

North in News

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

VOL. NO. 14 | ISSUE NO. 143

JAMMU, SATURDAY, 6 JUNE 2026

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

RS. 3.00

Narco-terrorists based abroad, in J&K will be hunted down; brought to justice: LG Sinha

SRINAGAR, JUN 5: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said narco-terrorists - those sitting in neighbouring countries or operating inside the Union territory - will have to pay a "heavy price", asserting that their days are numbered. Sinha led a "Nasha-Mukt Jammu Kashmir" rally in Ganderbal district, and addressed a large gathering on the occasion. "Having visited every district in Kashmir valley and accompanying every march (under the anti-drug campaign), I can say that a historic movement against narco-terrorism has emerged," Sinha said in his address. He said drug trafficking is not a petty issue, but a matter of national security and a grave threat to society at



large. "Narco-terrorists, whether those sitting in neighbouring countries or operating from within Jammu and Kashmir, are enemies of our people. They are enemies of our children. They are enemies of progress," Sinha said, asserting that narco-terror networks will pay a heavy price. The administration will ensure that those who have

harmed our youth face severe and exemplary justice, he said. The L-G called upon mothers, sisters, and daughters to rise as protectors of villages, cities and neighbourhoods; also urging the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to stand as guardians of their schools and colleges. "I promise that narco-terrorists will no longer find refuge. We will hunt them down. Their days are numbered. Their networks will be dismantled, one by one. This is my oath, every narco-terrorist will answer for their sins," he said. The L-G further said during the past 55 days, 1,036 FIRs have been registered, 1,128 alleged drug smugglers have been arrested, more than 100 properties linked of drug

(Contd on Pg 2)

People anger forced Cong to change Karnataka CM, party seeks to cash in by creating chaos: PM

SURAT, JUN 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said "immense public anger" forced the Congress to change its CM in Karnataka and accused the party of spreading chaos and uncertainty in the last 12 years and seeking political and electoral opportunities in them. He noted the current decade is proving to be a period of crises for the world and referred to the COVID-9 pandemic, wars and now energy crisis in the wake of the West Asia conflict, but asserted India faced each of these challenges with strength and resilience through the collective efforts of its 140 crore citizens. He was



addressing a gathering in Surat after inaugurating and laying foundation stones for development projects of Rs 18,000 crore in Gujarat. Modi said the ongoing global crisis highlights just how crucial energy self-reliance is, and underscores the importance of the capacity the country has built over the past 12 years, and targeted the Opposition for constantly mocking his government's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative. The Prime Minister pointed out that voters have repeatedly given mandate to the Bharatiya Janata Party

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Article 370 not responsible for lack of development in J&K: Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR, JUNE 5: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that Article 370 was never responsible for the lack of development in the erstwhile state, asserting that its abrogation had not led to any extraordinary economic transformation in the region. Speaking at the Hindu Huddle, Omar said that Jammu and Kashmir's developmental and economic challenges were largely the result of decades of violence and instability rather than its



former special constitutional status. "Article 370 was never a cause of any lack of development in Jammu and Kashmir, nor has its revocation suddenly resulted in massive development," he said. The

National Conference leader said the region had suffered economically due to nearly three decades of militancy, which discouraged investors and businesses from operating in Jammu and Kashmir. "People will not invest money in a part of the country that they deem to be unsafe. The perception that Jammu and Kashmir was an unsafe place to visit or do business in is what hurt us, not Article 370," Abdullah said. He also accused the BJP of using

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HP Governor Gupta flags off Mini Marathon on World Environment Day

SHIMLA, JUNE 5: The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Kavinder Gupta today flagged off a Mini Marathon from the historic Ridge Ground, Shimla, on the occasion of World Environment Day. The event was jointly organized by the Himachal Pradesh Police, Department of Environment, Science Technology and Climate Change, and the Census Directorate, Himachal Pradesh. The marathon was based on the theme "Clean Environment and Chitta-Free Life" and witnessed enthusiastic participation from people across



Himachal Pradesh and neighbouring states. Personnel from Central

Armed Police Forces, students from schools, colleges and universities, senior citizens and specially-abled participants also took part in large numbers. The primary objective of the event was to create awareness about the menace of drug abuse while promoting environmental conservation, public health and social responsibility. The marathon also served as a platform to educate citizens about the ongoing Self-Enumeration Campaign being conducted by the Census Department. Addressing the gathering, the Governor said

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BRIEF NEWS

Four tourists injured after vehicle plunges 100 feet into gorge in Doda

JAMMU, JUNE 5: Four tourists from Punjab were injured on Friday after their car skidded off the road and plunged nearly 100 feet into the Haloon river on the Bhabarwah-Pathankot interstate highway in Doda district, police said. The tourists were travelling in a Kia Sorento vehicle when the accident occurred around 11 kilometres from Bhabarwah town, they said. "The driver reportedly lost control, veered off the road and fell nearly 100 feet into the river," police said. They said police were verifying the purpose and route of the tourists' visit. Several popular tourist destinations, including:

(Contd on Pg 2)

Property worth Rs 53 lakh linked to drug trafficking attached

JAMMU, JUNE 5: Police on Friday attached a residential property worth about Rs 53 lakh in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, officials said. Police said the action was taken under the Act following a financial investigation conducted in connection with cases registered at Kishtwar Police Station against Muzaffar Hussain and Mudassar Hussain, both sons of Mehraj-ud-Din. Kishtwar SSP Naresh Singh said the investigation revealed that a residential house measuring six marlas had allegedly been acquired from proceeds.

(Contd on Pg 2)

Border security no longer isolated responsibility, fool-proof security grid will be built: Shah

AGARTALA, JUN 5: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the government's "smart border" project is in the final stage, and the new security grid will feature cutting-edge technology and local administration, besides the border sentinels. Shah, addressing BSF personnel at Lankamdar in Border Outpost in Tripura, said wherever troops of the force are deployed, "we will build smart borders there". "Smart borders will be introduced soon with a new security grid to

include cutting-edge tech, local administration and border sentinels," the home minister said. "The concept of smart border will be implemented in seven to eight places in the country as a pilot project. I request the Union home secretary and the director general of the BSF to visit border areas and hold talks," Shah said. "Every border has its own challenges, from human trafficking and arms smuggling to drug supply, but the BSF jawans do their best to face these challenges," he said. Shah

(Contd on Pg 2)

India no longer weak, has become powerful: Rajnath

LUCKNOW, JUN 5: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday asserted India had emerged as a strong nation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and that its stature has risen on the global stage. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a plantation programme on World Environment Day, Singh, who is on a three-day tour to the country's economy has scaled new heights and was being praised across the world. He added that India has enjoyed considerable credibility in the international arena. "I believe that during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's stature in the international arena has risen. And, I am not saying this merely as a Cabinet member," he said. "The truth is that the world recognises



that India is no longer the India it used to be. It is no longer weak but has become powerful. This is why India's reputation has risen in the international arena because of this credibility," he added. Referring to the West Asia crisis,

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India, US held positive negotiations for trade deal: MEA

NEW DELHI, JUN 5: India on Friday said it and the US held "positive and constructive" conversations in finalising a bilateral trade agreement. In February, the two sides released a joint statement about agreeing on a framework for an interim trade deal for reciprocal and mutually-beneficial trade. Since then, both sides are holding negotiations to firm it up. A delegation from the US Trade Representative (USTR) visited India from June 1 to 4 to advance discussions on the trade agreement. "The conversations have

been positive and constructive. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to taking this interim trade and bilateral trade agreement forward," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing while referring to a statement by the commerce ministry. The commerce ministry said the two sides held constructive and positive discussions across a wide range of issues covering trade in goods, non-tariff measures, customs and trade facilitation, economic security alignment and

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No Regular Job Right for Consolidated JKCL Worker: HC

Court directs payment of pending wages within three months, with 6% interest on default

JAMMU, JUNE 05 (JNF): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has declined to order regularisation or deployment of a consolidated worker of Jammu and Kashmir Cement Limited in any other government department, holding that a worker engaged on consolidated basis cannot claim parity with regular employees after winding up of the company. Justice Sanjay Dhar passed the judgment in a petition filed by Shahid Mehraj, who had sought release of service benefits at par with similarly situated persons appointed on compassionate grounds, regularisation of his services and deployment in any other government department or organisation. The petitioner had also sought clearance of outstanding wages. As per the case before the Court, the petitioner's father had worked as Machinery Attendant with JKCL at its Khrew factory for about 26 years and retired on March 31, 2014. Soon after retirement, he was diagnosed with Stage-IV lung cancer and died on May 10, 2014.

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Jammu gets Region Meteorological Centre to boost weather forecasting, disaster preparedness



JAMMU, JUNE 5: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Friday formally declared the establishment of a new Regional Meteorological Centre at Jammu, marking a major step towards strengthening weather forecasting and disaster preparedness across Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh. The newly established MeT centre at

centre would provide regional weather forecasting, district-wise forecasts and advanced nowcast services, enabling highly accurate weather predictions up to three hours in advance. "Specialised weather forecasts will be issued for tourists, mountain regions and disaster management agencies. Dedicated forecasting services will also be available for sectors such as agriculture, aviation and pilgrimage-related helicopter operations," he said. The minister said the upgraded meteorological infrastructure would play a key role in minimising losses by natural disasters and contribute to the vision of a developed India. "Timely forecasting and early warnings for flash floods, cloudbursts, avalanches,

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HC Quashes Three PSA Detentions, Upholds Two



JAMMU, JUNE 05 (JNF): The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has delivered a series of significant judgments in preventive detention matters under the J&K Public Safety Act, quashing three detention orders while upholding two others after examining whether the constitutional and statutory safeguards were complied with by the detaining authorities. Justice Sanjay Dhar, while

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FROM PAGE ONE

Narco...

trade proceeds have been attached, as part of the intensive antidrug drive. Additionally, nearly 700 driving licenses have been cancelled, and recommendations have been made to cancel passports of 130 alleged drug offenders. "Fifty-five days ago, I declared that enough is enough. What began as a war against drugs and narco-terrorism has now ignited a people's movement, a movement born of courage, sustained by spirit, and driven by collective will of citizens. Today, that resolve is stronger than ever," Sinha said.

He also assured proper rehabilitation of those who have fallen into drug addiction. "With compassion and dignity, we will help them return to the mainstream. Through treatment, counselling, and employment opportunities, we are opening new doors." He said the 'Nasha Mukh' campaign is more than a government programme; it is a social revolution. "Together, we will ensure that no drug smugglers or peddlers ever find a place in Jammu and Kashmir."

People...

(BJP) as they led the government's development initiatives and growth-driven agenda for the country. This was reflected in the massive mandate the BJP-led NDA received in the recent elections in West Bengal, Assam, and Puducherry, and in panchayat and municipal corporation polls taking place across the country, he stated. "Every election conveys the same message: the nation does not like anarchy, uncertainty, or despair. For the past 12 years, the Congress has been seeking opportunities amidst the chaos and uncertainty it has spread, yet the people of the country have repeatedly given it a fitting reply," he added.

Modi said the people of Gujarat have pushed the Congress to the margins, and even in states where it is in power, the public is fed up with its misgovernance, citing the results of local body polls held recently in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab.

People in these states have delivered a clear message, that the Congress's politics of seeking opportunity amidst chaos will not work, Modi insisted.

"People are unhappy wherever the Congress party is in power. There is also immense public anger regarding the Congress government in Karnataka, that is precisely why the party had to replace its Chief Minister there," he said, referring to DK Shivakumar taking over as the CM replacing Siddharmaiah in the southern state on June 3. "India has moved far beyond negativity. It is a nation of boundless optimism and extraordinary aspirations," he emphasised.

Modi affirmed his government would build capacity over the past 12 years to make India self-reliant in energy, and the ongoing global crisis has only highlighted this. "On one hand, we secured oil and gas supplies from various parts of the world, but on the other, we have made historic investments in renewable energy," he told the gathering.

In the last 12 years, India's solar energy generation grew to 250 GW from negligible level, ethanol blending capacity expanded, Railway electrification accelerated, nuclear energy initiatives advanced. Also power transmission networks were modernised, gas pipeline coverage expanded, port capacities to facilitate transport and storage of petroleum products were modernized and enlarged, he said.

The PM said amid his government's focus on self-reliance, there are "some pessimists" in the country who constantly mock the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. "They consistently belittle this national resolve. These are the people who have always kept India dependent on other nations. They forget that a country dependent on others can never attain the heights of development it truly deserves," he insisted.

To accelerate the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, the country is currently focusing heavily on connectivity. Projects like the Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway, the Dedicated Freight Corridor, and the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train corridor reflect this priority of India, he stated. The Prime Minister pointed out that the world has become increasingly conscious of the shift towards a green future, and is making cautious, incremental strides in that direction, comments coming on Environment Day.

India, too, is working extensively on 'green growth,' with Gujarat having taken decisive steps in this regard years ago, he said.

"Today, India operates on the mantra of 'progress alongside nature' - prioritising both the economy and ecology. This is clearly evident in Surat with its 'circular water economy' where the city's wastewater is treated and supplied to industries," Modi mentioned.

The capacity Gujarat has built in sectors like oil refining, solar and wind power over the years is proving immensely beneficial to the nation, he stated.

"Today, India's renewable energy capacity stands at 250 GW, with Gujarat alone contributing 50 GW," told the gathering.

Earlier in the day, the PM visited Larsen & Toubro's Hazira facility in Surat district and reviewed the ongoing industrial operations and infrastructure projects.

Modi visited the AM Naik Heavy Engineering Complex, L&T's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, and was shown around the facility by company officials.

He was briefed on the Zoravar tanks and other defence equipment manufactured at the facility. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and L&T Defence have developed a air-transportable 25-tonne tank designed for rapid deployment largely along the frontier with China.

Article...

Article 370 as a political tool, stating that similar constitutional protections continue to exist in other parts of the country without attracting the same criticism. Abdullah pointed out that restrictions on land ownership and entry permits remain in places like Lakshadweep and parts of the Northeast, but are rarely questioned.

"The only thing that was talked about was Jammu and Kashmir and the fact that you couldn't buy land there. That was the stick used to beat us with," he said. Referring to the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister said it remained the foremost priority of his government, though there was still no clarity regarding the conditions required for its return. "My target is to achieve statehood, yet I have no idea what goals I have to achieve to reach that point," he said. Omar further stated that governance would improve once Jammu and Kashmir regains statehood, arguing that the

powers of an elected government remain limited under the existing Union Territory framework. "It is better to be a state than a Union Territory. That is what we are trying to correct," Abdullah added.

HP Governor...

that the people of Himachal Pradesh are fortunate to live in a state blessed with a pristine environment and clean air, which contribute significantly to a healthy lifestyle. He emphasized the need to preserve and protect the State's natural environment for future generations. The Governor appreciated the overwhelming enthusiasm shown by participants and remarked that such public involvement reflects a growing commitment towards environmental protection and social causes. He said, "Development cannot be accepted at the cost of the environment. Environmental protection and a drug-free society are the foundations of a better future." Expressing concern over the growing challenge of drug abuse, the Governor lauded the efforts of the Himachal Pradesh Police for spreading awareness through innovative outreach programmes. He said that protecting the younger generation from the dangers of narcotics is a collective responsibility and can only be achieved when every section of society joins hands in the fight against drugs.

"When every section of society works shoulder to shoulder, Himachal Pradesh can certainly become a drug-free state," he said. The Governor further observed that public participation plays a crucial role in the success of any social campaign. He appreciated the efforts of the organizing departments for ensuring the involvement of people from all walks of life and expressed confidence that such initiatives would yield positive and lasting results. Highlighting the importance of cleanliness, Shri Gupta said that the habit of maintaining cleanliness must begin at the individual and family level. He urged citizens to adopt cleanliness as a way of life and contribute actively towards building a healthier and more sustainable society. Interacting with the participants, Governor Shri Kavinder Gupta encouraged the youth to maintain physical fitness and adopt a healthy lifestyle, emphasizing that a fit and disciplined generation is essential for building a strong and progressive society. He urged young people to stay away from drugs, engage in sports and outdoor activities, and contribute actively towards environmental conservation and social well-being. Earlier, the Governor administered a pledge to all participants, encouraging them to remain committed to cleanliness, environmental protection and a drug-free lifestyle. The Governor also interacted with the participants and motivated them to contribute towards preserving Himachal Pradesh's green cover and to stay away from substance abuse. He also visited an exhibition organized by the Department of Environment, Science, Technology and Climate Change and appreciated the efforts being undertaken to promote environmental awareness. He also signed the "Hara Himachal and Chitta-Mukh Himachal" campaign wall, reaffirming his commitment to both causes. Mayor of Shimla Municipal Corporation Shri Surender Chauhan, Director General of Police Shri Ashok Tiwari, Secretary, Department of Environment, Science, Technology and Climate Change, Shri Sushil Kumar Singla, Director of State Operations, Himachal Pradesh, and Deep Shikha Sharma, along with senior officers and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

target -- as well," he said. On the occasion of World Environment Day, Singh planted a sapling at the Kasturba Park in Lucknow Cantonment as part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (A Tree in the Name of Mother) campaign. Singh said that trees are not merely a means to maintain environmental balance but are also the foundation of human existence and prosperity. He said that the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, launched in response to the prime minister's call, is a meaningful effort to express reverence for nature and motherhood. He urged all citizens to join this campaign and pledge to plant at least one sapling and nurture it. Later, in a post on X, Rajnath Singh said, "Planted a sapling in Lucknow Cantonment area on the occasion of World Environment Day. A healthy environment is the foundation of sustainable development, national well-being and the prosperity of future generations. Let us work together to build a greener, cleaner and more resilient future for generations to come." Singh also visited the residence of Aparna Yadav, the vice-chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Empowerment Cell, Lucknow, on the occasion of the passing of her husband, late Prateek Yadav. He met the family members and prayed for peace for the departed souls and for the family to find the strength to bear this grief, the Lucknow city unit of the BJP said in a statement.

other areas of mutual interest. The US team was led by its chief negotiator Brendan Lynch. India's chief negotiator is Darpan Jain, who is an additional secretary in the Department of Commerce. Last week, US Ambassador Sergio Gora said only one per cent of issues remain in finalising the trade deal between the two sides.

Border...

stated that district magistrates, superintendents of police, 'village patwaris' (accountants), and sarpachas (village heads) will also play an important role in this framework. He emphasized that the Government's border management strategy is integrated into this concept, borders cannot be made truly impregnable and imagining border security in isolation will never be successful. "To make India a 'vksit' (developed) nation by 2047, we have to stop the entry of fake notes, human trafficking and drug smuggling from across the borders," the senior BJP leader said. Shah said, "For the modernisation of border fencing, we have also approved the installation of 119 kilometres of new fencing to replace a portion of the approximately 650 kilometres of fencing that is over 15 years old."

The Union home minister further said that several projects aimed at improving facilities for personnel at border outposts -- such as electricity supply, green energy initiatives, and safe drinking water -- have not only been initiated but also completed.

Shah said in New Delhi in May that the government will launch a tech-enabled "smart border" project by next year to make the 6,000-km front with Pakistan and Bangladesh impregnable, and ensure that the "conspiracy" to change the demography of the country is defeated.

"The government of India has decided that not only will we stop infiltration, but we will find each and every infiltrator and send them out of the country," he said. The "smart border" will use technology, drones, radars and smart cameras to help create an impenetrable border, he told the gathering.

On Friday, Shah who also joined a tree plantation programme at the BOP stated that from 2019 to date, personnel from all Central Armed Police Forces have planted more than 7.5 crore trees. He said that this year, between 40 lakh and 60 lakh trees will be planted, and the CAPF personnel will plant 2 crore trees next year, contributing both to environmental protection and service to the nation. Later, the Union Home Minister held a high-level security meeting at the BSF's Tripura Frontier headquarters, which was also attended by Chief Minister Manik Sahu, Chief Secretary JK Sinha, DGP Anurag Dhanekar and senior security officials.

India...

Defence Minister Singh praised the prime minister for keeping inflation under control despite global uncertainties, claiming that no other country has managed to do so. "If you go to other nations, inflation has risen by 30 per cent, 40 per cent, or even more. However, in India, it stands at approximately something over 3 per cent. I believe that there cannot be any achievement greater than this," Singh said. Responding to a question on the target of planting 70 crore tree saplings, he said that they will achieve whatever target has been set. "We have successfully achieved every goal we have set so far, and we will achieve this goal -- the tree plantation

target -- as well," he said. On the occasion of World Environment Day, Singh planted a sapling at the Kasturba Park in Lucknow Cantonment as part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (A Tree in the Name of Mother) campaign. Singh said that trees are not merely a means to maintain environmental balance but are also the foundation of human existence and prosperity. He said that the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, launched in response to the prime minister's call, is a meaningful effort to express reverence for nature and motherhood. He urged all citizens to join this campaign and pledge to plant at least one sapling and nurture it. Later, in a post on X, Rajnath Singh said, "Planted a sapling in Lucknow Cantonment area on the occasion of World Environment Day. A healthy environment is the foundation of sustainable development, national well-being and the prosperity of future generations. Let us work together to build a greener, cleaner and more resilient future for generations to come." Singh also visited the residence of Aparna Yadav, the vice-chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Empowerment Cell, Lucknow, on the occasion of the passing of her husband, late Prateek Yadav. He met the family members and prayed for peace for the departed souls and for the family to find the strength to bear this grief, the Lucknow city unit of the BJP said in a statement.

India...

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No Regular...

petitioner was later engaged on consolidated remuneration of Rs 4,500 for 89 days, which was subsequently enhanced to Rs 12,000.

The petitioner contended that after JKCL became a sick unit and the government decided to wind it up, out of 333 employees, 203 were deployed in different government departments under Government Order No. 48-IND of 2021 dated March 9, 2021, while the fate of remaining workers, including him, was not decided. Rejecting the claim for regularisation, the Court observed that compassionate appointment is available only where an employee dies while in service. Since the petitioner's father had admittedly died after retirement, the petitioner could not claim appointment on compassionate basis under SRO 43 of 1994. The Court held that the respondents may have shown compassion by engaging him on consolidated basis, but such engagement did not confer any right to regular appointment.

The Court further held that only those JKCL employees who were appointed on substantive basis in graded pay scales were deployed to other government departments, corporations and organisations. Daily-rated or consolidated workers were not covered by the said government order.

Relying on a Division Bench judgment in Ghulam Nabi Bhat and others vs State of J&K and others, the Court observed that daily-rated or consolidated workers cannot claim parity with regular or permanent employees of JKCL. It further held that a consolidated or casual employee has no right to continue in service and no enforceable claim for regularisation or continuity once JKCL has been wound up. However, the Court granted limited relief to the petitioner or on issue of unpaid wages. It directed the respondents to clear all outstanding wages, if any, up to the date the petitioner had actually performed duties with JKCL, within three months from the date of the order. The Court made it clear that in case of default, the amount shall carry interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum from the date of filing of the petition till realisation. (JNF)

Jammu...

heavy snowfall, thunderstorms and landslides will help save lives and reduce economic losses. Separate forecasting mechanisms have been designed for flood management, aviation operations and farming activities," he said. He said the establishment of the Regional Meteorological Centre in Jammu marks a new chapter in the department's long history and reflects the Centre's focus on strengthening scientific infrastructure in the Himalayan region. Referring to the region's diverse agro-climatic conditions, Singh said weather advisories would be customised for different crops and farming systems.

"This is a unique region where mangoes grow in one area while apples are cultivated in another. Different categories of forecasts will be developed to cater to varied agricultural requirements," he said. Singh said specialised weather support would also be extended to helicopter services operating during the pilgrim season, particularly around the Vaishno Devi Shrine area.

Highlighting the research component of the new centre, Singh said it would emerge as a hub for the Himalayan meteorological studies, helping scientists improve understanding of mountain weather systems and strengthen forecasting capabilities for high-altitude regions. He said the establishment of the regional meteorological centre reflects the central government's commitment to expanding scientific infrastructure and enhancing resilience against weather-related disasters in the strategically important Himalayan belt.

Shah said there is a long association with meteorological services. He noted that a weather observatory was established in Srinagar shortly after the India Meteorological Department was founded 151 years ago and has since been recognised by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) as a centennial meteorological observatory. "Established during the British era, the department's headquarters shifted over time from Bengal to Shimla, Pune and eventually Delhi, while regional centres were subsequently set up across major cities".

Highlighting scientific advancements in the region, Singh said India's first and the world's second high-altitude cloud physics laboratory was established at Nathapath in collaboration with Switzerland.

"Situated at an altitude of around 10,000 feet, the facility enables scientists to study cloud droplets and aerosols and improve weather forecasting models," he said.

The minister said seismic monitoring infrastructure has also been strengthened over the last decade, with stations established in Jammu, Srinagar and Udhampur. He said the initiative reflects a "whole-of-government" approach, with the meteorological department signing memorandums of understanding with institutions in Jammu and Srinagar, as well as the Department of Science and Technology. The minister also highlighted various infrastructure projects completed or revived in the Jammu region over the last decade, including the Shahpur Kandi Project, the Ujh Multipurpose Project, North India's first Seed Processing Plant, the Industrial Biotech Park, and the Atal Setu at Basohli.

"The Shahpur Kandi Project remained stalled for nearly four decades despite its foundation stone being laid in 1984. Work began only after 2019, and the project has now been completed, enabling Jammu and Kashmir to utilise its rightful share of the Ravi river," he said. Singh said Jammu has emerged as a major hub of education, research and scientific institutions, adding that few cities in the country can match the concentration of important academic and scientific establishments located within a radius of six kilometres.

Among the dignitaries present in the inauguration were Minister for Sports Satish Sharma, MP Jugraj Kumar Sharma, senior officials of the India Meteorological Department, scientists and representatives of various institutions.

HC...

subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority. In Tahir Ahmad Kumar's case, the Court quashed the detention order issued by the District Magistrate, Budgam, observing that the grounds of detention were vague, cryptic and lacking in material particulars. The Court noted that the allegations did not mention the places, identity of alleged terrorists or the period during which the detainee was alleged to have provided aid. It further found that the dossier, a vital document forming the basis of subjective satisfaction, had not been supplied to the detainee. The petition was allowed and the respondents were directed to release him forthwith, if not required in any other case.

Similarly, in Adil Nabi Shah's case, the High Court set aside the detention order issued by the District Magistrate, Pulwama. The Court held that non-mentioning of the detainee's previous PSA detention in the grounds was an important omission reflecting non-application of mind. It further observed that the fresh allegations were vague as the grounds did not disclose the places, identity of terrorists or the period of alleged logistic support. The Court held that vagueness strikes at the root of subjective satisfaction and ordered his release, subject to his not being required in any other case.

In Aabid Ashraf Ganie's case, the Court quashed the detention order after finding unexplained delay of about two months in deciding his representation. The Court observed that the representation had been received by the Home Department in the third week of February 2025 but was decided only on April 1, 2025, without any explanation. Relying on the law laid down by the Supreme Court, the Court held that failure to decide a detainee's representation expeditiously strikes at a valuable right under the PSA and constitutional safeguards.

However, the Court refused to interfere with the detention of Tawqeer Ahmad Mir, holding that the material supplied to him and the grounds of detention disclosed sufficient basis for preventive detention. The Court observed that after his release on bail, he was allegedly bound down on two occasions in February and April 2025, yet continued activities prejudicial to the security of the State. The Court also held that past conduct, including activities during juvenility, could be considered for assessing background and propensity, though such acts alone could not form the sole basis of detention. The petition was dismissed.

In another matter concerning Ikhlas Shafi Ganie, the Court upheld the PSA detention order issued by the District Magistrate, Anantnag. The Court noted that although ordinarily non-specific allegations may not sustain detention, the record showed that the detainee had been furnished intelligence reports containing specific inputs regarding activities prejudicial to the security of the State/UT. It also found that the entire material, including intelligence reports, had been supplied and his representation had been considered. The petition was dismissed as being without merit. (JNF)

Four...

Thanthra, Gulandpa and Chattergalla, are located along Mir highway. Search also serves as a key road link to Punjab, they said.

According to eyewitness Mohammad Ashraf, a labourer working with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), the vehicle suddenly rolled down the hillside and landed in the fast-flowing waters of the Halaon River. "We didn't waste a minute and ran towards the river. We immediately rescued all four passengers from the vehicle, which was trapped in the ice-cold gushing water," Ashraf said.

He said BRO personnel were alerted immediately and an ambulance from the nearby Nalhi camp was rushed to the spot. The injured tourists were subsequently shifted to the sub-district hospital (SDH), Baderwah. Block Medical Officer (BMO) Baderwah, Dr Versha Sharma, said all four injured people are undergoing treatment and responding well.

"As of now, all the injured are out of danger," she said. The injured, Ashwani Kumar (48), son of Govinder Sharma; Navneet Sharma (46), son of Jagdish Chander; Ajay Kumar (47), son of Rajinder Singh; and Amarjeet Singh (56), son of Sai Das, are residents of Pathankot, Punjab. Police have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated further investigation.

Property...

The attachment proceedings were carried out by a police team led by the station house officer (SHO) of Police Station Kishtwar in the presence of an executive magistrate and under the supervision of the deputy superintendent of police (headquarters), Kishtwar.



Transport Commissioner reviews road safety measures on National Highway

Stresses safe Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, Technology-driven enforcement

BANIHAL, JUNE 05: Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan today chaired a high-level review meeting here at the NHAI Meeting Hall to review and strengthen road safety measures on the National Highway in view of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026.

Officers from the Transport Department, Civil Administration, Police, Traffic Police, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Enforcement Wing attended the meeting. The meeting focused on ensuring safer and smoother traffic operations, seamless movement of pilgrims during the Yatra, coordinated enforcement measures, strict action against overspeeding and overloading, deployment of modern enforcement technologies, and strengthening emergency response mechanisms along the highway.



Emphasizing the need for proactive road safety management, the Transport Commissioner stressed on regular road safety audit, timely identification and rectification of accident-prone locations and adoption of best practices aimed at minimizing road accidents and enhancing commuter safety.

The Transport Commissioner advised NHAI authorities to share CCTV footage and other relevant technical data available at highway monitoring and check-post locations with the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD). He said the integration of technology and real-time surveillance would facilitate effective enforcement against overloading of goods vehicles, overspeeding and other traffic violations, thereby contributing to safer highways and smoother traffic flow during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

Earlier, the Transport Commissioner interacted with Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan; SSP Arun Gupta and other officers. During the interaction, a wide range of transport-related issues were discussed, with special focus on traffic regulation, road safety, public transport services and effective management of vehicular movement during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

DC assesses scale of damage in flash flood hit Thatthri

DODA, JUNE 05: Deputy Commissioner Doda



and assess their immediate requirements.

The DC also inspected the damaged Block Development Office building, a local madrasa, school premises, portions of the mosque and the residential houses affected by the incident. Expressing solidarity with the affected families, the Deputy Commissioner assured them of all possible assistance from the District Administration. He directed the concerned departments to undertake a detailed assessment of damages and submit reports at the earliest to facilitate timely relief and rehabilitation measures. He also instructed officials to ensure the restoration of essential services and maintain close coordination for effective response and support to the affected population.

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Khet Bachao Abhiyan held at Village Bathera- Kalakote

RAJOURI, JUNE 05: As part of the month-long Khet Bachao Abhiyan, the Department of Agriculture today organized an awareness programme at Village Bathera, Sub-Division Kalakote to promote judicious use of fertilizers and nutrient management for sustainable agricultural development. A large number of farmers were sensitized to the importance of soil test-based fertilizer application, integrated nutrient management and the efficient use of fertilizers to improve crop productivity while preserving soil health. The officers highlighted the adverse effects of excessive and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers on soil fertility, environmental sustainability



and long-term agricultural productivity. Farmers were encouraged to adopt scientific and sustainable farming practices to ensure higher yields and improved farm incomes. The programme was attended by Assistant Director Law Enforcement (ADLE) Kuldeep Singh; District Seed Certification Officer (DSCO) Nirmal Parkashi; Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) Kalakote Rohit Baloria; Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) Opinder

Koal and Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) Sandeep Singh. The officers interacted extensively with the participating farmers and addressed their queries regarding fertilizer management, soil health improvement and other modern agricultural practices. They emphasized the importance of balanced nutrient application and informed farmers about various departmental initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture.

Khet Bachao Abhiyan: KVK Doda hosts awareness-cum-training programme at Village Hallian

DODA, JUNE 5: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Doda, under the administrative control of SKUAST Jammu, on Friday organized an Awareness-cum-Training Programme under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan here at Village Hallian-Bhaderwah.

The Department of Agriculture also collaborated in organizing the event held under the leadership of Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu, Dr. B. N. Tripathi and the guidance of Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu Dr. Amrith Vaid. More than 30 farmers, farm women and rural youth participated enthusiastically in the programme. Chief Scientist and Head KVK Dr. Amit Singh Charak highlighted the objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, a nationwide awareness and capacity-building campaign launched jointly by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. He emphasized the importance of balanced fertilizer application, soil testing-based nutrient management, judicious use of urea and the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices for maintaining soil health, enhancing productivity and conserving natural resources. Scientist (Agricultural Extension) Dr. Arvinder Kumar informed the participants about the campaign's focus on strengthening farmer outreach through timely advisories, effective dissemination of scientific technologies and awareness regarding government welfare schemes. He also stressed the role of natural farming in conserving biodiversity, protecting the environment, reducing cultivation costs and ensuring food and nutritional security. During the programme, experts from KVK Doda and the Department of Agriculture interacted with farmers and discussed various aspects of soil health management, integrated nutrient man-



agement, climate-resilient agriculture and natural farming practices. Farmers were also sensitized about the adverse effects of indiscriminate fertilizer use and the need to maintain soil fertility for sustainable crop production. Participants were briefed about the government-sponsored schemes, including HADP, PM-KISAN, JKICP and other agricultural development programmes and were encouraged to avail themselves of the benefits offered under these initiatives.

The programme concluded with an interactive session during which farmers raised queries related to crop production, soil health and government schemes. The queries were satisfactorily addressed by the experts. The participants appreciated the efforts of KVK Doda in organizing such awareness programmes for the welfare and empowerment of the farming community.

District-Wide 11th, 12th Virtual Classroom facility launched in Rajouri

RAJOURI, JUNE 05: Chief Education Officer (CEO) Rajouri Mohammad Hafiz today launched the district's first-ever Virtual Learning Network for staff-deficient schools, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at ensuring quality education, academic continuity and equal learning opportunities for students across the district. The classes will be conducted under the supervision of Principal Government Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Rajouri Mohammad Muslim Wani and coordinated by Lecturer, CEO Office Imran Khan, who has been designated as the



Nodal Officer for the initiative. Designed to address academic challenges arising from staff shortages, the Virtual Classroom Initiative connects students with experienced subject experts through digital platforms. The programme aims to provide quality academic guidance to students of

Classes 11th and 12th, ensuring uninterrupted learning and improved examination preparedness. The inaugural session, held today, witnessed enthusiastic participation from several Higher Secondary Schools from across the district. The CEO emphasized the importance of leveraging technology to strengthen the education system and provide equal learning opportunities to all students. He stated that the initiative would help bridge educational gaps and ensure access to quality teaching across schools. During the first online academic session, Physics Lecturer from

Government Higher Secondary School Rajpouri Ritu Sharma delivered an insightful lecture for Class 12th students, while Teacher BHSS Vikrant Sharma conducted a Physics session for Class 11th students. Chemistry Lecturer BHSS Rajouri Mohammad Hafiz delivered comprehensive lectures for both Classes, focusing on conceptual understanding and examination-oriented preparation. The participating schools and students appreciated the initiative and the quality of academic guidance provided during the inaugural session.

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ADC Bhaderwah reviews arrangements for Lavender Festival 2026

BHADERWAH, JUNE 05: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Government Degree Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today chaired a meeting to review arrangements for 2-day Lavender Festival

2026 scheduled to be held on June 6 and 7 at Government Degree College Play Ground (GDC) Bhaderwah. It was informed that union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh would inaugurate the festival on June 6. The event is expected to attract a large number of visitors, farmers, entrepreneurs, scientists and stakeholders associated.

District admin Kishtwar cracks down on illegal mining; Penalties exceed Rs.5 lakh

KISHTWAR, JUNE 05: Under the directions of the District Development Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, a joint enforcement team led by the Additional District Development Commissioner Vinod Kumar Behnal and the District Mineral Officer Virinder Dev on Friday conducted an extensive field inspection along the Kishtwar-Paddar Road to curb illegal mining activities in the district. The inspection focused on checking instances of illegal mining, unauthorized storage (dumps) of minor minerals along roadsides and transportation of minor minerals without valid e-Challans and Vehicle Tracking Devices (VTDs). During the day-long operation, the team thoroughly inspected vehicles transporting minor minerals and verified the validity of e-Challans as well as the functionality of GPS-enabled tracking devices. During the inspection, a vehicle

bearing Registration No JK17A-9410 was found transporting approximately 25 metric ton crushed stones without a valid e-Challan. The vehicle was immediately seized and handed over to the In-charge Police Post Padyarna. A penalty amounting to ₹22,312.50, including 2% TCS was imposed on the violator. The team also detected and seized illegal dumps of minor minerals at Atholi-Paddar, comprising approximately 1,050 metric ton of ordinary sand and 500 metric ton of RBM (River Bed Material). A total penalty of ₹48,57,775, including 2% TCS, was imposed on the seized dumps. A total penalty amounting to ₹5,08,087.50, including 2% TCS, were imposed during the enforcement drive. Seizure receipts were handed over to the SHO Atholi, Paddar, for safe custody and to prevent any unauthorized lifting of the seized minerals.

DC Ramban inspects NH-44 Four-Laning works from Nashri to Banihal; Directs completion of key infrastructure

RAMBAN, JUNE 05: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing NH-44 four-laning project from Nashri to Banihal. He reviewed the progress of critical infrastructure works and directed the executing agencies to ensure safe, smooth and comfortable road connectivity ahead of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026. The Deputy Commissioner carried out the inspection jointly with Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta, Additional



Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan, SDM Ramesh Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah, ACD Sheraz Ahmed, Dy. SP Traffic, Representatives of NHAI and other concerned officials from the District Administration, NHAI, CRPF, Army and allied departments. Officers from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) briefed the Deputy Commissioner on

the status of key components of the four-laning project. The officials informed that work is progressing rapidly on a crucial 3.5-kilometre tunnel and assured that it would be completed and made operational before the commencement of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, significantly improving traffic movement and reducing travel time on the highway. The Deputy Commissioner was also apprised that the project corridor are nearing completion, with one expected to be fully operational before the pilgrimage begins. In addition,

intensive work is underway on an important 1.2-kilometre stretch, which is also targeted for completion ahead of the Yatra. Emphasizing the importance of timely execution, the Deputy Commissioner noted that completion of these vital infrastructure components would greatly enhance road safety and ensure hassle-free travel for pilgrims undertaking the annual pilgrimage. He observed that the tunnel, particularly in the difficult terrain beyond the Digdole area, would provide immense relief not only to Yatis but also to local commuters.

Dr. Raina leads tree plantation drive on World Environment Day at RS Pura School

Jammu, June 5
A grand programme marking World Environment Day was organized at Martyr Major Arvind Bazala Government Boys Higher secondary School, RS PURA, under the able guidance of Principal Mrs. Rachna Tomar. The event aimed at spreading awareness about environmental conservation and encouraging collective action towards a greener future. Organized in collaboration with the Forest Department, the programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, members of the School Development and Management Committee, and local residents. MLA R.S. Pura-Jammu South, Dr. Narendra Singh Raina, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Forest



Range Officer Rakesh Verma attended as the Guest of Honour. The event commenced with discussions highlighting the importance of environmental protection. Officials from the Forest Department educated participants about the growing challenges posed by pollution and climate change, emphasizing the need for collective efforts to safeguard natural resources. They also stressed the significance of cleanliness, water conservation, and sustainable environmental practices. A major highlight of the programme was a tree plantation drive conducted within the school premises. Dr. Narendra Singh Raina, Forest Range Officer Rakesh Verma, Principal Rachna Tomar, teachers, students, and

local residents planted a variety of saplings and pledged to nurture them while continuing efforts to increase green cover in the region. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Narendra Singh Raina underscored that protecting the environment is the responsibility of every citizen. He urged students to become ambassadors of environmental awareness by spreading the message of conservation within their homes and communities. He highlighted the vital role of trees in providing clean air, shade, rainfall, and ecological balance, adding that afforestation contributes significantly to soil conservation and groundwater recharge. He also encouraged students to minimize the use of plastic, conserve water, and maintain cleanliness in their surroundings. "Every sapling planted today is a priceless gift for future generations," he remarked. In her address, Principal Mrs. Rachna Tomar stated that educational institutions serve not only as centres of learning but also as platforms for nurturing values and social responsibility. She encouraged students to develop a deeper connection with nature.

IGP Security J&K Leads Plantation Drive at Humhama on World Environment Day

Jammu, June 5
Today on 5th of June-2026 on the occasion of World Environment Day a joint plantation drive has been organized by three security-based battalions located at Security complex Humhama. The event was presided over by Shri Sujit Kumar-IPS Inspector General of Police Security J&K and witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior officers, including Mrs. Rashmi Wazir-IPS Deputy Inspector General of Police Security J&K, Sh. Rakesh Kumar-JKAPS Commandant 12 JKAP Security, Sh. Mir Rasheeq A h m a d - J K P S Commandant 11 JKAP Security and other officers and officials of Humhama Security based battalions. Before the commencement of the event Shri Sujit Kumar-IPS, IGP Security J&K highlighted the immense importance of



forces in maintaining ecological balance and ensuring a sustainable future. He emphasized that planting trees is not merely an environmental activity but an investment in the well-being of future generations. Trees serve as invaluable assets that provide clean air, conserve biodiversity, improve soil health, and contribute significantly to the overall quality of life. The IGP expressed concern over the growing threat of global warming, which has been exacerbated by large-scale deforestation and the depletion of green cover. He stressed that environmental degradation poses a serious challenge that requires collective responsibility and immediate action. To mitigate the effects of global warming and restore ecological balance, the IGP underscored the need for planting more and more trees to absorb carbon dioxide, reduce environmental pollution, and create a healthier and greener environment.

NSF Reiterates Statehood Demand, Names Vikshay Vashist State Working President

Jammu, June 5
In a meeting of the Core Committee of the National Secular Forum (NSF), held today, Vikshay Vashist was unanimously nominated as the State Working President of the organization. The nomination was warmly welcomed by forum members, who expressed confidence in his leadership and ability to further strengthen the organization's activities across Jammu and Kashmir. NSF, a non-political youth organization, has been actively working in Schools, Colleges and Universities across Jammu and Kashmir for the past 18 years. The organization has consistently raised



issues related to Youth welfare, educational reforms, youth empowerment, and the protection of students' rights. Through awareness campaigns, seminars, and student outreach programs, NSF has established itself as a prominent voice for the student community in the region. Speaking on the occasion, newly nominated State Working President

Vikshay Vashist expressed gratitude to the Core Committee for placing its trust in him. He stated that NSF has always remained committed to the welfare and betterment of students and has worked tirelessly to address their concerns. He assured members that he would continue to strengthen the organization's presence in educational institutions and work collectively to resolve issues affecting students' rights. In Jammu and Kashmir. During the meeting, Core Committee members reviewed the organization's ongoing activities and discussed future plans aimed at expanding student engagement and social welfare.

World Environment Day 2026: Chinar Eco Warriors Cultivate Ecological Consciousness Among Young Environmental Stewards

Jammu, June 5
As part of the celebrations leading to World Environment Day 2026, the Chinar Eco Warriors conducted a two-day environmental awareness programme at Samba, culminating in a plantation drive in Samba. In a befitting prelude to the observance of World Environment Day 2026, the Chinar Eco Warriors also organised an intellectually enriching immersive "Know Your TA" initiative in Samba. The event witnessed the participation of the Principal, distinguished faculty members and Delhi 80 students of Delhi World Public School,



Samba, providing them a unique opportunity to acquaint themselves with the Territorial Army's expanding role in ecological restoration and environmental guardianship. During the interaction, the students were apprised of the pivotal role of the Territorial Army as the

"Citizens' Army", serving as an indispensable adjunct to the Regular Army during National Emergencies, Internal Security and developmental endeavours. The briefing highlighted the diverse spectrum of Territorial Army units, including Infantry Battalions, Ecological Task

forces, Railway/ Engineer Regiments and Oil Sector Units. The participants were also educated about avenues of becoming officers through the prescribed selection process for gainfully employed citizens desirous of serving the Nation while continuing their civilian professions. The students also visited the Battalion's innovative nursery complex, where they were introduced to sustainable cultivation techniques such as Vertical Farming, Kokedama, Saikoi, Bonsai, Succulent Farming and Hydroponics. Fascination was generated by an enlightening session on the ancient Indian arbor-culture of "Vamana Vrishka Kala". The students were apprised that this remarkable technique, practised in the Indian sub-continent over five millennia ago, facilitated the preparation, preservation, protection and convenient transportation of medicinal trees and plants. The session highlighted how this profound repository of medic ecological wisdom travelled across continents through Indian monks and scholars, eventually finding global acceptance in evolved forms that the modern world recognises today under nomenclatures such as Bonsai.

NGO Anti Crime along with Police Department Celebrates World Environment Day with Enthusiasm and Commitment

Jammu, June 5:
On the occasion of World Environment Day, NGO Anti Crime Under the Leadership of its Chairman Sham Lal Gupta Celebrated World Environment Day. Program was Set up by State President (NGO) and Former Councillor Sahil Gupta. Gupta along with Police Official's Planted the Sapling and Plants in the ground at Police Station Bishnah and Police Station Ramgarh. Program was organized to promote environmental protection and sustainable development. The event witnessed active participation from SHO Bishnah Insp. Deepak Thakur, SHO Bopinder Singh, S.I Madam Kiran Bala, ASI Naresh Dagra Social Worker



Sandeep Gupta, Gurdian Rana and local representatives. The programme emphasized the importance of preserving natural resources, reducing pollution, and maintaining ecological balance. Participants pledged to adopt eco-friendly practices, conserve water,

minimize plastic usage, and plant more trees to create a greener and healthier environment. Speaking on the occasion, dignitaries highlighted that environmental conservation is a collective responsibility and requires the active involvement of every indi-

vidual. Tree plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns, and awareness programmes were conducted to encourage public participation in environmental protection. World Environment Day serves as a reminder that small actions taken by individuals can lead to significant positive changes for the planet. The organizers urged everyone to contribute towards building a clean, green, and sustainable future for coming generations. "Protect Nature, Preserve Future" Police officials Appreciated efforts of NGO Anti Crime for Serving and Helping the Needy ones in the Society. NGO Members Present in the Program were Tushar, Saloni Gupta, Akshay Sharma, Vansh Mehta, Ashish Sharma and others.

NSS GGM Science College Summer Camp Concludes

Jammu, June 5:
As part of the Summer Camp and in observance of World Environment Day, the NSS Units of the College, in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Sciences, organized a series of awareness programmes aimed at promoting environmental conservation, protection of medicinal plants, and prevention of drug abuse among students and the local community. Addressing the participants, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Ramesh Kumar Gupta underscored the significance of environmental conservation and called upon students to become responsible citizens dedi-

ated to safeguarding nature and fostering a healthy, drug-free society. The camp commenced from 30th May 2026 and continued with series of awareness and community

based activities. On June 3, a Poster and Slogan Making Competition was organised, focusing on environmental conservation and anti-drug awareness.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-Tender Notice	
BO acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the work services listed below. Bidders will be able to submit their original/signed bids up to closing time and time only. Manual offers will not be allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make online payments against these tenders. Discount cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.railgate.gov.in portal. Bid not binding, debit card/ credit card etc. Manual payments through Electronic Draft, Bankers' cheque, Demand receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.	
Tender Type : E-Proc	
Bidding System : Single Pass Bid System	
Date of Uploading Tenders : 20.05.2026	
Bid Closing Date/Time : 05.06.2026, 11:30	
Date and Time of Opening E-Tender : 30.06.2026 at 11:30	
S. No. : 1 Tender Number / Notice No. : 05201100	
Name of Work : Supply & commissioning of one set of Hydraulic re-rolling equipment	
Estimated Value : INR 62,285	
Earned Money : INR 1,73,592	
Validity of Offer : 90 Days	
Funds are available in Allocation Number : 20427354	
For more details, please log on to www.rps.gov.in	
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Samba Police booked Notorious Lady Drug Peddler under PITNDPS Act

Samba, June 5:
Taking stringing action against notorious drug peddlers' smugglers involved in illicit narcotics trade, Samba Police has booked a notorious lady drug peddler under Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act for her continuous involvement in spreading drug menace in the area and lodged him in the District Jail Bhadrawah. The notorious lady drug peddler detained under PITNDPS Act has been identified as Sheema

Bibi D/o Rehmat Ali R/o Bishnah tehsil Bishnah district Jammu, presently residing at Balole Khad Bari Brahmana district Samba. The said lady drug peddler has been involved in multiple cases registered under NDPS Act at Police Station Bari Brahmana for her continuous illegal activities of drug peddling in the area. In view of repeated indulgence of notorious lady drug peddler Sheema Bibi in illicit drug trafficking, District Police Office Samba prepared a detailed dossier along

with other connected documents and submitted the same to office of the Divisional Commissioner Jammu. Accordingly, notorious lady drug peddler Sheema Bibi has been lodged in District Jail Bhadrawah after obtaining formal detention order from the Divisional Commissioner Jammu. Samba Police reiterated its unwavering commitment and resolve to take stringent action against drug peddlers and smugglers to effectively curb the drug menace and ensure a safe, drug-free society.

Rein in Quack Doctors, Overcharging Labs : Shiv Sena (UBT)

Jammu, June 5:
Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasabheb Thackeray), Jammu & Kashmir unit, has expressed serious concern over the alleged activities of quack doctors, private diagnostic centres and private ambulance operators in the Union Territory and demanded immediate and effective intervention by the administration. Addressing media persons after a membership induction programme at the party headquarters, J&K unit president Manish Sahni said that weak monitoring by the Health Department and the administration has allowed illegal medical practices to flourish in several rural and semi-urban areas. Referring to the recent case in Pali village of Samba district, where a woman allegedly died following improper treatment, Sahni demanded a fair and impartial inquiry along with strict legal action against those found responsible. He stated that the issue is not limited to quack



doctors alone, but also extends to widespread irregularities in the functioning of private diagnostic centres, laboratories and ambulance services. Sahni alleged that patients are being charged arbitrary and excessive rates for various medical investigations. The cost of ultrasounds, blood tests, CT scans and other diagnostic procedures in Jammu & Kashmir is reportedly much higher than in several neighbouring states, plac-

ing an unnecessary financial burden on common people. He further said that private ambulance operators often exploit the helplessness of patients and their families during medical emergencies by charging exorbitant fares, a practice that is both unfortunate and inhumane. Shiv Sena (UBT) demanded that the government fix maximum rates for diagnostic tests conducted by private laboratories and diagnostic centres, make fare charts mandato-

ry for private ambulance services, and constitute special task forces at the block level to launch a comprehensive drive against quack medical practitioners. The party has also submitted a detailed memorandum to Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo, seeking immediate action. Among those present on the occasion were Sanjeev Kohli, Aditya Mahajan, Mohd. Ashraf and other party office-bearers. During the membership induction programme held at the party's Jammu office, dozens of people from different sections of society joined Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasabheb Thackeray). Inspired by the party's pro-people policies, social commitment and consistent advocacy of public issues, the new members decided to associate themselves with the organisation. J&K unit president Manish Sahni welcomed the new entrants, including Praveen Khajuria, Rahul Singh.

Sat Sharma, Ashok Koul, others lead plantation drives on World Environment Day

JAMMU, June 5: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders led plantation drives at different locations across Jammu & Kashmir, emphasizing environmental conservation, sustainable development, and public participation on the occasion of World Environment Day. J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA), along with BJP District President Nand Kishore Sharma, and other senior leaders, participated in a plantation programme at the sacred Baba Kailash Dev Shrine in Jammu North Assembly constituency. The leaders planted saplings and encouraged people to actively contribute towards protecting nature and preserving the environment for future generations. Sat Sharma, while speak-



ing on the occasion, said that environmental protection is not merely a responsibility but a collective duty towards society and future generations. He stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed environmental conservation into a mass movement through initiatives such as 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', inspiring citi-

zens to strengthen their emotional connection with nature. He asked every citizen to plant and nurture at least one tree, emphasizing that sustainable development can only be achieved through a healthy and balanced ecosystem. Meanwhile, J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, along with J&K BJP

General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, BJP Jammu South District President Nareesh Singh Jasrotia, Principal Mussarat Jabeen, party leaders, school staff, students, and local residents participated in a plantation drive under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign at Government Girls Higher Secondary School,

Shastri Nagar. A cleanliness drive was also conducted within the school premises to spread awareness about maintaining a clean and sustainable environment. Ashok Koul, while speaking on the occasion, said that environmental conservation requires collective participation from all sections of society. He stressed that tree plantation and cleanliness are essential components of a healthy environment and urged citizens, particularly the youth, to become active partners in the mission of building a cleaner, greener, and environmentally conscious India. He added that individual efforts, when combined, can create a significant positive impact on the environment.

World Yogasana Championship reflects India's success in taking yoga global: Balbir



Jammu, June 5: BJP Spokesperson and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan has described the inauguration of the First World Yogasana Sports Championship by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Ahmedabad as a proud moment for the nation and a reflection of India's remarkable success in taking the ancient practice of yoga to the global stage. In a statement issued today, Balbir Ram Rattan said that yoga, which originated in India thousands of years ago, has today become a universal symbol of health, harmony, and holistic well-being. He said that the World Yogasana Championship stands as a testimony to the growing international acceptance of yoga and the leadership role played by India in promoting this invaluable heritage across the world.

He said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, yoga has received unprecedented global recognition. He recalled that the Prime Minister's initiative at the United Nations resulted in the declaration of June 21 as the International Day of Yoga, which is now observed enthusiastically in countries across the globe. The overwhelming participation witnessed every year reflects the faith that people worldwide have developed in yoga's transformative power. Balbir Ram Rattan emphasized that Yogasana as a sport encourages physical fitness, mental concentration, flexibility, and self-discipline among youth. He expressed confidence that such international events would motivate young people to adopt healthier lifestyles and strengthen the culture of sports and wellness in society.

ADGP Armed J&K Leads Tree Plantation Drive at APC Zewan on World Environment Day

JAMMU, Jun 5: To commemorate World Environment Day 2026, 2 JKAP Women Battalion organized a tree plantation drive at Armed Police Complex (APC) Zewan under the Civic Action Programme, reaffirming its commitment towards environmental conservation and sustainable development. The plantation drive was led by ADGP Armed J&K, Anand Jain (IPS), and witnessed the participation of Sheikh Junaid Mehmod (IPS), IGP In-Charge IRP Range Kashmir, SSP APCR Kashmir Tariq Ahmad (JKPS), and I/C Commandant 2 JKAP

Women Battalion Raja Zuhab Tanveer, SSP (JKPS), along with officers, women police personnel, and office staff of the battalion. As part of the initiative, around 200 saplings of fruit-bearing and ornamental trees were planted across the battalion premises and the kindergarten area within the complex. The drive aimed at enhancing the green cover, promoting environmental awareness, and encouraging collective efforts towards building a cleaner and greener environment. Speaking on the occasion, the senior officers highlighted the importance of protecting the environment

and stressed the need for planting and nurturing trees to combat climate change and maintain ecological balance. They urged all participants to take responsibility for the care and maintenance of the saplings and to adopt eco-friendly practices in their daily lives. The officers appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the personnel and commended their efforts in making the plantation drive a success. Following the plantation programme, ADGP Armed J&K Anand Jain, accompanied by other officers, visited and inspected the kindergarten (crèche facility) functioning.

Yol (Himachal Pradesh), June 5: During the 55th day of the ongoing 78-day Yajna dedicated to all four Vedas at Ved Mandir, UJ, renowned Vedic scholar and Yoga Acharya Swami Ram Swarup Ji enlightened devotees with profound teachings from Atharvaveda, Kanda 4, Sukta 16, emphasizing the omnipresence of God and the importance of righteous conduct in human life. Explaining the Vedic phrase "Dyaam Parastat Atri Sarpaat", Swami Ji stated that even if a person were to transcend the entire celestial realm beyond the Earth-including the sun, moon, stars, and other heavenly bodies he still could not escape the domain of the Almighty. God's presence extends throughout the universe and beyond, permeating every particle



of creation. Drawing attention to the first three mantras of the same Sukta, Swami Ji explained that the Supreme Being closely observes every action performed by living beings. The mantras teach that God witnesses all deeds as if standing right beside every individual.

Ignorant persons, clouded by spiritual unawareness, often engage in sinful actions believing that no one is watching them. However, the Vedas declare that whether a person is standing, walking, deceiving others, or secretly carrying out any act, nothing remains concealed from the Divine. He further elaborated that God is aware not only of external actions but also of the thoughts and discussions that take place in complete privacy. Even the blinking of a person's eyes is known to the Almighty. According to Vedic teachings, those who indulge in wrongful deeds eventually face the consequences of their actions, as divine justice is impartial and inevitable. Referring to Yajurveda Mantra 40/1, Swami Ram Swarup Ji explained that God resides within every conscious soul as well as throughout the material universe, both inside and outside every object. When an individual realizes this divine truth through Vedic study, contemplation, and spiritual discipline, he naturally refrains from wrongdoing and walks the path of virtue.

Every thought and action matters in eyes of Almighty, emphasizes Swami Ram Swarup Ji

NC Govt's neglect of Jammu roads putting lives at risk, damaging environment: Dr. Pardeep

JAMMU, June 5: J&K BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra has strongly criticized the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government for its continued neglect of road infrastructure in Jammu, saying that the dilapidated condition of roads has become a major public safety concern and a symbol of administrative failure. Dr. Pardeep said that roads across Jammu are riddled with potholes, uneven surfaces, and damaged stretches, causing immense inconvenience to commuters and exposing thousands of citizens to daily risks. He stressed that the departments responsible for road maintenance, including the Public Works Department, municipal bodies, and other concerned agencies, have failed to carry out timely repairs despite repeated complaints from



the public. Dr. Pardeep stated that poor road conditions have significantly increased the chances of accidents, particularly for two-wheeler riders who are most vulnerable to skidding and losing control on damaged roads. Pedestrians, including school-going children, women,

and senior citizens, are also forced to navigate unsafe roads, putting their safety at constant risk. "Even the roads leading to the tourist spots of Jammu like Mansar, and other places tell the tragic story of NC government's apathy", said Dr. Pardeep, while questioning the simultaneous neglect by the concerned departments, agencies and officials. Dr. Pardeep further highlighted the environmental impact of the neglected road network. He said that vehicles consume more fuel while negotiating damaged roads due to frequent braking, acceleration, and slow movement, leading to higher emissions and increased air pollution. Dust generated from broken roads further deteriorates air quality and poses health risks to residents, contributing to environmental degradation.

Dr. Pardeep added that bad roads also impose an economic burden on citizens by increasing vehicle maintenance costs and causing traffic congestion, which wastes valuable time and fuel. The poor state of infrastructure adversely affects business activities, transportation efficiency, and the overall image of Jammu as an important urban and pilgrimage destination. Questioning the government's priorities, Dr. Pardeep said that maintaining roads is one of the most basic responsibilities of any administration. He stressed that timely repairs and regular maintenance not only save public money in the long run but also prevent accidents, reduce pollution, and improve the quality of life for citizens.

Savishkar Club hosts inspiring interactive session with industry expert Ms. Ayesha Runda

Katra, June 5: The Savishkar Club, functioning under Board of Professional Activities (BPA), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), organized an engaging online interactive session featuring Ms. Ayesha Runda as the Guest Speaker. The session offered students a valuable opportunity to interact with an experienced professional and gain first-hand insights into career planning, human resources, entrepreneurship, workplace culture, and personal growth. Through real-life experiences and practical examples, Ms. Runda highlighted the importance of adaptability, effective communication, continuous learning, and a positive professional attitude in today's rapidly evolving work environment. Students from different schools and departments of the University participated enthusiastically and actively interacted with the speaker. The session witnessed a vibrant exchange of ideas,

with students raising thoughtful questions on career choices, professional challenges, and emerging opportunities across industries. Ms. Runda's candid responses and practical advice made the interaction both informative and inspiring. The organizers expressed their sincere gratitude to Ms. Ayesha Runda for sharing her valuable experiences and motivating students to pursue their goals with confidence and determination. The Club also acknowledged the dedicated efforts of Ms. Aresha Qureshi for effectively coordinating the session and managing the interactions, as well as Mr. Labba Pawan, Student Coordinator of Savishkar Club, for his active role in organizing the event. Appreciating the initiative, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, lauded the efforts of the Savishkar Club and the Board of Professional Activities for organizing such meaningful engagements.

Natrang's Summer Theatre Camp-2026 for Children Inaugurated by Padma Shri Balwant Thakur

Jammu, June 5: Natrang's much-awaited Summer Theatre Camp 2026 for children, regarded as one of the most professionally designed and sought-after theatre training programmes in the region, commenced today at Natrang Studio Theatre, Jammu. The camp was formally inaugurated by Natrang Director and Padma Shri awardee Balwant Thakur with the lighting of the traditional lamp in the presence of children, parents, theatre professionals, and members of the Natrang team. Welcoming the participants, Balwant Thakur highlighted the significance of theatre as a powerful medium for the holistic development of children. He informed that the

training module of the camp has been carefully designed after extensive exposure to some of the finest international institutions working in the field of children's education and creativity, including renowned centres such as Oxford Summer School and Cambridge Children Theatre. He emphasized that Natrang's Children Theatre Programme focuses not only on acting and stagecraft but also on social, emotional, and intellectual growth. Addressing the gathering, Balwant Thakur stated that theatre helps children develop communication skills, public speaking abilities, confidence, empathy, critical thinking, leadership qualities, creativity, discipline, and teamwork. He added that in today's technology-



driven environment, theatre provides a much-needed platform where children can express themselves freely, build meaningful relationships, and enhance their cognitive abilities through creative engagement. The camp will be conducted by National Award-winning theatre director Sumet Sharma, who brings over

twenty-six years of experience in working with children through theatre. Besides Balwant Thakur, renowned theatre personalities Neeraj Kant and Gauri Thakur will also conduct specialized sessions during the workshop. Established in 1990, Natrang's Children Theatre Wing has been a pioneering force in children's theatre education in Jammu and Kashmir. Through its regular Summer, Winter, and Spring Theatre Workshops, more than 5,100 children have been trained over the years. Many former participants have gone on to excel in diverse professional fields, carrying with them the confidence, discipline, and creativity nurtured

through theatre. As part of the camp, participants will also prepare a new full-length theatre production, which will be presented before a wider audience at the culmination of the workshop. Over the years, Natrang's children's productions such as Mere Hesse Ki Dhoop Kahan Hai, Aap Hamare Hain Kaun, Hum Hain Na, and Udaan have earned national recognition. Notably, Aap Hamare Hain Kaun has been translated and staged internationally in French, English, and Creole. Special emphasis during the camp will be placed on communication skills, public speaking, confidence building, personality development, and creative expression through innovative theatre techniques. The work-

shop will also incorporate allied art forms including cartooning, yoga, visual arts, and dance, making it a comprehensive creative learning experience. A dedicated team comprising Mohd. Yaseen, Pawan Verma, Mahikshit Singh, Kartik Kumar, Nikshay Mahajan, and Kanapreet Kaur will assist in facilitating the smooth conduct of the workshop. Those who attended the inaugural session of Summer Theatre Workshop included Adeesha Singh, Advait Rathore, Hamzah Zulfkar, Eshal Zulfkar, Navdha Prasher, Bhoomik Dogra, Saira Negi, Vivaan Negi, Bhavyashree Sharma, Rabhya Sharma, Twisha Sharma, Sarthak Balwaria, Sharvil Mahajan, Advrit Suri, Shranaya Mahajan,

Vamika Verma, Anvay Mehta, Akshaj Mehta, Vinayak Singh, Dwijesh Dutta, Mohd. Saad Bandy, Priyansh Mehra, Adira Gupta, Riddhish Gupta, Kaustubh Sharma, Sanatan Gupta, Advik Sharma, Mahira Gupta, Aadwika Gupta, Jayant Mahajan, Kavish Sharma, Rishika Oberoi, Vaibhav Mahajan, Aarush Choudhary, Vaidehi Sharma, Supria Gorka, Amira Singh, Ashrita Sharma, Aranya Shan, Kanika, Nirvana Mahajan and Jazz Shah. The inauguration witnessed great enthusiasm among the participants and parents, marking the beginning of yet another enriching journey of creativity, learning, and personality development through theatre under the banner.

North in News

EDITORIAL

Residential colonies converting into commercial zones is impacting life very badly

The residential colonies converting into commercial zones is impacting life very badly because the original master plans of most Indian cities demarcated land use with a clear intent that housing, schools, parks, and hospitals would remain insulated from the noise, traffic, pollution, and crowd associated with markets, offices, and retail, and that separation was meant to protect quality of life, ensure safety for children and the elderly, and keep civic infrastructure like sewage, water, and power from being overstressed, yet over the last two decades the line between residential and commercial has blurred so fast that entire sectors in Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad, Lucknow, and Tier-2 cities like Jammu and Srinagar now resemble bazaars by day and parking lots by night, and the drivers of this conversion are multiple: rising real estate prices make homeowners rent ground floors to shops, clinics, coaching centers, and cafes for 4 to 10 times the residential rent, and weak enforcement of zoning laws allows guest houses, PGs, banquet halls, and offices to run in 200-yard plots meant for single families. Children have no place to play because parks become customer parking, and the social fabric frays because tenants change every month in PGs, and unknown people loiter at all hours, and women feel unsafe walking after dark, and RWAs spend their funds on guards and CCTV instead of gardens. The economic logic that "it creates jobs" ignores the hidden tax on residents who paid premiums for peace and now pay again for purifiers, inverters, and private security, and the property values behave perversely because a house next to a coaching center or bar may fetch high rent but loses resale value to families, and the urban design dies because facades are broken by hoardings, and balconies become storage, and the street edge, which should be for pedestrians, becomes a loading bay, and the legal framework is confused because municipal corporations earn revenue from conversion charges and trade licenses, so they have a fiscal incentive to permit mixed-use, while development authorities cite master plans to deny, and in the gap, corruption thrives with junior officials collecting monthly payments to ignore violations, and the courts intervene with sealing or demolition, but political pressure leads to ordinances, and the cycle repeats. The experience of global cities shows that strict zoning, transit-oriented development, and mixed-use only in high-density corridors works, while allowing shops inside blocks destroys both housing and retail, and India's urban population will be 60 crore by 2036, and if every colony becomes a market, we will have no colonies left, and the current generation of children will grow up without a gully to play cricket, and the elderly will have no bench to sit, and the city will be a mall without a home, and therefore the residential colonies converting into commercial zones is impacting life very badly, and the time to halt it is now because once a street becomes a bazaar, it never becomes a lane again, and the cost is paid not by the shopkeeper who moves out but by the family that cannot move, and the master plan is not a suggestion, it is a contract between the citizen and the state, and breaking it breaks the city, and a city that cannot protect its homes cannot protect anything, and that is why this conversion must be seen not as development but as decay, and must be reversed with law, planning, and collective will before the last quiet colony is gone.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

Modi's green diplomacy comes of age

BY BY SHEHZAD POONAWALLA | VIJETA RATTANI

The agreements forged during Prime Minister Modi's visit reflect a broader vision of positioning India as both a leading advocate and a key driver of a sustainable, resilient and rules-based international order. A defining feature of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent five-nation tour, which covered the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy, was the prominence accorded to green partnerships. Clean energy, green technology, shipping, the blue economy and climate resilience figured decisively in the agenda, highlighting how environmental and economic stakes have converged at a moment of global uncertainty. India's engagement abroad is no longer confined to conventional diplomacy; rather, it is strategically investing in partnerships and channels that secure long-term strategic interests, including energy security. In the wake of global turmoil, the resultant disruptions in supply-chain networks have exposed the vulnerabilities of fossil-fuel systems. The emphasis, therefore, is on convergence around clean energy, green technology and climate resilience, advancing self-reliance while shaping global environmental discourse and reinforcing a rules-based international order.

Bolstering green diplomacy. The Green Strategic Partnership with Norway elevates cooperation in clean energy, Arctic collaboration, defence technology, and other areas. With Sweden, the partnership focuses on green transition and resilient supply chains, while with the Netherlands, the engagement encompasses solar innovation, green hydrogen, storage and renewable investments, alongside maritime and sustainable agriculture. In the case of Italy, Prime Minister Modi and his counterpart, Prime Minister Meloni, agreed to strengthen



the 2025-2027 Executive Programme for Scientific Cooperation, promoting joint research in renewable energy, quantum technologies, green hydrogen and the blue economy. Their joint tree-planting exercise underscored support for Prime Minister Modi's domestic green drive. Further, elevating the India-Nordic relationship to a Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership further consolidates this vision. The tour, which secured nearly \$40 billion in investments, including from the UAE, is pivotal for its agenda, scope and timing.

Amid global supply-chain disruptions and mounting pressure on fossil-fuel systems, India's diversification of its energy basket through diplomatic channels is both a pragmatic and an economic necessity. The oil and gas crisis during disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz exposes this vulnerability. Committed to securing its energy needs beyond fossil-fuel dependence, India is embedding clean energy into external partnerships to build resilience against future shocks.

Second, in the new geopolitical reality, economic and ecological interests are increasingly intertwined and, in many instances, inseparable, and the Indian leadership is well aware of this. By cutting carbon emissions, adopting clean-energy pathways and investing in green technology, India stands

to gain significantly in building a decarbonised economy and improving developmental indicators for its underprivileged sections through access to clean and reliable energy supply, cooking fuel, sustainable transport, decent jobs, rural livelihoods and improved living standards.

Third, securing convergence with European countries on clean energy and climate action reflects a shift in mindset. Historically, differences around equity and differentiated responsibility have defined global climate negotiations, with developing countries pressing for finance and technology while developed nations urge emerging economies such as India to act at par. The change in approach stems from changing realities and increasing vulnerabilities. Though India is one of the most climate-impacted countries in the world, Europe too is increasingly facing climate-related disasters and extreme weather in the form of heatwaves, forest fires, rising temperatures and rainfall anomalies. In 2025, Europe incurred losses of nearly €45 billion due to extreme weather events.

The European Union has also significantly pushed environmental norms. Through agreements on joint projects with India in green manufacturing and technology, renewable energy and the blue economy, European countries seek to reinforce environmental

standards and strengthen multilateral frameworks. India, meanwhile, maintains its longstanding Global South position on equity while unlocking finance and technical expertise. Together, these efforts bolster a rules-based order with an emphasis on inclusivity, cooperation, partnerships and sustainable development.

India's diplomatic strength on the environmental agenda emerges largely from a wide array of domestic climate and environmental initiatives. India's decision to ratchet up its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) underscores its sincerity towards meaningful climate goals. It has pledged a 60 per cent rise in installed non-fossil-fuel capacity, a 47 per cent reduction in emission intensity, and the creation of a 3.5-4.0 billion-tonne CO₂ sink by 2035, aligned with Net Zero 2070 and Viksit Bharat 2047.

This is further complemented by the strengthening of grassroots institutions, the development of a carbon-market framework, infrastructure for a clean and green transition, ambitious capacity-building efforts, increased climate resilience, biodiversity protection and the conservation of natural systems. India is also driving crucial international initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, CDRI, LEADIT and circular-economy forums, showcasing its capacity to lead the global energy and climate agenda. In other multilateral forums as well, India has pushed sustainability initiatives as key summit outcomes. This has helped generate global momentum in environmental governance, where India's approach is active, assertive and confident.

By aligning with European countries on green partnerships, India positions itself as both a beneficiary and a driver of the global energy and climate agenda.

Nature for climate, and nature for our future

BY DR J P GUPTA

World Environment Day, observed on 5 June every year, serves as a reminder of humanity's collective responsibility to protect the environment and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. The theme proposed by the United Nations for World Environment Day 2026, "Nature for Climate, Nature for Our Future," highlights the critical role that nature plays in combating climate change and preserving life on Earth.

While this theme is highly relevant, one cannot overlook an equally important issue confronting humanity today – the urgent need for world peace. Nature can heal many environmental wounds, but it cannot easily recover from the devastation caused by wars and armed conflicts. Therefore, the message of environmental protection must also include a call for peace, because without peace there can be no sustainable future. Across several regions of the world, particularly in conflict zones such as Gaza and other parts of West Asia, wars have caused destruction on a scale that is difficult to comprehend. Thousands of innocent civilians, including women and children, have lost their lives.

Cities, homes, hospitals, schools, and public infrastructure have been reduced to rubble. Beyond the visible human suffering, these conflicts inflict

severe damage on the environment and climate. Modern warfare leaves a massive carbon footprint. Explosions from bombs, missiles, rockets, and artillery release enormous quantities of greenhouse gases, toxic chemicals, and particulate matter into the atmosphere. Fires caused by attacks destroy vegetation and ecosystems, while damaged industrial facilities may release hazardous substances into the air, water, and soil.

The environmental consequences often persist for decades, affecting human health and biodiversity long after the conflict ends. The production of military equipment itself requires vast amounts of energy and natural resources. The manufacture of drones, fighter aircraft, tanks, missiles, warships, and ammunition consumes significant quantities of metals, minerals, fossil fuels, and electricity. Every stage – from extraction of raw materials to transportation and deployment – adds to global carbon emissions.

Furthermore, once wars end, the reconstruction of destroyed cities demands additional resources, energy, and infrastructure, creating another substantial environmental burden.

At a time when nations are striving to meet ambitious climate targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the environmental costs of war deserve far greater attention. Global

efforts to combat climate change cannot succeed if armed conflicts continue to destroy ecosystems, waste resources, and divert investments away from sustainable development. It is particularly important for the world's major powers to recognize their responsibility in shaping a peaceful and sustainable future.

The United States, China, the European Union, India, Russia, and other influential nations possess the economic and technological capabilities to lead global climate action. Rather than competing through military escalation, these nations should cooperate in addressing common challenges such as climate change, environmental degradation, food security, and clean energy transition. The vast financial resources spent annually on military conflicts and armaments could instead be invested in renewable energy, reforestation, sustainable agriculture, water conservation, environmental restoration, scientific research, healthcare, and education.

Such investments would generate lasting benefits for humanity while strengthening global resilience against climate-related disasters. The world to day faces unprecedented environmental challenges, including rising temperatures, extreme weather events, melting glaciers, biodiversity loss, desertification, and

water scarcity. These challenges do not recognize national boundaries. Climate change affects every nation, rich and poor alike. Therefore, international cooperation and peaceful coexistence are essential for achieving meaningful progress. On this World Environment Day, let us reaffirm our commitment not only to protecting nature but also to promoting peace.

A peaceful world would allow nations to channel their resources toward environmental conservation and sustainable development rather than destruction and conflict. The true vision for the future should be: Nature for Climate, Nature for Our Future, and Peace for Humanity. By working together to preserve nature and prevent conflict, humanity can build a greener, safer, and more prosperous world for future generations. World Environment Day 2026 provides an opportunity to reflect on the inseparable relationship between environmental protection and global peace.

Nature inspires solutions to climate change, but lasting environmental sustainability can only be achieved in a world free from war and destruction. Let us therefore unite in our efforts to protect nature, reduce emissions, conserve resources, and promote peace, ensuring a sustainable and hopeful future for all.



Dr. Jitendra Singh convenes public outreach camp at Malhori; reviews development works, local issues

DODA, JUNE 05: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Minister for State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today convened a public outreach camp at Malhori, Kalotha in Doda district. The Union MoS held an extensive interaction with the public representatives, district officers and local residents to review the developmental issues and address the public grievances. The camp was attended by MLA Doda West Shakti Raj Parihar, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Krishan Lal, concerned officials, Ex-PRI members and others. A large gathering of people from Malhori, Kalotha and adjoining areas participated in the camp, making it a significant public outreach programme aimed at strengthening the citizen-government engagement. During the event, several



deputations representing different villages, youth groups, women's organizations, farmers, traders and social activists met the Union Minister and projected their demands and grievances. The deputations highlighted issues pertaining to upgradation of roads, augmentation of drinking water schemes, improvement of healthcare and educational facilities, strengthening of power infrastructure, expansion of mobile and internet connectivity, promotion of

tourism potential, employment generation and timely implementation of welfare schemes. The deputations sought immediate intervention for resolution of long-pending public issues and requested inclusion of additional developmental projects to improve the quality of life in the region. The Union Minister assured the deputations that their genuine demands would be examined and addressed in a phased manner through the concerned departments. During the

programme, the Union Minister reviewed the developmental scenario of the area and sought suggestions from the public. Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated the government's commitment towards holistic development of remote and rural areas. He emphasized that the aspirations of the people must be addressed through responsive governance and effective implementation of developmental programmes. The Minister directed the concerned departments to ensure time-bound execution of ongoing projects, speedy redressal of public grievances and better coordination among the departments for improving service delivery. He stressed the need for strengthening healthcare and educational infrastructure, improving road connectivity, ensuring uninterrupted power and water supply and accelerating the developmental works in underserved areas. He also instructed the officers to maintain

Govt. focused on identifying, developing offbeat destinations to diversify tourism landscape of J&K: Sakeena Itoo

Reviews tourism potential of Panchanpatri area of Kulgam district



KULGAM, JUNE 05: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the tourism potential of the picturesque Panchanpatri area in Kulgam district. During the meeting, the Minister took detailed assessment of various means and holds tremendous potential to emerge as a major attraction for nature lovers, trekking and adventure tourists", she stated. Sakeena Itoo highlighted

that the Government is focused on identifying and developing offbeat destinations to diversify the tourism landscape of Jammu and Kashmir and generate new livelihood opportunities for local communities. "Promotion of unexplored tourist spots not only enhances visitor experiences but also contributes significantly to rural economic growth through employment generation and entrepreneurship", she stated. Reaffirming the Government's vision for inclusive tourism development, Sakeena Itoo said that emerging destinations like Panchanpatri will play a vital role in strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's position as a premier tourist destination and creating long-term economic benefits for local residents.

Satish Sharma hails Jammu RMC inauguration as major boost to weather forecasting, public safety in J&K, Ladakh

JAMMU, JUNE 5: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today described the inauguration of the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Jammu as a landmark achievement that will significantly strengthen the weather forecasting capabilities, disaster preparedness, scientific research and public safety across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Minister congratulated the Ministry for Earth Sciences, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and all stakeholders involved in establishing the Centre. He termed the elevation of the Meteorological Office Jammu into a full-fledged Regional Meteorological Centre as a recognition of the unique geographical and climatic challenges faced by the Himalayan region. "Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are among the most climatically sensitive and meteorologically

complex regions in the world. The establishment of this Centre marks a transformative step towards providing accurate, localized and timely weather services that are crucial for safeguarding lives, supporting livelihoods and strengthening disaster management systems," the Minister said. Highlighting the importance of scientific infrastructure in a region prone to avalanches, flash floods, cloudbursts and extreme weather events, Satish Sharma said that the Centre would provide dedicated expertise in mountain meteorology, cryosphere studies, avalanche forecasting and high-altitude weather services. He said the benefits of the Centre would extend to the farmers, security forces, tourists, researchers and disaster response agencies alike. The Minister emphasized that improved forecasting and early warning systems would contribute significantly towards minimizing losses arising from natural calamities while enhancing resilience among the communities living in vulnerable areas.

Referring to the growing role of science and technology in governance, Satish Sharma stated that the Jammu and Kashmir government remains committed towards strengthening the scientific institutions and fostering innovation-driven development. He underscored the importance of integrating advanced technologies, data analytics and digital platforms to improve weather forecasting and public service delivery. "The future belongs to knowledge, innovation and scientific excellence. Institutions such as the Regional Meteorological Centre will not only strengthen weather services but also inspire research, innovation and technological advancement among our youth," he remarked. The Minister further assured full support from the Jammu and Kashmir administration in ensuring the successful functioning and expansion of the Centre. He reiterated the administration's commitment towards providing all necessary assistance in terms of infrastructure, coordina-

tion and institutional support to help the Centre realize its full potential. Addressing the young scientists, meteorologists and researchers associated with the Centre, Satish Sharma encouraged them to pursue excellence in their work and remain dedicated to serving society through science. He observed that the data collected, forecasts generated and warnings issued by them would play a critical role in protecting lives and supporting sustainable development across the region. The Minister also lauded the contributions of Union Minister for Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh and the leadership of the Ministry for Earth Sciences for facilitating the establishment of the Regional Meteorological Centre in Jammu. Describing the inauguration as a significant milestone in the scientific and developmental journey of Jammu and Kashmir, Satish Sharma expressed confidence that the Centre would emerge as a premier institution for meteorological research, forecasting,

L-G VK Saxena launches major plantation drive in Leh on World Environment Day



Leh, June 5: On the occasion of World Environment Day 2026, Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today launched a mass plantation drive under the Indus River Green Corridor Initiative on land donated by Thiksey Monastery. The plantation drive was organised in line with this year's World Environment Day theme: "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future."

A major highlight of the programme was the establishment of a High-Altitude Experimental Plantation Plot spread over approximately 0.12 hectares (about 1,400 sq. ft.) to study the adaptability and growth performance of selected tropical and subtropical species under Ladakh's unique climatic conditions. The species introduced in the experimental plot include Juniper, Russian Olive, Black Currant, Grapes, Tea Plants, Papaya and selected fruit trees. Additionally, ten Asafoetida (Hing) plants have also been introduced on a pilot basis to assess their suitability for cultivation in Ladakh. The initiative aims to evaluate growth and survival rates, assess environmental impacts, support climate adaptation strategies, promote sustainable horticulture and generate valuable knowledge for future plantation programmes in the region. Speaking on the occasion, L-G Shri Saxena appreciated the contribution of Thiksey Monastery towards environmental conservation and said that such a large-scale plantation would help enrich biodiversity, improve ecological stability, and contribute to the creation of a green and sustainable corridor along the Indus River for future generations.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No.: JTB/MD/1/2025/10-2026/2025-26/J&K. It is invited for the purchase of 1000000 kg of 100% pure and natural...
Tender Type: Bidding System: L1
Date of Uploading Tenders: 05.06.2025
Bid Starting Date: 12.06.2025
Bid Closing Date: 20.06.2025

DC Ramban reviews SANJY-2026 preparedness; Inspects Langar Site at Banihal

RAMBAN, JUNE 05: As part of the ongoing preparations for the forthcoming Shri Amarant Jai Yatra-2026, the Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted an extensive inspection of the Langar site at Banihal and other key locations along the Yatra route. He reviewed the arrangements being put in place by the stakeholder departments for the convenience and safety of pilgrims. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta, Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet

Singh Charak; SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan; SDM Ransoo Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah; ACD Sheraz Ahmed, officers from the district administration, CRPF, Army and other allied departments. During the visit, the officers reviewed the availability of civic amenities, including sanitation, drinking water supply, power infrastructure, healthcare facilities, public conveniences and security arrangements. The inspection focused on ensuring seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments for the smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD & B DIVISION, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU
Short e-NIT No.23 of 2026-2027 Dated: 02-06-2026

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertise Cost (Rs. Lakhs)	Estimate Cost (Rs. Lakhs)	Estimate % of Advertise Cost	Time for completion of work	Time and Date of opening of bids	Class of Contract
1	Repair / Repair of central Road (NH) Jammu	PWD (R&B) BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU	1.38	600	2% of Advertise Cost	30 Days	06-06-2026 (12:30 PM)	"A/B/C/D"
1	Repair/Restoration of quarter no. 1 in the premises of AMT school GMC Jammu	PWD (R&B) BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU	4.00	600	2% of Advertise Cost	30 Days	06-06-2026 (12:30 PM)	"A/B/C/D"

Position of AAA/TS : Accredited
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://tenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:-

S. No.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-06-2026
1	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02-06-2026 to 07-06-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
2	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	-
3	Bid submission Start Date	02-06-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	07-06-2026 upto 1800 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	06-06-2026 at or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer (PWD) (R&B) BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with one of Tender documents in shape of e-bid through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to M/E 0069 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU and upload the same to treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/ Bid security in shape of CD/ROR/RC (pledged) to Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU. The CD/ROR/RC should be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI to be submitted in the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system will not allow any late submission of bids after the date and time as per service 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-submissions, 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 bidder may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.tenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on that e-mail address. The Bidding/ Bidder/ Bidder's representative shall be present online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
a) Any bidder/contractor 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.
- Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu & Kashmir No. CTJ/CJ/12668/87 dated 07.11.2021.
- Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.tenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2008. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.
Note:- Scan all the documents on 300 dpi with black and white option.
7. The department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of e-bid through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to M/E 0069 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU and upload the same to treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/ Bid security in shape of CD/ROR/RC (pledged) to Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU and Commission of information on the material attached search must be realized between the period of downloading of bidding document as per the format mentioned in the e-NIT/SBD with the technical documents of the bid.
- Bidders may contact office of the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department, Jammu or concerned Executive Engineer for any guidance for getting DSC, or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the percentage inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

Site: J&K/0069/2026-27
Date: 02-06-2026
By: SANJY GUPTA
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Bakshi Nagar

DIP/J-3171/26

MY Bharat To Host Youth Convention in Delhi, Over 6,000 Participants Expected

New Delhi, June 5: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, will organise the 'Youth for Viksit Bharat - MY Bharat Youth Convention' at Thyagaraj Stadium in New Delhi on June 6, bringing together more than 6,000 young participants from across the country. The convention, aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, will see participation from students, young professionals and sports, news, content creators, innovators, emerging leaders and achievers from diverse backgrounds. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandavya and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta are scheduled to attend the event, along with youth icons, industry



leaders and distinguished guests from various sectors. The programme will feature interactions with prominent personalities, including India's fastest man Gurindervir Singh, entrepreneur and boAt co-founder Aman Gupta, Olympic medalist Aman Sehrawat, UPSI achievers and leading content creators such as Malhar Kalambe and RJ Raunac. The event will also honour youth achievers who have

excelled in sports, entrepreneurship, governance and content creation. During the convention, MY Bharat will celebrate its recent Guinness World Records recognition for the "Most Users to Take an Online Quiz in One Week", achieved through the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBLYD) Quiz. According to the organisers, the initiative received participation.

Head Coach Gambhir Backs Sai Sudharsan At No. 3, Says 'We Will Give Him A Longer Rope'

New Delhi, June 5:

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has thrown his weight behind young batter Sai Sudharsan, confirming that the left-hander will occupy the crucial No. 3 position in the one-off Test against Afghanistan beginning here on Saturday. Speaking ahead of the match, Gambhir stressed the need to show patience with Sudharsan, who is set to get another opportunity in a batting slot that has remained unsettled since Cheteshwar Pujara's exit from the Test side. "Sai Sudharsan hasn't got a fair chance. He played in England. We will give him a longer rope," Gambhir said during the pre-match press conference. Asked if Devdutt Padikkal would get a chance given his red-ball form, Gambhir said: "You can only win a Test unfortunately. Sometimes



you just have to wait for your opportunity. I've always believed that the players we pick should be given a fair run. "And again, Sai is not in bad form either. He has scored 722 runs in the IPL. If judging players by only four or five Test matches is good enough, then I feel we will never be able to

build something. "So, hopefully, he will get his chance. Whenever his time comes, we'll give him a fair run as well. It's not about giving someone five Test matches and someone else one Test match. If we give someone a fair run, we'll give the other guy a fair run whenever he gets the opportunity. But, at the

moment, I think we've got to give Sai a fair run. He's a world-class player and I'm sure he'll come good." India have struggled to find a permanent occupant for the No. 3 spot since Pujara's departure. Since then, several batters have been tried in the position, including Shubman Gill, Washington Sundar, Dhruv Jurel, Devdutt Padikkal and Sudharsan. Gill enjoyed the longest run at one-drop before moving to No. 4 after taking over the Test captaincy following the retirements of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma from the longest format. Sudharsan has featured in six Tests so far and averages a little over 27, but the team management remains confident about his long-term prospects. Despite India currently being sixth in the ICC Test Championship standings with 48.15 per cent of the available points, Gambhir maintained that the side remains firmly in contention for a place in the final. "We believe that we can win the WTCC. There is talent and hunger in this team," Gambhir said. Gambhir also revealed that the Afghanistan Test would help the team management assess spin-bowling options ahead of the upcoming two-Test series in Sri Lanka. Left-arm spinners Manav Suvar and Harsh Dubey are competing for a place in the squad. "Manav and Harsh are to a certain extent, similar, but they are also different in terms of their release points. This match gives us a chance to determine our fourth spinner, as we will take four spinners to Sri Lanka," he said.

Website Glitch Gives Fans 'Free' World Cup Tickets, FIFA Cancels Booking And Demands Full Payment

New Delhi, June 5:

A website glitch that briefly allowed a small number of fans to secure FIFA World Cup 2026 tickets at no cost has prompted FIFA to cancel the bookings and ask supporters to pay the correct amount if they wish to retain their seats. Football's world governing body said around 60 fans were affected after a payment issue during the checkout process resulted in tickets being allocated at "0 USD". While the bookings have been cancelled, the tickets remain reserved and can be reclaimed upon payment of the correct price. "FIFA can confirm that approximately 60 FIFA World Cup 2026 fans received a communication on Wednesday, June 3, regarding tickets that had been allocated at no charge (0 USD) due to a prior pay-



ment issue during the checkout process," FIFA said in a statement. "The tickets requested by these fans remain reserved, and the affected fans have been invited to complete payment of the correct amount. FIFA regrets the error and any inconvenience caused," it added. According to an email circulated online by Ticket Talk Network, FIFA informed affected customers that a pricing error

had caused certain tickets to be displayed at incorrect prices during checkout and in transaction records. "We identified and resolved an issue with ticket pricing that affected a small number of tickets sold on FIFA.com/tickets on May 21, 2026. This issue caused certain tickets to be displayed with inaccurate prices at checkout and in the completed transaction records," the email stated. FIFA said all orders containing incorrectly priced tickets had been cancelled in line with its terms of sale and that customers would receive full refunds for any payments made. To avoid disappointing affected supporters, FIFA has reserved the same tickets for seven days, giving fans the option to repurchase them at the correct price through their ticketing account. "To ensure you do not miss

the opportunity to attend the FIFA World Cup 2026, we have reserved the same ticket(s) for you to purchase at the correct price. These ticket(s) will be available for purchase through your FIFA ticketing account for seven days from the date of this message," the email read. The incident comes amid continued scrutiny over ticket pricing for the 2026 World Cup. Earlier this year, FIFA's official resale platform listed four tickets for the World Cup final at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey for nearly USD 2.3 million each, highlighting the soaring demand and premium prices associated with the tournament. The 2026 FIFA World Cup, to be hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico, will be the first edition of the tournament featuring 48 teams.

Errani And Vavassori Retain French Open Mixed Doubles Title

New Delhi, June 5:

Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori retained their French Open mixed doubles title on Thursday, staging a comeback to defeat American Evan King and Canadian Gabriela Dabrowski 4-6, 6-3 (10-4). The Italian duo dominated the deciding match tiebreak on Court Philippe Chatrier and are the first pair to successfully defend the French Open mixed doubles title since Croatia's Ivan Dodig and Taiwan's Latisha Chan in 2018 and 2019. This latest triumph marks a remarkable run of success for Errani and Vavassori, securing their fourth mixed doubles trophy in the last seven Grand Slam tournaments, a stretch that includes back-to-back U.S. Open titles in 2024 and 2025. The top-seeded duo needed 79 minutes to secure the title and extend one of the most successful



mixed doubles partnerships in recent years. "Still a dream for me," Errani said during the on-court trophy presentation. "All my dreams have been here. Andrea, you are my best friend. To share this with you is something crazy. I

am enjoying playing with you and it is so much fun." "Thank you, Sara," Vavassori said. "You are my best friend. You make me a better player and a better person. You are the first person I want to speak to after I lose a match."

Dream meets Fairytale as Andreeva and Chwalinska Set Up French Open Final Showdown

New Delhi, June 5:

Mirra Andreeva's dream run towards a maiden Grand Slam title at the French Open gathered momentum on Thursday while qualifier Maja Chwalinska continued her own fairytale to set up an unlikely final in Paris. Early exits for marquee names including defending champion Coco Gauff, four-times winner Iga Swiatek and world number one Aryna Sabalenka opened the door for a new cast of contenders, and both Andreeva and Chwalinska seized their chances. After 19-year-old Russian Andreeva secured a 6-1 6-3 win over Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk in a politi-



cally-charged semi-final, Chwalinska downed another Russian in Diana Shnaider 7-6(4) 6-4 to continue her remarkable run. Roland Garros was already guaranteed a new women's champion, and all eyes will be on Court Philippe Chatrier to witness which of the two contrasting journeys culminates in Grand

Slam glory and who hoists the Suzanne Lenglen Cup on Saturday. "I never actually thought that I would be able to win big tournaments, or be in a Grand Slam final," said Andreeva, who could become the first teenager to win a Grand Slam title since Gauff's U.S. Open triumph in 2023.

Praggnanandhaa Beats Gukesh As Title Race Heads Into Final Round; Assaubayeva Wins Women's Title

New Delhi, June 5:

R. Praggnanandhaa scored a crucial classical victory over world champion D. Gukesh with the black pieces, while Wesley So defeated world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in the Armageddon game, leaving the title race wide open heading into the final round. In a complex battle, Praggnanandhaa seized control after Gukesh came under pressure in the middlegame and converted his advantage with confidence. The full three points took Praggnanandhaa to 15 points, just half a point behind tournament leader Wesley So. Wesley So's classical game against Carlsen ended in a draw after a balanced contest. So then won the Armageddon game to secure the extra points and preserve his lead ahead of the final round. Alireza Firouzja also remains firmly in contention. After surviving a difficult classical game against Vincent



Keymer, Firouzja prevailed in the Armageddon to collect the additional points. Keymer held the initiative for long stretches of the classical game, but Firouzja defended resolutely to keep his title hopes alive. After Round 9, Wesley So leads Norway Chess with 15.5 points. Praggnanandhaa is second with 15 points, while Firouzja is close behind on 14.5

points. In the women's section, Bibisara Assaubayeva secured the Norway Chess Women 2026 title with one round remaining after another important result. Assaubayeva drew her classical game against Anna Muzychuk. Muzychuk then drew the Armageddon game with the black pieces, winning the decider under Armageddon rules and taking the

extra points. Even so, Assaubayeva's lead at the top became mathematically unassailable. Zhu Jiner registered the only decisive classical victory in the women's event, defeating Divya Deshmukh with the black pieces. Zhu maintained the pressure in a tense middlegame and converted her advantage after Divya ran into time trouble, earning three valuable points and moving into second place. The game between Koneru Humpy and reigning Women's World Champion Ju Wenjun also ended in a classical draw. Ju Wenjun then won the Armageddon game with the black pieces to collect the additional points. After Round 9, Assaubayeva leads Norway Chess Women with 16.5 points and has already secured the title. Zhu Jiner is second with 13 points, while Anna Muzychuk is third with 12 points.

Zverev Meets Mensik With Eye On Next Step As Paris Field Blown Open

New Delhi, June 5:

Alexander Zverev will carry mounting expectations into Friday's French Open semi-final against dangerous Czech Jakob Mensik, as the second seed aims to close in on an elusive Grand Slam title after shock exits opened up the draw for him. What began with defending champion Carlos Alcaraz's injury withdrawal has turned into a tournament of surprises with world number one Jannik Sinner and 24-times Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic losing to leave Zverev as the most established title contender. Zverev, the 2020 Tokyo Olympic gold medalist and twice ATP Finals champion, has never won a Grand Slam trophy

despite final appearances at the U.S. Open, French Open and Australian Open, with Paris now offering the German his clearest opportunity. "I don't particularly care," the 29-year-old Zverev told reporters about his elevation as the overwhelming favourite for the Musketeers' Cup. "I focus on next match, and I focus on the opponent as they cross the net, and that's the only thing that I can control. "If I win those matches, then that's great."

Zverev has been in this territory before and knows that the margins only tighten from here, with composure and trust in his game likely to be decisive under intense pressure from himself. "For me it's quite sim-



ple, it's me playing well," added Zverev, who dismissed Rafael Nadal in the quarter-finals. "I've said it before, I think I really have to trust my game, and I have to trust my tennis and trust myself. If I play well,

then I think that's 99% of the work." Standing between Zverev and a fourth major final is 26th-seeded Czech Mensik, who is also chasing a maiden Grand Slam title at a very different stage of his career, with two ATP titles

to his opponent's 24. PUSHED HARD While Zverev has cruised through the draw, dropping only one set, the 20-year-old Mensik has been pushed hard, coming through a four-setter and two five-set battles including his second-round match after which he collapsed on court in intense heat. Djokovic-mentored Mensik's ice-cold execution was on full display as he beat Brazilian breakout teenager Joao Fonseca in the quarter-finals, with his big serve, flat backhand and first-strike instincts set to pose a real challenge for Zverev. "I'm playing better and better," Mensik said, full of belief that he can overturn a recent defeat by Zverev in Madrid.

"Even that match with Sascha, it was a close one. It was best-of-three sets. Right now, it's some different situation. "Of course, the semi-finals, I would say it's a bigger match and best-of-five sets. I'm excited and I'm excited." UNCHARTED TERRITORY In the second semi-final, two Italians will look to sparkle in Sinner's absence, with 10th seed Flavio Cobolli facing Matteo Amaldi, as both players chase a rare Grand Slam opportunity in uncharted territory. Sinner and Alcaraz have largely left the new generation of players well behind, carving up the last nine Grand Slam titles between them, and their absence has shifted the attention onto the chasing pack.

"I never put pressure on myself," said the 24-year-old Cobolli, who tamed tough winds and Felix Auger-Aliassime to reach the last four. "I like to live the moment as if I was kid, with passion, and a big smile. That's what I'll do for the next one too. "For sure, it'll be another derby, but I think we have to be happy for Italian tennis. Another Italian, apart from Sinner... in the final this week. "So we have to be happy and we have to enjoy that match." Amaldi advanced after compatriot Matteo Berrettini retired with a hip injury, but the short workout will be a blessing for the world number 104 who has played two five-setters and has been on court for nearly

Annammalai quits BJP, launches 'We the Leaders'; eyes Tamil Nadu Assembly polls

New Delhi, June 5: Former Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annammalai on Friday formally severed ties with the Bharatiya Janata Party and unveiled a new youth-oriented movement, signalling the start of an independent political journey that he said would culminate in contesting future Assembly elections in the state. The announcement marks a significant development in Tamil Nadu politics, coming months after Annammalai stepped away from key party responsibilities amid differences over the BJP's electoral strategy in the state. His new platform, named 'We the Leaders', is expected to be expanded into a political party and field candidates in the next Assembly elections. In a video message, the former IPS officer said he had entered public life with the goal of bringing meaningful change to Tamil



Nadu and improving people's lives. According to him, the new movement represents a continuation of that mission through a different route. Annammalai disclosed that he had informed the BJP leadership about his decision to leave the party as early as December 2025. He said senior leaders had then requested him to stay on until the Tamil Nadu election process was completed, following which he proceeded with his decision after consultations with the party leadership. While expressing admiration for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Annammalai acknowledged that he had differed with the BJP on several issues over the last one-and-a-half years. He reiterated his belief that the party should have contested the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections independently, a position that contrasted with the BJP's alliance approach involving the AIADMK.

Punjab Muslim body urges PM Modi to declare cow as national animal

Chandigarh, June 5: A Punjab-based Muslim organisation has submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking enhanced measures for cow protection, including a proposal to accord the animal a special national status, while also calling for strict action against cattle smuggling and mob violence carried out in its name. The representation was submitted through the office of Jalandhar Deputy Commissioner Varjeet Singh Wallia and has been forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office for consideration. Addressing the media, Naem Khan, president of a Muslim organisation in Punjab and a human rights activist, said the initiative was aimed at promoting social harmony, mutual



respect, and national unity. He stated that the cow occupies an important place in India's cultural traditions and rural economy and deserves greater attention in public policy. Khan said respect for the religious and cultural sentiments of all communities plays a vital role in strengthening the country's social fabric. He noted that the cow is revered by mil-

14 girls reported missing in Ludhiana, Women's Commission deletes post after seeking police report

New Delhi, June 5: The disappearance of multiple girls and young women from different parts of Ludhiana within a span of just over a month has raised concerns over their safety and the pace of the police response, with the issue drawing the attention of the Punjab State Women's Commission. According to information available from various police cases, around 14 incidents involving missing girls, including several minors, were reported between late April and early June. The cases involve girls who allegedly failed to return home after leaving for school, work, training centres, or other routine activities, leaving families searching for answers. One of the most discussed incidents involved three minor cousins from Ludhiana's Jamalpur area who went missing together



in May. Police later said the girls had been traced and recovered safely. In another case, a 16-year-old domestic worker reportedly disappeared while returning home after work. Separately, an 18-year-old girl from the Salem Tabri area allegedly went missing after leaving home for school-related work and did not return. Family members, in some cases, have alleged delays in police action. Relatives of one missing girl claimed

they initially faced difficulties in getting a case registered after authorities reportedly treated the matter as one involving an adult who had left on her own. An FIR was later registered. The issue prompted Punjab State Women Commission Chairperson Raj Lali Gill to seek a report from Ludhiana Police Commissioner Swapam Sharma. In a communication to the police, the Commission described the

matter as serious and sought a detailed inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the disappearances. The Commission also took suo motu cognisance of the issue and expressed concern that multiple missing-girl cases within a short period had raised questions regarding women's safety and law-and-order management. A report was sought from the police regarding the status of investigations and recovery efforts. However, the development attracted further attention after the Women's Commission removed a social media post that had shared details of the notice and photographs of some of the missing girls. The post was deleted hours later, and a video carrying the police version of events was subsequently shared, leading to fresh public discussion about the handling of the matter. Responding to concerns, Ludhiana Police rejected claims that an unusually large number of girls had disappeared from the city. ADCP Ramandeep Singh Bhullar said misleading narratives were being circulated on social media and maintained that 10 cases involving missing minor girls had been registered during May within the Commission's limits.

15 illegal mosques sealed in Arunachal over unauthorised settlement concerns

New Delhi, June 5: The Arunachal Pradesh government has sealed 15 mosque sites in the Itanagar Capital Region after an administrative exercise found them to be operating without the required approvals, bringing the contentious issue of alleged illegal settlements and demographic concerns back into sharp focus in the northeastern state. The development has once again brought attention to concerns frequently raised by indigenous groups regarding migration, settlement patterns, and demographic shifts in Arunachal Pradesh. Several organisations have argued that unchecked settlements and unauthorised constructions could affect the state's tribal character and place pressure on limited land resources. Crackdown follows indigenous groups' campaign



The latest action comes after sustained protests and mobilisation by the Arunachal Pradesh Indigenous Youth Organisation (APIYO), which has been raising concerns over unauthorised structures and settlement patterns in parts of the state. The organisation had previously announced agitation programmes, including a shutdown call in the capital region, while demanding government intervention on what it described as a growing challenge to indigenous

interests. State government spokesperson and Education Minister P.D. Sona said the matter was formally taken up with the government earlier this year during discussions between APIYO representatives and Chief Minister Pema Khandu. Following those representations, district authorities were directed to examine the status of religious structures allegedly operating without mandatory permissions. A verification exercise conducted by officials subsequently identified

TMC leader Firhad Hakim resigns as Kolkata mayor

New Delhi, June 5: In yet another major setback for Mamata Banerjee-led TMC, senior leader Firhad Hakim on Friday, June 5, resigned as the Mayor of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), citing that he was unable to work properly. Hakim is a former state minister and one of the most prominent faces of Trinamool Congress in West Bengal. He has submitted his resignation amid continuing political chum within the party after its defeat in the 2026 Assembly elections. "In accordance with the provisions of KMC Act 1980, I hereby tender my resignation from the Office of Mayor of the Kolkata,



with immediate effect," he wrote in his resignation letter to the Chairperson of Kolkata Municipal Corporation. "It has been a distinct honour and privilege to serve the citizens of Kolkata in this capacity. I remain deeply grateful for the cooperation, support and guidance extended to me by the Chairperson, the Members of Mayor in

Patanjali Research Foundation signs MoU with Gautam Buddha University

Haridwar, June 5: Patanjali Research Foundation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, to strengthen the integration of India's ancient knowledge systems with modern scientific research. The collaboration is aimed at fostering academic, scientific, and research cooperation between the two institutions, besides facilitating the exchange of knowledge and resources. Also, it will advance scientific and clinical research in Ayurveda and related disciplines. This comes at a time when traditional healthcare sys-



tems are gaining global recognition, along with a rising demand for evidence-based health solutions. The partnership leverages modern research techniques to scientifically validate Ayurvedic principles and seeks to establish

Indonesia, Acharya Balkrishna stated that India's traditional knowledge is far more than just a cultural heritage and serves as a scientific foundation for human welfare. He noted that it is vital to validate Ayurveda and traditional Indian wisdom using modern scientific standards and make them accessible worldwide, especially in the current global scenario. Further, he extended that the convergence of education, research, and innovation leads to sustainable solutions for society as well as the nation. The MoU looks forward to inspire young scientists, researchers, and students to

pursue science and research rooted in India's traditional knowledge systems while building a capacity to tackle urgent global health crisis. Prof. Rana Pratap Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Gautam Buddha University, said the partnership will open a new opportunity for students, researchers, and faculty, besides enhancing academic collaboration and provide a vibrant platform for interdisciplinary work. Moreover, he highlighted that this partnership will be especially important in the fields of traditional Indian medicine and biomedical research.

Ramalinga Reddy resigns from Karnataka Cabinet days after oath, says 'I'm still in Congress'

New Delhi, June 5: Just 48 hours after being sworn into the DK Shivakumar government, senior Congress leader Ramalinga Reddy has stepped down from the Karnataka Cabinet on Friday, triggering political buzz over the first major setback for the newly formed administration. While announcing his resignation, the veteran leader made it clear that his exit was restricted to the



government and did not signal any break with the Congress party, with which he said he has been associated for more than five decades. The resignation comes barely a day after respon-

sibilities were assigned to ministers in the newly constituted Karnataka government. Under the allocation approved by Governor Thaaawarchand Gehlot, Ramalinga Reddy had been entrusted with the Major and Medium Irrigation portfolio. The swearing-in ceremony was held on Wednesday at Lok Bhavan, where DK Shivakumar took oath as Karnataka's 34th Chief Minister.

The portfolio announcement was made late Thursday, making his resignation one of the quickest exits from a ministerial post in recent Karnataka political history. Resignation, not rebellion Addressing reporters, Ramalinga Reddy stressed that he continues to remain a part of the Congress and has not severed ties with the organisation.

'DMK will never forget Congress' betrayal': Udhayanidhi Stalin attacks INC for supporting TVK

New Delhi, June 5: Asharp political confrontation has erupted between the DMK and Congress, with Udhayanidhi Stalin publicly accusing the Congress of betraying its longtime ally by backing Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) after the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. The remarks signal a deepening rift between the two parties and have added fresh strain to opposition unity efforts,

with the fallout now extending to the INDIA bloc as well. Addressing a thanksgiving gathering in the Chepauk-Triplicane constituency, Udhayanidhi Stalin launched a direct attack on the Congress, claiming the party had abandoned the DMK despite years of political association. "DMK will never forget the betrayal of Congress. Even the winning MLAs of Congress have not met our leader.

Congress has betrayed us by supporting them (TVK)," he said. The statement marks one of the strongest public criticisms from the DMK leadership since Congress extended support to TVK following the Assembly polls. Allegations of broken trust Udhayanidhi Stalin also alleged that Congress failed to maintain communication with the DMK leadership on the key political.

From Fry to Fly: How Japan is turning used cooking oil into sustainable aviation fuel

Tokoyo, June 5: As the global aviation industry races to cut carbon emissions, Japan is betting on an unlikely resource hidden in millions of kitchens: used cooking oil. Across the country, households, supermarkets, businesses and airlines are joining an ambitious effort to transform waste cooking oil into Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), a cleaner alternative to conventional jet fuel. What makes this effort remarkable is its scale. From home kitchens in Tokyo to corporate cafeterias and retail chains, a nationwide collection network is being built around a simple idea, yesterday's frying oil could help power tomorrow's flights. The kitchen revolution behind green aviation For many Japanese households, sustainability now begins after dinner. Instead of throwing away used cooking oil, residents are



collecting it in bottles and delivering it to designated collection points. One of the most visible examples is the "Fry to Fly" initiative, a public-private partnership that links households directly to Japan's sustainable aviation fuel supply chain. The concept is straightforward: waste oil from homes is gathered, processed and eventually converted into aviation fuel capable of reducing the industry's dependence on fossil fuels. The movement has transformed ordinary citizens into active participants in Japan's energy transition, creating a rare connection between household recycling habits and commercial aviation. Why sustainable aviation fuel matters now remains one of the most difficult sectors to decarbonise. Japan has set a target of sourcing 10 per cent of airline fuel from sustainable alternatives by 2030. Achieving that goal will require approximately 1.7 million kilolitres of SAF. Current domestic production stands at only around 30,000 kilolitres.

Trump says Iran cannot have nuclear weapon, warns attacks on US troops could restart war

Washington, June 5: US President Donald Trump on Thursday warned that any attack on American troops by Iran could trigger a swift military response, even as he insisted that preventing Tehran from acquiring a nuclear weapon remains the central goal of ongoing negotiations between the two countries.



Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump struck a combative tone on both diplomacy and military action, while also attacking members of the US House of Representatives who voted to restrict his authority to launch further military operations against Iran. The remarks come at a sensitive moment in US-Iran relations, with diplomatic efforts continuing alongside political divisions in Washington over Trump's handling of the conflict. A resolution passed by the

House this week seeks to limit additional military action against Iran, setting up a fresh confrontation between Congress and the White House. Asked whether the US would retaliate if Iran killed American troops, Trump left little room for ambiguity. "If they kill US troops, I think I would do that very quickly," he told reporters. Trump also claimed that Iran's military capabilities had been severely weakened by previous US

actions. "There is no navy, no air force, we have wiped out their leadership," he said, while criticising media reports that suggested Iran had weathered the conflict better than expected. Trump says Iran cannot be allowed to obtain nuclear weapons. The US President repeatedly stressed that any agreement with Tehran must permanently block its path to a nuclear weapon. "We're going to win one way or the other. We're going to win on paper, or we're going to win militarily," Trump said when asked about the status of negotiations. According to Trump, the most important condition of any future deal is non-negotiable. "The main part of the deal is they can't have a nuclear weapon," he said. He also contrasted a possible future agreement with the nuclear deal negotiated during former US president Barack Obama's administration, arguing that the earlier arrangement would have eventually allowed Iran to obtain nuclear weapons. "Our deal, if we make that deal, it's the exact opposite. They will never have a nuclear weapon," Trump said. Trump defends strikes on Iranian nuclear sites. He said the strikes were necessary to prevent Iran from taking further military action against Iran without congressional authorisation. The measure passed by a narrow margin of 215-208, with four Republican lawmakers joining Democrats in support.

Nepal's PM stirred a border row with India. Days later, is the Foreign Minister flying to Delhi to clean it up?

Kathmandu, June 5: Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal is set to visit New Delhi on a three-day official visit beginning June 6. The visit comes at the invitation of India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. This is Khanal's first official visit to India after being appointed Foreign Minister on April 27. The Foreign Minister of Nepal said Khanal will hold formal talks with Jaishankar in New Delhi. The two sides will discuss matters of mutual interest, with a focus on enhancing cooperation in trade, investment, connectivity, energy, and people-to-people ties. Sources in Kathmandu and New Delhi confirm Khanal will also hold meetings with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. The two foreign ministers are also



expected to discuss the possibility of higher-level visits from both sides, including a potential Jaishankar visit to Kathmandu. Minister Khanal is scheduled to return to Kathmandu on June 7. Trip was postponed last month Khanal's visit comes after his planned trip to Delhi last month was postponed. President Rabi Lamichhane had deferred the International Big Cat

Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday during his five-day visit to India. India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the meeting. Lamichhane talked with Modi for over an hour in the presence of his wife Neekita Poudel Lamichhane, two party leaders Bipin Acharya and Deepak Bohora, and New Delhi-based Nepali diplomats. Jaishankar, NSA Doval, and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri were present from the Indian side. Lamichhane arrived in New Delhi on Monday at the invitation of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party President Nitin Nabin. Since Tuesday, he has been busy with high-level meetings. He met top leaders including BJP President Nabin at the

headquarters. After that, he also met Jaishankar and Home Minister Amit Shah. Lamichhane was also scheduled to visit the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya on Thursday. "No Political Baggage": Lamichhane to Modi. BSP chief Lamichhane and Prime Minister Modi agreed to chart a new course in Nepal-India relations in a changed political context. According to the Kathmandu Post, Lamichhane told Modi that BSP carried no historical political baggage and sought to build a new framework for engagement with India. Modi, congratulating the party on its strong electoral performance, said India was ready to work closely with Nepal's new leadership and support the country's development priorities.

Azerbaijan Says Five Of Its Citizens Killed in Attacks On Vessels In Sea Of Azov



Washington, June 5: Five Azerbaijani citizens were killed and three others injured in attacks on two cargo vessels in the Sea of Azov, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said on Friday. Responding to a question about the vessels hit in Taganrog Bay, the ministry said the crews included 25 Azerbaijani citizens in total, but that the ships did not belong to Azerbaijan. Earlier on Friday, Ukraine said its drones had struck five

ships in the ports of Mariupol and Berdyansk on the Sea of Azov, as well as in the coastal waters of Russian-controlled territories. Robert Brovdi, the commander of Ukrainian drone forces, said in a statement that his drones had hit dry cargo ships and a tanker that were involved in "stealing" Ukrainian grain and transferring military cargo and fuel, with the names of the vessels painted over and their raiders turned off. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin blamed Ukraine for the attacks on cargo vessels and expressed his condolences to the families of the Azerbaijani sailors. "We know full well which country is using drones - both aerial and maritime - to attack civilian vessels in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. It is, so to speak, a well-known country," Galuzin was quoted by TASS news agency as saying.

UN Doubles Lebanon aid appeal as War Drives surge in Humanitarian Needs

Washington, June 5: The United Nations on Friday said it is doubling the amount of money it says it needs to help Lebanon meet surging humanitarian needs, as the war enters its fourth month.



Lebanon was drawn into the wider regional war in early March when the Tehran-backed Hezbollah militia fired rockets at Israel in solidarity with Iran, which was under U.S.-Israeli attack, prompting a major Israeli air and ground campaign. "In the past three months, communities across Lebanon have faced an appalling situation due to the escalation of hostilities," U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Inran Riza

said. "The toll on civilians is alarming and worsening by the day." The U.N. said it will launch a fresh aid appeal with the Lebanese government to seek an additional \$331.5 million to reach 1.4 million people, bringing the total appeal to \$639.9 million. It had received \$185.9 million as of May 31. Since March 2, more than 3,500 people have been killed in Israeli strikes, according to Lebanese authorities, whose data does not distinguish between civilians and combatants. The crisis is rapidly eroding food security, with nearly one in four people in Lebanon - around 1.24 million people - expected to face crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity until August, according to the U.N.

Son of a Chinese cleaner and a security guard, he crossed the Pacific, sold pancakes on LA streets, and now plans to run for mayor

Beijing, June 5: A Chinese street food vendor who built a six-figure income selling pancakes on the streets of Los Angeles has announced plans to run for mayor, drawing attention online and sparking debate about immigration, ambition, and the limits of American political life.



Tang, 31, was born to a rural family in Sichuan, southwestern China. He left school after completing secondary education. His father works as a security guard. His mother works as a cleaner. After secondary school, Tang worked in a factory in Shenzhen, South China Morning Post reports. He later sold cars through live-streams. In his spare time, he taught him-

self to make savoury pancakes, a popular snack from Hubei province in central China. He moved to the United States in 2022 with little knowledge of English. He first found work at a used-car showroom. Two years later, he settled in Los Angeles and began selling savoury pan-

cakes on the street. He relied on translation apps to speak with customers. The business grew quickly. According to Jupai News, Tang charged between US\$10 and US\$60 per serving. He made more than US\$150,000 in his first year. At one point, his monthly income exceeded US\$20,000. His story spread widely on Chinese social media. Followers praised his drive and his ability to build a business in a country where he did not speak the language. Videos of his stall attracted large audiences online. Immigration agents arrested Tang in Los Angeles on July 19, 2025. The arrest came after dispute with rival vendor. Tang had been operating without a business licence, and concerns about hygiene and unlicensed trading were also raised. Questions about his visa status surfaced online and drew significant backlash. He was released on bail. The arrest did not end his public profile. If anything, it raised it further. After the controversy, Tang shifted part of his public image toward charity work. He began distributing free food in poor neighbourhoods. He provided practical help to homeless people. He also started live-streaming videos in which he gave extra portions to women in need. Volunteers began joining him at his stall, wearing the same aprons he used. The shift attracted a new wave of supporters. Some praised his response to the controversy. His online following continued to grow, and he became a recurring subject of discussion in Chinese-language social media circles inside the United States.

Putin ties Ukraine peace deal to concessions, claims Russian forces are gaining ground

Moscow, June 5: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday said Moscow remained open to ending the war in Ukraine through diplomacy, but insisted that any settlement would require concessions from Kyiv, even as he claimed Russian forces were continuing to make gains on the battlefield. Speaking to foreign media editors on the sidelines of Russia's flagship economic forum in St Petersburg,



Putin said proposals discussed with US President Donald Trump could pave the way for peace if

moment when diplomatic signals from both sides appeared to intensify. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy published an open letter proposing a direct meeting with Putin to discuss ending the conflict, while Trump publicly backed the idea of a face-to-face engagement between the two leaders. Putin, however, made clear that Russia sees little reason to slow its military campaign while it

believes it holds the advantage. He argued that manpower, industrial capacity and political resolve were working in Moscow's favour and said Russian troops were advancing every day. "The offensive is ongoing on a daily basis," Putin said. According to the Russian leader, "at present, the Russian Federation has taken full control of the Luhansk People's Republic - 100%.

Puri Holds Talks With Venezuela's Acting President, Reaffirms Strategic Energy Partnership

Washington, June 5: Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri held discussions with Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Elovera Rodriguez Gomez in New Delhi, reaffirming India's commitment to strengthening energy cooperation with the South American nation amid ongoing geopolitical disruptions affecting global oil markets. The meeting, held on June 4, was attended by senior officials from the

Petroleum Ministry and chairpersons of major public sector oil companies. Both sides explored opportunities to build a long-term and resilient energy partnership covering trade, investment and cooperation across the oil and gas sector. During the talks, Puri emphasized that India and Venezuela share a natural partnership based on decades of friendly relations and complementary energy interests. He reiterated India's support for Venezuela's efforts to revive and expand its energy sector and said Indian companies were prepared to deepen their engagement in the country. The minister highlighted Venezuela's growing importance in India's energy diversification strategy, particularly at a time when global crude supplies have been disrupted by geopolitical tensions and supply-chain uncertainties. He expressed India's interest in expanding energy trade and strengthening collaboration.



CPCO J&K, Ladakh visits Budgam

Chairs Review Meeting on ongoing Census Operations in district

BUDGAM, JUNE 05: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, along with Deputy Commissioner Budgam (Principal Census Officer Budgam), Athar Amir Khan, chaired a review meeting at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, Budgam, to assess the preparedness and progress of the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO) being conducted from June 1 to June 30, 2026, as part of the Census exercise. At the outset, the District Census Officer and Additional Deputy



Commissioner Budgam, Mehraj-Ud-Din Shah, briefed the chair on the district's geographical profile, preparedness for Census 2027, and the arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of the ongoing House Listing Operations. He also highlighted the training pro-

grammes being conducted for census personnel across the district and apprised the chair of the district administrator's readiness for the Census exercise. The Deputy Commissioner informed the meeting that all necessary administrative and logistical arrangements have been made to

ensure the smooth conduct of Census-related activities across the district. He emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders and reiterated the district administration's commitment to ensuring comprehensive coverage and high-quality data collection during the enumeration process. He also directed all field-level officers to extend full support to census personnel and ensure strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on ensuring comprehensive coverage of all households, including migratory populations, and

ADC Budgam chairs District Level Telecom Committee Meeting

BUDGAM, JUNE 05: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah, chaired the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) meeting to review the progress of key telecom infrastructure projects and address issues affecting digital connectivity across the district. During the meeting, a detailed review of the 4G Saturation Project was conducted, with discussions focusing on the identification of additional unserved and underserved locations. The ADC directed the concerned officers to expedite the process to ensure improved mobile connec-



tion in all eligible areas. The committee also discussed site-specific issues, including those related to the Zinpanchal site, and directed the concerned revenue authorities to take necessary steps for their early resolution. The status of 4G towers established on land already transferred for telecom purposes across 23 locations in the district was also reviewed. Progress under the Bharanet Project was assessed, with officials apprising the chair about ongoing works aimed at strengthening broadband connectivity in rural areas.

SWD Srinagar organized Facilitation Camp on Financial Literacy under BBBP

SRINAGAR, JUNE 05: In an effort to promote financial awareness and empower beneficiaries with essential financial knowledge, Social Welfare Department (SWD)-SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar organized a one-day Financial Literacy Facilitation Camp at Kawdara Srinagar under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative. The camp witnessed active participation from beneficiaries of various social welfare schemes, women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and members of the general public. The programme aimed to educate participants about prudent financial management, savings, banking ser-

vices, digital payment systems, government-sponsored financial inclusion initiatives, and protection against financial frauds. During the camp, the staff of SANKALP-HFW Srinagar delivered informative sessions on financial planning, responsible borrowing, digital banking, cyber security, and the benefits of various government welfare and insurance schemes. Participants were also provided guidance on opening bank accounts, accessing social security benefits, and utilizing digital financial services safely and effectively. Speaking on the occasion, the staff of SANKALP-HFW Srinagar emphasized the importance

of financial literacy in enhancing economic self-reliance and informed decision-making, highlighting that financial awareness plays a crucial role in ensuring that beneficiaries are able to effectively utilize welfare benefits and participate in the formal financial system. The participants appreciated the initiative and clarified their queries related to banking, savings, investment, and government welfare schemes. The District Social Welfare Officer Srinagar reiterated its commitment to conducting such awareness programmes in the future to promote financial inclusion and strengthen the socio-economic well-being of vulnerable sections of the society.

"Trash to Treasure" Exhibition organized at GCOE Srinagar on World Environment Day 2026

SRINAGAR, JUNE 05: Government College of Education, Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (GCOE-IASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar, organized a "Trash to Treasure" Exhibition on the occasion of World Environment Day 2026. The event was jointly organized by the Department of Environmental Sciences (EVS) and the NSS Units of the college at the Front Park. The exhibition featured innovative and creative items prepared by B.Ed. 1st Semester and UG 4th Semester students using waste and discarded materials. Through their exhibits, the students highlighted the importance of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and sustainable



living practices. Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Principal GCOE-IASE Srinagar, visited the exhibition stalls and interacted with the participating students. She highly appreciated their creativity, inno-

vation, and commitment to environmental conservation. Emphasizing the importance of sustainable living, she encouraged students to adopt eco-friendly practices in their daily lives and to become responsible

ambassadors of environmental protection within their communities. She also commended the efforts of the Department of Environmental Studies and NSS Units for organizing the exhibition and providing students with a meaningful platform to showcase their talents while promoting environmental awareness. The event aimed to promote environmental awareness and encourage eco-friendly practices among the college community. It also served as a platform for students to demonstrate how waste materials can be transformed into useful and artistic products, reinforcing the message of responsible resource management and sustainability. The exhibition received an enthusiastic response from students and faculty members and successfully conveyed the significance of environmental stewardship, responsible waste management, and sustainable living. Among the faculty members present on the occasion were Dr. Altaf Shah Syed (NSS Programme Officer), Dr. Shawana Manzoor (Department of Environmental Studies), Dr. Ab. Gani Kumar (Department of Urdu), Dr. Lateef Shah (Department of Education), Dr. Abdul Rashid (Department of History), Dr. Irfat Khan (Department of Psychology), Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Dar (Department of Geography).

Shopian Administration organises multifaceted awareness activities under 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan'

SHOPIAN, JUNE 05: In a major push to foster responsibility among the youth, a series of comprehensive, high-impact activities were organized across multiple educational campuses and public areas in District Shopian under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan (NMJKA). The extensive campaign witnessed overwhelming, enthusiastic participation from students, faculty and the public across major focal points including GDC Shopian, GDC Zainapora and Government Polytechnic College Shopian. At GDC Shopian, a vibrant multi-activity programme



was held successfully aligning the fight against drug addiction with ecological responsibility. Organized under the supervision of the Principal, Prof. Tariq Hussain Mir, the institution conducted multiple events simultaneously. Pledge Programme was organized where students and staff solemnly swore to keep their campus and

society drug-free and essay writing competition giving a platform to creative and analytical student perspectives on tackling addiction. Simultaneously, GDC Zainapora and Government Polytechnic College Shopian served as another place for youth mobilization. Faculty members at these higher education institutions sensitized hundreds of young students on the socio-economic consequences of substance abuse. Interactive seminars focused on recognizing the early signs of addiction, promoting mental wellness and reinforcing healthy peer networks. Students proactively pledged to act

as community ambassadors of change to keep their environments clean and healthy. Taking the anti-drug campaign directly to the grassroots level, a public outreach and mass sensitization drive was held at Bongam Shopian. Local shopkeepers, youth groups and community elders actively participated in localized awareness sessions. Informational materials detailing helpline numbers, rehabilitation options and counseling systems were distributed to ensure a robust community-driven defense framework against drug peddling and abuse.

DLSA Shopian organizes plantation drive on World Environmental Day

SHOPIAN, JUNE 05: On the occasion of World Environment Day, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian, in collaboration with the Forest Department Shopian today organized a plantation drive at the District Court Complex, Shopian. The drive was inaugurated by Mehmoed Ahmad Chowdhury, Principal District and Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Shopian in presence of Qamar Rashid Khan, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Shopian. Judicial and administrative officers including Riyaz Ahmad Chowdhury, Chief Judicial



Magistrate/Sub-Judge, Shopian, Mohd Wassem Mirza, Judicial Magistrate 1st Class / Munsiff, Rameen Rashid Khan, Additional Mobile Magistrate, Shopian, Rafie Ahmad Gamie, Chief LADC, Shopian, all Lawyers (PLVs), LADCs, LADC staff and DLSA staff were also present, reflecting strong collective participation.

JKAACL organises Punjabi Kavi Darbar at Attina Beerwah

SRINAGAR, JUNE 05: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) today organised a Punjabi Kavi Darbar at Attina, Beerwah, Budgam, with the active participation of local literary enthusiasts and members of the younger generation. The programme was attended by Popinder Singh Paras, Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, S. Prehlad Singh, Master T.P. Singh, and other distinguished guests. A large number of Punjabi-speaking residents of the area also participated in the event. Welcoming the gathering, S. Prehlad Singh, a prominent social and literary figure, appreciated JKAACL for organising a literary programme in the rural area of Attina. He empha-



sized the importance of such initiatives in promoting Punjabi language, literature, and cultural heritage among the younger generation. In his address, Popinder Singh Paras highlighted the Academy's sustained efforts to promote Punjabi literature and culture across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the remote areas of the Kashmir Division. He stated that the Academy is committed to organising literary and cultural pro-

World Environment Day: DLSA Budgam conducts series of Awareness Programmes

BUDGAM, JUNE 05: As per plan of action for the month of June 2026 issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority Budgam in coordination with Vitasta Law College, Nowgam Srinagar organized series of awareness programmes on World Environment Day. The programme was conducted under the guidance of O.P. Baghat, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Budgam and under the supervision of Tabassum Qadir Parry, Secretary DLSA Budgam. In further observance of World Environment Day, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam in collaboration with Vitasta Law College



Nowgam, Srinagar organized an awareness programme in the conference hall of Vitasta College. At the outset of the conclusion of the programme plantation drive also took place in which number of plant saplings were planted at various spots of college

ground. The saplings were planted by Secretary DLSA Budgam followed by the staff and Defense Counsel along with the pro-bono lawyer of DLSA Srinagar. The students, faculty members, and legal professionals participated in the programme enthusi-

astically. The programme highlighted the significance of environmental preservation and the collective responsibility of citizens in safeguarding natural resources for future generations. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary DLSA Budgam highlighted the importance of celebration of World Environment Day. In her speech she further emphasized upon the attendees to consider prime responsibility for the planting plant saplings for the safeguarding of the environment. The other speakers along with the Deputy LADC Srinagar and pro-bono lawyer of DLSA Srinagar also spoke of the occasion and briefed the audience about the disadvantages of land degradation and soil erosion. Simultaneously, a programme was also conducted at ADR Centre Budgam wherein in Chief LADC, DLSA Budgam spoke on the occasion. It is worth to mention here that Chairpersons Tehsil Legal Services Committees Budgam organized various legal awareness programme on the occasion and conducted plantation drives in their respective jurisdictions as well. The events witnessed active participation from members of the legal fraternity, students, community representatives, PLVs and general public. The programme was also carried out by the Legal Aid Clinics and Legal Literacy Clubs of DLSA Budgam.



Lieutenant Governor Inaugurates Yatri Bhawan at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple

SRINAGAR, JUNE 5: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today inaugurated Yatri Bhawan at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple, Tulmulla, Ganderbal. After dedicating the facilities to the public, the Lieutenant Governor said that the new Yatri Bhawan will substantially improve the pilgrimage experience at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple by providing safe, hygienic and comfortable accommodation facilities.



Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmulla is one of the most revered shrines in Jammu Kashmir. Located approximately 25 km from Srinagar and 5 km from Ganderbal town, the shrine attracts a large number of devotees throughout the year, particularly during the annual Mela Kheer Bhawani and Jyeshtha Ashtami, when thousands of pilgrims, including members of the Kashmiri Pandit community, visit the temple. In 2023, several delegations met the Lieutenant Governor to request a Yatri Bhawan. Subsequently, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj through Rural Engineering Wing (REW) designed the plan and the Lieutenant Governor laid the foundation stone in 2024. "With Mata Kheer Bhawani's blessing, I had laid the foundation stone on Jyeshtha Ashtami in 2024. The project will enhance the capacity of the shrine to host pilgrims visiting from India and abroad. My goal has been to provide the Kashmiri Pandit community visiting the shrine with excellent facilities and a serene spiritual experience," the Lieutenant Governor said. The facility constructed within the temple premises at a cost of Rs.3.85 Crore comprises a G+H RCC framed structure with a plinth area of 3,885 sq. ft. and is designed to accommodate approximately 800-900 pilgrims through floor bedding arrangements. Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor paid obsequies at Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple and prayed for peace, prosperity and the well-being of all.

degradation. Reaffirming the Government's commitment on World Environment Day, the Chief Minister highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable development as key priorities of government. He called upon all citizens to actively participate in the collective mission of preserving natural heritage and building a greener, cleaner, healthier, and more climate-resilient Jammu and Kashmir for future generations.

CM Omar plants sapling at J&K House New Delhi on World Environment Day

Reaffirms commitment to greener, cleaner, climate-resilient J&K

NEW DELHI, JUNE 05: On the occasion of World Environment Day, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah planted a sapling at Jammu & Kashmir House, New Delhi, marking the Government's continued commitment to environmental sustainability and green development. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that every tree planted today is an investment in cleaner air, healthier communities, and a more resilient tomorrow. He emphasized that such efforts, though symbolic, carry long-term significance in addressing the challenges of climate change and environmental



degradation. Reaffirming the Government's commitment on World Environment Day, the Chief Minister highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable development as key priorities of government. He called upon all citizens to actively participate in the collective mission of preserving natural heritage and building a greener, cleaner, healthier, and more climate-resilient Jammu and Kashmir for future generations.

CS reviews preparations for NEET (UG) re-examination

Directs foolproof arrangements across J&K

SRINAGAR, JUNE 05: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting to review and finalize foolproof arrangements for the smooth, secure and transparent conduct of the NEET (UG) re-examination scheduled to be held on June 21, 2026, across Jammu and Kashmir.



The meeting was attended by Director General, National Testing Agency (NTA); Principal Secretary, Home; ADGP, Law & Order; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department; Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; IGP Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir, besides other senior officers.

Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police from all districts participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the need for meticulous planning and seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments to ensure the examination is conducted in a fair, transparent and secure manner. He directed the concerned authorities to prepare a comprehensive checklist of all arrangements and activities required for the successful conduct of the examination.

Emphasising accountability at the district level, Dulloo instructed the Deputy Commissioners to personally supervise the preparations in their respective districts in close coordination with the Police Department and the NTA-designated City Coordinators. He stressed that examination centres should, as far as possible, be established in government educational institutions and be thoroughly inspected well in advance of the examination date.

The DG further directed the district administrations to ensure the availability and functionality of CCTV surveillance systems, mobile jammers, uninterrupted power supply with backup arrangements, drinking water facilities and other essential amenities at every examination centre.

He also reviewed district-wise preparedness and sought detailed inputs from the Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners regarding the number of examination centres, candidates appearing and the arrangements being put in place within their jurisdictions.

Earlier, Director General, NTA, Abhishek Singh, briefed the meeting about the comprehensive and technology-driven measures being adopted to ensure the conduct of the examination in an exceptionally fair, transparent and efficient manner.

He stressed the need to effectively curb rumour-mongering on social media and other platforms, directing the concerned authorities to take proactive measures against the dissemination of any misleading or unverified information that could adversely impact the interests and morale of the aspirants.

The DG further informed that the inspection of all examination centres is scheduled to be completed by June 14. He also highlighted the constitution of State Level Coordination Committees (SLCCs) headed by senior officers and District Level Coordination Committees under the respective District Magistrates for effective monitoring and coordination.

Government Reaffirms Citizen-Centric Governance as CM's Advisor Meets Diverse Public Delegations

Delegations call on Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani who assures proper and effective resolution of all genuine grievances

SRINAGAR, JUNE 05, 2026: In line with the government's commitment to responsive, transparent, and people-first governance, a number of public delegations today visited the Chief Minister's Public Services and Outreach Office (Rabita) to present their concerns. The delegations met with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir

Association, the Jhelum Riverside House Rehabilitation Union, the Radio Taxi Drivers Association, delegations of young students, and various employee groups, alongside other civil society members. The visiting delegations apprised the Advisor of their respective issues, seeking institutional intervention for timely redressal. The Advisor to Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations, noting down the specific issues and assuring timely resolution of the concerns raised during the interactions.

DC Kathua reviews implementation of PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana

Directs departments to intensify registration drive for eligible unorganised workers



KATHUA, JUNE 05: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Kumar today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of registrations under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana and review measures to maximize coverage of eligible persons across the district. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) is a union government-backed voluntary pension scheme for workers in the unorganized sector. It provides a guaran-

teed monthly pension of ₹3,000 to eligible workers upon reaching the age of 60, along with family pension benefits for their spouse in the event of death. At the outset, Assistant Labour Commissioner Piyusha Khajuria briefed the meeting on the registration status and progress achieved under the scheme.

The meeting reviewed the enrollment of unorganised sector workers under the pension scheme and discussed strategies for ensuring wider coverage of eli-

gible beneficiaries in the 18-40 years age group. Emphasising the importance of social security for unorganised workers, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to intensify awareness and registration drives and ensure saturation of eligible beneficiaries. He stressed coordinated field-level efforts to maximise enrollment under the scheme. The Deputy Commissioner directed the respective departments to facilitate registration of Anganwadi workers and

helpers, eligible industrial workers, drivers, cleaners and other transport sector workers.

He further instructed the Assistant Commissioner Development to ensure coverage of MGNREGA workers, while the Health and School Education Departments were asked to facilitate enrolment of ASHA and Mid-Day Meal workers, respectively. The Handicrafts, Handloom and NRLM functionaries were also directed to identify and register eligible artisans, weavers and self-help group members.

The Deputy Commissioner called upon all stakeholders to work in mission mode for achieving maximum coverage. He also directed the concerned officers to regularly monitor progress and submit periodic reports on registrations achieved in their respective sectors.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

EXTREME HEAT / HEATWAVE

STAY COOL. STAY HYDRATED. STAY SAFE.

FOR GENERAL POPULATION

- STAY HYDRATED:** Drink water regularly
- STAY COVERED:** Wear light clothes, cover your head & wear footwear
- STAY ALERT:** Stay updated on weather news
- STAY INDOORS:** Stay in cool, well-ventilated places
- LIMIT OUTDOOR ACTIVITY:** Avoid outdoor activity during peak heat hours

BE CAREFUL - VULNERABLE GROUPS

- Infants & young children
- Pregnant women
- People working outdoors
- Elderly & people with illness
- People from cooler climate

WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS OF HEAT STRESS

- Dizziness
- Thirst
- Nausea
- Rapid heartbeat

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES ARE PREVENTABLE

- Drink fluids
- Rest in shade
- Seek help early

HEATSTROKE IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY!

DANGER SIGNS - SEEK IMMEDIATE HELP

- Confusion
- Hot, red & dry skin
- Fainting
- Very high body temperature

CALL 108 / 102 IMMEDIATELY

WHILE WAITING FOR HELP

- Move to a cool place
- Apply cool water
- Fan the person

Issued in Public Interest by
State Surveillance Unit, IDSP
Directorate of Health Services Jammu
#BeatTheHeat #HeatwaveAlert

National Programme on Control of Emerging Zoonotic Infections
DHP/3223/26
SEND DATE: JUN 5 2026

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