

# North in News

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## No Safe Heaven For Cross-Border Smugglers, Peddlers Or Terror Financiers In J&K: LG

JAMMU JUNE 6: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday led a massive padyatra in Kishtwar as the ongoing drug-free J&K campaign reached its 9th district, reaffirming the administration's commitment to eliminating drug abuse and narco-terrorism from the Union Territory. The Lieutenant Governor said the fight against drugs is a long-term battle that requires sustained, round-the-clock efforts and collective participation. Addressing a public rally in Kishtwar, the Lieutenant Governor said authorities were breaking the chain of the drug trade at every level and vowed stringent action against drug smugglers and narco-terrorists. "We are breaking the



every narco-terrorist and permanently dismantling their networks," Sinha said. He said that during the last 56 days, people from all walks of life

had participated in the campaign across Jammu and Kashmir, sharing the pain of affected families and inspiring youth to stay away from drugs. "Our goal is to foster a grassroots resistance against drug abuse and end narco-terrorism," he said. The Lieutenant Governor, who launched the campaign on April 11, noted that it had now covered 19 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, strengthening public resolve to eradicate drugs from villages and towns. "For 56 days, I have pursued a single mission of eliminating every drug smuggler and narco-terrorist from this land. Narco-terrorists and drug smugglers, whether in Pulwama or Ramban, Kulgam or Kishtwar,

(Contd on Pg 2)

## PM chairs meet with members of Economic Advisory Council amid West Asia crisis



New Delhi, June Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday chaired a meeting of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PM-EAC), where members deliberated on strategies to sustain India's economic momentum amid growing global uncertainties and geopolitical tensions. According to sources, the meeting focused on a range of ideas and policy measures aimed at strengthening economic growth, enhancing resilience against external shocks and accelerating reforms to improve both ease of living and ease of doing business in the country. Members of the council reviewed the evolving global economic landscape and assessed the potential implications of the ongoing conflict in West Asia on India and the

(Contd on Pg 2)

## UNSC Membership Huge Responsibility, Not Forum For Peddling Biased, False Narratives: India Slams Pakistan

United Nations, Jun 6: India has slammed Pakistan for its "unwarranted reference" to Jammu and Kashmir at the UN, telling the current non-permanent member of the global body that it was a huge responsibility and not a forum for peddling "biased and false narratives". "The unwarranted reference by Pakistan to a matter strictly internal to India, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, has compelled me to respond," India's Permanent Representative



to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said on Friday. The strong rebuff by Harish came after Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad raised the issue of

Jammu and Kashmir in his remarks in the UN General Assembly on Friday on the 'Annual Report of the Security Council'. Pakistan, which constantly raises the issue of Jammu and Kashmir as well as other topics internal to India at various UN platforms, currently sits in the Security Council as a non-permanent member and its tenure will end this year. Harish said in the UNGA hall that Pakistan has decided not to spare this forum either for their

(Contd on Pg 2)

## Ladakh Records Over 43% rise in tourist arrivals in 2026, May sees over 121% Growth: LG

LEH/JAMMU, Jun 6: Ladakh has witnessed a historic surge in tourist arrivals this year, recording a growth of more than 43 per cent during the first five months of 2026, a development that authorities attributed to improved infrastructure, better connectivity and sustained efforts to promote the Union Territory as a premier tourism destination. Known as the "cold desert", Ladakh remains one of India's most sought-after tourist destinations, famed for its dramatic landscapes, pristine lakes, ancient monasteries and adventure



tourism. The region is often cut off from the rest of the country

during the winter months due to heavy snowfall that blocks the Srinagar-Leh and Manali-Leh highways. Sharing the figures on the social media platform X, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh V K Saxena said the region registered a remarkable increase in visitor numbers, reflecting the success of initiatives aimed at boosting tourism in the high-altitude Himalayan destination. "Delighted to share that Ladakh has witnessed a historic surge in tourist arrivals this year, reflecting

(Contd on Pg 2)

### BRIEF NEWS

#### Anti-Terror Operation Enters Fourteenth Day

RAJOURI, JUN 6: A joint anti-terror operation by the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and CRPF has entered its fourteenth day in the dense forests of Gambhir Mughlan and Dormal in the Manjokote sector of Rajouri district. Security forces are continuing to track suspected terrorists believed to be hiding in the region. The security forces were seen checking the ID cards of travellers and locals, conducting intensive search operations in the region. The operation, codenamed Operation Sheruwall, was launched following intelligence inputs indicating the presence of suspected terrorists in the region. Officials said the move aims to trap the suspects

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#### Properties Worth Rs 3.5 Crore Of Alleged Drug Peddlers attached

SRINAGAR, JUN 6: Properties worth approximately Rs 3.5 crore belonging to two alleged drug peddlers were attached in Srinagar, police said on Saturday. The action is part of the police's ongoing crackdown on drug trafficking and efforts to target assets allegedly acquired through proceeds of the narcotics trade under the 'Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan', a police spokesman said. In the first case, Nigen police station attached an immovable property worth approximately Rs 1.30 crore under Section 68(F)(1) of the NDPS Act, he said. The attached property comprises a

(Contd on Pg 2)

#### Sanctions threat to India would 'Boomerang' under PM Modi's Leadership: Putin

ST PETERSBURG, Jun 6: Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that any attempt to undermine India's sovereignty through "threats of sanctions" would "boomerang immediately" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Putin made these remarks at the annual St Petersburg International Economic Forum on Friday in response to a question about his comments during an interaction with heads of leading global news agencies, including PTL, on Thursday

night. "India always acts as a sovereign country, and under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, any potential threats of sanctions would boomerang immediately," Putin said. "I know PM Modi will be in close talks with Prime Minister Modi for a long period, while recalling the time when the Indian leader was banned from entering the United States. "I know PM Modi will never forget about it," Putin said. "Now that he is (the) prime minister, all the

(Contd on Pg 2)

#### Katra-Bound Coach Develops Crack, Partially Separates At Ludhiana; No Injuries

LUDHIANA, Jun 6: A sleeper coach of the Delhi Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Special train developed a crack and partially separated near the toilet area shortly after the train began moving from the Ludhiana railway station on Saturday, triggering panic among passengers. The S-2 coach of the train suffered a structural failure causing a portion near the toilets to cave in, officials said. Toilet fittings including seats, fell onto the tracks as the coach body gave way, officials said. No passenger was hurt in the incident, they said. Passengers said they felt a sudden and violent jolt as the train started moving, prompting fears of derailment, following which several people rushed out immediately. Railway officials and emergency teams reached the spot, evacuated passengers from the affected coach and detached it from the train. Ludhiana Station Director Aditya said a replacement coach was attached to the train, allowing it to resume its journey to Katra without significant delay. Railways has ordered a detailed inquiry into the incident to ascertain the cause of the structural failure. Deputy

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#### J&K Govt Files Review Petition in Supreme Court over TET Issue, Says Sakina Itoo

SRINAGAR, Jun 6: Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Education Sakina Itoo on Saturday said that the government has filed a review petition before the Supreme Court regarding the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) issue concerning J&K teachers. In a post on X, Itoo said, "As committed, the review petition has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Government has consistently pursued this matter and remains fully committed to safeguarding the interests of our teachers." As per news agency JKNS, the minister had last month stated that the government had acted responsibly and proactively on the issue and had taken concrete steps to protect the interests of teachers. She

had informed that the government had accorded sanction for filing a review petition before the Supreme Court and that the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, through a communication dated May 26, 2026, had directed its Standing Counsel to initiate the necessary legal proceedings.

The minister had further stated that the review petition had been prepared and would be filed before the Supreme Court within a week. Reiterating the government's stand, Itoo said the administration remains committed to pursuing all available legal remedies to safeguard the interests of teachers affected by the issue.

#### Half Knowledge Dangerous, NFHS-6 Reflects Healthcare Transformation: Nadda Hits Back At Kharge

NEW DELHI, Jun 6: Union Health Minister J P Nadda hit back at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday over his criticism of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 findings, saying "half-knowledge is dangerous" and asserting that the latest data reflects significant improvements in India's healthcare indicators under the Modi government. The remarks came after Kharge, in a social media post two days ago, alleged that the

NFHS-6 data has exposed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government's "absolute incompetence" and accused it of deliberately hiding crucial data that brings to light its failures in healthcare and nutrition. Responding to the Congress chief's remarks, Nadda accused him of selectively reading the survey findings for political purposes and said the data demonstrates the "remarkable transformation" in India's health

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## CS reviews progress of health sector reforms in J&K

### Calls for expansion of trauma, emergency and critical care services across health institutions



SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress achieved under the Health Sector Reforms being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir over the past couple of years. The meeting examined reforms aimed at strengthening tertiary and secondary healthcare services, expanding medical education, enhancing digital health infrastructure and improving access to specialized treatment facilities across the healthcare facilities of the Union Territory. The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education was attended by Director, SKIMS; MD, NHM; CEO, SHA; Principals of Government Medical Colleges; Director Health, Kashmir/Jammu representatives from Jammu, SMVDIME and other senior officers associated with the healthcare sector. During the review, the Chief Secretary was apprised of the significant strides made in establishing collaborative institutional frameworks among Government Medical Colleges, SKIMS, AIMS Jammu and other health

established Government Medical Colleges alone. He called for inclusion of District Hospitals and Sub-District Hospitals, particularly in those areas where no Government Medical College exists, so that healthcare upgrade reaches all regions of the Union Territory in a balanced and equitable manner. He observed that future interventions should be planned according to the strengths, requirements and service potential of each health institution. The Chief Secretary assured the department of full administrative and financial support for viable and impactful healthcare initiatives and encouraged the officers to proactively formulate innovative proposals aimed at improving patient care, medical education and healthcare

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## FROM PAGE ONE

## No Safe...

must understand that there will be no mercy for those who ruin the future of our young generation," he said. Referring to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sinha said there would be no leniency towards narco-terrorists, while individuals seeking to overcome addiction would continue to receive support and rehabilitation.

"We are ensuring that drug addicts who seek a path to recovery are provided all possible assistance and brought back into the mainstream with compassion and dignity. But compassion cannot be wasted on narco-terrorists who profit from others' ruin," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the 100-day Drug-Free J&K Campaign was only the beginning of a larger and sustained effort against the menace.

"It is a war of years, not a battle of weeks. Victory demands a unified, round-the-clock commitment. By mobilising a whole-of-society approach, we will ensure that Jammu and Kashmir's soil is completely cleared of drug smugglers and peddlers," he said.

He said that the people from different walks of life reaffirmed their commitment to building a drug-free society and combating the menace of narcotics across the Union Territory.

"Today, as the drug-free J&K campaign culminates in a massive padayatra in Kishtwar, citizens have resoundingly reaffirmed their commitment to the cause. Our goal is to foster a grassroots resistance against drug abuse and end narco-terrorism," Sinha said.

Making an appeal from the "sacred land of Kishtwar", the Lieutenant Governor said Jammu and Kashmir is strongest when its people stand united against drugs and work collectively for hope, change and a better future.

"Every voice matters, every action counts and together we can create a safer and healthier Union Territory," he said. Sinha said the administration came at a time when the government is campaigning into communities by empowering citizens to identify early signs of addiction and intervene in time.

He lauded the role of teachers, Panchayat Mahila Samitis, religious leaders and civil society organisations in strengthening the movement and safeguarding the future of the youth.

"This is a defining moment for the future of our children. The people have spoken with one voice that narco-terrorists must be driven from this land," he added.

He said that during the past 56 days, authorities had registered 1,026 FIRs, arrested 1,128 drug smugglers, attached more than 100 properties linked to smugglers, cancelled nearly 700 driving licences and recommended cancellation of passports of 130 accused drug traffickers.

## PM chairs...

wider world economy. Discussions covered the possible impact of geopolitical instability on energy markets, supply chains, inflationary pressures and global trade flows, all of which have emerged as key concerns for policymakers across the world.

The deliberations came at a time when the government is closely monitoring developments in the region amid heightened uncertainty over energy supplies and their potential effect on major importing nations, including India. The council also discussed measures that could help strengthen domestic economic activity, support investment, boost productivity and create a more conducive environment for businesses.

Reforms aimed at reducing compliance burdens, improving service delivery and enhancing citizens' quality of life were among the issues taken up during the meeting. The discussions assume significance against the backdrop of Prime Minister Modi's recent remarks warning that the world is passing through a period of unprecedented challenges.

Addressing a gathering in Surat on World Environment Day on Friday, the Prime Minister had described the current decade as increasingly becoming a 'decade of disasters', marked by successive global crises ranging from the Covid-19 pandemic and armed conflicts to disruptions in energy markets and supply chains.

The PM had noted that volatility in fuel prices and stress in global energy supply networks were affecting economic growth in emerging markets.

Despite these challenges, the PM said India had demonstrated resilience through collective national efforts and continued to pursue growth-oriented policies.

PM Modi has also repeatedly underlined the importance of self-reliance in energy and critical sectors, arguing that global disruptions highlight the need to reduce vulnerabilities arising from external dependencies.

He has pointed to investments in energy infrastructure, nuclear power and domestic manufacturing as part of India's long-term strategy to strengthen economic security.

In recent weeks, the government has additionally called for prudent use of resources amid concerns over rising global energy costs.

PM Modi had urged citizens to conserve fuel, make greater use of public transport where possible and contribute to reducing pressure on foreign exchange reserves during a period of global uncertainty. The PM-EAC meeting reflected the government's continued focus on balancing growth with economic stability as international challenges become increasingly complex.

By examining both domestic reforms and external risks, the council sought to identify policy options that could help India maintain growth, support businesses and protect citizens from the adverse effects of global economic turbulence. The meeting concluded with a broad consensus on the need to remain vigilant, pursue reforms and strengthen India's economic fundamentals to navigate an increasingly uncertain global environment while sustaining long-term development objectives.

Asked about the possibility of India facing US sanctions if it were to acquire Russian defence systems such as the Su-57 aircraft or the S-500 air defence platform, Putin said, "India is a sovereign country, and it is free to choose those products that they consider to be most up to date and most applicable for them and obviously offering the best price. No matter what people say, India has always been acting in this manner." "India is always guided by its national interests," he added.

Putin said that Russia's cooperation with India, just like with all other partners, is not subject to the political environment.

"We can't be dictated... Nobody can dictate to us, and nobody would even try to do that. We are always going to do what we consider to be right, and we will always stand true to the commitments given to partners, especially partners like India," he said.

Highlighting Russia's long-standing relationship with India, especially in the area of defence, Putin said, "Our relations with the Indian friends are specific, thanks to our mutual trust. We concentrate not just on trade. Not just on

said. Making it clear that Jammu and Kashmir was, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India, Harish emphasised that any assertions to the contrary are baseless, devoid of and inconsistent with historical facts.

"Empty rhetoric and hollow claims by Pakistan would not change this fundamental reality. In the interest of time of the wider UN membership, I would not delve any further into this," he said.

The Indian envoy also pointed out that the international community recognises the importance of reform of the Security Council to make it fit-for-purpose to handle contemporary and future challenges we face.

"The current structure reflects geopolitical realities of 1945. Retaining the status quo has so far not enabled effective functioning of the Security Council and cannot do so in future," he said.

He noted that the "marginal" reform in the 1960s that expanded only the non-permanent category has not changed the fundamental mode of functioning of the Security Council in any impactful manner.

"Expansion of both permanent and non-permanent categories is central to implementing real and meaningful reform," he said.

The G4 nations of India, Brazil, Germany and Japan have proposed that Security Council membership needs to be increased from the current 15 to 25 or 26, with a reformed Council consisting of 11 permanent members and 14 or 15 non-permanent members.

Currently, the powerful UN organ consists of five veto-wielding permanent members — China, France, Russia, the UK and the US.

The remaining 10 members are elected to sit at the horseshoe table for two-year terms as non-permanent members. India last sat in the Council as a non-permanent member in 2021-22.

## Ladakh...

the success of our sustained efforts to position Ladakh as a premier tourism destination," the Lieutenant Governor said. According to official data, May 2026 emerged as a landmark month for tourism in Ladakh, registering an unprecedented 121.20 per cent growth with 72,834 tourist arrivals compared to 32,927 visitors during the corresponding month last year.

Between January and May 2026, Ladakh welcomed 1,75,546 tourists against 81,827 during the same period in 2025, marking a year-on-year increase of 43.65 per cent, Saxena said.

Officials said major tourist destinations, including Pangong Lake and Nubra Valley, have witnessed a sharp increase in visitor footfall. Nubra Valley, known for its sand dunes and double-humped Bactrian camels, has remained packed with tourists in recent weeks, while Pangong Lake continues to attract large numbers of visitors.

The Lieutenant Governor attributed the surge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to promote domestic tourism and the administration's efforts to strengthen infrastructure, improve connectivity and diversify tourism experiences across the region.

He said the growth in tourist arrivals has brought renewed optimism among tourism stakeholders and local businesses dependent on the sector. "I sincerely thank all tourists visiting Ladakh and invite people from across the country to experience the confluence of nature, adventure, peace, culture, spirituality, clean air and serene atmosphere in Ladakh," Saxena said.

The revivification after a temporary setback following the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, which affected travel sentiment and led to temporary disruptions, including airspace restrictions and travel advisories by some foreign governments last year.

With the restoration of normalcy, tourists have once again started arriving in large numbers, providing relief to thousands of residents whose livelihoods depend on the tourism industry.

Officials noted that domestic tourism remains strong this year despite global uncertainties, with destinations such as Pangong Lake, Nubra Valley and Khurdung La continuing to receive steady inflows. "Hotels, homestays and tour operators are functioning with high occupancy levels."

Tourism in Ladakh witnessed rapid growth after the success of the Bollywood blockbuster '3 Idiots', parts of which were filmed at Pangong Lake. Improved connectivity, including the opening of the Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh in 2020, has further enhanced year-round access to the region, they said.

From recording just a few hundred visitors when it was opened to tourists in 1970, Ladakh has evolved into one of India's leading travel destinations, attracting more than five lakh tourists annually in recent years.

The boom has significantly contributed to economic growth, employment generation and the expansion of the local service sector, they said.

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buying and selling, we're also concentrating on joint research and development." Putin highlighted how experts from both countries are working on the design of the mid-range missile BrahMos.

On the fifth-generation stealth aircraft Sukhoi Su-57, Putin said Russia had earlier proposed a joint development programme with India, but later pursued the project independently after the plan did not materialise.

"Su-57 is a very good aircraft, probably the most modern one, the most up-to-date in the world as of now," Putin said. "We offered that we should do that together. Well, it didn't work out, but we did it on our own, and we stand ready to sell Su-57." For decades, Russia has served as India's primary defence supplier. However, persistent supply chain disruptions and delivery delays stemming from the war in Ukraine have forced New Delhi to aggressively diversify its military procurement strategy.

After a years-long search for a fifth-generation fighter jet, India has launched its ambitious Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) project, widely regarded as the nation's largest indigenous aerospace programme.

As the aircraft under the AMCA project is unlikely to join the Indian Air Force (IAF) before 2035, the government is considering the procurement of at least two squadrons (around 36) of Su-57s, provided they fulfil the technical specifications.

## Half...

ecosystem under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Sri Kharage ji's half-knowledge is dangerous. Public health is too important to be reduced to political rhetoric. Selective reading may serve politics, but facts serve the nation," Nadra said in a post on X.

Child stunting, a key maternal and healthcare indicators since NFHS-3 (2005-06), he said first-trimester antenatal registration rose from 43.9 per cent to 76.2 per cent, institutional deliveries increased from 38.7 per cent to 90.6 per cent and births attended by skilled health personnel climbed from 46.6 per cent to 91.3 per cent.

The minister said the gains reflect better access to healthcare services for women across the country.

He said the latest survey reflects and improved quality of life. NFHS-6 is not merely a set of statistics — it is evidence of the transformative outcomes achieved through sustained policy action and effective implementation," Nadra said.

In a third post, the health minister accused the Congress of ignoring the shortcomings of previous governments and being a transformative great. Fact matter. Outcomes matter. NFHS-6 speaks for itself," he said.

In a post on X on Thursday, Kharage had said the "absolute incompetence" of the BJP has been unmasked by the NFHS-6 data.

"BJP's five-step formula to hide its sins is to bury selected data, abandon the vulnerable, advertise 'Sabka Saath' and 'Amrit Kaal', manipulate the narrative and protect Modi ji's PR at all costs," he said.

The Congress chief claimed that the data showed one in five children suffers from acute malnutrition and one-third of India's children are underweight. "More than 84 per cent of children aged 6 to 23 months do not receive adequate nutrition, while 57 per cent of women between 15 and 49 years are anaemic as per NFHS-5. One in five women is undernourished," he said.

While acknowledging that challenges remain, Nadra said the BJP-led government continues to address those with urgency, but dismissing the progress recorded in the survey does a disservice to the efforts of health workers and beneficiaries who have contributed to the improvements.

"But denying progress does a disservice to the millions of frontline health workers and beneficiaries who have driven this transformative great. Fact matter. Outcomes matter. NFHS-6 speaks for itself," he said.

The Chief Secretary further advised the department to establish a clearly defined Roles, Responsibilities and Accountability Framework across healthcare institutions so that responsibilities at every level are well delineated and measurable. He stressed the need for instituting a robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Mechanism supported by information technology platforms to facilitate real-time assessment of healthcare services, patient utilization patterns and institutional performance across the Union Territory.

Calling for a forward-looking approach, the Chief Secretary directed the Health & Medical Education Department to identify measurable milestones and targets for the next six months, one year and two years in the areas of healthcare services, medical education and research.

He also emphasized the need for making concerted efforts towards enhancement of MBBS, postgraduate and super-specialty seats across medical colleges to ensure optimal utilization of the infrastructure and human resources created under the health sector reforms programme.

Regarding the expansion of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education the Commissioner Secretary, H&ME, M.Raju revealed that proposals have been submitted for enhancement of 300 MBBS seats, 243 DM/MS seats, 64 DM/MCh super-specialty seats and additional DNB seats across various medical institutions. He added that several proposals have already undergone inspection and approval processes with the National Medical Commission and other regulatory bodies.

The Commissioner Secretary further apprised that Tele-MANAS and tele-psychiatry services have been made operational in major institutions, while de-addiction and mental health facilities have been significantly expanded. He divulged that a comprehensive Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services delivery framework has also been devised to strengthen prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and community-based support systems throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

It was given out by the Director, SKIMS, Dr Ashraf Ganai that the constitution of the J&K Research Consortium has been constituted at the Institute aimed at promoting collaborative research among SKIMS, premier Medical Colleges and AIIMS Jammu. The consortium is expected to strengthen medical research, innovation and evidence-based policy formulation in the healthcare sector in the days to come, he informed.

Earlier on Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMAVIDE) gave a detailed presentation about several reforms executed across the healthcare facilities of the UT.

He gave out that multiple Virtual Medical Boards have already been conducted in disciplines such as Neurology, Psychiatry, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Anaesthesiology, Surgery and Community Medicine.

Moreover he apprised the meeting that the Tele-ICU facilities are proposed to be established in seven new Government Medical Colleges under a hybrid hub-and-spoke model to strengthen critical care services across the UT.

Similarly, he made out that the process for establishing Tele-Radiology services is underway to ensure timely specialist radiological support to healthcare institutions in remote and underserved areas, he added.

The Head IMHANS Srinagar, Dr Arshid Dada threw light on the roadmap for expansion and augmentation of drug de-addiction services and the efforts made towards training over 3,200 grassroots-level workers under the proposed 'Circle of Care' programme. He elaborated that the initiative aims to create a community-based support network for early identification, counselling, referral and rehabilitation of individuals affected by substance use disorders.

Reviewing the initiatives undertaken in the field of food safety, the Chief Secretary was informed about strengthening of regulatory and enforcement mechanisms, expansion of laboratory infrastructure, capacity building of field staff and enhanced public awareness campaigns.

He was apprised that more than 1,700 food safety cases were adjudicated during the last financial year, resulting in penalties exceeding Rs 1.67 Cr., while significant progress has been achieved towards laboratory modernization and expansion of testing capabilities.

The meeting further deliberated upon upcoming initiatives in the areas of mental health, liver transplant services and strengthening of dental healthcare services. It was informed that collaboration with premier institutions has been initiated to establish advanced liver and biliary care services in Jammu and Kashmir and to further augment specialty healthcare delivery here in the health facilities of the UT.

Emphasizing the need for sustained reforms, the Chief Secretary stressed that the ultimate objective of these reforms should be to provide accessible, affordable and high-quality healthcare services to every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. He underscored the importance of leveraging technology, research, capacity building and institutional collaboration to transform the healthcare landscape of the Union Territory.

**Anti-Terror...**  
within the designated zones while search teams intensify their operations.

**Properties...**  
double-storied residential house along with land at Habbak Crossing in Hazratbal, and belongs to Rahil Manzoor Malla, the spokesman said. In a separate action, Soura police station attached a residential house worth approximately Rs 2.20 crore under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act belonging to Adil Rashid Gudoo, a resident of Keel Khan Gali in Upper Soura, who is allegedly involved in illicit drug trafficking. During the investigation, both properties were identified as assets allegedly acquired through proceeds generated from narcotics trafficking, police said. The properties have been formally attached under the provisions of the NDPS Act. The attachment orders prohibit the owners from selling, transferring, leasing, alienating, altering, disposing of, or creating any third-party interest in the properties pending further.

**CS reviews ...**  
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**Katra-Bound...**  
Superintendent of Police, Government Railway Police, Tejal Singh said preliminary investigation had found no evidence of sabotage.

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## Ashok Koul meets eminent personalities under special outreach programme in Akhnoor

Akhnoor, June 6: Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP accompanied by Prabhari Akhnoor Vinay Gupta, District President Akhnoor Kuldeep Raj Sharma, MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal Bhagat, and former MLA Rajiv Sharma, met and held interactions with eminent personalities as part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's ongoing Special Outreach Campaign, in District Akhnoor.

The interactions witnessed the participation of distinguished citizens including Dr. K. C. Bhagat, Krishan Gupta, Tarsem Gupta, Dr. Surinder Gupta, G. R. Sharma, Mangu Ram Sharma, and Lecturer Vikramjeet Singh, who shared their valuable insights, suggestions, and perspectives on issues concerning public welfare, regional development, education, social progress, and community participation in nation-building.

Ashok Koul, while interacting with the prominent intellectuals,



emphasized that the BJP remains committed to maintaining continuous dialogue with all sections of society to ensure inclusive and participatory development. He said that eminent citizens serve as the intellectual strength of society, and their experience and guidance play a vital role in shaping policies and addressing public concerns effectively. He added that the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is working with the vision of empowering every

section of society and ensuring transparent, accountable, and development-oriented governance. Vinay Gupta said that the outreach campaign is aimed at strengthening communication between the party and respected members of society so that constructive suggestions from the ground can contribute to better governance and public welfare initiatives. Kuldeep Raj Sharma stated that the interaction provided a valuable platform for understanding local

aspirations and concerns. He said that such engagements help in building stronger bonds between the people and public representatives.

Mohan Lal Bhagat said that the BJP government has consistently prioritized development and public welfare, and feedback received from respected citizens will further strengthen efforts towards the holistic development of the region.

Rajiv Sharma said that nation-building is a collective responsibility and the active participation of intellectuals, professionals, and social leaders is essential for achieving sustainable progress and social harmony.

The intellectuals appreciated the initiative and expressed their willingness to contribute towards the development of Akhnoor and the welfare of society. The interaction concluded with a shared commitment to strengthening public participation, good governance, and inclusive development.

## Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh expresses deep anguish over damage to Historic Shri Gadhadar Ji Temple

Calls for immediate restoration and safety measures

Jammu, June 06: Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh, accompanied by Mr. Ashok Sharma, Secretary, J&K Dharmarth Trust, and officials of the Trust, today visited the historic Shri Gadhadar Ji Temple adjoining the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex to assess the damage caused by the recent collapse of a portion of the temple wall.

Expressing deep anguish over the incident, she described it as a matter of serious concern for devotees, heritage lovers and the people of Jammu. The temple, built during the reign of Maharaja Gulab Singh, is a cherished symbol of Jammu's spiritual and cultural heritage and has served as a centre of faith for generations.

The Kunwarani noted with



relief that no casualties were reported despite the fact that hundreds of devotees had visited the temple shortly before the collapse. "It is only by the blessings of Shri Gadhadar Ji that a major tragedy was averted. Hundreds of people had gathered at the temple shortly before the incident. The safety of all present is truly a blessing," she said. During her visit, she observed that the impact of the collapse extended beyond the temple structure itself. The surrounding area, which is home to numerous families, has also suffered damage. She expressed concern over reports of damage to public infrastructure, including water supply lines, and emphasized that the safety of residents living around the temple must be treated as a matter of utmost priority.

## GDC Nowshera Celebrates World Environment Day with Tree Plantation Drive

Nowshera, June 6: Government Degree College (GDC) Nowshera marked World Environment Day with a meaningful tree plantation drive on campus today. The event, organized by the National Service Scheme (NSS) unit, aimed to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices among students and staff.

Principal Prof. Mohd Sadeeq graced the occasion, actively participating in the plantation drive alongside NSS volunteers and faculty members. Saplings of native and fruit-bearing trees were planted across the college premises.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Mohd Sadeeq com-



mended the NSS unit for their commendable efforts in organizing the event. He emphasized the critical role of trees in combating climate change and urged students to adopt eco-friendly habits in their daily lives. "The NSS unit has set a wonderful example of student-led environmental action," said

Professor Sadeeq. "Such initiatives not only beautify our campus but also instill a sense of responsibility towards nature in young minds." The event concluded with a pledge by participants to protect and nurture the newly planted trees, reaffirming the college's commitment to a greener future.

## Eco-Conservation Seminar Marks World Environment Day 2026 at Samba Military Station

Samba, June 6: In a befitting observance of World Environment Day 2026, themed "Inspired by Nature, For Climate, For Our Future," the Chinara Eco Warriors in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department, organised an Eco-Conservation Seminar at the Auditorium, Samba Military Station, on 06 June 2026. The seminar was conducted in close coordination with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Border Security Force (BSF), Jammu & Kashmir Police, Village Defence Guards and other local stakeholders, exemplifying a spirit of inter-agency cooperation and collective commitment towards environmental preservation.

The first keynote speaker, Shri O.P. Vidyarthi, IFS (Retd), former Principal Chief Conservator of



Forests, J&K, Sahitya Akademi Award laureate and renowned Tree Talk Architect, delivered an enlightening discourse on "Medicinal and Heritage Plants of Jammu & Kashmir: Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation." Drawing upon his vast experience, he highlighted the ecological, cultural and therapeutic significance of the region's indigenous flora

and stressed the imperative of conserving this invaluable natural heritage. The second keynote address was delivered by Shri Pradeepchandra P. Wahu, IFS, Conservator of Forests, Jammu East Circle, and a distinguished artist and poet, on the theme "From Awareness to Action: Building a Greener Tomorrow." He eloquently underscored the need to trans-

form environmental consciousness into meaningful action through sustainable practices, community participation and responsible stewardship of natural resources. Addressing the gathering, the Station Commander expressed his sincere gratitude to the distinguished speakers for their insightful deliberations and commended the active participation of all stakeholders. He particularly lauded the exemplary spirit of jointness and synergy displayed by all administrative agencies and uniformed services within the station, which has significantly contributed to advancing environmental initiatives in the region.

The programme concluded with an Environmental Pledge Ceremony, reaffirming the participants' commitment towards ecological conservation.

## Congress questions silence of BJP-RSS over Gadhadar temple damage, seeks white paper on Mubarak Mandi Complex

Jammu, June 06 : Congress has raised serious questions over the silence of BJP-RSS over the issue of massive damage to the historic Gadhadar temple of great religious importance at Mubarak Mandi due to the sheer negligence and unprofessional execution and huge excavations in the complex contrary to the norms for protected monuments. The party has demanded a white paper on the Mubarak Mandi Dogra heritage Complex, the funds spent so far, future planning the agencies involved in the execution with future road map. Addressing a press conference at Rajiv Bhawan PCC HQ Jammu today, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, EX-MLC J.C. HQ Ved Mahajan, Senior Leader & EX-DCC President Th. Manmohan Singh alongwith local leaders Chander Shekhar, Atul Sharma, Ram Magotra, Virinder Kumar



and Pawan Sharma questioned the silence of BJP-RSS over the most important issue of religious sanctity of Hindus and the heritage of Dogras. Two days after the incident, BJP is silent and missing and the local MLA was seen defending officials more than listening to the grievances of the locals and residents of the area, who are hurt and suffering for several years due to mismanagement and poor planning and ruthless execution, said Raman Bhalla. Chief

Spokesperson Mr. Ravinder Sharma raised concern over the destruction and removal of historic Chabutra, the symbol of Lok Adalat during Maharaja rule. How can a declared protected Monument of Dogra identity and culture be dealt with in such a ruthless manner, without sharing any road map or details with the stakeholders and in the absence of experts. The deep digging and excavations adjacent to the over 200 years old temple and buildings

itself is the proof of recklessness and ill-planned execution. They are eyeing the estate and commercial aspects, only instead of achieving the goal of preservation of Dogra heritage. For years the work is going on in the complex and the people in the surroundings are suffering numerous civic, transport and water problems but no one is listening to them and BJP is not bothered except votes, in the name of religious sentiments and Dogras but when comes question of fixing accountability they turn deaf years and shut their eyes. What can be more cruel joke with Dogra heritage and city of temples that is happening with most prestigious heritage in full public view quite in violation of norms. Hence a white paper be issued with full details of spending, funds available, the agencies and contractors involved. The future road map and planning and the condition of the civic amenities.

## Sikhs in J&K suffered due to NC's failure to set up Minority Commission: Khalsa

Jammu, 06 June 2026: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader and former MLC S. Charanjit Singh Khalsa has strongly criticized the National Conference (NC) for what he termed as its continued neglect of the Sikh community during its long years in power in Jammu and Kashmir. He alleged that despite ruling the erstwhile state for the maximum period after Independence, the NC failed to take meaningful steps for the welfare, empowerment and protection of Sikh minorities. S. Charanjit Singh Khalsa said that one of the biggest failures of the National Conference was its inability and unwillingness to establish a Minority Commission in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that despite repeated demands from Sikh organizations



such a commission could have provided. The former MLC further accused the NC of deliberately delaying the effective implementation of the Gurudwara Act. He said that while announcements and assurances were repeatedly made, the Act was never implemented in its true spirit, thereby denying the Sikh community transparent and democratic management of its religious institutions. Highlighting another major concern, Khalsa pointed out that elections to Jammu Kashmir Gurudwara Prabhakar Board has not been conducted for three consecutive terms. He described this as a serious democratic failure and blamed successive NC-led administrations for not ensuring timely elections. Such prolonged delays, he said,

## India's 7.7% GDP growth shatters Rahul Gandhi's 'Dead Economy' propaganda; Congress must apologise to the Nation: Gaurav

Jammu, 06 June 2026: BJP Spokesperson and Convener, International Affairs Department, Gaurav Gupta, today launched a scathing attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party following the release of official GDP figures showing India's economy growing at an impressive 7.7 percent in FY 2025-26 and 7.8 percent in the fourth quarter, asserting that the data has completely demolished the opposition's false and malicious narrative of a "dead economy." Gupta said the latest economic indicators are a resounding endorsement of the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a fitting reply to those who have

consistently attempted to undermine India's achievements for political gains. He said Rahul Gandhi's repeated attempts to portray India as an economically distressed nation have not only been proven wrong but have also exposed the Congress party's disconnect from ground realities and the aspirations of the people. "At a time when the entire world is acknowledging India's rise as a major economic power and growth engine, Rahul Gandhi those to echo narratives that demeaned the country and insulted the hard work of millions of Indians. By endorsing the description of India as a 'dead economy,' he did not attack the government alone; he

insulted Indian entrepreneurs, farmers, workers, professionals, innovators and youth who are driving the nation's progress," Gupta said. He noted that the GDP growth rate of 7.7 percent, which surpasses both last year's growth and earlier estimates, reflects the inherent strength of the Indian economy and the success of transformative reforms undertaken under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. Gupta said the robust expansion in manufacturing, services, investment and consumption demonstrates that India's economic fundamentals remain strong despite global uncertainties, geopolitical tensions and external challenges. Gupta stated that while



Congress leaders were busy spreading pessimism and attempting to create doubts about India's future, the Modi Government was focused on delivering results through unprecedented infrastructure development, digital transformation, financial inclusion, ease of doing business reforms,

startup promotion, industrial expansion and welfare initiatives that have empowered every section of society. "The figures released by the Government of India have exposed the hollowness of Congress propaganda. Manufacturing has recorded remarkable growth, investments have increased significantly, consumer demand has strengthened and key sectors of the economy have posted impressive performances. These achievements are not the result of chance but the outcome of decisive leadership, policy consistency and the trust reposed by citizens in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a developed India,"

he said. Taking a direct swipe at Rahul Gandhi, Gupta said that every prediction of economic doom made by the Congress party over the past decade has been proven wrong. Whether it was GST reforms, digital payments, Make in India, Startup India, infrastructure expansion or financial reforms, Congress opposed every major initiative that has today become a pillar of India's growth story. "It is ironic that those responsible for policy paralysis, corruption scandals and economic stagnation during their tenure now seek to lecture the nation on economic management. The people of India have repeatedly rejected such negativity because they can see the trans-

formation taking place around them. The latest GDP figures are yet another reminder that India's future is being shaped by performance and vision, not by cynical politics," Gupta remarked. He said the Congress party owes an apology to the nation for repeatedly attempting to tarnish India's image before the world and for questioning the country's economic capabilities. Gupta added that the achievements reflected in the latest GDP data belong to 140 crore Indians whose determination, innovation and hard work have enabled the country to emerge as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.



## BJP OBC Morcha Organises Cleanliness and Plantation Drives at Sunderbani and Baramulla

Jammu, Jun 6:

Jammu/Baramulla, 6 June : To commemorate the historic achievement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi becoming the longest-serving Prime Minister of India, BJP OBC Morcha organised special cleanliness and plantation drives at Sunderbani in Nowshera and Village Braman, Rafiabad in Baramulla as part of its commitment towards environmental conservation and the ideals of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The plantation drive was organised at Village Braman, Rafiabad, Baramulla under the leadership of Gulzar Ahmed, Constituency President BJP OBC Morcha Rafiabad, while the cleanliness drive was conducted at the revered Baba Narsingh Dev Sthan, Sunderbani, Nowshera under the leadership of



Suresh Kumar Mehra, Mandal President BJP OBC Morcha. During both programmes, party leaders and workers actively participated in planting saplings of indigenous plant species and carried out extensive cleanliness activities. Volunteers cleaned the premises and

surrounding areas using brooms and mops, spreading the message of environmental responsibility and public participation in maintaining cleanliness. The plantation drive at Rafiabad witnessed the presence of Fayaz Ahmad, State

Convenor; Sukhdev Singh Jamwal, Mandal President Sunderbani; Yuvraj Singh, District Spokesperson BJP; Abhinav Prashar, District President BJYM; Randeep Singh, District Vice President BJYM; Ragunandan Antal, District Vice President BJYM; Nisab Singh Chib, Cell Convenor; Capt. Sarban Singh Chib; Usha Rani, District Vice President Mahila Morcha; Gurmeet Kour, Mandal President Mahila Morcha; and Vipin Dutta.

## MLA Vikram Randhawa Flags Off Anti-Drug Rally Under 100-Day Nasha Mukti Abhiyan at GHSS Channi Himmat

Jammu, Jun 6:

As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukti Abhiyan, a grand Anti-Drug Awareness Rally was organized today by GHSS Channi Himmat to spread the message of a drug-free society among the youth. The rally was ceremoniously flagged off by MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa with enthusiastic chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'. The rally commenced from GHSS Channi Himmat and proceeded up to Tawi Chowk before returning to the school campus. Addressing the gathering at Tawi Chowk, MLA Randhawa motivated the youth to stay away from drugs and focus on sports, yoga, skill development, and employment opportunities. A major highlight of the programme was a cultural presentation by Class X students Chandan and



Ranjet, who presented a traditional Geetu folk performance carrying a powerful anti-drug message. Appreciating the efforts and talent of the students, MLA Randhawa presented them with tokens of appreciation. Upon returning to the school, MLA Randhawa, in collaboration with local police officers, community members, and the school staff, distributed refreshments among the participants.

During the programme, MLA Randhawa appreciated the efforts of the school administration and staff. He specifically commended the leadership of Principal Mrs. Neetu Gandotra, under whose guidance the entire staff worked tirelessly. Special appreciation was extended to the Eco House, its House In-Charge Mrs. Neetu Janwal Randhawa, and her entire team for organizing the rally.

## NMC urged CM to enhance Medical Allowance

Jammu June 6: President of the National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) Subhashi Shastri on Saturday has strongly urged the chief Minister to enhance the monthly medical allowance to Rs.300/-to Rs.1000/- and decision in this regards should be taken in the upcoming Cabinet meeting so that pensioners would get sigh of relief from rising prices of essential commodities and inflation. Addressing a NMC workers meet here, Shastri said that this genuine demand is based on the steep rise in the cost of medicines and medical expenses over the last two decades. Shastri has further cited that UT of Jammu & Kashmir has already provided Rs 1000/- per month medical allowance to its pensioners, w.e.f April 1st 2020. Shastri pointed out that all the union territories except J & K U T have providing one thousand medical allowance to their pensioners, but in J & K U T administration are providing only three hundred per month, hoping that this genuine demands of the pensioners will be sort out at the earliest. Additionally, Shastri is also demanding the release of 18

months of pending DA arrears from January 2020 to June 2021. Shastri also appealed the Prime Minister and union Finance Minister to release the outstanding 3 DA installments arrears blocked while releasing the same to its employees and pensioners since long. Shastri further hoped that the Central Government will consider the burning demand of both Central/States/UTs employees and pensioners in releasing the 3 DA installments blocked arrears beside 3 percent DA due from first January 2026. The Govt. must regularise the services of all daily rated workers without any further delay and fulfilled its commitment made by the Ruling alliance from time to time to these daily wageers, Shastri added. Among others who were also present on the occasion included Rajan Babu Khajuria, B.S. Jamwal, Surinder Kumar, Ram Singh, Ramesh Sharma, Girhari Lal Bhagat, Dalip Bhagat, Sawarn Bhagat, Shail Singh, Darshan Baba, Subash Sharma, Baldev Raj, Ghara Ram, Vinod Kumar, Jog Raj and others.

## Director Agriculture Jammu Reviews Seed Recovery, Farm Production and Strengthening Measures

Jammu, June 6, 2026: Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, Shri Anil Gupta, today convened a meeting of Area Development Officers (ADOs) and District Agriculture Officers (DAOs) at the Directorate of Agriculture, Talab Tillo, Jammu, to review departmental activities, seed distribution, revenue realization, and the implementation of ongoing agricultural programmes across Jammu Division. During the meeting, the Director reviewed the action taken on decisions of the previous meeting and discussed pending seed recovery cases, submission of Treasury Challans and Revenue Realization Statements for the month of May 2026, verification of deposits made into official accounts, and reconciliation statements pertaining to Rabi 2025-26 and Kharif



2025. Detailed district-wise progress regarding seed distribution under various departmental schemes was also reviewed. Expressing concern over pending seed recovery in certain districts, Shri Anil Gupta directed all District Agriculture Officers and Area Development Officers to ensure that the entire pending seed recovery is completed within one week. He instructed that Challans

of the recovered amount must be deposited and submitted to the office of the Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs), Jammu, without any delay. The Director further directed officers to initiate strict action against defaulters who fail to deposit recoverable dues despite repeated notices and follow-up. The Director emphasized the critical role of field-level functionaries in ensuring timely recovery and

accountability. He instructed all district officers to issue clear directions to Input Assistants to personally visit seasonal stores on a regular basis, physically verify seed stocks, monitor stock positions, and ensure timely recovery of seed costs. He categorically directed that all recoveries should be made only through proper Government Receipts and that no deviations from prescribed procedures would be tolerated. Shri Anil Gupta also conducted a comprehensive review of the production performance of departmental farms across the division. Stressing the importance of strengthening departmental farms, he said that robust farm infrastructure, scientific crop management, and efficient utilization of resources are essential for enhancing seed production and achieving better results.

## Young Professionals Roundtable on "Bharat's Soft Power: Cultural Diplomacy and Global Influence for Viksit Bharat" Organized at Jammu

Jammu, 05 June : Under the banner of Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBLYD) 2026, a Young Professionals Roundtable on the theme "Bharat's Soft Power: Cultural Diplomacy and Global Influence for Viksit Bharat" was successfully organized at Government College for Women, Parade Ground, Jammu by MY Bharat Jammu in collaboration with Shakti Udgosh Foundation, Jammu.



The programme brought together eminent personalities, young achievers, students, and professionals for a meaningful discussion on India's cultural strengths, global outreach, and the role of youth in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. The distinguished panel comprised Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, renowned Theatre Director, Cultural Ambassador and Padma Shri

Awardee; Shri Nagendra Singh Jamwal, JKAS Officer; and Ms. Swati Basotra, Entrepreneur. The session was moderated by Ms. Preeti Choudhary, Convener, Shakti Udgosh Foundation. The panelists shared valuable insights on the importance of cultural diplomacy, preservation of her-

itage, entrepreneurship, leadership, and youth participation in nation-building. They encouraged young people to become ambassadors of India's rich cultural values and contribute positively towards the country's development. A special presentation was delivered by Ms. Suvidha Sambyal from

Government Degree College (GDC), Samba, who had the distinction of presenting before the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India during the National Round of Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBLYD) 2026. Her inspiring journey and experiences motivated the participants and highlighted the transformative impact of youth-led initiatives. The event was also graced by the presence of Mr. Chander Shekhar, a youth achiever from Jammu & Kashmir and a winner on Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC), whose participation added further inspiration to the gathering. Students and youth from various educational institutions actively participated in the roundtable discussion and interacted with the panelists on issues related to leadership, innovation, culture, and youth empowerment.

## Hope for a greener tomorrow: Rich Harvest School Marks World Environment Day with Traffic Police Bari Brahmana'



Jammu, Jun 6: RHS celebrated World Environment Day with great enthusiasm and a strong commitment towards environmental conservation by organizing

a tree plantation drive in collaboration with the Traffic Police Bari Brahmana. The event was graced by Inspector Rakesh and his dedicated team from the Traffic Police Department, who joined students, teachers and school authorities in planting saplings within the school campus. The initiative aimed to spread awareness about the importance of preserving nature and creating a greener and healthier environment for future generations. Addressing the gathering, Inspector Rakesh emphasized the collective responsibility of citizens towards environmental protection and encouraged students to become ambassadors of sustainability by adopting eco-friendly practices in their daily lives. The students actively participated in the plantation drive and pledged to nurture the saplings planted during the event.

## Modi Govt badly failed to curve rising prices and unemployment: Rattan Lal Gupta

Jammu June 6: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta Criticize the BJP-led Government at the Centre has badly failed to control rising prices and growing unemployment, causing immense hardship to the common people across the country. Despite repeated promises of economic prosperity and job creation, the reality on the ground is entirely different. Issued a statement at Sere-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu today, Rattan Lal Gupta said that the prices of essential commodities, including food items, cooking gas, edible oils, vegetables, medicines, electricity, and other household necessities,



have increased substantially over the years. The economic prosperity and job creation has eroded the purchasing power of ordinary families, forcing them to struggle to meet their daily needs. At the same time, unemployment has emerged as one of the greatest challenges facing the nation. Millions of educated youth are wandering from pillar to post in search of jobs. Vacancies in Government

departments remain unfilled, while opportunities in the private sector have not grown at the pace required to absorb the increasing workforce. The dreams and aspirations of the younger generation are being shattered due to the lack of employment opportunities. Mr Gupta. Mr Gupta said that the situation is particularly alarming in Jammu and Kashmir, where unemployment among educated youth remains a serious concern. The lack of adequate industrial investment, slow recruitment processes in Army, Police and Para military services and shrinking economic opportunities have further aggravated the problem.

## Ancient Vedic path alone leads to true worship of God, says Swami Ram Swarup Ji

56th day of 78-day four Vedas Yajna at Ved Mandir, Yol highlights importance of Vedic knowledge and Yajna-based worship



Yol (Himachal Pradesh), June 6: On the 56th day of the ongoing 78-day Yajna Anushthan based on all four Vedas at Ved Mandir, Yol, renowned Vedic scholar and Yoga Acharya Swami Ram Swarup Ji addressed devotees and seekers, emphasizing that humanity has, in the present age, adopted numerous paths of worship that are contrary to the teachings of the Vedas. While delivering his discourse, Swami Ji stated that this fact has also been clearly mentioned in the Uttarakand of Goswami Tulsidas Ji's Ramchaitman (Doha 100-B), wherein it is said that people have abandoned the Vedic path of devotion, which was founded upon true knowledge and renunciation, and have instead, under the influence of illusion, invented countless new sects and methods of worship. Swami Ji explained that the eternal Vedas, which emanate directly

from God, prescribe the worship of only one formless, omnipresent, and omniscient Creator through the performance of Yajna. Referring further to Tulsidas Ji's writings, he noted that those who criticize or reject the authority of

the Vedas ultimately tread a path that leads to suffering. He expressed concern that although people listen to such teachings and verses, many fail to follow them in practice. Quoting Maharishi Vyas from the Mahabharata, Swami Ji

cited the statement, "Nastiko Veda Nindakaha," meaning that one who condemns the Vedas is considered an atheist. He further referred to Atharvaveda Mantra 7/51, which states that learned scholars worship God through the performance of Yajna. According to Swami Ji, an in-depth study of all four Vedas, especially the Samaveda, clearly reveals that enlightened souls worship the Supreme Creator through Yajna and ultimately attain liberation (Moksha). Swami Ram Swarup Ji also highlighted the significance of the ancient Guru-Shishya (teacher-disciple) tradition established by God through the first four Rishis and later carried forward by Brahma. He observed that modern society has largely abandoned this timeless Vedic tradition and embraced practices contrary to Vedic teachings.

## Article 370 dead, Statehood agitation by NC last attempt to stay relevant: Bali Bhagat

Jammu, June 6: Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat today launched a scathing attack on the National Conference (NC) over its decision to intensify protests on the issue of statehood, terming the move a desperate political exercise aimed at diverting public attention from the party's failures in governance, growing public anger and widening cracks within its own ranks. Bhagat said the recent meeting of NC legislators and their decision to agitate for statehood has little to do with the welfare of the people and everything to do with salvaging the credibility of a party that is rapidly losing public trust. "The National Conference came to power by making grand promises, but after assuming office it has failed to deliver on the expectations of the people.

Instead of focusing on governance, development, employment and public welfare, Omar Abdullah and his party are now trying to hide their failures behind emotional slogans and political theatrics. This statehood agitation is nothing but an eyewash designed to mislead the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Bhagat said. He alleged that the sudden activism on statehood is also an attempt by the NC leadership to contain growing dissatisfaction within the party and prevent further internal divisions. "Omar Abdullah knows that many within his party are frustrated and finding it difficult to defend the government's performance before the people. The statehood slogan is being used as a tool to keep the flock together and divert attention from the growing



discontent within the organisation. This is more about political survival than public interest," he remarked. Taking strong exception to repeated references to Article 370 by NC leaders, Bhagat said the party continues to sell false hopes despite knowing fully well that the constitutional changes of August 2019 are irreversible. "Article 370 is a closed chapter and cannot be revived through protests, slogans or political pressure. The people of Jammu

and Kashmir have moved forward and are embracing development, investment, tourism, better infrastructure and equal opportunities. Unfortunately, NC remains trapped in outdated politics because it has no fresh vision to offer the people," he said. Bhagat reiterated that the BJP has already committed itself to the restoration of statehood and that the issue will be addressed at an appropriate time. "Statehood is not a bargaining tool for political parties. The BJP has made its position clear and the commitment will be honoured at the appropriate time. However, no party can dictate terms to the nation or force decisions through political dramas and pressure tactics," he said. Launching a direct attack on Omar Abdullah, Bhagat said the Chief Minister appears more

interested in political posturing than governance. "The people elected Omar Abdullah to govern, not to organise agitations. Before talking about protests, he should explain what happened to the promises made during elections. Governance cannot be replaced by headline management and political optics." Bhagat said the people of Jammu and Kashmir are politically aware and can clearly see through what he termed the NC's "politics of diversion and deception." "The truth is that this agitation is not about statehood. It is about hiding failures, managing internal rebellion and escaping accountability. No amount of political drama can restore the credibility that NC has lost. The people want development, transparency and results—not mismanagement."

## Indian Army organised Tree plantation drives on World Environment Day

Rajouri, June 6:

The Indian Army organised Tree Plantation Drives on the occasion of World Environment Day at Little Angel Public School, Samote, Rajouri and Tain village, District Reasi. The initiatives reflected the Army's continued commitment towards environmental conservation, ecological awareness and community participation. At Little Angel Public School, Samote, Army personnel joined hands with students and teaching staff to plant saplings, with special emphasis on native species suited to the local ecosystem. The activity aimed to enhance biodiversity, improve air quality and promote a greener and healthier environment within the school campus. At Tain village in District Reasi, the plantation drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from local vil-



lagers, youth and Panchayat members. More than 130 saplings of diverse species, including native shade-giving trees, medicinal plants and fruit-bearing trees, were planted in accordance with local soil conditions and ecological requirements. An awareness session on environmental conservation was also conducted during the events, wherein participants were sensitised about the importance of tree plantation in combating climate change, conserving biodiversity and maintaining ecological

balance. The activities encouraged the community, especially the younger generation, to actively participate in preserving and protecting natural resources. The events concluded with a pledge by participants to nurture the planted saplings and continue contributing towards a greener, cleaner and more sustainable future. The students, teaching staff, villagers and Panchayat members expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for organising these meaningful initiatives.

## Indian Army organised Yoga Seminar ahead of International Yoga Day

Rajouri, June 6:

As part of the run-up to the 12th International Yoga Day, the Indian Army organised a Yoga Seminar and practice session at Gunda, Rajouri, to promote health, wellness and holistic living among the local population. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, youth and children.



The session was conducted by yoga experts, who highlighted the significance of yoga in maintaining physical fitness, mental well-being and emotional balance. Participants were introduced to various yoga asanas, pranayama breathing techniques and simple

meditation practices that can be easily incorporated into daily life for overall health and wellness. Special emphasis was laid on motivating children and youth to adopt yoga as a regular lifestyle habit to develop discipline, concentration and resilience while managing stress effectively.

The interactive seminar enabled participants to gain a deeper understanding of the long-term physical and mental health benefits associated with regular yoga practice. The event was well received by the local community and reinforced the importance of yoga as a means

## Minimum Wages, Regularization, and Release of Pending Wages for Daily Wagers Must Accompany the Implementation of the 8th Pay Commission: Sapna Hindu

Jammu, June 6:

Sapna Hindu, General Secretary of the Women's Wing of Movement Kalki, has urged the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor's Administration to address the long-pending concerns of Daily Wagers, Casual Labourers, and temporary employees alongside the proposed implementation of the 8th Pay Commission. She stated that while the government is taking steps to improve the financial well-being of regular employees, equal attention must also be given to thousands of workers who have been serving various government departments for years under difficult conditions. Welcoming the proposed implementation of the 8th Pay Commission, Sapna Hindu said that the decision would provide

much-needed financial relief to government employees and help them cope with rising living expenses. However, she emphasized that a large section of the workforce, particularly Daily Wagers and temporary workers, continues to struggle without adequate wages, job security, and timely salary payments. According to her, the employee welfare can only be achieved when every category of worker is treated with fairness and dignity. She pointed out that inflation has significantly increased the cost of living across Jammu and Kashmir. The prices of essential commodities, cooking gas, food items, healthcare services, education, transportation, and other daily necessities have risen considerably over the years. As a result, Daily Wagers, who often receive low and

irregular wages, are finding it increasingly difficult to support their families and maintain a reasonable standard of living. Sapna Hindu stressed that many Daily Wagers have dedicated years of service to various government departments and public institutions. Despite their contribution to the functioning of government offices and essential services, they continue to face uncertainty regarding their employment and financial future. She stated that such workers deserve recognition and support for their commitment and hard work. In this regard, she demanded the immediate implementation of the Minimum Wages Act for all Daily Wagers working in government departments and institutions across Jammu and Kashmir. She said that every worker has the right to receive fair com-

ensation for his or her labour and that no employee should be paid below the prescribed minimum wage. Ensuring minimum wages would not only improve the economic condition of workers but would also reflect the government's commitment to social justice and labour welfare. Sapna Hindu further called upon the government to formulate and implement a transparent and time-bound policy for the regularization of long-serving Daily Wagers and temporary employees. She noted that many workers have spent a decade or more serving government departments without receiving the benefits and security available to regular employees. Such prolonged uncertainty, she argued, is unfair to those who have contributed significantly to public administration.

## Shiv Mandir Trikuta Nagar to celebrate Somvati Amavasya and Sankranti with religious fervour and devotion

Jammu, June 6:

Shiv Mandir, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, is gearing up to celebrate the sacred occasion of Somvati Amavasya and Sankranti (Sangrand) on Monday, June 15, 2026, with great religious enthusiasm and spiritual devotion. The auspicious convergence of Somvati Amavasya, which falls on a Monday, and Sankranti on the same day is considered highly significant in Hindu tradition and is regarded as a rare occasion for prayer, charity, and spiritual upliftment.

To commemorate the holy day, the temple management has organized a special religious programme featuring the collective recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa from 6:00 PM onwards. Devotees from different parts of Jammu are expected to participate in large numbers and offer prayers for

peace, prosperity, good health, and harmony. According to the temple committee, special prayers and worship will be performed in honour of Lord Shiva, Lord Hanuman, and Lord Shani Dev, whose blessings are believed to remove obstacles, protect devotees from negative influences, and bring success and happiness in life. Religious scholars and temple priests will also highlight the spiritual importance of Somvati Amavasya and the merits of devotion, charity, and righteous living. The organizers stated that Somvati Amavasya holds immense religious significance as it combines the sanctity of Amavasya with the auspiciousness of Monday, a day dedicated to Lord Shiva. Devotees traditionally observe prayers, perform acts of charity, visit temples, and seek divine blessings for the welfare of

their families and society. The coincidence of Sankranti on the same day further enhances the spiritual importance of the occasion. To ensure the comfort and convenience of devotees, elaborate arrangements have been made at the temple premises, including seating facilities, drinking water, and the distribution of Prasad to all participants. Volunteers of the temple committee will assist devotees throughout the programme and help maintain the spiritual atmosphere of the event. The programme is being organized under the leadership of the temple committee members, including Shiv Kumar Jolly, Vijay Vaid, Rajni Kohli, Rani Ji, Dr. R. L. Handoo, Nana Ji Raina, Rajesh Gupta, Umil Arora, Thakur Sameer Ji, Pandit Pankaj, and

Pandit Mohinder, who have appealed to the public to join the celebrations and take part in the collective prayers. The committee members emphasized that such religious gatherings not only strengthen faith and devotion but also promote social harmony, brotherhood, and community spirit. They expressed confidence that the programme would provide devotees with an opportunity for spiritual reflection and divine blessings on this rare and sacred occasion. The temple management has extended a cordial invitation to all devotees, residents of Trikuta Nagar, and people from across Jammu to participate in the celebrations and seek the blessings of Lord Shani Dev, Lord Hanuman, and Lord Shiva for a prosperous, peaceful, and fulfilling life.

## Mayawati's visionary leadership inspires BSP Cadre: Strengthen grassroots organization, Defend Bahujan Votes, Restore J&K Statehood

Jammu, June 6:

In a significant and inspiring development, Bahujan Samaj Party National President and former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Ms. Kumari Mayawati, today issued important organizational and political directives during a high-level meeting of senior party functionaries from Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting reaffirmed the party's unwavering commitment to the mission of Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and emphasized the need to further strengthen the Bahujan movement through disciplined organization, ideological commitment, and active public outreach. The key directions issued by Ms. Mayawati include: • Strengthening the party organization at the grassroots level and implementing earlier organizational directives in letter and spirit to consolidate BSP's support base. • Safeguarding every Bahujan vote with utmost vigilance and

commitment, recognizing that the vote is the most powerful democratic weapon for social transformation and empowerment. • Intensifying the spread of Ambedkare ideology, constitutional values, social justice, equality, and fraternity among all sections of society, particularly the oppressed, deprived, and marginalized communities. • Revitalizing the political developments in Himachal Pradesh following the recent local body elections and formulating effective strategies to establish BSP as a strong and credible political alternative. • Preparing a comprehensive roadmap to secure outstanding success in upcoming elections through unity, discipline, dedicated cadre work, and mass mobilization. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Darshan Rana, President, Bahujan Samaj Party, Jammu & Kashmir Unit, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Kumari Mayawati for her visionary guidance, steadfast leadership, and continued commitment to the cause of the Bahujan community.

## Article 370 was mother of all ills in Jammu & Kashmir: Balbir

Jammu, 06 June 2026:

BJP Spokesperson and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan has strongly disagreed with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's assertion that Article 370 was not responsible for the lack of development in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Article 370 was, in fact, the mother of all ills that kept the region isolated from the full benefits of India's constitutional framework and developmental journey.



Balbir Ram Rattan said that for decades, Article 370 created a psychological barrier between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country. While the nation progressed rapidly

in sectors such as industry, education, healthcare, infrastructure, investment and employment generation, Jammu and Kashmir remained deprived of many opportunities that could have transformed the lives of its people. He said that several progressive central laws and welfare schemes could not

be fully implemented in the erstwhile state because of the special constitutional arrangement. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, refugees and other marginalized sections, were denied many rights and benefits available to citizens in the rest of the country. Balbir said that Article 370 also encouraged a politics of separatism, which was repeatedly exploited by vested interests. Instead of integrating the region with the national mainstream, it fostered a sense of uncertainty that discouraged large-scale private investment and industrial growth.

## Bharat Priye calls for strengthening outreach to farming community across J&K

Holds virtual meeting with District Presidents, stresses timely redressal of farmers' grievances

Jammu, June 6:

In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening the connect between the farming community and the organization, Bharat Priye, Chairman of the JKPCSS Kissan Department, today held a virtual meeting with District Presidents from across Jammu and Kashmir and urged them to intensify their engagement with farmers at the grassroots level. During the interaction, Bharat Priye reviewed issues being faced by farmers in different districts and listened to



reports submitted by the district functionaries regarding challenges confronting the agricultural sector. He emphasized the need for regular interaction with farmers to better understand their concerns and ensure that their genuine grievances are brought to the notice of the concerned authorities for prompt resolution. Addressing the participants, Bharat Priye said that farmers form the backbone of the country's economy and their welfare must remain a top priority. He called

upon all District Presidents to remain accessible to the farming community and make every possible effort to identify and document issues related to agriculture, irrigation, availability of seeds and fertilizers, crop losses, market access, power supply, and other matters affecting farmers' livelihoods. He stressed that the Kissan Department must act as an effective bridge between farmers and the administration by ensuring that the voices of cultivators are heard at every level.

**North in News**

**EDITORIAL**

**THE HEAT IS ON**

**To enjoy summer holidays it is important to protect ourself from scorching heat**

Important to take precautions from scorching heat to enjoy summer holidays because these summer days normally records 44 to 48 degrees Celsius across Jammu, Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Telangana, and Odisha, and the India Meteorological Department has flagged a rise in both frequency and intensity of heatwaves, with 2024 and 2025 logging the longest spells since 1901 and 2026 projected to be worse due to El Niño after-effects and urban heat islands, and summer holidays that should mean travel, sports, family time, and relaxation can quickly turn into dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and hospital emergencies if precautions are ignored. The body's core temperature is designed to stay near 37 degrees Celsius, and when ambient heat plus humidity pushes the wet-bulb temperature above 32, sweating cannot cool us fast enough, and organs begin to fail, and children, elderly, pregnant women, outdoor workers, and people with diabetes, hypertension, or heart disease are most vulnerable, and yet most heat-related illness is preventable with planning, awareness, and small daily habits. The first precaution is timing because UV and heat peak from 11 AM to 4 PM, so shift sightseeing, cricket, cycling, and market visits to before 10 AM or after 5 PM, and use the midday hours for indoor museums, malls, naps, or reading, and the second precaution is hydration because you lose 1 to 2 liters per hour in extreme heat, so carry a 1-liter bottle per person, drink 250 ml every 30 minutes even if not thirsty, and add ORS, lemon-salt-sugar, or coconut water to replace electrolytes, and avoid alcohol, excess caffeine, and very sweet sodas as they dehydrate, and for kids, make it a game with colored bottles and hourly alarms, and the third precaution is clothing because loose, light-colored, full-sleeve cotton or linen reflects sunlight and allows sweat to evaporate, and a wide-brimmed hat, UV-protected sunglasses, and a cotton scarf or umbrella cut direct heat on the head by 5 to 7 degrees. So summer holidays must be redesigned around safety, and the heat is on, but with timing, hydration, clothing, shade, and awareness, families can still enjoy treks, forts, beaches, and cousins' weddings, and the memories will be of mangoes and laughter, not of IV drips and ambulances, and that is why it is important to take precautions from scorching heat to enjoy summer holidays, because the sun will not get cooler, but we can get smarter, and a smart summer is a safe summer, and a safe summer is the only kind worth having.

**RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR**

**Purple revolution a model for rural communities**

BY DR. JITENDRA SINGH

There are moments in a nation's journey when a quiet transformation in a remote corner becomes a symbol of national resurgence. The story of India's "Purple Revolution" is one such transformation. What began as an experimental scientific intervention in the hills of Baderwah in Jammu & Kashmir has today evolved into a powerful movement of rural empowerment, start-up culture, women-led entrepreneurship, and scientific innovation.

As we prepare to celebrate the Lavender Festival 2026 on June 6 and 7 in Baderwah, I see this not merely as a festival of flowers, fragrance, and tourism, but as a celebration of India's changing rural economy and the extraordinary partnership between science and society. The Lavender Festival has steadily grown into a landmark annual national event. Earlier editions held in 2022, 2023, and 2025 demonstrated how scientific innovation can transform lives at the grassroots level.

From a modest beginning, the festival has now become a platform connecting farmers, start-ups, scientists, industry leaders, policymakers, and youth from across the country. Baderwah, once known primarily for maize cultivation and seasonal migration, is today proudly recognized as the Lavender Capital of India. Vast stretches of purple fields now symbolize aspiration, dignity, and economic opportunity. This transformation was made possible under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Aroma Mission, implemented by CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine.

The mission sought to introduce high-value aromatic crops in rain-fed and underutilized regions, particularly in the Himalayan belt. The success of the Purple Revolution is deeply rooted in India's scientific



ecosystem. Scientists at CSIR-IIM developed elite lavender varieties such as RRL-12 and designed agro-technologies suitable for temperate Himalayan conditions. Farmers were not merely given seeds; they were provided an entire ecosystem - free quality planting material, scientific training, distillation technology, value addition support, and market linkages.

The result has been remarkable. Thousands of farmers and young entrepreneurs across Jammu & Kashmir have shifted from low-income traditional crops to lavender cultivation. Annual farm incomes have multiplied several times over. New enterprises have emerged around essential oils, soaps, perfumes, incense sticks, cosmetics, candles, and wellness products. More importantly, this revolution has encouraged young people to return to agriculture with pride and innovation. I often say that the Purple Revolution is one of India's finest examples of "lab-to-land" success. It represents the true spirit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Startup India" and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat."

When the Prime Minister mentioned Baderwah's lavender success story in his "Mann Ki Baat" programme, the movement gained national and international visibility. That recognition was not merely symbolic; it gave confidence to farmers and rural youth that their work mattered to the nation. One of

the most inspiring dimensions of this movement is women's participation. Women across the region have become active contributors in nursery development, harvesting, processing, packaging, and marketing. Lavender cultivation has opened doors for self-help groups and women-led enterprises, particularly in remote areas where economic opportunities were limited. The fragrance of lavender has thus become the fragrance of empowerment. The national recognition received by the Purple Revolution has also reinforced the role of science in nation-building. The inclusion of the Lavender Revolution in the Republic Day tableau of Council of Scientific (CSIR) and Industrial Research was a proud moment for all of us. The tableau beautifully showcased how scientific research could uplift rural livelihoods and transform local economies. It carried before the nation the inspiring story of Baderwah's farmers, startups, and innovators. Equally encouraging has been the acknowledgment through prestigious national platforms such as the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, which reflects India's growing commitment to celebrating scientific contributions that directly impact society. The Purple Revolution demonstrates that science is not confined to laboratories; it belongs equally to farmers' fields, village enterprises, and rural aspirations. The upcoming

Lavender Festival 2026 will carry this mission forward on an even larger scale. The festival will host buyer-seller meets, startup exhibitions, technical sessions, field visits, distillation demonstrations between farmers and industry leaders. It will also showcase how aromatic agriculture can become a major pillar of India's bio-economy and wellness economy. What makes this journey particularly meaningful is that it has emerged from a region that once struggled with limited economic opportunities and uncertainty. Today, Baderwah stands as a model for inclusive growth, scientific outreach, and sustainable development. The Purple Revolution has not only generated income; it has generated hope. As Vice President of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, I believe the Baderwah model offers valuable lessons for the entire country. It proves that when science, governance, entrepreneurship, and community participation work together, even the most remote regions can become engines of growth and innovation.

The Aroma Mission is now expanding its footprint beyond Jammu & Kashmir into other Himalayan states and temperate regions. But Baderwah will always remain the birthplace of this revolution - the valley where India's lavender story first bloomed. As the purple fields blossom once again this June, they remind us that India's future lies not only in metropolitan cities and industrial corridors, but also in empowering villages, harnessing local strengths, and creating opportunities rooted in science and sustainability. The fragrance rising from Baderwah's lavender fields today is, in many ways, the fragrance of a new India - confident, innovative.

**Will AI kill solar and wind energy?**

BY SUNIL SHARAN

Global warming policies were expected to drive a rapid shift toward a renewables-based energy system dominated by wind and solar. While growth in these sources did occur, it has not matched the pace that was widely anticipated. In the United States, the rise of cheap and abundant shale natural gas significantly reshaped the energy mix, displacing coal and limiting the relative share of wind and solar in electricity generation. In China and India, the situation has been different.

Coal remains dominant because it is widely available domestically, while natural gas is more limited or expensive to secure at scale. As a result, coal has retained its central role in both countries' power systems. Solar and wind always provide intermittent, variable power. It was widely assumed that a cost-effective, utility-scale electricity storage solution would emerge to solve this problem, but that has not yet happened at the scale originally expected. In the pre-AI era, solar and wind were typically integrated into power systems alongside more reliable sources such as coal, natural gas, and nuclear energy.

For example, if the sun was shining on a Monday, electricity demand could be met largely by solar power during the day. At night, coal, natural gas, or nuclear plants would supply the required electricity. If the following Tuesday was cloudy or gloomy, generation would shift back toward coal, gas, or nuclear to maintain supply. AI introduces a new and more demanding challenge. AI data centers require continuous, high-quality, always-on electricity, which solar and wind alone struggle to guarantee without large-scale storage or back-up systems. In addition, they require very large amounts of power. As a result, the AI industry is now actively searching for new and expanded sources of reliable electricity. One of the major challenges in powering AI systems is electricity transmission. High-voltage transmission lines are expensive, slow to build, and often face regulatory and land-use constraints. As a result, some companies are exploring more localized power solutions, sometimes referred to as microgrids. These are self-contained energy systems that can operate independently from the main electricity grid. Technologies such as small modular nuclear reactors are

an example of such microgrids. In such isolated systems, the focus is on highly reliable, always-available power generated close to the point of use. In this context, solar and wind are expected to play a limited role because their output is variable and depends on weather conditions, making them less suited as primary sources in fully self-contained AI-focused microgrids. The pace of AI infrastructure development is extremely rapid in both the United States and China. AI systems are widely seen as transformative technologies that promise significant new wealth creation, which is driving aggressive and sustained investment. As a result, development is moving quickly, without waiting for long-term solutions such as large-scale energy storage to mature alongside renewable energy systems. In this environment, electricity demand is rising faster than new infrastructure can be built. In the United States, this reinforces the role of natural gas as the dominant source of reliable power. In China and India, where coal remains more established and readily available, it is likely to continue playing a central role in meeting growing demand. In India, AI data centers have not yet

been built at the scale seen in the United States and China. When India does reach that stage, it will need to supply large amounts of reliable electricity. India has placed strong emphasis on solar energy in particular and has had some success in meeting the needs of ordinary consumers through renewable expansion. However, the key question is what choices will be made when large-scale AI data centers begin to arrive.

Will India rely more on coal generation, which is relatively cheap, widely available, and highly reliable, or on solar power, which is intermittent, variable, and often more expensive when reliability is taken into account? My view is that India is more likely to turn to coal to meet this demand, given its existing infrastructure and the need for dependable electricity supply. Then there is an overall question. Solar and wind were already struggling in the pre-AI days to displace coal and natural gas at the system level, despite strong expectations that they would become dominant sources of electricity. Now that AI is here and electricity demand is rising rapidly, will they push solar and wind further behind in the energy mix?



**SHO Arnia Dysp Prob. Qaesar Mir Addresses Drug Awareness Programme at Government Higher Secondary School Allah in Arnia**



Jammu, June 06: As part of its sustained efforts under the Civic Action Programme to combat drug abuse and promote a healthy society, Jammu & Kashmir Police organized an awareness programme on the theme "Say No to Drugs" at Government Higher Secondary School,

Allah. The programme was attended by Dy. SP (Prob.) Sh Qaiser Mir, SHO Arnia, IC BPP Allah SI Sh Ajit Gorka, Principal Sh Roop Lal, members of the school staff, and a large number of students. During the programme, the speakers highlighted the growing

menace of drug abuse and its adverse impact on individuals, families, and society. Students were sensitized about the harmful effects of narcotic substances and were encouraged to make informed choices, adopt healthy lifestyles, and stay away from drugs. Addressing

the gathering, Dy. SP (Prob.) Sh Qaiser Mir emphasized the crucial role of youth in building a drug-free society and urged students to act as ambassadors of the anti-drug campaign in their communities. He also encouraged them to focus on education, sports, and other constructive activities for their overall development. The participants actively interacted with the police officers and expressed their commitment towards supporting the cause of a drug-free Jammu & Kashmir.

The programme concluded with a pledge by students and staff members to spread awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and contribute towards the vision of a healthy, safe, and drug-free society.

**Jammu Police Collaborates with Renowned Cartoonist Shekhar Sharma for Unique "Exhibition on Wheels" Anti-Drug Awareness Campaign**

Jammu, June 06: In a unique and creative initiative to strengthen the ongoing anti-drug awareness movement, renowned cartoonist Shekhar Sharma, popularly known as Bunt Cartoonist, organized an innovative "Exhibition on Wheels" in collaboration with Jammu Police as part of the sustained campaign against drug abuse. The initiative was conducted under the leadership of SSP Jammu Shri Joginder Singh and with the active support of SP City North Shri Vivek Shekhar, SDO City North Shri Vikram Bhatt, and SHO City Police Station Shri Shakti Sharma, who have been consistently working towards spreading awareness and mobilizing public participation in the fight against drugs. The exhibition was organized in front of the world-famous Raghunath Mandir, Jammu, where Shekhar Sharma displayed a series



of impactful and thought-provoking cartoons created by him to highlight the harmful consequences of drug abuse. Through his creative artwork, he conveyed powerful messages aimed at sensitizing society, particularly the youth, about the dangers of narcotics and inspiring them to lead healthy, productive, and drug-free lives. The awareness campaign forms part of the larger anti-drug movement launched by Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, which seeks to eradicate the menace of drug addiction from Jammu and Kashmir through coordi-

nated efforts involving law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, educational institutions, and the public at large. On the occasion, MLA Jammu East Shri Yuhvir Sethi also attended the programme and appreciated the innovative approach adopted to spread awareness among the masses. Chairman of Team Jammu, Shri Zoravar Singh Janwal, who pioneered the anti-drug movement in the region over a decade ago, was also present and emphasized the need for collective community action to defeat the menace of drug abuse. The initia-

tive received an overwhelming response from the public and garnered strong support from various trade and market associations. Among those who extended their support were the Raghunath Bazaar Association headed by Shri Sanjay Gupta, Hari Upper Market Association led by Shri Ashish, Residency Road Association headed by Shri Harminder Singh, Residency Road-Kanak Mandi Association, Shri Ashish Mahajan of Gumat Bazaar, and Shri Diwan Ji. All lauded the efforts of Jammu Police and the organizers in taking the anti-drug message directly to the people through a creative and engaging medium. Speaking on the occasion, the organizers stressed that awareness-driven initiatives play a crucial role in educating the public, particularly young people, about the dangers of substance abuse.

**PCPG-cum-Drug Awareness Programme Held in Headquarters Zone in Kullian, Miran Sahib Under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan**

Jammu, June 06: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan, District Police Jammu organized a Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG)-cum-Drug Awareness Programme at Kullian, Miran Sahib, aimed at strengthening police-public cooperation and generating awareness against the menace of drug abuse. The programme was attended by SP Headquarters Jammu, SDPO R.S. Pura, local residents, community members, and prominent citizens of the area. MLA Sh Mohinder Bhagat and Former MLA Shri Ganu Ram Bhagat also graced the occasion and interacted with the participants. Speaking on the occasion, SP Headquarters, Jammu addressed the issue of drug abuse among children. She stressed the

important role of parents in befriending their children to keep them away from drugs. Addressing the women, she emphasised that mothers play the most crucial role in keeping their children and family on the right track of fitness and health. She urged all persons to come forward to assist the police and point out drug peddlers and abusers. Participants were sensitized about the harmful effects of narcotics on individuals, families, and society and were encouraged to actively support law enforcement agencies by sharing information regarding drug peddlers and other anti-social elements. The PCPG interaction provided a valuable platform for residents to raise local issues and concerns. Police officers assured the participants that all genuine concerns

would be addressed promptly and reiterated the commitment of Jammu Police towards ensuring public safety, maintaining law and order, and strengthening community policing. Speaking on the occasion, the dignitaries appreciated the efforts of Jammu Police in combating drug abuse and promoting a drug-free society. They urged the youth to stay away from narcotics and adopt healthy and productive lifestyles. They also called upon community members to work in close coordination with the police for the success of the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan. The programme concluded with a pledge by the participants to actively support the campaign against drugs and contribute towards building a safe, healthy, and drug-free society.

**DDC Bandipora reviews CSR Projects**

**Directs Departments to expedite expenditure, ensure Timely Execution of approved Works**

BANDIPORA, JUNE 06: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of works approved under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Action Plan for the financial year 2025-26. Emphasizing the timely implementation of development projects, the DDC directed all concerned departments to expedite expenditure, maintain the pace of execution, and ensure that all approved works are completed within the stipulated timelines. She stressed the need for regular monitoring and inter-departmental coordination so that the benefits of these projects reach the public at the earliest.

During the meeting, it was informed that 15 works amounting to ₹2.72 crore have been approved under the CSR Action Plan for the financial year 2025-26. Of these, eight works pertain to the Health Department, two to the Education Department, one to the Youth Services & Sports Department, two to the R&B

Department, one to the PHE Department, and one to the Disaster Management Department. Taking a department-wise review of the projects, Indu Kanwal Chib underscored the importance of timely utilization of funds and directed officers to avoid delays in execution. Reviewing the education sector works, the Chief Education Officer informed the meeting that tenders for the approved projects have already been issued and that work is expected to commence shortly. The DDC directed the concerned executing agency to complete the construction of the toilet block at Government Boys Middle School, Lonpora Mantrigam, by 20 June.

She also instructed the Education Department to complete the auction process of the old school building of Government Middle School, Mantrigam, by 15 June, ensuring that all formalities are finalized within the prescribed timeframe. The meeting was further informed that the Youth Services

& Sports Department has achieved 100 per cent expenditure under the approved CSR works. The Executive Engineer, R&B Division Bandipora, informed the Chair that work on the View Point Project on Nallah Madhumati is nearing completion and is expected to be completed by 20 June. He further apprised the meeting that work on the footbridge over Bonar Nallah is progressing smoothly and is expected to be completed by the end of July 2026.

Speaking on the occasion, Indu Kanwal Chib said that CSR initiatives serve as an important supplement in strengthening public infrastructure. She called upon all departments to work with dedication and ensure that the approved projects are completed within the prescribed timelines. Among others, the meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Mohd Maqbool Lone, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineer R&B, Deputy Chief Education Officer, and other concerned officers.

**Khet Bachao Abhiyan and Awareness Camp on Medicinal & Aromatic Plants Held at Dansal**

Dansal, June 6: Sub Division Agriculture Office Dansal organized Khet Bachao Abhiyan 2026 along with an Awareness Camp on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants under HADP-P5: Promotion of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. More than 140 farmers participated in the programmes and were sensitized about soil conservation practices, sustainable farming techniques, and the importance of protecting agricultural land.



Farmers were also educated on the cultivation and economic benefits of medicinal and aromatic plants, particularly Harad, and were encouraged to register under the project to

avail various potential of medicinal and aromatic crops. The participating farmers actively interacted with the experts and sought guidance on adopting innovative and sustainable agricultural practices.

**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B)**  
**ELECTRIC DIVISION JAMMU**  
**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Short e-NIT No. ED/J25/06/2026-Dated 05-06-2026

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

S. No.	Name of Work.	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (in lac)	Cost of documents (in )	Earliest Money (in )	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1.	Improvement/Upgradation and Maintenance works at Deputy Commissioners Office Jammu Electrical Part.	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	10.00	600/-	2000/-	Upto ending 31 March 2027	15-06-2026 At or after 12:00 A.N	"A" Class Electrical Contractor
2.	Stage Contract for Maintenance of electrical Works in PWD Guest House District Court and allied works in PWD Randh Division Kathua falling under the jurisdiction of Superintending Engineer PWD Randh Kathua Samba Circle Kathua during the year 2026-27.	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	10.00	600/-	2000/-	Upto ending 31 March 2027	15-06-2026 At or after 12:00 A.N	"A" Class Electrical Contractor

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

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05-06-2026
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 05-06-2026 to 12-06-2026, 4:00 P.M
3. Bid submission Start Date	05-06-2026
4. Bid Submission End Date	12-06-2026 up to 4:00 P.M
5. The Bid Meeting Date	xxxx at or after xxxx in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu
6. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	13-06-2026 at or after 12:00 A.N in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu
7. Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Offline)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

1. Position of Administrative Approval = Awarded  
 2. Position of Technical Sanction = Awarded  
 3. Position of Funds = Awarded

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of cash/bank through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No., date and also indicating the name of work and NIT No. after crediting in 0099 (Revenue) Treasury/Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu, uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, and relevant documents of LI, to be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu at the time of allotment.

2. Bid Security Declaration should be kept in the Bid documents as per tendered.

3. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jkenders.gov.in](http://www.jkenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

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

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-  
 a) Any bidder/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.  
 c) The L-1 Bidder shall have to deposit e-stamp paper of Rs. 100/- alongwith Agreement Form (As per Annexure - B) and other relevant documents with 7 days after issuance of allotment.

6. Instruction to Bidders regarding e-tendering process.  
 6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jkenders.gov.in](http://www.jkenders.gov.in) to acquaint bid submission process.  
 6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2008. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.  
 6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.  
 6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.  
 6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBO with technical bid online.  
 6.6 That the Bidder is not a PFI member.  
 6.7 All the information and documents submitted by one are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and if found wrong the bidder shall be liable to face legal proceedings.  
 Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.  
 8. 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 tendering process.

No. > ED/382-43  
 Dated > 05-06-2025

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

**DIP/J-3245/26**

### Shreyas Iyer named India T20I captain, Tilak Varma vice-captain; Vaibhav Sooryavanshi picked in all three

New Delhi, June 6: Shreyas Iyer has been appointed India's new T20I captain for the upcoming series against Ireland and England, as well as the 2026 Asian Games, the Ajit Agarkar-led BCCI selection committee announced on Saturday. Tilak Varma has been named vice-captain. Fifteen-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has also earned a landmark call-up, securing a place in all three senior squads after his impressive performances in IPL 2026.



Shreyas replaces Suryakumar Yadav at the helm of India's T20I side, with the former captain not featuring in the newly announced T20I squads. The announcement marks a significant reshaping of

India's white-ball setup as the selectors begin building towards the next T20 World Cup cycle while also rewarding emerging talent. The announcement came after the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee met at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai to finalise multiple squads. Shreyas' elevation follows an impressive run of form in domestic and franchise cricket, where he combined consistent bat-

ting performances with strong leadership credentials. Tilak Varma, meanwhile, has been rewarded with the vice-captaincy after emerging as one of India's most dependable young batters in the format. The squad announcement signals the beginning of a new chapter for India's T20I side as the selectors continue to build a younger core while maintaining experienced leadership at the top.

## Norway Chess 2026: Praggnanandhaa, Assaubayeva Claim Top Honours

New Delhi, June 6: Norway Chess 2026 concluded with an exciting final round, as Praggnanandhaa and Bibisara Assaubayeva, meanwhile, won the women's tournament well before her final-round contest. Entering the round half a point behind Wesley So,



Praggnanandhaa understood that a win could significantly improve his chances of surpassing the leader. Playing with White against Vincent Keymer, the Indian grandmaster capitalized on his opportunity and achieved an important victory. This full 3-point win brought Praggnanandhaa to 18 points and earned him the

top spot. Wesley So, who led the tournament into the final day, drew his classical game against Alireza Firouzja in a balanced encounter. So ultimately won the Armageddon game, earning the additional points. The Norwegian grandmas-

ter persisted through a lengthy struggle and finished the tournament on a high note.

Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu clinched victory at Norway Chess 2026 after Round 10, accumulating 18 points. Wesley So secured second place with 17 points, and Alireza Firouzja finished third with 15.5 points.

Bibisara Assaubayeva had already clinched the Norway Chess Women 2026 title with one round remaining, and the last day confirmed her leading position after an exceptional tournament in Oslo. The final round featured three crucial classical games, eliminating the need for Armageddon tiebreakers in Norway Chess Women. Reigning

Women's World Champion Ju Wenjun beat Assaubayeva with White, marking the end of her unbeaten streak in classical games during this event.

Zhu Jiner concluded her tournament with a significant classical win against Humpy Koneru. This victory earned her second place, just half a point behind Assaubayeva. Anna Muzychuk also finished well, beating Divya Deshmukh in classical chess to secure third place. Following the conclusion of Round 10, Bibisara Assaubayeva emerges as the winner of Norway Chess Women 2026 with 16.5 points. Zhu Jiner secures second place with 16 points, and Anna Muzychuk finishes third with 15 points.

## Women's U18 Asia Cup 2026: Sandeepa, Sweety and Nousheen Score as India Finish with Bronze

New Delhi, June 6: The Indian U18 Women's Hockey Team secured the Bronze Medal at the Women's U18 Asia Cup 2026 after registering a commanding 3-0 victory over Korea in the bronze medal match at Kakamigahara, Japan, on Saturday.



Sandeepa Kumari (2'), Captain Sweety Kujur (16') and Nousheen Naz (33') were on target as India capped off their campaign with an impressive podium finish. Determined to bounce back from their narrow shootout defeat against China in the semi-finals, India made a dream start and took the lead within the opening two minutes. Sandeepa Kumari (2') showcased excellent composure in

front of goal, producing a brilliant finish to give India the breakthrough and set the tone for the contest. India continued to dominate possession and create opportunities in the attacking circle. Their persistence paid off in the 16th minute when Captain Sweety Kujur (16') found the back of the net with a

The defensive unit held firm to preserve the clean sheet as India comfortably saw out the remainder of the match to secure the bronze medal. For her influential performance and opening goal, Sandeepa Kumari was adjudged the Player of the Match. The bronze medal marks a strong finish to India's campaign at the Women's U18 Asia Cup 2026, with the team showcasing its attacking quality, scoring 36 goals, defensive resilience and immense promise throughout the tournament. The Women's U18 Asia Cup 2026 final between China and hosts Japan will be played later on Saturday at 1:30 PM IST in Kakamigahara, Japan.

field goal to double India's tally to 12 goals in the competition and strengthening her position at the top of the scoring charts. India remained disciplined at the back throughout the contest, denying Korea any clear scoring opportunities while continuing to threaten on the counterattack.

## Suryakumar Yadav meets Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis amid uncertainty over India T20I captaincy

New Delhi, June 6: Amid growing speculation over his future as India's T20I captain, Suryakumar Yadav paid a courtesy visit to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at his official residence, Varsha, in Mumbai on Friday.



The meeting was ceremonial, its timing sparked interest as discussions around India's leadership for the next T20 cycle continue to gather momentum. With the team's next T20 assignment scheduled later this month, questions remain over whether Suryakumar will continue at the helm. The Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office shared photographs of the meeting on X, saying: "Today, Indian cricketer Suryakumar Yadav paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Devendra

Fadnavis at his official residence Varsha in Mumbai." For Suryakumar, the visit comes at a pivotal moment. The 35-year-old remains India's T20I captain after leading the side to back-to-back T20 World Cup triumphs, but his recent dip in batting form has fuelled debate over whether the selectors should persist with him or begin grooming a new leader for the next cycle. The question whether he will be the captain for the next cycle or not is still unanswered and is expected

to be discussed in an Apex Council meeting to be held by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in online mode on Saturday. As per sources close to the matter, it is not certain whether the discussion regarding the next T20I captain will be on the formal agenda. However, since India is preparing for the 2028 T20 World Cup and T20 cricket is making a comeback at the Los Angeles Olympics, the leadership plan would be expected to be high on the agenda in the coming months.

## French Open 2026: Alexander Zverev defeats Jakub Mensik to set up title clash with Flavio Cobolli

New Delhi, June 6: Alexander Zverev moved within touching distance of a maiden Grand Slam title after defeating Czech rising star Jakub Mensik 7-5, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 to book his place in the French Open final on Friday. The second seed delivered a composed performance on court Philippe-Charrier, overcoming a third-set resurgence from the 20-year-old to reach the Roland Garros final for the second time and the fourth Grand Slam final of his career. For Zverev, Sunday's title clash represents another opportunity to end his long wait for a major crown after falling short in the French Open final last year, the US Open in 2020



and the Australian Open in 2025. The German will now face 10th seed Flavio Cobolli for the championship. "He started playing amazingly in the third set. He really stepped up to another level. But this is a Grand Slam, it's best-of-five-set matches. Opponents are going to play better. You have to

## 'Mom knows something': R Praggnanandhaa reveals mother's prophetic words after Norway Chess victory

New Delhi, June 6: After winning India's maiden Norway Chess title, R Praggnanandhaa revealed that a prediction made by his mother before the second half of the tournament turned out to be surprisingly accurate, as he pulled off one of the greatest comebacks in the event's history. Praggnanandhaa recalled: "She told me, 'It's a new month, you'll play well.' I said, 'Okay, it's one of those things that mom says.' Then I win four games straight. I think mom knows something," he said after lifting the trophy on Friday. The 20-year-old Grandmaster clinched the crown by defeating Germany's Vincent Keymer in the final round, becoming the first Indian to win the prestigious tournament. The turnaround was remarkable, consider-



Praggnanandhaa had struggled for consistency during the first half of the six-player event. Although he had defeated World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in Round 3, he found himself at the bottom of the standings with six points after six rounds. However, everything

changed after a call from his mother, Nagalakshmi, before his seventh-round clash against Alireza Firouzja. That match sparked an extraordinary run as Praggnanandhaa went on to register four consecutive classical victories, including a second win over

Carlsen, before sealing the title against Keymer. Reflecting on the resurgence, Praggnanandhaa said: "It all came my way and I also think I started to play more in control, which is always very good." "I decided that I would play a little faster than I was doing. In every game, I had a time advantage and was able to make decent quality moves." Even in the final game against Keymer, he admitted he did not allow himself to relax until the result was certain. "A few moves before the end I knew I was going to win. I was also wanted to make sure I just could not think of anything else I played Knight e6; I was just moving with my hand. Because when you get a winning position it is nearly impossible to make a mistake, but I was still very concerned.

## Vaibhav Sooryavanshi called up to India squad for Ireland, England tours

New Delhi, June 6: Teenager Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has been picked up for the T20I matches that will be played in India's upcoming tours of Ireland and England. If he plays, Sooryavanshi will break Sachin Tendulkar's record for the youngest ever debutant for India. BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia, in a press conference in which he also announced Shreyas Iyer as India's new T20I captain, said that Sooryavanshi has been included in the Indian squads for the upcoming tours of the two countries, as had been reported by the Indian Express earlier. It comes after he won the Orange Cap in the 2026 IPL, making headlines with his sensational power-hitting.



Sooryavanshi followed up a remarkable debut in the 2025 IPL by winning the Orange cap in the recently concluded 2026 edition of the tournament. He scored 776 runs in 16 innings at a scarcely

believable strike rate of 237.30 and average of 48.50 with one century and five half-centuries. Sooryavanshi missed out on centuries by a whisker in both of Rajasthan Royals' playoff matches. Over the course of the innings against SRH in the Eliminator, Sooryavanshi broke Chris Gayle's record for most sixes in a single season of the IPL. Sooryavanshi has turned heads in 50-over cricket as well. He was the heartbeat of India's successful campaign in the U19 World Cup earlier this year, smashing multiple records in the final with an 80-ball 175. "What an amazing batting display by Vaibhav Sooryavanshi this @IPL 2026 season. This prodigy certainly deserves to debut for Team.

## The cobbler's son who bowled to India

New Delhi, June 6: On the eve of India's Test against Afghanistan, as Shubman Gill and his teammates wrapped up their last practice session at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh PCA Stadium in Mullanpur, Ramesh Kumar gathered his kit bag. He had spent the week bowling to Sai Sudharsan, Dhruv Jurel and Yashasvi Jaiswal in the nets. Now he was preparing to board a bus back to Jalalabad, near the India-Pakistan border, where his father Mangru Ram works as a cobbler and his mother Narmu Devi sells bangles and make-up products in the surrounding villages. "Meri layi sabto vadi hai ki main Indian team nu nets ch ball pat," he says. It's the biggest thing of my life that I bowled to the Indian team in the nets. He is 27 years old and he means it without embarrassment. Kumar grew up in Jalalabad playing tennis ball cricket, which in Punjab means tournaments almost every day, a day rate, a bus journey. "Lage Phage siga, (It was hit and try)" The

son. Some months he played 20-22 days. Some months nothing. On the good days he earned five to six thousand rupees. What he had, in the absence of formal coaching or leather ball training, was the action. He had studied Sunil Narine on television until he understood the grip, the bent middle finger, the carrom ball rotation. He was tall, which gave him pace on the ball. In the tennis ball circuit of Punjab, where mystery spinners who can also hit sixes are valued above most things, Kumar became a name. The moniker arrived naturally: Narine Jalalabadi. In 2021 he played for Mega district, was called to the Punjab senior camp, and his training videos reached KKR assistant coach Abhishek Nair through Indian cricketer Gurkeerat Mann. At the 2022 IPL Mega Auction, KKR picked him up for Rs 20 lakh. A cobbler's son from Jalalabad had a franchise. He had no idea what came next. The first thing he did when he walked into the KKR.

## NEET paper leak case: Judicial custody of key accused Shubham Khairnar extended till June 15

New Delhi, June 6: The investigation into the NEET-UG 2026 paper leak case gathered further momentum on Saturday, with Rouse Avenue Court extending the judicial custody of accused Shubham Khairnar until June 15. Khairnar was produced before the court after the completion of his earlier period of judicial custody. The extension comes as investigators continue to examine the alleged flow of leaked examination material and the role of various accused in the case. According to the CBI, Khairnar is among the individuals linked to the circulation of the leaked NEET-UG 2026 question paper. The development comes as the investigating agency continues to examine the alleged network behind the leak that led to the cancellation of one of the country's largest entrance examinations, affecting more than 22 lakh candidates.



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has maintained that the case involves a larger conspiracy spanning multiple individuals, with investigators working to trace how the examination paper was allegedly obtained, circulated and monetised before the test. During the hearing, the CBI informed the court that another accused Manisha Waghmare allegedly worked in coordination with retired chemistry teacher Prahalad Kulkarni and Pune-based Dhananjay Lokhande. Financial records and statements gathered during the probe point towards transactions allegedly linked to access to the examination material. According to the agency, Dhananjay Lokhande obtained the leaked paper from Waghmare before it was allegedly passed on to Shubham Khairnar. The CBI has argued that custody of Khairnar is necessary to

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## Nilgiri Tahr population rises to 1,364 in Tamil Nadu: Survey

Chennai, June 6:

Tamil Nadu's conservation initiatives for the endangered Nilgiri Tahr have recorded encouraging gains, with the latest synchronised survey estimating the population of the state animal at 1,364 in 2026.

The figure marks a 4.68 per cent increase from last year's count of 1,303 and an overall rise of more than 32 per cent compared to 2024, indicating the success of sustained habitat protection and monitoring measures.

The findings of the third synchronised Nilgiri Tahr survey were released by Forests Minister R.V. Ranjithkumar and Environment Minister Dr V.K. Rajeev.

Conducted between April 24 and 27, the survey covered 177 survey blocks



across 126 forest beats in 43 forest ranges spanning all 14 Nilgiri Tahr-bearing forest divisions in the state. The exercise was carried out in coordination with the Kerala Forest Department and involved frontline forest personnel, wildlife scientists and independent observers.

Officials said the large-scale survey provided a comprehensive assessment of the species across its known habitats in the Western Ghats. According to the report, the Anamalai Hills remain the strongest refuge for the Nilgiri Tahr, accounting for 44.87 per cent of the state's total population. The Nilgiris landscape supported another 29.25 per cent, highlighting the critical role of high-altitude grassland ecosystems in the species' survival.

The survey recorded Nilgiri Tahr across an elevation range of 270 metres to 2,630 metres above mean sea level. The male-to-female ratio was estimated at 55:100.

## India Creating Future-Ready Digital Economy: Jitin Prasada

New Delhi, June 6:

India is creating a future-ready digital economy driven by innovation, entrepreneurship and technological self-reliance, according to the government. Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Jitin Prasada, said that flagship initiatives such as the India Semiconductor Mission and the IndiaAI Mission are opening new avenues for research, manufacturing and innovation-led growth. "The Government remains committed to fostering an enabling ecosystem through progressive policies, ease of doing business and enhanced access to technology," he said. The Software Technology



Parks of India (STPI) will play a critical role in fostering entrepreneurship, nurturing innovation, strengthening emerging technology ecosystems and enabling the development of world-class solutions for global markets," said Prasada. S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, said as we celebrate 35 years of STPI, "we must identify the opportunities.

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## Army, CAPFs mark World Environment Day with green initiatives across Northeast Region

Assam June 6:

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the Indian Army and various Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) organised a series of environment-centric activities across the Northeast region, reaffirming the Forces' commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development.

A Defence spokesman said on Friday that the Spearhead Division of the Army under the Spear Corps, organised a series of environmental activities across Tuting, Boraropak and Sagar in Arunachal Pradesh, reaffirming the Indian Army's commitment towards environmental conservation and sus-



tainable development. The celebrations witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, troops and members of the local community, including tree plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns and poster-making competitions were

conducted to promote environmental awareness and encourage responsible stewardship of natural resources.

Army personnel joined hands with school children and teachers in a tree plantation and cleanliness drive, highlighting the collective responsibility of preserving the region's pristine ecological heritage.

The events served as a platform to spread awareness on environmental sustainability while strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and local communities.

Such initiatives reflect the Indian Army's enduring commitment towards nation-building, community engagement and preservation of the rich natural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh. In Tripura, the Red Shield Division under the Spear Corps, commemorated the World

Environment Day with a comprehensive Swachhata Campaign and Mass Tree Plantation Drive, reaffirming the Indian Army's commitment towards environmental conservation and sustainable development.

The programme commenced with a large-scale tree plantation drive across military stations and selected community areas.

A variety of native and climate-resilient saplings, including Neem, Peepal and Gulmohar, were planted to strengthen biodiversity and contribute towards long-term ecological sustainability.

The plantation drive symbolised a collective commitment to creating a greener and healthier future. Simultaneously, personnel of the Brigade undertook an extensive Swachhata Campaign focused on cleanliness, waste management and environmental responsibility. The drive included the collection and segregation of waste into recyclable, biodegradable and non-recyclable categories. Special emphasis was laid on the elimination of single-use plastics and the promotion of environmentally responsible practices. The collected recyclable waste was handed over to authorised recycling agencies for scientific disposal

## CBSE gives more time to Class 12 students to apply for re-evaluation, extends deadline by a day

New Delhi, June 6:

In a relief for thousands of Class 12 students awaiting post-result scrutiny of their answer sheets, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has extended the deadline for applying for verification of marks and re-evaluation. The move comes as the board seeks to provide additional time and support to students completing the process. The



last date for submission of applications, which was earlier scheduled to end on June 6 at midnight, has

now been pushed to June 7 at midnight. The board has advised students to take note of the revised timeline

and complete their applications within the extended window.

CBSE stated that the extension has been granted in the interest of students, ensuring that candidates who are yet to complete the formalities do not miss the opportunity to apply. Verification and re-evaluation remain among the most important post-result services offered by CBSE, allowing students to seek a

review of their evaluated answer sheets if they believe there may have been discrepancies in assessment or marking.

Under the board's system, students first obtain scanned copies of their evaluated answer books. Based on those copies, they may then apply for verification of marks or request re-evaluation of specific answers or questions.

## Suwendu Congratulates Police on Seizure of Arms across Multiple Locations, says 'Dark Days are Over'

New Delhi, June 6:

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Saturday congratulated the state police for conducting raids across multiple locations near Kumrakhal, Basanti, and Sandeshkhali areas and seizing a massive cache of illegal firearms and ammunition. "Kudos to the West Bengal Police for a Major Breakthrough. On precise intelligence inputs, the Special Task Force (STF) conducted extensive raids across multiple locations near Sarberia Bazaar in Kumrakhal, Basanti, and Sandeshkhali areas," Adhikari said. Sharing that the forces have seized arms and ammunition that were "hidden away to disrupt peace," Adhikari congratulated the "prompt actions" of Director General of Police Siddharth Nath Gupta, the West Bengal Police, the Special Task Force (STF) Team and



Basirhat Police District Personnel. Hitting out at the previous Trinamool Congress (TMC) government, Adhikari claimed that illegal weapons were "stockpiled" and used to terrorise citizens, and had even claimed the lives of several opposition party workers, including those from the BJP. Emphasising that the "dark days are over," the Chief Minister said that

the BJP government is "unconditionally committed" to restoring law and order in the state. "We will continue to track down, unearth, and recover every single piece of illegal firearm across the length and breadth of West Bengal," CM Adhikari promised, stressing that all criminal activities and "political terrorism" will be completely wiped out from the state.

## Heavy Rain, strong winds likely across Tamil Nadu Till June 9 as Southwest monsoon advances

Chennai, June 6:

The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, has forecast widespread rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and strong winds across several parts of Tamil Nadu over the coming days as the southwest monsoon continues to advance over southern India. According to the weather department, an upper-air cyclonic circulation persists over coastal Karnataka and adjoining regions at an altitude of 3.1 km to 4.5 km above mean sea level. The southwest monsoon has further advanced into the remaining parts of the southwest and southeast Arabian Sea, sections of the west-central and east-central Arabian Sea, Lakshadweep, parts of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, as well as large areas of the Bay of Bengal. Under its influence,



light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms is likely at isolated places across Tamil Nadu, Pudukchery and Karaikal on Saturday. Heavy rain with thunderstorms and gusty winds reaching 40-50 kmph is expected at one or two places in the hilly regions of Coimbatore district and in the Nilgiris, Theni and Dindigul districts. Similar weather conditions are likely in Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari,

Erode, Salem, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Tirupattur, Vellore, Ranipet, Tiruppur, Madurai and Virudhunagar districts, where isolated heavy rainfall and strong winds are forecast. For June 7, the RMC has predicted light to moderate rain with thunderstorms across Tamil Nadu, Pudukchery and Karaikal. Heavy rainfall is likely in the Nilgiris, Tiruppur, Dindigul, Theni, Kanyakumari and the hilly

areas of Coimbatore district. Thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds are also expected in Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Erode, Salem, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Virudhunagar and Madurai districts. In Chennai, the sky is expected to remain partly cloudy on Saturday. Some parts of the city may receive light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms. maximum temperature is likely to be around 38

degree Celsius to 39 degree Celsius, while the minimum temperature may hover between 29 degree Celsius and 30 degree Celsius. The weather department has also issued a warning for fishermen and maritime activities. Strong winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph, gusting up to 60 kmph, are likely over the Tamil Nadu coast, Gulf of Mannar and Comorin Sea from Saturday to June 9. Similar conditions are expected over the southern part of Bengal, adjoining central Bay of Bengal, the Andaman Sea, the Kerala-Karnataka coast, Lakshadweep and the Maldives region.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea during the warning period and to exercise extreme caution due to rough weather conditions.

### Australian Study Identifies Early Blood Marker For Lung Cancer Risk

Sydney, June 6: A newly identified "blood signature" may predict lung cancer risk more than five years before diagnosis, offering a potential pathway to earlier prevention, a study has revealed. The findings, published in Cell, could help identify people who would benefit from preventative drugs, even before they receive a lung cancer diagnosis, said a statement from Australia's Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) released Friday. The study analysed over 48,000 blood samples, identifying a 14-protein signature that predicted lung cancer risk within five years and was validated across eight international datasets, including in non-smokers. Researchers suggested that the signature does not come from the tumour itself, but reflects an altered inflammatory lung environment



that precedes cancer, highlighting a pre-disease phase in which intervention may be possible, reports Xinhua news agency. Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths globally, and current screening programs are limited to older people with a history of smoking, leaving many cases undetected until late stages, the study noted. WEHI laboratory head Clare Weeden, a corresponding author on the paper, said the study could lead to more inclusive and effective screening approaches for people in Australia and across the world. "In doing so, these findings bring us closer to a future where early intervention is possible, even before the cancer has a chance to develop," said Weeden, who conducted the research during her time at the Francis Crick Institute in Britain. Charlie Swanton, clinical research director at the Crick Institute, said the study supports a growing idea that some common age-related diseases share a "common, presymptomatic state of inflammation," and that the signature could eventually help predict and prevent lung cancer and other lung diseases. The Treasury Department's

### How Iranian fuel allegedly reached Asia disguised as Omani LPG and triggered US sanctions

Tehran, June 6: The United States has imposed fresh sanctions on a network accused of disguising Iranian-origin liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as Omani fuel and shipping it to buyers across South and East Asia, as the Trump administration intensifies its economic pressure campaign against Tehran. The action targets what US authorities describe as a sophisticated sanctions-evasion network that relied on front companies in the United Arab Emirates and China, foreign bank accounts and vessels linked to Iran's so-called shadow fleet to conceal the origin of millions of barrels of LPG. According to the US Department of the Treasury, the operation generated hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for Iran despite existing sanctions. The Treasury Department's



Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced the measures on Friday, saying the sanctions are aimed at exposing those helping to sustain an economic lifeline for Iran while using international commercial infrastructure to mask their activities. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the latest move forms part of Washington's broader "Economic Fury" campaign against Tehran. "Iran's economy is floundering, and its military is decimated," Bessent said in a statement. "Through

Economic Fury, Treasury will continue to sever Iran's shadow fleet, shadow banking networks, and access to global trade." US State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott echoed the administration's position, saying on X that the United States would maintain "maximum pressure" on Iran by targeting networks involved in the illicit fuel trade. Apart from the LPG shipping network, OFAC also sanctioned Iranian exchange house Mehrdad Geramian Nik and Partners Company along with its leadership. US authorities alleged that the firm facilitated the movement of hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign currency on behalf of Iranian banks that are already under sanctions. According to the Treasury Department, Iran's foreign exchange system depends heavily on

brokers and rahbar companies that operate through overseas shell entities. These structures are used to obscure links to Iran, route funds through accounts held outside the country and bypass international restrictions. Officials said Iranian exchange houses process billions of dollars in foreign currency transactions annually, helping the Iranian government and its armed forces access funds generated through oil and petrochemical sales. Part of wider campaign against Iran's finances he Treasury Department said the latest designations build on previous actions against Iranian financial intermediaries, including Radin Exchange, Arj Exchange, Opal Exchange and Amin Exchange. Washington argues that restricting these networks reduces the Iranian.

### US downs Iranian drones, strikes radar sites; Trump says Tehran's nuclear ambitions 'finished'

Washington, June 6: The United States said it intercepted four Iranian attack drones headed towards the Strait of Hormuz and later struck Iranian radar installations along the country's southern coast, as President Donald Trump declared that Tehran's nuclear ambitions would be stopped "one way or the other". The developments mark another sharp escalation in tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, a vital global shipping route through which a significant share of the world's oil trade passes. While the US military described its actions as defensive, Trump's remarks suggested Washington believes its campaign against Iran has entered a decisive phase. According to the US Central Command (CENT-

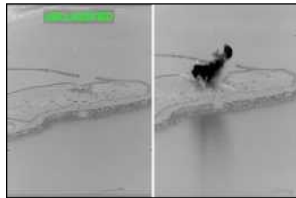


COM), American forces shot down four Iranian one-way attack drones after determining that they posed an immediate threat to maritime traffic in the region. "Moments ago, CENTCOM forces shot down four Iranian one-way attack drones that were launched toward the Strait of Hormuz," the military command said in a statement on Friday. CENTCOM said US forces subsequently targeted Iranian coastal surveillance radar facilities located in Goruk and on Qeshm Island to prevent further threats. "US forces subsequently struck Iranian coastal surveillance radar sites in Goruk and on Qeshm Island to defend against further attacks," the statement added. The military did not disclose details regarding casualties, damage

assessments or the weapons used in the operation. It also did not indicate whether any commercial vessel had been directly targeted. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea and is regarded as one of the world's most strategically important waterways. The US maintains a significant military presence across the Middle East and routinely patrols sea lanes used in international commercial shipping. CENTCOM said American forces remain prepared to respond to any future threats. "American forces remain vigilant and postured to respond to unjustified Iranian aggression in self-defence," the statement added. Iran did not immediately respond to the US announcement.

Trump says Iran's nuclear ambitions will end in the meantime, Trump said the confrontation with Iran was approaching a conclusion and reiterated that Tehran would not be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon. Speaking at an agriculture roundtable in Wisconsin, Trump said the US had already achieved much of its objective. "We had to extinguish a nuclear weapon. We weren't going to let that happen," Trump said. "We've largely finished that, you'll see, and one way or the other, it's finished." He added that the issue could be resolved diplomatically or through a more difficult path. "It's either finished with a piece of paper or finished a more difficult way," he said. Trump did not provide details.

### U.S. Strikes Iranian Radar Sites After Drone Attack On Hormuz Shipping



Washington, June 6: The United States military has released operational footage showing strikes on Iranian radar installations near the Strait of Hormuz, offering a rare visual account of a confrontation that has heightened tensions across the Gulf region. The release comes as Washington and Tehran exchange accusations following a series of military actions around one of the world's most critical shipping routes. The Strait of

Hormuz handles a significant share of global energy transit, making any escalation in the area a matter of international concern. According to the US Central Command (CENTCOM), American forces targeted coastal surveillance radar facilities in Goruk and on Qeshm Island after responding to what it described as Iranian threats against maritime traffic and regional partners. The newly released videos show the destruction of radar and tracking infrastructure that US officials said was being used to monitor and support hostile activity along key shipping lanes. In a statement issued late Friday, CENTCOM said the military action followed the interception of four Iranian one-way attack drones that were heading towards the strategic maritime corridor. The command said the drones posed an "immediate threat" to commercial shipping operating in the area. After neutralising the unmanned aircraft, US forces carried out strikes on the radar sites to degrade Iran's ability to track vessels moving through the waterway. CENTCOM identified the targeted locations as Goruk and Qeshm Island, both positioned along routes that oversee traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

### North Korea To Build 10,000-Ton Destroyer, State Media Says Before Xi Visit

Soul, June 6: North Korea plans to build a 10,000-ton destroyer and develop secret underwater weapons, state media said on Saturday, ahead of a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping. The Rodong Simun newspaper, reporting on a Thursday naval test supervised by leader Kim Jong Un, said he ordered the navy to deploy the destroyer Kang Kon and another 5,000-ton warship, the Choe Hyon, as soon as possible. The newspaper did not give further details. It is the first time North Korea has mentioned a plan to build a 10,000-ton destroyer, said Hong Min, a senior analyst at South Korea's Institute for National Unification. Kim may be seeking to



showcase the country's military capabilities ahead of Xi's visit on Monday and Tuesday, Hong said. The North Korean leader said Pyongyang must enhance its naval capabilities to deter a nuclear war, while calling for powerful military capabilities across land, sea and air, the newspaper said. Xi is making his first visit to North Korea in nearly seven years as Beijing looks to reassert ties with Pyongyang, its only formal treaty ally. Before the visit was announced, Kim on Thursday called for an "exponential" expansion of North Korea's atomic arsenal during a visit to a newly operational nuclear material production factory. During Kim's ship inspection, he was joined by his daughter.

### 'Ball is in Trump's court': Iran seeks \$24 bn asset release, warns of wider conflict if talks collapse

Washington, June 6: Asian adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader has claimed that the country has secured what he described as its first military victory since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and said the success of negotiations with the United States now hinges on Washington releasing \$24 billion in frozen Iranian assets. The remarks come at a delicate moment for regional diplomacy. With negotiations between Tehran and Washington at an impasse and a fragile ceasefire holding after recent hostilities, Iranian officials are attempting to redefine the terms of engagement with the Donald Trump administration while warning of



the consequences of any renewed military action. Speaking to CNN, Mohsen Rezaei, a military adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, said Iran's recent experience had altered its negotiating position and placed the responsibility for breaking the deadlock squarely on the United States. "This is the first time Iran has emerged victorious in wars, while in previous wars Iran has always been defeated," Rezaei said.

Iran links peace roadmap to frozen funds. According to Rezaei, Tehran expects the release of \$24 billion in blocked Iranian funds as part of a broader path towards a peace agreement. He said Iran wants \$12 billion to be released after the signing of an interim agreement, with a further \$12 billion expected in a second phase. "The negotiations are at a deadlock, and Trump must break this deadlock," Rezaei told CNN. "The ball is in Trump's court. If he wants to reach an agreement with Iran, this \$24 billion is a test of trust that Iran wants to have with Trump. This is a test that America must pass, and the path

will be opened. This is our own choice, not America's." Warming over future military action While saying the likelihood of another war remained low, Rezaei warned that any future US military action against Iran would trigger a much wider conflict. He said Tehran would target additional American military bases if hostilities resumed and suggested that future fighting could extend beyond the Persian Gulf. According to Rezaei, a wider conflict could affect straits stretching from the Strait of Hormuz to the Indian Ocean, the Bab al-Mandab Strait, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean.

### India, US Hold Army-To-Army Talks In Hawaii, Discuss Ways To Strengthen Defence Cooperation

Washington, June 6: India and the United States held the 29th edition of Army-to-Army Staff Talks in Hawaii, discussing ways to deepen bilateral defence cooperation while reaffirming their commitment to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries. According to the Indian Army, the talks were co-chaired by Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, Deputy Chief of the Army



Staff (Strategy), and Lieutenant General Joel Vowell, Deputy Commanding General of US Army Pacific. Sharing the details of the meeting on the social media platform X on Saturday, the Indian Army

said, "The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral defence cooperation, enhancing interoperability, expanding professional exchanges, and deepening military collaboration in support of shared security interests. Both sides appreciated the growing scope of Army-to-Army engagements and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the India-US strategic partnership."

### Trump Pardons Former US Congressman Convicted Of Securities Fraud

Washington, June 6: President Donald Trump has pardoned former U.S. Representative Stephen Buyer, an Indiana Republican, who was convicted of securities fraud for engaging in insider trading in 2018 as a T-Mobile US consultant ahead of a \$23 billion merger with Sprint. The proclamation, issued on Thursday and announced by the White House on Friday, gave no specific rationale for the pardon other than to assert that



Buyer's service as a U.S. Army judge advocate general and member of Congress "was distinguished and highly productive." It also said that

Trump, in granting Buyer a "full, complete and unconditional pardon," was acting on the "advice and recommendation" of 52 current and former members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives listed in the proclamation. Buyer served in the House as a Republican from Indiana between 1993 and 2011 before working as a corporate consultant. He was found guilty in March of 2021 of securities fraud, and was sentenced in September.

## Div Com Kashmir reviews Muharram-ul-Haram arrangements

Calls for seamless coordination among Departments, Stakeholders

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: Ahead of the forthcoming Muharram-ul-Haram, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a high-level meeting of senior officers and stakeholders to review preparedness and ensure the smooth, peaceful and hassle-free observance of religious rituals and processions across the Valley. The meeting focused on assessing civic, infrastructural, logistical and administrative arrangements required during the holy month, with special emphasis on inter-departmental coordination and sustained engagement with community representatives. During the meeting,



MLA Budgam, Aya Syed Muntazir Mehdi, highlighted several issues requiring attention in Shia-dominated areas to facilitate mourners. He stressed the need for uninterrupted electricity and drinking water supply, macadamization and repair of roads, functioning street lighting, and adequate deployment of medical personnel at major religious venues. Representatives of various associations and stakeholders also projected a range of requirements, including

enhanced sanitation and cleanliness measures, fumigation drives, availability of firewood, ration and LPG supplies, mitigation of the stray dog menace, deployment of water tankers, streamlined permissions for religious events, comprehensive traffic management plans, identification of parking spaces, and provision of shuttle services between parking areas and procession routes. Emphasizing the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders, the Divisional Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners and concerned departments to designate nodal officers and

share their contact details with community representatives to ensure effective communication and prompt resolution of issues. The Deputy Planning, Director, Divisional Commissioner's Office, was designated as the Divisional-level Nodal Officer for coordination and monitoring of arrangements. Garg instructed Deputy Commissioners to prepare detailed district-wise checklists of requirements and ensure that all short-term issues are addressed on priority. He further directed that larger developmental concerns raised by stakeholders be incorporated into future planning frameworks. He emphasized the need

## DC Kulgam presides over Awareness Programme on Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Block Pahloo

KULGAM, JUNE 06: As part of the ongoing Khet Bachao Abhiyan, a farmers' awareness and outreach programme was organized today at Block Pahloo in District Kulgam. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers representing various villages of the block. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, presided over the event as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, the DC underscored the importance of protecting agricultural land and adopting scientific farming practices to ensure sustainable agricultural development and food security. He emphasized the need

for collective efforts to preserve cultivable land, prevent its conversion, and enhance agricultural productivity for the welfare and prosperity of the farming community. During the programme, officers of the Agriculture Department sensitized farmers about the objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, including the protection of agricultural land from degradation, promotion of sustainable farming practices, efficient utilization of natural resources, and adoption of modern agricultural technologies. Farmers were also encouraged to avail themselves of various government schemes and programmes aimed at

enhancing farm productivity and income. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Agriculture Officer reiterated the department's commitment to providing technical guidance and necessary support to farmers for increasing agricultural production and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the farming sector. The programme concluded with an interactive session during which farmers shared their experiences, concerns, and suggestions regarding agricultural development in the area. The programme was attended by the Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam, District Agriculture Officer

## DC Bandipora Visits Army Goodwill School, Lauds Students' Presentation of National Anthem, National Song at NMBA Padyatra

BANDIPORA, JUNE 6: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday visited Army Goodwill School Bandipora, where she interacted with students and teachers and appreciated their participation in the recently held district-level Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) Padyatra, led by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, Shri Manoj Sinha. The Deputy Commissioner lauded the students for their enthusiastic participation and their impressive presentation of the National Anthem and National Song during the Padyatra. She said the students added a special spirit to the event through their confident performance,

which drew wide appreciation. As a gesture of recognition, the Deputy Commissioner presented an Appreciation Certificate to the school for its contribution to the successful conduct of the programme, and congratulated the students, teachers, and school administration for their collective efforts and commitment. Interacting with the students, Indu Kanwal Chib encouraged them to actively take part in such activities, emphasising that these experiences play a vital role in personality development and confidence building. Sharing memories from her own school days, she recalled how participation in cultural and extracurricular activities helped shape her personality and taught her valuable life lessons. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the confidence of the students and urged them to continue striving for excellence in all spheres of life. She also acknowledged the role of teachers and school management in nurturing talent, instilling values, and providing a supportive environment for the holistic development of students. The Principal of the school, Shabnum Kousar, on behalf of the school administration, expressed gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for visiting the institution and motivating the students through her encouraging words and recognition.

## CPCO briefs Media on Census 2027 during Baramulla Visit

Focus on Public Participation, Awareness, Accurate data collection

BARAMULLA, JUNE 06: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO), Amit Sharma who is also Director Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, today addressed a press conference at Dak Bungalow Baramulla regarding the Census of India 2027. During the press conference, the CPCO highlighted the significance of the Census as the largest administrative and statistical exercise in the country and emphasized its vital role in planning, governance and socio-economic development. He briefed media representatives about the objectives, methodology and key features of Census 2027. He informed that the Census will be conducted in a systematic and scientific manner through designated enumerators and supervisors to ensure accuracy, transparency and confidentiality of information collected during the exercise. Amit Sharma informed that for any query or clarification related to



technology and measures being adopted to ensure accuracy, transparency and confidentiality of information collected during the exercise. Amit Sharma informed that for any query or clarification related to

Census 2027 in the district, citizens can contact the dedicated toll-free helpline number 1855. The CPCO appealed to the public to extend full cooperation to census officials and provide accurate

information during the enumeration process. He stated that active public participation is essential for generating reliable data that forms the foundation for informed policymaking and development planning. Emphasizing the role of the media, he urged media persons to create widespread awareness about Census 2027 through their respective platforms and ensure dissemination of authentic information among the public to encourage maximum participation in this important national exercise. The Chief Principal Census Officer was accompanied by Arun Kumar, Joint Principal Census Officer, Vijay Kumar, Assistant Chief Principal Census Officer, District Census Officer, Baramulla and Chief Planning Officer, (Nodal officer Census Officer), Baramulla who were also present on the occasion.

## Startup India, JKEDI, District Admin Kupwara organise TEJAS workshop to strengthen grassroots entrepreneurship

KUPWARA, JUNE 06: In a significant initiative aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in remote regions, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) and District Administration Kupwara, on Saturday organised a workshop under the TEJAS (Transforming Entrepreneurial Journeys Across State & Districts) programme at Government



Degree College (Boys), Kupwara. The workshop formed part of Startup India's ongoing efforts to promote inclusive entrepreneurship and strengthen grassroots inno-

vation ecosystems across the country. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 350 aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators, startup founders, students, and

other stakeholders from the district. TEJAS is a flagship nationwide initiative designed to identify, nurture, and support aspiring entrepreneurs and startups from non-metro and underserved regions by facilitating access to mentorship, institutional support, resources, and market opportunities. The programme is being implemented across 132 districts of India with a focus on capacity building, ecosystem development, and expanding entrepreneurial opportunities at the grassroots level. The workshop featured a series of expert-led ses-

## SWD Srinagar conducts Awareness Programme on Skill Development for Adolescent Girls

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: Social Welfare Department (SWD)-SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar organized a programme on the integration of out-of-school adolescent girls into various skill development initiatives, aimed at empowering young girls through vocational training and enhancing their opportunities for self-reliance and socio-economic development at Mustafabad, Fruitmandi Srinagar on today. The programme was attended by officials of SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar and out of school adolescent girls from different areas of the district. Speaking on the occasion, the officials from SANKALP HEW Srinagar highlighted the importance of equipping out-of-school adolescent girls with market-relevant skills to improve their employability

and livelihood prospects. Emphasis was laid on identifying vulnerable and marginalized girls and facilitating their enrolment in skill development courses aligned with their interests and local employment opportunities. The participants were sensitized about various government-sponsored skill development programmes, vocational training opportunities, and support mechanisms available for adolescent girls. Interactive sessions were also conducted to address challenges faced by out-of-school girls and to encourage their active participation in skill enhancement initiatives. The programme forms part of the Department's continued efforts to promote inclusive development, gender empowerment, and social protection by ensuring that no adolescent girl is left behind in accessing education, training, and livelihood opportunities.

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## DLSA Srinagar organizes Special Lok Adalat for Contentious Cases

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat for Contentious Cases at the District Court Complex, Mominabad, Srinagar. The Lok Adalat, aimed at amicably resolving Contentious Cases, which was held under the guidance of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District Sessions Judge) Srinagar, and under the supervision of Sub-judge/ Secretary DLSA Srinagar. To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, single bench was constituted for the Special Lok Adalat, which comprised of Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi (Presiding Officer) MACT cases and Advocate Suhaila Ali (Panel Lawyer) DLSA



Srinagar as member of the bench. A total number of five Cases were taken up by the bench for their amicable settlement, out of

## DC reviews progress of Agriculture & Allied Sectors in Pulwama

Stresses diversification of KKGs, timely credit support to farmers

PULWAMA, JUNE 06: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of Agriculture and Allied Sectors at the Administrative Complex Pulwama to assess the progress achieved under various flagship schemes and programmes including the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (KICIP), Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, and other farmer



welfare initiatives. During the meeting, the officers of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep

and directed the Agriculture Department to transform KKGs into vibrant one-stop service centres by promoting testing facilities, agri-implementation, vermicompost units, apiculture, mushroom cultivation and other income-generating activities. The DC also reviewed the status of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) and directed the concerned departments and banking institutions to expedite the processing of pending cases and ensure that all eligible farmers are covered under institutional credit facilities. Reviewing the functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs), the DC emphasized the need for diversification of services being offered through these centres. He laid the stress on the functioning of KKGs

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## Deputy CM inspects Jeevan Nagar Bridge project, assesses restoration works at Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex

JAMMU, JUNE 6: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing Digiana-Jeevan Nagar Bridge project from Sabzi Mandi Lane, Satwari Jammu and reviewed the pace and quality of work being executed on the vital infrastructural project. During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed the progress achieved on the ground. He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of the bridge while maintaining the highest standards of quality. He emphasized that the project holds significant importance in improving the connectivity and easing public movement in the area. Later, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the historic Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex and took on-the-spot stock of the ongoing



restoration and development works being carried out at the heritage site. He reviewed the restoration of the affected lawns and walls of the historic Gadadhar Temple. He stressed the need for preserving the

heritage character and cultural significance of the complex while ensuring quality execution of the restoration works. During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister also took on spot stock of the availability of essential civic

amenities for the local residents residing in and around the heritage complex. Taking note of the public concerns, he directed the concerned authorities to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply to the residents of Anndheri Gali Mohalla, Panjitrithi, Mubarak Mandi and adjoining areas. The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening the infrastructure, preserving heritage assets and ensuring efficient delivery of public services. He instructed the officers to work in close coordination and address the public issues in a time-bound manner. Senior officers of the Jal Shakti Department, Public Works (R&B) Department, district administration and other concerned departments accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the inspections.

## Badherwah's Lavender goes global Dr. Jitendra inaugurates 4th Lavender Festival

BADHERWAH, JUNE 6: The two day 4th Lavender Festival 2026 began today at the Government Degree College (GDC) Badherwah with the theme "Lavender Goes Global." The gala event was inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and Vice President of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Organized by the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, the festival celebrates the transformative impact of the purple revolution in the Chenab Valley region. Addressing a large gathering of farmers, students, scientists, entrepreneurs and the public, Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the transformative impact of the purple revolution in Jammu and Kashmir. He noted that Badherwah has carved out a distinct identity through lavender cultivation, with a lavender-themed tableau from the region featured during Independence Day celebrations in Delhi.



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## National Cancer Survivors Day Satish Sharma advocates affordable healthcare, world-class facilities, holistic cancer research

JAMMU, JUNE 6: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Transport, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today emphasized the need for affordable healthcare, strengthened medical research so that people get medical facilities at par with global standards. The Minister was speaking during the National Cancer Survivors Day at the American Oncology Institute, Batra Hospital, where he interacted with the cancer survivors, healthcare professionals, researchers and medical experts. Commending the courage and resilience of cancer survivors, Satish Sharma said their journey serve as an inspiration for the society. He underlined the importance of strengthening the healthcare systems capable of providing timely and effective treatment. The Minister stressed the need to make quality healthcare and advanced medical facilities more



affordable and accessible to the people from all sections of society. He observed that rising healthcare costs often place significant financial burdens on families and called for sustained efforts to ensure that modern treatment facilities reach every citizen without economic hardship. Satish Sharma also advocated for a more holistic approach to medical research, particularly in the field of cancer care, emphasizing the integration of scientific innovation, preventive healthcare, early diagnosis, nutrition,

mental well-being and community awareness. The Minister said that advancements in science and technology must be effectively leveraged to improve patient outcomes and strengthen healthcare delivery systems across the region. Later, Satish Sharma attended a public meeting at Chowki Choura, where he highlighted the immense developmental potential of the region. He underscored the government's commitment to ensure balanced growth across rural and border areas.

## CPCO Amit Sharma visits Baramulla; Interacts with Officers, Enumerators, Supervisors

### Urges Field Staff to ensure Accuracy, Transparency, Complete Coverage

BARAMULLA, JUNE 06: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) Director Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, along with Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Baramulla SF Hamid, today chaired a review meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla 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 2027 exercise.



At the outset, Officers briefed the Chair on the district's preparedness for Census 2027 and the arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of the ongoing House Listing Operations. The meeting was informed about the training programmes conducted for enumerators and supervisors and the overall readiness of the district administration for the Census exercise.

Principal Census Officer, 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 towards ensuring comprehensive coverage and quality data collection during the enumeration process.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on ensuring complete coverage of all households, including remote and difficult areas, and on strengthening field-level census

operations across the district. Addressing the officers, Amit Sharma appreciated the dedicated efforts of the field staff and encouraged enumerators and supervisors to discharge their responsibilities with utmost commitment and professionalism. He stressed the importance of effective coordination among census functionaries, timely and accurate data collection, and strict adherence to census guidelines to ensure the success of the enumeration process.

Amit Sharma directed all concerned officers to extend full support to census personnel and take necessary measures for the smooth conduct of House Listing and Housing Census activities throughout the district. The CPCO further informed that for any query or clarification related to Census 2027, citizens can contact the dedicated toll-free helpline number 1855. He appealed to the public to remain vigilant against fraudulent calls, messages, or individuals falsely claiming association with the Census exercise and cautioned people against sharing personal, financial, banking, or OTP-related information with anyone in the name of Census. He clarified that the Census process is simple and transparent, and citizens are only required to answer the prescribed Census questions during the enumeration process. He urged residents to cooperate with authorized Census personnel and provide accurate information to ensure the success of this important national

exercise. The meeting also reviewed field-level preparedness and discussed various operational aspects related to the Census exercise. Amit Sharma reiterated that the Census is a crucial national exercise that serves as the foundation for evidence-based planning and development planning across the country. Joint Chief Principal Census Officer, Arun Kumar, also briefed the participants on the monitoring framework for field operations and emphasized the importance of real-time tracking and supervision of data collection activities. Later, CPCO Amit Sharma also interacted with enumerators and supervisors and held a question-and-answer session regarding various aspects of the Census exercise. He addressed their queries and emphasized the importance of maintaining accuracy, transparency and professionalism during field operations.

## J&K Judicial Academy begins Pre-Appointment Induction Training for newly selected Civil Judges

SRINAGAR, JUNE 06: The Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy today commenced the Pre-Appointment Induction Training Programme for 39 newly selected Civil Judges (Junior Division) at its Srinagar campus.



The programme was inaugurated by Justice Arun Palli, Judge, Supreme Court of India, in presence of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and other companion Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

Delivering the inaugural address, Justice Arun Palli described the judicial service as a public trust and

emphasized that trial court judges represent the face of the judiciary for most citizens. Justice Arun Palli urged the newly selected officers to uphold the highest standards of integrity, humility and fairness, remain committed to continuous learning and strive to strengthen public confidence in the justice delivery system through their conduct and decisions. In his special address, Justice

Sanjeev Kumar, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh congratulated the newly selected officers and emphasized that judicial service demands integrity, impartiality, discipline and compassion. Justice Sanjeev Kumar advised the participants to maintain lifelong learners, maintain the highest ethical standards, embrace technology responsibly, avoid overde-

pendence on artificial intelligence and discharge their duties fearlessly and fairly in accordance with law. In his introductory remarks, Justice Rajnesh Oswal highlighted the significance of the transition from the Bar to the Bench and described it as a momentous milestone requiring a shift from partisan advocacy to impartial adjudication. Justice Rajnesh Oswal reminded the participants that a judge's foremost allegiance is to the Constitution and the rule of law. He emphasized the virtues of patience, restraint, independence and continuous learning as essential attributes of a judicial officer. Earlier, in his welcome address, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Naseer Ahmad Dar highlighted the importance of judicial education in strengthening the justice

delivery system. He informed that the induction programme has been designed to equip the newly selected officers with the knowledge, skills and ethical foundations necessary for judicial service. Following the inaugural ceremony, the academic proceedings commenced with Session-1 on "Introduction to the Training Programme Module - Background", jointly conducted by Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Sanjay Parihar, Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh. The session familiarized the participants with the objectives, structure and expected outcomes of the induction training programme. It provided an overview of the professional journey that lies ahead for the newly appointed judicial officers.

## Sat, Ashok review preparations for programmes marking 12 Years of Vishwaas, Vikas and Jan Kalyan under PM Modi



Jammu, June 6: BJP Jammu & Kashmir President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA), along with BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, chaired a review meeting at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to assess and finalize preparations for a series of programmes being organized across Jammu and Kashmir from June 5 to June 21 under the nationwide campaign commemorating 12 Years of Vishwaas, Vikas and Jan Kalyan under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The pro-

grammes include special outreach initiatives, plantation drives, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan activities, Pragati Path Yatra, Viksit Bharat Sampark Sammelan, Jan Kalyan Shivirs, observance of World Environment Day and International Yoga Day, exhibitions showcasing the achievements of the Modi Government, workshops on natural farming, and several other public engagement activities. J&K BJP Vice-President & programme incharge Rakesh Mahajan, Secretaries Reema Padha, and Arun Sharma,

Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Kashmir Displaced District President Rajiv Pandita, Morcha Presidents Brahmijot Satti, and Dharminder Kumar, Bawa Sharma, Sunny Sangota, Priyanka Mahajan, and others participated in the meeting. Sat Sharma, while addressing the meeting, said that the last twelve years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership have transformed India into a stronger, more prosperous, and globally respected nation. He said that the programmes being organized are aimed at taking the achievements and welfare initiatives of the government directly to the people and strengthening the connection between the government and the masses. He stressed that every BJP activist must actively participate.

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