

North in News

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Lieutenant Governor chairs a high-level review meeting on preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparedness for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026. He directed all departments to ensure timely completion of arrangements including infrastructure, healthcare, sanitation, connectivity, and other pilgrim-centric services. The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat; Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shahleen Kabra; Additional Chief



Secretary, Power Development Department, Ashwani Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism Department, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Shaileendra Kumar; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department, Anil Kumar Singh; Commandant General, Home Guard/CD & SDRF, A. G. Mir; Principal Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti; Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Dr. Mandep K. Bhandari; Director, Fire & Emergency Services, Alok Kumar. (Contd on Pg 2)

Sluggish growth cunningly given Hindu tag, should've been named 'Congress Growth Rate': PM

NEW DELHI, JUN 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday attacked the Congress, saying the sluggish economic growth during their rule was cunningly dubbed "Hindu Growth Rate" when it should have been called "Congress Growth Rate" for a complete absence of governance. Modi also said a big success of the 12 years of the NDA rule since 2014 was that it freed the country from the Congress "vicious trap" and asserted that the people of the country had understood the importance of political stability and decisive governance. The sluggish



growth under the Congress rule was labelled as the "Hindu Growth Rate", implying that while the style, responsibility and failure were all the Congress', the stigma was pinned on the country's vast Hindu population, Modi said as he addressed an NDA conclave here after becoming India's longest continuously serving elected prime minister. In his 37-minute speech largely focused on his government's achievements in the last 12 years and his vision for a 'Viksit Bharat', (Contd on Pg 2)

Governor Kavinder Gupta calls for making voluntary service a way of life

Inaugurates Blood Donation and Free Dental Health Camp

SHIMLA, JUNE 10: The Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Kavinder Gupta, who also serves as President of the Himachal Pradesh State Red Cross Society, today inaugurated a Blood Donation Camp and Free Dental Health Check-up Camp organized by the State Red Cross Society in Shimla. Addressing blood donors, volunteers, medical professionals and citizens present on the occasion, the Governor



described voluntary blood donation as one of the noblest acts of public service, emphasizing that blood is a priceless gift that cannot be manufactured in

any laboratory. He said that every unit of blood donated has the potential to save multiple lives and provide hope to patients facing medical emergencies. "Blood can only be given by one human being to another. Every donation made today may save the life of a mother, a child, an accident victim or a soldier serving the nation. There can be no greater example of humanity and responsible citizenship," he remarked. (Contd on Pg 2)

Rly Minister Ashwini Vaishnav meets CM Omar Announces New Vande Bharat Stoppage at Anantnag

NEW DELHI / SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: In a significant move to enhance regional connectivity, Minister for Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav, met with the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, today to discuss ongoing and future railway projects aimed at accelerating economic growth in the J&K region. During the high-level meeting, a landmark decision was reached



to introduce a commercial stoppage for the prestigious Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express at Anantnag. This strategic halt will significantly benefit commuters, tourists, and traders, providing a faster and more reliable transport link to one of Kashmir's most prominent economic and cultural hubs. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed deep

BRIEF NEWS

Kathua fire guts two dozen hutments, forest blaze sparks mine blasts in Rajouri
JAMMU, JUN 10: A massive fire reduced nearly two dozen hutments to ashes in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district early Wednesday, leaving several migrant workers homeless and causing extensive damage to household belongings, officials said. The fire broke out in a cluster of temporary dwellings adjacent to a scrapyard at Maggar Khad in the Chak Gota area of the district around 4 am and spread rapidly due to the highly combustible material used in the structures, the officials said. They said Fire and Emergency Services personnel, assisted by locals, launched a fire fighting operation and contained the flames. While no loss of life (Contd on Pg 2)

CAT Cracks Whip on Health Dept, Sets 8-Week Deadline with Rs 1 Lakh Cost

JAMMU, JUNE-10 (JNF): The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Srinagar Bench, has directed the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir to comply with the remaining directions of a 2003 civil court decree favouring Iqbal Ahmad Baqal within eight weeks, warning that failure to do so will invite costs of Rs 1 lakh. The order was passed by Ms. Justice Ritu Tagore, Member (Judicial), in TA No. 387/2022. The applicant was represented by Senior Advocate N.A. Beigh with Advocate Mohammad Murshid Rashid, while Deputy Advocate General Syed Musab appeared for the respondents. The Tribunal observed that the decree dated June 5, 2003 had attained finality after the respondents' appeal, revision, writ petition, restoration application and RSA proceedings failed before different forums. It noted that despite repeated judicial pronouncements spanning over two decades, the decree had not been fully implemented. The case related to the applicant's claim for salary and consequential benefits from August 1998 onwards. The CAT held that merely permitting the applicant to resume duties could not be treated as complete (Contd on Pg 2)

Union Cabinet hails Modi on becoming longest serving elected PM, backs his 'Viksit Bharat' vision

NEW DELHI, JUN 10: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday unanimously passed a resolution applauding Narendra Modi for becoming the longest continuously serving elected prime minister and termed it a historic milestone in the journey of Indian democracy. The Cabinet members also gave Modi a standing ovation for the achievement. The resolution, adopted at the Cabinet meeting chaired by Modi, congratulated Jawaharlal Nehru's record of 4,398 days as elected prime minister and expressed confidence that under his leadership, India would continue to "scale new heights as a self-reliant, secure and prosperous nation". The Cabinet backed Modi's vision of a "Viksit Bharat" and praised his leadership on national security, inclusive growth and social justice. In strong endorsement of government's political and developmental agenda, the Cabinet expressed its "full support" for Modi's leadership in building a developed India by 2047 and lauded "his tireless dedication to public service". The resolution appreciated Modi's efforts towards "inclusive growth and social justice" and praised his leadership in strengthening national security and protecting India's interests. The Cabinet also credited the prime minister with driving welfare programmes (Contd on Pg 2)

CRPF DG reviews security arrangements for Amarnath yatra in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, JUN 10: Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026, "Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) reviewed the force's operational preparedness for the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra and stressed the need for seamless coordination among all agencies to ensure a safe pilgrimage, officials said. Singh, who is on a three-day visit to the Kashmir Valley, also chaired a meeting attended by senior officers of the CRPF, civil administration, Jammu and Kashmir Police and other agencies involved in securing the annual pilgrimage in the south Kashmir Himalayas. "DG CRPF reviewed the operational preparedness of the force in view of the forthcoming (Contd on Pg 2)

Drug peddler property worth Rs 1.20 crore attached in Pulwama

SRINAGAR, JUN 10: Police on Wednesday attached property worth Rs 1.20 crore belonging to a drug peddler under the NDPS act in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Wednesday. "Police attached a double-storey residential house worth approximately Rs 1.20 crore belonging to a drug peddler, Manzoor Mir or Mann Tiger, resident of Kadlabal Pampore, under the provisions of Section 68-F of the NDPS Act," a police spokesperson said. He said police identified the property as illegally acquired through proceeds from the illicit (Contd on Pg 2)

Court Frames Charges against Cashier for Causing Rs 6.12 Lakh Loss to Exchequer

JAMMU, JUNE-10 (JNF): Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu Sonia Gupta has framed charges against a former Junior Assistant Cashier of the Mechanical Division, Jammu, in an alleged Government revenue misappropriation case involving Rs 6.12.784. The order was passed by Special Judge Anti-Corruption Jammu Sonia Gupta in a challan titled UT of J&K through Police Station Crime Branch Jammu Versus Slocus Nar. The accused Slocus Nar, son of David, resident of Old Rehari, Jammu, was then posted as Junior Assistant Cashier in the office of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Jammu. As per the prosecution case, a written complaint was lodged by Vijay Kumar Arora, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Jammu, and Rajesh Sharma, Assistant Accounts Officer, alleging



that the accused had committed financial irregularities by manipulating entries in official records, treasury challans and revenue remittance registers. The prosecution alleged that the accused was entrusted with the duty to collect Government revenue and deposit the same in the Government treasury, besides maintaining GR books, remittance challan books, remittance registers, cash books and other official records of the Mechanical Division. Appearing for the UT of J&K, Ld. APP Jitender Kumar Anand (Contd on Pg 2)

5-member panel to probe reasons behind Gulmarg cable car malfunction

SRINAGAR, JUN 10: Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday formed a five-member committee to inquire into circumstances that led to the malfunctioning of Gulmarg cable car services last month. The General Administration Department (GAD) appointed the Managing Director of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Mahmood Shah, as chairman of the committee, which has been asked to submit a report within 10 days. On May 25, the Gulmarg cable car services, popularly known as Gondola rides, developed a technical snag that left more than 300 tourists stranded mid-air. The stranded tourists and local guides were evacuated after a massive rescue operation launched by the Army, Police, the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force. According to the GAD order, the committee has been asked to ascertain and establish the complete (Contd on Pg 2)

NIA Court issues proclamation against Hizb Chief, three others in 1996 Case

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: A special court designated under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act in Srinagar on Wednesday issued a proclamation against four accused persons including banned Hizbul Mujahideen Chief Syed Salahuddin, in a 1996 militancy-related case after they allegedly failed to appear before the court. According to the proclamation issued by the Court of Additional Sessions Judge TADA/POTA and Special Judge designated under the NIA Act, the accused have been identified as Mohammad Yusuf Shah alias Syed Salahuddin of Soibugh Budgam, Ghulam Nabi Khan alias Amir Khan of Anantnag, (Contd on Pg 2)

FROM PAGE ONE

Lieutenant...

Administrative Secretaries, Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone and Kashmir Zone, Divisional Commissioners; Deputy Commissioners and senior officials of Shrine Board and all the line departments. "Shri Anamath Ji Yatra will begin on July 3 and conclude on August 28. Our collective goal is to ensure a safe, seamless, and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage for every devotee of Baba Barfani," the Lieutenant Governor said. Emphasizing seamless coordination, proactive planning, and strict monitoring, the Lieutenant Governor stated that this sacred pilgrimage is a national event. He instructed all stakeholders to work with utmost dedication and maintain the highest standards of efficiency and safety.

During the meeting, it was informed that large number of pilgrims are getting registered, and that Yatra is expected to be higher as compared to that in recent Yatras. The Lieutenant Governor stressed upon the need for whole of government approach and close coordinated efforts by various departments and organizations to manage and facilitate the Yatra 2026.

The Lieutenant Governor, while reviewing the infrastructure works, was appraised that the tracks along both Ballal and Pahalgam routes have been widened to around 12-feet in order to make the journey comfortable, and that all the remaining works are progressing as per timelines. He directed the concerned agencies, including BRO, to ensure that both tracks are fully functional by June 25 and that crash barriers and hand railings are installed at all vulnerable points on the roads leading to the two base camps.

The Lieutenant Governor also reviewed arrangements relating to road connectivity, sanitation, water and power supply, registration management, health facilities, disaster management, transportation, lodgement centres, holding spaces and telecom connectivity. He directed the concerned authorities to enhance holding capacity at key locations, increase the number of toilets and ambulances, and ensure comprehensive disaster preparedness. Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal and Anantnag were asked to conduct thorough inspection of the tracks, identify slippery stretches and shooting stone areas, and ensure installation of adequate warning signage at vulnerable spots. He further directed that pitching of only high quality and aesthetic tents at various camps should be ensured, and no unauthorized tents be permitted. All service providers and pilgrims shall be required to have valid registration and RFID cards for moving on the Yatra tracks. Pony stands are to be properly fenced, and a comprehensive emergency evacuation plan is to be prepared well in advance. The Lieutenant Governor also directed telecom service providers to ensure seamless connectivity along the Yatra route.

All concerned departments have been instructed to set up their respective Yatra camps and centres by June 20. Earlier, the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Anamath Ji Shrine Board, Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, presented a detailed overview of the works executed by various departments and agencies for the smooth conduct of the Yatra.

Sluggish...

Modi said the dream of a 'Viksit Bharat' did not belong to a person or any party, but had become the resolve of every citizen in the country.

Attacking the Congress, he said the party had plunged the country into an abyss of "helplessness, destitution, and an inferiority complex" during its rule.

"The nation was conditioned to believe that development in India inevitably moves at a slow pace and rapid growth was simply not possible here. With great cunningness, this sluggish growth was labelled the 'Hindu Growth Rate', implying that while the style, responsibility and failure were all the Congress', the stigma was pinned on the country's vast Hindu population," Modi said.

"It should have been named 'Congress Growth Rate'. This 'Congress Growth Rate' was characterised by a complete absence of governance, policy, intent and decisiveness," the prime minister said.

It was under Atal Bihari Vajpayee's leadership that the NDA government first came to power and only then did the country get a glimpse of what accelerated development looked like, Modi said.

"Unfortunately, in 2004, the country was once again caught in a cycle of instability," he said, referring to the Congress-led UPA rule from 2004-2014.

He said the Congress dragged the country into multi-crore rupee scams.

"The nation's destiny changed again when the NDA government was formed in 2014. The country witnessed the pace of development when intent, policy and decision-making align and work in unison," Modi said.

The nation saw tasks that used to take decades being accomplished in mere months, he said.

"From 74 airports in 2014 to over 160 airports by 2026; from 1,000 kilometres of expressways in 2014 to 6,700 kilometres by 2026; from metro services in just five cities in 2014 to over 20 cities by 2026; and from Rs 700 crore in defence exports in 2014 to Rs 23,000 crore by 2026, the country has traversed a long journey," Modi said.

"In 2014, there were only 25 crore internet users in the country; today, over 100 crore users are connected to the internet. In 2014, digital payments were negligible; today, India ranks number one in digital transactions," he said.

"For me, people represent God," the PM said at the NDA conclave.

"People of the country have understood the importance of political stability at the national level. It is their maturity that they gave me an opportunity to serve them for such a long time," Modi said.

Before 2014, several decades were full of instability and upheaval, but people are now witnessing the work of a

stable government and are admiring its decisiveness, he added.

"When the NDA won in 2014, I had said today there is a dawn of a new hope for the common person. After the Congress' betrayal, people showed confidence in us. As an NDA family, we have strengthened the confidence that people have in us," Modi said.

Congratulatory messages from world leaders, a standing ovation at a meeting of the Union Cabinet and puja-santi by BJP leaders across the country marked Modi reaching the milestone of becoming the longest continuous serving elected prime minister on Wednesday.

Modi crossed the record of Jawaharlal Nehru's 4,398 days in power as an elected prime minister following the 1952 general elections.

Nehru's stint from 1947 to 1952 was as head of an interim government as elections were not held till 1952.

Governor...

Governor said that the inauguration of the camp was not merely the beginning of a blood donation drive but a reaffirmation of society's collective commitment towards compassion, service and social responsibility. He noted that the principles of humanity, impartiality and voluntary service, on which the Red Cross movement is founded, remain as relevant today as ever and should guide efforts to build a caring and inclusive society. Calling upon the youth of Himachal Pradesh to actively participate in welfare initiatives, Shri Gupta urged them to transform their concern for society into meaningful action. He stressed that voluntary service must become a way of life rather than a seasonal gesture and encouraged citizens to contribute regularly towards humanitarian causes. The Governor also inspected the Mobile Dental Clinic Van deployed by the Red Cross Society and appreciated the initiative aimed at extending healthcare services to remote and underserved regions of the State. He observed that mobile healthcare outreach is essential in a hilly State like Himachal Pradesh, where geographical challenges often limit access to quality medical facilities. Shri Kavinder Gupta directed the Red Cross Society to organize similar blood donation and health awareness camps across all districts, particularly in remote areas where blood availability remains a challenge. He also emphasized the need to promote awareness among students so that future generations view blood donation as a natural social responsibility. The Governor presented certificates of appreciation to blood donors and specially felicitated Raj Kumar for his exemplary commitment to regular blood donation. He also commended the doctors, paramedical staff and Red Cross volunteers for their dedicated service in making the initiative a success. Among those present were Dr. Sadhna Thakur, Dr. Kimi Sood, Head of the Department of Public Health Dentistry, IGM, Dr. Vinay Bhardwaj, members of the Red Cross Society, blood donors and other dignitaries.

Announces...

appreciation for the Indian Railways' transformative initiatives in J&K. He highlighted that the Vande Bharat service has fundamentally redefined travel between Jammu and Srinagar, cutting down travel time and offering world-class comfort to residents and visitors alike. Beyond passenger movement, the Chief Minister underscored the growing, vital role of the expanded rail network in boosting J&K's local economy. The seamless and robust movement of essential freight—particularly the region's famous fruits like Cherry, Apple and cement—through the railway network has drastically optimized logistics, reduced transit costs, and opened up larger markets for local farmers and industrialists. Speaking on the partnership, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav reiterated the Government of India's unwavering commitment to the holistic development of Jammu & Kashmir. He emphasized that the introduction of the Anantnag stoppage reflects the government's approach of listening to local aspirations and tailoring infrastructure to serve the people effectively.

CAT...

compliance of the decree, particularly when the directions regarding release of salary and determination of the intervening period remained unresolved.

The Tribunal directed the respondents to release the applicant's salary from August 1998 onwards in terms of the decree, hold and conclude an inquiry regarding his period of absence after giving him proper opportunity of participation and hearing, and thereafter pass a reasoned order determining his entitlement to salary and other service benefits, if any.

The CAT directed that the entire exercise be completed within eight weeks from the date the order is made available to the respondents. It further made clear that if the directions are not complied with within the stipulated period, the respondents shall be liable to pay costs of Rs 1 lakh to the applicant.

The Tribunal, however, clarified that it had neither enlarged nor modified the 2003 decree and that the proceedings were confined only to enforcement of the decree within its lawful scope. (INF)

Union...

for the poor and empowering marginalised sections, noting that more than 25 crore people had overcome poverty during his tenure. The resolution comes as the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government completes 12 years in office. Modi became the longest-serving prime minister in nearly two years into the NDA's third consecutive term — a feat achieved by a prime minister after six decades. On May 26, 2014, Modi took charge as India's prime minister after the BJP's landslide victory. He got re-elected with a bigger mandate in 2019 and his second

term began on May 30 of the same year. His third consecutive term started on June 9, 2024.

"This occasion symbolizes the strength of India's democratic consciousness, public trust, and people's participation. "When a public representative lives by the resolve of 'Nation First', when he makes truth, integrity, hard work, honesty, and probity in life his guiding principles, and remaining steadfastly dedicated to serving the people — then the public bestows its blessings upon him in the form of unprecedented support. Today's historic moment is a reflection of that same public blessing," the resolution said.

Asked what the prime minister said on the occasion, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said he underlined his commitment of continuing to serve the people earnestly and work harder than before.

The prime minister also urged his cabinet colleagues to understand and work towards achieving the people's aspirations, Vaishnav said.

He said the basic message was that "we must continue to focus on serving our citizens and we must do that with full vigour, connect with grassroots, and make all our schemes which help fulfill the aspirations of people".

The resolution highlighted that after six decades, the country has given a mandate to the NDA government for a third consecutive term under Modi's leadership.

"We are proud that our leadership is in such capable hands who have sensitivity, restraint, intention and decisive ability," it said.

"The Union Cabinet expresses confidence that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India will continue to scale new heights as a self-reliant, secure, prosperous, and proud nation, and will strengthen the path towards becoming a developed nation by 2047," it said, while wishing the prime minister good health and long life.

The resolution further read that the life of Modi has been a symbol of service, courage and a continuous pursuit of nation building and said his understanding of ground realities made policies more sensitive, practical and result-oriented.

"After taking oath as Prime Minister in 2014, he called himself 'Pradhan Sevak' in the Central Hall of Parliament. He had described the country's Constitution as a holy book and also said that his government is dedicated to the poor. Making the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' as the motto of the government, the last 12 years have been an expression of these resolutions," it said.

It recognized the focus on youth power that propelled India into becoming the world's third-largest startup ecosystem and a scientific power through Mission Chandrayaan and lauded steps taken towards women empowerment including providing 33 per cent reservation to women in legislative bodies.

It also lauded the initiatives taken by the prime minister towards farmers including PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and Kisan Credit Cards, that helped the agriculture sector.

The resolution highlighted a range of reforms and policy decisions undertaken during the last 12 years, including the abrogation of Article 370, implementation of GST, One Rank One Pension, new criminal laws and measures aimed at boosting manufacturing and self-reliance.

It further cited the government's actions on national security, efforts to tackle left-wing extremism, peace initiatives in the Northeast and India's growing global profile through platforms such as the G20.

"The Union Cabinet expresses gratitude for his unparalleled dedication and tireless hard work towards serving the nation," the resolution said.

CRPF...

arrangements and smooth coordination among the agencies involved.

He also conducted a field visit to the CRPF battalion headquarters at Gundi in Ganderbal district.

The 57-day Anamath yatra will begin on July 3 via the twin routes — the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Batal track in Ganderbal district — and conclude on August 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan.

Court...

submitted that sufficient material had been collected by the investigating agency to frame charges against the accused. He argued that the investigation had prima facie established offences under Sections 409, 420, 465, 467, 468 and 471 RPC read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt. 2006.

The defence counsel Advocate Ashwani Gupta opposed the framing of charge, contending that there was no material on record to suggest the involvement of the accused and further argued that no valid sanction had been granted for prosecution. The court, however, observed that at the stage of framing of charge, the court is only required to see whether there is sufficient material on record warranting trial and that a roving inquiry or appreciation of evidence is not permissible at this stage. After perusing the material on record, the court held that there was enough material to show prima facie that the accused had abused his official position and swindled Rs 6,12,784, thereby causing wrongful loss to the State exchequer and wrongful gain to himself. Accordingly, the court ordered framing of charges against the accused. The charges were read over and explained to him in open court, where he pleaded not guilty and claimed trial. The court has listed the case for prosecution evidence on July 18, 2026. (INF)

5-member...

sequence of events that led to the technical snag. It has been asked to examine all relevant facts, records, and

operational details necessary to arrive at a clear understanding of the incident.

The committee will conduct a detailed technical examination of the cable car system and investigate the nature, cause and extent of its failure.

It will review the existing operational procedures, maintenance protocols, inspection mechanisms, and safety procedures governing the functioning of the cable car system and assess whether they were adhered to at the time of the incident. It will also examine whether any operational lapse or negligence contributed directly or indirectly to the incident.

The committee has been mandated to identify responsibility for any act of negligence, procedural violation or failure on part of any individual or agency associated with the functioning of the cable cars.

It shall "recommend immediate corrective measures required for ensuring safe operation and restoration of the cable car system, as well as long-term technical, operational, administrative, and safety-related measures necessary to prevent recurrence of similar incidents in future".

NIA...

Sher Mohammad alias Bahadur alias Riyaz of Bandipora, and Nasir Yousof Qadri of Binnina Srinagar. The proclamation was issued by Additional Sessions Judge, TADA/P Manjeet Rai, in connection with FIR No. 05/1996 registered at Police Station CIK Srinagar under Sections 121 and 121-A of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) pertaining to waging war and conspiracy against the State; Sections 153-A and 153-B related to promoting enmity and prejudicial assertions against national integration; Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for unlawful activities; and Sections 2 and 3 of the Enemy Agents Ordinance and Enemy Influence and Infiltration Control Ordinance (E&IMCO) for aiding or acting on behalf of enemy agencies. The court observed that warrants issued against the accused could not be executed as they were allegedly absconding and evading arrest. The court said it was satisfied that the accused persons were concealing themselves to avoid the execution of warrants.

"It stands established that a warrant of arrest has already been issued against the accused persons by this Court on 26.02.2026 and forwarded for execution through the police hierarchy. The reports of the executing agency, the field staff, the concerned police stations and the Section Officers, read with the statements of the Lambardars, Chowkidars, Ward Officers and respectable of the localities, unambiguously disclose that the accused are not residing at their native address and are deliberately concealing their presence so as to defeat the execution of the warrant and evade the process of law," the Court observed.

"The requirements for issuance of a proclamation under Section 84 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 are thus fully attracted. Accordingly, the application is allowed. Let a proclamation under Section 84 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 be issued against the accused persons," the Court order said.

The court has directed all four accused to appear before it on July 14 at 10 AM, failing which further legal action under law shall follow.

Salahuddin contested the 1987 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections on a Muslim United Front (MUF) ticket, polls widely alleged to have been rigged. Following his arrest and later release, he crossed over to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and went on to head the Hizbul Mujahideen and the United Jihad Council. Designated a global terrorist by the United States in 2017, Salahuddin now based in PoK, has been accused of orchestrating several terror attacks and funding insurgent activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kathua...

was reported, the fire destroyed household goods, clothes, utensils, three motorcycles and other essential items belonging to the migrant workers, mostly rag-pickers from Bihar, the officials said.

Recalling the moments when the fire engulfed her house, one of the victims, Anita Devi, said, "We were asleep when the fire broke out. By the time we realised what was happening, the flames had spread rapidly." She said people managed to get all her family members out safely, but all their belongings were destroyed.

"Now we have nothing left except the clothes we were wearing when we fled our home," she said, seeking government assistance and community support for the restoration of their livelihoods.

In a separate incident, a forest fire in Rajouri district triggered a series of landmine explosions along the Line of Control in Keri sector.

Officials said loud blasts were heard from the forested area as the fire spread through the dry vegetation but there was no casualty.

Security forces and civil authorities monitored the situation closely, while firefighting teams worked to bring the blaze under control, the officials said.

Forest fires were also reported from several other areas in Rajouri, Reasi and Udhampur districts in the last 24 hours, the officials said.

Forest fires have become increasingly common across Jammu during the summer months due to rising temperatures and prolonged dry conditions. Authorities have urged people to exercise caution and avoid activities that could trigger fires in vulnerable forest zones.

Drug...

trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances during an enquiry conducted by Police Station Pampore under the supervision of senior officers.

The spokesperson said the accused is involved in multiple FIRs related to drug trafficking and narcotics offences.

Commissioner Secretary visits Samba; assures people-centric, multi-stakeholder approach under Vibrant Village Phase II

SAMBA, JUNE 10: Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Ecology and Environment, Sheetal Nanda, today visited Chak Dulma and Chak Lala villages in Block Rajpura as part of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) Phase-II, underscoring the government's commitment to holistic and inclusive rural development in border areas of the Union Territory. During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary was briefed on the status of various projects being undertaken in the villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme. Among others present on the occasion were Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional



Deputy Commissioner, Company Commander BSF, district officers and villagers. It was informed during the briefing that all 16 identified villages under the programme have been assigned Nodal Officers and gap analysis exercises have been duly completed with projects formally proposed for each village. In Chak Dulma, 11 projects have been proposed, while 9 projects have been put forward for Chak Lala, covering a range of developmental interventions to address the infrastructure and livelihood needs of the local population. Local inhabitants of both the villages expressed their views on the proposed projects and placed their grievances before the senior officer, particularly pertaining to the agrarian economy and departmental functioning in the villages. Proposals for a playground and a veterinary hospital also figured prominently among the demands raised by the local residents. The Commissioner Secretary listened attentively to the requests of the villagers and assured them of an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach to ensure that the villages are equipped with people-centric infrastructure, especially for the youth. This will facilitate affirmative action for building a productive and drug-free society in the border areas of Samba district.

Plantation drive held at Trauma Hospital Khellani



ASSAR, JUNE 10: A plantation drive was organised at Trauma Hospital Khellani under Medical Block Assar, District Doda, under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Vinod Sharma and the supervision of Block Medical Officer Assar Dr Syed Mohd Ismail, with the objective of promoting environmental conservation and creating a greener and healthier ecosystem. Medical staff and officials planted various saplings during the drive, reaffirming their commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development. The participants also pledged to nurture and protect the saplings to ensure their healthy growth. Speaking on the occasion, BMO Assar Dr Syed Mohd

Ismail emphasised that trees are the lifeline of the environment and play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. He stated that plantation drives are a collective responsibility towards future generations, not merely symbolic activities. He urged all healthcare workers and members of the public to actively participate in afforestation initiatives and adopt environmentally friendly practices and highlighted that a healthy environment is essential for a healthy society. The programme concluded with a collective pledge by participants to continue supporting environmental conservation initiatives and raise awareness about the importance of tree plantation.

Arrangements for Sudhmahadev Mela reviewed at Udhampur



UDHAMPUR, JUNE 10: Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh today convened a meeting of officers of various departments at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex Udhampur, to discuss arrangements for the smooth conduct of the three-day Sudhmahadev Mela. Among those present were Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr Umesh Stan, other senior

officers and representatives of the mela committee. Detailed discussions were held on security, sanitation, healthcare, transport, traffic management, drinking water, power supply, installation of department stalls, road maintenance and rate checking. Addressing the meeting, the ADC directed all district officers to work in coordination to finalise necessary arrangements well before the commencement of the mela. He urged local mela committee members to actively contribute to its success, noting that public participation is vital for promoting tourism and the local economy. Tehsildar Chenani was appointed as Mela Officer and directed to take stock of all arrangements. Executive Engineer PHE was directed to make adequate arrangements for drinking water supply at the mela site, while Executive Engineer PDD was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the mela. The Chief Medical Officer was directed to deploy a medical team for first aid services. District Police will deploy adequate security personnel and ARTO will deploy sufficient buses from different locations.

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Agriculture Production Department holds "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" at Kathua

KATHUA, JUNE 10: The Agriculture Production Department Kathua today organised the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" awareness campaign to promote sustainable agricultural practices, protect soil health, enhance farm productivity and encourage the judicious use of agricultural inputs among the farming community. Secretary Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department J&K Nitin Gupta inaugurated the programme as Chief Guest in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma. The event saw participation from officers of Agriculture and allied departments, scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), progressive farmers and other stakeholders. Addressing the gathering, the Secretary underscored the importance of protecting agricultural lands and preserving soil fertility for future generations. She stressed



the need to adopt scientific, climate-resilient and resource-efficient farming practices and urged farmers to actively participate in government initiatives aimed at improving agricultural productivity and sustainability. She also highlighted the government's commitment to promoting sustainable

agriculture through farmer-centric policies. The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the collective responsibility of all stakeholders towards conservation of natural resources, sustainable agricultural development and long-term food security. He called upon farmers to make opti-

mum use of departmental schemes, scientific advancements and modern technologies to enhance productivity, improve farm incomes and promote environmentally sustainable farming. During the technical session, KVK Kathua Head Dr Vishal Mahajan highlighted the role of scientific interventions and innovative technologies in improving farm productivity and profitability. He stressed the importance of integrated crop management, efficient resource utilisation and climate-smart agriculture in addressing emerging challenges in the sector. Joint Director Soil and Land Use Survey and Planning (SLUP) Jammu Aman Jyoti elaborated on the objectives and significance of the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" and called for coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to safeguard soil health and strengthen agricultural ecosystems.

DDC Reasi chairs DLPACC meeting, stresses community-centric development under PMAGY

REASI, JUNE 10: District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting of the District Level Project Appraisal - cum - Convergence Committee to review the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyudaya Yojana and approve Village Development Plans under the Pradhan Mantri Adash Gram Yojana (PMAGY). A detailed presentation outlined the scheme's objectives, implementation framework, financial progress and achievements in the district. It also reviewed ongoing developmental works, key socio-



economic indicators and the convergence-based strategy adopted for the integrated development of Scheduled Caste-dominated villages. The committee examined the Action Plans and Village Development Plans for three villages: Sersundwan (Block Bhomag), Sirah (Block

Panthal) and Nelay (Block Panthal); prepared and recommended by the respective Village Level Convergence Committees. The committee was informed that PMAGY focuses on improving the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Caste communities through convergence of various government schemes, covering infrastructure development, livelihood generation, skill development, education, healthcare, sanitation and financial inclusion. The DDC emphasised the need to bridge infrastructure gaps in the identified villages and directed departments to prioritise

community-centric works over individual beneficiary-oriented projects. He highlighted key interventions including upgradation of schools, restoration of springs, installation of solar lights, construction of community halls and playgrounds, establishment of model Anganwadi Centres and construction of dug wells. He further directed departments to organise awareness and outreach programmes on financial inclusion and welfare schemes, ensuring saturation of eligible beneficiaries through opening of bank accounts and issuance of Aadhaar and Ayushman Bharat health cards.

Javid Dar reviews social welfare schemes, calls for greater outreach to beneficiaries

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Elections, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of various social welfare schemes in his constituency. The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sarmad Hafeez, senior officers of Social Welfare Department and other concerned officials, who presented a detailed overview of the achievements and status of welfare schemes being implemented for the benefit of vulnerable sec-



tions of society. During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the coverage of beneficiaries under different pension schemes, particularly the Old Age Pension Scheme and sought details regarding eligible beneficiaries yet to be covered under the programme. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that all deserving individuals are identified and provided benefits in a

transparent and time-bound manner. Emphasising the need for greater public awareness, the Minister instructed the department to organise awareness programmes and special outreach camps across the constituency to facilitate the registration and inclusion of senior citizens, widows and specially-abled persons under various welfare schemes of the Government.

ADDC Kathua reviews progress under Mission YUVA

KATHUA, JUNE 10: Additional District Development Commissioner Kathua Surinder Mohan Sharma today chaired a review meeting of officers concerned to assess progress under Mission YUVA in the district. At the outset, Assistant Director District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC) Kathua Piyusha Khajuria briefed the meeting on student mobilisation in colleges and through Self Help Groups, status of application sanctioning, output tracking, capacity-building initiatives, entrepreneurship mentorship, onboarding of stakeholders



ed on the ONDC platform and staff hiring. The meeting was informed that 114 training batches comprising 925 aspirants have completed training under the Mission. Further, 20 industries have been onboarded, 14 aspirants have received training certificates in five batches and 28 shops and establishments have been onboard-

ed on the ONDC platform. Reviewing the progress, the ADDC directed the banks concerned to expedite sanctioning of eligible applications and ensure timely disposal of pending cases. He also instructed Additional Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Magistrates to closely monitor implementation of the Mission.

Sports play transformative role in combating drug abuse among youth: Satish Sharma

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today emphasized the vital role of sports and physical activities in steering young people away from the menace of drug abuse and towards a healthier, disciplined and productive future. The Minister was speaking at an awareness programme organised at International Delhi Public School (IDPS), Srinagar, under the theme "Say Yes



to Sports, No to Drugs". The event was aimed at sensitizing the students and youth about the harmful consequences of substance abuse and promoting sports as a powerful tool for character building, fitness and

social empowerment. The programme was organised under the aegis of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, a nationwide initiative aimed at creating awareness about the harmful effects of substance

work and resilience among young people. He observed that engaging youth in constructive activities such as sports is one of the most effective ways to counter the growing challenge of drug addiction. Satish Sharma said that the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan can only be achieved through sustained public participation, awareness generation and positive youth engagement. He stressed that sports provide an ideal platform for channelizing the energy of young people towards constructive pursuits and away from the dangers of drug addiction.

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Inderjeet Sharma hails PM Modi's visionary leadership and infrastructure push



JAMMU, JUNE 10

A meeting of prominent residents of Gadigarh, Ward No. 73, Jammu, was held under the chairmanship of Inderjeet Sharma, Deputy Director Prosecution (Retd.) and Co-Convenor, J&K UT BJP Refugee Cell, to celebrate the completion of twelve remarkable years of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership at the helm of the nation.

The participants of the meeting wholeheartedly congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming one of the longest-serving Prime Ministers of independent India and the longest-serving Prime Minister from a non-Congress political party. They lauded his visionary leadership, unwavering commitment to national development, and transformative governance that has elevated India's stature on the global stage.

Addressing the gathering, Inderjeet Sharma said that the last twelve years have witnessed unprecedented growth, development, and reforms across various sectors. He stated that

under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India has emerged as a strong, self-reliant, and globally respected nation. He highlighted landmark initiatives including infrastructure expansion, digital transformation, welfare schemes for the poor, strengthening of national security, economic reforms, and empowerment of marginalized sections of society. Sharma observed that Prime Minister Modi's governance model has brought transparency, accountability, and efficiency to public administration while ensuring that the benefits of development reach the last person in society. He said that the government's commitment to the principles of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas" has accelerated inclusive growth and strengthened national unity.

During the meeting, Sharma also highlighted the historic progress achieved in the infrastructure sector, particularly the near completion of the Zojila Tunnel Project, describing it as one of the greatest engineering marvels of modern India. He said the strategically significant tunnel will provide all-weather and year-round connectivity between Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, overcoming the challenges posed by heavy snowfall and adverse weather conditions that often cut off the region for several months.

He stated that the Zojila Tunnel will revolutionize transportation and communication in the region, significantly reducing travel time and ensuring uninterrupted movement of people, goods, and essential services. The project, he said, will open new avenues for tourism, trade, investment, and employment generation while giving a major boost to the socio-economic development of both Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Emphasizing its strategic importance, Sharma noted that the tunnel will greatly strengthen the country's defence preparedness by facilitating faster movement of troops, equipment, and supplies to border areas. He termed the project a shining example of Prime Minister Modi's commitment to strengthening national security while simultaneously promoting development in remote and border regions. The participants expressed satisfaction over the pace of developmental works being undertaken across the country and appreciated the Central Government's efforts in transforming infrastructure, improving connectivity, and enhancing the quality of life of citizens.

They described the Modi Government's twelve-year journey as a period of decisive leadership, bold reforms, and historic achievements.

The meeting concluded with a unanimous resolution appreciating the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressing confidence that India will continue its march towards becoming a developed and prosperous nation under his guidance. The participants also reiterated their commitment to spreading awareness about the achievements and welfare initiatives of the Central Government among the masses.

J&K BJP leaders offer special prayers for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's long life and continued service to the nation



JAMMU/SRINAGAR, JUNE 10

Senior leaders of the Jammu & Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) offered special prayers at prominent temples across the Union Territory, seeking divine blessings for the long life, good health, and continued success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has achieved the historic milestone of completing 4,399 days of dedicated public service as India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister.

Union Minister of State Sanjay Seth, J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Tat Sharma (CA), Leader of the Opposition Sunil Sharma, MLA Vikram Randhawa, and J&K BJP Vice President Rakesh Mahajan paid obeisance at the revered Shankaracharya Temple. The leaders prayed for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's excellent health, long and disease-free life, and for the success of his unwavering commitment to serving the nation and its people.

On the occasion, the BJP leaders remarked that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership, tireless dedication, and people-centric governance have transformed India's development trajectory and strengthened its position on the global stage. They prayed that he continues to guide the nation with the same resolve and commitment in the years ahead.

Meanwhile, BJP General Secretary (Organization), J&K, Ashok Koul paid obeisance at Shiv Mandir, Sarkoot, Kishtwar, and sought the blessings of Lord Shiv for the Prime Minister's long life, good health, and continued service to the country. Kishtwar Prabhari Gaje Singh and District President Kishtwar Ravi Kumar Parihar were also present during the prayers.

The BJP leaders stated that the Prime Minister's journey of selfless public service continues to inspire millions across the country and expressed confidence that under his leadership, India will continue its march towards greater prosperity, development, and national pride.

Raman Suri asks govt to not take healthcare negligence lightly

JAMMU, JUNE 10

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Raman Suri has expressed serious concern over recurring reports of alleged negligence in government hospitals and urged the health authorities to treat such incidents with the utmost seriousness rather than as isolated occurrences. He said that every allegation relating to medical negligence, delayed treatment, incorrect medication, lack of timely care, or avoidable referrals must be thoroughly investigated so that accountability is ensured and public confidence in the healthcare system remains intact.

Referring to the recent incident at GMC Rajouri, where allegations surfaced following the death of a woman during treatment, Raman Suri said that while the administration acted promptly by ordering an inquiry and suspending the concerned staff pending investigation, such incidents continue to create anxiety and unrest among the public. Similar complaints have emerged from time to time from different hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir regarding delays in treatment, shortage of specialists, inadequate facilities, and procedural lapses.

Even if such incidents are relatively few in number compared to the vast number of patients treated every day, they have a disproportionate impact on public perception and trust. Raman Suri emphasized that the over-



whelming majority of doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers are serving with dedication and commitment under extremely challenging circumstances. With limited resources, increasing patient loads, and long working hours, medical professionals continue to save lives and provide essential healthcare services to the people.

It would therefore be unfair to judge the entire medical fraternity on the basis of a few unfortunate incidents. However, wherever negligence is suspected, transparent and time-bound investigations must be conducted and appropriate action taken against those found responsible. "Public faith in hospitals and healthcare workers is vital for the effective functioning of the healthcare system. Any incident that weakens this trust must be addressed swiftly and decisively. At the same time, genuine healthcare professionals who are working tirelessly should be

protected from unwarranted criticism," he said.

The BJP leader noted that government hospitals witness the endless suffering of patients and attendants every day, putting tremendous pressure on available infrastructure and manpower. While this reality cannot be ignored, it should not become an excuse for deficiencies in patient care. Instead, authorities must focus on strengthening healthcare infrastructure and improving service delivery across all levels.

Raman Suri also raised concern over the growing referral culture, where patients are frequently referred from district hospitals to larger tertiary care institutions, often for conditions that could be treated locally if adequate facilities and specialists were available. He said this not only causes inconvenience, financial burden, and emotional distress for patients and their families but also increases pressure on already overburdened medical colleges and major hospitals. He urged the government to take concrete measures to make district hospitals and sub-district hospitals self-sufficient by equipping them with modern diagnostic and treatment facilities, advanced medical equipment, adequate supplies of medicines, and the required number of specialist doctors and support staff. Vacant posts should be filled on priority, and healthcare infrastructure should be upgraded in a phased but time-bound manner.

Vedic wisdom emphasizes balance between material and spiritual progress: Swami Ram Swarup Ji

YOL, JUNE 10

On the 60th day of the ongoing 78-day Vajra Anushthan of all four Vedas at Veda Mandir, Yol (Himachal Pradesh), Swami Ram Swarup Ji, Yogacharya, delivered an enlightening discourse to devotees based on Sukta 3 of the 11th Kanda of the Atharvaveda. He explained that the foremost objective of the Vedas is the realization of God.

Swami Ji stated that a sincere spiritual aspirant attains complete Vedic knowledge, known as Brahmodanam, and through the regular practice of Yajna, Agnihotra, Yoga, and other Vedic disciplines, ultimately realizes Brah (God). He explained that Brahmodanam literally means the "food of Brah," or the nourishment derived from Vedic wisdom. Elaborating further, he explained that Panchodanam refers to food such as khichdi or other nourishment required by the physical body, which is composed of the five elements of nature. It is through such food that living beings sustain their bodily existence. In contrast, Brahmodanam is the spiritual nourishment of the soul. It signifies acquiring the knowledge



of Brah from an Acharya through the Vedas and imbibing that divine wisdom in one's life.

Referring to the mantra, Swami Ji said that the phrase "Brahmavadinah Vadanti" indicates that knowers of Brah ask one another profound questions such as: "Have you consumed the nourishment of the knowledge of the formless Brah as taught by the Vedas, or have you only tried to understand the material objects present before you?" Another

thought-provoking question raised in the mantra is: "The food that you consume to satisfy your hunger in this world-tell us, have you eaten the food, or have you consumed you?" Through this inquiry, the Vedas encourage individuals to reflect upon whether they are living a life governed merely by material pursuits or guided by higher spiritual wisdom.

Swami Ji emphasized that both Brahmodanam and Panchodanam are essential for human life. Without earning an honest livelihood and securing physical sustenance, neither an individual nor a family can survive. At the same time, in the absence of Brahmodanam-spiritual knowledge of Brah—a person becomes inclined toward sinful actions and remains trapped in worldly pleasures, ultimately wasting the precious human birth. Concluding his discourse, Swami Ram Swarup Ji stated that upon attaining the human body, the Vedas instruct mankind to pursue both material and spiritual advancement simultaneously. When worldly progress and spiritual growth go hand in hand, true happiness, harmony, and peace prevail in society and in individual life.

J&K witnessing era of peace, progress and prosperity under PM Modi's leadership: Adv Devraj



JAMMU, JUNE 10

Senior BJP leader and former Sarpanch Adv. Devraj has expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ushering in an unprecedented era of development, peace, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir over the past twelve years. He said that the Union Territory has witnessed historic transformation in every sphere, ranging from infrastructure and education to connectivity, secu-

rity, and national integration.

Addressing party workers and local residents, Adv. Devraj stated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are today witnessing the fruits of visionary leadership and decisive governance. He remarked that projects which remained confined to files for decades have now become reality under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Summarizing the remarkable achievements of the Central Government, Adv. Devraj pointed out the establishment of premier educational institutions such as Indian Institute of Technology Jammu, Indian Institute of Management Jammu, and Central University of Jammu, which have opened new avenues of higher education and employment opportunities for the youth of the region. He said that these institutions have placed Jammu and Kashmir firmly on the national educational map and are attracting talent from across the country. The BJP leader further lauded the government's commitment to strengthening con-

nectivity, describing the rail link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country as a historic milestone. He said the dream of seamless railway connectivity, cherished by generations, has finally become a reality, bringing immense benefits for tourism, trade, transport, and economic growth. Adv. Devraj also hailed the progress on the strategically important Zojila Tunnel, stating that the tunnel will revolutionize all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh, reduce travel hardships, boost economic activity, and strengthen national security in the border regions. Criticizing opposition political parties, he said it was unfortunate that many political leaders continue to ignore the visible and tangible development taking place across Jammu and Kashmir. According to him, despite witnessing new roads, tunnels, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and enhanced connectivity, certain opposition parties remain unwilling to acknowledge the positive changes.



JAMMU, JUNE 10

J&K Pradesh Congress has targeted BJP for adopting new method of "seat chori" a step ahead of Vote Chori, by getting the nomination papers of congress Rajya Sabha nominee from MP Menakshi Natrajan, and terming it illegal and constitutionally to pave way for the uncontested victory of the third nominee of BJP there, despite BJP lacking any votes. Reacting to the decision of the Returning Officer for R S in MP and terming it illegal and against democratic norms and they demanded that ECI should reverse the order/decision of R.O. immediately.

They said that this a step ahead of "vote chori" and now BJP has started seat chori which is murder of democracy, they added. Raman Bhalla

raised the issue of Anshuman Bharat Sehat Scheme in the wake of threat of Private Hospitals to close down the scheme, if pending payments not cleared by July '1st. He said the Govt should immediately clear the pending dues without delay, otherwise poor are going to further suffer, he added.

He termed the 12 years of Modi regime, as a failure on all fronts, as the economy is at worst with rupee record low against dollar, unemployment highest in the country, price rise is record high and poor getting crushed for two time meals, the foreign policy is a total failure and its disastrous term, India besides imposing huge taxes, supporting Pakistan - a territorial and the communal harmony is a weak wicket due to politics of hate and division by BJP. Modi Govt. He said comparing with Pt. Nehru's regime is

a foolish exercise of BJP and it reflects the Nehru phobia in the BJP, but they can't compete with Nehru regime. In response to their Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma referred to the strong observations of CIC, as reported, on numerous occasions and termed it very serious situation when the most important and landmark right given to the people by Congress through RTI Act has been snatched and RTI Act buried in J&K by BJP Govt. at the Centre, after downgrading the state into UT.

He said BJP has weakened the RTI and J&K people are running from pillar to post but fail to get information under RTI, as our own State Information Commission has been disbanded. The findings of CIC are an eye opener and Govt. should wake up to the call of CIC and stop the attempts to restore the RTI in J&K.

The Senior Congress leaders reacted sharply to the decision of the Govt. to put austerity measures over the Govt. vacancies by putting ban on creation of new vacancies and the abolition of all vacant posts unfilled for two years. Seeking review of the order, the congress leaders said that the ban on liberty measures should not be shifted to unemployed only rather than on the liberties of bureaucrats and Legislators on Govt. expense.

MLA Arvind Gupta inaugurates Rs 70 lakh Lane and Drain Project



JAMMU, JUNE 10

Continuing his efforts to strengthen civic infrastructure and improve public amenities in Jammu West, MLA Arvind Gupta today inaugurated the construction work of lanes and drains in Ward No. 41, Hazuri Bagh.

The development project, being executed at an estimated

cost of Rs 70 lakh, is aimed at improving drainage facilities, enhancing sanitation, and providing better connectivity and civic amenities to residents of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Arvind Gupta said that the government is committed to ensuring balanced development across all wards and providing quality infrastructure to the

people. He emphasized that well-planned drainage and road infrastructure are essential for maintaining cleanliness and improving the overall quality of life of residents.

Local residents and community members welcomed the initiative and expressed gratitude for addressing their long-pending demand. They appreciated the ongoing efforts to accelerate developmental works in the area. The MLA assured the public that several other development projects are in the pipeline for Jammu West and reiterated his commitment to resolving civic issues and ensuring holistic development of the constituency.

Among those present on the occasion were Talib Tillo, Mandal President Anil Angral, Corporator Sanjay Baru, Corporator Smt. Neelam Nargotra, Jatin Sethi, Arun Dubey, Jatinder Khajuria, Rahul Nargotra, Bushesh Sharma, Bachan Bhagat, party workers, local residents, and officials of the concerned department.

Youth Empowerment at Core of Omar Government's Vision: Javed Rana



JAMMU, JUNE 10

Senior Jammu and Kashmir National Conference leader and Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest & Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana who was Chief Guest, today reiterated that youth empowerment remains the cornerstone of the Omar Abdullah-led government's vision for Jammu and Kashmir.

He was addressing a meeting of JKNCUSU at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu today organized and Charied by the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Students' Union (JKNCUSU). Provincial President Harshwardhan Singh, Provincial Secretary Jammu Rattan Lal Gupta attended the function. The Guest of Honour, while JKNCUSU Working President Arun Pal Singh, Sheikh Bashir Ahmad and Sabka Prayas, he said. The MLA highlighted transformative flagship initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, Jai Jeevan Mission, Nijakala Yojana, PM-KISAN, Digital India, Startup India and financial inclusion programmes, stating that these schemes have brought tangible benefits to millions of families across the country.

young-centric initiatives undertaken by the elected government to address unemployment, encourage entrepreneurship, and create opportunities for the younger generation.

The Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to transforming the aspirations of our youth into opportunities. Through Mission YUVA, expanded self-employment schemes, enhanced sports infrastructure, and a youth-focused budget, we are laying the foundation for sustainable employment, innovation, and economic empowerment. Our objective is to ensure that every young person in Jammu and Kashmir has the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the region's development. He said that Mission YUVA (Yuva Udayami Vikas Abhiyan) aims to facilitate the establishment of nearly 1.37 lakh enterprises and generate approximately 4.25 lakh jobs over the next five years through entrepreneurship support, financial assistance, skill development, and mentoring.

Rana said.

Speaking on the occasion, Rattan Lal Gupta emphasized the importance of restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and linked it directly to the aspirations of the youth. "Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's decision to take the statehood movement to New Delhi reflects the collective aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The present Union Territory framework has limited the scope of democratic governance and decision-making. Restoration of statehood is essential for creating a more responsive administration capable of addressing the employment, educational, and developmental concerns of our youth," Gupta said.

Earlier, JKNCUSU President Harshwardhan Singh welcomed the guests and apprised the minister about various issues concerning students, JKSSB and JKSC aspirants, unemployed youth, and emerging entrepreneurs. "The youth of Jammu and Kashmir are eager to contribute positively to society, but they require timely recruitment processes, job opportunities and institutional support. We have conveyed the concerns of students, competitive examination aspirants, and budding entrepreneurs, and we are confident that the government will continue to address these issues with seriousness and sensitivity," Harshwardhan said.

Vedic Havan for PM Modi's long-life marks 12 years of transformative governance: Jasrotia

KATHUA, JUNE 10

Commemorating the completion of twelve years of the Narendra Modi-led Government at the Centre, BJP MLA from Jasrotia Assembly Constituency Rajiv Jasrotia on Monday organized a grand Vedic Havan and special prayers for the long life, good health and continued leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while also dedicating several key developmental projects to the people of his constituency. The religious ceremony was conducted with prayers for peace, prosperity and progress of the nation, Jammu & Kashmir and the BJP Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Special prayers were also offered for social harmony, economic growth and the successful realization of the vision of Viskit Bharat @2047.

On the occasion, MLA Rajiv Jasrotia inaugurated a series of important developmental works aimed at strengthening rural infrastructure and improving public amenities in the Jasrotia Assembly Constituency. He dedicated to the public flood protection works in Hatri Zone worth 73.78 crore, which are expected to safeguard agricultural land, residential areas and public infrastructure from recurring flood threats. Continuing his public outreach programme, Jasrotia also inaugurated lane and drain construction works along with a transformer installation in Panchayat Tridwan, completed at a cost of approximately 714 lakh. These projects are expected to improve local connectivity, drainage management and electricity infrastructure, benefiting hundreds of residents in the area.

Further emphasizing sustainable development and environmental protection, the MLA inaugurated the DEWAT (Decentralized Wastewater Treatment) Project at Pandrad,



developed at a cost of 720.40 lakh. The project is aimed at enhancing sanitation facilities and ensuring scientific wastewater management, thereby contributing to public health and environmental conservation. Jasrotia also inaugurated the PWD Link Road at Pandrad, constructed at a cost of 79 lakh, which will provide improved road connectivity and facilitate easier transportation for local residents, farmers and students.

Addressing party workers, local residents and supporters, Jasrotia said that the completion of twelve years of the Modi Government marks a historic milestone in India's development journey. He stated that under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has witnessed unprecedented progress in governance, infrastructure, economic development, social welfare and global recognition. Referring to the observations made by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh during a recent public outreach programme, Jasrotia said that the Modi Government has established a governance model based on transparency, accountability, efficiency and citizen-centric development.

India has emerged as a confident, self-reliant and globally respected nation. From strengthening national security and expanding infrastructure to empowering the poor and marginalized, every policy of the Government has been guided by the principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas, he said. The MLA highlighted transformative flagship initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, Jai Jeevan Mission, Nijakala Yojana, PM-KISAN, Digital India, Startup India and financial inclusion programmes, stating that these schemes have brought tangible benefits to millions of families across the country.

Jasrotia said Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as one of the biggest beneficiaries of Prime Minister Modi's developmental vision. Massive investments in road infrastructure, rail connectivity, healthcare, education, tourism and public welfare have accelerated the pace of development and opened new opportunities for youth, women, farmers and entrepreneurs. Jammu and Kashmir, once deprived of several developmental opportunities, is today progressing rapidly towards peace, prosperity and inclusive growth.

"Over the last twelve years,

Rehabilitate, Don't Evict the Poor: Shiv Sena (UBT)

JAMMU, JUNE 10

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasahab Thackeray) Jammu & Kashmir Unit President, Manish Sahni, expressed concern over rising unemployment in Jammu and the ongoing actions against street vendors and hawkers. He stated that along with the campaign for a "Drug-Free Jammu & Kashmir," the government should also launch a comprehensive "Employment-Oriented Jammu & Kashmir" campaign.

Sahni said that the youth of Jammu are already struggling with unemployment, inflation, and economic slowdown. In such circumstances, if a poor person is earning a livelihood by running a small stall, selling tea, fruits, vegetables, or other goods, the administration should not deprive them of their only source of income in the name of anti-encroachment drives. He clarified that Shiv Sena (UBT) does not support illegal encroachments of any kind.

He questioned why strict action is often not visible when public spaces are used for the benefit of large commercial interests or when permanent structures are erected for advertising hearings, while small vendors and hawkers are removed immediately. Such double standards, he said, are



unacceptable. Sahni further stated that nearly three months ago, Shiv Sena (UBT) had suggested to the Jammu Municipal Corporation that "Tik-Tok Shops" or modern vending kiosks should be established in all 75 wards of Jammu. This initiative would provide dignified self-employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth, women, and small entrepreneurs while also ensuring better urban management.

He demanded that vending and hawker licenses be given priority to local youth of Jammu & Kashmir, and Tik-Tok Shops be established in every ward, and that rehabilitation of affected families be guaranteed before any anti-encroachment action is carried out.

Sahni emphasized that the youth of Jammu are not asking for charity—they are asking for employment. The poor are not seeking sympathy; they are demanding the right to live with dignity. He warned that if the livelihoods of local people continue to be threatened, Shiv Sena (UBT) will launch a large-scale public movement to protect their rights. On this occasion, Sanjay Bhatt (Gen Secretary (Org.)), Aditya Mahajan (Vice president) were present.

Abdul Quddir Kundria Applauds Sahitya Akademi for Organizing Dogri Mushaira in Reasi

REASI, JUNE 10

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, organized a special Dogri Mushaira at Sanatan Dharma Sabha in Reasi district, bringing together prominent poets and literary personalities in a celebration of Dogri language, literature, and cultural heritage. The event was presided over by Padma Shri awardee and Sahitya Akademi Convener, Mohan Singh, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from literary enthusiasts and members of the public.

The Mushaira featured poetry recitations by renowned poets including Gopal Krishan Komal, Tariq Bhatt, Channe Ram, Mohammad Rashid Rai, Puran Chand, Shivdev Singh Sushil, Randhir Singh Rajpuriya, and Abdul Quddir Kundria. The poets captivated the audience with their thought-provoking and creative compositions, earning widespread appreciation from those present.

Speaking on the occasion, Abdul Quddir Kundria com-



mended Sahitya Akademi for its continued efforts to promote regional languages and literary traditions. He said that such literary gatherings serve as a reflection of India's rich composite culture and strengthen the spirit of communal harmony and brotherhood.

"Events like these are a shining example of our Ganga-Jamuni culture, where people of different faiths and communi-

ties come together in an atmosphere of mutual respect, love, and understanding. Literature and poetry remain powerful mediums for spreading the message of peace, tolerance, and social harmony," Kundria said.

He also praised Padma Shri Mohan Singh and the entire Sahitya Akademi team for their dedication and commitment to organizing meaningful literary programmes. According to him, such initiatives provide an important platform for writers and poets while contributing significantly to cultural awareness and social unity.

Highlighting the broader social relevance of literary and cultural activities, Kundria observed that events with active public participation can play a positive role in guiding the younger generation away from drug abuse and other social challenges. He emphasized that engagement in literature, culture, and the arts encourages creativity, constructive thinking, and responsible citizenship among youth.

CSIR-IIIM, Ambrosia Botanicals join hands to work on aromatic crops, essential oils based botanical wellness products



JAMMU, JUNE 10

In a significant step towards strengthening India's aromatic crop value chain and promoting botanical wellness products, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ambrosia Botanicals, Gurugram-based luxury botanical wellness company.

The MoU was formally signed by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, and Pratibha S. Kedia, Founder and Chief Formulator, Ambrosia Botanicals.

Under the agreement, the two organisations will work together on collaborative and sponsored research projects, scientific validation of botanical products and formulations, exchange of technical expertise, and development of value-added products derived from aromatic crops.

The partnership will also focus on strengthening the objectives of CSIR's Aroma Mission by enhancing market access and improving the commercial utilization of aromatic produce.

Zabeer Ahmed said the partnership reflects the institute's continued commitment to translating scientific research into market-driven solutions that benefit farmers, industry and consumers alike.

"CSIR-IIIM has been at the forefront of promoting aromatic crops and essential oil-based enterprises through the Aroma Mission. This collaboration will help bridge the gap between scientific innovation and market requirements. By combining our research expertise with industry insights, we aim to develop high-quality, value-added botanical products, strengthen quality standards and create sustainable livelihood opportunities for growers associated with aromatic crops," Dr. Ahmed said.

He further noted that the collaboration would contribute to expanding the reach of Indian aromatic products in domestic and international markets and encouraging innovation in the botanical wellness sector.

As per the MoU, CSIR-IIIM will provide scientific and technical support for evaluation, optimization and validation of products and formulations. The institute will also undertake analytical, quality, safety and stability assessments wherever required and feasible. Subject to resource availability.



North in News

EDITORIAL

Census the largest administrative operation and development are correlated

Census and development are correlated because no nation can plan schools, hospitals, roads, jobs, or welfare without first knowing how many people exist, where they live, how they live, and what they need, and the Census is the only exercise that counts every individual, household, and housing condition simultaneously, and therefore becomes the bedrock of evidence-based governance, and India's decadal Census since 1872 has been the largest administrative operation in the world, and the 2011 Census counted 121 crore people across 6.4 lakh villages and 8,000 towns, and every number that followed from it determined money, policy, and priorities, and the correlation is direct because Article 81 and 82 of the Constitution mandate delimitation and allocation of seats based on population, and the 14th, 15th, and 16th Finance Commissions used 1971, 2011, and will use upcoming Census data to devolve 41-42 percent of central taxes to States, and a 1 percent error in headcount can shift 78,000 crore annually for a large State, and development schemes from MGNREGS to PMAY to Jal Jeevan Mission begin with Census-based eligibility because BPL lists, housing shortage, and habitations without tap water are derived from Census house-listing and socio-economic tables, and the 2011 Census revealed that 68.8 percent of Indians lived in rural areas, 31.2 percent in urban, 36 percent of households had no latrine, 53 percent had no drainage, and 22 percent used kerosene for lighting, and those baselines drove Swachh Bharat that built 11.7 crore toilets, Saubhagya that gave 2.86 crore power connections, and Ujjwala that gave 10.3 crore LPG connections, and the Census told us that the child sex ratio fell to 919 in 2011 from 927 in 2001, and that single data point triggered Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, PC-PNDT enforcement, and district monitoring that lifted the ratio to 937 by 2023 SRS, and the Census told us that 8.6 percent were Scheduled Tribes and 16.6 percent Scheduled Castes, and those proportions fix reservation in education, jobs, and panchayats, and the Census told us that 45.36 crore were migrants, and that flow map shaped AMRUT cities, urban housing, and One Nation One Ration Card, and the Census told us that 74 percent were literate but female literacy was 65.5 percent, and that gap shaped 15 lakh new classrooms and 1.5 lakh girl's toilets, and the Census told us that 24.39 crore households existed and the average size was 4.8, and that unit decided PDS grain at 5 kg per person, and the Census told us that 2.9 crore houses were dilapidated, and that backlog became PMAY's 3 crore target, and the Census told us that 1.77 crore lived in slums, and that shaped PMAY-Urban verticals, and the Census told us that 6.8 crore persons had disabilities, and that led to Accessible India.

RAJNI SHARMA, EDITOR

Delhi courts Nepal's new political forces

BY ASHOK K MEHTA

By extending a warm reception to Lamichhane, New Delhi underscored its determination to maintain momentum in bilateral ties amid political transitions in Kathmandu and reset its relationship with the Himalayan nation.

Two back-to-back visits from Nepal's top leaders last week demonstrated Delhi's proactive diplomacy. For Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP) Chairman Rabi Lamichhane, the visit was godsend, even if it was party-to-party, as he met top leaders. This is significant due to the uncertainty over Prime Minister Balen Shah's travels abroad during the first year of his tenure, which will be dedicated to 'domestic issues' of good governance and accountability. There were reports that he might go to the UNGA in New York and visit India either before or after it. But everything remains in the realm of speculation. Bhupdev Shah, the party general secretary and right-hand man, was known to have said in an interview to a Kathmandu portal that Balen was focused on achieving 100 goals in 100 days and would stay in the country for the first year. This, and the fact that Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's travel to Kathmandu in mid-May — with an invitation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Prime Minister Balen Shah to visit India — did not take place, confirmed that no visit from Shah should be expected this year. This will stir speculation that the Chinese might take advantage of the diplomatic vacuum, but the conversation in Kathmandu is mainly about which country Shah will visit first: India or China. As part of India's Neighbourhood First policy, Delhi acted with great alacrity when Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar was the first to arrive in Colombo within days of Anura Kumara Dissanayake becoming President, carrying an invitation to visit India. Delhi was therefore quick to avert widening the diplomatic gap with Nepal by getting BJP President Nitin Nambin to invite Lamichhane, which was immediately accepted, giving him a leg up over Balen, who has been hogging the spotlight, not



always for the right reasons. Lamichhane arrived in Delhi accompanied by his wife Nikita Poudel, Joint General Secretary Bipin Acharya, and Member of Parliament Deepak Bohara, along with a signed edit-page piece in Hindustan Times titled "How Can an Aspirational Nepal and a Rising India Reconnect?" He was received by BJP General Secretary and head of the Foreign Policy Cell and Diaspora, Vijay Chauthaiwale, who earned now-dubious fame when Arzu Rana, wife of then Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, tied him a rakhi four years ago. Lamichhane had a hectic programme, symbolised by the red-carpet welcome and, according to a trusted source in the RSP, the warmth and humility shown by Modi in his meeting with him. He acknowledged reading Lamichhane's article and expressed willingness to help in whatever way he could in resetting ties. He requested that his good wishes be conveyed to Prime Minister Balen Shah, to whom he had already sent an invitation to visit India. According to Kathmandu Post, the border issue was not discussed, though it had created a political earthquake in Parliament when Balen Shah stated that Nepal too had occupied Indian territory. Overall, the Lamichhane

visit was very productive, with a string of meetings with Home Minister Amit Shah, Foreign Minister Jaishankar, NSA Ajit Doval, and, pointedly, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, whose visit had to be called off. Including Misri was designed to underline the point that Balen Shah's newly designed diplomatic protocol required recalibration with India, which enjoys special and multifaceted relations with Nepal. Rabi's popularity among Nepalese in India could be gauged by the tumultuous welcome he received at the Pyarelal Auditorium, which was jam-packed. No one should forget that Lamichhane was one of the most famous television show anchors of a programme titled Seedha Kura Janata Sang (Straight Talk with the People). He gained national fame in 2013 by setting a world record in the Guinness Book for the longest television talk-show broadcast, running continuously for over 62 hours on News24. From Delhi, Lamichhane proceeded to Lucknow and then to Ayodhya. The question Nepalese may be asking is whether he was showing deference to the Hindu Rashtra and monarchy at a time when the Royalist Rashtriya Prajatantra Party had been decimated by the RSP landslide and the party further

divided. Incidentally, during the talks in Delhi, the RSS was conspicuously omitted. Lamichhane returned to Kathmandu and received a hero's welcome from the media. They bombarded him with questions, which he was at pains to answer, given that the visit was merely to strengthen party-to-party relations and no specific issue was taken up for discussion, including the sensitive Kalapani dispute. For that and other government-to-government matters, Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal arrived in Delhi on June 5, for a quick follow-up to Lamichhane's familiarisation with the Indian leadership. He was received by Additional Secretary (North) in the Foreign Ministry, Manu Mahawar. Khanal had met Jaishankar last month during the India Foundation-helmed Indian Ocean Dialogue.

He has prioritised the bilateral issues Nepal has in mind, notably the central themes of development diplomacy and connectivity, which were at the heart of Lamichhane's article. This was Khanal's first official visit to India, during which he had frank and warm discussions with Jaishankar on the gamut of bilateral issues. These included linking borders through the 150-km Raxaul-Kathmandu railway line, for which the DPR has been completed; the thorny issue of direct flights from the China-constructed Pokhara and Bhairahawa/Lumbini international airports to destinations in India, which have not been operationalised due to Indian security concerns; a comprehensive list of Nepal's hydropower projects constituting the integrated energy market; and recent cross-border issues. The Lamichhane article recommended resetting relations to August 3, 2014, when Modi first visited Nepal as Prime Minister. One other issue that has been pending for nearly five years is recruitment under the Agniveer scheme, which previous governments in Nepal had rejected. While Dhanraj Regmi, RSP MP and son of a soldier, has been actively canvassing for its resumption, Indian Army Nepali Gorkha veterans had also met Lamichhane seeking its revival.

An India-Europe labour paradigm

BY PRABHU DAYAL

Europe is currently facing an unprecedented demographic crisis. Across the continent, falling birth rates and rapidly ageing populations are creating massive labour shortages that threaten economic stability, healthcare systems, and industrial productivity. Concurrently, India is navigating its own unique demographic phase, boasting the world's largest youth population with over 65 per cent of its citizens under the age of 35. This stark contrast presents a compelling economic synergy, raising a critical question: Can India effectively supply the manpower that Europe desperately needs? While India possesses the raw numbers to fill Europe's demographic deficits, transforming this potential into a seamless labour supply chain requires overcoming significant structural, linguistic, and regulatory barriers. The European Union's labour market is under severe strain. According to Eurostat data, the working-age population in the EU is projected to shrink by millions over the coming decades, while the dependency ratio continues to climb. Germany, Italy, and several Central European nations are already experiencing acute deficits in highly

skilled sectors like Information Technology, engineering, and healthcare, as well as essential service sectors like hospitality, logistics, and eldercare. To maintain its global competitiveness and sustain its social welfare system, Europe cannot rely solely on internal automation or shifting retirement ages; it must aggressively source external talent. India stands out as the most logical partner to address this deficit. The country adds approximately 12 million people to its workforce annually. This demographic dividend means India has a surplus of both white-collar professionals — such as software developers, doctors, and financial analysts — and blue-collar or grey-collar workers, including construction specialists, nurses, and hospitality staff. Furthermore, India's education system produces millions of English-speaking graduates every year, giving Indian labour a distinct communication advantage in the global market over competitors from other regions. While the United States (now tightening visa regimes) used to be the default destination, the EU has stepped in as an attractive alternative by offering important benefits: Work-Life Balance: Professionals note that while

financial savings might not match the US, Europe provides superior job security, healthcare, and an improved work-life balance. Low-Cost Education: Countries like Germany and the Netherlands offer high-quality, low-cost higher education, leading Indians to account for a highest share (20.8 per cent) of EU student residence permits. But there are barriers to seamless mobility. Despite the clear alignment of supply and demand, India cannot automatically fill Europe's talent gap without addressing several entrenched challenges. The Skills and Language Gap: While English proficiency is high among India's elite white-collar professionals, it is less prevalent among vocational and blue-collar workers. Furthermore, many European nations, such as Germany, France, and Japan, require proficiency in their native languages (e.g., German, French) for safety and integration, particularly in healthcare and public-facing roles. Additionally, Indian vocational certifications do not always align with strict European industry standards, necessitating extensive retraining. Regulatory and Visa Hurdles: Historically, European immigration policies have been fragmented, bureaucratic, and cau-

tious. Obtaining work visas, navigating complex point-based systems, and securing the mutual recognition of professional qualifications remain slow and cumbersome processes for Indian applicants. Geopolitical and Social Dynamics: Immigration is a highly sensitive political issue within the European Union. Balancing the economic need for foreign labour with domestic political pressures regarding cultural integration and border control often leads to hesitant policy implementation. The Government of India is taking several actionable steps to increase safe and regulated labour mobility to Europe. These include: Comprehensive Mobility Pacts: Implementing the landmark India-EU Comprehensive Mobility Framework and bilateral agreements with specific EU nations (such as Italy, Austria, Germany, and Romania) to guarantee structured quotas, fair pay, and safe migration routes. Skill Harmonization: Aligning Indian vocational and professional qualifications with EU standards so that degrees, especially in healthcare, IT, and engineering, are recognized across member states. Institutional Facilitation: Utilizing the India.

DC Kathua chairs review meeting of revenue officers on Digitized Jamabandi-2026, Water Census and other assignments

KATHUA, JUNE 10: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a review meeting of revenue officers to assess the progress of various assignments being implemented by the Revenue Department, including Digitized Jamabandi-2026, Irrigation Census and Water Census. Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Mahima Madan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Vishay Partap Singh, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars and other officers concerned. At the outset, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue presented a detailed



overview of the status of ongoing assignments entrusted to the Revenue Department. He apprised the Deputy Commissioner of progress under the Water Census, including the enu-

meration and documentation of water bodies, assessment of groundwater resources and updation of related records. He further briefed the meeting on the progress of

finalisation of Digitized Jamabandi-2026, verification of mutation entries and the corrective measures being undertaken to ensure accuracy and updation of revenue records across the

district. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed tehsil-wise progress of all assignments and took stock of surveys, field verification and record updation being carried out by revenue functionaries. He stressed the need for accuracy, transparency and consistency in data compiled under various surveys and census-related activities.

Emphasising the importance of modernisation of land records and reliable database management, the Deputy Commissioner directed officers to expedite digitisation and ensure timely completion of all pending tasks.

Police Foils Major Bovine Smuggling Bid 39 Bovines Rescued, 02 Vehicles Seized

JAMMU, JUNE 10: Continuing its sustained crackdown against bovine smuggling under Operation Kamdheenu, Jammu (Rural) Police successfully foiled two bovine smuggling attempts in the jurisdiction of Police Station Jhajjar Kotli and rescued 39 bovine animals. During naka checking at Panjal, a police party intercepted a truck bearing registration No. JK14G-0065 and found 12 bovine animals being transported illegally. The animals were tied and transported in a cruel manner without fodder or water.

While the driver fled from the spot, the vehicle along with the bovines were seized for legal action. Accordingly, FIR No. 84/2026 under Section 223 of BNS and Section 11 of PCA Act has been registered at Police Station Jhajjar Kotli and investigation has been taken up to identify and apprehend the accused who fled from the spot. In another operation, acting on reliable information, a police team of Police Post Manwal laid a naka at Nadhal and inter-



cepted a Canter bearing registration No. JK19A-6254 driven by Tanveer Ahmed S/O Abdul Rashid R/O Sangaldan, Tehsil Ramban. During checking, 27 bovines animals were found loaded in a highly congested manner and being transported without obtaining the requisite permission from the District Magistrate. All 27 bovines were rescued safely and the vehicle was seized on the spot. In this regard, FIR No. 85/2026 under Section 223

BNS and Section 11 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act has been registered at Police Station Jhajjar Kotli against the accused and further investigation is under way. In both cases, a total of 39 bovine animals were rescued and 02 vehicles were seized. Jammu (Rural) Police remains committed to its zero-tolerance policy against bovine smuggling and will continue to take stringent action against those involved in such illegal activities.

Sports quota recruitment a historic step towards empowering youth, recognising excellence: Satish Sharma

223 sportspersons selected for government jobs; appointment orders to be handed over by Chief Minister

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: In a major boost to the sporting fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir and a significant step towards creating sustainable career opportunities for the athletes, Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today congratulated the 223 outstanding sportspersons who have been selected for appointment to government services under the sports quota. Terming the recruitment as a landmark achievement in the government's efforts to promote sports and youth empowerment, the Minister said that the selection of such a large number of athletes reflects the administra-

tion's commitment towards honouring the sporting excellence and ensuring that talented sportspersons are provided meaningful opportunities beyond the playing arena. The Minister expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister for his unwavering support and keen interest in strengthening the sports ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. He informed that the appointment orders would be formally handed over to the selected candidates by the Chief Minister at a special ceremony, marking a proud and memorable occasion for the athletes and their families. Satish Sharma said that the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has adopted a comprehensive approach towards sports

development, focusing not only on infrastructure creation and competitive excellence but also on ensuring social and economic security for athletes who dedicate years of hard work and perseverance to bring laurels to Jammu and Kashmir. "The selection of 223 sportspersons for government employment is not merely a recruitment process; it is a recognition of the discipline, commitment, sacrifices and achievements of our young athletes. It sends a strong message that excellence in sports will be respected, rewarded and supported by the government," the Minister said. He observed that sports have emerged as a powerful vehicle for youth engagement, character-building, leadership development and social

transformation. He added that by creating assured career pathways for athletes, the government is encouraging young people to pursue sports with greater confidence and commitment. The Minister highlighted various initiatives being undertaken to strengthen the sports landscape across the Union Territory, including the upgradation of sports infrastructure, development of modern training facilities, organization of competitive events at district and state level, promotion of grassroots talent identification programmes and enhanced support for athletes participating in national and international competitions. He said that Jammu and Kashmir has consistently produced talented

sportspersons who have excelled in diverse disciplines and brought recognition to the region at national and international forums.

Felicitation Ceremony Organized for Players Participating in the International Kabaddi Championship in Bhutan

JAMMU, JUNE 10: A grand felicitation ceremony was organized at Paska Talab, Bahu Fort, Jammu, to honour the players who are set to represent India in the forthcoming International Kabaddi Championship in Bhutan. The team travelling to Bhutan includes talented players from the Jammu region, namely Adarsh Shavotra, Aryan Shubham Chalotra, Aryan Sagotra, and Naman Sagotra, who will participate in the International Junior Competition. Vishakha Khokhar will also represent India as an accomplished player. On the occasion, BJP Vice President and social activist Rajeev Rajput Charak felicitated the players and extended his best wishes to them. He said that representing the nation at the international level is a matter of great pride and that the achievements of these players are a source of pride for Jammu & Kashmir as well as the entire country. Rajeev Rajput Charak stated that sports instill discipline, dedication, and patriotism



among the youth. He expressed concern over the growing menace of drug abuse among young people and emphasized that sportspersons can play a vital role in guiding society in a positive direction and creating awareness against substance abuse. He urged the government to expand sports infrastructure and provide playgrounds and sports facilities at the block level so that more players from Jammu & Kashmir can participate in national and international sporting events and bring laurels to the region and the nation. Charak expressed confidence that the team would perform exceptionally well in the championship in Bhutan and return with medals for the country. He also appealed

to all sections of society to encourage young athletes and support sports activities. Congratulating the 223 players recently selected for government jobs under the sports quota, he said that their achievement serves as an inspiration for the youth. He highlighted that sports not only contribute to physical fitness and personality development but also create employment opportunities. He remarked that while sports pave the way for success, recognition, and career growth, drug addiction leads individuals and society towards destruction. Therefore, he called upon everyone to promote a strong sporting culture and work collectively to eradicate drug abuse from society. Sports enthusiasts, prominent citizens, and local residents attended the programme, encouraged the players, and wished them success in their future endeavors. Among those present on the occasion were Shri Kuldeep Raj Gupta, Shri Satpal Sharma, Shri Hridesh Khokhar, and other distinguished guests.

DC Ganderbal presides over weekly Block Diwas at Tulumulla

GANDERBAL, JUNE 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today presided over a public outreach programme under the weekly Block Diwas initiative at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Tulumulla. The programme was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad, PO ICDS, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development and other district and sectoral officers, besides civil society members, public representatives and residents from different areas of Tulumulla and adjoining villages. At the outset, several delegations and individuals projected issues and demands concerning development and public welfare in their respective localities. The issues raised during the programme mainly related to augmentation of drinking water supply, issues related to Dhobi canal, repairs of roads and damaged water pipelines, improvement of existing playground, establishment of additional Anganwadi Centres, healthcare infrastructure, sanitation, maintenance of public assets, street lighting, restoration of springs in the localities among others. Residents also sought better management of irrigation canals, revival of defunct infrastructure, improvement of public facilities, establishment of library in Tulumulla and deployment of sanitation workers and dustbins at Main Market Tulumulla.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION JAMMU SHORTNOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. ED/J&K/2026-2027 Dated 08-06-2026

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, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Division	Estimate of Cost (in lacs)	Cost of Work (in l)	Estimate of Money (in l)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Stage Contract for Electrical Maintenance and A/c Installation, installation and day to day work of Guest House Gandhi Nagar Jammu under the jurisdiction of PWD R&B Div. Gandhi Nagar Jammu during the year 2026-2027	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	7.50	600/-	15000/-	Lipso, ending 11 Mins 2027	16-06-2026 At or after 02:00 A.N.	"A" Class Electrical Contractor

The Bidding documents consisting of quality and quantity, specifications, bill of quantities (BOQ), list of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://bitenders.gov.in> per below schedule:-

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	09-06-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 09-06-2026 to 15-06-2026, 4:00 P.M.
3	Bid submission Start Date	09-06-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	15-06-2026 up to 4:00 P.M.
5	Pre 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)	16-06-2026 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 (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-shallan through Treasury, indicating Treasury Voucher No. and NEFT No. duly crediting in 0059 (Revenue) /Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu, uploading a copy of treasury challan/Receipt. The original documents in respect of cost of documents, and relevant documents of I.I. 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.bitenders.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/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issue of letter of acceptance.

6. 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.

6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.bitenders.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 an approved vendor.
6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic form with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.
6.6 That the Bidder is not a PRI member.
6.7 All the information and documents submitted by me are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and if found wrong the bidder shall be liable to face legal proceedings.

No :- ED/J&K/2026-2027

Dated :- 08-06-2026

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

DIP/J-3439/26

NOTICE

I, Lovely Ahirwar D/O. Harprasad Ahirwar and Ramkali Ahirwar do hereby declare that my parents name was wrongly written as Lovely Ahirwar D/O Hari Prasad Ahirwar and Ram Kali Ahirwar according to my previous documents. I have updated all my documents. Now, I am applying for correction of the same in my school record. Objection if any may be conveyed to the concerned authority within seven days from the publication of this notice.



Serena Williams marks stunning comeback with doubles win at Queen's Club; Emma Raducanu advances

New Delhi June 10: Tennis icon Serena Williams enjoyed a winning return to competitive action after nearly four years, teaming up with Canadian teenager Victoria Mboke to register a straight-sets victory in the women's doubles event at the Queen's Club Championships in London on Tuesday. The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, who accepted a wildcard entry for the grass-court tournament, showed flashes of her trademark power and intensity as the duo defeated the third-seeded pair of Nicole Pietrangeli and Erin Routliffe 7-6(2), 6-2. Williams: "It felt so natural!" Despite her lengthy absence from professional competition, Williams looked sharp throughout the contest, combining experience with aggressive



shot-making to dominate the latter stages of the match. Speaking after the victory, the 44-year-old admitted she was simply enjoying being back on court. "It was so much fun, it felt so natural playing with Vicky. I guess I've got nothing better to do, I'm tired of sitting at home, my kids are out of school this summer so why not?" Williams said. The American last appeared on the professional circuit nearly four years ago and had not competed since stepping away from the tour. Williams last lifted a Grand Slam singles trophy at the 2017 Australian Open, famously doing so while in the early stages of pregnancy. Following her return from maternity leave, she reached four

more Grand Slam finals, two at Wimbledon and two at the US Open, but fell short on each occasion of matching Margaret Court's record of 24 major singles titles. Her successful return at Queen's has once again generated excitement among tennis fans ahead of the grass-court season. Emma Raducanu secures first win in over three months. Meanwhile, British No. 1 Emma Raducanu advanced to the second round after producing a commanding 6-0, 6-3 victory over Russian qualifier Anna Blinkova. Playing her first grass-court match of the season, Raducanu stormed through the opening stages, winning the first eight games and barely giving her opponent a chance to settle. The victory marked her first win since defeating Anastasia Zakharova in the opening round at Indian Wells on

March 6 and provided a timely confidence boost ahead of Wimbledon. The 23-year-old endured a difficult few months after a post-viral illness kept her away from the WTA Tour for more than two months. Upon returning, she suffered first-round exits in Strasbourg and at the French Open. Backed by a vocal home crowd at Queen's Club, Raducanu looked composed and confident throughout. "I'm so happy to have come through that match. To be back here playing at Queen's, I haven't won a match in a few months, and there isn't a place I would rather have done it. I'm really grateful for all the support," she said. The former US Open champion hopes the victory will serve as the perfect platform heading into the Wimbledon Championships.

Harry Kane tags ECB with cheeky 'ready if needed' message; fans connect it to Ben Stokes saga

New Delhi June 10: England football captain Harry Kane has set social media abuzz after sharing pictures of himself playing cricket and joking that he is "always ready" for the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). The timing of the post has fueled speculation online, with many fans interpreting it as a tongue-in-cheek reference to the ongoing controversy surrounding England Test captain Ben Stokes, who is under investigation for an alleged breach of team protocols following a nightclub incident. Kane posted the images on X and wrote: "White Kane did not mention Stokes or the controversy, the post quickly went viral, with supporters drawing their own conclusions. Fans flood social media with jokes. Many users linked Kane's post to reports surrounding Stokes' future as England captain. Some of the reactions included:



"Yes, replace Ben Stokes, he is busy visiting night clubs." "Well, since you asked, I just thought I'd let you know that the England cricket team is looking for a new Test captain. If you're interested? Why are fans connecting it to Ben Stokes?" The reactions came after Stokes and fast bowler Gus Atkinson were placed under ECB investigation for an alleged breach of team protocols after attending a nightclub following England's first Test victory over New Zealand at Lord's. Reports have suggested that the pair were involved in an incident during the outing, with investigations currently underway. The ECB has said it is gathering further information before announcing any decision regarding the squad for the second Test. There has also been widespread speculation on social media regarding Stokes' future as captain, although no official announcement has been made regarding his role.

Hardik Pandya ruled out of Afghanistan ODIs after last-minute injury scare: Report

New Delhi June 10: India has suffered a significant setback ahead of the upcoming three-match ODI series against Afghanistan, with star all-rounder Hardik Pandya ruled out due to an injury, sources confirmed to ANI. Pandya had earlier been declared fit by the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE) and had even submitted his fitness report

before the team's scheduled departure. However, a fresh fitness concern after his final training session has forced him out of the series. **Fresh issue emerges after fitness clearance** According to sources, Pandya was cleared by the CoE before experiencing discomfort during his final session. "He was declared fit by the CoE and sent his fitness report to the Board two days before, but after his final session before leaving the CoE, he had some issues regarding his fitness," a source told ANI. The nature and extent of the latest setback have not yet been officially disclosed. Pandya's absence adds to India's growing injury concerns ahead of an important stretch of international cricket. Earlier, senior players Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya were awaiting fitness clearance from the BCCI's Centre of Excellence after sustaining injuries during the IPL 2026 season while representing Mumbai Indians. Rohit has been recovering from a lingering hamstring issue, while Pandya had been undergoing treatment for persistent.

Gill rises to No.8 as Brook replaces Root at summit of ICC Test rankings

New Delhi June 10: Test skipper Shubman Gill rose two spots to No.8 in the latest ICC Test batting rankings following his century against Afghanistan, even as England's Harry Brook reclaimed the No.1 spot in the latest rankings released on Wednesday. Gill was among the notable movers in the updated rankings after his hundred helped India secure a comfortable victory inside three days. The right-hander's latest gain sees him strengthen his position among the world's top Test batters ahead of India's upcoming assignments. At the top of the rankings, Brook overtook England teammate Joe Root to return to the No.1 position. Brook's knock of 56 in England's 115-run win over New Zealand at Lord's proved decisive in the rankings shuffle, with Root slipping to third after scores of one and eight



in the same match. Australia's Travis Head moved up to second place, pushing Root down a spot. Brook had previously occupied the No.1 ranking in December 2024 and has now reclaimed the position following his consistent performances in the longest format. Elsewhere among Test batters,

also improved two spots to sixth in the Test all-rounders' rankings. New Zealand quick Kyle Jamieson returned to the rankings at 22nd after his comeback to Test cricket, while England's Ollie Robinson re-entered at 23rd. Fellow Kiwi Nathan Smith surged 16 places to 43rd. In the ODI rankings, Pakistan spinner Abrar Ahmed emerged as the biggest gainer following his impressive showing against Australia. After claiming six wickets in the series, Abrar climbed to second among ODI bowlers. Teammate Shaheen Afridi also made gains, moving up four places to ninth after taking seven wickets in the three-match series. Australia pacer Nathan Ellis rose 13 places to 31st, while Bangladesh fast bowler Nahid Rana jumped 23 spots to 24th after his four-wicket haul against Australia in Mirpur.

Will this be Cristiano Ronaldo's last home appearance? Portugal coach responds

Madrid June 10: As speculation grows over whether Portugal's friendly against Nigeria could mark Cristiano Ronaldo's final match on home soil, head coach Roberto Martinez has insisted that the legendary forward is focused solely on helping the team and not on what the future may hold. Ronaldo, 41, is expected to feature in Wednesday's warm-up fixture in Leiria before Portugal begin their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign. While many view the tournament as the five-time Ballon d'Or winner's last opportunity to lift the coveted trophy, Martinez said neither the captain nor the squad is thinking beyond the present. Praising Ronaldo's professionalism and commitment, Martinez said the veteran continues to set the standard for the entire squad. "Our captain sets an example in everything he does. He



gives his all, 24 hours a day, to help the national team," Martinez said, as quoted by ESPN. The Portugal coach added that discussing the future serves little purpose given the unpredictable nature of football.

putting the concepts into practice and showing pride in wearing the shirt. That's the example he sets. His sole aim is to use tomorrow to improve," he added. Ronaldo gears up for a record sixth World Cup. Ronaldo is set to become one of the few players to feature in six FIFA World Cups, continuing a remarkable international career that began in 2003. The Portugal captain has scored 143 goals in 227 international appearances, making him the highest goalscorer in men's international football. He also holds the record for the most international hat-tricks, with 10. Ahead of the friendly, Ronaldo shared pictures from Portugal's training camp on Instagram, appearing relaxed and in high spirits as the squad intensified preparations for the tournament. Portugal eye strong start to World Cup campaign

Women's Champions League Hits New Audience Benchmark, Says UEFA

New Delhi June 10: The audience for the Women's Champions League surged in the 2025/26 season, with viewership more than doubling and expected to reach at least 44.5 million, European soccer's governing body UEFA said in a report. More than 39.7 million viewers tuned in across the competition before the final, while matches were broadcast in 207 territories, with 30 free-to-air partners showing the final, making it the most widely available title match to date, the report added. Social media engagement also climbed sharply, with 947 million video views (+50% year-on-year), 1.49 billion impressions (+44%) and 52 million engagements



(+16%). UEFA said nearly half of all matches (49%) were decided by a single goal or drawn, while 33% featured comebacks, highlighting increased competitive balance in the revamped format. "From a sporting perspective, the level has been outstanding and from a viewership perspective the competition has set a new benchmark for the women's club game," Nadine Kessler, UEFA's Women's Football Director, said. "And of course, the final itself, another sold-out occasion in a historic women's football nation like Norway, delivered everything we hoped for and more." The season concluded on May 23 when a sold-out crowd at Oslo's Ullevaal Stadion saw Barcelona beat Olympique Lyonnais to lift the trophy.

Australian Badminton Open: Sindhu, Tanvi, Aakarshi March Into Second Round

New Delhi June 10: India's women's singles contingent enjoyed a strong start at the Australian Badminton Open 2026, with ace shuttler PV Sindhu and teenage sensation Tanvi Sharma booking their places in the second round after convincing victories on Wednesday. Former world champion Sindhu needed little time to settle into the tournament, brushing aside Peru's Inés Castillo in straight games at the Olympic Boulevard venue. The two-time Olympic medalist controlled the contest from the outset and wrapped up a 21-13, 21-11 victory in just over half an



hour. The win sets up an all-Indian pre-quarterfinal clash against Isharani Banah. The world No. 39 fought through a demanding three-game battle against China's Han Qianxi, prevailing 22-20, 10-21, 21-14 to advance.

Warwickshire Sign India Spinner Manav Suthar on Short-Term Contract For County Championship

New Delhi, June 10: Warwickshire have signed left-arm spinner Manav Suthar on a short-term deal for the next two rounds of the County Championship, days after his impressive Test debut against Afghanistan. The 23-year-old joins the English county side after a memorable start to his international career. Playing his first Test for India in the one-off match against Afghanistan, Suthar claimed 6 for 33 in the first innings and finished with match figures of 7 for 62 as India registered an innings-and-300-run victory. "I'm incredibly



excited to be joining Warwickshire for the next two County Championship

games. The team have started the season very well, so I'm hoping that I can play a part in helping them in their push for the title," Suthar said in a statement issued by the club. Warwickshire performance director James Thomas said the county was delighted to bring in one of India's highly rated young spinners. "We're delighted to welcome Manav to the Bears at a really exciting time for the team. We've played some good red-ball cricket already this season, and Manav will bring a new aspect to our bowling attack. It shows how highly he's rated in India after his selection to their Test team last week." Thomas said. A product of Rajasthan's domestic system, Suthar has taken 129 wickets in 29 first-class matches. He was also part of India's support setup as a net bowler during preparations for the 2023 ODI World Cup and earned praise from senior players as well as veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. Suthar is expected to feature in Warwickshire's County Championship match against Yorkshire at Scarborough from June 12 to 15 and will also be available for the away fixture against Somerset at Taunton the following week.

Meenakshi Natarajan's Rajya Sabha nomination rejection reaches EC; Congress likens RO order to '2+2=7'

New Delhi June 10:

The Congress on Wednesday mounted a coordinated attack against the rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination for the Rajya Sabha elections in Madhya Pradesh, taking the matter to the Election Commission and alleging that the Returning Officer's decision was legally unsustainable and contrary to democratic principles. The controversy has emerged just days before polling for the Rajya Sabha biennial elections on June 18, with the Congress seeking urgent intervention from the Election Commission and warning that it will pursue both legal and political remedies if corrective action is not taken.

A delegation comprising senior Congress leaders, including KC Venugopal, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Jairam Ramesh, Randeep Singh Surjewala, Vivek Tankha, Digvijaya Singh, Bhupesh Baghel and Natarajan, met Election Commission officials in New Delhi and pressed for a review of the Returning Officer's order. Speaking after the meeting,



Natarajan said the party continued to place its faith in constitutional institutions. "We still have full hope in constitutional institutions, and that's why we are fighting this battle. The Election Commission has heard our case today, and now we are waiting. We are in our fight. We still believe, somewhere or the other, that some form of democratic integrity remains in a democracy," she said. She added that the Congress legal team had placed its arguments before the poll panel and would

continue to pursue the matter through established democratic processes.

Congress questions legal basis of rejection

Leading the party's legal argument, Congress MP and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi described the Returning Officer's decision as a serious misreading of the law. "We have told them, and we have demonstrated, according to us, beyond doubt and beyond any matter of controversy, that the RO has passed a perverse order. An

order akin to writing 2+2=7, not 4," Singhvi said. According to Singhvi, the rejection stemmed from an incorrect application of Section 33A of the Representation of the People Act.

He argued that the provision requires disclosure only in cases where charges have been formally framed by a court and the alleged offence carries a punishment of more than two years. The Congress leader maintained that the matter cited against Natarajan had not even reached the stage of cognisance. "Ms Natarajan only received a notice to appear before the court and explain why cognisance should not be taken. That means the notice was issued before cognisance was taken. Without cognisance, no criminal case exists in the eyes of the law," he said. Singhvi urged the Election Commission to use its powers under Article 324 of the Constitution to provide immediate relief, citing numerous instances where the poll body had intervened in disputes involving rejected nominations.

BJP eyes Punjab reset, Nitin Nabin likely to launch statewide outreach



New Delhi June 10:

With an eye on the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is preparing to step up its activities in Punjab, with party national president Nitin Nabin likely to undertake a three-day visit to the state later this month. According to party sources, the proposed visit is scheduled from June 20 to 22 and is expected to focus on organisational strengthening and election preparedness. Nabin's tour

would be his first visit to Punjab after taking over as the BJP's national president. BJP media in-charge Vineet Joshi said the visit has been proposed. He added that the party would share the official programme once the schedule receives approval from the central leadership. Sources said Nabin is expected to begin the tour from Amritsar, where he may pay tribute at Sri Harmandir

Sahib. Visits to Durgiana Temple and Jallianwala Bagh are also likely to be part of the itinerary before he joins a series of meetings with party leaders and workers. During the visit, the BJP chief is expected to interact with senior state leaders, district presidents and members of the core committee to review the party's organisational network and discuss plans for expanding its support base across Punjab. Meetings with representatives of different social and business groups are also being considered. The proposed tour comes at a time when the BJP is looking to strengthen its independent political presence in Punjab. Party insiders believe the visit could serve as the starting point of a broader campaign aimed at energising the cadre and laying the groundwork for the 2027 Assembly elections.

PLI scheme for Textiles: Centre approves 22 new companies, over 36,000 jobs expected

New Delhi June 10:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led central government on Wednesday, June 10, approved 22 new applicants under the third round of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles.

This has paved the way for investments worth Rs.2,339.14 crore and will create over 36,000 jobs across the textile value chain.

As per the official data, the projects have been projected to generate a turnover of 215,561.34 crore from notified textile products, besides creating 36,217 employment opportunities across the textile value chain, IANS report-



ed. With this, a total of 96 companies have now got selected under the third round of the PLI Scheme for Textiles. Altogether, they have committed investments worth Rs.12,822.67 crore to generate an expected turnover of Rs.58,294.18 crore. The approved companies operate in key focus areas of

the scheme, such as Man-Made Fibre (MMF) Apparel, MMF Fabrics and Technical Textiles.

The central government is hopeful that the expansion of these segments will further strengthen the country's position as a global manufacturing hub for value-added textile products.

'Opportunistic realignment': Kejriwal claims BJP is working behind the scenes to patch up with Akali Dal before next Punjab elections

New Delhi June 10:

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday intensified the political discourse in Punjab by alleging that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was keen on reviving ties with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), despite public differences between the two parties. In a social media post, Kejriwal launched a sarcastic attack on both political outfits, claiming that discussions around a possible alliance reflected political compulsions rather than ideological commitments. Without presenting any evidence of ongoing negotiations, he suggested that efforts were being made to bring the former allies back onto a common political platform ahead of future electoral contests. The AAP chief also targeted the



BJP over its defence of central investigating agencies and accused opposition parties of attempting to reshape their political narratives for electoral advantage. He further mocked what he described as the contradiction of parties allegedly

associated by rivals with past controversies, seeking to campaign on the same issues during elections. His remarks come amid recurring speculation in Punjab's political circles about whether the BJP and the Akali Dal could explore a

renewed partnership after their long-standing alliance collapsed in the wake of the farmers' agitation. Neither party, however, has formally indicated any move towards an electoral understanding. The ruling AAP maintained that Punjab voters should remain alert to what it called "opportunistic political realignments," arguing that issues such as drug abuse and sacrifice had repeatedly been used as major election themes in the state. Political observers believe Kejriwal's comments are aimed at keeping pressure on opposition parties while reinforcing AAP's narrative ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. Drug trafficking, law and order, and accountability for past controversies continue to remain sensitive political subjects in Punjab.

Gujarat: CMO, AMC HQ and RSS office receive bomb threat emails; security agencies launch probe

New Delhi June 10:

Aseries of threatening emails targeting key institutions in Gujarat, including the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) in Gandhinagar, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) headquarters and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) office, sparked a major security response on Wednesday. Police and security agencies immediately launched a probe to identify the sender and verify the credibility of the threats. The email received by the Chief Minister's Office contained a bomb blast at 1.11 pm, prompting authorities to step up security measures at sensitive locations. Threat messages mention separate blast timings. After the CMO received the threat, similar emails were sent to the AMC headquarters at the RSS office in Ahmedabad and the DAS office. The messages reportedly men-



tioned different timings for alleged blasts - 3.11 pm for the AMC office and 5.11 pm for the RSS office. Authorities said the emails also included references to "Khalistan", "Operation Blue Star", and "Operation Woodrose". Officials added that the messages came from different email IDs and are being examined as a serious

security concern. Bomb squads, cyber teams begin investigation. Following the threats, police teams, bomb disposal squads and dog squads were deployed at the locations. Security was strengthened around government offices, public institutions and other important areas in Ahmedabad and

Gandhinagar. As a precautionary measure, the AMC headquarters at Danapur was evacuated, following which security personnel carried out detailed searches inside and around the premises. Senior police officials and cyber-crime teams have started technical investigations to trace the origin of the emails, including the accounts and IP addresses linked to the messages. Gujarat minister says inquiry underway State Minister Pravin Mehta confirmed that authorities began investigating soon after the email reached the Chief Minister's Office. "Many such emails have been received. This appears to be the handiwork of certain people acting in collusion," Mehta said. Speaking about the intent behind such threats, he added, "Some people cannot tolerate peace."

Rekha Gupta performs Gau Seva to mark 12 years of PM Modi's leadership

New Delhi June 10:

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday, June 10, marked 12 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership by performing Gau Seva at the Pinjrapole Gauskhana in Kishanganj and offered prayers at the temple premises, followed by the recitation of Sunderkand. After offering prayers, the Chief Minister wished for the good health and long life of PM Modi, who holds the distinction of being the longest-serving elected Prime Minister of the country. In a post on X, Gupta stated that Prime Minister Modi's "service, dedication, and work culture have scripted a new chapter of widespread change in the



country". She further stated that PM Modi has "transformed politics from a pursuit of power into a medium of service, making 1.4 billion Indians partners in the nation's journey of development." "From the Swachh Bharat campaign to the digital revolution, the people's participation in every sector today is the

greatest strength of the new India. That unwavering trust is guiding us toward the resolve of Viksit Bharat-2047," she added. In a letter, the Delhi Chief Minister even congratulated PM Modi for establishing the unique milestone of the longest continuous elected tenure in the history of Indian democracy.

Google Cloud services face disruption in India after major fire at third-party data centre

New Delhi June 10:

Google Cloud services across multiple cities in India, including Delhi and Mumbai, experienced network disruptions and elevated latency after a fire incident at a third-party data centre facility in the national capital. The incident took place on late Tuesday night, reported. As per the update on the Google Cloud Service Health dashboard, the blaze necessitated an emergency power shutdown of networking equipment. This isolated a local Point of Presence (POP) in Delhi, besides reducing available network capacity across the metro area. "Network traffic to Google Cloud originating from



Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and surrounding areas is experiencing intermittent periods of elevated latency and possible packet loss," the company said. Google informed that it has rerouted significant traffic from the impacted facility in the national capital for addressing the reduced local serving capabilities.

But this led to intermittent latency spikes, with the demand exceeding capacity across Indian metros as well as regional Internet Service Providers (ISPs). "We are investigating additional traffic mitigations and Internet Edge peering augmentation to alleviate the latency issues affecting our customers."

Big blow to Mamata? Firebrand TMC MP Saayoni Ghosh reportedly joins rebel camp

New Delhi June 10:

In a surprising move, firebrand TMC MP in the Lok Sabha and one of the strongest supporters of Mamata Banerjee and fiercest critics of the BJP, Saayoni Ghosh has reportedly joined the Kakoli Dasidar-led rebel camp. Although Ghosh is yet to confirm the development, reports have suggested that she has already chosen her side. This comes as



major blow to TMC Supremo Mamata Banerjee, who is struggling to stabilise the party amid a string of high-profile exits and rebellion. Who is Saayoni Ghosh? Ghosh, an actor-turned politician, is the TMC MP

and outside the House. After AAP leader Raghav Chadha's defection to the BJP, Ghosh had taken a dig at the former AAP MP saying, "She is not Chadha. Chadha can become Chaddi, Saayoni can't." Even during the Assembly election campaign, Ghosh aggressively campaigned for the party and remained with Mamata even after TMC's defeat. After the results, she had said that Mamata was not defeated by the people of the state but that she lost due to the "vote theft". "We have not lost, but Mamata Banerjee has been defeated by stealing and looting of votes. In 2029, the people of Bengal,

the people of the entire country, and in 2031, the mothers, land, and people of West Bengal will give a befitting reply," she had said. The development comes amid the ongoing rebellion within the TMC. A group of 20 rebel MPs, led by Kakoli Ghosh Dasidar, have written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, conveying to him their decision to support the NDA. They have also reportedly requested him to resign from the state cabinet bloc and make sitting arrangements in the House accordingly. However, Team Mamata has claimed that the rebel camp doesn't have the numbers.



Man sold 34th-floor flat in 32-storey building, awaits compensation from developer

Washington, June 10: Amid rising scams in the real estate sector, a bizarre incident from northwestern China's Shaanxi province is gaining significant attention on the internet. A man bought a flat on the 34th floor of a recently developed building only to be informed four years later that the tower had only 32 floors. The person, surnamed Shen, purchased the flat in a village near the provincial capital city Xian in 2013. South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported. Surnamed Shen, the person bought the 90-square-metre unit on the 34th floor of the building, while the deal costed him 2,646 yuan (\$400) per square metre at that time. Notably, this was nearly one-third of the average housing price, since the residential compound came with limited property rights. The report states that this is an "unofficial name for a kind of grey market housing developed illegally on collectively owned rural land." These unapproved construction



usually occupy rural land that is left idle amid China's urbanisation. However, buyers need to understand that such flats cannot be resold and are not protected by the law. This means, people only purchase such units since they are cheap. In Shen's case, he made the initial 117,700 yuan (\$17,400) down payment to the developer in 2013, while developer told him that the required certificates to develop the property can be completed later. As Shen signed the contract, the developer promised

him to deliver the property in 2015. The person then came back to his workplace in Beijing and later found out that the project had not been completed by the delivery date. In 2017, the developer told him that the work was completed and requested him to pay the outstanding amount. But he told them that he will do so only after they provide him the keys of his flat. Several months later, he was informed that the building only has 32 floors. Initially, they offered him a flat on the 32nd floor. At that time, he did not have the remaining amount to pay. A few months later, he was again informed that the flat on the 32nd floor was no more available. This prompted Shen to file a refund application, while the developer told him that they do not have the money to pay him back and asked to wait. The person was refunded 20,000 yuan (\$7,400) in 2020, followed by another 50,000 yuan in 2022. Since then, they stopped answering his call. Taking action against him, Shen requested an arbitration with the Xian authorities. The arbitration commission later ordered the developer to give 47,700 yuan (\$7,000) down payment back to Shen, along with 27,000-yuan interest. Further, the agreement required the developer to pay a 47,000-yuan compensation if they failed to pay the owed money as well as interest to Shen. Until May 2026, the person has not received the refund from the developer, forcing him to take the matter to a local court.

US actions have 'damaged' diplomacy, says Iran as it reassesses peace talks amid fresh escalation in war

Washington, June 10: With overnight US strikes triggering fears of fresh escalation in West Asia, Iran on Wednesday said that it will reassess the situation, saying American actions have 'damaged' diplomacy. When asked about the ongoing talks, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei asserted that Tehran will reassess the situation following the overnight US strikes. This came after the US launched fresh strikes on Iranian targets in retaliation for the downing of a US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said that the Apache helicopter was downed by Iran during a patrol over the Strait of Hormuz. "I have just been informed by our Great Military that last night the Iranians shot



down one of our highly sophisticated Apache helicopters while patrolling over the Strait of Hormuz," Trump said on Truth Social. He further said that there were two pilots involved and both were safely rescued and were unharmed. "Nevertheless, the United States must, of necessity, respond to this attack," Trump added. According to US Military's Central Command, an unmanned drone was deployed to help rescue the two crew members near the coast of Oman. "The drone picked them up and transported them to another location on the water where they were then hoisted up to a helicopter for further transport," said Tim Hawkins, Central Command spokesman. Amid the fresh escalation in the war, Russia has urged both sides to exercise restraint and cease military attacks.

US bombs Iran after Apache downed over Hormuz; Tehran warns, 'leave our region'

Tehran, June 10: The United States on Tuesday (local time) carried out military strikes on Iranian military infrastructure near the Strait of Hormuz after an American Army Apache helicopter was allegedly brought down during a patrol mission, marking a sharp escalation in already fragile tensions between Washington and Tehran. The operation, publicly confirmed by US Central Command (CENTCOM), is the first announced military action directly linked to the Apache helicopter incident and comes at a time when President Donald Trump has simultaneously been pushing for a diplomatic resolution to the broader conflict in West Asia. CENTCOM said American forces conducted the strikes on June 9 under orders from



President Trump. According to the military, US Air Force and Navy fighter jets targeted Iranian air defence systems, ground control stations and surveillance radar sites near the Strait of Hormuz using precision-guided munitions. "CENTCOM forces struck Iranian air defense, ground control stations, and surveillance radar sites near the Strait of Hormuz with precision munitions from U.S. Air Force and Navy fighter jets," the command said in a statement. The military described the action as a measured response to recent attacks on US personnel and commercial shipping operating in regional waters. "The operation was a proportionate response to recent attacks on U.S. forces and international commercial ships transiting regional waters," CENTCOM said, adding that American forces remain prepared to counter what it termed "unjustified Iranian aggression".

Gulf on edge: Jordan downs 5 Iranian missiles; Bahrain sounds fresh air raid sirens

Washington, June 10: Jordan's military said on Wednesday that it intercepted and destroyed multiple missiles launched from Iran, even as neighbouring Bahrain activated air raid sirens twice within an hour amid growing fears that the escalating confrontation between Tehran and Washington is spreading across the Gulf. The developments mark a significant expansion of the ongoing conflict, with regional countries increasingly finding themselves caught in the fallout of direct military exchanges between the United States and Iran. The latest incidents come amid a series of retaliatory strikes, drone attacks and military warnings that have heightened tensions across West Asia. According to Jordanian military authorities, five missiles launched from Iran were intercepted before reaching the Al-Azraq area in Zarqa province. The armed forces said the operation prevented any direct impact on civilian infrastruc-



ture. Officials said debris from the intercepted missiles fell in some areas, but no casualties or property damage were reported. Specialised military and engineering teams were subsequently deployed to secure the affected locations, recover missile remnants and clear any unexploded material. Jordan reiterated that its armed forces remain on the highest level of readiness and would not

allow any violation of the country's airspace. Authorities stressed that safeguarding the kingdom's territorial integrity remains a priority amid the deteriorating regional security situation. Iranian claims strikes on military targets in Jordan Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), however, offered a sharply different account of the operation. According to Iran's ISNA news agency, the IRGC claimed it had targeted military facilities in Jordan, including hangars housing F-35 fighter aircraft and the US Army's command-and-control center at Al-Azraq. Iranian media reports said the force claimed four locations had been struck, including the Muwaffaq Salihi Air Base. The claims could not be independently verified. Iranian state media also reported explosions in Bahrain and Kuwait, while Press TV said the IRGC's naval forces had launched a drone attack targeting the headquarters of the US Fifth Fleet in Bahrain at around 2.30 a.m. local time. The IRGC described the operation as a response to what it called American attacks on locations in southern Iran earlier in the day. Bahraini issues repeated public safety alerts en masse, Bahrain's Interior Ministry urged residents to remain calm and move to the nearest safe location after air raid sirens were activated twice within an hour.

11 children among 13 killed as Pakistan strikes Afghan homes, says Taliban

Washington, June 10: Afghanistan's Taliban administration on Wednesday accused Pakistan of carrying out overnight air strikes inside Afghan territory, claiming the attacks killed at least 13 people, including 11 children, and left 14 others injured. The latest allegations come amid worsening tensions between Kabul and Islamabad, with cross-border violence and mutual accusations continuing to strain relations between the two neighbours. Taliban officials described the strikes as a violation of Afghanistan's airspace and said civilian areas were targeted during the operation. According to Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid, Pakistani forces carried out air strikes on residential houses in the eastern provinces of Kunar, Khost and Pakтика during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday. Mujahid said those killed included 11 children, one woman and one



elderly man. He further claimed that 14 women were wounded in the strikes. The Taliban spokesperson also shared photographs that he said showed the aftermath of the attacks and the casualties. The Taliban accuses Pakistan of violating Afghan airspace. In a statement, Mujahid alleged that Pakistani military aircraft entered Afghan airspace before launching attacks on civilian targets. He described the operation as an act of aggression and accused Islamabad of targeting non-military locations. Pakistan has not immediately responded to the Taliban's allegations. The Taliban administration said Pakistani military operations inside Afghanistan have resulted in significant casualties over the past year as hostilities

along the border intensified. The statement also referred to alleged Pakistani strike on a rehabilitation centre in Kabul in March, which Taliban authorities claimed killed at least 269 people. According to the Taliban, tensions escalated sharply in October 2025 when Pakistan conducted air strikes in multiple locations across Afghanistan, including Kabul. Afghan authorities have maintained that repeated military actions have displaced large numbers of civilians and forced many families to leave their homes. Pakistan-Taliban ties under strain. Pakistan has repeatedly accused the Taliban administration of allowing militant groups, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), to operate from Afghan soil. Islamabad has argued that such groups are responsible for attacks inside Pakistan.

Woman, teenage daughter gang-raped during robbery in Cox's Bazar

Dhaka, June 10: In a major incident, a woman and her teenage daughter were gang-raped during a robbery at their residence in the newly formed Matamuhuri upazila in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar area. The incident took place at around 2:30 a.m. (local time) on early Tuesday, Dhaka Tribune quoted Chakaria Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Monir Hossain as saying. As per police and local residents, the woman's husband works in the Chittagong city. At the time of the incident, the woman and her two daughters, aged 15 and seven, were at home. A gang of eight to 10 robbers entered their residence after cutting through the window grills. Hossain



said and added that they looted gold ornaments as well as cash from the wardrobes. The official added that the accused gang-raped the woman and her teenage daughter. Soon after the attackers fled, the family members rushed to the scene to help them. The victim's brother told media persons, "We found my sister and niece severely traumatised, sitting huddled in separate rooms." "We rescued them and initially rushed them to the Chakaria Upazila Health Complex at around 4 a.m. They were later transferred to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital for advanced treatment," he added. The mother of the woman has expressed shock over the brutality and stated that such an incident was unprecedented in the area. The family members have now demanded capital punishment for those responsible.

MT Marivex exchanged communication with US Navy before fire incident

Dhaka, June 10: MT Marivex, a Palau-flagged tanker that caught fire after being attacked by the US Navy off the coast of Oman had been black-listed and sanctioned by the US, while all the 24 Indian crew members onboard were safely rescued. The vessel caught fire after being hit by a missile on Monday, June 8. Addressing a media briefing on Tuesday, June 9, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the vessel was disabled off the coast of Oman. "We also understand that there was some exchange of



communication between the shift and the US Navy before the incident," PTI quoted Jaiswal as saying. The MEA spokesperson said that the Indian Embassy in Oman coordinated with the authorities for rescuing the Indian crew. "We thank the Oman government for their support in rescuing the crew and ensuring their safety. Our mission continues to be in touch with the seafarers," he said. According to PTI, the vessel had been black-listed and sanctioned by the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Trump says Iran will now 'pay the price' as West Asia tensions escalate

Washington, June 10: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said that Iran has taken too long to negotiate a deal and warned that the Islamic Republic will now have to pay the price. In a social media post on Truth Social, Trump repeated his claim that Iran's military is non-existent and the country has been "completely defeated." "Iran's Military is a complete and total mess. Much of it, like their Navy and Air Force, doesn't even exist anymore - They've



been completely defeated. Iran is all talk and no action. The Bully of the Middle East is DEAD!!!" Trump said. He further added, "They've taken too long to negotiate a deal that would have been great for them, now they will have to pay the price!!!" In another post, he vented his anger at the media for

paying their military, or any of their bills, and quickly becoming a FAILED NATION! Lots of oil is getting out," he added. His remarks suggesting that the US may be considering launching fresh strikes on Iran came after an overnight exchange of attacks between the two sides. While the US targeted Iranian sites with missiles, Tehran retaliated by launching attacks on US assets in several Gulf countries. The fresh escalation in the war.

DC Shopian Presides over Block Diwas at Methwani Behak, Sarbal Devpora

Hears Tribal Community issues, Assures prompt redressal

SHOPIAN, JUNE 10: In a major push towards responsive governance and redressal of issues and concerns raised by members of the tribal community during a public interaction programme at their doorsteps, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today presided over a Block Diwas programme at Methwani Behak, an alpine meadows on the upper reaches of Sarbal Devpora area. An appreciable number of members of the tribal community comprising also the nomadic people attended the block diwas. The DC interacted with the



community members and listened to public issues. The issues raised by the local public of the area include matters related to the Forest Rights Act (FRA) including community rights on grazing, animal vaccination and healthcare services, school infrastructure, and rural development works at Devpora and Shadab Karewa, social welfare and pension schemes entitlements and other issues

relating to the benefit of local tribal, pastoral community. Besides, the core issues raised during the interaction centered around the augmentation of water supply, uninterrupted electricity supply, healthcare facilities and coverage of local population under various Welfare and employment schemes. To ensure swift action, senior sectoral district heads were present to respond directly to public concerns and note the demands for action. Addressing the gathering, the DC emphasized the importance of block diwas as an effective platform for direct engagement and grievance redressal, enabling citizens to bring their concerns before the district administration. He directed concerned officers to ensure timely resolution of genuine issues and maintain close coordination with the public. He assured the public about the on-time resolution of highlighted issues. ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik; ACD, Muzafar Ahmad; Dy.CEO, DIO, LDM, Exen KPDCI, Telsildar Shopian, BDO Shopian and Keller, other senior officers of the district administration, ex PRI members.

SKUAST-K's "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" gains momentum through doorstep Farmer Outreach

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: In a sustained effort to strengthen grassroots agricultural extension and promote sustainable farming practices, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Srinagar under Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) today intensified its village-level outreach under the nationwide "Khet Bachao Abhiyan", taking scientific advisories, soil health awareness, and institutional support mechanisms directly to farmers' doorsteps in the villages of Malikpora, Sheikhpora, Khanpora and Patipora of Panzina-B block Qamarwari. The programme witnessed active participation of



farmers, agricultural experts, officials from Gramen Bank and representatives from the National Innovation Foundation (NIF), reflecting a collaborative effort to encourage environmentally sustainable farming practices and enhance farmers' access to institutional support systems. During the programme, Dr. Shamim A. Simnani, Head, KVK Srinagar, highlighted the need for sustainable and regenerative farming practices to restore soil health and ensure long-term agricultural sustainability. He noted that excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides over the years has adversely affected soil fertility and ecological balance.

Director JKEDI chairs review meeting with DNOs, ROs, In-charge officers

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: Director, Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Mohammad Younis Malik, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Sempora campus of the Institute to assess the progress of various entrepreneurship development and youth engagement initiatives being implemented across the Union Territory. The meeting was attended by Range Officers (ROs), District Nodal Officers (DNOs), and other officials, both physically and through virtual mode, from different districts of Jammu & Kashmir. During the meeting, Joint Director JKEDI, Chand Kishor Sharma, presented a detailed overview of the various programmes and initiatives being implemented by the Institute, along with the achievements registered under different schemes and interventions. A thorough review of key government initiatives, including the J&K Start-up Policy 2024-27, Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme, Mission YUVA, and various other programmes, was undertaken during the session. The progress made in loan repayment and recovery

under different schemes was also discussed in detail. Addressing the officers, the Director emphasized the need to intensify efforts towards achieving JKEDI's core objective of empowering youth through entrepreneurship awareness, orientation, and capacity building. He called upon the District Nodal Officers to further strengthen grassroots outreach and ensure greater mobilisation of aspiring entrepreneurs from all regions of the Union Territory to foster a vibrant and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem. Director, JKEDI stressed the importance of enhanced coordi-

nation with allied departments, including the District Industries Centres (DICs), Handloom and Handicrafts Department, Employment Department, Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), and other stakeholder agencies for wider outreach and effective implementation of entrepreneurship initiatives. The Director also advised the District Nodal Officers to design Entrepreneurship Orientation Programmes (EOPs) in close alignment with district-level allied departments to help entrepreneurs effectively

address real-time business challenges and sector-specific issues. Highlighting the significance of internship programmes being conducted by the Institute, he directed that such programmes be closely monitored to ensure that interns receive structured learning experiences and meaningful industry exposure. He further urged all officers and employees of the Institute to work in close coordination and with renewed commitment towards realizing JKEDI's vision of creating a self-reliant, innovative, and enterprising youth population in Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Srinagar hands over fully equipped Ambulance to BMO Hazratbal to strengthen emergency healthcare services in Harwan Block

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: Continuing efforts to strengthen emergency healthcare services in the District, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today handed over a fully equipped ambulance to the Block Medical Officer (BMO), Hazratbal, aimed at strengthening medical transportation and emergency response facilities in Harwan Panchayat Block and other rural areas of the District. The handover ceremony was held at the DC Office premises attended by Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Tahir Sajad, BMO Hazratbal Dr. Abdul Majeed, ZMO SR Gunj Dr. Shafaqat, ZMO Zaidal Dr. Rubena, besides other officers of the District Administration and



Health Department. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said the addition of the ambulance would significantly strengthen emergency healthcare infrastructure in

Hazratbal Medical Block and serve as a critical resource for the patients, especially residents of tribal and rural areas. He emphasized that the ambulance will improve the accessibility and efficiency of healthcare services by ensuring the timely transportation of patients and trauma cases to healthcare institutions. The DC also stressed the importance of its optimal utilization to provide prompt medical assistance, enhance patient care and further strengthen the district's emergency response capacity. The ambulance is expected to provide much-needed support to healthcare teams serving remote areas and contribute to improved healthcare delivery across rural parts of Srinagar district.

VC SKUAST-K holds SAC meeting of KVK Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, JUNE 10: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir's Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Ganderbal on Wednesday convened its 22nd Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting at the Kendra campus Shuhama. The meeting was chaired by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai and was attended by Director Extension, SKUAST-K, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, KVK scientists, district heads of line departments, agri-entrepreneurs, and progressive farmers to deliberate on scientific interventions and future strategies for strengthening the agricultural sector in the district. Prof. Ganai highlighted the Kendra's growing role in promoting region-specific agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship. Interacting with progressive farmers and agri-preneurs, he urged them to dive into

agriculture, agri-preneurship, and post-harvest value as there are end number of opportunities. Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth emphasized the need to transform traditional farming into a commercially sustainable enterprise. She urged scientists to intensify skill development programs, promote low-cost organic farming solutions, and develop specialized training modules aimed at enhancing farmers' capacities and livelihoods across the Union Territory. Dr. Ajaz Ahmed Malik, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Ganderbal delivered a detailed presentation on the Action Taken Report, Annual Progress Report, and newly launched initiatives of the centre. On the occasion, Vice Chancellor inaugurated several newly established facilities at the KVK, including a Food Technology Laboratory, a High-Density Pear Orchard, Diversified Stone Fruit Block, Cucurbitaceae Crop Cafeteria.

DDC Kupwara chairs Block Diwas at Nutnussa

Reviews public grievances, development needs



KUPWARA, JUNE 10: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today visited Nutnussa Block and chaired the Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Ghar Nutnussa-B. The Block Diwas witnessed active participation from officers of the district administration, public representatives, and a large

number of local residents. The programme provided a platform for direct interaction between the administration and the public, enabling people to raise their grievances, concerns, and developmental issues. During the event, the DDC listened patiently to the issues projected by the participants and assured them of timely redressal of their grievances. He emphasized the administration's commitment to ensuring efficient public service delivery and addressing the developmental aspirations of the people. Various issues related to basic amenities, infrastructure development, public services, and welfare schemes were highlighted by the participants. The concerned officers were directed to take prompt action on the issues raised and ensure their resolution within a stipulated timeframe. The DDC also reviewed the implementation of ongoing developmental programmes and government schemes in the block and stressed the need for greater public outreach and effective execution of welfare initiatives for the benefit of the people.

Civil Engineering department clinches Inter-Department Cricket Tournament 2026 title at NIT Srinagar

Srinagar, June 10: The Civil Engineering Department, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, emerged victorious in the final of the Inter-Department Cricket Tournament 2026 held at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, defeating the Electrical Engineering Department by 60 runs in a thrilling tie clash.



The final match was played between the Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering departments. After winning the toss, the Civil Engineering team elected to bat first and posted an imposing total of 210 runs in their allotted 15 overs. The innings was anchored by a sensational knock from Adnan, who smashed 112 runs off just 42 balls. He was ably supported by Abu Bakar, who scored 35 runs in 20 balls, while Ahsan-ul-Haq contributed 32 runs off 22 deliveries to propel Civil Engineering to a commanding total.

For the Electrical Engineering Department, Mohd Imran and Ayush Shrivastava claimed one wicket each. In reply, the Electrical Engineering Department managed 149 runs for the loss of eight wickets, falling short by 60 runs. Vipin topscored with 40 runs off 30 balls, while captain Mir Shariq played a quickfire knock of 33 runs from 14 deliveries. However, the target proved beyond their reach. With the ball, Ahsan-ul-Haq starred for Civil

Engineering, taking three wickets, while Abu Bakar chipped in with two wickets to help seal the victory. The Civil Engineering Department thus lifted the Inter-Department Cricket Tournament 2026 trophy, concluding the competition on a high note. Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, congratulated the winning team and all participants for displaying exceptional sportsmanship and competitive spirit throughout the tournament. He said such sporting events play a vital role in fostering teamwork, leadership, discipline, and a healthy campus environment, while contributing to the holistic development of students.

Prof. Kanaujia also presented the winner's trophy to the Civil Engineering Department and the runner-up trophy to the Electrical Engineering Department. He congratulated both teams for their outstanding performances and commended the players for exhibiting remarkable talent, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

CS gives shape to a Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Framework for Drug Abuse Victims

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: In a major step towards strengthening the fight against substance abuse and ensuring long-term recovery of affected individuals, the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo gave shape to a comprehensive Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Framework for victims of drug abuse, aimed at facilitating their successful reintegration into society through a structured rehabilitation cycle. The proposed framework was discussed in detail during a high-level meeting attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Secretary, Skill Development Department; Director Colleges; Head of IMHANS Srinagar, SIO, NIC and other concerned officers. The proposed framework seeks to move beyond conventional detoxification and treatment by adopting a holistic



approach that combines medical care, psychosocial support, education, skill development, employment opportunities and sustained monitoring to prevent relapse and promote social stability. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary outlined the comprehensive strategy envisioned by the Government to address the growing challenge of substance abuse through a coordinated, treatment-to-reintegration approach based upon the Individual Reintegration Plans (IRPs) for each of the victims as per his customized requirements. He emphasized that the framework should be adopted forthwith on a pilot basis through IMHANS Srinagar and one additional district to identify operational challenges and fine-tune the model before its large-scale implementation across the Union Territory. Elaborating on the proposed mechanism, the Chief Secretary observed that each Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) should function through a collaborative support system comprising trained Counsellors and Psychiatrists from the Health Department an ASHA Worker, and a Social Worker designated by the Social Welfare Department. He stated that the ASHA Worker would play a vital role in ensuring adherence to treatment protocols by assisting beneficiaries in taking prescribed medicines regularly and facilitating timely follow-up consultations making home visits. The Chief Secretary further stressed

work comprising trained counsellors drawn from Self Help Groups (SHGs), educational institutions and health centres to strengthen outreach, counselling and follow-up mechanisms and transform the initiative into a sustainable and successful model of rehabilitation. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shaileendra Kumar, assured full support from the Finance Department for successful implementation of the initiative. He advised the Social Welfare Department to further refine the framework to make it more realistic, outcome-oriented and beneficial for the affected individuals, ensuring tangible socio-economic gains for those undergoing rehabilitation. The scheme as elaborated by the Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti is designed around six key objectives, including institutionalizing a structured rehabilitation cycle, ensuring seamless transition from detoxification to socio-economic stabilization, reducing relapse rates through continuous.

Anti-Drug Crackdown uncovers alarming involvement of Ladakh youths in peddling



LEH, JUNE 10: A major anti-narcotics crackdown in Ladakh has uncovered the alarming involvement of local youths, including juveniles and underage girls, in both drug consumption and peddling, prompting serious concern among authorities, officials said on Wednesday. Acting on the directions of Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, the recently formed Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) has apprehended several drug consumers and peddlers and seized 1.5 kgs of Charas within the first week of its operations, exposing a growing trend of young addicts turning to drug trafficking to finance their addiction, the officials said. They said the development assumes greater significance in the wake of 298 new cases of drug abuse in

the growing menace of drug abuse and trafficking in the region through focused enforcement, intelligence-led operations and community participation. The officials said the investigations have also pointed towards inter-state linkages, suggesting that supply chains extend beyond Ladakh. Further, instances of intravenous drug use have highlighted the potential risk of communicable diseases, making the issue not only a law-and-order concern but also a public health challenge, the officials said. During his recent interaction with religious organisations, civil society groups and other stakeholders, the Lt Governor had directed strict action against drug peddlers and users and called for dismantling the entire supply chain of narcotics operating in the region. "The Administration of Ladakh has adopted a policy of zero tolerance towards drug abuse and narcotics trafficking. The early success of the ANTF demonstrates our resolve to identify and dismantle the supply chain of narcotic substances and protect our youth from this menace."

Sakeena Itoo visits several areas in D.H. Pora, holds public outreach programme at Ahmadabad, Kulgam

KULGAM, JUNE 10: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today visited Ahmadabad and several other villages in D.H. Pora, where she held an extensive public outreach programme to hear the grievances, issues and demands of the local residents. A large number of people from Ahmadabad and adjoining areas participated in the event and apprised the Minister of various developmental needs and public welfare concerns. Sakeena Itoo gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured the people that all their genuine demands would be addressed in a



phased and time-bound manner. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, she highlighted various initiatives and people-centric measures undertaken by the present government to ensure equitable development and improve the quality of life across Jammu and Kashmir. She

Ensure quality, timely execution of projects: Deputy CM Choudhary to officers

Visits Bandipora to assess progress on key development projects

BANDIPORA, JUNE 10: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today conducted an extensive tour of Bandipora district to inspect and review the progress of several key developmental projects being executed in the district. The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by MLA Bandipora, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat and MLA Sonawan, Hilal Akbar Lone. During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the need for timely and speedy execution of works while maintaining quality standards to ensure that the projects are completed within stipulated timelines and dedicated to the people at the earliest. The Deputy Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction



work on the 1x20-metre double-lane composite bridge at Naninam, Sumbal and reviewed the pace of progress on the ground. He directed the executing agencies to ensure strict adherence to the set quality parameters and expedite work for its timely completion. During the tour, he also visited the Sumbal Foot Bridge near the Shrine of Ahmad Sahib Naninam. He assured the local residents that the long-pending project would be taken up on priority in view of its importance for the public convenience and connectivity. At Garora Bridge, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed the status of ongoing works. He instructed the concerned officials to accel-

erate construction activities while maintaining the quality standards so that the project is completed within the stipulated timeframe. Reviewing the progress of the car parking facility at Galshan Check, Main Market Bandipora, he observed that the project would significantly help in easing traffic congestion and improving parking management in the busy market area, benefiting the traders and visitors alike. The Deputy Chief Minister also inspected the Girls Hostel and Composite Building at Nadim Memorial Higher Secondary School, Kalooa. He stressed the importance of creating quality educational infrastructure to provide students with a conducive learning environment.

DC Doda holds Block Diwas at Kari Ghuraka, directs time-bound redressal of public grievances

DODA, JUNE 10: Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Ghar Kari Ghuraka, Panchayat Kari Chatra, Block Bhalla, providing a platform for direct interaction between the administration and the public. The programme saw active participation from PRI representatives, prominent citizens, women, youth and officials from various departments. During the programme, the public raised several demands and grievances pertaining to basic infrastructure and public services. Key issues included drinking water scarcity, damaged electricity poles in Kari and surrounding areas, construction of the Chatra-Kari road, completion of the Drana-Ghuraka road, pending work on the Cheka-Ghuraka road, shortage of teachers in Government High School Chatra, Higher Secondary School Ghuraka, UPS Charota and Middle School Kan, absence of a Headmaster at Government High School Chatra, fencing of schools



to protect them from stray animals, repair of school washrooms and sanitation facilities, MGNREGA-related issues, water supply problems in Santhapani Ghuraka and Sengoi Panchayat, shortage of healthcare staff including a Staff Nurse at Health Centre Ghuraka and the need for awareness camps on government welfare schemes. The public also demanded the establishment of a J&K Bank branch in the area and sought regular outreach by the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Social Welfare Departments to educate people about welfare and subsidy schemes. Taking serious note of the issues, the Deputy Commissioner issued on-the-spot directions to the departments concerned. He directed the Public Works Department (PWD) to

expedite all ongoing road projects and take strict action against non-performing contractors, instructing that contractors who have abandoned works be blacklisted, their contracts terminated and such contractors barred from future government works. The Jal Shakti Department was directed to immediately repair the damaged Santhapani water pipeline and ensure timely completion of all ongoing water supply projects, with priority resolution of water supply issues in affected villages. The Education Department was directed to address the shortage of teachers, repair school washrooms and kitchens and improve educational infrastructure. The Deputy Commissioner also emphasised the adoption of online teaching methods to address academic challenges in remote areas. The Assistant Commissioner (Development) was directed to address issues related to school fencing and playground facilities, particularly at UPS Charota.

Capacity Building Programme for J&K Accounts Service Probationary Officers concludes at NZATI



JAMMU, JUNE 10: A two-day Capacity Building Programme for Probationary Officers of the J&K Accounts Service, jointly organised by The Business School University of Jammu and the Northern Zonal Accountancy Training Institute (NZATI) Jammu, concluded today at NZATI Jammu. The second day commenced with a session on Organisational Behaviour and Human Resource Dynamics by Prof. Jaya Bhasin, who emphasised effective lead-

ership, team building, motivation and people-centric management practices in public administration. The second session, on Artificial Intelligence in Governance and Administration, was delivered by AI Educator and Branding Consultant Sumit Khajuria, who introduced participants to emerging AI tools and demonstrated their applications in enhancing administrative efficiency, decision-making, data analysis and citizen-centric service delivery. Jasleen Kour of Branding Elves conducted an interactive session on Professional Communication and Presentation Skills, focusing on public speaking, presentation techniques, stakeholder engagement and professional conduct. The programme concluded with a Valedictory Session and Certificate Distribution Ceremony during which participants reflected on key learnings and received certificates for successful completion of the training. On the occasion, Director, Finance and Principal, NZATI Rajesh Talwar presented a token of appreciation to the team from The Business School University of Jammu, represented by Director Prof. Anishita Gupta and Associate Professor Dr Farah Choudhary, in recognition of their contribution.

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