation and strategies for enhancing user adoption, during a programme, held at the Directorate of Agriculture, Lal Mandi, Srinagar.

The programme was attended by officers and officials from across the department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director Agriculture Kashmir highlighted the importance of digital technologies in modernizing agricultural



service delivery and ensuring greater transparency, efficiency, and accessibility for farmers. He emphasized that the NPSS Mobile Application has been

developed as a vital digital platform to streamline various agricultural services and facilitate real-time data management. The Director urged field

functionaries to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the application's features and ensure its effective implementation at the grassroots level. He stressed the need for creating awareness among farmers and stakeholders to maximize the benefits of the platform and accelerate its adoption across the Valley. During the programme, technical experts provided detailed demonstrations of the application, explaining its functionalities, operational procedures, and practical utility in day-to-day departmental activities. Participants were also given hands-on training to enhance their

understanding of the platform and its field-level applications.

Interactive sessions were held to address queries and gather feedback from participants regarding the implementation process. The suggestions and observations received during the programme will help further strengthen the application and improve user experience. The programme concluded with a reaffirmation of the department's commitment to leveraging digital innovations for efficient service delivery and promoting technology-driven agricultural development in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Government College of Education holds Cycle Rally to promote sustainability

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: NSS Wing of Government College of Education, in collaboration with the Physical Education Department and the College Wellness and Anti-Substance Cell (CWASC), organized a cycle rally on Thursday under the theme "Pedal Towards Sustainability" to promote environmental conservation and sustainable living. The rally commenced from the college campus and concluded at Nishat Garden, covering a distance of approximately 11 kilometers. It was flagged off by Dr. Altaf Shah Syed in the presence of Dr. Syed Bilquees Aslam Shah, Daljeet Kour, Dr. Qazi Inam Saboor, faculty members, and students. A total of 35 students enthusiastically participated in the event. Dr. Seema Naz, Principal, Government College of Education (LASE), congratulated the NSS Wing, the Physical Education Department, and CWASC for successfully organizing the programme. Speaking on

the occasion, Dr. Altaf Shah Syed, NSS Programme Officer said that the initiative aimed to promote environmental sustainability, encourage eco-friendly modes of transportation, and foster healthy lifestyles among students and the wider community. He emphasized that such activities help sensitize young people to environmental challenges and inspire them to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives. Dr. Syed Bilquees Aslam Shah, Department of Education also highlighted the significance of the rally, stating that awareness-driven initiatives play a vital role in encouraging environmental responsibility and sustainable habits among students and society at large. During the rally, participants carried placards and displayed messages emphasizing the importance of reducing carbon emissions, conserving natural resources, and protecting the environment.

## TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan: 100-Day Campaign continues across Pulwama

PULWAMA, JUNE 04: Under the ongoing TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan - 100-Day Campaign, a series of health awareness, screening and outreach Shivirs were successfully conducted across various locations of District Pulwama by the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) Pulwama to strengthen tuberculosis screening, early detection and community awareness. The Shivirs were held in the villages of Sambora, Lelhar, Banderpora Chirat, Gundbal, Dusoo, Chandhara and Letpora. In addition, screening and awareness camps were organised at various healthcare institutions, including NTPHC Koil, HWC Payer and Nowhard, to ensure wider outreach



and coverage of vulnerable populations. During the Shivirs, active TB screening services were provided to the local population. Hand-held portable chest X-ray facilities were utilized to facilitate on-the-spot screening and timely identification of presumptive TB cases for further diagnostic evaluation and

treatment. Furthermore, during the Shivirs, Healthcare teams also conducted extensive awareness and sensitization activities, educating community members about the symptoms of tuberculosis, preventive measures, the importance of early diagnosis and adherence to treatment.

## DC Pulwama chairs District Level Telecom Committee Meeting

Reviews Telecom Infrastructure, 4G Saturation, BharatNet Progress in District

PULWAMA, JUNE 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) at the Administrative Complex here to review the status of telecom infrastructure, mobile network coverage, BharatNet implementation and other connectivity-related issues across the district. During the meeting, a detailed presentation highlighting the progress achieved under various telecom connectivity initiatives being implemented in the district was presented. Discussions focused on mobile tower saturation, augmentation of signals, phase-wise coverage network status, Right of Way (ROW) issues and the progress of the BharatNet



project. The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the project-wise status of mobile tower installations and the progress of the BSNL 4G Saturation Project across

the district. He also reviewed the status of signal augmentation, coverage in underserved areas, and issues related to pending sites, including power connectivity, land availability and other logistical requirements necessary for their early completion. Reviewing the progress of BharatNet, Dr. Qayoom stressed the need for expediting the remaining works to ensure seamless broadband connectivity in rural areas. He directed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat to closely monitor the progress of BharatNet works and facilitate coordination among the concerned departments and executing agencies for their timely completion. On the occasion, the DC also sought details from the Superintending Engineer, KPDC, regarding the status of power extension to the constructed towers and directed him to ensure timely power extension to all constructed and planned

towers. Dr. Qayoom further directed all stakeholders, departments and telecom service providers to work in close coordination for the timely completion of ongoing projects and resolution of pending issues. He emphasized the importance of strengthening digital connectivity, particularly in remote and underserved areas, to facilitate improved access to communication services, online platforms and digital governance initiatives.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Pulwama, Superintending Engineer KPDC, Circle Pulwama, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Pulwama; Officers from R&B, PMGSY, Municipal Bodies, Forestry and representatives of various telecom service providers.

## Lieutenant Governor Attends Rang-e-Kashmir Cultural Festival Jammu Kashmir is a living canvas, painted with centuries of wisdom, innovation, artistry, and craft: LG Sinha

SRINAGAR, JUNE 4: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today attended the Rang-e-Kashmir Cultural Festival in Srinagar today. This week-long event showcases J&K's priceless handlooms and handicrafts and draws both art lovers and buyers. Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said that Jammu Kashmir is a living canvas, painted with centuries of wisdom, innovation, artistry, and craft. "A nation's true strength lies not only in its wealth or might, but also in richness of its spirit, depth of its traditions and the vitality of its culture. India is a land where knowledge blossomed, traditions endured, and culture remained the soul that bound its people together," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor applauded the efforts of Pumbuch Cultural Heritage Foundation and its Director Mrs. Superna Sapru, for conserving, nurturing, and reviving Jammu Kashmir's abundant cultural heritage. He said the mission of foundation, injects new energy into traditions so the voices of our artisans, craftsmen, and traditional artists will continue to resonate for generations to come. Culture is not the static artifact of



history but in fact it is a living force that shapes our present and guides our future. Jammu Kashmir is home to exceptional artisans who can turn an ordinary piece of wood into something timeless. There are hundreds of esteemed craftspeople who weave thousands of years of cultural stories into fabric. There are papier-mache arti-

sans who carve the very soul of Jammu Kashmir into each piece," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor stated that there are renowned musicians in Jammu Kashmir who are carrying the region's melodic traditions. "These musicians are guardians of our identity, keepers of our memories, and the makers of our tradi-

tion's continuity. This event is a vibrant classroom where tradition and innovation converge, where the old inspires the new, and where people come together to celebrate the diversity that defines us. I believe one of our foremost responsibilities is to connect Jammu Kashmir's youth with handloom, handicraft, and the arts. The future of our culture rests in your hands and they must be made aware of the invaluable heritage," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor felicitated various renowned artists for their significant contribution at the event organised by Pumbuch Cultural Heritage Foundation in collaboration with Department of Tourism J&K. Shri Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce; Ms. Superna Sapru, Director, Pumbuch Cultural Heritage Foundation; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Shri Abdul-Allah, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir; senior officials of police and civil administration, members of Pumbuch Cultural Heritage Foundation and prominent artists and artisans were present.

## CM Omar meets delegations, discusses housing urban infrastructure and connectivity projects



SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Several public representatives, senior army officers, and civil officers today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat and discussed key developmental and public welfare issues across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the day, MLAs Dr Rameshwar Singh (Bani) and Sajad Shaheen (Banihal) called on the Chief Minister and raised various constituency-related developmental and public welfare issues. The Chief Minister gave a

patient hearing to the issues projected by the legislators and assured their appropriate consideration and follow-up action. Chairman & Managing Director, HUDCO, New Delhi, Sanjay Kulshrestha also called on the Chief Minister. During the meeting, they discussed a wide range of housing and urban infrastructure projects, including the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), water supply, sewerage, drainage, road connectivity and power infrastructure, among other matters. Later, Lieutenant

General Harpal Singh, Director General, Border Roads Organisation (BRO), called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various ongoing Beacon projects and infrastructure works being executed across Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Minister reviewed the progress of ongoing infrastructure initiatives and reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening development delivery and addressing public issues across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Uttarakhand Minister Satpal Maharaj Calls on Governor Gupta

Discussions Held on Strengthening Inter-State Connectivity and Promoting Tourism



SHIMLA, JUNE 4: Minister for Tourism, Culture, Public Works and Irrigation in the Government of Uttarakhand Satpal Maharaj, called on Governor Kavinder Gupta at Lok Bhavan today. It was a courtesy call. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and provided an opportunity for both leaders to discuss a range of issues of mutual

interest concerning the neighbouring States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. During the interaction, special emphasis was laid on strengthening road connectivity in the border areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand to facilitate smoother transportation and enhance tourism activities in the region. The two dignitaries

discussed the immense tourism potential of the Himalayan States and underscored the importance of developing robust infrastructure to improve accessibility to religious, cultural and eco-tourism destinations. Kavinder Gupta observed that better road networks between the border districts of the two States would not only boost tourism but also contribute to economic growth, improve connectivity for local communities and promote greater people-to-people interaction. The discussion also touched upon the rich cultural heritage shared by the two hill States and the possibilities of further strengthening cooperation in the fields of tourism, culture and infrastructure development.

## CS reviews impediments, steers measures to accelerate solarisation across J&K

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting of all the concerned Government stakeholders to review the progress of large-scale solarisation initiatives being undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir and to resolve the bottlenecks identified by the Science & Technology Department in advancing these efforts across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department; Divisional Commissioner,



Jammu & Kashmir; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology Department; Managing Director, JPDCL, besides representatives of several other concerned departments. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for sustained and result-oriented follow-up by the Science & Technology Department on the issues deliberated upon, observ-

ing that a clear roadmap for addressing the challenges had emerged through collective consultations with all stakeholders. He underscored that the department should fully leverage the support being extended by the Finance Department and other agencies to achieve the solarisation targets within defined timelines. Emphasizing the immense potential of renewable energy in

Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary advised the department to undertake a comprehensive review of the land parcels identified on the PM Gati Shakti Portal and assess their suitability for establishment of mega solar parks under Government of India-supported programmes. He called for a focused and mission-mode approach, directing the department to set measur-

able targets for the next six months, one year and two years, and ensure visible progress on the ground at each stage. The meeting held detailed deliberations on a range of issues critical to the successful implementation of solar projects, including land acquisition and transfer, obtaining statutory clearances from various departments, execution of Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with distribution companies for evacuation of power generated from solarized buildings, and measures required to maintain grid stability for optimal utilization of solar energy assets.

## Empowering Women, Reviving Heritage: H&H Launches Major Carpet Skill Upgradation Drive

SRINAGAR, JUNE 4: As a major initiative to strengthen Kashmir's traditional carpet weaving sector and enhance artisans' skills, Department of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir, through its state-of-the-art Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), has launched a skill upgradation training programme under the Ministry of Textiles-sponsored SAMARTH Scheme. SAMARTH (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector) is a flagship Ministry of Textiles initiative aimed at providing demand-driven and industry-oriented training to improve employability and promote sustainable livelihoods in the handicrafts sector. The programme is aligned with the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), ensuring nationally recognized training and certification standards. In a press handout issued here today, a spokesperson of the Handicrafts & Handloom Department stated that under the programme, 180 women beneficia-

180 women trainees to benefit from MoT sponsored SAMARTH programme as IICT leads capacity building in the traditional silk carpet



ries from eight districts of Kashmir are scheduled to receive training in Silk Carpet Weaving on Modern Steel Carpet Looms over a period of two months. "Twenty trainees have been enrolled from 8 districts, while Srinagar, a major carpet weaving hub, will accommodate 40 trainees," the spokesperson said. Speaking on the occasion, Zubair Ahmad, Director, IICT, said that trainees maintaining at least

80 percent attendance will be eligible for a stipend of ₹5,000 per course, providing both skill enhancement as well as financial support. "The experienced Master Trainers engaged to impart specialized training under the programme will receive an honorarium of ₹20,000 per month, with a total training facilitation cost of approximately ₹3.60 lakh," he added. Highlighting the scheme's

robust monitoring framework, Director IICT further stated that the programme will undergo third-party audit and verification by auditors appointed by the Ministry of Textiles to assess compliance, training quality, attendance records and implementation outcomes. "To ensure transparency and effective monitoring, the programme incorporates an Aadhaar-based biometric attendance system" he added. Department of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir continues to undertake focused interventions for the revival, preservation and promotion of the world-renowned Kashmir Carpet Craft. Through modernization of weaving infrastructure, skill upgradation, artisan welfare initiatives, market linkages, GI protection and capacity-building programmes such as SAMARTH, the Department remains committed to safeguarding this centuries-old heritage craft while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, particularly for women artisans across the Valley.

## Secretary RDD reviews sanitation preparedness on Baltal axis for SANJY-2026



BALTAL, JUNE 04: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today conducted an extensive inspection of the Baltal axis to review the sanitation preparations for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026. The Secretary had a detailed on-ground assessment of sanitation facilities from Nilgath Helipad to

Baltal Base Camp and Domail Camp. He was accompanied by Director General Rural Sanitation Anoo Malhotra, Assistant Commissioner Development Ganderbal Altaf Hussain, Block Development Officer and other district officers. During the visit, Asad directed the field officers to closely monitor the installation of sanitation assets and accelerate execution to ensure comple-

tion within the prescribed timelines. He emphasized the need for increasing the daily pace of toilet installation and maintaining strict adherence to the approved plans. The Secretary inspected waste collection system including drain cradles and directed the officials to ensure their continuous functionality to prevent blockages. He also stressed the deployment of dedicated sanitation personnel at key road junctions and Yatra route, with clearly defined areas of responsibility. Reviewing toilets, washrooms, dustbins, greywater drainage systems, waste segregation sites and plastic waste management units, he underscored the need for maintaining high standards of cleanliness, accessibility and uninterrupted utility services.

**Editor, Publisher, Printer & Owner: Rajni Sharma, Published at: Sec-2, Channi Himmat, Jammu**  
**Early Times Printing Press Samadhian Road, Jammu**  
**E-Mail: editor.northinnews@gmail.com**  
**All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City**